



Tour 436

Bird watching, nomads and Mongolia,



Travel description:



Tuning in:

Mongolia is not only a high plateau, but it is also located between the Pacific and Indian Oceans. Several bird migration routes cross in Mongolia, which many birds use on their annual migration from the summer to the winter areas. Especially in spring, up to 400 different bird species can be observed in Mongolia.



You don't have to travel far into the country to experience the diversity of Mongolian bird life. Some of the most important nesting and resting places are located around Ulaanbaatar. More than 450 bird species can be observed in Mongolia during the season. However, our trip will be limited to the steppe and wetland regions of Mongolia. In these regions alone there are a lot of different bird species. The best places for an optimal observation are the Hustai National Park and Khogno Khan National Park, the Ugi- and the Gun Galuutai Lakes.

The best time for bird watching in Mongolia is certainly during the migratory bird season, which lasts from late May to mid-September. At this time many bird species migrate from the areas of India and the Pacific towards the Arctic regions or the northern tundra. At this point I do not want to list all bird species that we can see during this excursion. A small list and overview can be downloaded as a separate file from the website.



The observation tour will be led by our bird specialist Adiya. Mr. Adiya is studying wildlife conservation and is about to receive his master's degree. Mr. Adiya is a "full-blooded" ornithologist. He gave up his studies in education for his hobby. But at least he is able to communicate biological / ornithological facts a bit better. He has worked at all bird protection centers in Mongolia and knows the bird species extremely well.

Why not combine vacation and science? What is fun for us on vacation can be a valuable help for some scientists. For example, we will be working closely with Mongolian scientists on two birdwatching projects at two locations on our tour and feeding our observation results into their scientific work. All the observation results will flow into the large eBird database and we will thus be making a small contribution to the conservation of nature, as the results of the eBird database are the basis for many scientific studies.

Wild landscapes, untouched nature, original customs as well as the warm hospitality of the nomads form the framework of this journey and want to be discovered by us. So we build a bridge to the nomadism and culture of Mongolia on this trip. As far as sights are on our way, we will of course drive to them and visit them. For example, the largest equestrian statue in the world and the former capital of the Mongol Empire Karakorum with the largest Buddhist monastery "Erdee Zuu".



Route:

Ulaanbaatar – Tsonjin Boldog (Chingges Statue) – Gun Galuutain Nat.Park - Terelj – Hustain Nuruu – Khogno Khan – Karakorum – Ugii Nuur - Ulaanbaatar

Itinerary:

1. Day After an international flight, arrival at Ulaanbaatar airport. Here we are welcomed by the Steppenfuchs team. From the airport, we immediately drive into the nature to our first observation point. On the way there we pass the big equestrian statue of Chingges Khan (Tsonjin Boldog). We take the opportunity to familiarize ourselves a bit with the history of our host country and we visit the statue.

After a 2 hour drive in a modern coach we will reach Gun Galuutain National Park, east of Ulaanbaatar. The rest of the day will be used for acclimatization and only around sunset we will start bird watching.

Accommodation: Gercamp, Meals:- / M / A

2. Day The Gun-Galuut National Park is rather unknown and is therefore not often visited, which is entirely in the interest of the animal species that live in this park. There are many lakes and ponds in Gun-Galuut National Park. The most interesting lake is Ikh Gun Lake, as it consists of two parts separated by a navigable strip of land. Many bird species spend the summer on the shores of the lakes, especially gulls, ducks, geese, swans and storks. The Gun-Galuut National Park is the ideal starting point for our Mongolian birdwatching tour.

Near Lake Ikh Gun there is a research station for observing bird species and for scientific studies. Here we will talk to the local scientists and take on some tasks as part of their scientific work.

3. Day By Mongolian standards, we don't have that many kilometers to cover today. We will therefore use the early morning and the morning to watch the birds at Lake Ikh Gun and at the Tsengiin spring before driving to Tereljch.

