Birding the West:
Paradise for Oriental Birders

Altai Mountains, Khar Us Lake, Bird Specialties of Central Asia and Siberia



Birding the western Mongolia provides a paradise for Eastern bird enthusiasts as there are many different habitats including mountains, lakes and rivers, and desert steppes. Recently, a few bird watchers began to visit for the varied bird lives of Central Asia and Siberia besides the peculiar nomadic cultures of the various ethnic groups and sublime sceneries of the majestic Altai Mountains.

Join us for this epic journey. Visit the Khovd town, land of the different ethnic groups and bird in the trees and bushes, a home to many localized species including to Blyth's Reed and Hume's Leaf Warblers, Lesser Whitethroat, Rosy and Common Starlings, Masked Wagtail and Eurasian Goldfinch. Walk on the trails made by wild animals in the beautiful gorge of Jargalant Khairkhan Mountain and watch the fascinating bird species including uncommon Altai Snowcock, Chukar, Lesser Kestrel, Barred and Sulphur-bellied Warblers, and colorful Common Rock Thrush, Northern, Isabelline, Desert, and Pied Wheatears, Brown & Kozlov's Accentors, White-winged Snowfinch, Great Rosefinch, and Godlewski's and Grey-necked Buntings. Not only birds, but there are also some attractive wild animals such as Siberian Ibex, Argali Wild Sheep, Red Fox etc. Being a Ramsar site of international importance, Khar Us Lake National Park provides a suitable habitat to the various bird species. The highlights at the lake include White-headed Duck, Pallas's Fish Eagle, Relict and Pallas's Gulls, Pallas's Sandgrouse, Eurasian Skylark, Great Reed Warbler, and White-headed Yellow and Masked Wagtails.

Highlights:

- The majestic Altai Mountains, bird-rich Khar Us Lake, and peculiar Gobi Desert
- Khovd the land of different nomadic ethnic groups - nomadic family visit
- Many attractive bird species – White-headed Duck, Pallas's Fish Eagle, Barred and Sulphur-bellied Warblers, Brown & Kozlov's Accentors, White-headed Yellow Wagtail, White-winged Snowfinch, Great Spotted Rosefinch, Godlewski's and Grey-necked Buntings
- The iconic wild animals - Siberian Ibex and Argali Sheep

Tour code: BM-WMB1

Price per person: US$ 3000 **Deposit:** US$ 900

Date: 3 - 11 Jul 2018; (9 days) **Group size:** 8 -14 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 road conditions, items of personal nature, adverse weather conditions, any personal injure.

DATE	WILDLIFE SITES
Day 1.	Ulaanbaatar
Day 2.	Khovd
Day 3-4.	Khar Us Lake
Day 5-6.	Jargalant Khairkhan Mountain
Day 7.	Khovd
Day 8.	Ulaanbaatar
Day 9.	Departure

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TOUR ITINERARY



Upland Buzzard

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).



Rosy Starling

Day 2. Khovd
Transfer to the Chinggis Khaan international airport for the flight to Khovd town, the land of the different nomadic ethnic groups. Upon arrival, transfer to the local hotel and check in. If time allows, go birding the trees and bushes in the town to get some lifers including Blyth's Reed and Hume's Leaf Warblers, Lesser Whitethroat, Rosy and Common Starlings, Masked Wagtail and Eurasian Goldfinch. Overnight in a local hotel. **Food:** Restaurant – Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner. **Flight:** Takes 3 hours.



White-headed Duck

Day 3-4. Khar Us Lake
Early morning, depart for the famous Khar Us Lake, which is designated as a Ramsar site for its importance of internationally threatened wetland birds. Highlight species are White-headed Duck, Dalmatian Pelican, Greater Sand Plover, Relict and Pallas's Gulls, Gull-billed Tern, Great Reed, Savi's and Pallas's Grasshopper Warblers, White-headed Wagtail, possibly Bluethroat, and Common and Rosy Starlings, and Pale Sand Martin (*Riparia diluta*). Find Pallas's Sandgrouse and Henderson's Ground Jay in the bushes en route the lake. Set up the camp in most scenic area near the lake. Overnight in a tented camp. **Food:** Breakfast, Dinner, Lunch. **Road:** Total coverage 60 km dust road (2 - 3 hours' drive).

