



## BIRDWATCHING MONGOLIA TOUR

### Key Information:

**Trip Length:** 12 days/11 nights.

**Trip Type:** Easy to Moderate.

**Tour Code:** **SMT-BWT-12D**

**Specialty Categories:** Birdwatching Mongolia Expedition, Cultural Journey, Camel riding, Driving tour, E-co Travel, Hiking, Hot Springs, Historic sites, Local Culture, Nature & Wildlife.

**Meeting/Departure Points:** Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia (excluding flights).

**Small Groups:** **2-16 travelers-guaranteed!**

**Valid Season:** **May-early September.**

**Tour Customizable:** Yes.

**Tour Highlights:** Upon your arrival in Ulaanbaatar New Airport, meet **Samar Magic Tours team**. **Birdwatching Mongolia Tour** takes place in remote wilderness areas of Mongolia. This Expedition requires flexibility, tolerance and spirit of adventure of every journey participant due to the remote wilderness areas. Cars have a hard time. Anyhow the tourism infrastructure has somewhat developed.

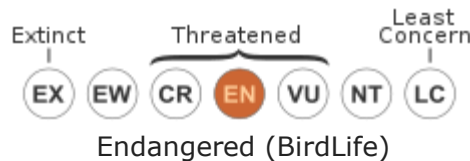
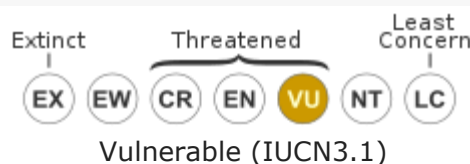
**Best Times for Wildlife in Mongolia:** **May-early September** is the best time to visit Mongolia, when most of the bird summer visitors have arrived and many passage migrants are moving through although this is usually too late to see Black-billed Capercaillies. Be prepared for cold temperatures, especially at night, and snow even in June.

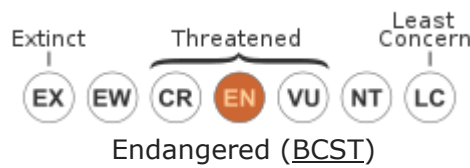
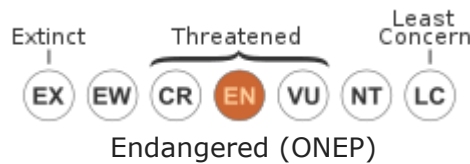
**Birds of Mongolia:** We found 375 species meeting the request Birds of Mongolia.

**What Crane species are recorded in Mongolia?:** Every spring there are many beautiful cranes land in Mongolia's wetlands, three species of them are summer breeders and other three species of cranes are the passage migrants.

**Best time to watch cranes in Mongolia:** is during their migratory periods, and in **June**, we have a chance to see **Hooded Cranes**.

### Conservation Status





**Hooded Crane (Grus Monacha) - Хap торопьy:** The hooded crane is a small, dark crane. It has a grey body. The top of the neck and head is white, except for a patch of bare red skin above the eye. It is one of the smallest cranes, but is still a fairly large bird, at 1 m (3.3 ft) long, a weight of 3.7 kg (8.2 lbs) and a wingspan of 1.87 m (6.2 ft). The hooded crane breeds in Mongolia.

**IN MONGOLIA:** Summer breeder



**IUCN STATUS:** **VU** (vulnerable)

**POPULATION:** 14,500 – 16,000

**HEIGHT:** ~ 100 cm, 3 ft

**WEIGHT:** ~ 3.75 kg, 8 lbs

**HABITAT:** Flocks of non-breeders are very rarely seen in north-eastern part of Mongolia.

**MIGRATION:** More than 80% of Hooded Cranes spend the winter at the Izumi Feeding Station on the Japanese island of Kyushu. Small numbers are found at Yashiro in southern Japan, in South Korea and at several sites along the middle Yangtze River in China.

**APPEARANCE:** Red patch on forehead, white head and neck, slate-grey body plumage, wingtips, tail and legs are black; juveniles – tan head, slate-grey body plumage.

The hooded crane is evaluated as **Vulnerable on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species.**



**Common Crane (*Grus grus*) – Хархираа Тогогүү:** The common crane, also known as the Eurasian crane, is a bird of the family Gruidae, the cranes. The common crane is a large, stately bird and a medium-sized crane. It is 100–130 cm (39–51 in) long with a 180–240 cm (71–94 in) wingspan. The body weight can range from 3 to 6.1 kg (6.6 to 13.4 lb), with the nominate subspecies averaging around 5.4 kg (12 lb). The common crane is omnivorous, as are all cranes. It largely eats plant matter, including roots, rhizomes, tubers, stems, leaves, fruits and seeds.

**IN MONGOLIA:** Summer breeder.

**IUCN STATUS:** **LC** (Least Concern).

**POPULATION:** more 700,000.

**HEIGHT:** 100–130 cm (39–51 in) long with a 180–240 cm (71–94 in) wingspan.

**WEIGHT:** 3 to 6.1 kg (6.6 to 13.4 lb).

**HABITAT:** Generally placed in or near water in inaccessible undisturbed bog, marsh and agricultural fields. Can be seen in northern and north-eastern part of Mongolia.



**MIGRATION:** The winter range includes portions of France and the Iberian Peninsula, regions along the Tyrrhenian and Mediterranean seas, north and east Africa, the Middle East, India and southern and eastern China.

**APPEARANCE:** Slate grey body, red crown, forehead and throat are black, white stripe stretches from behind the eyes to the upper back, black legs; juveniles – pale grey body, cinnamon-brown head.



**White-Naped Crane (*Grus vipio*) – Цэн Торопь:** The white-naped crane is a bird of the crane family. It is a large bird, 112–125 cm (44–49 in) long, approximately 130 cm (4 ft) tall and weighing about 5.6 kg (12 lbs) with pinkish legs, grey and white striped neck, and a red face patch. The white-naped crane breeds in northeastern Mongolia. Its diet consists mainly of insects, seeds, roots, plants and small animals. Due to ongoing habitat loss and overhunting in some areas, the white-naped crane is evaluated as **Vulnerable on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species.**

**IN MONGOLIA:** Summer breeder.

**IUCN STATUS:** **VU** (vulnerable).

**POPULATION:** 3,700 – 4,500.



**HEIGHT:** ~ 130 cm, 4 ft-

**WEIGHT:** ~ 5.6 kg, 12 lbs-

**HABITAT:** Breeds in swamps and wetlands in river valleys. Can be seen in north-east region of Mongolia.

**MIGRATION:** They migrate to their wintering grounds in the Yangtze basin and Poyang lake in China. Eastern breeding population migrate to North and South Korean demilitarized zone and Japanese Kyushu island.

**APPEARANCE:** Dark grey and white striped neck, reddish face patch, body plumage is dark grey, wings are silvery grey, pinkish legs; juveniles – body plumage mix of grey and cinnamon-brown, striping on the neck not as distinct as the adult.



**Grus Nigricollis:** The black-necked crane is a medium-sized crane in Asia that breeds on the steppes on Mongolia. It is 139 cm (55 in) long with a 235 cm (7.8 ft) wingspan, and it weighs 5.5 kg (12 lbs). It is whitish-gray, with a black head, red crown patch, black upper neck and legs, and white patch to the rear of the eye. It has black primaries and secondaries. Both sexes are similar. Some populations are known



to make seasonal movements. It is revered in Buddhist traditions and culturally protected across much of its range. This medium-sized crane is mostly grey with a black head and neck. The lores and crown are naked and dull red. A small patch of white feathers are present below and behind the eye. The tail is black and makes it easy to distinguish at a distance from the similar looking common crane which has grey tail. The black-necked crane summers mainly in the high altitude of Mongolia.

**IN MONGOLIA:** Summer breeder.

**IUCN STATUS:** **LC** (Least Concern).

**POPULATION:**

**HEIGHT:** 139 cm (55 in) long with a 235 cm (7.8 ft) wingspan.

**WEIGHT:** 5.5 kg (12 lbs).

**HABITAT:** The black-necked crane summers mainly in the high altitude of Mongolia and breeds on the steppes on Mongolia.

**MIGRATION:**

**APPEARANCE:** It is whitish-grey, with a black head, red crown patch, black upper neck and legs, and white patch to the rear of the eye.



**Demoiselle Crane (*Grus Virgo*) – Өвөрт Торопы:** The demoiselle crane (*Grus virgo*) is a species of crane found in central Eurosiberia, ranging from the Black Sea to Mongolia and North Eastern China. There is also a small breeding population in Turkey. These cranes are migratory birds. Birds from western Eurasia will spend the winter in Africa while the birds from Asia, Mongolia and China will spend the winter in the Indian subcontinent. The demoiselle is 85–100 cm (33.5–39.5 in) long, 76 cm (30 in) tall and has a 155–180 cm (61–71 in) wingspan. It weighs 2–3 kg (4.4–6.6 lb). It is the smallest species of crane. The demoiselle crane is slightly smaller than the common crane but has similar plumage. It has a long white neck stripe and the black on the foreneck extends down over the chest in a plume. It has a loud trumpeting call, higher-pitched than the common crane. Like other cranes it has a dancing display, more balletic than the common crane, with less leaping.

