



## Tour Itinerary for BIRDING & MAMMAL WATCHING IN MONGOLIA



**Tour dates:** 05 – 19 August

**Developed by Wildlife Tours Mongolia**



Tour photo gallery: <http://www.wildlifetoursmongolia.com/photo-gallery>

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**Background information:** Mongolia is a vast country with a range of different natural habitats and ecosystems from the taiga forest to the gobi desert. Country is mostly steppe, but boreal forests lie in the north, majestic Altai mountains in the west, grassland steppe in the east and gobi deserts stretching from south east to the south west and north west. At 1,564,600 square kilometer area, just over 3 million people live in Mongolia. About 40% of the entire population live in the capital city of Ulaanbaatar. Many of the Mongolians still live in a nomadic lifestyle herding their livestock throughout the year.

**Tour duration:** 15 days

**Maximum group size:** 8 people

This includes all expenses such as vehicles and fuel, accommodations, food, national park fees in the country. The cost excludes international travels, beverages and laundry.

**Tour Leader:** Purevsuren Tsolmonjav (Puje), one of the leading wildlife guides in Mongolia. He speaks fluent English.

**Vehicle:** Toyota Land Cruisers (4WD), there will be some long drives on paved and dirt roads to reach the destinations. We consider that the comfort of our clients is very important so that a max of 3 passengers will sit in each car.

**Climate:** The weather can be warm to hot in August. Generally, it will be hot during the day, but it will be cooler at night and in the early mornings. Colder weather can be expected at the higher altitudes, and rain is possible at almost any time.

**Accommodation:** In Ulaanbaatar we will stay in a modern hotel. Away from there we will either stay in yurt camps (called as ger in Mongolia).

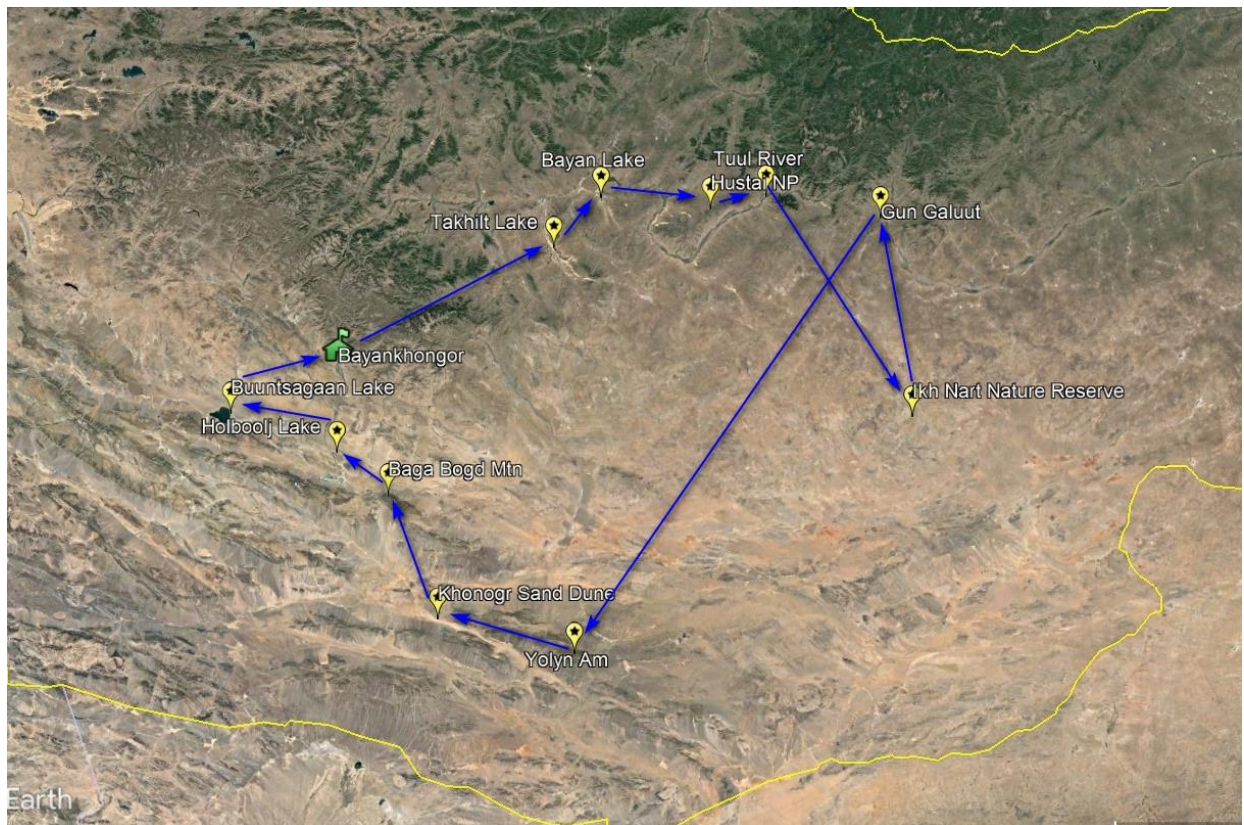
#### Key mammal species list for the tour:

- |                       |                               |
|-----------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1. Goitered Gazelle   | 9. Corsac Fox                 |
| 2. Siberian Ibex      | 10. Red Fox                   |
| 3. Argali Sheep       | 11. Alashan Ground Squirrel   |
| 4. Mongolian Gazelle  | 12. Pallid Ground Squirrel    |
| 5. Przewalski's Horse | 13. Pallas's Pika             |
| 6. Siberian Wapiti    | 14. Daurian Pika              |
| 7. Pallas's Cat       | 15. Long-eared Hedgehog       |
| 8. Tarbagan Marmot    | 16. Jerboas and other rodents |

In addition to the mammals, there are opportunities to see a number of bird species, different ecosystems, cultural and historical sites, and nomadic life styles of local communities.

### Key bird species list for the tour:

- |                          |                                |                          |
|--------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. Mongolian Ground-jay  | 9. White-crowned Penduline Tit | 16. Demoiselle Crane     |
| 2. Steppe Eagle          | 10. Long-tailed Rosefinch      | 17. White-winged Tern    |
| 3. Godlewski's Bunting   | 11. Beautiful Rosefinch        | 18. Saker Falcon         |
| 4. Meadow Bunting        | 12. Siberian Rubythroat        | 19. Amur Falcon          |
| 5. Pine Bunting          | 13. Swan Goose                 | 20. Mongolian Lark       |
| 6. Pallas's Reed Bunting | 14. Bar-headed Goose           | 21. Small Snowfinch      |
| 7. Wallcreeper           | 15. White-naped Crane          | 22. Desert Wheatear      |
| 8. Azure Tit             |                                | 23. Asian Desert Warbler |



*Mongolia Birding & Mammal Watching Tour Route*

## Day 1. Ulaanbaatar

After meeting with tour participants in Ulaanbaatar, we will be birding along the Tuul River in Ulaanbaatar. Key birds to see here will be Azure Tit, Long-tailed Rosefinch, White-cheeked Starling, Azure-winged Magpie and some other early migrants heading south.

**Accommodation:** Hotel in Ulaanbaatar.

## Day 2-3. Ikh Nart Nature Reserve, South East Gobi

We will leave early in the morning and head to Ikh Nart Nature Reserve which is 300km to the south. The Ikh Nart has been established in 1996 to protect one of the last remaining populations of endangered Argali Sheep and its natural habitats. Ikh Nart is located in the Dornogobi Aimag or East Gobi Province of Mongolia covering an area of about 66,000 hectares of steppe and semi-desert environments. The reserve is one of the best wildlife destinations, home to about 1,000 Argali Sheep and a couple hundreds of Siberian Ibex along with a variety of breeding raptors such as Cinereous Vulture, Lesser Kestrel, Saker Falcon and Upland Buzzard. We will explore the reserve and visit the Wildlife Research Center and mineral springs.