Tereljch is much closer to Ulaanbaatar and is also the local recreation area for the city. There are several spots here where you can do some excellent birdwatching. After we have settled into our yurt camp, we will visit these places, where the following species can be observed, among others: Saker falcon, kestrel, black vulture, yellow-breasted bunting, black-billed capercaillie, Ural owl, barred owl and robin

Accommodation: Gercamp, Meals: B / L / D

4. Day Today all day in different places, we will observe the bird life in Gorchi Terelj National Park. The park consists of large forest and mountain steppes with alpine habitats on the higher peaks and is known to be home to globally endangered bird species. We will have lunch as a picnic on the way and return to our yurt camp only at twilight.

Accommodation: Gercamp, Meals: B / L / D

5. Day Today we will drive from Tereljch to the mountains north of Ulaanbaatar. Also the route is relatively fast, so that we can use the morning still in Tereljch. Around noon. Town relocation north of Ulaanbaatar. Besides a drive through the yurt settlements of Ulaanbaatar, which spread almost endlessly in the north of the city, we will also pass through the residential area of the "beautiful and rich", or the "quite beautiful-rich". As is so often the case, beautiful and bad are not far apart. We reach our new domicile around afternoon and the rest of the day we will spend north in the mountains of Ulaanbaatar. Accommodation: Gercamp, Meals: B / L / D

6. Day Today we will drive to the Hustain Nuruu National Park. Hustain National Park in Mongolia is one of the Important Bird Areas (IBA), where almost half of all bird species in Mongolia are registered. Covering a small area of 49,932 ha, the park provides diverse ecological habitats that support a wide variety of bird species during the migration and breeding seasons. A total of 223 bird species, 119 genera, 43 families and 17 orders have been recorded in the park.

Hustain Nuruu National Park is located just 90 km east of Ulaanbaatar and is a must-see for eco-travelers. The park is home not only to an incredible variety of bird species, but also to over 300 reintroduced wild Przewalski's horses, the last of their kind in the world.

Accommodation: Gercamp, Meals: B / L / D

7. Day Head to the next place for our bird watching. We are going to Khogno Khan. Khogno Khan National Park is located 250 km from Ulan Bator on the road to Kharkhorin. The 47000 hectare park is home to numerous historical monuments, forests of silver birch and poplar trees, and springs. The ecosystem

of this park is particularly interesting because here the steppe and the taiga meet. Thus, we can find here fauna characteristic of these two ecosystems.

While we are in the nature park, we can also take some time for history. Visit to the old Erdene Hamp monastery in the picturesque Hognon Han mountains. The monastery is one of the smallest monasteries in Mongolia. Only a few monks live here. The monastery reflects the attachment of the nomads to Buddhism. A small footpath then leads us higher up the mountain. Here we can then visit the remains of the former monastery (Uvgun Khiid), which was much larger.

Accommodation: Gercamp, Meals: B / L / D

8. Day A whole day in Khogno Khan National Park. We observe the bird life. Especially at the interface of two ecosystems there are a lot of different species to observe. Our guide knows the best places, as he is not on the road here for the first time.

Accommodation: Gercamp, Meals: B / L / D

9. Day Today we have a combination of culture and bird watching. First, in the morning we will visit some places in Khogno Khan National Park for bird watching. Then in the late morning we will drive to Karakorum, the former capital of Mongolia. The drive takes us through the vastness of the Mongolian steppe.

The oldest Buddhist monastery in Mongolia is located in the Öwörchangai-Aimag near Charchorin: Erdene Zuu Khiid. It is an impressive complex that was founded as early as the 16th century and is now considered a tourist highlight of the region. Today's outer wall consists of 108 stupas from the 17th century, which are whitewashed and thus stand out beautifully against the landscape. Inside, there are now four temples and a monastery where some monks still live. At one time, some 1,000 monks are said to have lived, worked and prayed here. The courtyard of Erdene Zuu has a relaxed atmosphere. It is recommended not to just wander from temple to temple, but to simply sit in the shade and watch the colorful hustle and bustle of the others. In the area, which still serves as a monastery, photography is not allowed. But here you can taste the famous fermented mare's milk Airag.