**IN MONGOLIA:** Summer breeder.

**IUCN STATUS:** **LC** (Least Concern).

**POPULATION:** 230,000-261,000.

**HEIGHT:** 76 cm (30 in) tall and has a 155–180 cm (61–71 in) wingspan.



**WEIGHT:** 2–3 kg (4.4–6.6 lb).

**HABITAT:** Commonly occurs in diverse wetland of Mongolia.

**MIGRATION:** They regularly fly over the Himalaya Mountains during migration at altitudes exceeding 26,000 feet.

**APPEARANCE:** Demoiselle Crane is smallest crane among others, has grey and black feathers, with white tuft of feathers behind its ears. This species also lacks a red head patch.



**Siberian Crane (*Leucogeranus leucogeranus*) – Цараан Торопь:** also known as the **Siberian white crane or the snow crane**, is a bird of the family Gruidae, the cranes. They are distinctive among the cranes: adults are nearly all snowy white, except for their black primary feathers that are visible in flight, and with two breeding populations in the Arctic tundra of western and eastern Russia. The world population was estimated in 2010 at about 3,200 birds, mostly belonging to the eastern population with about 95% of them wintering in the Poyang Lake basin in China.

**IN MONGOLIA:** Passage migrant.

**IUCN STATUS:** **CR** (Critically endangered).

**POPULATION:** 3,600 – 4,500.

**HEIGHT:** ~ 140 cm, 5 ft.

**WEIGHT:** ~ 6 kg, 13 lbs.





**HABITAT:** Very rarely seen in eastern part of Mongolia during their migration.

**MIGRATION:** Only found in one main population in East Asia, with a few birds remaining in the historic Western/Central population. The Eastern population breeds in north-eastern Siberia and winters at Poyang Lake in the Lower Yangtze River Basin in China.

**APPEARANCE:** Red skin on forehead, face and sides of the head, white plumage with black wingtips, reddish pink legs; juvenile – plumage mix of white and cinnamon-brown feathers, tan head.



**Red-crowned Crane (*Grus Japonensis*) – Алар Торопы:** also called the Manchurian crane or Japanese crane, is a large East Asian crane among the rarest cranes in the world. In some parts of its range, it is known as a symbol of luck, longevity, and fidelity. Adult red-crowned cranes are named for a patch of red bare skin on the crown, which becomes brighter during the mating season. Overall, they are snow white in color with black on the wing secondaries, which can appear almost like a black tail when the birds are standing, but the real tail feathers are actually white. Males are black on the cheeks, throat, and neck, while females are pearly gray in these spots. The bill is olive green to a greenish horn, the legs are slate to grayish black, and the iris is dark brown. Juveniles are a combination of white, partly tawny, cinnamon brown, and rusty or grayish. The neck collar is grayish to coffee brown, the secondaries are dull black and brown, and the crown and forehead are covered with gray and tawny feathers. The primaries are white, tipped with black, as are the upper primary coverts. The legs and bill are similar to



those of adults but lighter in color. This species is among the largest and heaviest cranes, typically measuring about 150 to 158 cm (4 ft 11 in to 5 ft 2 in) tall and 101.2–150 cm (3 ft 4 in – 4 ft 11 in) in length (from bill to tail tip). Across the large wingspan, the red-crowned crane measures 220–250 cm (7 ft 3 in – 8 ft 2 in). Typical body weight can range from 4.8 to 10.5 kg (11 to 23 lb), with males being slightly larger and heavier than females and weight ranging higher just prior to migration. On average, it is the heaviest crane species, although both the sarus and wattled crane can grow taller and exceed this species in linear measurements.

On average, adult males from Hokkaidō weighed around 8.2 kg (18 lb) and adult females there averaged around 7.3 kg (16 lb), while a Russian study found males averaged 10 kg (22 lb) and females averaged 8.6 kg (19 lb); in some cases, females could outweigh their mates despite the males' slightly larger average body weight. Another study found the average weight of the species to be 8.9 kg (20 lb). The maximum known weight of the red-crowned crane is 15 kg (33 lb). Among standard measurements, the wing chord measures 50.2–74 cm (19.8–29.1 in), the exposed culmen measures 13.5–17.7 cm (5.3–7.0 in), tail length is 21.5–30 cm (8.5–11.8 in), and the tarsus measures 23.7–31.9 cm (9.3–12.6 in).

**IN MONGOLIA:** uncommon migrant/breeder.

**IUCN STATUS:** **VU** (Vulnerable) (IUCN 3.1).

**POPULATION:** 2,800 – 3,400.

**HEIGHT:** 150 to 158 cm (4 ft 11 in to 5 ft 2 in).

**WEIGHT:** 4.8 to 10.5 kg (11 to 23 lb).

**HABITAT:** More aquatic than other crane species, prefer wet meadows.

**MIGRATION:** There are two main breeding populations: a migratory population on the East Asia mainland (north-eastern China, eastern Mongolia and Russia), and a resident population on the island of Hokkaido in northern Japan.

**APPEARANCE:** Red patch on forehead, black band stretching from bill to front of neck, white plumage, black feathers visible when wings extended; juveniles – combination of white, cinnamon-brown and/or greyish plumage with light tan head.



**The bearded vulture (*Gypaetus barbatus*):** also known as the lammergeier and ossifrage, is a very large bird of prey and the only member of the genus *Gypaetus*. This bird is also identified as Huma bird or Homa bird in Iran and north west Asia. Traditionally considered an Old World vulture, it actually forms a separate minor lineage of Accipitridae together with the Egyptian vulture (*Neophron percnopterus*), its closest living relative. It is not much more closely related to the Old World vultures proper than to, for example, hawks, and differs from the former by its feathered neck. Although dissimilar, the Egyptian and bearded vulture each have a lozenge-shaped tail—unusual among birds of prey.

The population of this species continues to decline. In 2004, it was classified by the IUCN Red List as least concern; since 2014, it is listed as near threatened. The bearded vulture is the only known vertebrate whose diet consists almost exclusively (70 to 90 percent) of bone. It lives and breeds on crags in high mountains in southern Europe, the Caucasus, Africa, the Indian subcontinent, Mongolia and Tibet, laying one or two eggs in mid-winter that hatch at the beginning of spring. Populations are residents. Wikipedia.



**IN MONGOLIA:** Resident breeder.

**IUCN STATUS:** **LC** (least concern).

**GLOBAL POPULATION:** 15,600-21,000 (Birdlife International 2017). The population of this species continues to decline.

**HEIGHT:** 94–125 cm (37–49 in) long with a wingspan of 2.31–2.83 m (7 ft 7 in – 9 ft 3 in).

**WEIGHT:** 4.5–7.8 kg (9.9–17.2 lb).

**HABITAT:** It lives and breeds on crags in high mountains in southern Europe, the Caucasus, Africa, the Indian subcontinent, Mongolia and Tibet. In Mongolia located at a height of 2500 metres (8202,10 feet). The Bearded vulture defends huge territories in which the pair feeds and breeds. A pair are unlikely to tolerate the presence of other mature individuals of the species in their territory. The territory size is about 200-400 km<sup>2</sup> and therefore the distribution of the species is rather sparse.

**APPEARANCE:** Bearded vultures have reddish yellow or white plumage on the head and breast with a grey black tail and wings. In the adult individual the black strip over the eyes and the bristles at the base of the beak form the distinctive appearance of a beard.

**DIET:** The bearded vulture is the only animal that feeds almost exclusively on bone (70-90%). In Crete, it is known as the "bone-eater". The bird throws the larger bones from a height on to rocky slopes in order to break them, and immediately descends after them in a characteristic spiral. If the bone does not break the first time, the method is repeated many times until the bone finally breaks. The bird then eats the bone pieces starting with the bone marrow. The smaller bones are swallowed whole, as the bird's gastric fluids are so strong that they can digest bone easily. This dietary habit seems odd, but once bones have been digested, they are a nutritious and easily storable type of food; in addition, the bird faces minimal competition for this type of food.



**SCIENTIFIC NAME:** HALIAEETUS LEUCORHYPHUS.

**COMMON NAME:** Pallas' fish eagle.

**IN MONGOLIA:** Breeding visitor.

**IUCN STATUS:** **EN** (Endangered).

**GLOBAL POPULATION:** 2,500-9,999 adults in 2011, but it was reduced to 1,000-2,500 (BirdLife International, 2017). No population estimates were conducted for Mongolia.

**HEIGHT:** 72 to 85 cm (28 to 33 in) in length with a wingspan of 180–215 cm (5 ft 11 in – 7 ft 1 in).

**WEIGHT:** 4 to 5.5 kg (8.8 to 12.1 lb).

**HABITAT IN MONGOLIA:** Recorded in open valleys of Khoroo, Khodon, Berkh, Alagtsar, and Jargalant Rivers (Huvsgul Mountain Range); Uvs, Zost, Airag and Achit, Khar, Khar-Us and Durgun Lakes, and Buyant, Chonokharaih and Khovd rivers (Great Lakes Depression); Khujirt of Uvurkhangai, Orkhon, Tamir and Tuul rivers and Ugii lake (Khangai Mountain Range); Buun Tsagaan lake (Lakes' Valley); Mongol Daguur Steppe and Khalkh Numrug Region. On the northern bank of Ugii lake. In addition to these areas, the species occurs in mountainous areas of Gobi Altai, Middle Khalkh steppe, and Lakes' Valley during its migration.

**APPEARANCE:** It has a light brown hood over a white face. The wings are dark brown and the back rufous, darker underneath. The tail is black with a wide, distinctive white stripe. Underwings have a white band. Juveniles are overall darker with no band on the tail.

**DIET:** Its diet consists primarily of large freshwater fish. It also regularly predares water birds, including adult greylag geese, by assaulting them on the surface of the water and then flying off with the kill.



