

# Winter Snow Leopards and Pallas Cats Tour of Mongolia 2027

Join award-winning wildlife photographer and arctic explorer  
David Gibbon - founder of Wild Lens Nature Tours Ltd - travelling  
to a brand new and very snowy area of Mongolia to photograph  
these beautiful cats.

November 30 to December 14, 2027

To book your place email [david@wildlensnature.tours](mailto:david@wildlensnature.tours)



## Arriving into Mongolia

When you arrive into the Mongolia airport, our team will be there waiting to collect you.

On our first night, we will stay in the recently built 5 star luxury Khubilai Hotel - just a short drive from the airport.

Staying here means we avoid the busy Ulaanbaatar traffic so we can have an easy getaway the next morning.

Each guest is guaranteed their own room - no sharing.

During the afternoon, we will visit the nearby Tuul River for photography. Possible subjects here include Azure Tit, Brown Accentor, Horned Larks, Daurian Partridge, Red-Billed Chough and more.

On the evening you will enjoy a welcome dinner and an expedition briefing from the team discussing tracking methodology, cold-weather safety, photography strategy and equipment preparation.





# Kharkhiraa Mountain Range, Western Mongolia

On day 2, December 1st, we will have an early start and head to the domestic airport for a 2 hour flight to Ulgil.

On arrival, we will travel 4 to 5 hours in 4x4 trucks to reach basecamp at the Kharkhiraa Mountains.

This is a stunning area with a high probability of snow, chosen to give beautiful Snow Leopards on snow images.

We will spend a minimum of 5 full days here, as a team of 4 to 5 spotters work tirelessly from dawn to dusk to locate Snow Leopards in the area.

In December, the Snow Leopards come down to lower elevations following their prey such as Siberian Ibex giving us fantastic opportunities to capture them on the snow covered slopes.



## Margaz Mountain Range, Western Mongolia

The long transfer day, and a scenic one on a 7 to 8 hour drive with wildlife stops along the way.

The shores of Khyargas Lake, its saline water frozen white to the horizon, and the rock stacks beside it make a fine landscape stop, and the dry steppe between produces Upland Buzzard and Saker Falcon on the poles and bluffs, Corsac Fox and Tolai Hare on the flats, and flocks of Pallas's Sandgrouse and larks.

By late afternoon the low granite tors of the Margaz (Santmargats) Mountains rise from the plain: broken, boulder-strewn country, which is near-perfect Pallas's Cat habitat.

At the community ger camp of the Margaz Conservation Center — run by the local nomad rangers who protect the cats — we meet the resident tracking team, and if light allows make a first scan from near camp. Over dinner the rangers brief us on the cats they are currently following, both Pallas Cats and leopard, and set the plan for the first full day.

During your time in the Margaz, you will search for both Pallas Cats and Snow Leopards - both of which are very active in this area.

*Mother and cubs photographed by the team in the Margaz*





# Why is December A Great Time For Snow Leopards on Snow

## Two sites, no baiting

The programme deliberately pairs the Kharkhiraa Mountains with Margaz. Kharkhiraa is our snow site for the Snow Leopard in December — trackers, vehicle access and the cooperation of the local herders, with photography typically at 150–200 m and a good chance of the cat against snow-covered slopes. Margaz is our primary Pallas's Cat site and a second, independent chance of Snow Leopard, this time against granite boulders with little snow. Neither site uses bait, hides at bait or any form of luring — the cats are tracked, found and approached on their own terms.

## Walking and terrain — an honest statement

Some walking is required on any wild-cat expedition, because we go to where the animals are. At both sites this means around 1–2 km on a typical day, with a worst case of about 3 km, from vehicle drop-off to a vantage point. Uphill sections are short and are mostly on scree; snow on the walking routes is generally shallow and blown thin on the ridges. Most past winter clients here have been seniors, and the great majority have photographed the cats. Guests should be able to walk 1–2 km over uneven ground at a slow pace, and should be comfortable sitting still for long periods in the cold — that, rather than climbing, is the demand of this trip.

## The dates fit the cats

Early December gives snow on the Kharkhiraa slopes for the classic leopard-on-snow frame, pikas still active on sun-warmed rock at Margaz so that the manuls hunt in daylight, and full winter coats on both cats. Snow Leopard cubs are born in early summer and stay with the mother through their second winter: a female with three cubs was photographed at Margaz in November 2025, and whether she or another female has young in the 2027 season will be known before the group travels.