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Great Spotted Rosefinch


White-headed Yellow Wagtail


Departure - Pallas's Fish Eagle

Day 5-6. Jargalant Khairkhan Mountain
The crew will escort you to the most wonderful part of the mountain and install the camp. The situation by time will be safe and peaceful. The target species in the mountain include uncommon Altai Snowcock, Chukar, Lammergeier, Lesser Kestrel, Barred and Sulphur-bellied Warblers, and colorful Common Rock Thrush, Northern, Isabelline, Desert, and Pied Wheatears, Brown & Kozlov's Accentors, White-winged Snowfinch, Mongolian Finch, Great Rosefinch, and Godlewski's and Grey-necked Buntings. Overnight in a tented camp. **Food:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner. **Road:** Total coverage 30 km dust road.

Day 7. Khovd Town
Drive back to the hotel and optional visit to a nomadic family. Have refreshment after the several days of camping in the field. If time allows, go birding in the town get the missing species. **Food:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner. **Road:** Total coverage 80 km dust road (3-4 hours' drive).

Day 8. Fly to Ulaanbaatar
Return flight to Ulaanbaatar. Optional shopping and city tour available. Overnight in a hotel. **Food:** Breakfast, Lunch, Farewell Dinner. **Flight:** Takes about 3 hours.

Day 9. 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 and vagrant bird species 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.	*Gavia arctica*	Black -throated Loon	
2.	*Podiceps nigricollis*	Black-necked Grebe	
3.	*Podiceps auritus*	Horned Grebe	
4.	*Podiceps cristatus*	Great Crested Grebe	
5.	*Phalacrocorax carbo*	Great Cormorant	
6.	*Ardea cinerea*	Grey Heron	
7.	*Platalea leucorodia*	Eurasian Spoonbill	Very rare on migration
8.	*Ciconia nigra*	Black Stork	
9.	*Anser anser*	Greylag Goose	
10.	*Anser indica*	Bar-headed Goose	
11.	*Anser cygnoides*	Swan Goose	
12.	*Cygnus cygnus*	Whooper Swan	
13.	*Cygnus olor*	Mute Swan	Rare on migration
14.	*Tadorna ferruginea*	Ruddy Shelduck	
15.	*Tadorna tadorna*	Common Shelduck	
16.	*Anas platyrhynchos*	Mallard	
17.	*Anas crecca*	Common Teal	
18.	*Anas strepera*	Gadwall	
19.	*Anas penelope*	Eurasian Wigeon	
20.	*Anas acuta*	Northern Pintail	
21.	*Anas guerguedula*	Garganey	
22.	*Anas clypeata*	Northern Shoveler	
23.	*Netta rufina*	Red -crested Pochard	
24.	*Aythya ferina*	Common Pochard	
25.	*Aythya fuligula*	Tufted Pochard	
26.	*Bucephala clangula*	Common Goldeneye	
27.	*Melanitta fusca*	White-winged Scoter	
28.	*Mergus merganser*	Common Merganser	
29.	*Oxyura leucocephala*	White-headed Duck	
30.	*Milvus migrans*	Black Kite	
31.	*Circus cyaneus*	Hen Harrier	
32.	*Circus aeruginosus*	Western Marsh-harrier	
33.	*Accipiter gentilis*	Northern Goshawk	Difficult to see but we will try
34.	*Accipiter nisus*	Eurasian Sparrowhawk	Difficult to see but we will try

