



CHINA: 12-DAY QINGHAI EXTENSION

7 - 18 JUNE 2018



Tibetan Partridge may be found on this trip.

Qinghai is a province of the People's Republic of China located in the northwest of the country. The province is home to nearly 400 species of birds. In particular, situated on the western shore of Qinghai Lake — the largest lake in China, Bird Island is one of the more rewarding locations in the province for birding, with numerous species of waterbirds and waders filling the air with an unbelievable concert of calls, audible from far, far away. Our tour will visit not only this, but also a number of other wonderful sites in this exciting, remote Chinese province.

This post-tour extension to our **China: Sichuan 2018** tour can also be booked as a stand-alone tour.

Please note that the detailed itinerary below cannot be guaranteed as it is only a rough guide and can be changed (usually slightly) due to factors such as availability of accommodation, updated information on the state of accommodation, roads, or birding sites, the discretion of the guides and other factors.

Itinerary (12 days/11 nights)

Day 1. Arrival in Xining

Upon arrival at Xining Airport, we meet our driver and transfer to our hotel.

Overnight: Xining

Day 2. Birding in Xining, transfer to Huzhu Beishan National Forest Park

In the early morning we drive to Xining Beishan Mountain Park in Xining city to do some morning birding. We will search for **Daurian Partridge, White-browed Tit, Pere David's Tit, and Gansu Leaf Warbler.**

After lunch at a local restaurant we will drive to Huzhu Beishan National Forest Park. We will stay in a local hotel inside the park.

Some expected birds: **Kessler's and Chestnut Thrushes, Black and Hodgson's Redstart, Wallcreeper, Rufous-vented, Coal, and Grey Crested Tits, Buff-barred Warbler, Greenish Warbler.**

Overnight: Huzhu Beishan National Forest Park

Day 3. Birding Huzhu Beishan National Forest Park

In the early morning we drive to one of the valleys to search for birds inside this forest park. As one of the best-preserved forest parks in the province of Qinghai, this park is bestowed with diversified eco-environments, including broadleaf, conifer, mixed, and alpine meadows. Thus it is famed as a major plant kingdom in Qinghai. More than 981 plant species and 200 animal species have been recorded here.

We will first search for **Chinese Grouse** in the forest, then for rosefinches and **Tibetan Snowfinch** in the high-elevation area, and finally we will search for birds such as **White-browed Laughingthrush** and **Gansu Leaf Warbler** in the forest again.

Some expected birds: **Chinese Grouse, Brown and White-throated Dippers, Plain Laughingthrush, Giant Laughingthrush, Elliot's Laughingthrush, Rufous-breasted Accentor, Brown Accentor, Common Rosefinch, Chinese Beautiful Rosefinch, Chinese White-browed Rosefinch, Himalayan Vulture, Upland Buzzard.**

Overnight: Huzhu Beishan National Forest Park

Day 4. Birding Huzhu Beishan National Forest Park, transfer to Datong

We will spend the morning birding in the forest park again, searching for birds we may have missed the previous day. After lunch at a local popular restaurant we will drive to Datong. Some expected birds: **Chinese Nuthatch, Great Spotted Woodpecker, Grey-headed Woodpecker, Hill Pigeon, Red Turtle Dove, Grey-headed Bullfinch, Pacific Swift, Common Swift, Grey-backed Shrike, Eurasian Jay, Azure-winged Magpie, Red-billed Chough, White-throated Redstart, Blue-fronted Redstart, Eurasian Crag Martin, Brown-flanked Bush Warbler, Olive-backed Pipit, Rosy Pipit, Godlewski's Bunting.**
Overnight: Datong

Day 5. Birding at Erlangjian

We will transfer to Erlangjian and then we will be birding the whole day there. Some expected birds: **Pale Rosefinch, Common Kestrel, Pied Wheatear, Brown Accentor, Robin Accentor, Mongolian Finch, Desert Finch, Pere David's Snowfinch, Mongolian Lark, Crested Lark, Horned Lark, Alpine Leaf Warbler.**
Overnight: Erlangjian