**SCIENTIFIC NAME:** FALCON PREGRENUS.

**COMMON NAME:** Peregrine Falcon.

**IN MONGOLIA:** Breeding visitor.

**IUCN STATUS:** **LC** (least concern).

**GLOBAL POPULATION:** The global population consists of 100,000-499,999 mature individuals and is stable (Birdlife international in 2017). No data on the species population in Mongolia has been published yet.

**HEIGHT:** 34 to 58 cm (13-23 in) and a wingspan from 74 to 120 cm (29-47 in).

**WEIGHT:** 330 to 1,000 g (0.73-2.20 lb).

**HABITAT IN MONGOLIA:** Recorded in nests on steep cliffs and rocks in mountains and river valleys in Khentii Mountain Range and Khovd river valley of Khovd province. During its spring and autumn migrations, the species occurs in wetlands of some major lakes and rivers, which are abundant by water birds and fishes. Moreover, it occurs in the Gobi Desert during its migration.

**APPEARANCE:** The back and the long-pointed wings of the adult are usually bluish black to slate grey with indistinct darker barring. The wingtips are black. The white to rusty underparts are barred with thin clean bands of dark brown or black. The tail, coloured like the back but with thin clean bars, is long, narrow, and rounded at the end with a black tip and a white band at the very end. The top of the head and a "moustache" along the cheeks are black, contrasting sharply with the pale sides of the neck and white throat. The cere is yellow, as are the feet, and the beak and claws are black. The upper beak is notched near the tip, an adaptation which enables falcons to kill prey by severing the spinal column at the neck. An immature bird is much browner, with streaked, rather than barred, underparts, and has a pale bluish cere and orbital ring.

**DIET:** The peregrine falcon feeds almost exclusively on medium-sized birds such as pigeons and



doves, phasianids, waterfowl, songbirds, and waders. This falcon tends to nest on tall buildings or bridges, and these urban dwelling birds subsist mostly on different pigeons.



**SCIENTIFIC NAME:** CHLAMYDOTIS UNDULATA.

**COMMON NAME:** HOUBARA BUSTARD.

Asian houbara bustard, *Chlamydotis macqueenii*. The subspecies, *Chlamydotis undulata macqueenii* occurs in Mongolia. Recently, this subspecies is considered as a separate species.

**IN MONGOLIA:** Breeding visitor.

**IUCN STATUS:** **VU** (Vulnerable).

**GLOBAL POPULATION:** Although there is no definite population data in Mongolia, it is estimated that there are less than 200-300 individuals (MNE and JICA, 2001).

**HEIGHT:** 55–65 cm (22–26 in) in length and spans 135–170 cm (53–67 in) across the wings.

**WEIGHT:** 1.15–2.4 kg (2.5–5.3 lb).

**HABITAT:** Prefers open areas in the desert steppe with hard, gravelly soil with shrubs and bushes.

**APPEARANCE:** It is brown above and white below, with a black stripe down the sides of its neck. In flight, the long wings show large areas of black and brown on the flight feathers. Like other bustards, this species has a flamboyant display raising the white feathers of the head and neck and withdrawing the head. Two to four eggs are laid on the ground. It hardly ever uses its voice.

**DIET:** This species is omnivorous, taking seeds, insects and other small creatures.



**SCIENTIFIC NAME:** PELECANUS CRISPUS.

**COMMON NAME:** DALMATIAN PELICAN.

**IN MONGOLIA:** Breeding visitor.

**IUCN STATUS:** **CR** (Critically endangered).

**GLOBAL POPULATION:** Data indicate that from 1950-1970, there were 200-400 pairs of pelicans in Mongolia (MNE and JICA, 2001). The pelican population is declining both in Mongolia and worldwide. The number of breeding pairs at Khar-Us Lake in W Mongolia has decreased each year, and there has been no sighting of breeding pairs at that particular site in the last 10 years. The current global population is declining estimated at 10,000-13,900 individuals (BirdLife International, 2011).

**HEIGHT:** 160 to 183 cm (5 ft 3 in to 6 ft 0 in).

**WEIGHT:** 7.25-15 kg (16.0-33.1 lb).

**HABITAT IN MONGOLIA:** Breeds on Khar-Us lake in Khovd province. It has also been sighted on large lakes with abundant fish such as Airag, Ereen, Uvs, Oigon, Orog, Buuntsagaan, and Ugii lakes.

**APPEARANCE:** the Dalmatian differs from this other very large species in that it has curly nape feathers, grey legs and silvery-white (rather than pure white) plumage. In winter, adult Dalmatian pelicans go from silvery-grey to a dingier brownish-grey cream colour.

**DIET:** This pelican feeds almost entirely on fish. Preferred prey species can include common carp (*Cyprinus carpio*), European perch (*Perca fluviatilis*), common rudd (*Scardinius erythrophthalmus*), eels, catfish (especially silurids during winter), mullet and northern pike (*Esox lucius*), the latter having measured up to 50 cm (20 in) when taken.





**SCIENTIFIC NAME:** ANAS FORMASA.

**COMMON NAME:** BAIKAL TEAL.

**IN MONGOLIA:** Passage migrant.

**IUCN STATUS:** **LC** (least concern).

**GLOBAL POPULATION:** The global population is unknown. In 2004, there were 455,000-658,000 adult individuals in Korea, 50-10,000 adult individuals in China; and 10,000-100,000 adult individuals recorded in the Russian Federation (IUCN, 2017). There is no data on the species population in Mongolia.

**HEIGHT:** 39 and 43 centimetres (15 and 17 in).

**WEIGHT:** 360 and 520 grams (Male). 400 to 500 grams (Female).

**HABITAT IN MONGOLIA:** Migrates through the Orkhon and Selenge Rivers basin to eastern border of Mongolia. Occasionally seen on the Buir lake, Onon river, and Kherlen river. The Baikal teal species are migratory birds. They breed in Eastern Siberia, Russia. They pass through Mongolia and North Korea to winter in Japan, South Korea and mainland China. Occurs in the eastern region from the end of April to the beginning of June. In the region, individuals of the species were recorded from the beginning of September to mid-October on the autumn migration. The species along with the ducks such as Garganey and Northern pintail occurs in fresh water and salty lakes.

**APPEARANCE:** The male Baikal teal has a distinct patches of brown, green, white and black pattern on the head. The head of the male bird is larger than the female. The breast of the male bird is pinkish with dark spots. The flanks are grey and the undertail-coverts are black. The shoulder feathers of these teal species are long with streaks of chestnut-red, black and white. Females and juveniles have plainer plumage. Teal males make deep, chuckling wot-wot-wot and the females utter a low quack.

**DIET:** These teal species feed on seeds, grains, leaves, stems, grasses, aquatic plants, snail and crops.

**BREEDING:** These teal species arrive at the breeding grounds in April-May and start laying at the end of May south of Arctic Circle. They nest near water in open tussock meadows and mossy bogs.



# MONGOLIA

## Samar Magic Tours



**SCIENTIFIC NAME:** AQUILA CHRYSAETOS.

**COMMON NAME:** GOLDEN EAGLE.

**IN MONGOLIA:** Resident breeder.

**IUCN STATUS:** **LC** (least concern).



**GLOBAL POPULATION:** There is no population estimate for Mongolia. As of 2001, it is estimated that the Kazakh people in western Mongolia have bred more than 300 golden eagles for hunting (MNE and JICA, 2001). The global population consists of 170,000 mature individuals (BirdLife International, 2011).

**HEIGHT:** 66 to 102 centimetres (26 to 40 in). The wingspan is 1.8 to 2.34 metres (5 ft 11 in to 7 ft 8 in).

**WEIGHT:** 4.05 and 6.35 kg (8.9 and 14.0 lb).

**HABITAT IN MONGOLIA:** Nests in trees, rocky mountains, cliff edges, and sandy precipices in the steppe, forest steppe, mountain steppe and desert steppe regions that are abundant in prey such as Mongolian marmots, vole, gerbils and Tolai hares. Individuals remain near nesting sites and feed on carrion in winter.

**APPEARANCE:** Adults of both sexes have similar plumage and are primarily dark brown, with some grey on the inner wing and tail, and a paler, typically golden colour on the back of the crown and nape that gives the species its common name.

**DIET:** The diet of golden eagles is composed primarily of small mammals such as rabbits, hares, ground squirrels, prairie dogs, and marmots. They also eat other birds (usually of medium size, such as gamebirds), reptiles, and fish in smaller numbers. Golden eagles occasionally capture large prey, including seals, ungulates, coyotes, and badgers. They have also been known to capture large flying birds such as geese or cranes. They have also been known to prey on other raptors, including owls and falcons.

**BREEDING:** The Golden eagles usually mate for life. A breeding pair is formed in a courtship display. This courtship includes undulating displays by both in the pair, with the male bird picking up a piece of rock or a small stick, and dropping it only to enter into a steep dive and catch it in mid-air, repeating the maneuver 3 or more times. The female takes a clump of earth and drops and catches it in the same fashion. Golden eagles typically build several eyries within their territory (preferring cliffs) and use them alternately for several years. Their nesting areas are characterized by the extreme regularity of the nest spacing. Mating and egg-laying timing for golden eagle is variable depending on the locality. Copulation normally lasts 10–20 seconds. Mating seems to occur around 40–46 days before the initial egg-laying. The golden eagle chick may be heard from within the egg 15 hours before it begins hatching. After the first chip is broken off of the egg, there is no activity for around 27 hours. Hatching activity accelerates and the shell is broken apart in 35 hours. The chick is completely free in 37 hours.



