Great Gobi Wilderness Safari

Bactrian Wild Camel, Asiatic Wild Ass, Goitered Gazelle, Gobi Bear, & Snow Leopard



Mongolia wildlife safari in the pristine wilderness of the great Gobi Desert and dramatic Gobi-Altai Mountains

This is a trip which a few had done before. Visit the most remote areas of the Mongolian Gobi where almost no human being lives.

This tour gives you the great chance to view the iconic and least studied mammals including Bactrian Wild Camel, Asiatic Wild Ass, Goitered Gazelle, Gobi Bear, Siberian Ibex, Argali Wild Sheep and the illusive Snow Leopard and more. Be the first one who professionally photographed Mongolian Gobi wildlife specialties and explore the wilderness.

Highlights:

- Expect more than 40 species of mammals and 200 species of birds during the trip depending on a season.
- Search for the enigmatic Snow Leopards in the world's biggest Snow Leopard nature reserve.
- Explore the wilderness in the untarnished Mongolia Gobi Desert and Gobi-Altai Mountains.
- Stay in the wilderness away from human settlements.
- Globally uncommon Bactrian Wild Camel, Asiatic Wild Ass, Goitered Gazelle, Gobi Bear, Siberian Ibex, and Argali Wild Sheep.

Tour code: WS-GGWS

Tour price: 4,150 US$ **Deposit:** 1245 US$

Date: 10 - 26 Sep (16 days) **Group size:** 6-10 persons

The price **includes** all transport and accommodations within Mongolia, and meals, expert guide, drinking water, nomad family visit, entrance fees to all protected areas, and road tolls.

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

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

DATE	WILDLIFE SITES
Day 1.	**Arrival in Ulaanbaatar**
Day 2.	**Yolyn Am** (Gobi-Altai Mountains)
Day 3.	**Khongoryn Els** (The Massive Sand Dune)
Day 4-6.	**Tost and Toson Bumba** (Land of the Snow Leopards)
Day 7.	**Oases In Gobi Desert** (Paradise for Gobi Animals)
Day 8-12.	**Great Gobi A Strictly Protected Area** (True Wilderness)
Day 13.	**Oases and High Mountains**
Day 14.	**Dalanzadgad**
Day 15.	**Ulaanbaatar** (Shopping and Farewell Dinner)
Day 16.	**Departure** (End of Our Service)

GO TO WEBSITE

Tour map and photo gallery

TOUR ITINERARY


Pallas's Cat


Goitered Gazelle


Grey Wolf

Day 1. Arrive in Ulaanbaatar
Our crew picks you up at the Chinggis Khaan international airport upon your arrival in Ulaanbaatar, capital of Mongolia and transfer to the reserved hotel. Optional rest at the hotel for few hours. After lunch (in case you arrive before lunch), visit Tuul river valley for introduction birding at the wetland and a beautiful mix of cherry, elm, willow, and poplar. Interesting birds here include uncommon Black Stork, Black-eared Kite, Demoiselle Crane, Pied Avocet, Mongolian Gull, 'black-billed' Common Tern *longipennis*, Horned Lark *brandti*, Barn Swallow *tytleri*, White-cheeked Starling, Blyth's Pipit, Azure Tit, White-crowned Penduline-Tit, Long-tailed Rosefinch and probably world endangered Yellow-breasted Bunting. Return to the hotel in the late afternoon. Welcome dinner at one of the better restaurants in Ulaanbaatar. **Food:** Optional lunch and welcome dinner. **Road:** Total coverage 30 km paved road (30 minutes).

