

MIGRATORY BIRDING THROUGH MONGOLIA



(DATE: MAY 1-15, 2026)

TRIP SUMMARY



Mongolia's diverse ecosystems, ranging from high mountains and forests to steppes and deserts, support a rich array of flora and fauna adapted to extremes of climate and terrain.

The country also plays a vital role in global bird migration, intersected by three major flyways: the West Asian–East African, Central Asian, and East Asian–Australasian routes. Its wetlands, steppe lakes, and river valleys serve as critical stopovers and breeding grounds for countless migratory species.

This itinerary is carefully timed and mapped to align with the peak presence of passage migrants and breeding visitors along the East Asian–Australasian Flyway. Key sites such as Shaaзан Lake, Tashgain Tavan Lake, and Buir Lake serve as critical stopover and nesting habitats.

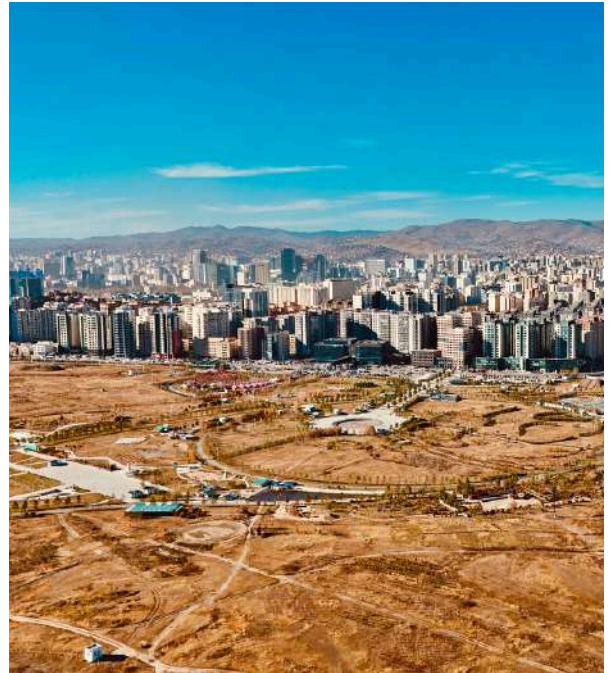
Eastern Mongolia also offers a rare glimpse of Oriental species en route to their Arctic breeding grounds. After nesting in Alaska, many take direct transoceanic flights to the Pacific Islands for wintering—making late April to early May the prime window to witness their passage.

ITINERARY

DAY 1. MAY 1. ARRIVAL IN ULAANBAATAR

Arrive in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia's capital nestled in the Tuul River valley at the base of Bogd Khan Mountain National Park. Once a nomadic Buddhist center, the city evolved into a permanent settlement in the 18th century and now blends Soviet-era facades, historic monasteries, and modern high-rises. After check-in, enjoy a short city tour and a welcome dinner at a fine local restaurant.

(Overnight at Hotel Bayangol or similar; D)



DAY 2. MAY 2. DRIVING TO DELGERKHAAN NATURE RESERVE

The Delgerkhaan Nature Reserve is an ecotone where the steppe and boreal forest biomes converge. The northern part of the nature reserve exhibits a boreal forest pattern. In this ecosystem, we will see birds such as the Pine Bunting, Eurasian Nuthatch, and Willow Tit. The most interesting sight to observe is the lekking behavior of the Black Grouse during their breeding season. During this time, male Black Grouse gather at specific sites where they perform displays to attract females. Additionally, we will see Asian Wapiti and wolves in the boreal forest. Overnight in tents. (Approx. 200 km, 5 hours driving; Tent camp; B, L, D)



DAY 3. MAY 3. BIRDING ON A HORSEBACK (OPTIONAL)

Begin the day with a visit to a local nomadic family and optional birding on horseback—a unique way to experience Mongolia’s traditional lifestyle. The surrounding granite mountains form a distinct biome transition zone, home to Argali sheep (*Ovis ammon*) and a range of birds of prey. Species to watch for include the Saker Falcon, Golden Eagle, Bearded Vulture, and Cinereous Vulture.