Accommodation: Gercamp, Meals: B / L / D

10. Day Drive to Ugii Nuur, a lake in the north of Karakoram, which is an important refuge for birds. On the way to Ugii Nuur, we will make a short stop at the easternmost point of Turkic culture - Khushuu Tsaidam - where an ancient palace from the Old Turkic Empire is being excavated under Turkish supervision. The Turks believed to have originated in this region. Later they were expelled by Mongolian tribes.

In the early afternoon we reach Ugii Nuur. Immediately after moving into our yurt camp, we head to the nearby bird watching station. The importance of the lake for the bird life is also shown by the fact that a permanent shelter for observation has been built here.

Accommodation: Gercamp, Meals: B / L / D

11. Day Lake Ugii is a large freshwater lake west of Ulaanbaatar. Its average depth is only 20 feet. It is surrounded by steppe grasslands. It is an important resting place for migratory waterfowl and an important breeding area. It is a good place to observe waterfowl such as Bar-headed Goose, Greylag Goose, Swan Goose, Taiga Goose and many others. Other notable species include the demoiselle crane, the rare white-naped crane, the crane, numerous shorebirds, gulls and terns, the Pallas's sea eagle, the white-tailed eagle and a variety of passerine birds. Rare species such as mute swan, sickle duck, lesser merganser and great curlew are possible. Especially the southern part of the lake with its wetlands is an ideal habitat for birds.

Accommodation: Gercamp, Meals: B / L / D

12. Day We will spend the early morning and morning at Ugii Nuur. Then we will head back towards Ulaanbaatar. At Bayannuur we will have a longer stopover, because there are many different species of birds in this wetland. We will reach Ulaanbaatar very late in the afternoon.

Accommodation: Hotel, Meals: B / L / -

13. Day In the morning we will visit Gandan Monastery. Visit the famous Gandan Monastery. It is the largest active monastery in Mongolia and gives a small "touch" of Tibet in Mongolia. The monastery was founded in 1727 and was severely damaged or partially destroyed around 1937. It was not until 1944 that it was partially restored. The present buildings were constructed under the then Lama

Luwsantschultemdshigmid. Its name "Gandantegchilen Chied" means "happy monastery". A medical and astrological faculty and a theological seminary were attached to the monastery. Thus, the largest Buddhist university outside Tibet was established. Today about 600 monks live in the monastery. In 1938 the statue was dismantled and melted down by Soviet troops. Traces of the statue were discovered by Mongolians in the Hermitage in St. Petersburg. With the equivalent of five million dollars in donations, the Buddhist community had a new gilded Janraisig erected in 1996.

Visit to the new Chingges Khan Museum. The newly constructed building, on the site of the former National Museum of Mongolia, combines the exhibits of the National Museum with its famous dinosaur exhibit and several other Ulaanbaatar museums. With over 6,000 exhibits, it offers a good overview of nature and history. Don't miss the famous fossilization of a pterosaur that was petrified in a fight with a rival.

The Tumen Ekh Ensemble is the conclusion of our Mongolia trip. Inside the small theater a show of superlatives awaits you. Founded in 1989, Tumen Ekh Ensemble is one of the best national song and dance ensembles in Mongolia. It is famous for the quality of its show, which combines professionalism and respect for traditional Mongolian culture, and has won awards all over the world. The program is only an hour long, but so wonderfully packed with a variety of beautiful performances. From the famous throat singing to the mesmerizing contortionists performing the most intricate tricks. The traditional musicians play beautiful pieces with their instruments, and the dancers thrill with their irrepressible energy. The singing, dancing and instrumental music are performed with great joy and devotion. The Tumen Ekh Ensemble will take you on a short journey into the world of folk art in Mongolia, where vast grassy steppes, clear blue skies and a nomadic way of life have developed and been preserved over thousands of years. Mongolian music expresses immensity, freedom and a life in harmony with nature. With the show of Tumen Ekh you will dive for a while into the deep heart of Mongolia's folk culture.

