MONGOLIA
PHOTOGRAPHY TRIP
Nomads, Nature and Wildlife



Stunning Landscapes, Age-old Nomadic Culture and Fascinating Wildlife Photography Trip
From Siberian Taiga through Vast Mongolian Grasslands to the Central Asian Gobi Desert

This epic journey will give you the best opportunities to photograph the unique nomadic culture and stunning natural landscapes along with diverse wildlife in Mongolia. Starting from the modern capital Ulaanbaatar, travel through the vast rolling steppes and visit one of the oldest functioning monastery Erdenezuu in the old capital Kharkhorin. Enjoy the famous Naadam festival photographing local people in their traditional costumes, horse-racing, wrestling and archery. In the end, the journey will take you to the sublime landscapes of the Gobi. Take a light walk in the Lammergeier Gorge enjoying the stunning scenery of the Gobi Altai Mountains. Catch the sunset/sunrise on the 200-m-high Khongor Sand Dune. Visiting a nomadic family will be one of the highlights of the trip.

Price per person: US$ 3436	**Deposit:** US$ 1030.8	**Tour Code:** PhWN1
Date: 05 - 18 Jul; (14 days)	**Group size:** 4 – 14 persons	

The price **includes** all transport and accommodations within Mongolia, nomadic family visit, English speaking expert guide, meals (Breakfast; Lunch; Dinner) and drinking water, camel and horse treks, city tour and shopping, entrance fees to all National Parks, museums, monasteries and cultural events, road tolls, invitation letter for visa support if necessary.

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

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

DATE	WILDLIFE SITES
Day 1.	Ulaanbaatar
Day 2.	Khustai National Park
Day 3.	Ugii Lake
Day 4.	Kharkhorin Town
Day 5.	Khugnu-Tarna National Park
Day 6.	Ulaanbaatar
Day 7-8.	Yolyn Am (Gobi Altai Mountains)
Day 9-10.	Khongoryn Els
Day 11.	Dalanzadgad
Day 12-13.	Gorkhi-Terelj National Park
Day 14.	Departure

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TOUR ITINERARY



National Museum of Mongolia



Przewalski's Wild Horse



Saker Falcon

Day 1. Arrive in Ulaanbaatar

Our crew picks you up at the Chinggis Khaan international airport after your arrival in Ulaanbaatar which is the capital of Mongolia and transfer to the hotel. You will have a bit rest at the hotel. After lunch (in case you arrive before lunch), visit National Museum of Mongolia which gives you all Mongolian history from human dawn until modern age. Have 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 paved road (30 minutes' drive).

Day 2. Khustai NP

After breakfast, we drive to Khustai National Park which is a home for re-introduced Przewalski's Wild Horse (*Equus przewalskii*). Following highlighting photographic opportunities:
Nomadic culture: Local family with horses, sheep and goats near Tuul river valley and mountain steppe.
Habitats: Rolling steppe extending beyond horizon, rocky outcrops, patched forest.
Wildlife: This is the best place to watch and photograph Przewalski's Wild Horse, Mongolian Marmot, Red Deer, and Long-tailed ground squirrel. Not only mammals, but also **Mongolia bird specialties** including Golden Eagle, Steppe Eagle, Cinereous Vulture, Amur Falcon, and Mongolian Lark. Overnight in a tourist ger camp. **Food:** Tourist Ger Camp – Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner. **Road:** Total coverage 80 km on paved road and 15 km on dust road (2-3 hours' drive).

Day 3. Ugii Lake

After breakfast, we head west to get Ugii lake which is one of the freshwater steppe lakes in Central Mongolia. Following highlighting photographic opportunities: **Nomadic culture:** Local family with horses, sheep and goats near the lake.
Habitats: Freshwater lake Ugii, caragana steppe, Orkhon river valley and vast rolling steppe extending beyond the horizon.
Wildlife: On the way to the Ugii Lake, we will see Brandt's Vole and Mongolian Gerbil which are the

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Brandt's Vole



Erdenezuu monastery



Khugnu Khan Mountain in Elsen tasarkhai

main prey species of many steppe carnivores and raptors. We see thousands of Swan Geese at south-western end of the lake. Also we will see Bar-headed Goose, most possibly Pintail, Northern Shoveler, Common Goldeneye, Pochard, and Small Snowfinch etc… **Food:** Tourist ger camp – Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner. **Road:** Total coverage 240 km on paved road (2-3 hours' drive).

Day 4. Kharkhorin (Karakorum)

After breakfast, we will head to Kharkhorin town driving along beautiful valley of Orkhon River. This was a capital city of Mongolia from Chinggis khan. We will visit Erdenezuu monastery. Following highlighting photographic opportunities:
Nomadic culture: Local family with horses, sheep and goats along the beautiful Orkhon river valley. Local family daily work. Kharkhorin tourist attraction site and old temples. Naadam festival at one of the sum centers en route.
Habitats: Rolling steppe, famous Orkhon river valley and Khangai Mountains. Overnight in a tourist ger camp. **Food:** Tourist ger camp – Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner. **Road:** Total coverage 30 km on paved road and 40 km on dust road (2-3 hours' drive).