Day 2. Yolyn Am (Gobi-Altai Mountains)
We will fly over 1 hour to the Gobi and land at the Gurvan Saikhan Airport near Dalanzadgad, capital of Umnugobi Province. Our crew meets you at the airport and then drive straight to the reserved tourist ger camp near the beautiful mountain gorge Yolyn Am. Following lunch at the ger camp, we will drive to the mountain gorge and do another exciting bird walk along the path. The interesting birds in the valley are Chukar, Bearded Vulture and Himalayan Vulture, Saker Falcon, Mongolian Accentor, Beautiful and Common Rosefinches, Twite, White-winged Snowfinch, Mongolian Finch, Wallcreeper, Black Redstart, Northern Wheatear, Isabelline Shrike, Northern House Martin, Eurasian Crag Martin, Sulphur-bellied Warbler, and probably Barred Warbler, Godlewski's and Grey-necked Buntings and many others. Altai Snowcock is one of the challenging species in this area but we will give it a try. In the evening we will be back to the ger camp at the dinner time.

Next morning, we will visit the same spot as the last evening and look for the missing species along with some mammals including Siberian Ibex, Mongolian Pika, Red Fox, and possibly Argali Wild Sheep. The afternoon we will visit Mukhart shiver valley to see some missing species. And we will drive north of the ger camp to find Oriental Plover on the wide desert steppe. Overnight in a tourist ger camp. **Food:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner. **Road:** Total coverage 50 km paved road (Fly 1 hour & drive 30 minutes).



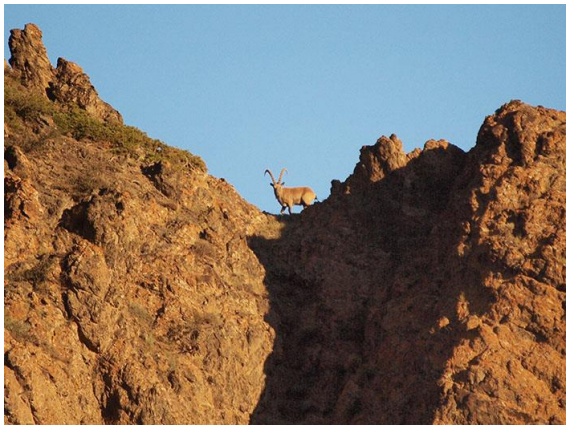
Asiatic Wild Ass



Argali Wild Sheep



Long-eared Hedgehog



Siberian Ibex

Day 3. Khongoryn Els (The Massive Sand Dune)
After breakfast, we start driving to the famous Khongoryn Els, which is a beautiful singing sand dune located on the rear side of a high mountain and borders with endless desert steppe. The views of camels grazing in the miracle of the desert steppe, in front of the High Mountain, and picturesque sand dune in the sunrise, will be one of the best moments of the trip. We have a long drive to reach the place but will make stops for any interesting birds or sceneries along the way. We take lunchbox from the ger camp and have picnic lunch in the beautiful mountain valley. While driving on the endless steppe, we will see Long-legged Buzzard, Desert Wheatear, and possible mammal will be the magnificent Goitered Gazelle. On the boiling ground of the Gobi, we will find Tuva toad-head agama and Mongolian racerunner. At the dinner time, we will arrive at our tourist ger camp. The remainder of the day is free to relax following the drive.

Next morning will visit saxaul forest to see breeding Saxaul Sparrow, Long-legged Buzzard, Great Grey Shrike, Isabelline Shrike, Crested Lark, and Desert Wheatear, and also visit a small pond to see Pallas's Sandgrouses drinking water. Afternoon relaxes at the ger camp due to boiling hotness. In the evening, we will observe night mammals of the Gobi desert including Gobi Jerboa and Long-eared Hedgehog. Stargazing is beautiful during the nights. Overnight in a tourist ger camp. **Food:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner. **Road:** Total coverage 50 km paved and 100 km dust road (5-6 hours)

Day 4-6. Tost and Toson Bumba
We will visit the country's first dedicated Nature Reserve Tost for snow leopard and is the world's largest continuous protected snow leopard habitats. For these days, we will give it our best shot to find the Snow Leopard, Pallas's Cat, and Steppe Polecat, Argali and Siberian Ibex and many more exotic wildlife. We will visit the headquarter of the Snow Leopard Trust which aims to protect this endangered cat through community-based conservation projects, and get acquainted with the team and their works. In this wilderness, we will stay in tented camps visiting oases, wastes, and mountains. We will do night drives to find the strange-looking mammals such as jerboa, pygmy jerboa, and hamsters, and the illusive Pallas's cat. Overnight in a tented camp. **Food:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner. **Road:** Total coverage 200 km dust road.

