Birding the East:
Siberian & East Asian Birds on Spring Migration



Eastern Mongolia is a real paradise for birders as there are many shy and illusive bird species passing through the region and they are easier to see on open area. There will be many attractive and sought-after species, all in full breeding plumage, including Mandarin & Falcated Ducks, Baikal Teal, White-winged Scoter, Hooded, White-naped and Siberian Cranes, Oriental Plover, Broad-billed and Sharp-tailed Sandpipers, Relict Gull, Northern Parrotbill, White-cheeked and Daurian Starlings, White's and Dusky Thrushes, Oriental Pratincole, Red-necked, Little and Long-toed Stints, Asian Dowitcher, Grey-capped Greenfinch, and Yellow-browed and Yellow-breasted buntings.

The trip starts at Ulaanbaatar and fly to Choibalsan. Driving through the great Mongolian plateau, reach the bird-rich Lake Buir and do birding at the site for several days. During this trip, we do camping near the birding site. Please note that our camping accommodation is a traditional Mongolian ger/yurt which is comfortable and warm. And the journey will take us to the historic Khalkh River and Ikh Tashgai Lakes which are all known to be the best stopover site for migrating birds.

Tour code: BM-EMBS1

Price per person: US$ 3060 **Deposit:** US$ 918

Date: 15 - 27 May 2018; (13 days) **Group size:** 4 -13 persons

The price **includes** all transport and accommodations within Mongolia, and meals, expert bird 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 injure.

DATE	WILDLIFE SITES
Day 1.	Ulaanbaatar
Day 2.	Choibalsan
Day 3-4.	Buir Lake
Day 5-6.	Khalkh Gol
Day 7-8.	Ikh Tashgai Lakes
Day 9.	Buir Lake
Day 10.	Choilbalsan
Day 11.	Ulaanbaatar
Day 12.	Departure

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TOUR ITINERARY



Yellow-breasted Bunting

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 for few hours at the hotel. 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 Long-tailed Rosefinch, Azure Tit, White-crowned Penduline Tit, White-cheeked Starling, Black Stork, and truly wild and uncommon Mandarin and Falcated Ducks. Welcome dinner at one of the better restaurants in Ulaanbaatar. **Food:** Welcome dinner. **Road:** Total coverage 30 km paved road (30 minutes' drive).

Day 2. Choibalsan Town
Transfer to the Chinggis Khaan airport to catch flight to Choibalsan. Upon arrival, we will check in a hotel and drive to river woodland and a marshland near the town. You would not expect high standard hotel in this local town. Anyway it will have a clean room and hot water shower. We

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Oriental Plover



Marsh Grassbird



Japanese Quail



Siberian Crane

will see White-naped Crane, Mongolian Gull, Eastern Marsh Harrier, Pallas's Grasshopper and Oriental Reed Warblers, Citrine Wagtail (nominate, *calcarata* –Black-backed Citrine Wagtail), Grey-capped Greenfinch, Pallas's and Yellow-breasted Bunting,. **Food:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner. **Road:** Total coverage 50 km on paved road (2-3 hours' drive and 1 and half-hour' flight).

Day 3-4. Buir Lake through Menen Steppe
Early morning we start our long journey to the east to get lake Buir. On the way, we will see Asian and Greater Short-toed Larks, Mongolian Lark, Isabelline Wheatear, Upland Buzzard, Steppe Eagle and possibly Oriental Plover depending on precipitation of the year.

We will spend a whole day at the lake to find the highlight species including several hundreds of Swan Goose, Spot-billed Duck, Falcated and Mandarin Ducks, Baikal Teals, Relict Gull, Hen and Eastern Marsh Harrier, Red-necked, Little, and Long-toed Stints, Asian Dowitcher, Broad-billed and Sharp-tailed Sandpipers, Naumann's and White's Thrushes, Pallas's and Black-faced Buntings. Overnight in our tented camp near the lake. **Food:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner. **Road:** Total coverage 200 km dust road (4-5 hours' drive).

