

Mongolia Emerges as North America's Next Great Wildlife Watching Frontier

New Expedition Tour Tracing the Gobi to the Altai Mountains

ULAANBAATAR, MONGOLIA, September 2, 2026 /EINPresswire.com/ -- American travelers seeking untouched wilderness and rare species encounters are turning to [Mongolia](#), where a new self-drive expedition connects desert wildlife, snow leopard territory, and the legendary [golden eagle hunters](#) of the Altai.

Ulaanbaatar: As U.S. travelers increasingly look beyond crowded safari circuits for genuine wildlife encounters, Mongolia is stepping into the spotlight as one of the world's last great wildlife frontiers. Vast, sparsely populated, and largely undeveloped, the country offers sightings of species found almost nowhere else on the tourist map — from herds of white-tailed gazelle sweeping across open steppe to elusive snow leopards prowling the Altai's rocky heights.



Mongolia tours lead to wild camels



Mongolia is the perfect place for wildlife encounters

Unlike more heavily trafficked wildlife destinations, Mongolia's appeal lies in scale and solitude. With one of the lowest population densities on Earth, the country's ecosystems remain remarkably intact, supporting species such as argali sheep, Gobi ibex, cinereous vultures, and migratory cranes alongside its most storied resident: the golden eagle, trained for centuries by Kazakh eagle hunters in the country's far west.

A New Way to Experience It: The Gobi to Altai Expedition

Among the operators responding to this growing American interest is Explorer.Company, which has launched an expanded self-drive expedition tour spanning Mongolia's South [Gobi desert](#) to the Altai Mountains near the Kazakhstan border. The Western Mongolia Gobi to Altai Tour is led in partnership with Islay Joy, an award-winning Getty Images drone photographer known for her aerial storytelling across 47 countries.

The 11- to 24-day journey takes travelers by custom-outfitted Toyota Land Cruiser 79 4x4 — equipped with a rooftop tent, onboard air compressor, and full camping gear — through some of the country's richest wildlife habitat, including:

Gobi steppe and semi-desert, where gazelle and antelope herds roam freely

Yolyn Am gorge, a glacier-carved valley in the Gobi Gurvan Saikhan Mountains where Gobi ibex are frequently spotted

Prime snow leopard territory in the Gobi-Altai, home to argali sheep and ibex, the snow leopard's primary prey
Khongoryn Els, the Gobi's largest sand dunes

Orog and Buuntsagaan Lakes, key habitats for migratory birds including cranes and herons

The Altai Mountains, where travelers spend time with Kazakh eagle hunter families and their trained golden eagles, before continuing to glacier hikes, alpine lakes, and waterfalls

Khyargas Lake and Khorgo volcano, en route back through Mongolia's northern lake district and green steppe



Mongolia is the ultimate winter destination for adventurers



Rare wildlife encounters during Mongolia tours



Just us and the Mongolian winter

Tours start at \$3,500 per person and are available with a fully organized self-drive format with remote tour manager support, a guided self-drive option, or a chauffeured guided tour — with accommodation ranging from wild camping and ger camps to nomadic family homestays.

Why Now

Mongolia's tourism sector has seen steady growth in interest from American travelers drawn to remote, low-impact travel and cultural immersion with nomadic communities. Wildlife watching in particular has gained traction as visitors seek destinations where animals exist in genuinely wild, undisturbed conditions rather than managed reserves.

"Every turn reveals a new and wild side of Mongolia's untamed heart," the tour's organizers note, describing a route that moves from sun-scorched desert to the cool, green north — a diversity of terrain, and wildlife, rarely found within a single itinerary.

About the Tour

The Western Mongolia Gobi to Altai Tour is operated by Explorer.Company and available for booking now, with the full 21+3-day expedition and custom itineraries to the Altai eagle hunters offered. Full details, itinerary, and booking information are available at:

<https://explorer.company/tour/islays-travel-to-western-mongolia-gobi-altai-eagle-hunters/>

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