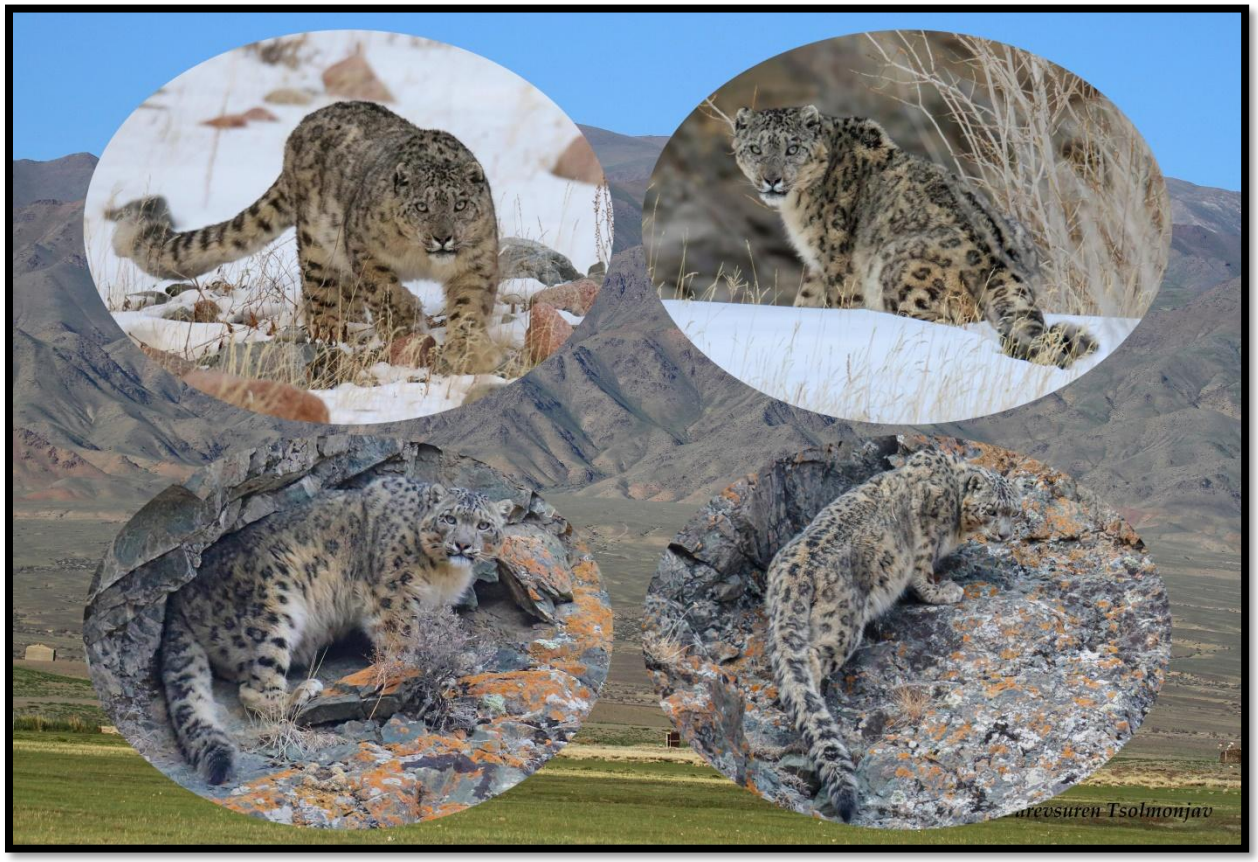
## Itinerary for

# SNOW LEOPARD TOUR IN WESTERN MONGOLIA



**Developed by Wildlife Tours Mongolia**

## Tour Overview

Mongolia is home to one of the world's largest known Snow Leopard populations, with an estimated 953 individuals recorded in 2021. Snow Leopard tours have become increasingly popular in Mongolia, where these elusive cats can be found at relatively low elevations of 2,500–3,000 metres compared with many other parts of their range.

Our Snow Leopard tours, operating in July, August, and early September, explore the rugged mountains of the Mongolian Altai, where Snow Leopards share their habitat with Siberian Ibex and other wildlife. The spectacular mountain scenery, remote wilderness, and diverse wildlife make this an exciting destination for wildlife enthusiasts and photographers.

Accompanied by experienced local trackers and guides with in-depth knowledge of the area, you will explore remote mountain landscapes and search for signs of Snow Leopards while observing the wildlife that shares their habitat. Although sightings can never be guaranteed, this expedition offers a rare opportunity to seek one of the world's most elusive big cats in its natural environment.

## Tour Information

The tour price includes all in-country expenses, including domestic flights, vehicle rental and fuel, accommodation, meals, and national park fees. It does not include international flights, excess baggage fees on domestic flights, laundry, tips, or beverages.

***Vehicle***

Our expedition uses reliable Toyota Land Cruisers (4WD) for comfortable and safe travel across Mongolia's rugged terrain. To ensure the comfort of all participants, each vehicle accommodates a maximum of three passengers.

