



*9 Days Inner Mongolia Owls Trip*

# 9 Days Inner Mongolia Owls Trip

Dec 15-23, 2023



## Outline

- Day 1: Hailar / Wuerqihan
- Day 2-5: Wuerqihan & surrounds
- Day 6: Wuerqihan / Xin Barag Youqi
- Day 7-8: Xin Barag Youqi & surrounds
- Day 9: Xin Barag Youqi / Depart



Little Owl

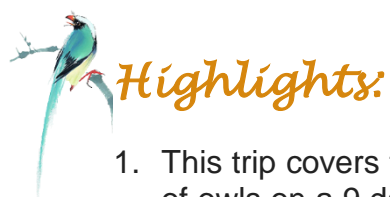


## Overview

Inner Mongolia is huge and the climate varies sharply from different regions. The winter is harsh especially in these regions with frequent blizzards, the temperature can drop to  $-35^{\circ}\text{C}$  during the day time in extreme cases. However, the bare forest in this season provides good opportunities for spotting birds and mammals. Exploring the snowy habitat, we can harvest some exciting birds and mammals of northern China.

Our time will be separated into two areas. Firstly, the Wuerqihan, the lush coniferous forests are home to some sought-after owls and forest species including Ural Owl, Northern Hawk Owl, Great Grey Owl, Eurasian Eagle Owl, Boreal Owl, Little Owl, Eurasian Pygmy Owlet, Arctic Redpoll, Black-billed Capercaillie, Hazel Grouse, Black Grouse, Siberian Jay, Pallas's Rosefinch, etc.

Besides, we will visit Xin Barag Youqi, also known as Xiqi. Carpeted by rolling grassland, it is the most reliable place to see Snowy Owl in China, we also have chances of seeing Pere David's Snowfinch, Asian Rosy Finch, and other interesting species including Eurasian Eagle Owl.



## Highlights:

1. This trip covers two of the most important places for owls in China. We can expect 8 species of owls on a 9 days trip. Some species like the elusive Boreal Owl are not easy to see due to its sparse distribution, but they are definitely worth trying.
2. Our experienced guides have guided birding tours in these areas many years, they have great



knowledge about local birds and birding sites with good access to the latest bird info. At the same time, they have rich experiences of guiding birders from different countries and understand their needs well.

3. Besides owls, this trip covers some popular and classic birding sites which are home to a great variety of birds of other families you are also equally interested in northern China.
4. A small group size of no more than 8 birders.
5. Years of working as a local partner for some prestigious western companies specialized in birds and wildlife.
6. A strong logistic team in the office to ensure our trip goes smoothly and every participant has a comfortable and memorable journey.