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35.	*Buteo hemilasius*	Upland Buzzard	
36.	*Buteo rufinus*	Long -legged Buzzard	
37.	*Buteo buteo*	Common Buzzard	
38.	*Hieraaetus pennatus*	Booted Eagle	Rare
39.	*Aquila nipalensis*	Steppe Eagle	
40.	*Aquila chrysaetos*	Golden Eagle	
41.	*Haliaeetus leucoryphus*	Pallas's Sea-Eagle	Rare
42.	*Haliaeetus albicilla*	White-tailed Eagle	
43.	*Gypaetus barbatus*	Lammergeier	
44.	*Aegypius monachus*	Cinereous Vulture	
45.	*Gyps himalayensis*	Himalayan Griffon/Vulture	
46.	*Falco cherrug*	Saker Falcon	
47.	*Falco subbuteo*	Eurasian Hobby	
48.	*Falco naumanni*	Lesser Kestrel	
49.	*Falco tinnunculus*	Common Kestrel	
50.	*Alectoris chukar*	Chukar	
51.	*Tetrao parvirostris*	Altai Snowcock	Rare
52.	*Perdix dauuricae*	Daurian Partridge	
53.	*Coturnix japonica*	Japanese Quail	
54.	*Grus grus*	Common Crane	
55.	*Anthropoides virgo*	Demoiselle Crane	
56.	*Fulica atra*	Common Coot	
57.	*Pluvialis fulva*	Pacific Golden-Plover	Rare/on migration
58.	*Charadrius dubius*	Little Ringed Plover	
59.	*Charadrius leschenaultii*	Greater Sandplover	
60.	*Charadrius alexandrinus*	Kentish Plover	
61.	*Vanellus vanellus*	Northern Lapwing	
62.	*Himantopus himantopus*	Black-winged Stilt	
63.	*Recurvirostra avosetta*	Pied Avocet	
64.	*Tringa ochropus*	Green Sandpiper	
65.	*Tringa glareola*	Wood Sandpiper	
66.	*Tringa nebularia*	Common Greenshank	On migration
67.	*Tringa totanus*	Common Redshank	
68.	*Tringa erythropus*	Spotted Redshank	On migration
69.	*Tringa stagnatilis*	Marsh Sandpiper	
70.	*Actitis hypoleucos*	Common Sandpiper	
71.	*Xenus cinereus*	Terek Sandpiper	On migration
72.	*Phalaropus lobatus*	Red-necked Phalarope	On migration
73.	*Calidris minuta*	Little Stint	On migration
74.	*Calidris ruficollis*	Rufous-necked Stint	On migration
75.	*Calidris subminuta*	Long-toed Stint	On migration
76.	*Calidris temminckii*	Temminck's Stint	
77.	*Calidris ferruginea*	Curlew Sandpiper	On migration
78.	*Calidris canutus*	Red Knot	On migration
79.	*Limicola falcinellus*	Broad-billed Sandpiper	On migration
80.	*Gallinago gallinago*	Common Snipe	

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81.	*Numenius arquata*	Eurasian Curlew	
82.	*Limosa limosa*	Black-tailed Godwit	
83.	*Limnodromus semipalmatus*	Asian Dowitcher	Rare
84.	*Larus relictus*	Relict Gull	Very rare
85.	*Larus ridibundus*	Common Black-headed Gull	
86.	*Larus mongolicus*	Mongolian Gull	
87.	*Chlidonias niger*	Black Tern	
88.	*Chlidonias leucopterus*	White-winged Tern	
89.	*Chlidonias hybridus*	Whiskered Tern	
90.	*Gelochelidon nilotica*	Gull-billed Tern	
91.	*Sterna hirundo*	Common Tern	
92.	*Sterna albifrons*	Little Tern	
93.	*Syrrhaptes paradoxus*	Pallas's Sandgrouse	
94.	*Columba livia*	Rock Pigeon	
95.	*Columba rupestris*	Hill Pigeon	
96.	*Streptopelia decaocto*	Eurasian Collared-Dove	Rare
97.	*Streptopelia orientalis*	Oriental Turtle-Dove	
98.	*Cuculus canorus*	Common Cuckoo	
99.	*Cuculus saturatus*	Oriental Cuckoo	
100.	*Bubo bubo*	Eurasian Eagle-Owl	
101.	*Athene noctua*	Little Owl	
102.	*Caprimulgus europaeus*	Eurasian Nightjar	Rare
103.	*Apus apus*	Common Swift	
104.	*Apus pacificus*	Pacific Swift	
105.	*Upupa epops*	Eurasian Hoopoe	
106.	*Jynx torquilla*	Eurasian Wryneck	
107.	*Picus canus*	Gray-faced Woodpecker	
108.	*Dryocopus martius*	Black Woodpecker	
109.	*Dendrocopos major*	Great Spotted Woodpecker	
110.	*Dendrocopos leucotos*	White-baked Woodpecker	
111.	*Dendrocopos minor*	Lesser Spotted Woodpecker	
112.	*Picoides tridactylus*	Three-toed Woodpecker	Rare
113.	*Riparia riparia*	Sand Martin	
114.	*Ptyonoprogne rupestris*	Eurasian Crag Martin	
115.	*Hirundo rustica*	Barn Swallow	
116.	*Delichon urbica*	Northern House Martin	
117.	*Galerida cristata*	Crested Lark	
118.	*Calandrella brachydactyla*	Greater Short-toed Lark	
119.	*Calandrella cheleensis*	Asian Short-toed Lark	
120.	*Melanocorypha mongolica*	Mongolian Lark	
121.	*Eremophila alpestris*	Horned Lark	
122.	*Alauda arvensis*	Eurasian Skylark	
123.	*Anthus richardi*	Richard's Pipit	
124.	*Anthus godlewskii*	Blyth's Pipit	
125.	*Anthus hodgsoni*	Olive-backed Pipit	
126.	*Anthus spinoletta*	Water Pipit	Rare/migration