***Climate***

During July and August, daytime temperatures in the Mongolian Altai are generally mild to warm, while mornings, evenings, and nights can be cool. In early September, temperatures begin to drop, particularly at higher elevations. Mountain weather can change quickly, and rain, strong winds, and occasional cold spells are possible. Snow may also fall at higher elevations, even in summer.

***Accommodation***

In Ulaanbaatar, participants will stay in a modern hotel offering comfort before and after the expedition. Outside the city, accommodation will be in traditional ger camps.

Our Snow Leopard Camp, operated by local communities, provides a simple but authentic experience. Each ger is equipped with comfortable beds, blankets, and basic hand-washing facilities. A coal-fired stove may be used in September if temperatures drop due to rain or snow. Showers are available at the camp, but flush toilets are not. The camp offers a unique opportunity to experience the traditional Mongolian way of life while exploring Snow Leopard habitat.

## Recommended Packing List

***Clothing***

- Waterproof and windproof jacket
- Warm fleece or wool sweater for cool mornings and evenings
- Lightweight base layers
- Comfortable hiking trousers
- Lightweight, quick-drying shirts and trousers
- Warm hat or beanie for cold mornings and higher elevations
- Lightweight gloves
- Comfortable, waterproof hiking boots with good grip
- Warm socks and extra pairs
- Sun hat or cap for sun protection
- Extra underwear and comfortable clothing for camp

***Gear & Equipment***

- Small to medium-sized backpack or daypack
- Trekking poles (helpful on steep or uneven terrain)
- Headlamp with extra batteries
- Reusable water bottle or hydration system
- Sunglasses with UV protection
- Binoculars (essential for observing Snow Leopards and other wildlife)
- Camera and photography equipment
- Extra camera batteries and memory cards
- Tripod or monopod (optional, for photography)

- Power bank and charging cables
- Sunscreen with high SPF
- Insect repellent

***Personal Items & Comfort***

- Personal medications and a small first-aid kit
- Moisturizer and lip balm
- Personal toiletries and a quick-drying towel
- Hand sanitizer and wet wipes
- Books, cards, or small activities for downtime while waiting with trackers

***Optional Items***

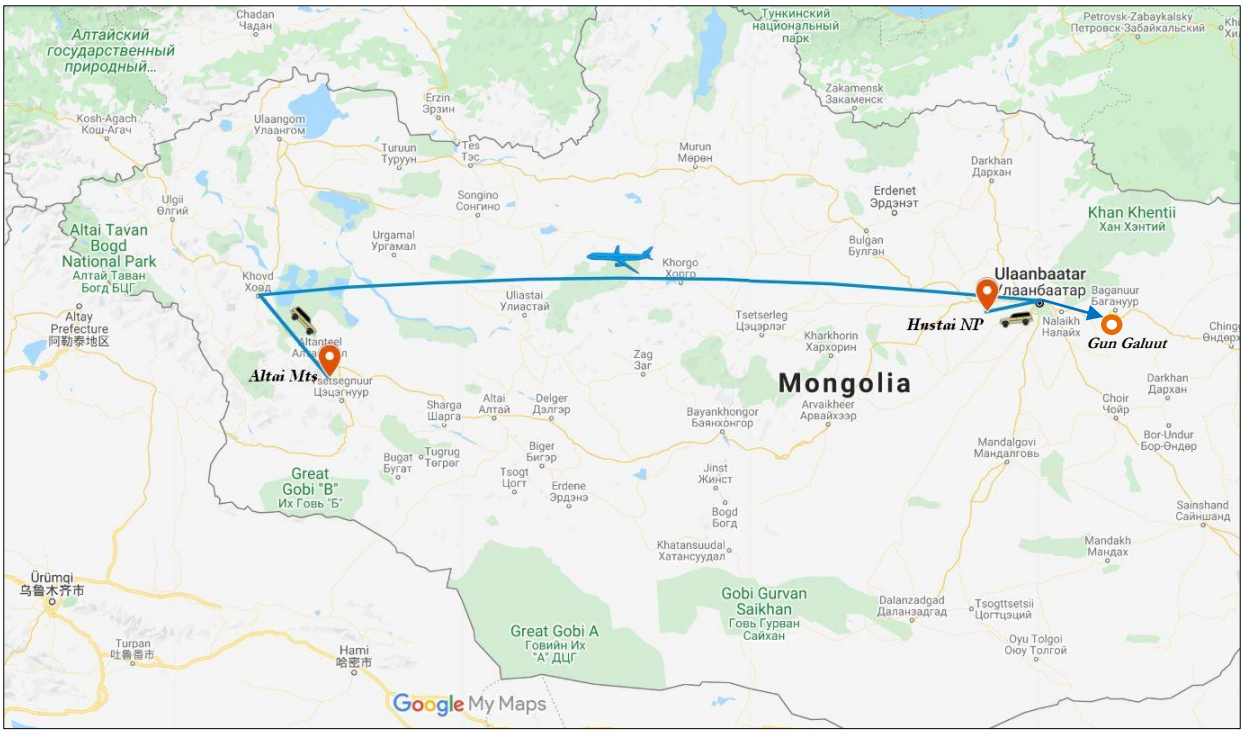
- Lightweight sitting pad for waiting outdoors
- Small notebook or journal
- Camera lens cloth and cleaning kit
- Walking shoes or slippers for use at camp
- Lightweight binocular harness for comfortable extended use
- A warm extra layer for unexpectedly cold or wet weather

## Requirements

Participants should have a reasonable level of physical fitness and be comfortable walking over rugged, uneven terrain. Daily hiking is generally limited, but depending on where a Snow Leopard is located, it may be necessary to hike several kilometres to reach a suitable viewing point. Participants should be prepared for occasional longer hikes when necessary.

