

# MONGOLIA



"Mongolia is one of those mythical places I have always dreamed of visiting, with Pallas's Cat and Snow Leopard. I think this is going to be an experience of a lifetime!"  
Sally Nowell

|         |   |
|---------|---|
| Dates   | Tue 16 Jul - Fri 2 Aug 2024   |
| Price   | £9,975  |
| Deposit | £1,995 Single Supp £650   |
| Leaders | Sally Nowell and Ecotours guide   |
| Flights | Korean Airlines, scheduled<br>Outbound: Overnight, Heathrow-Ulaanbaatar<br>Inbound: Overnight, Ulaanbaatar-Heathrow (outbound and inbound via Seoul)<br>Internal: Ulaanbaatar-Khovd-Ulaanbaatar   |
| Weather | Generally warm or hot during the day, but it can be chilly at night and in the early mornings. Cold weather can be expected at higher altitudes and rain is possible any time. Day temperatures 15-25°C, while night-time temperatures in the mountains can drop significantly  |
| Walking | From short easy walks to more moderate in the mountains. While looking for Snow Leopard there may be long periods of waiting and scanning. We shall try to limit the walking by using 4x4s to get as close as possible, depending on the terrain (often rough) however, medium distance walking on uneven, rocky terrain may be encountered |
| Meals   | All included from dinner on Day 2 to lunch on Day 18  |
| Insects | Mosquitoes can be a nuisance, so bring repellent  |
| Accom   | Twin and single rooms/yurts/chalets, ensuite at hotels and Steppe Nomads Camp chalets, shared facilities at Snow Leopard, Chinggis Toonot and Terej Lodge camps   |
| Group   | 12  |

## Just some of what we hope to see:

|                        |                       |
|------------------------|-----------------------|
| Snow Leopard           | Steppe Eagle          |
| Pallas's Cat           | Lammergeier           |
| Mongolian Gazelle      | Long-eared Owl        |
| Saiga Antelope         | Eurasian Eagle Owl    |
| Steppe Polecat         | Long-tailed Rosefinch |
| Corsac Fox             | Azure Tit             |
| Pallas's Sandgrouse    | White-naped Crane     |
| Altai Snowcock         | Demoiselle Crane      |
| Guldenstadt's Redstart | Swan Goose            |
| Amur Falcon            | Bar-headed Goose      |

An array of sumptuous wildlife in a spectacular country full of surprises and experiences you will never forget, but the sight of a Snow Leopard is surely one of those 'stand out' moments.

- Chance to see Snow Leopard without lengthy high-altitude trekking
- A holiday that takes you in search of the elusive and endangered Pallas's Cat
- Experience some of Mongolia's unique culture
- Overnight in traditional comfortable furnished gers
- Visit some of Mongolia's most spectacular National Parks
- Track down mammals you are unlikely to see anywhere else in the world
- A fabulous list of some stunning birds, including three crane species

**1-3** We have an overnight flight to Seoul, where we stay for one night. On Day 3 we fly to Ulaanbaatar and then drive to Terej NP with its forest covered slopes, rivers and streams and spectacular granite rock formations. It is home to Lammergeier, Eastern Buzzard and a good selection of woodland birds including Siberian Rubythroat, Spotted Nutcracker, Red-throated Thrush, Black Woodpecker, Willow Tit and Dusky, Hume's and Two-barred Warbler.

**4-5** We continue birding in the Terej area, then travel back to our hotel in Ulaanbaatar always birding as we go.

The following day we shall take a drive to Hustai NP. This is the location where we have a chance to see the beautiful Przewalski's horses. The Park has an impressive mammal list including Mongolian Gazelle, Tarbagan Marmots, Siberian Roe Deer, Long-tailed Ground Squirrel and Mongolian Gerbil.

**6-11** We fly to Khovd and then drive to our remote camp in the foothills of the Jargalant Mountains overlooking semi-desert to a huge lake. Facilities are shared and basic, but our local team will provide everything we need with separate facilities for men and women and a generator providing hot water.

For the next four days our target is the elusive Snow Leopard. Walking is variable and may be on rocky, uneven or steep terrain, so basic fitness is required, however, many observation points can be reached by 4X4 vehicle, or a short walk on almost flat terrain. We'll scan key areas where animals regularly hunt. We may need patience, but there are always things to enjoy - soaring raptors, playful Siberian Marmots, Siberian Ibex, Altai Snowcocks and the stunning Guldenstadt's Redstart. At night we'll take torches to search for several species of delightful Jerboas.





