



In search of Two Elusive Cats of Mongolia



DATE: Nov 12-27, 2025 & 2026

TRIP SUMMARY

This expert-led expedition is specifically designed for wildlife professionals, researchers, and serious nature photographers with a focus on encountering Mongolia's most elusive and ecologically significant species in their natural habitats. The journey traverses a range of



Mongolia's diverse ecosystems — including alpine mountains, steppe grasslands, remote wetlands, and boreal forest valleys — providing a comprehensive overview of the country's varied biomes and endemic wildlife.

Participants will be accompanied by a field biologist and supported by experienced local rangers with deep knowledge of the region's fauna and habitats. Daily activities are structured to maximize opportunities for wildlife observation, avian studies, and ecological photography, with targeted efforts to document rare and threatened species.

Accommodations include traditional ger camps and remote field stations, often hosted in collaboration with local herding communities, fostering opportunities for cultural exchange and engagement with traditional land-use practices. The program emphasizes low-impact, conservation-oriented travel, adhering to best practices in field research, wildlife ethics, and ecological sustainability.

DETAILED ITINERARY

Day 1 Ulaanbaatar

Upon arrival at the airport, transfer to the centrally located hotel in downtown Ulaanbaatar. In the evening, we will provide your pre-trip briefing and then host a welcome dinner at a fine local restaurant. (Hotel Bayangol or similar; D)

Day 2 Ulaanbaatar / Khovd/ Khar Us Lake Birding

Today, fly to the westernmost part of Mongolia. We will meet our local crew and, after a quick stop at a local market, begin driving to the Altai mountains where our campsite is located. En route, stop for a birding location at Khar Us Lake, one of Mongolia's most important wetland areas for rare and endangered species. Bird species such as Dalmatian Pelican, White-headed Duck, Swan Goose, Pallas's Fish-eagle and kestrel species could be spotted. Arrive at the tent camp in the evening. Enjoy dinner and overnight in tents or gers. (Approx. 2.5 hours driving; Field camp; B, L, D)

Day 3-8 Altai Mountains

In the morning, we will hear a brief introduction on the region's conservation projects for snow leopard and other rare species. We will set out each day to one of the frequently sited valleys in search of the elusive cat. Packed lunch will be provided, and we will enjoy dinner at the base camp by a warm fire site. Overnight in field camp. (B,L, D)

**Day 9 Return to Ulaanbaatar**

After an early morning breakfast, transfer back to the local town for our return flight to Ulaanbaatar and transfer to your hotel located downtown. The rest of the afternoon is free for resting at your hotel. Dinner is independent. (Overnight in Hotel Bayangol or similar; B; L;D)

Day 10 Drive to Delgerkhaan

We will drive to the Delgerkhaan soum, which is located in eastern Mongolia. Meet the nomadic families and our local crew and hear brief guidance from the trip leader. We settle in camp and then enjoy dinner. Overnight in ger hostel.
(Ger hostel; B, L, D, approx. 5 hours driving)

Day 11-14 Kherlen Toono Nature Reserve

Each day, we will set out to locations where sightings of the Manul are frequent, in search of opportunities to observe and photograph it. Along the way, we may also encounter and photograph other wildlife. Packed lunches will be provided when necessary, and each evening we will enjoy a hearty dinner back at the base camp. Overnight in a ger hostel.
(Ger hostel; B, L, D)

Day 15 Ulaanbaatar

In the morning, drive back to Ulaanbaatar and rest at your hotel. Lunch is independent. Enjoy a farewell dinner in the evening. (Bayangol Hotel or Similar; B, D)

Day 16 Departure

After breakfast transfer to the airport for your return flight home. (B)

B = Breakfast

L = Lunch

D = Dinner



Mongolia Quest reserves the right to alter the above itinerary if deemed necessary by travel complications, weather, health issues or other unforeseen events

Land Prices:

Based on 2 participants:	\$5,885 per person, standard twin occupancy;
Based on 3-4 participants:	\$5,260 per person, standard twin occupancy;
Based on 5-6 participants:	\$4,710 per person, standard twin occupancy;
Based on 8-7 participants:	\$4,400 per person, standard twin occupancy;
RT Domestic flights:	\$450 per person, economy class
Optional single supplement	\$540 per person.

Land prices include:

- Land transportation as indicated in the itinerary based on using a 4x4 van or cruiser jeeps;
- Private accommodation based on twin occupancy in a standard room at the hotel and private gers and tents in the countryside, with field toilet and shower facility;
- Airport arrival & departure transfers;
- All meals indicated as B, L or D;
- All entrance fees as indicated in the itinerary;
- Mongolia Quest's English-speaking guide throughout your stay;
- Local rangers, herders or biologist to accompany;
- Supply of bottled and boiled water throughout the trip;

Land prices do not include:

International and domestic airfare to/ from Ulaanbaatar, personal laundry and drinks not mentioned in the itinerary; travel insurance; medical evacuation costs; excess baggage charges; visa fees; gratuities; photography and video fees; and any other item not mentioned as included.

Payment and Cancellation Policy

Domestic flight payment might be required early on to secure spaces on the flights. All reservations are subject to a deposit of \$400 per person. Deposits are refundable until 90 days before the start of the program, less a \$250 administrative fee. Depending on certain dates, a payment might be required to be made earlier than the scheduled timetable. Please send us a cancellation request in writing. At the time we receive your written cancellation, the following penalties will apply:

- Up to 90 days prior to departure, \$250 per person handling fee;
- 89-60 days prior to departure, 20% of the trip cost per person;
- 60-45 days prior to departure, 50% of the trip cost per person;



- 44-30 days prior to departure, 75% of the trip cost, per person;
- 29 days after the trip starts, no-refund.

Some airfare 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.

THANK YOU!