BIRDING THE GOBI DESERT

Gobi Altai Mountains, Desert Steppes, Sand Dunes & Saxaul Trees



Gobi Desert is a peculiar habitat found in southern Mongolia. Vast valleys extended between the high Gobi Altai Mountains, huge sand dunes, oases, and saxaul trees are the habitats for many sought-after localized bird species including enigmatic Pallas's Sandgrouse, near endemic Kozlov's Accentor, Oriental Plover, Henderson's Ground Jay, Saxaul Sparrow, Asian Desert Warbler, Godlewski's and Grey-necked Buntings. Join us our highly professional team and benefit from their many years of experience. Drive through the extraordinary scenic landscapes and visit nomad family.

- *Gobi Altai Mountains, Desert Steppes, Khongor Sand Dunes and Saxaul Trees*
- *Pallas's Sandgrouse, Kozlov's Accentor, Oriental Plover, Henderson's Ground Jay, Saxaul Sparrow, Godlewski's and Grey-necked Buntings*
- *Special mammals - Goitered and Mongolian Gazelles, Siberian Ibex and Argali Sheep*
- *Nomadic family visit and traditional ger camp stays*

Tour code: BM-BSGD1

Price per person: US$ 2905 **Deposit:** US$ 871.5

Date: 24 - 31 May, 2018; (8 days) **Group size:** 4 -13 persons

The price **includes** all transports and accommodations within Mongolia, meals, expert bird guide, drinking water, nomad family visit, entrance fees to all national parks, and road tolls.

The price **excludes** international transportation, all types of insurance, visas, departure tax, alcoholic drinks and items of personal nature, binoculars, telescopes and tripods, sleeping bags, extra luggage, optional tours.

Note:

We cannot warranty: Occasional flight delays or cancellations, poor roads conditions, items of personal nature, adverse weather conditions, any personal injure.

DATE	WILDLIFE SITES
DAY 1.	ULAANBAATAR CITY
DAY 2-3.	YOLYN AM (Gobi Altai Mountains)
DAY 4-5.	KHONGORYN ELS (Sand dune and saxaul trees)
DAY 6.	DALANZADGAD TOWN
DAY 7.	ULAANBAATAR (Shopping and farewell dinner)
DAY 8.	DEPARTURE

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TRIP ITINERARY



Azure Tit

DAY 1. ARRIVE IN ULAANBAATAR CITY

Our crew picks you up at the Chinggis Khaan International airport after your arrival in Ulaanbaatar which is the capital of Mongolia and check in a hotel. You have a bit rest at the hotel. After lunch (in case you arrive before lunch), will visit Tuul river forest near Ulaanbaatar. We see Azure Tit, Long-tailed Rosefinch, Azure-winged Magpie, White-crowned Penduline Tit and Ruddy Shelduck. Have a WELCOME DINNER at one of the most famous restaurants in Ulaanbaatar and return to the hotel.

Food: Welcome dinner at a restaurant.

Road: Total coverage 30 km on paved road (30 minutes' drive).

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Mongolian Accentor


Saxual Sparrow


Pallas's Sandgrouse


Saker Falcon

DAY 2-3. YOLYN AM (Gobi Altai Mountains)
Upon arrival in Dalanzadgad town, we drive straight to the high mountain and check in a tourist ger camp. During these 2 days birding in this hotspot, we see Kozlov's and Brown Accentor, Mongolian Finch, Crag Martin, White-winged Snowfinch, Black Redstart, Saker Falcon, Lammergeier, Himalayan Vulture and Beautiful Rosefinch and Godlewski's and Grey-necked Bunting. Down on the desert steppe, we find the pretty Oriental Plover. Overnight in a tourist ger camp. **Food:** Tourist Ger Camp – Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner. **Road:** Total coverage 50 km on paved road (1 hour' drive and 1 hour' flight).

DAY 4-5. KHONGORYN ELS (Sand dune)
After breakfast, we drive to the west of the ger camp to get Khongoryn Els which is a huge sand dune located between a high mountain and vast desert steppe. We see Saxaul Sparrow, Pallas's Sandgrouse, Henderson's Ground Jay, Desert Wheatear, Asian Desert Warbler, Great Grey Shrike, Isabelline Shrike and Long-legged Buzzard. Overnight in a tourist ger camp. **Food:** Tourist Ger Camp – Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner. **Road:** Total coverage 160 km on dust road (4-5 hours' drive).

DAY 6. DALANZADGAD TOWN
After breakfast, we start driving back to the Dalanzadgad town. En route we can see Upland Buzzard, Pallas's Sandgrouse, Isabelline Shrike and Great Grey Shrike, Desert Wheatear and possibly the magnificent mammal Goitered Gazelle. Overnight in a tourist ger camp. **Food:** Tourist Ger Camp – Breakfast, Dinner. Packed Lunch. **Road:** Total coverage 200 km on dust road (5-6 hours' drive).