**SCIENTIFIC NAME:** SYRRHAPTES PARADOXUS.

**COMMON NAME:** PALLA'S SANDGROUSE.

**IN MONGOLIA:** Partial Migrant.

**IUCN STATUS:** **LC** (least concern).

**HEIGHT:** 24 to 40 centimetres (9.4 to 15.7 in).

**WEIGHT:** 150 to 500 grams (5.3 to 17.6 oz).

**HABITAT IN MONGOLIA:** This species breeds across middle latitudes of central Asia on dry steppes and similar habitats. Its nest is a ground scrape into which 2–3 greenish eggs with cryptic markings are laid. It is a partial migrant, especially from the northern parts of its range in Kazakhstan and Mongolia, but the extent and distance of the southerly winter movement depends on the amount of snowfall.

**APPEARANCE:** It has long pointed wings and tail and legs and toes are feathered. Its plumage is buff coloured, barred above with a black belly patch and pale underwings. The black belly and pale underwing distinguish this species from the related Tibetan sandgrouse. The male Pallas's sandgrouse is distinguished by its grey head and breast, orange face and grey breast band. The female has duller plumage and lacks the breast band though it has more barring on the upperparts. The small feet lack a hind toe, and the three front toes are fused together. The upper surface is feathered, and the underneath has a fleshy pad. The appearance of the foot is more like a paw than an avian foot.

**DIET:** Sandgrouse are principally seed eaters. Other food items eaten include green shoots and leaves, bulbs, and berries. Insect food such as ants and termites may also be eaten, especially during the breeding season. Due to their primarily dry diet of seeds, the sandgrouse needs to drink a large volume of water.



**BREEDING:** Sandgrouse are monogamous. The breeding season usually coincides with a crop of seeds after the local rainy season and at this time the feeding flocks tend to break up into pairs. The nesting site is a slight depression in the ground, sometimes lined with a few pieces of dry foliage. Most typically, three cryptic eggs are laid, though occasionally there may be two or four. The intricately patterned, precocial downy young, and egg colouration (though not shape) closely resemble those of many Charadriiformes. Eggs are near elliptical. Incubation duties are shared; in most species, the males incubate at night while the females sit on the eggs during the day. The eggs usually hatch after 20–25 days. The precocial chicks are covered with down and leave the nest as soon as the last hatchling has dried out. The parents do not provide them with food and they learn, with parental guidance, what is edible and what is not. The chicks obtain their water from the soaked downy feathers on the adults' breasts. Chicks are too small and young to thermoregulate at first, and their parents shade them during the hottest part of the day, and brood them to keep warm at night. The chicks remain with their parents, as a family group, for several months.

#### REFERENCES:

1. Pallas's sandgrouse Wikipedia article - [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pallas's\\_sandgrouse](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pallas's_sandgrouse)
2. Pallas's sandgrouse on The IUCN Red List site - <https://www.iucnredlist.org/species/22692980/111987279>



**SCIENTIFIC NAME:** COCULUS CANOLUS.

**COMMON NAME:** CUCKOO (Эгэл Хөхөө).

**IN MONGOLIA:** Partial Migrant.

**IUCN STATUS:** **LC** (least concern).

**GLOBAL POPULATION:** 40-74.9 MLN. No data on the species population in Mongolia has been published yet.

**HEIGHT:** 32–34 centimetres (13–13 in).

**WEIGHT:** 130 grams (4.6 oz) and females 110 grams (3.9 oz).

**HABITAT IN MONGOLIA:** Common Cuckoo frequents coniferous and deciduous forests and woodlands, open wooded areas, forest edges and clearings, steppes with trees, meadows, marshes and reedbeds, cultivated areas with trees and bushes. It may be found up to 2000 metres of elevation, and much more according to the range.

**APPEARANCE:** Adult male has grey plumage. Upperparts are ashy-grey, including the wings. The tail is dark brownish with white spots and tips, and black bars. Underparts are white, heavily barred dark grey to black. Chin and upper breast are pale ashy-grey. Undertail feathers are black with



white spots and edges. Head is grey. The bill is yellow at base and black-tipped. Eyes are yellowish-brown to orange, surrounded by yellow eye-ring. Legs and feet are orange-yellow.

**DIET:** The common cuckoo's diet consists of insects, with hairy caterpillars, which are distasteful to many birds, being a specialty of preference. It also occasionally eats eggs and chicks.

**BREEDING:** The common cuckoo is an obligate brood parasite; it lays its eggs in the nests of other birds. Hatched cuckoo chicks may push out host eggs out of the nest or be raised alongside the host's chicks. A female may visit up to 50 nests during a breeding season. Common cuckoos first breed at the age of two years.

**REFERENCES:**

1. <https://animalia.bio/lists/country/birds-of-mongolia?page=1>
2. [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Common\\_cuckoo](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Common_cuckoo)



**SCIENTIFIC NAME:** PANDION HALIAETUS.

**COMMON NAME:** OSPREY

**IN MONGOLIA:** Partial Migrant.

**IUCN STATUS:** **LC** (least concern).

**GLOBAL POPULATION:** 460,000 individuals. No data on the species population in Mongolia has been published yet.

**HEIGHT:** 50–66 cm (19+<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>–26 in).

**WEIGHT:** 0.9–2.1 kg (2 lb 0 oz – 4 lb 10 oz).

**HABITAT IN MONGOLIA:** Recorded in open valleys of Khoroo, Khodon, Berkh, Alagtsar, and Jargalant Rivers (Huvsgul Mountain Range); Uvs, Zost, Airag and Achit, Khar, Khar-Us and Durgun Lakes, and Buyant, Chonokharaih and Khovd rivers (Great Lakes Depression); Khujirt of Uvurkhangai, Orkhon, Tamir and Tuul rivers and Ugii lake (Khangai Mountain Range); Buun Tsagaan lake (Lakes' Valley); Mongol Daguur Steppe and Khalkh Numrug Region. In addition to these areas, the species occurs in mountainous areas of Gobi Altai, Middle Khalkh steppe, and Lakes' Valley during its migration.

**APPEARANCE:** The upperparts are a deep, glossy brown, while the breast is white and sometimes streaked with brown, and the underparts are pure white. The head is white with a dark mask across the eyes, reaching to the sides of the neck. The irises of the eyes are golden to brown, and the transparent nictitating membrane is pale blue. The bill is black, with a blue cere, and the feet are white with black talons. A short tail and long, narrow wings with four long, finger-like feathers, and





a shorter fifth, give it a very distinctive appearance,

**DIET:** The osprey is piscivorous, with fish making up 99% of its diet. It typically takes live fish weighing 150–300 g (5.3–10.6 oz) and about 25–35 cm (9.8–13.8 in) in length, but virtually any type of fish from 50 g (1.8 oz) to 2 kg (4.4 lb) can be taken. Ospreys have vision that is well adapted to detecting underwater objects from the air. Prey is first sighted when the osprey is 10–40 m (33–131 ft) above the water, after which the bird hovers momentarily and then plunges feet first into the water. They catch fish by diving into a body of water, oftentimes completely submerging their entire bodies. As an osprey dives it adjusts the angle of its flight to account for the distortion of the fish's image caused by refraction. Ospreys will typically eat on a nearby perch but have also been known to carry fish for longer distances. Occasionally, the osprey may prey on rodents, rabbits, hares, other mammals, snakes, and frogs.

**BREEDING:** The osprey breeds near freshwater lakes and rivers, and sometimes on coastal brackish waters. Generally, ospreys reach sexual maturity and begin breeding around the age of three to four, though in some regions with high osprey densities. Ospreys usually mate for life. Rarely, polyandry has been recorded. The breeding season varies according to latitude; spring (September–October).

**REFERENCES:**

1. <https://animalia.bio/lists/country/birds-of-mongolia?page=1>
2. <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Osprey>



**SCIENTIFIC NAME:** PLATALEA LEUCORODIA.

**COMMON NAME:** EURASIAN SPOONBILL (Халбаган Хошуут).

**IN MONGOLIA:** Breeding Visitor.

**IUCN STATUS:** **LC** (least concern).

**GLOBAL POPULATION:** A total of 600-700 breeding pairs nest in the Uvs lake basin (MNE & JICA, 2001). There is very little information on population estimates for Mongolia. The global population consists of 66,000 -140,000 mature individuals (BirdLife International, 2011).

**HEIGHT:** 70-95 cm (28-37.4 in).

**WEIGHT:** 1130-1960 g (40 - 69.13 oz).

**HABITAT IN MONGOLIA:** Nests in reed beds, marshy wetlands with reeds and bushes near lakes and rivers. Occurs in open water areas of lakes and, rarely, large rivers in the steppe on migration.

**APPEARANCE:** The breeding bird is all white except for its dark legs, black bill with a yellow tip, and a yellow breast patch like a pelican. It has a crest in the breeding season. Non-breeders lack



the crest and breast patch, and immature birds have a pale bill and black tips to the primary flight feathers. Unlike herons, spoonbills fly with their necks outstretched.

**DIET:** The diet consists of aquatic insects, mollusks, newts, crustaceans, worms, leeches, frogs, tadpoles and small fish up to 10–15 cm (3.9–5.9 in) long. It may also take algae or small fragments of aquatic plants (although these are possibly ingested accidentally with animal matter). They use sideways sweeps of their beaks to filter out the tiny fish and shrimps.