Day 7. Oases in Gobi Desert
Number one rule of the trip will be 'drive less and explore more'. That's why we spend a day to reach the Great Gobi and explore the one-of-a-kind oases and the absolutely superb desert wastes and high mountains. Oases are the best places to


Siberian Jerboa


Marbled Polecat


Mongolian Pika

capture the good photos of the Gobi animals and birds as they are the only water source within about 100 km radius. Overnight in a tented camp. **Food:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner. **Road:** Total coverage 150 km dust road.

Day 8-12. Great Gobi A Strictly Protected Area
Great Gobi "A" strictly protected area provides habitat to many endangered species such as the Siberian Ibex, Argali sheep, Gobi bear, Bactrian Wild Camel, and the elusive Snow Leopard. This SPA was included in the World Network of Biosphere Reserves in 1990 as one of the largest biosphere reserves in the world (5.3 million hectares). The main targets in this land will be to photograph Wild Bactrian camel, Asiatic wild ass, Goitered gazelle, and possibly Gobi Bear and Snow leopard. In this wilderness, we will stay in tented camps visiting oases, wastes, and mountains. **Food:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner. **Road:** Total coverage 150 km dust road.

Day 13. Wildlife-rich Oasis
Almost whole day drive and we spend the night at the wildlife-rich oasis. Evening and morning try for the missing species. Overnight in a tented camp. **Food:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner. **Road:** Total coverage 250 km dust road.

Day 14. Dalanzadgad
After breakfast, we will continue driving east for the Dalanzadgad town. En route we can see Upland Buzzard, Pallas's Sandgrouse, Asian Desert Warbler, Desert Wheatear and possibly the magnificent mammal Goitered Gazelle. Overnight in a local hotel. **Food:** Breakfast, Packed Lunch, Dinner. **Road:** Total coverage 200 km dust road (5-6 hours' drive).

Day 15. Ulaanbaatar
Fly to Ulaanbaatar. If time allows, visit Tuul River for missing species. City tour and shopping available. Overnight in a hotel. Food: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner. Road: Fly for an hour

Day 16. Departure
Transfer to the airport will be the end of our services in Mongolia.

GO TO WEBSITE
For tour map and photo gallery etc…

A LIST OF MAMMALS FOR THE TRIP

No	Common name	Scientific name	Note
1.	Daurian Hedgehog	*Mesechinus dauuricus*	
2.	Long-Eared Hedgehog	*Hemiechinus auritus*	
3.	Tolai Hare	*Lepus tolai*	
4.	Daurian Pika	*Ochotona dauurica*	
5.	Mongolian Pika	*Ochotona pallasi*	
6.	Siberian Marmot	*Marmota sibirica*	
7.	Long-Tailed Ground Squirrel	*Spermophilus undulatus*	
8.	Pallid Ground Squirrel	*Spermophilus pallidicauda*	
9.	Daurian Ground Squirrel	*Spermophilus dauuricus*	
10.	Siberian Chipmunk	*Tamias sibiricus*	
11.	Eurasian Red Squirrel	*Sciurus vulgaris*	
12.	Brandt's Vole	*Lasiopodomus brandtii*	
13.	Mongolian Silver Vole	*Alticola semicanus*	
14.	Mongolian Gerbil	*Meriones unguiculatus*	
15.	Midday Gerbil	*Meriones meridianus*	
16.	Great Gerbil	*Rhombomys opimus*	
17.	Gobi Jerboa	*Allactaga bullata*	
18.	Siberian Jerboa	*Allactaga sibirica*	
19.	Five-Toed Pygmy Jerboa	*Cardiocranius paradoxus*	
20.	Long-Eared Jerboa	*Euchoreutus naso*	
21.	Corsac Fox	*Vulpes corsac*	
22.	Red Fox	*Vulpes vulpes*	
23.	Grey Wolf	*Canis lupus*	**Rare**
24.	Gobi Bear	*Ursus arctos gobiensis*	**Very rare**
25.	Pallas' Cat Or Manul	*Otocolobus manul*	**Very rare**
26.	Snow Leopard	*Uncia uncia*	**Very rare**
27.	Asiatic Wild Ass	*Equus hemionus*	
28.	Przewalski's Wild Horse	*Equus ferus przewalski*	
29.	Red Deer	*Cervus elaphus*	
30.	Siberian Musk Deer	*Moschus moschiferus*	
31.	Black-tailed Gazelle	*Gazella subgutturosa*	
32.	Mongolian Gazelle	*Procapra gutturosa*	
33.	Siberian Or Asiatic Ibex	*Capra sibirica*	
34.	Argali Wild Sheep	*Ovis ammon*	
35.	Wild Bactrian Camel	*Camelus ferus*	