Day 6. Birding near Xiangpi Mountain, afternoon birding around Qinghai Lake

In the early morning we will drive to Xiangpi Mountain to search for birds like **Przevalski's Finch, Tibetan Partridge, Mongolian Finch, Przevalski's Partridge, Alpine Leaf Warbler, White-browed Tit, and White-browed Tit-warbler.** Then we drive to Qinghai Lake, looking for summer breeders like **Black-necked Crane, Bar-headed Goose, and Great Crested Grebe.** Some expected birds: **Black-necked Crane, Brown-headed Gull, Bar-headed Goose, Tufted Duck, Kentish Plover, Tibetan Lark, Crested Lark, Golden Eagle, Bearded Vulture, Saker Falcon, Ground Tit, Desert Wheatear, Isabelline Wheatear, Chinese Beautiful Rosefinch.**
Overnight: near Qinghai Lake

Day 7. Birding at Xiangpi Mountain, transfer to Chaka

In the morning we drive to Xiangpi Mountain again to search for birds we have missed the previous day. Then we will drive on to Chaka. On the way we will search for **Henderson's Ground Jay, Pallas's Sandgrouse, and Blanford's Snowfinch.** Some expected birds: **Tibetan Partridge, Przevalski's Partridge, Przevalski's Finch, Tibetan Snowfinch, Pallas's Sandgrouse, White-browed Tit-warbler, Oriental Skylark, Horned Lark, White-winged Snowfinch, Robin Accentor, Twite, Plain Mountain Finch, Brandt's Mountain Finch, Long-tailed Rosefinch.**
Overnight: Chaka

Day 8. Birding the Chaka area, transfer to Gonghe County

In the morning we will continue our search for the endemic birds in the desert. Then we will drive to Gonghe County. Upon arrival at Gonghe we will drive to some open fields to look, among others, for **Mongolian Finch, Little Bunting, Desert Whitethroat, Brown Accentor, and Greater Short-toed Lark.** Some expected birds: **Henderson's Ground Jay, Desert Finch, Desert Whitethroat, Mongolian Lark, Hume's Short-toed Lark, Streaked Rosefinch, Great Rosefinch.**
Overnight: Gonghe County

Day 9. Transfer to Wenquan Village, birding on the way

In the morning, we drive to Wenquan. We will make several stops for short birding excursions. At the Erla mountain pass we will climb up the mountain slope to search for

Tibetan Rosefinch and **Tibetan Sandgrouse**. In the afternoon we will drive to a special place to search for **Rufous-necked Snowfinch**, **White-rumped Snowfinch**, and **Père David's Snowfinch**. For the night we will stay in a local guesthouse in Wenquan village.

Some expected birds: **Tibetan Rosefinch**, **Mongolian Finch**, **Rock Sparrow**, **Rufous-necked Snowfinch**, **Blanford's Snowfinch**, **Tibetan Snowfinch**, **Twite**, **Cinereous Vulture**, **Common Buzzard**, **Black Redstart**, **Alpine Accentor**, **Pink-rumped Rosefinch**.

Overnight: Wenquan (There is only a very, very basic hotel in this small village.)

Day 10. Birding around Wenquan, transfer back to Gonghe County

Depending on what we have seen at the Erla mountain pass, we will either drive back to the mountain pass to continue our search for **Tibetan Rosefinch** and **Tibetan Sandgrouse**, or we will look for snow finches around Wenquan.

Some expected birds: **Tibetan Sandgrouse**, **White-rumped Snowfinch**, **White-winged Snowfinch**, **Tibetan Rosefinch**, **Mongolian Finch**, **Desert Finch**, **Twite**, **Tibetan Lark**, **Crested Lark**.

Overnight: Gonghe

Day 11. Transfer back to Xining

After some easy birding around Gonghe we will drive back to Xining.

Overnight: Xining

Day 12. Departure

Today you will board your international flights home.

Duration:	12 days
Limit:	4 – 8
Date:	7 – 18 June 2018
Start:	Xining
End:	Xining
Price:	US\$5135 per person sharing, assuming 4-8 participants. Airfare estimate (Chengdu to Xining) US\$193
Single supplement:	US\$652

Price includes:

Hotels
Meals
Vehicles
Service of guide and driver
Admission fees
Snacks and water.

Price excludes:

International and domestic flights
Items of a personal nature, e.g. gifts
Travel insurance
Visas
Drinks
Gratuities