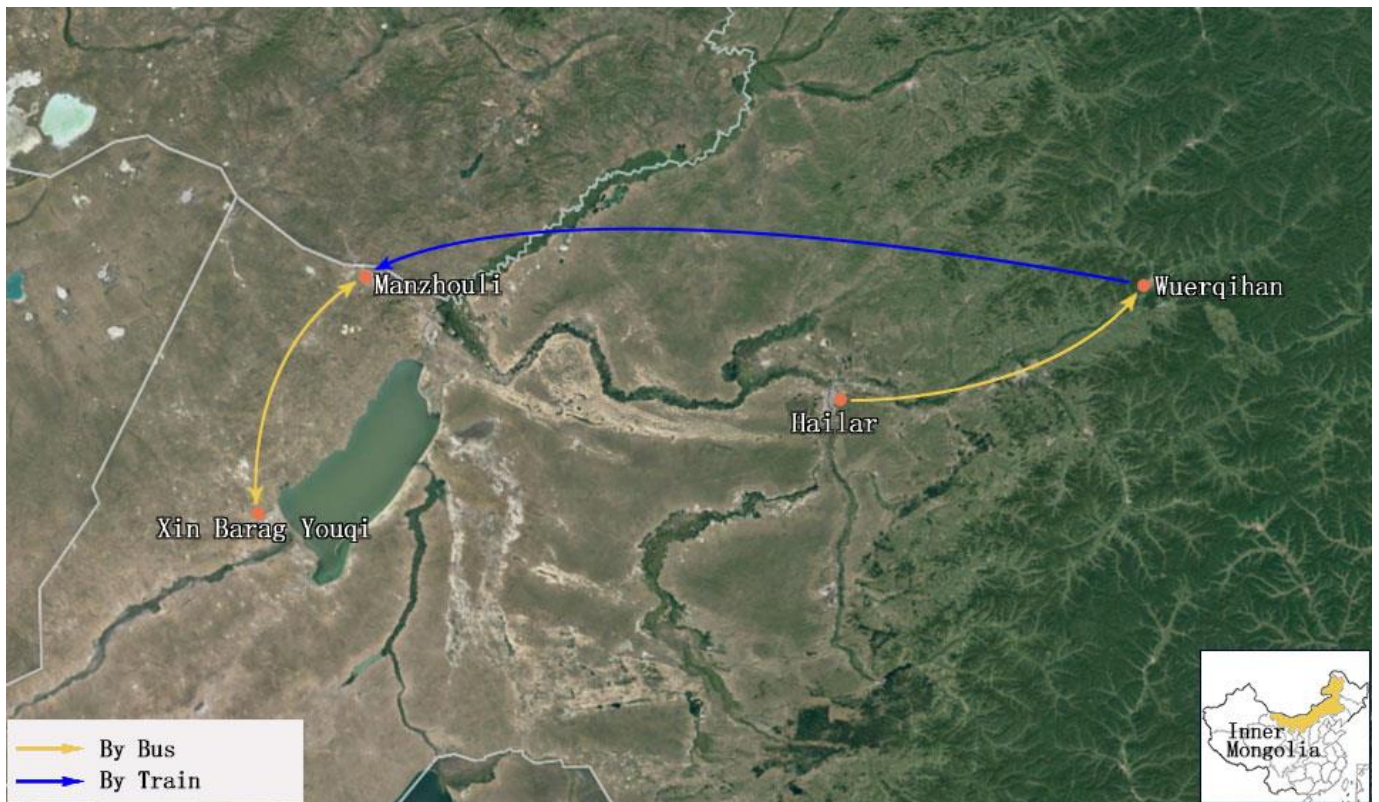
## Tour Info Sheet

<b>Highlight Birds</b>	Snowy Owl, Ural Owl, Northern Hawk Owl, Great Grey Owl, Eurasian Eagle Owl, Boreal Owl, Little Owl, Eurasian Pygmy Owllet, Saker Falcon, Upland Buzzard, Rough-legged Buzzard, Pere David's Snowfinch, Asian Rosy Finch, Black-billed Capercaillie, Hazel Grouse, Black Grouse, Siberian Jay, Pallas's Rosefinch, Asian Rosy Finch, Arctic Redpoll, Common Redpoll, Hawfinch, Pine Grosbeak, Two-barred Crossbill, Eurasian Siskin, Long-tailed Tit, etc.
<b>Numbers of Species to Expect</b>	70-100
<b>Ease of Birding</b>	mostly easy with a few tricky species
<b>Highlight Mammals</b>	Corsac Fox, Red Fox, Siberian Roe Deer, Gerbil, etc.
<b>Photography Opportunities</b>	birding focused but with good photography chances
<b>Habitats Covered</b>	grasslands, boreal forests
<b>Expected Climate</b>	severe cold, snow is possible, the temperature can drop to -20°C to -30°C
<b>Physical Requirements</b>	mostly easy, demanding but optional on certain part
<b>Accommodation</b>	comfortable
<b>Transportation</b>	off-road vehicle





## Map




## Itinerary

### Day 1: Arrival in Hailar, then drive to Wuerqihan.

Meet your private bird guide and driver at Hulunbuir Dongshan International Airport (HLD), after meeting the whole group, we will drive about 3 hours to Wuerqihan. Birding around the hotel if time permits.

### Day 2-5: Wuerqihan & surrounds.

Located in the west of Da Hinggan Range (Greater Khingan Range), Wuerqihan is the closest forest from Yakeshi City that is occupied by lush coniferous forest, it is home to a lot of northern specials including owls, pheasants, tits, etc. We will spend 4 days birding in Wuerqihan in search of Ural Owl, Northern Hawk Owl, Great Grey Owl, Eurasian Eagle Owl, Boreal Owl. Other exciting birds we have a good chance of seeing including Arctic Redpoll, Black-billed Capercaillie, Hazel Grouse, Black Grouse, Siberian Jay, Pallas's Rosefinch, Asian Rosy Finch, Arctic Redpoll, Common Redpoll, Hawfinch, Pine Grosbeak, Two-barred Crossbill, Eurasian Siskin, Long-tailed Tit, Willow Tit, etc.



We can also expect mammals like Corsac Fox, Red Fox, Siberian Roe Deer, Gerbil, etc.

### **Day 6: Wuerqihan to Xin Barag Youqi via Manzhouli.**

Today's schedule will be mainly fulfilled by commuting. We will take a train to Manzhouli then drive to Xin Barag Youqi.

### **Day 7-8: Xin Barag Youqi & surrounds.**

As a frontier city, Xin Barag Youqi is located in the vast Hulunbuir Grassland—one of the world's four largest grasslands and a world-famous natural pasture. The grassland provides excellent habitat for many grassland species. We will spend two full days in this area in search of Snowy Owl, Great Grey Owl, Little Owl, Eurasian Eagle Owl, Black Grouse, Daurian Partridge, and other birds including Pere David's Snowfinch, Asian Rosy Finch, Saker Falcon, Upland Buzzard, Rough-legged Buzzard, etc.

### **Day 9: Departure from Xin Barag Youqi.**

After a short birding in the early morning, we drive about 2 hrs to Manzhouli Xijiao International Airport (NZH) to catch your flight. AlpineBirding service ends.



### *Notes:*

There are very limited flight choices to Hulunbuir and from Manzhouli airports, please contact us in advance to double-check if your internal flights fit the itinerary. We can assist you with your flight booking, hotel booking, etc., before and after the trip.



### *Physical Rating: Moderate*

The walking is easy as we spend most of our time inside the car, but the freezing cold weather can be a challenge to this tour. The temperature can drop to -20°C to -30°C in the daytime. It is very important to dress warmly during the tour. You can see more suggestions on our "pre-trip briefings".



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