# Low Altitude and Snow Makes This A Fantastic Location

- This tour is situated just 2,000 to 2,500m above sea level. Compare this with Ladakh which can go above 5,000m above sea level. If you are at all concerned about altitude sickness, this tour is well below what would cause that.
- At 49 degrees north, the Kharkhiraa mountain range sees high snowfall in winter - meaning it a dream location if you want to capture Snow Leopards on snow.
- By December the Siberian Ibex have come down from the high summer ground to the lower, sunnier slopes, and the Snow Leopards follow them — into terrain that vehicles and short walks can reach. At Margaz the pikas and voles remain active all winter, emerging onto sun-warmed rock through the middle of the day, so a December Pallas Cat hunts in broad daylight, which is exactly what a photographer needs.
- Both cats are in their full winter coat. The Pallas's Cat — the densest fur of any small cat — spends long spells sunning on east-facing ledges in the cold, clear weather, sitting tight and relying on camouflage rather than fleeing. The Snow Leopard, hunting the open lower slopes, is more often seen in the open and in daylight than at any other season.

## Expedition Highlights

- Five consecutive full Snow Leopard days at Kharkhiraa (success around 80%), with the trackers who follow the resident cats — and the leopard-on-snow images the season is chosen for
- Five consecutive full days at Margaz for the Pallas's Cat (approximately 90% encounter rate), with the community rangers who follow individual cats year-round
- A second, independent chance of Snow Leopard at Margaz, against granite boulders — a female has raised cubs in these hills in recent seasons
- No baiting, calling or luring at either site; cats found by tracking, approached low and slow under ranger guidance, and photographed from vehicles, hides and vantage points
- Grey Wolf, Corsac and Red Fox, Siberian Ibex, Argali and a strong cast of wintering raptors and steppe birds
- Low-angle winter light throughout the day; sun never higher than 20°
- Three guests per 4WD, short walks (typically 1–2 km) and long vantage-point sessions — no mountain climbing.

# Fitness & Suitability

**Grading: Moderate.**

The technical demands are low — there is no climbing, no trekking with packs and no camping out. Observation is conducted from vehicles, from vantage points and on walks of typically 1–2 km over uneven, sometimes snowy ground at 1,950–2,500 m, with a worst case of about 3 km on a day when a cat is located in a valley the vehicles cannot enter. Uphill sections are short, not steep, and mostly on scree; the guide and trackers set a slow pace and carry the heavier equipment where needed.

What the trip does demand is cold tolerance and patience. Guests must be comfortable remaining stationary outdoors for several hours in sub-zero conditions, starting before dawn on consecutive days.

Many of the past winter clients have been seniors, and the great majority have photographed the cats; guests who cannot walk 1–2 km on uneven ground, or who have cardiac conditions.

# What Kind of Distances Can You Expect While Photographing The Snow Leopards and Pallas Cats

This is a specialist wild-cat photography expedition, not a general wildlife tour. Our working method:

**TRACK → LOCATE → ASSESS → POSITION → WAIT → PHOTOGRAPH**

Each day's plan is set the previous evening and revised each morning against fresh tracks, tracker and ranger reports on individual cats, prey activity, snow and wind conditions, visibility, and light direction at the target slopes. We favour extended time with a located cat over covering ground. David, as photographic leader, and our guide agree the balance of each day with the trackers; the trackers decide the approach.

## Realistic expectations on distance

Snow Leopard work at Kharkhiraa is long-lens work: most sessions take place at 150–250 m, with the cat on open slopes at or above eye level, and encounters beyond 200 m are common. For reference, the Kharkhiraa images taken by Andy Rouse in November 2025 were made with a 600 mm prime at over 200 m and cropped. At Margaz the Snow Leopard is typically further — around 300 m — but against granite rather than snow. Pallas's Cat sessions are the opposite: most take place at 80–150 m, closing gradually under ranger guidance as the cat settles; the manul is the size of a domestic cat, so frame-filling portraits still call for serious reach even at these ranges. Plan to crop, and treat closer approaches as a bonus the cat grants, not a target.

|                              |                                                                                                                            |
|------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Recommended equipment</b> |                                                                                                                            |
| <b>Primary lens</b>          | 600 mm as the working minimum for the leopards; 800–1,000 mm is best here, or a 150–600 / 200–600 mm zoom                  |
| <b>Teleconverter</b>         | 1.4×/2.0x strongly recommended                                                                                             |
| <b>Second body</b>           | 100–400 mm for the manul at close range, foxes, prey species and habitat context                                           |
| <b>Wide</b>                  | 16–35 mm for landscape and camp life                                                                                       |
| <b>Support</b>               | Sturdy tripod with gimbal head — yes, tripods are needed for the long vantage-point sessions — plus a bean bag for vehicle |
| <b>Optics</b>                | 8×42 or 10×42 binoculars per person optional.<br>The guide and trackers carry spotting scopes                              |
| <b>Batteries</b>             | Minimum six per body. Cold halves runtime                                                                                  |
| <b>Cards &amp; storage</b>   | Double what you think you need; card changes with cold hands are slow. A portable backup drive — Starlink at Margaz        |