**BREEDING:** More northerly breeding populations are fully migratory but may only migrate short distances while other, more southerly populations are resident and nomadic or partially migratory. In the Palearctic, the species breeds in spring (e.g. from April) but in tropical parts of its range it times breeding to coincide with rainfall. Breeding is normally in single species colonies or in small single species groups amidst mixed-species colonies of other waterbirds such as herons, egrets and cormorants. Outside the breeding season Eurasian spoonbills forage singly or in small flocks of up to 100 individuals. Migration is usually conducted in flocks of up to 100 individuals. Most activity takes place during the morning and evening (although in coastal areas it foraging is governed by tidal rhythms), they often roost communally in roosts which are up to 15 km (9.3 mi) away from the feeding areas. The nest is a platform of sticks and vegetation which is either constructed on the ground on islands in lakes and rivers or in dense stands of reeds, bushes, mangroves or deciduous trees up to 5 m (16 ft) above the ground. Within colonies neighbouring nests are usually quite close together, no more than 1 or 2 m (3.3 or 6.6 ft) apart. Breeding colonies are normally sited within 10–15 km (6.2–9.3 mi) of feeding areas, often much less (although the species may also feed up to 35–40 km (22–25 mi) away).

**REFERENCES:**

1. [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Eurasian\\_spoonbill](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Eurasian_spoonbill)
2. [Birdwatching/engp58\\_cites\\_report\\_eng\\_last4\\_nov05.pdf](#)
3. <https://www.birdmongolia.com/birds?page=5>



**SCIENTIFIC NAME:** CICONIA NIGRA.

**COMMON NAME:** BLACK STORK.

**IN MONGOLIA:** Breeding Visitor.

**IUCN STATUS:** **LC** (least concern).

**GLOBAL POPULATION:** The global population was estimated as 24,000-44,000 adult individuals in 2006 (Birdlife International, 2006). In Mongolia, there are 1,000-1,500 individuals (Bold and Tseveenmyadag, 2001).

**HEIGHT:** 95 to 100 cm (37 to 39 in) from beak tip to end of tail with a 145-to-155 cm (57-to-61 in) wingspan.

**WEIGHT:** 3 kg (6.6 lb).

**HABITAT IN MONGOLIA:** Occurs in lakes and rivers with abundant fish, rocky areas in wetlands' valleys, and sparse forests. Breeds in forested and rocky valleys of Buyant, Bulgan, Khovd rivers, Khoton, Dund, Achit and Uureg lakes (Mongol-Altai); Uvs lake, Tes and Torkhilog river lower parts (Uvs Lake Depression); Ulaan and Khar Yamaat Mountains, Khar, Durgun, Khyargas, Khar Us and Airag lakes, and Khovd river (Great Lakes Depression); Zavkhan and Khungui rivers, and Great Bogd Mountain (Gobi Altai); Ider, Chuluut, Tamir and Orkhon rivers and Sangiin Dalai and Ugii lakes (Khangai); Terkhiiin Tsagaan, Sangiin Dalai, Telmen, and Khar lakes (Tarvagatai-Bulnai Range);



Huvsgul lake and Eg river (Huvsgul); Shishgid river and Dood lake (Darkhad Depression); Orkhon, Selenge, Kharaa, and Yuruu rivers (Orkhon-Selenge Basin); Tuul, Onon, Balj and Kherlen rivers (Hentii Mountain Range); Ulz and Duch rivers (Kherlen-Ulz River Basin); Khalkh, Numrug, and Azarga rivers (Buir Lake-Khalkh River Khyangan Mountain Range) (Gombobaatar et al., 2011).

**DIET:** The black stork mainly eats fish, including small cyprinids, pikes, roaches, eels, buds, perches, burbots, sticklebacks and muddy loaches (Misgurnus and Cobitis). It may feed on amphibians, small reptiles, crabs, mammals and birds, and invertebrates such as snails, molluscs, earthworms, and insects like water beetles and their larvae.

**BREEDING:** The black stork breeds between April and May in the Northern Hemisphere, with eggs usually laid in late April.

**REFERENCES:**

1. [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Black\\_stork](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Black_stork)
2. Birdwatching/engp58\_cites\_report\_eng\_last4\_nov05.pdf



**SCIENTIFIC NAME:** ACCIPITER GENTILIS.

**COMMON NAME:** NORTHERN GOSHAWK.

**IN MONGOLIA:** Breeding Visitor.

**IUCN STATUS:** **LC** (least concern).

**GLOBAL POPULATION:** The global population consists of 1,000,000-2,500,000 mature individuals (BirdLife International, 2017). There is no data and information on its population published in Mongolia.

**HEIGHT:** 46 to 61 cm (18 to 24 in) long and have a 89 to 105 cm (35 to 41 in) wingspan. The female is much larger, 58 to 69 cm (23 to 27 in) long with a 108 to 127 cm (43 to 50 in) wingspan.

**WEIGHT:** 762 g (1.680 lb).

**HABITAT IN MONGOLIA:** Occurs in coniferous and mixed forests in river valleys, floodplain forest stands, and gardens/parks in urban areas. Breeds in boreal deciduous and conifer forests in Khovd river valley (Mongol-Altai Mountain Range); Khangai, Hentii, and Huvsgul Mountain Ranges; Orkhon-Selenge and Kherlen-Ulz River Basins and Buir Lake-Khalkh River-Khyangan Region. Occurs



in the Uvs Depression, Great Lakes Depression, Khan Huhii, Tarvagatai, Bulnai, Gobi-Altai Mountain Range (Gurvansaikhan Mountains), Lakes' Valley, and Dornod Mongol Steppe on migration.

**DIET:** The northern goshawk has relatively short wings and a long tail which make it ideally adapted to engaging in brief but agile and twisting hunting flights through dense vegetation of wooded environments. This species is a powerful hunter, taking birds and mammals in a variety of woodland habitats, often utilizing a combination of speed and obstructing cover to ambush their victims. Goshawks often forage in adjoining habitat types, such as the edge of a forest and meadow.

**BREEDING:** The northern goshawk is one of the most extensively studied raptors in terms of its breeding habits. Adult goshawks return to their breeding grounds usually between March and April, but locally as early as February. If prey levels remain high, adults may remain on their breeding ground all year.

**REFERENCES:**

1. [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Northern\\_goshawk](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Northern_goshawk)
2. Birdwatching/engp58\_cites\_report\_eng\_last4\_nov05.pdf



**SCIENTIFIC NAME:** AQUILA NIPALENSIS.

**COMMON NAME:** STEPPE EAGLE.

**IN MONGOLIA:** Breeding Visitor.

**IUCN STATUS:** **LC** (least concern).

**GLOBAL POPULATION:** The global population has 50,000-75,000 mature individuals, but its population is declining (Birdlife International, 2017). There are 1,500-2,000 pairs (MNE, JICA, 2001) in Mongolia.

**HEIGHT:** 165 to 174 cm (5 ft 5 in to 5 ft 9 in) while the largest ones can reportedly span up to 250 to 262 cm (8 ft 2 in to 8 ft 7 in).





**WEIGHT:** 2.5 to 3.5 kg (5.5 to 7.7 lb) in males while in females weights reported to range from 2.3 to 4.9 kg (5.1 to 10.8 lb).

**HABITAT IN MONGOLIA:** Abundant on low mountains, forest steppe, steppe, desert steppe and their mountainous valleys abundant by rodents, in particular Brandt's vole. When nesting, it produces 1-3 eggs, mostly two eggs.

**DIET:** The steppe eagle is an opportunistic predator like other Aquila eagles but has a number of dietary and foraging peculiarities. They prey mainly on small-sized mammals, with some birds (such as queleas) and reptiles and (mostly in winter) frequently insects (such as termites and locusts) and carrion. Despite their opportunistic nature, the steppe eagle is a somewhat specialized predator on particular mammals such as ground squirrels while breeding and, during non-breeding times, feeds on various foods but is often peculiarly narrow in dietary selection, preferring massed food sources that require little effort for them to obtain. Various other small or medium-sized mammals can become the most significant prey locally on the breeding grounds, such as voles, pikas and zokors and, more secondarily, marmots, hares, gerbils, hedgehogs and others.

**BREEDING:** The steppe eagle, like most raptors, breeds in pairs. Otherwise, it displays a preference for solitude whilst summering on the steppe. Like other Aquila eagles, this species may engage in a territorial aerial display. The display of the steppe eagle is not well-known but can be assumed to resemble that of sympatric eagles and is known to include high circling (but perhaps engage in less aerial acrobatics than other Aquila). Of 49 nests found in Mongolia 47.8% were on the ground, 32.6% were on rock columns or large boulders, 8.7% on cliffs, 8.7% on artificial substrates, including a car tire, an abandoned car cabin and an artificial nest platform and 2.2% was in a tree. All Mongolian nest in this study were at elevations between 1,100 and 2,500 m (3,600 and 8,200 ft), with a mean of 1,415 m (4,642 ft). In Mongolia, the height of nests above the surrounding flat earth was 2.28 m (7.5 ft).

**REFERENCES:**

1. [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Steppe\\_eagle](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Steppe_eagle)
2. Birdwatching/engp58\_cites\_report\_eng\_last4\_nov05.pdf



## BIRDWATCHING MONGOLIA TOUR

### Key Information:

**Trip Length:** 12 days/11 nights.

**Trip Type:** Easy to Moderate.

**Tour Code:** **SMT-BME-12D**

**Specialty Categories:** Birdwatching Expedition, 4x4 Expedition, Local Culture, Nature & Wildlife.

**Meeting/Departure Points:** Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia. Your international flight to Mongolia is on your own arrangement.