**Key mammals:** Argali Sheep, Siberian Ibex, Goitered Gazelle, Mongolian Gazelle, Red Fox and Corsac Fox.

**Accommodation:** Ger camp.

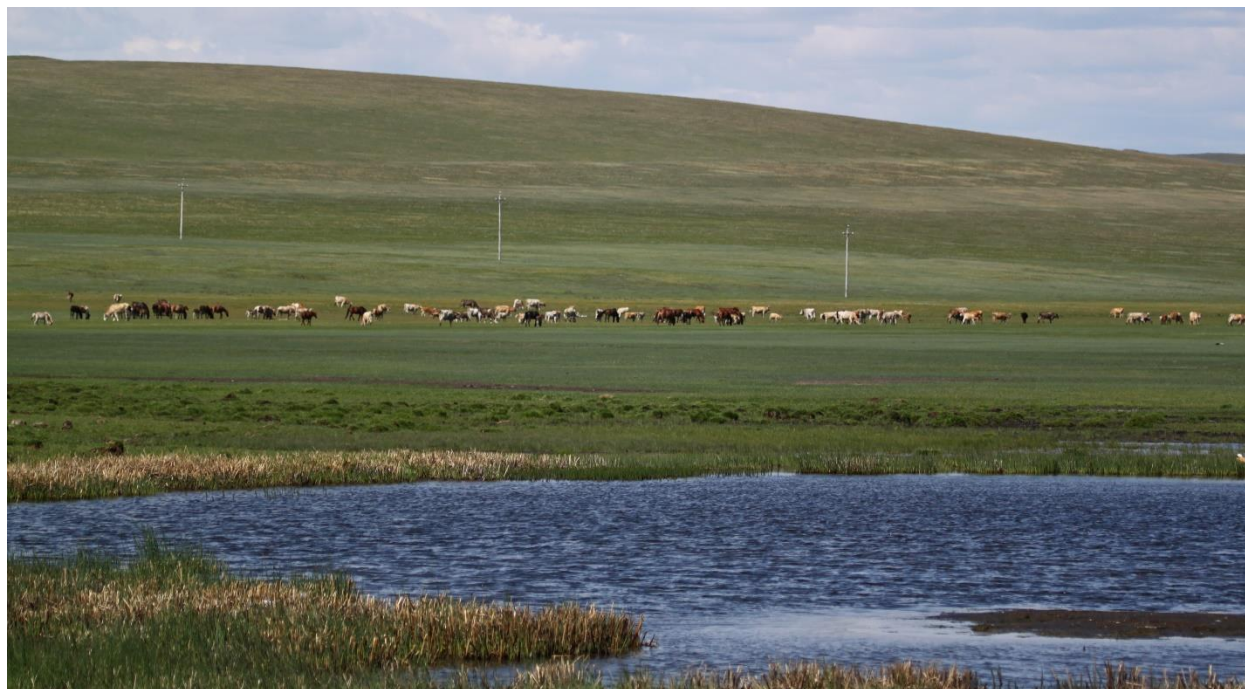


#### Day 4-5. Gun Galuut Nature Reserve

The Gun Galuut NR has a great diversity of ecosystems even though it has a comparatively small area. The complex of high mountains, steppes, rivers, lakes and wetlands are kept in their original condition. We will visit a wetland where rare White-naped Cranes breed, and several small lakes for waterfowls and waders.

**Key species:** Argali Sheep, Steppe Polecat and Pallas's Cat. The birds can be seen here White-naped Crane, Demoiselle Crane, Mongolian Lark, Small Snowfinch and various waterfowls and waders.

**Accommodation:** Tented camp.



### Day 6. Dalanzadag – Yolyn Am

We will drive to DZ, capital of Umnugobi province, in the early morning. There are several tree plantations in DZ and these attract many migrants in spring and autumn. We will visit these plantations shortly for migrants.

**Accommodation:** Ger camp

### Day 7. Birding in Yolyn Am



After having early breakfast, we will drive to Yolyn Am valley. The key species we will look for are Wallcreeper, Bearded Vulture, Godlewski’s Bunting, Mongolian Accentor, Brown Accentor, Beautiful Rosefinch, Barred Warbler, and Bearded Vulture. Mammals can be seen here are Siberian Ibex, Alashan Ground Squirrel, Midday Gerbil and Pallas’s Pika.

**Accommodation:** Ger camp.



## Day 8. Khongor Sand Dune



Khongor Sand Dune stretches about 185 km long and covers an area of 925 km<sup>2</sup>. On the way to the dune, we will look for rare mammals such as Asiatic Wild Ass, Goitered Gazelle and Mongolian Gazelle. Next morning, after having early breakfast, we will go to the adjacent hilly area to look for Mongolian Ground-jay. Then, we will visit a small patch of Saxaul forest to find Saxaul Sparrow, Asian Desert Warbler, Southern Grey Shrike, Desert Wheatear, Long-legged Buzzard. Long-eared Hedgehog will be seen around the camp. **Accommodation:** Ger camp



## Day 9-10. Baga Bogd Mountain

The Baga Bogd is a part of Gobi Altai mountain rang. We will see birds like Grey-necked Bunting, Mongolian Finch, Wallcreeper, Barred Warbler and Sulphur-bellied Warbler. **Accommodation:** Tented camp.



## Day 11. Holboolj Lake

The Holboolj Lake is an important site for a variety of water birds. It is a good place to stop by for Asian Dowitcher and many other migrants. **Accommodation:** Tented camp.





## Day 12. Buuntsagaan Lake

The Buuntsagaan is the largest lake in the area and one of the important bird areas. We will look for Relict Gull, Pallas's Gull, White-winged Tern and Pallas's Fish Eagle and other waterfowls and waders during our stay. At night, we will spotlight for nocturnal rodents such as Jerboas and Hamsters. **Accommodation:** Tented camp.



## Day 13. Takhilt Lake

The Takhilt is a small lake located near sand dune called Elsene Tasarkhai. Key birds to see here will be Arctic Loon, Eastern Spot-billed Duck, Swan Goose, Bar-headed Goose, Eastern Marsh Harrier and White-naped Crane. **Accommodation:** Ger camp.



### Day 14. Bayan Lake



The Bayan Lake is one of important bird areas and must-visit sites. The reed beds hold several species of birds associated with reeds. Key birds can be seen here are Oriental Reed Warbler, Pallas’s Grasshopper Warbler, Eastern Spot-billed Duck, Marsh Sandpiper, Eastern Yellow Wagtail and Pallas’s Reed Bunting.

**Accommodation:** Tented camp.

### Day 15. Hustai National Park

The Hustai National Park is well known for its reintroduced wild horses also known as Przewalski’s horse. The park supports a large number of Siberian Wapiti Deer and Mongolian Marmots. On the southern steppe of the park, we will look for Mongolian Gazelles. The park also provides important habitats for a range of bird species, especially raptors like vultures, eagles and falcons.

**Key mammals:** Wild Horse, Siberian Wapiti Deer, Siberian Marmot, Mongolian Gazelle and Long-tailed Ground Squirrel.

**Accommodation:** Ger camp