Accommodation: Hotel, Meals: B / L / -

14. Day Flughafenstransfer und Rückflug in die Heimat

Accommodation: Hotel, Meals: B / - / -

Kilometer Straße:	1.428
Kilometer Off – Road:	284
Kilometer Total:	1.712

Zeitlich nicht genau festzulegende Aktivitäten: Ausflug mit mongolischen Pferden (½ Day), Kamelreiten in der Gobi (½ Day), übernachten bei Nomaden in der Jurte, Teilnahme an lokalen Naadamfesten.

Aufgrund der Gegebenheiten innerhalb der Mongolei, kann es zu Abweichungen im genauen Reiseverlauf kommen. Die Reisebeschreibung stellt nur einen Richtwert für den Ablauf der Tour dar. Die Tour kann aufgrund von z.B. widriger Witterungsumstände in umgekehrter Reihenfolge gefahren werden.

Necessary equipment:

All the technical equipment, is provided by Steppenfuchs Reisen. You only need the things for personal needs. The list given here is limited only to the things that are necessary from our point of view and should only give you an indication.

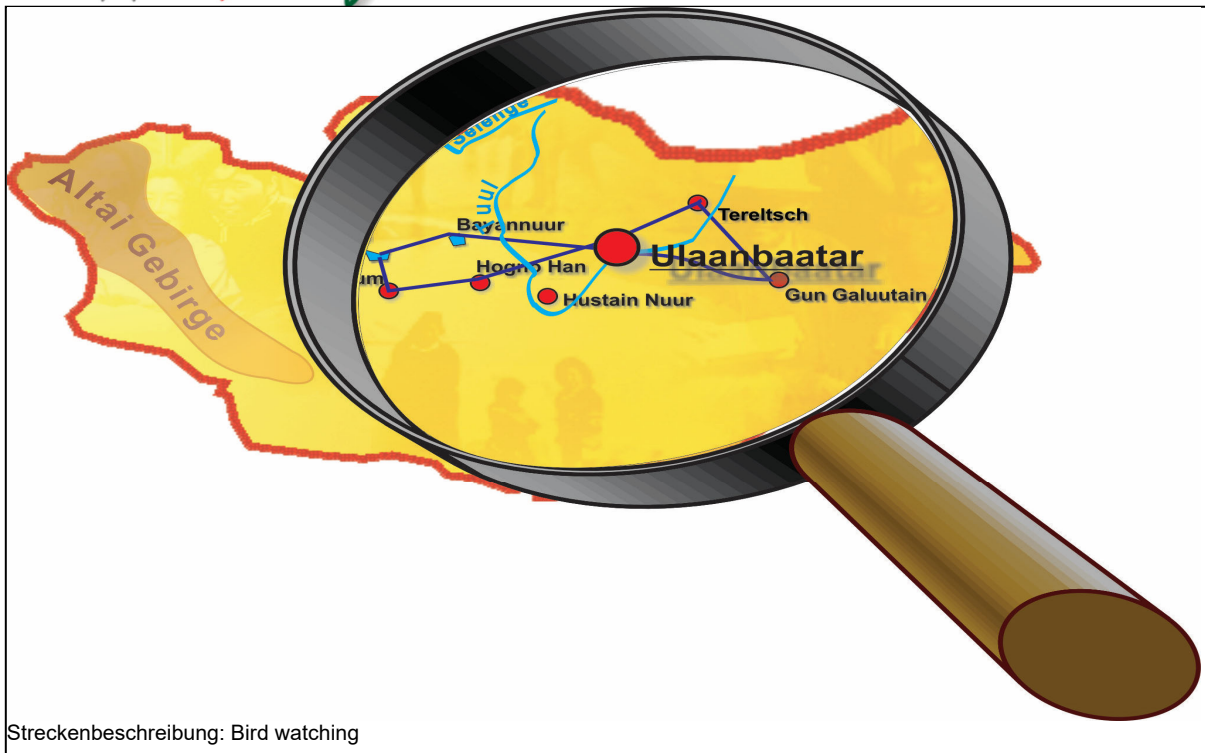
Personal laundry, T-shirt or similar, warm jacket, rainwear, sun hat or similar, warm sleeping bag, warm sleeping clothes for the night, sleeping mat, small pillow, washing utensils, towel, bathing clothes, sturdy shoes, good sunglasses, sunscreen, photo equipment, small flashlight, medicines. Backpack, or large travel bag to accommodate everything. Suitcases are rather impractical for this type of travel.