Day 5-6. Khalkh Gol/River
Drive to the Khalkh gol and set up our camp near the river. We will bird along the river including several habitats of willows and aspens. The target species include Grey-headed Lapwing, Chinese Grey Shrike (used to be breeding), Daurian Jackdaw, Dusky Warbler, Asian Brown Flycatcher, Azure-winged Magpie, Amur Falcon breeding colony, White-cheeked Starling, possibly Daurian Starling, and Black-faced Bunting. Overnight in a tented camp. **Food:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner. **Road:** Total coverage 110 km on paved (3-4 hours' drive).

Day 7-8. Ikh Tashgai Lakes
Early morning we leave for the Ikh Tashgai lakes, saline lakes on the steppe with reed beds. We will bird the shallow pools and reed beds for the following sought-after species: White-winged Scoter, Hooded, White-naped and Siberian Cranes, Broad-billed and Sharp-tailed Sandpipers, Relict Gull, Northern Parrotbill, Marsh Grassbird, White-cheeked and Daurian Starlings, Red-necked, Little and Long-toed Stints, Asian Dowitcher, Japanese,

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Japanese Bunting



Mandarin Duck



Long-toed Stint

Yellow-browed and Yellow-breasted buntings. Overnight in a tented camp. **Food:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner. **Road:** Total coverage 60 km dust road (2-3 hours' drive).

Day 9. Khalkh Gol/River
Return to Khalkh river and set up our camp. We will search for the missing species. Overnight in a tented camp. **Food:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner. **Road:** Total coverage 60 km on dust road (2-3 hours' drive).

Day 10. Buir Lake
Early morning drive to Buir lake and set up our camp in the most scenic area. The same species of birds will be seen including Sand Martin nesting colony and other waterfowls. On the way to the lake the illusive Japanese Quail is the possibility. Overnight in a tented camp. **Food:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner. **Road:** Total coverage 110 km dust road (3-4 hours' drive).

Day 11. Choibalsan Town
After breakfast, we will head to Choibalsan town through small lakes where we can try again Relict Gull. Rest and have refreshment at the hotel in town. Overnight in a hotel. **Food:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner. **Road:** Total coverage 200 km on dust road (5-6 hours' drive).

Day 12. Ulaanbaatar
Fly to Ulaanbaatar city and do birding for missing species in the marshlands and Tuul river valley near Ulaanbaatar. Shopping and city tour available. Overnight in a hotel. **Food:** Breakfast, Lunch, Farewell Dinner. **Road:** Total coverage 15 km paved road (30 minutes' drive).

Day 13. Departure
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 is Mongolica Travel in cooperation with Mongolian Ornithological Society. Your careful checklist for the trip will help collect data on the migratory birds of this poorly known country, which will update the Mongolian National Bird Database run by Mongolian Ornithological Society.

Scientific name	English name	Note
Podiceps nigricollis	Black-necked Grebe	
Podiceps auritus	Horned Grebe	
Podiceps cristatus	Great Crested Grebe	
Phalacrocorax carbo	Great Cormorant	
Botaurus stellaris	Great Eurasian Bittern	Rare and difficult to see. However, you might hear it.
Ardea cinerea	Grey Heron	
Ardea purpurea	Purple Heron	Very rare. Accidently we saw it at Buir Lake.
Ciconia nigra	Black Stork	
Anser anser	Greylag Goose	
Anser indicus	Bar-headed Goose	Central Mongolia it is a fairly common
Anser cygnoides	Swan Goose	
Cygnus cygnus	Whooper Swan	
Tadorna ferruginea	Ruddy Shelduck	
Tadorna tadorna	Common Shelduck	
Anas platyrhynchos	Mallard	
Anas poecilorhyncha	Spot-billed Duck	
Anas crecca	Common Teal	
Anas falcata	Falcated Duck	Rare
Anas strepera	Gadwall	
Anas penelope	Eurasian Wigeon	
Anas acuta	Northern Pintail	
Anas querquedula	Garganey	
Anas clypeata	Northern Shoveler	
Aythya ferina	Common Pochard	
Aythya fuligula	Tufted Pochard	
Bucephala clangula	Common Goldeneye	
Melanitta fusca	White-winged Scoter	Rare
Mergus merganser	Common Merganser	
Milvus migrans	Black Kite	
Circus cyaneus	Hen Harrier	
Circus melanoleucos	Pied Harrier	Rare and possible in Tashgai lake
Circus spilonotus	Eastern Marsh-Herrier	
Buteo hemilasius	Upland Buzzard	
Aquila nipalensis	Steppe Eagle	
Aquila chrysaetos	Golden Eagle	
Haliaeetus albicilla	White-tailed Eagle	
Aegypius monachus	Cinereous Vulture	
Falco cherrug	Saker Falcon	
Falco subbuteo	Eurasian Hobby	
Falco amurensis	Amur Falcon	
Falco naumanni	Lesser Kestrel	
Falco tinnunculus	Common Kestrel	
Perdix dauurica	Daurian Partridge	
Coturnix japonica	Japanese Quail	