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

Your local host organization will be the Mongolica Co.Ltd 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	Notes
1.	*Podiceps nigricollis*	Black-necked Grebe	Ulaanbaatar
2.	*Podiceps cristatus*	Great Crested Grebe	Ulaanbaatar
3.	*Phalacrocorax carbo*	Great Cormorant	Ulaanbaatar
4.	*Ardea cinerea*	Grey Heron	Ulaanbaatar
5.	*Ciconia nigra*	Black Stork	Ulaanbaatar
6.	*Anser indicus*	Bar-headed Goose	Ulaanbaatar
7.	*Anser cygnoides*	Swan Goose	Ulaanbaatar
8.	*Cygnus cygnus*	Whooper Swan	Ulaanbaatar
9.	*Tadorna ferruginea*	Ruddy Shelduck	Ulaanbaatar
10.	*Tadorna tadorna*	Common Shelduck	Ulaanbaatar
11.	*Anas platyrhynchos*	Mallard	Ulaanbaatar
12.	*Anas crecca*	Common Teal	Ulaanbaatar
13.	*Anas strepera*	Gadwall	Ulaanbaatar
14.	*Anas penelope*	Eurasian Wigeon	Ulaanbaatar
15.	*Anas acuta*	Northern Pintail	Ulaanbaatar
16.	*Anas guerguedula*	Garganey	Ulaanbaatar
17.	*Anas clypeata*	Northern Shoveler	Ulaanbaatar
18.	*Aythya ferina*	Common Pochard	Ulaanbaatar
19.	*Aythya fuligula*	Tufted Pochard	Ulaanbaatar
20.	*Bucephala clangula*	Common Goldeneye	Ulaanbaatar
21.	*Mergus merganser*	Common Merganser	Ulaanbaatar
22.	*Milvus migrans*	Black Kite	Common
23.	*Buteo hemilasius*	Upland Buzzard	Common
24.	*Buteo rufinus*	Long-legged Buzzard	Gobi Desert
25.	*Hieraaetus pennatus*	Booted Eagle	Rare at Ulaanbaatar
26.	*Aquila nipalensis*	Steppe Eagle	Common
27.	*Aquila chrysaetos*	Golden Eagle	Gobi-Altai
28.	*Gypaetus barbatus*	Lammergeier	Gobi-Altai
29.	*Aegypius monachus*	Cinereous Vulture	Common
30.	*Gyps himalayensis*	Himalayan Griffon	Gobi-Altai
31.	*Falco cherrug*	Saker Falcon	Common
32.	*Falco subbuteo*	Eurasian Hobby	Rare at Ulaanbaatar
33.	*Falco amurensis*	Amur Falcon	Rare at Ulaanbaatar
34.	*Falco naumanni*	Lesser Kestrel	Gobi Desert
35.	*Falco tinnunculus*	Common Kestrel	Common
36.	*Alectoris chukar*	Chukar	Gobi-Altai
37.	*Tetraogallus altaicus*	Altai Snowcock	Gobi-Altai
38.	*Anthropoides virgo*	Demoiselle Crane	Ulaanbaatar