**Group Size:** **2-16 travelers-guaranteed!**

**Valid Season:** **June, July, August, September 15th.**

**May - June:** Mostly sunny, 15-19 Celsius degrees during the day and 1-3 Celsius degrees at night.

**Total Distance:** about 1500 km/932 miles.

### BRIEF ITINERARY:

**Day 1**-Upon your arrival in Ulaanbaatar New Airport (UB city), meet Samar Magic Tours team. Ulaanbaatar City tour. (L)

**Days 2/3**-The 40 meter/~133,3 feet Genghis Khan Statue-Gorkhi/Terelj National Park. Birdwatching for Saker Falcon, Lesser Kestrel, Cinereous Vulture, Yellow-breasted Bunting, Black-billed Capercaillie, Ural Owl, Northern Hawk Owl, and Rufous-tailed Robin and more bush birds. (B)(L)(D)

**Day 4**-Hustain Nuruu Wild Horses National Park. (B)(L)(D)

**Day 5**-Hustain Nuruu Wild Horses National Park. (B)(L)(D)

**Day 6**-Hustain Nuruu Wild Horses National Park-Karakorum. (B)(L)(D)

**Day 7**-Karakorum-Orkhon Valley-Tsenkher Hot Springs. (B)(L)(D)

**Days 8/9**-Tsenkher Hot Springs-Orkhon Valley-Lake Ugii. (B)(L)(D)

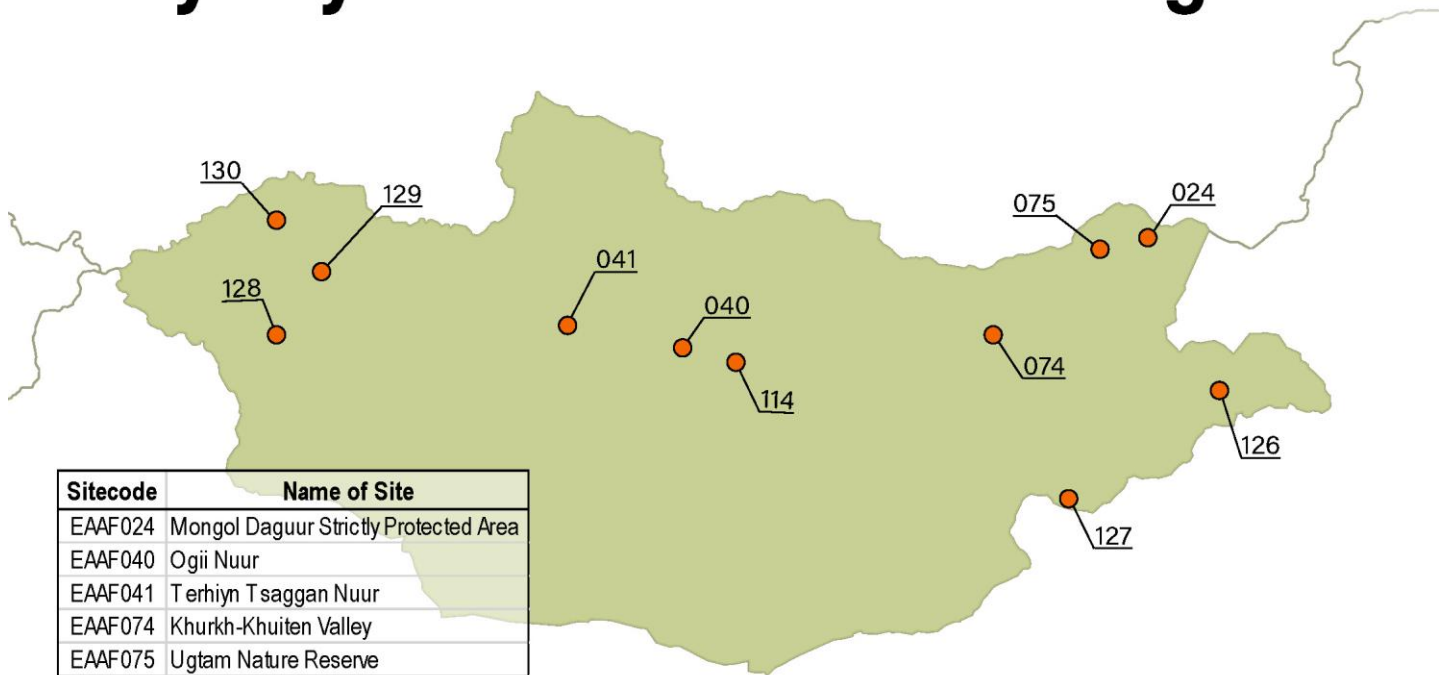
**Day 10**-Lake Ugii-Bayangobi Desert. (B)(L)(D)

**Day 11**-Bayangobi Desert-Ulaanbaatar. (B)(L)(B)

**Day 12**-Departure Mongolia. (B)



# Flyway Network Sites in Mongolia



Sitecode	Name of Site
EAAF024	Mongol Daguur Strictly Protected Area
EAAF040	Ogii Nuur
EAAF041	T erhiyn Tsaggan Nuur
EAAF074	Khurkh-Khuiten Valley
EAAF075	Ugtam Nature Reserve
EAAF114	Dashinchilen T sagaan wetlands
EAAF126	Buir Lake
EAAF127	Ganga Lake
EAAF128	Khar-Us Lake
EAAF129	Khyargas-Airag Lake
EAAF130	Uvs Lake
<b>Total Number of Sites : 11</b>	



0 125 250 500 750 1,000 Kilometers

Coordinate System: Pulkovo 1942 Caspian Sea Mercator



© East Asian - Australasian Flyway Partnership, Updated August, 2020





## DAY BY DAY ITINERARY:

**Day 1**-Upon your arrival in **Ulaanbaatar New Airport** and after custom formalities and baggage claim, you will be met by **Samar Magic Tours team** and taken to the centrally located hotel in Ulaanbaatar (by hotels policy the check-in time is after **02:00PM/14:00**). **Ulaanbaatar City tour:** visit the **Gandantegchinlen Monastery** is a Tibetan-style Buddhist monastery that has been restored and revitalized since 1990. The Tibetan name translates to the "Great Place of Complete Joy". It currently has over 150 monks in residence. It features a 26.5-meter-high statue of Avalokitesvara. It came under state protection in 1994. Here you will have the opportunity to attend a Buddhist ceremony. Next, we will visit a **small museum of dinosaur fossils**. The centerpiece of the museum is the 4m tall, 3 tonne UV light Tarbosaurus bataar (cousin of Tyrannosaurus rex) and a smaller Saurolophus, with its distinctive skull crest. The Tarbosaurus bataar made international headlines in 2012, when it sold for more than US\$1 million at auction in Texas. The Mongolian government protested that the fossil had been illegally removed from Mongolia and demanded its return. The legal battle ended when a US judge ruled in favor of Mongolia. The museum also includes examples of Velociraptor and Protoceratops, and a nest of Oviraptor eggs. It is located inside the former Lenin Museum, built in the year 1974. While there are plans to expand it into a world-class institution, for now it is still a bit limited in specimens. **Welcome lunch in traditional local restaurant.** Visit the **National History Museum**-where you will see artefacts from Mongolia and Central Asia from the Stone Age to the present. Here you will see a large statue of the Genghis Khan-inaugurated in 2006 on the occasion of 800th Anniversary of the Great Mongolian Empire of **Genghis Khan** (1206-2006), the Sukh Baatar Hero along with The Parliament House, Stock Exchange, the Drama Theatre and the Palace of Culture. **06:00PM**-Attend a folk show with the fascinating sounds of khoomi throat singing and Mongolian dance. Transfer to hotel. Overnight at Holiday Inn hotel 5 stars or at Premium Palace hotel 4 stars or similar (according to the early request!). Dinner is not included. **(L)**



**Days 2/3-Breakfast.** Meet Samar Magic Tours team at reception of the hotel. Drive towards by comfortable 4WD vehicle to visit on the way, the **40 meter /~133,3 feet Genghis Khan Statue on horseback** (55km/34mi) N/E of the Mongolian capital Ulaanbaatar. The statue is symbolically pointed east towards his birthplace. It is on top of the Genghis Khan Statue Complex, a visitor center, itself 10 meters (32 ft 10 in) tall, with 36 columns representing the 36 khans from Genghis to Ligdan Khan. Visitors walk to the head of the horse through its chest and neck of the horse, where they can have a panoramic view. After, continuous drive towards north further to reach **Gorkhi/Terelj National Park**. Seeing grasslands and beautiful vistas. The valley is about 20kms/12miles long at 1600m. This picturesque National Park is a part of Khan Khentii Strictly Protected Area. It is a great place for hiking, trekking, even you can rock climb here at its natural steep granite walls. Check into a tourist ger camp near the birding site for a two-night stay. Here we will look for forest and forest/steppe birds, including the tough and highly sought **Black-billed Capercaillie and Chinese Bush Warbler, along with plenty of other quality birds like Siberian Rubythroat, Daurian Partridge, Ural Owl, Oriental Cuckoo, Eurasian Three-toed Woodpecker, Red-flanked Bluetail, Daurian Redstart, Dark-sided Flycatcher, Taiga Flycatcher, Black-faced Bunting, Stejneger's Stonechat, and White-cheeked Starling.** Overnight in Tourist Gers Camp. **(B)(L)(D)**