DAY 7. ULAANBAATAR CITY
Today we fly back to the Ulaanbaatar city. Shopping and city tour available in

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late afternoon. If time allows, we visit Tuul river valley for some missing species. Overnight in a hotel. **Food:** Tourist ger camp – Breakfast; Local Restaurant – Lunch, Farewell Dinner. **Road:** Total coverage 340 km on paved road (5-6 hours' drive).

DAY 8. DEPARTURE
A transfer to Chinggis Khaan International Airport will be the end of our services in Mongolia.

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PLEASE CONTACT US FOR TRIP DATES, PRICES, GROUP SIZE AND AVAILABILITY

Your local host organization will be Mongolica Travel and Mongolian Ornithological Society. Throughout this tour, we will be assisting them to collect information about the birds of this poorly known country, which will update the Mongolian National Bird Database run by Mongolian Ornithological Society.

NO	SCIENTIFIC NAME	ENGLISH NAME	NOTE
1.	*Podiceps cristatus*	Great Crested Grebe	Near UB
2.	*Phalacrocorax carbo*	Great Cormorant	Near UB
3.	*Ardea cinerea*	Grey Heron	Near UB
4.	*Ciconia nigra*	Black Stork	Near UB
5.	*Anser cygnoides*	Swan Goose	Near UB
6.	*Cygnus cygnus*	Whooper Swan	Near UB
7.	*Tadorna ferruginea*	Ruddy Shelduck	Near UB
8.	*Tadorna tadorna*	Common Shelduck	Near UB
9.	*Anas platyrhynchos*	Mallard	Near UB
10.	*Anas crecca*	Common Teal	Near UB
11.	*Anas strepera*	Gadwall	Near UB
12.	*Anas penelope*	Eurasian Wigeon	Near UB
13.	*Anas acuta*	Northern Pintail	Near UB
14.	*Anas guerguedula*	Garganey	Near UB
15.	*Anas clypeata*	Northern Shoveler	Near UB
16.	*Aythya ferina*	Common Pochard	Near UB
17.	*Aythya fuligula*	Tufted Pochard	Near UB
18.	*Bucephala clangula*	Common Goldeneye	Near UB
19.	*Mergus merganser*	Common Merganser	Near UB

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20.	*Milvus migrans*	Black Kite	Near UB
21.	*Circus cyaneus*	Hen Harrier	Near UB
22.	*Buteo hemilasius*	Upland Buzzard	Near UB, Gobi Altai Mountains
23.	*Buteo rufinus*	Long -legged Buzzard	Khongoryn Els
24.	*Hieraaetus pennatus*	Booted Eagle	Near UB
25.	*Aquila chrysaetos*	Golden Eagle	Gobi Altai Mountains
26.	*Gypaetus barbatus*	Lammergeier	Gobi Altai Mountains
27.	*Aegypius monachus*	Cinereous Vulture	Gobi Altai Mountains
28.	*Gyps himalayensis*	Himalayan Griffon	Gobi Altai Mountains
29.	*Falco cherrug*	Saker Falcon	Gobi Altai Mountains
30.	*Falco naumanni*	Lesser Kestrel	Khongoryn Els
31.	*Falco tinnunculus*	Common Kestrel	Gobi Altai Mountains
32.	*Alectoris chukar*	Chukar	Gobi Altai Mountains
33.	*Tetraogallus altaicus*	Altai Snowcock	Rare at Gobi Altai Mountains
34.	*Anthropoides virgo*	Demoiselle Crane	Near UB, Khongoryn Els
35.	*Fulica atra*	Common Coot	Near UB
36.	*Charadrius dubius*	Little Ringed Plover	Near UB
37.	*Charadrius veredus*	Oriental Plover	Near Dalanzadgad
38.	*Charadrius alexandrinus*	Kentish Plover	Khongoryn Els
39.	*Vanellus vanellus*	Northern Lapwing	Near UB
40.	*Himantopus himantopus*	Black-winged Stilt	Near UB
41.	*Recurvirostra avosetta*	Pied Avocet	Near UB
42.	*Tringa ochropus*	Green Sandpiper	Near UB
43.	*Tringa glareola*	Wood Sandpiper	Near UB
44.	*Tringa totanus*	Common Redshank	Near UB
45.	*Tringa stagnatilis*	Marsh Sandpiper	Near UB
46.	*Actitis hypoleucos*	Common Sandpiper	Near UB
47.	*Calidris temminckii*	Temminck's Stint	Near UB
48.	*Gallinago gallinago*	Common Snipe	Near UB
49.	*Limosa limosa*	Black-tailed Godwit	Near UB
50.	*Larus mongolicus*	Mongolian Gull	Near UB
51.	*Chlidonias leucopterus*	White-winged Tern	Near UB
52.	*Sterna hirundo*	Common Tern	Near UB
53.	*Syrrhaptes paradoxus*	Pallas's Sandgrouse	Khongoryn Els
54.	*Columba livia*	Rock Pigeon	Near UB
55.	*Columba rupestris*	Hill Pigeon	Khongoryn Els
56.	*Athene noctua*	Little Owl	Khongoryn Els
57.	*Apus apus*	Common Swift	Gobi Altai Mountains, Khongoryn Els, Near UB
58.	*Apus pacificus*	Pacific Swift	Common at most sites
59.	*Upupa epops*	Eurasian Hoopoe	Common at most sites
60.	*Riparia riparia*	Sand Martin	Common at most sites
61.	*Ptyonoprogne rupestris*	Eurasian Crag Martin	Gobi Altai Mountains