Service description:

Overnight stay in Ulaanbaatar in hotel*** (double room, half board), airport transfer in Ulaanbaatar, tour guide German-speaking, expert guide English-speaking entrance fees for museums, national parks and cultural program. Provision of off-road vehicles incl. gasoline and incidental expenses (Russian off-road vehicles), overnight stay in the countryside in yurt camps, full board in the countryside.

Not included:

Costs for personal needs, costs for drinks, such as. beer etc., dinner in Ulaanbaatar, travel souvenirs, health costs, film- photo fees (if necessary), tips, visa costs, or costs related to the visa regulations of Mongolia, possibly additional nights in yurt camps, vegetarian food in the country, international flights.



Streckenbeschreibung: Bird watching

What else:

The reservation for the trip is only valid when the signed registration form has been returned to Steppenfuchs Reisen. We recommend the conclusion of a foreign health and travel cancellation insurance. An enstp. You can take out insurance here: [Hanse Merkur Versicherung](#)

Weitere sehr nützliche Informationen zum Reiseablauf und zur Vorbereitung der Reise finden Sie unter folgendem Link: <http://www.mongolei.com/texte/Reiseinformationen.pdf>

Termine:

2024

Start 19.05 So End 01.06 Sa Abflug -

2025

Start 18.05 So End 31.05 Sa Abflug -

Individuelle Termine ab zwei Personen möglich

Prices:

Steppenfuchs Reisen offers a price range to cover every budget. From the budget solution to the "all inclusive" trip. Find the offer that fit you best.

Categorie	2 – 3 Pers*)	4 – 5 Pers*)	More 6 Pers*)
C	2.440 €	2.250 €	2.090 €
D	2.640 €	2.480 €	2.210€

**) All prices without international flights

Categorien:

- C:** In Ulaanbaatar overnight stay in a simple guesthouse. You organise your own meals in Ulaanbaatar. In the countryside you will stay in tents and nomadic yurts.
- D:** In Ulaanbaatar you will stay in a mid-range hotel, have an excellent lunch. In the countryside, you will only stay in yurt camps where possible.

Surcharges:

Single room hotel plus	250 € flat rate
Single yurt	45 € p.p./night
Luxjurte (yurt with own bathroom)	55 € p.p./night
Supplement for vegetarian food in the countryside	7 € pers/day
Airport transfer (return flight) close to departure	25 € pers/day

Remarks:

All prices in EURO

Dates for 2024 / 25

The travel prices for 2025 are not yet fixed. The travel price for 2022 can be taken as a guideline.

Indicated are arrival/departure days in Ulaanbaatar.

Price without flight plus current flight tariff MIAT or Turkish Air

Individual dates are possible

The budget flight to the trip

Benefit from the fact that Steppenfuchs Reisen has concluded a very favourable agreement with Mongolian Airlines (MIAT) for the necessary flights from Germany to Mongolia. In the season, several times a week directly from Frankfurt or Berlin Tegel to Ulaanbaatar.

Flights from pers. (if you use our flight dates) and from **€950** for individual flight dates. Please check our website for our flight offers (<http://www.mongolei.com>)

Helpful links:

Packing list suggestion: https://www.mongolei.com/texte/Packliste_EN.pdf

Travel insurance [Hanse Merkur Versicherung](https://www.mongolei.com/texte/Hanse_Merkur_Versicherung)

Travel information <https://www.mongolei.com/texte/ReiseInformationen.pdf>

Travel booking https://www.mongolei.com/texte/Steppenfuchs_Reiseanmeldung.pdf