39.	*Fulica atra*	Common Coot	Ulaanbaatar
40.	*Vanellus vanellus*	Northern Lapwing	Ulaanbaatar
41.	*Himantopus himantopus*	Black-winged Stilt	Ulaanbaatar
42.	*Recurvirostra avosetta*	Pied Avocet	Ulaanbaatar
43.	*Tringa ochropus*	Green Sandpiper	Ulaanbaatar
44.	*Tringa glareola*	Wood Sandpiper	Ulaanbaatar
45.	*Tringa totanus*	Common Redshank	Ulaanbaatar
46.	*Tringa erythropus*	Spotted Redshank	Ulaanbaatar
47.	*Tringa stagnatilis*	Marsh Sandpiper	Ulaanbaatar
48.	*Actitis hypoleucos*	Common Sandpiper	Ulaanbaatar
49.	*Calidris minuta*	Little Stint	Ulaanbaatar
50.	*Calidris ruficollis*	Rufous-necked Stint	Ulaanbaatar
51.	*Calidris subminuta*	Long-toed Stint	Ulaanbaatar
52.	*Calidris temminckii*	Temminck's Stint	Ulaanbaatar
53.	*Calidris ferruginea*	Curlew Sandpiper	Ulaanbaatar
54.	*Gallinago gallinago*	Common Snipe	Ulaanbaatar
55.	*Limosa limosa*	Black-tailed Godwit	Ulaanbaatar
56.	*Larus ridibundus*	Common Black-headed Gull	Ulaanbaatar
57.	*Larus mongolicus*	Mongolian Gull	Ulaanbaatar
58.	*Chlidonias leucopterus*	White-winged Tern	Ulaanbaatar
59.	*Sterna hirundo*	Common Tern	Ulaanbaatar
60.	*Syrrhaptes paradoxus*	Pallas's Sandgrouse	Gobi Desert
61.	*Columba livia*	Rock Pigeon	Common
62.	*Columba rupestris*	Hill Pigeon	Common
63.	*Streptopelia decaocto*	Eurasian Collared-Dove	Dalanzadgad
64.	*Bubo bubo*	Eurasian Eagle-Owl	Gobi-Altai
65.	*Athene noctua*	Little Owl	Gobi-Altai
66.	*Apus apus*	Common Swift	Common
67.	*Apus pacificus*	Pacific Swift	Common
68.	*Upupa epops*	Eurasian Hoopoe	Common
69.	*Dendrocopos major*	Great Spotted Woodpecker	Ulaanbaatar
70.	*Dendrocopos minor*	Lesser Spotted Woodpecker	Ulaanbaatar
71.	*Riparia riparia*	Sand Martin	Ulaanbaatar
72.	*Ptyonoprogne rupestris*	Eurasian Crag Martin	Gobi-Altai
73.	*Hirundo rustica*	Barn Swallow	Common
74.	*Delichon urbica*	Northern House Martin	Gobi-Altai
75.	*Galerida cristata*	Crested Lark	Gobi Desert
76.	*Calandrella cheleensis*	Asian Short-toed Lark	Gobi Desert
77.	*Melanicorypha mongolica*	Mongolian Lark	Ulaanbaatar
78.	*Eremophila alpestris*	Horned Lark	Ulaanbaatar
79.	*Alauda arvensis*	Eurasian Skylark	Ulaanbaatar
80.	*Anthus richardi*	Richard's Pipit	Ulaanbaatar
81.	*Anthus godlewskii*	Blyth's Pipit	Ulaanbaatar & Yolyn Am
82.	*Motacilla flava*	Yellow Wagtail	Ulaanbaatar
83.	*Motacilla citreola*	Citrine Wagtail	Ulaanbaatar
84.	*Motacilla cinerea*	Grey Wagtail	Ulaanbaatar
85.	*Motacilla alba*	White Wagtail	Ulaanbaatar