**Days 4/5-Breakfast.** Drive towards by comfortable 4WD vehicle West further to reach **Hustain Nuruu National Park** (about 190km/118 miles, 2.0-2.5 hrs) of the **Wild Horses Przewaslki or Takhi** (as known by the Mongolians). The Takhi is the last species of wild horse left on the planet. In 1878, the Polish-born Russian geographer and naturalist **Nikolai Mikhailovich Przewaslki** found a new species of wild horse in Mongolia, known locally as Takhi, and took several foals to European zoos. The only way to prevent the complete extinction of the last species of wild horse was to reintroduce it into the wild. In 1975, the **Dutchman Ian Bouman and his wife**, and other entities that joined later, created the **Foundation for the Conservation and Protection of the Przewalski Horse (FPPPH)**, with the aim of saving the Takhi from extinction through acclimatization. of the zoo specimens in open field pastures, for later release into the wild. In 1992, the FPPPH brought the first 15 horses to the Hustain Nuruu area in Mongolia, to reintroduce them to their original habitat. Currently, the population of takhi in the wild in Hustai Nuruu National Park reaches 220 individuals. The practice of taming wild animals and then returning them to the wild is truly rare. Visit to a small museum, about the history of the Hustain Nuruu National Park, about the founders, and the reintroduction of the Przewaslki or Takhi wild horses in their original habitat. **Excursion through the interior of the Hustain Nuruu National Park, exploration and observation of wild horses (\*bring binoculars).** **Golden Eagles, Black Vultures, Lesser Kestrels, Daurian Jackdaws, Rock Sparrows, Meadow Buntings, Saker Falcons, Upland Buzzards, Eurasian Hobby, Amur Falcons,** are there. Overnight in Tourist Gers Camp. **(B)(L)(D)**

**Day 6-Breakfast.** Today, we will head North to **Karakorum in Central Mongolia** (about 310km/193 miles, 5.0-6.0 hrs)-**the Genghis (Chinggis) Khan's 13th century capital and heart of the mighty Mongolian Empire and Okhon river Valley, cradle of Mongolian civilization.** Visitors, such as Marco Polo, described its ornate building, including a 2500 sq. meters Palace of Worldly Peace. Overnight in Tourist Gers Camp in Karakorum. **(B)(L)(D)**



**Day 7-Breakfast.** In the morning, we visit **the legendary Erdene zuu monastery, the turtle monument and the Karakorum museum**, which is recently opened to show the public, remains unique in Kharakorum found during an excavation organized by Mongolia and Germany together. In 1792 the Monastery still had 62 temples and 10,000 lamas. But in 1930 it became a victim of the Stalin's purges. All but three of the Temples were destroyed and most of the monks were either killed or sent to Siberia. Subsequently the **Orkhon Valley** was continuously occupied throughout the Prehistoric and Bronze ages and in proto-historic and early historic times was settled successively by the Huns, Turkic peoples, the Uighurs, the Kidans, and finally the Mongols. Today, the cultural heritage of the valley constitutes a **UNESCO World Heritage**. After lunch, departure to the **Tsenkher Hot Springs** (120 km/75 miles, about 2.30hrs), located near the Khangai mountains and in a forested area, in the province of Arkhangai. These hot springs are sulphurous springs that flow at a temperature of more than 80 degrees, allowing visitors to enjoy an open-air spa in the middle of nature. These waters are appreciated for their healing properties. **Here we will look for forest and forest/steppe birds at the hot springs.** In this area there is a presence of nomadic families where they graze with their herds of horses, yaks, sheep, bulls, etc. There is an opportunity to optionally ride a horse or yak at your leisure (\*pay extra on site). Overnight in Tourist Gers Camp. **(B)(L)(D)**

**Days 8/9-Breakfast.** Departure by asphalt road (\*with the help of the Turkish Government) in the direction of the **Lake Ugii** (about 120 km/75 miles, about 2.30hrs)-an appropriate place for birds such as: **swans, geese, cranes, ducks, pigeons, storks and other migratory species** are cited in this area at the **end of April, May and throughout the summer**). On the way you can see **Steppe raptors, Isabelline Wheatear, Short-toed Larks, Mongolian Larks, Demoiselle Crane**. Check into a tourist ger camp near the birding site for a two-night stay. **Lake Ugii** is located in the province of Uvurkhangai, where many migratory birds arrive at certain times of the year due to the abundance of fish. **It is of great importance as a breeding and stopping place for waterfowl, for example, the white-necked crane (Grus vipio), the swan goose (Anser cygnoides), the great bustard (Otis tarda), the duck (Oxyura leucocephala), cranes common (Grus Grus), demoiselle cranes (Anthropoides virgo), black storks (Ciconia nigra), and species declared vulnerable or endangered in the Red Book. We will be able to admire and photograph a great variety of species such as the White-necked Crane and the Monk Crane surrounded by a beautiful valley where herds of sheep, horses, bulls, and yaks graze.** Over 200 species of birds have been recorded at Lake Ugii, and where there are so many fish there are sure to be plenty of waterfowl; black-tailed godwit; Swan goose; Great Crested Grebe; whooper swan; Bar-headed goose; Rudy Shelduck; common goldeneye; Common Crane; and Northern Lapwing. Migratory birds arrive from May to June, from as far away as Siberia and the Himalayas. **Here there is an opportunity for optional horseback riding, fishing, boat rides, kayaks, ornithological observation, etc. (\*pay extra on site). Bring binoculars.** Overnights in Tourist Gers Camp, close to Lake Ugii. **(B)(L)(D)**

**Day 10-Breakfast.** Drive to **Elsen Tasarkhai Dunes (known as the Bayangobi Desert**, about 160km/99.42miles, 2 hours drive) via Karakorum, desert sand dunes spread over 80kms in a beautiful valley. Opportunity for hiking, walking through the dunes, and photographing the landscapes. We will visit an authentic nomadic family with Bactrian camel farms. **One hour of excursion included to cross the dunes on the back of a Bactrian camel.** We hope to **birdwatching for Henderson's Ground Jay, Saxaul Sparrow, Hill Pigeon, Pallas's**



**Sandgrouse, Lesser Kestrel, Long-legged Buzzard, Great (Steppe) Grey Shrike, Desert Wheatear, and Asian Desert Warbler. At sunset we can admire a beautiful sunset over the dunes. Overnight in Tourist Gers Camp. (B)(L)(D)**

**Day 11**-Breakfast. Return to Ulaanbaatar (about 280km/123miles, 4-5 hours drive, depending on the traffic at the entrance to Ulaanbaatar). Transfer to the hotel (\*the rooms can be used after **2:00 p.m.** on the day of arrival). Latest purchases of Mongolian souvenirs and pure Mongolian cashmere. **Farewell dinner at luxury local restaurant.** Transfer to the hotel. Overnight at Holiday Inn hotel 5 stars or at Premium Palace hotel 4 stars or similar (according to the early request!). **(B)(L)(D)**

**Day 12**-Breakfast. The rooms must be vacated before **12 noon** on the day of departure. Meeting with Samar Magic Tours at the hotel reception. Transfer to Ulaanbaatar New Airport. **Departure Mongolia (B). Tour Ends.**

#### **INCLUDED SERVICES:**

**2** nights of accommodation in the selected and confirmed hotel (according to the early request!), based on the INDICATED DOUBLE room, with breakfast.

**9** nights of lodging in the typical traditional tourist camps based on STANDARD GER for **2** people or more (according to the request!) with bathrooms outside (that is, shared, 1 building for the gentlemen, and 1 building for the ladies), in the rest of the route.

Full Board Regime (excepted the 1<sup>st</sup> day), with 1 bottle of mineral water per person/daily.

Welcome lunch in a traditional restaurant.

Farewell dinner in a luxury restaurant.

All transfers in private, traveling in a comfortable and modern Land Cruiser Toyota 4x4 vehicle (occupancy: 4 tourists + 1 driver in 1 vehicle, Limit: 15 kg per person, INDICATED IN THE RATES TABLE, EXCEPT FOR THE GROUP OF 4 PEOPLE) or in Delica Mitsubishi 4x4 with A/C (occupancy: 5 tourists + 1 driver in 1 vehicle, Limit: 15 kg per person) on the rest of the route (10 FULL DAYS), with all fuel included.

English or Spanish speaking local guide (according to the request!).

Birding Local Guide.

All entrance fees to the 40 meter /~133,3 feet Genghis Khan Statue on horseback, Gorkhi/Terelj National Park, Hustain Nuruu National Park, Karakorum, monuments, museums, and monasteries.

Visits to authentic nomadic families with farms for horses, yaks, bulls on the route, and an authentic family nomad with camel herds in the giant dunes.

Attend a folk show with the fascinating sounds of khoomi throat singing and Mongolian dance.

**1** hour excursion to explore the dunes on the back of a Bactrian camel.

**1** hour of relaxing baths in the Tsenkher Hot Springs.

Gentle hiking through wonderful landscapes.

Rates and services.

Management and payment for the support visa letter, authorized by Mongolian Immigration, for citizens who cannot obtain the Mongolian visa electronically or do not have consulates (\*if necessary).



## What's Not Included?

Airfares. Occasional flight delays or cancellation. Excess baggage. Visa. Any rescue costs or costs of early departure. Changing of date of departure from Ulaanbaatar. Equipment commonly used for birding. The traveller is responsible for having proper travel documents, such as a valid passport, and the necessary passport pictures. Travel insurance. Items of personal nature such as gratuities to porters at hotels, telephone / telex / fax charges, laundry, beverages, meals, optional activities, and services not specified in the itinerary. Any circumstances beyond of our control, such as the imposition of quarantine restrictions, weather conditions, Mongolia road conditions, etc.