**Mammal list for the tour:**

1. Snow Leopard
2. Saiga Antelope
3. Przewalki's Horse
4. Siberian Wapiti
5. Siberian Ibex
6. Argali Sheep
7. Goitered Gazelle
8. Mongolian Gazelle
9. Tolai Hare
10. Corsac Fox
11. Red Fox
12. Mongolian Marmot




***Snow Leopard Tour Route***

**Day 1. Ulaanbaatar (UB)**

We will welcome our clients, transfer to the Mongolica hotel and do some birding around the hotel. Key birds to see here Long-tailed Rosefinch, Azure Tit and Azure-winged Magpie.

**Day 2-8. Altai Mountains in search of Snow Leopard**

We will fly to western Mongolia. After landing at the local airport in Khovd town, we will transfer to our Snow Leopard base camp (~120 km) which is operated by the local communities. We will spend a week in the Altai Mountains in search of elusive Snow Leopard, and other wildlife and birds such as Saiga Antelope, Goitered Gazelle, Siberian Ibex, Mongolian Ground-jay and Bearded Vulture. Our experienced local guides/trackers will help us spot the Snow Leopard and other wildlife during our stay.

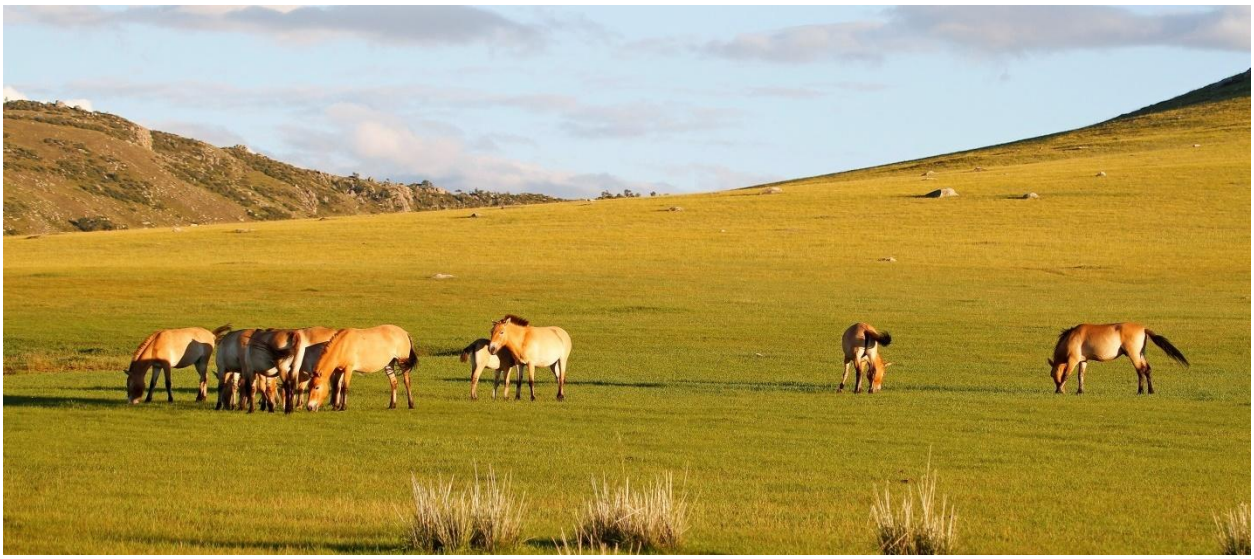
**Accommodation**: Basic Ger camp



**Day 9-10. Hustai National Park**

We will visit the Hustai National Park. The park was established in 1992 to protect reintroduced wild horses also known as Przewalski's Horses or Takhi. The park also supports a large number of Siberian Wapiti. We might see some Mongolian Gazelles on the southern part of the park. The park provides important habitats for a range of bird species, especially raptors like vultures, eagles and falcons.

**Accommodation**: Hustai Ger Camp



**Day 9-10. Gun Galuut Nature Reserve**

Gun Galuut Nature Reserve has a great diversity of ecosystems even though it has a comparatively small area. The complex of mountains, steppes, rivers, lakes and wetlands are kept in their original condition. Key birds to see here are White-naped Crane, Demoiselle Crane and other waterbirds. Mammals to see here are Argali Sheep, Mongolian Marmot, and Corsac Fox.

**Accommodation:** 'Steppe Nomads' Ger Camp.