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Grus leucogeranus	Siberian Crane	Very rare
Grus grus	Common Crane	
Grus vipio	White-naped Crane	
Grus monacha	Hooded Crane	
Anthropoides virgo	Demoiselle Crane	
Fulica atra	Common Coot	
Pluvialis squatarola	Grey Plover	Migration
Pluvialis fulva	Pacific Golden Plover	Migration
Charadrius dubius	Little Ringed Plover	
Charadrius leschenaultii	Greater Sand Plover	
Charadrius veredus	Oriental Plover	
Charadrius alexandrinus	Kentish Plover	
Vanellus vanellus	Northern Lapwing	
Vanellus cinereus	Grey-headed Lapwing	
Himantopus himantopus	Black-winged Stilt	
Recurvirostra avosetta	Pied Avocet	
Tringa ochropus	Green Sandpiper	
Tringa glareola	Wood Sandpiper	
Tringa nebularia	Common Greenshank	On migration
Tringa totanus	Common Redshank	
Tringa erythropus	Spotted Redshank	On migration
Tringa stagnatilis	Marsh Sandpiper	
Actitis hypoleucos	Common Sandpiper	
Xenus cinereus	Terek Sandpiper	On migration
Phalaropus lobatus	Red-necked Phalarope	On migration
Philomachus pugnax	Ruff	On migration
Calidris minuta	Little Stint	On migration
Calidris ruficollis	Red-necked Stint	On migration
Calidris temminckii	Temminck's Stint	
Calidris ferruginea	Curlew Sandpiper	On migration
Calidris alpina	Dunlin	On migration
Calidris acuminata	Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	On migration
Calidris alba	Sanderling	On migration
Calidris canutus	Red Knot	On migration
Limicola falcinellus	Broad-billed Sandpiper	On migration
Gallinago gallinago	Common Snipe	
Numenius minutus	Little Curlew	Rare migrant
Numenius arquata	Eurasian Curlew	On migration
Numenius madagascariensis	Far Eastern Curlew	Rare migrant
Limosa limosa	Black-tailed Godwit	
Limnodromus semipalmatus	Asian Dowitcher	Rare migrant
Larus relictus	Relict Gull	Very rare
Larus ridibundus	Common Black-headed Gull	
Larus mongolicus	East Siberian Gull	
Chlidonias niger	Black Tern	Very rare
Chlidonias leucopterus	White-winged Tern	
Chlidonias hybridus	Whiskered Tern	
Gelochelidon nilotica	Gull-billed Tern	
Hydroprogne caspia	Caspian Tern	Rare
Sterna hirundo	Common Tern	
Sterna albifrons	Little Tern	
Columba livia	Rock Pigeon	