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127.	*Motacilla flava/leucocephala*	White-headed Yellow Wagtail	
128.	*Motacilla citreola*	Yellow-headed Wagtail	
129.	*Motacilla cinerea*	Grey Wagtail	
130.	*Motacilla alba/personata*	Masked White Wagtail	
131.	*Lanius cristatus*	Brown Shrike	
132.	*Lanius isabellinus*	Rufous-tailed Shrike	
133.	*Lanius excubitor*	Northern Shrike	
134.	*Sturnus vulgaris*	Common Starling	
135.	*Sturnus roseus*	Rosy Starling	
136.	*Garrulus glandarius*	Eurasian Jay	
137.	*Cyanopica cyanus*	Azure-winged Magpie	Rare
138.	*Pica pica*	Black-billed Magpie	
139.	*Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax*	Red-billed Chough	
140.	*Corvus dauuricus*	Daurian Jackdaw	
141.	*Corvus frugilegus*	Eurasian Rook	
142.	*Corvus corone*	Carrion Crow	
143.	*Corvus corax*	Common Raven	
144.	*Prunella fulvescens*	Brown Accentor	
145.	*Prunella kozlowi*	Mongolian Accentor	Rare
146.	*Bradypterus tacsanowskius*	Chinese Bush-Warbler	
147.	*Locustella certhiola*	Pallas' Grasshopper-Warbler	
148.	*Acrocephalus agricola*	Paddyfield Reed-Warbler	
149.	*Acrocephalus dumetorum*	Blyth's Reed-Warbler	
150.	*Acrocephalus arundinaceus*	Great Reed-Warbler	
151.	*Locustella luscinoides*	Savi's Warbler	
152.	*Acrocephalus aedon*	Thick-billed Warbler	
153.	*Sylvia nisoria*	Barred Warbler	Rare
154.	*Sylvia communis*	Greater Whitethroat	
155.	*Sylvia curruca*	Lesser Whitethroat	
156.	*Sylvia nana*	Desert Warbler	
157.	*Phylloscopus trochiloides*	Greenish Warbler	
158.	*Oenanthe oenanthe*	Northern Wheatear	
159.	*Oenanthe pleschanka*	Pied Wheatear	
160.	*Oenanthe isabellina*	Isabelline Wheatear	
161.	*Oenanthe deserti*	Desert Wheatear	
162.	*Monticola saxatilis*	Rufous-tailed Rock-Thrush	
163.	*Phoenicurus phoenicurus*	Common Redstart	
164.	*Phoenicurus ochruros*	Black Redstart	
165.	*Turdus ruficollis*	Red-throated Thrush	
166.	*Panurus biarmicus*	Bearded Parrotbill	
167.	*Aegithalos caudatus*	Long-tailed Tit	
168.	*Remiz coronatus*	White-crowned Penduline-Tit	
169.	*Parus cyanus*	Azure Tit	
170.	*Passer domesticus*	House Sparrow	
171.	*Passer montanus*	Eurasian Tree Sparrow	

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172.	*Petronia petronia*	Rock Sparrow
173.	*Montifringilla nivalis*	White-winged Snowfinch
174.	*Pyrgilauda davidiana*	Small Snowfinch
175.	*Acanthis flavirostris*	Eurasian Twite
176.	*Bucanetes mongolicus*	Mongolian Finch
177.	*Carpodacus erythrinus*	Common Rosefinch
178.	*Uragus sibiricus*	Long-tailed Rosefinch
179.	*Carpodacus rubicilla*	Great Rosefinch
180.	*Coccothraustes coccorhraustes*	Hawfinch
181.	*Emberiza godlewskii*	Godlewski's Bunting
182.	*Emberiza cioides*	Meadow Bunting
183.	*Emberiza schoeniclus*	Reed Bunting
184.	*Emberiza pallasi*	Pallas' Bunting
185.	*Emberiza buchanani*	Grey-necked Bunting

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