(Overnight in tented camp; B, L, D)



DAY 4. MAY 4. DRIVING TO SHAAZAN LAKE

Hundreds of Demoiselle Cranes can be seen at once, making it fascinating to observe their migratory behavior. Along the Kherlen River, we will find many species of songbirds. Our target species are the Swan Goose and Demoiselle Crane.

Overnight in tents. (Approx. 480 km, 8 hours driving; Tent camp; B, L, D)





DAY 5. MAY 5. DRIVING TO SANGYN DALAI LAKE

After breakfast, we will drive to Sangyn Dalai, a steppe lake that provides an important habitat for the surrounding wildlife. (Approx. 200 km, 5 hours driving, dirt road only.) Along the way, we will have the opportunity to observe Jankowski's Bunting in the dry steppe.

Overnight in tents. (Approx. 50 km, 1 hour driving; Tent camp; B, L, D)

DAY 6. MAY 6. DRIVING TO GALYN GOL RIVER



Spend the morning birding in the Vangiin Tsagaan Hills, a classic steppe landscape home to the Mongolian Lark, Horned Lark, and Steppe Eagle. Our main target species is the Endangered Jankowski's Bunting—a rare steppe representative. After lunch, continue to the Galyn Gol River valley and set up camp in this tranquil and biodiverse area.

(Approx. 170 km, 3 hours driving; Overnight in tented camp; B, L, D)

DAY 7. MAY 7. GALYN GOL RIVER



Today's target species will include the Common Pheasant and various cranes, among others. The habitat consists of wetlands, elm stands, and meadow steppe. Early in the morning, we will set out for observation points, then spend the afternoon hiking and birding around the river. We may also encounter the Deer-Moose, one of the region's prime mammals.

Overnight in tents. (Tent camp; B, L, D)

DAY 8. MAY 8. DRIVING TO TASHGAI LAKES

At dawn, wake to the murmuring calls of Swan Geese, one of Mongolia's largest gatherings. These remote lakes and reedbeds form rich, isolated habitats supporting elusive species like the Reed Parrotbill, Oriental Reed Warbler, Bearded Reedling, and several bitterns. Though shy and rare, these birds reward patient observation. Cranes and other wetland specialists also frequent the area. (Approx. 50 km, 2 hours driving; Overnight in tented camp; B, L, D)



Tashgai lake is home to many migratory birds.

DAY 9. MAY 9. DRIVING TO KHALKH GOL RIVER

The floodplain along the Khalkhin Gol River serves as a corridor for many migratory birds, providing an excellent opportunity to observe their behaviors in this unique habitat. We may spot Baikal Teal, Mandarin Duck, and Falcated Duck, along with various songbirds flying to rugged areas with rocky terrain and trees. This region is one of the prime transit points for migratory birds.

(Approx. 50 km, 2 hours driving; Tent camp; B, L, D)



DAYS 10–11. MAY 10–11. BUIR LAKE

Buir Lake, the largest lake in Eastern Mongolia, is a biodiversity hotspot of riparian forests, sandy shores, and reedbeds. It's a key congregation site for migratory waterbirds and shorebirds, home to Sandpipers, Plovers, Godwits, Curlews, Ducks, Geese, Swans, Herons, Cranes, and Grebes. Target species include the Oriental Stork, Pallas's Fish Eagle, Great Bustard, and the endangered Relict Gull. Spend two full days exploring the lake's rich habitats by foot and vehicle.

(Approx. 70 km, 3 hours driving; Tent camp; B, L, D)





DAY 12. MAY 12. RETURN TO CHOIBALSAN

After breakfast, drive back to Choibalsan, the provincial capital of Dornod. Settle into a local hotel and enjoy a well-earned dinner at a nearby restaurant.
(Approx. 5 hours driving; Local hotel; B, L, D)

DAY 13. MAY 13. CHOIBALSAN / ULAANBAATAR

After breakfast, begin the drive back to Ulaanbaatar, enjoying a picnic lunch along the way. Today's drive is quite long but will offer a fascinating glimpse into the changing ecosystems of the eastern Mongolian provinces.
(Approx. 9 hours driving; B, L, D)

DAY 14. MAY 14. ULAANBAATAR

Spend a full day visiting Gandan Monastery, the Chinggis Khan Museum, and Zaisan Hill for an introduction to Mongolia's capital city. In the evening, enjoy a traditional Mongolian performance followed by a farewell dinner. Overnight at the hotel. **(Bayangol Hotel or similar; B, L, D)**



DAY 15. MAY 15. DEPARTURE

After breakfast, transfer to the airport for departure. (B)

B = Breakfast | L = Lunch | D = Dinner

Ger camp = The traditional portable, circular, wooden dwelling used by the nomadic peoples.