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Columba rupestris	Hill Pigeon	
Streptopelia decaocto	Eurasian Collared-Dove	
Streptopelia orientalis	Oriental Turtle-Dove	
Cuculus canorus	Common Cuckoo	
Cuculus saturatus	Oriental Cuckoo	
Bubo bubo	Eurasian Eagle-Owl	
Asio otus	Long-eared Owl	
Asio flammeus	Short-eared Owl	
Athene noctua	Little Owl	
Caprimulgus indicus	Grey Nightjar	
Apus apus	Common Swift	
Apus pacificus	Fork-tailed Swift	
Alcedo atthis	Common Kingfisher	
Upupa epops	Eurasian Hoopoe	
Jynx torquilla	Eurasian Wryneck	
Riparia riparia	Sand Martin	
Hirundo rustica	Barn Swallow	
Delichon urbica	Northern House Martin	*Delichon urbicum*
Calandrella brachydactyla	Greater Short-toed Lark	
Calandrella cheleensis	Asian Short-toed Lark	
Melanocorypha mongolica	Mongolian Lark	
Eremophila alpestris	Horned Lark	
Alauda arvensis	Eurasian Skylark	
Anthus richardi	Richard's Pipit	
Anthus godlewskii	Blyth's Pipit	
Anthus hodgsoni	Olive-backed Pipit	
Motacilla flava	Yellow Wagtail	
Motacilla citreola	Citrine Wagtail	
Motacilla cinerea	Grey Wagtail	
Motacilla alba	White Wagtail	
Lanius cristatus	Brown Shrike	
Lanius isabellinus	Isabelline Shrike	
Lanius spenocercus	Chinese Grey Shrike	
Sturnus cineraceus	White-cheeked Starling	
Garrulus glandarius	Eurasian Jay	
Cyanopica cyanus	Azure-winged Magpie	
Pica pica	Black-billed Magpie	
Nucifraga caryocatactes	Spotted Nutcracker	
Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax	Red-billed Chough	
Corvus dauuricus	Daurian Jackdaw	
Corvus frugilegus	Eurasian Rook	
Corvus corone	Carrion crow	
Corvus corax	Common Raven	
Bradypterus tacsanowskius	Chinese Bush-Warbler	
Locustella certhiola	Pallas' Grasshopper Warbler	
Acrocephalus orientalis	Oriental Reed Warbler	
Acrocephalus aedon	Thick-billed Warbler	
Sylvia communis	Greater Whitethroat	
Sylvia curruca	Lesser Whitethroat	
Phylloscopus borealis	Arctic Warbler	On migration
Phylloscopus trochiloides	Greenish Warbler	
Phylloscopus inornatus	Inornate Warbler	

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Phylloscopus proregulus	Lemon-rumped Warbler	
Phylloscopus fuscatus	Dusky Warbler	
Ficedula albicilla	Taiga Flycatcher	
Muscicapa striata	Spotted Flycatcher	
Muscicapa sibirica	Dark-sided Flycatcher	
Muscicapa latirostris	Asian Brown Flycatcher	
Saxicola maura	Siberian Stonechat	On migration
Oenanthe oenanthe	Northern Wheatear	
Oenanthe pleschanka	Pied Wheatear	
Oenanthe isabellina	Isabelline Wheatear	
Monticola saxatilis	Rufous-tailed Rock-thrush	
Phoenicurus phoenicurus	Common Redstart	
Phoenicurus auroreus	Daurian Redstart	
Luscinia calliope	Siberian Rubythroat	
Tarsiger cyanurus	Orange-flanked Bush-robin	
Turdus ruficollis	Red-throated Thrush	
Turdus naumanni	Naumann's Thrush	Only migration
Paradoxornis heudei	Reed Parrotbill	Very rare
Panurus biarmicus	Bearded Parrotbill	
Aegithalos caudatus	Long-tailed Tit	
Remiz coronatus	White-crowned Penduline-tit	
Parus palustris	Marsh Tit	
Parus montanus	Willow Tit	
Parus ater	Coal Tit	
Parus cyanus	Azure Tit	
Parus major	Great Tit	
Sitta europaea	Wood Nuthatch	
Passer domesticus	House Sparrow	
Passer montanus	Eurasian Tree Sparrow	
Petronia petronia	Rock Sparrow	
Pyrgilauda davidiana	Small Snowfinch	
Carpodacus erythrinus	Common Rosefinch	
Uragus sibiricus	Long-tailed Rosefinch	
Emberiza cioides	Meadow Bunting	
Emberiza schoeniclus	Reed Bunting	
Emberiza pallasi	Pallas's Bunting	
Emberiza spodocephala	Black-faced Bunting	
Emberiza aureola	Yellow-breasted Bunting	
Emberiza yessoensis	Japanese Bunting	

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