"With an impressive mammal list that holds both Snow Leopard and Pallas's Cat and a bird list that holds five crane species, Guldenstadt's Redstart, Altai Snowcock and Pallas's Sandgrouse - this is a real treasure trove of wildlife delights." Sally Nowell



In the adjacent wetlands we look for Pallas's Sandgrouse, Dalmatian Pelican, Gull-billed and Whiskered Terns and Citrine Wagtail. Henderson's Ground Jay will be one of our main targets around the camp.

We leave our camp and if time allows stopping along the shores of Khar-Us Lake for ducks, gulls and waders in the shallow bays and marshy areas.

We shall fly back to Ulaanbaatar and our comfortable hotel. If time allows we'll go birding beside the Tuul River in search of Azure-winged Magpie, Long-tailed Rosefinch, Azure Tit and White-capped Penduline Tit. We also hope for Black-eared Kites and Amur Falcons.

**12-13** Today we drive east to Gun Galuut Nature Reserve, home to a population of Argali Sheep, Corsac Fox and also Pallas's Cat. We'll scan the rocky outcrops in the mornings and late afternoons for the cats hunting for Brandt's Voles, their favourite prey.

White-naped Cranes nest in the marshes and we should find them in family groups, along with other crane species including Common and Demoiselle. Eastern Marsh Harriers patrol the marshes and the first migrating waders should already be present including Marsh and Wood Sandpipers. With luck we may find Pacific Golden Plover, Asian Dowitcher, Terek Sandpiper, Red-necked and Long-toed Stint.

The lakes attract five species of tern, Bar-headed and Swan Goose, Ruddy Shelduck, Garganey and the first migrating Baikal Teal or Falcated Duck.



As we drive across the steppe we shall be on the lookout for the striking Pere David's Snowfinch that inhabits the steppes.

**14-15** In the morning we drive to our next ger camp, stopping at small lakes enroute searching for Mongolian Lark, Horned Lark, Steppe Eagle, Golden Eagle, Mongolian Gull, White-naped Crane, terns and shorebirds.

We visit the Khurkh Valley which is famous for its internationally important wetlands. This is also a great place for raptors including Upland Buzzard, Cinereous Vulture and Saker Falcon. Asian and Mongolian Short-toed Lark, Richard's and Blyth's Pipits are also found in the steppe grasslands.

In the Khurkh Valley we shall look for Siberian and Hooded Cranes. Eastern Marsh Harrier, Amur Falcon, Great Bustard and other water birds are also found near the lakes. Kurkh Valley is a wide river valley with wheat fields and small lakes, but there are low mountains on the sides in some areas. Yellow-breasted Bunting and Chinese Bush Warbler are nesting in the area among more common birds such as Olive-backed Pipit and Pine Bunting.

**16-18** We travel back to Ulaanbaatar for an overnight stay. We then fly to Seoul, where we have another overnight stay, before our flight back to London.



### Outline Itinerary

- Days 1-3** Overnight flight to Seoul, for a hotel stay, then fly to Ulaanbaatar and drive to Terelj National Park  
1 night BW Incheon Airport, Seoul  
1 night Terelj Lodge Ger Camp
- Days 4-5** Drive to Ulaanbaatar, visit Hustai NP  
2 nights Mongolica Hotel
- Days 6-11** Fly to Khovd and transfer to remote ger camp for Snow Leopard, Saiga, Ibex and birds. Fly back to Ulaanbaatar, from Khovd, for an overnight stay  
5 nights Snow Leopard camp  
1 night Mongolica Hotel
- Days 12-13** Drive to our ger camp at Gun Galuut, where we stay in chalets  
2 nights Steppe Nomads Camp
- Days 14-15** Drive to Khurkh Valley, to our ger camp, where we visit the wetlands  
2 nights Chinggis Toonot Camp
- Day 16** Drive back to Ulaanbaatar  
1 night Mongolica Hotel
- Days 17-18** Fly to Seoul for a hotel stay, then fly home, arriving in UK on day 18  
1 night BW Incheon Airport, Seoul

**Milan Vogirn:** Pallas's Cat  
**Attila Steiner:** Snow Leopard, Przewalski's Horses, Demoiselle Cranes, Yurts (Gers)  
**John Oates:** Amur Falcon