Field camp = A bit more sophisticated camping/glamping, more permanent in nature.

Tent camp = Expedition style, often moving regularly and smaller in size and scale.

MONGOLIA QUEST RESERVES THE RIGHT TO ALTER THE ABOVE ITINERARY IF DEEMED NECESSARY.

Based on 2-3 participants:	\$5,890 per person , standard twin occupancy;
Based on 4-5 participants:	\$4,740 per person , standard twin occupancy;
Based on 6-9 participants:	\$4,410 per person , standard twin occupancy;
Based on 10-15 participants:	\$4,115 per person , standard twin occupancy;
Optional single supplement:	\$560 (including a single tent)

NET PRICES INCLUDE:	NET PRICES DO NOT INCLUDE:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Airport arrival and departure transfers; • Land transportation as indicated in the itinerary based on using Toyota Land Cruiser jeeps seating 3-4 passengers each; • Accommodations based on a twin occupancy at hotels, ger camp at Buir lake and tented camps throughout; • Sleeping bags; expedition style tents and mats; • All meals indicated as B, L or D; • All entrance fees as indicated in the itinerary; • English speaking birding national guide throughout your stay; • Unlimited supply of bottled water per person per day. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • International and domestic airfare; • Personal laundry; • Drinks not mentioned in the itinerary; • Travel insurance; • Medical evacuation costs; • Excess baggage charges; • Visa fees; • Gratuities; • Photography and video fees • Any other item not mentioned as included.

HOW TO BOOK THIS TRIP

You may book any trip with us by filling out our Trip Application Form, which you can download using Adobe Acrobat Reader and can send to us as an electronic file via e-mail at :

- **Info@MongoliaQuest.com**

All reservations are subject to deposit of \$400 per person. Deposits are refundable until 90 days prior to the start of the program less a \$250 administrative fee. Please arrange a wire transfer to Mongolia Quest bank account as per following instructions:

Beneficiary name: MONGOLIA QUEST LLC

Beneficiary's address:

Suite #1205, Dalai Tower 1st Horoo, 13th Sud-district, Sukhbaatar District,
Ulaanbaatar 14230, Mongolia;

Tel: (976) 7000 9747

Email: info@MongoliaQuest.com

Beneficiary's account number: 3005111070

Beneficiary's bank name: Golomt bank

Beneficiary's bank address:

Monnis branch

3rd floor, Monnis tower, Chinggis avenue

Khoroo #1, Sukhbaatar district

Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia

Beneficiary's bank swift code: GLMTMNUB

Once we receive your trip application form, we will send you information about how to wire your deposit to us, and a confirmation letter with information related with visa and international airfare reservations. You will also receive our pre-departure Travel Guide, which will include information on weather, suggested reading list, a list of items to pack, etc.

About 4 weeks prior to your arrival date, we will send you Final Departure Information which will include your final itinerary along with any other necessary updated information regarding the logistics of your trip.

PAYMENT AND CANCELLATION POLICY

Full payment is due 45 days prior to the start of the trip. Depending on certain dates, a payment might be required to be made earlier than the scheduled timetable. Please send us a cancellation request in written.

Depending on the departure dates, a deposit per person might be required to secure spaces with some vendors. The cancellation fees are:

- **45-30 days prior to the arrival: 25% of the land price;**
- **29-15 days prior to the arrival: 50% of the land price;**
- **14-7 days prior to the arrival: 75% of the land price**
- **6-after trip starts: no refund.**

Some airfares may be nonrefundable. Once an expedition has departed, there will be no refunds from MQ for any unused portions of the trip. The above policy also applies to all extensions and independent travel arrangements made in conjunction with this program.

Tier pricing

Our prices are based on tier pricing. At the time of booking, we will bill you for the amount based on the confirmed number of trip participants. In case the number of travelers increases at the last moment, we will reimburse the balance of your payment in accordance with the corresponding tier pricing, after you return home.