86.	*Lanius cristatus*	Brown Shrike	Ulaanbaatar
87.	*Lanius isabellinus*	Rufous-tailed Shrike	Gobi-Altai & Gobi Desert
88.	*Lanius excubitor*	Great Grey Shrike	Gobi Desert
89.	*Sturnus cineraceus*	White-cheeked Starling	Ulaanbaatar
90.	*Cyanopica cyanus*	Azure-winged Magpie	Ulaanbaatar
91.	*Pica pica*	Black-billed Magpie	Common
92.	*Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax*	Red-billed Chough	Common
93.	*Corvus dauuricus*	Daurian Jackdaw	Ulaanbaatar
94.	*Corvus frugilegus*	Eurasian Rook	Common
95.	*Corvus corone*	Carrion Crow	Common
96.	*Corvus corax*	Common Raven	Common
97.	*Podoces hendersoni*	Mongolian Ground Jay	Gobi Desert
98.	*Prunella fulvescens*	Brown Accentor	Gobi-Altai
99.	*Prunella kozlowi*	Mongolian Accentor	Gobi-Altai
100.	*Locustella certhiola*	Pallas's Grasshopper-Warbler	Ulaanbaatar
101.	*Acrocephalus agricola*	Paddyfield Warbler	Rare at Ulaanbaatar
102.	*Acrocephalus orientalis*	Oriental Reed Warbler	Ulaanbaatar
103.	*Sylvia nisoria*	Barred Warbler	Gobi-Altai
104.	*Sylvia communis*	Greater Whitethroat	Gobi-Altai
105.	*Sylvia curruca*	Lesser Whitethroat	Gobi-Altai
106.	*Sylvia nana*	Desert Warbler	Gobi Desert
107.	*Oenanthe oenanthe*	Northern Wheatear	Common
108.	*Oenanthe pleschanka*	Pied Wheatear	Gobi-Altai
109.	*Oenanthe isabellina*	Isabelline Wheatear	Common
110.	*Oenanthe deserti*	Desert Wheatear	Gobi Desert
111.	*Monticola saxatilis*	Rufous-tailed Rock-Thrush	Gobi-Altai
112.	*Phoenicurus ochruros*	Black Redstart	Gobi-Altai
113.	*Phoenicurus auroreus*	Daurian Redstart	Ulaanbaatar
114.	*Turdus ruficollis*	Red-throated Thrush	Ulaanbaatar
115.	*Remiz coronatus*	White-crowned Penduline-Tit	Ulaanbaatar
116.	*Parus cyanus*	Azure Tit	Ulaanbaatar
117.	*Parus major*	Great Tit	Ulaanbaatar
118.	*Sitta europaea*	Wood Nuthatch	Ulaanbaatar
119.	*Passer domesticus*	House Sparrow	Common
120.	*Passer montanus*	Eurasian Tree Sparrow	Common
121.	*Petronia petronia*	Rock Sparrow	Gobi-Altai
122.	*Montifringilla nivalis*	White-winged Snowfinch	Gobi-Altai
123.	*Acanthis flavirostris*	Eurasian Twite	Gobi-Altai
124.	*Bucanetes mongolicus*	Mongolian Finch	Gobi-Altai
125.	*Carpodacus erythrinus*	Common Rosefinch	Gobi-Altai
126.	*Carpodacus pulcherrimus*	Beautiful Rosefinch	Gobi-Altai
127.	*Uragus sibiricus*	Long-tailed Rosefinch	Ulaanbaatar
128.	*Coccothraustes coccorhraustes*	Hawfinch	Ulaanbaatar
129.	*Emberiza godlewskii*	Godlewski's Bunting	Gobi-Altai
130.	*Emberiza schoeniclus*	Reed Bunting	Ulaanbaatar
131.	*Emberiza pallasi*	Pallas's Bunting	Ulaanbaatar
132.	*Emberiza buchanani*	Grey-necked Bunting	Gobi-Altai