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62.	*Hirundo rustica*	Barn Swallow	Near UB
63.	*Delichon urbica*	Northern House Martin	Gobi Altai Mountains
64.	*Calandrella cheleensis*	Asian Short-toed Lark	Khongoryn Els
65.	*Eremophila alpestris*	Horned Lark	Common at most sites
66.	*Alauda arvensis*	Eurasian Skylark	Khongoryn Els
67.	*Anthus richardi*	Richard's Pipit	Near UB
68.	*Anthus godlewskii*	Blyth's Pipit	Gobi Altai Mountains
69.	*Motacilla flava*	Yellow Wagtail	Near UB
70.	*Motacilla citreola*	Yellow-headed Wagtail	Near UB
71.	*Motacilla cinerea*	Grey Wagtail	Near UB
72.	*Motacilla alba*	White Wagtail	Near UB
73.	*Lanius cristatus*	Brown Shrike	Near UB
74.	*Lanius isabellinus*	Rufous-tailed Shrike	Gobi Altai Mountains, Khongoryn Els
75.	*Lanius excubitor*	Northern Shrike	Khongoryn Els
76.	*Sturnus cineraceus*	White-cheeked Starling	Near UB
77.	*Cyanopica cyanus*	Azure-winged Magpie	Near UB
78.	*Pica pica*	Black-billed Magpie	Near UB
79.	*Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax*	Red-billed Chough	Near UB, Gobi Altai Mountains
80.	*Corvus dauuricus*	Daurian Jackdaw	Near UB
81.	*Corvus frugilegus*	Eurasian Rook	Near UB
82.	*Corvus corone*	Carrion Crow	Near UB
83.	*Corvus corax*	Common Raven	Common at most sites
84.	*Podoces hendersoni*	Mongolian Ground Jay	Khongoryn Els
85.	*Prunella fulvescens*	Brown Accentor	Gobi Altai Mountains
86.	*Prunella kozlowi*	Kozlov's Accentor	Gobi Altai Mountains
87.	*Locustella certhiola*	Pallas's Grasshopper Warbler	Near UB
88.	*Acrocephalus agricola*	Paddyfield Warbler	Near UB
89.	*Acrocephalus orientalis*	Oriental Reed Warbler	Near UB
90.	*Sylvia nisoria*	Barred Warbler	Gobi Altai Mountains
91.	*Sylvia communis*	Greater Whitethroat	Gobi Altai Mountains
92.	*Sylvia curruca*	Lesser Whitethroat	Gobi Altai Mountains
93.	*Sylvia nana*	Desert Warbler	Khongoryn Els
94.	*Oenanthe oenanthe*	Northern Wheatear	Gobi Altai Mountains
95.	*Oenanthe pleschanka*	Pied Wheatear	Gobi Altai Mountains
96.	*Oenanthe isabellina*	Isabelline Wheatear	Common at most sites
97.	*Oenanthe deserti*	Desert Wheatear	Khongoryn Els
98.	*Monticola saxatilis*	Rufous-tailed Rock-Thrush	Gobi Altai Mountains

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99.	*Phoenicurus ochruros*	Black Redstart	Gobi Altai Mountains
100.	*Remiz coronatus*	White-crowned Penduline Tit	Gobi Altai Mountains
101.	*Parus cyanus*	Azure Tit	Near UB
102.	*Tichodroma muraria*	Wallcreeper	Rare at Gobi Altai Mountains
103.	*Passer domesticus*	House Sparrow	Common at most sites
104.	*Passer ammodendri*	Saxaul Sparrow	Khongoryn Els
105.	*Passer montanus*	Eurasian Tree Sparrow	Common at most sites
106.	*Petronia petronia*	Rock Sparrow	Gobi Altai Mountains
107.	*Montifringilla nivalis*	White-winged Snowfinch	Gobi Altai Mountains
108.	*Acanthis flavirostris*	Eurasian Twite	Gobi Altai Mountains
109.	*Bucanetes mongolicus*	Mongolian Finch	Gobi Altai Mountains
110.	*Carpodacus erythrinus*	Common Rosefinch	Gobi Altai Mountains
111.	*Carpodacus pulcherrimus*	Beautiful Rosefinch	Gobi Altai Mountains
112.	*Uragus sibiricus*	Long-tailed Rosefinch	Near UB
113.	*Coccothraustes coccorhraustes*	Hawfinch	Near UB
114.	*Emberiza godlewskii*	Godlewski's Bunting	Gobi Altai Mountains
115.	*Emberiza schoeniclus*	Reed Bunting	Near UB
116.	*Emberiza buchanani*	Grey-necked Bunting	Gobi Altai Mountains

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