**SAMAR MAGIC TOURS**  
ADVENTURES & EXPEDITIONS

www.samarmagictours.com

Member of Ministry of Nature, Environment and Tourism Mongolia

Adventure & Cultural & Expeditions, since 1997!



# SAMAR MAGIC TOURS



**BIENVENIDOS A MONGOLIA**  
**WELCOME TO MONGOLIA**



**MAP OF MONGOLIA**

[www.samarmagictours.com](http://www.samarmagictours.com)



## OUTSTANDING EXPERIENCES:

- **Gorkhi/Terelj National Park:** Here we will look for forest and forest/steppe birds, including the tough and highly sought Black-billed Capercaillie and Chinese Bush Warbler, along with plenty of other quality birds like Siberian Rubythroat, Daurian Partridge, Ural Owl, Oriental Cuckoo, Eurasian Three-toed Woodpecker, Red-flanked Bluetail, Daurian Redstart, Dark-sided Flycatcher, Taiga Flycatcher, Black-faced Bunting, Stejneger's Stonechat, and White-cheeked Starling.
- **Hustain Nuruu National Park:** Excursion through the interior of the Hustain Nuruu National Park, exploration and observation of wild horses (\*bring binoculars). Golden Eagles, Black Vultures, Lesser Kestrels, Daurian Jackdaws, Rock Sparrows, Meadow Buntings, Saker Falcons, Upland Buzzards, Eurasian Hobby, Amur Falcons, are there.
- **Tsenkher Hot Springs:** Here we will look for forest and forest/steppe birds at the hot springs.
- **Lake Ugii**-an appropriate place for birds such as: swans, geese, cranes, ducks, pigeons, storks and other migratory species are cited in this area at the end of April, May and throughout the summer). On the way you can see Steppe raptors, Isabelline Wheatear, Short-toed Larks, Mongolian Larks, Demoiselle Crane. It is of great importance as a breeding and stopping place for waterfowl, for example, the white-necked crane (*Grus vipio*), the swan goose (*Anser cygnoides*), the great bustard (*Otis tarda*), the duck (*Oxyura leucocephala*), cranes common (*Grus Grus*), demoiselle cranes (*Anthropoides virgo*), black storks (*Ciconia nigra*), and species declared vulnerable or endangered in the Red Book. We will be able to admire and photograph a great variety of species such as the White-necked Crane and the Monk Crane surrounded by a beautiful valley where herds of sheep, horses, bulls, and yaks graze.
- **Elsen Tasarkhai Dunes (known as the Bayangobi Desert):** We hope to birdwatching for Henderson's Ground Jay, Saxaul Sparrow, Hill Pigeon, Pallas's Sandgrouse, Lesser Kestrel, Long-legged Buzzard, Great (Steppe) Grey Shrike, Desert Wheatear, and Asian Desert Warbler.

## TO CONSIDER:

- Guaranteed services from **2** people.
- This is a Special Group Outing to the **Naadam Festival**. It is not in private. **High season in Mongolia!**
- Mongolian visa not included.
- International flights not included.
- Accommodation outside Ulaanbaatar is in the tourist camps in Ger Standard for 2 people with bathrooms outside (so shared, 1 building for men, and 1 building for women). The tourist camps in Gers do not have an official category.
- The hotel category information is for the Ulaanbaatar hotel.
- The entrance to the rooms in the hotels of Ulaanbaatar is at **02:00PM (14:00)**. Early entry to rooms is not included.
- The departure of the rooms in the hotels of Ulaanbaatar is at **12:00M**. Late check-out of rooms is not included.



• All private transfers outside of Ulaanbaatar, are traveling in a comfortable modern Land Cruiser Toyota 4x4 vehicle (occupancy: 4 tourists + 1 Mongolian driver in 1 vehicle, Limit: 15 kg per person) or in Delica Mitsubishi 4x4 with A /C (occupancy: 5 tourists + 1 driver in 1 vehicle, Limit: 15 kg per person). Excess baggage must be left for free at hotels in Ulaanbaatar before departure to the countryside of Mongolia.

## WHAT SHOULD I BRING TO BIRDWATCHING?

1. **Binoculars.** Your enjoyment of birds depends hugely on how great they look through your binoculars, so make sure you're getting a big, bright, crisp picture through yours. ...
2. **Bird Feeders.**
3. **Spotting scope.**
4. **Camera.**
5. **Skills.**
6. **Records.**
7. **Apps.**
8. **Equipment commonly used for birding includes:** binoculars, a spotting scope with tripod, a smartphone, a notepad.

## SUGGESTED PACKING LIST

- Lantern.
- Spare batteries/bulb.
- Personal medications.
- Waterproof mountain boots.
- Waterproof jacket with hood.
- Waterproof overpants.
- Polar jacket or wool sweater.
- Cotton t-shirts
- Long sleeve shirts.
- Light pants.
- Shorts.
- Stockings.
- Underwear.
- Sun hat.
- Flip flops.
- Sunglasses.



- Sunscreen.
- Insect repellent.
- Plastic bags with hermetic closure (ziploc).
- Binoculars/camera.
- Alarm clock.
- Belt/money bag.

## RESERVATION CONDITIONS AND FINAL PAYMENT

**PRICE:** The price of our trips has been calculated based on exchange rates, transport rates, fuel costs and applicable taxes and fees on the date of publication of the program/brochure or subsequent dates that, if applicable, are have been made public in print. Any variation in the price of the aforementioned elements may give rise to the revision of the final price of the trip, both upwards and downwards, in the strict amounts of the aforementioned price variations. These modifications will be notified to the consumer, in writing or by any means that allows proof of the communication made, being able, when the modification made is significant, to withdraw from the trip, without any penalty, or accept the modification of the contract. In no case, will it be revised upwards in the twenty days prior to the departure date of the trip, regarding the requests already made. Prices are calculated based on double room. Prices and fees are quoted in \$ Us dollars or in € euros and are subject to change.

**Please note: Naadam Festival** surcharge applies for travel from **Jul 09 to Jul 15 - Peak Season in Mongolia**, where all services, accommodations are overcrowded.

- At the time of registering for the trip, the amount of \$ US 600.00 (six hundred \$ US dollars + the bank discount of the intermediary banks) per person will be paid immediately by bank transfer as a deposit, with a minimum advance notice of **150** business days, before arrival in Mongolia.
- You must send us a photocopy of the original passport with a minimum validity of 6 months, in order to reserve and purchase domestic air tickets in Mongolia, hotels in Ulaanbaatar, and tickets to the Naadam Festival in the month of July.
- No registration will be considered valid until these requirements are formalized.
- The final payment of the trip will be made by bank transfer **95** business days before arrival in Mongolia, in order to guarantee the domestic air tickets (if any on the route) and all the indicated reservations.

**VERY IMPORTANT NOTE:** If you do not pay us on the indicated dates, we cannot guarantee the indicated services (\*so in this case, you need to check the new rates and if there is availability in other hotels).



## CANCELLATION

**180-91 days:** \$ US 600.00 per person.

**90-16 days:** 50%

**15-00 business days:** 100%-NO REFUND.

**In the case of cancellations of air and train tickets:** it is another concept. The rates of air tickets or international and national trains subject to modifications, depending on availability at the time of entering the reservation. Rates on air tickets or on international and national trains are only frozen with the issuance and full payment of the tickets. Tickets are non-refundable and can only be canceled on the day of issue.

## PERSONAL TRAVELING FOR FREE IN MONGOLIA:

A) If the group is of **16** people (15 pax subscribers + **1** person for free by land, based only on DOUBLE room: **8**). Samar Magic Tours will pay all expenses for land, accommodation in DOUBLE room. **Not included:** accommodation in a single room, and air tickets.

B) If the group is of **32** people (30 pax subscribers + **2** people for free by land, based only on DOUBLE room: **16**). Samar Magic Tours will pay all expenses for land, accommodation in DOUBLE room. **Not included:** accommodation in a single room, and air tickets.

**CONDITIONS OF FORCE MAJEURE:** Although it is our absolute desire to fulfill the trip as detailed in the program, sometimes there are conditions of force majeure that mean that it may be modified. Samar Magic Tours is not legally responsible for those conditions of force majeure outside the organization of the trip that may force changes to the travel program. These reasons and circumstances of force majeure include possible situations of insecurity for the traveler, political instability or violence, rebellions or risk of rebellion, strikes, altercations and violent actions, decisions of governments or local authorities, technical or maintenance problems related to transportation, changes in schedules or aviation or road routes, natural disasters, epidemics, adverse weather conditions, as well as any other circumstance beyond the control of Samar Magic Tours. If due to unusual circumstances of force majeure it is necessary to carry out a cancellation of the trip, there is no obligation for compensation.



**FORM TO FILL IN:**

**NAMES AND SURNAMES (\*HOW IT IS WRITTEN ON THE PASSPORT):**

**CITIZENSHIP:**

**VALID PASSPORT NUMBER:**

**\*EXACT DATE OF ARRIVAL IN ULAN BATOR, NO. OF THE FLIGHT AND TIME OF ARRIVAL:**

**\*DATE OF DEPARTURE FROM MONGOLIA, NO. OF THE FLIGHT AND THE SCHEDULE:**