Day 5. Khugnu-Tarna NP

After breakfast, we head to the east and will get Khugnu Khan mountain, which has large cliffs and granite rocks pillars. Following highlighting photographic opportunities:
Local family: Local family with horses, sheep, camels and goats.
Habitats: Contrasting scenery between sand dune and high rocky mountain.
Wildlife: We will see Bearded Vulture, Saker Falcon, Himalayan Vulture, Lesser Kestrel, and Golden and Steppe Eagles. Then we will visit to marshlands and see Black-throated Diver, White-naped Crane and Spot-billed Duck. Overnight in a tourist ger camp. **Food:** Tourist ger camp – Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner. **Road:** Total coverage 90 km on paved road (2-3 hours' drive).

Day 6. Ulaanbaatar

After breakfast, we will drive to the east of the ger

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Mongolian Horses on water



Typical view of the Gobi Altai Mountains



Mongolian Pika

camp to get Ulaanbaatar city. On the way, we will see typical steppe birds. If you wish photograph them, we will drive around the site according to your wish. After arrival, we will have a dinner together in classic Mongolian restaurant with Mongolian ornithological society members having a nice presentation on birds of Mongolia. You will stay in the booked hotel. Sorry it will be a bit long drive today. **Food:** Local restaurant – Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner. **Road:** Total coverage 270 km on paved road (4-5 hours' drive).

Day 7. Yolyn Am (Gobi Altai Mountains)

Upon arrival in Dalanzadgad town, we will drive straight to the high mountain and check in a tourist ger camp. Following highlighting photographic opportunities:
Local family: Tourist camps, local family with sheep and goats.
Habitats: High mountain range with juniper bushes, alpine meadow, and steep hills sides of high mountain slopes, typical desert steppe habitats and mountain valley with dried river bed and livestock.
Wildlife: We will check in domestic ger camp as close to photographing and mammal/bird watching site as possible. Also we will try to see Siberian Ibex in the area. Photograph Mongolian or Kozlov's Accentor, Brown Accentor, Mongolian Finch, Crag Martin, White-winged Snow Finch, Black Redstart, Saker Falcon, Godlewski's Bunting, Bearded Vulture, Himalayan Vulture and Beautiful Rosefinch. 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 8-9. Khongoryn Els

After breakfast, we will 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 deset steppe. Following highlighting photographic opportunities:
Local family: On the way, we will visit local family with camels. Wonderful views of local family with sheep and goats in middle of open landscape, largest sand dunes, Gobi Saxual forest, and gravel/homad desert.
Habitats: Habitat photographs of high mountains, Desert steppe and Gobi desert with scattered bushes, dry and arid desert steppe, and wide mountain valley framed by high mountain cliffs. You will find different

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View of Khongor sand dune



Long-eared Hedgehog



Siberian Chipmunk

habitats in one location, including saxaul forest, small river, wetland, meadow, large sand dune, and Altai high mountain range behind them.
Wildlife: We will search for Toad-headed Agama and Gobi Lizards. Then we will reach Saxaul forest area. Saxual forest area we will see Great Gerbil, Midday Gerbil (in the steppe), and search for Goitered Gazelles near the camp. We will see Saxaul Sparrow, Pallas's Sandgrouse, Mongolian Groundjay, Desert Wheatear, Asian Desert Warbler, Great Grey Shrike, Isabelline Shrike and Long-legged Buzzard. We will visit to a local family with camels. 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 10. Dalanzadgad

After breakfast, we will 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 and 1 hour' flight).

Day 11-12. Gorkhi-Terelj NP

Upon arrival in Chinggis Khaan airport, we will straight drive to the Terelj NP which is the southern end of Siberian boreal forest. **Local family:** Visit Kazakh eagle hunter family and also a family who owns yaks.
Habitats: This is the best site to photograph Siberian Boreal Forest, Forest steppe, Riparian forest, river valley and mountain range of Siberian Boreal forest in top of mountain.
Wildlife: We will watch forest and forest steppe mammals: Long-tailed Squirrel, Red Squirrel, Chipmunk, Daurian Pika, Mongolian Vole, Asian Field Mouse and birds: Oriental Cuckoo, Hoopoe, Black Woodpecker, Great Tit, Pine Bunting, Red-throated Thrush, Siberian Rubythroat, Siberian Stonechat, Red-flanked Bluetail, Dusky Warbler, Greenish Warbler, Yellow-browed Warbler, Taiga Flycatcher, Asian Brown Flycatcher and Eastern Buzzard. Overnight in a tourist ger camp. Crew will prepare a Mongolian traditional meal using mutton, vegetable, simple cooking pot and red-hot stones. **Food:** Restaurant – Breakfast; Tourist Ger Camp – Lunch, Dinner. **Road:**

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Rock shaped like praying monk

Total coverage 70 km on paved road (2-3 hours' drive and 1 hour' flight).

Day 13. Departure

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

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