# Ger Camps

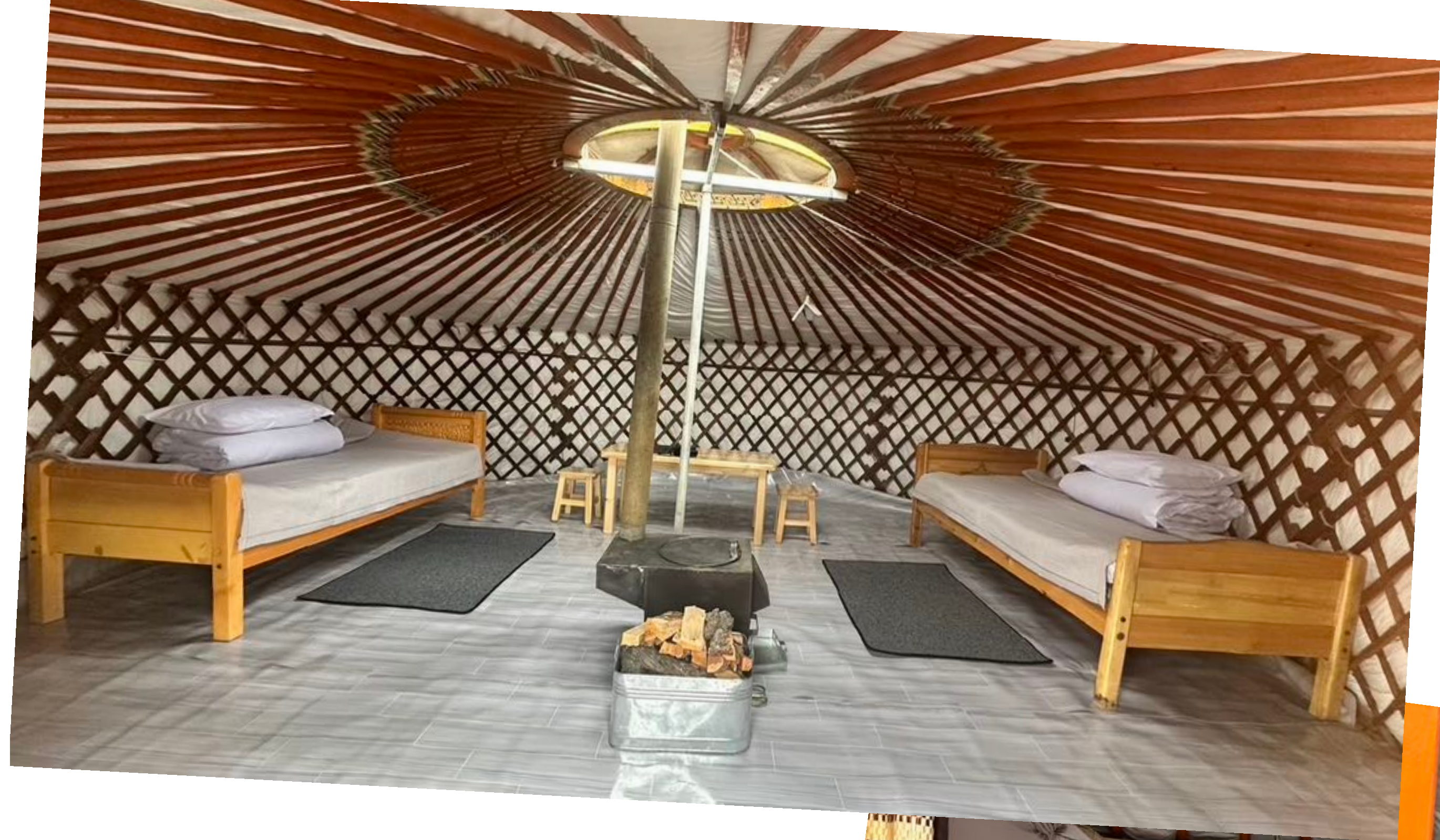
The Gers where you will be sleeping in are very comfortable - two people in each Ger (or a single if you pay a single supplement).

They have electric charging facilities which are available at set times of the day via a generator.

A fire in the Ger stays on during the night and one of the staff will visit during agreed times to keep the fire going to make sure you are kept warm.

All fresh, clean bedding is also supplied in each Ger.

A Starlink facility means you will have Internet connection during downtimes while at both camps.



## Meals

Meals in Ulaanbaatar are at the hotels; in the field they are prepared by dedicated camp cooks, warm and wholesome, with hot drinks and snacks in the vehicles and a packed lunch on the field days.

Vegetarian, vegan, gluten-free and other diets can be catered for at the hotel and in both camps with advance notice — variety in the field is more limited than in the city.

## Toilet and Cleaning

Each Ger features a separated, room-like structure with a sliding door, which effectively creates a private section for the toilet area within the Ger - which is great if you don't want to go out into the cold.

For those who want more privacy, there are separate toilets away from the Gers.

A wash basin is also in each Ger for cleaning teeth, face washing etc. For personal hygiene, it's a good idea to take wet wipes.



# Kempinski Hotel

On your last night in Mongolia, you will stay at the 5 star Kempinski hotel located in the centre of Ulaanbaatar.

You will have your own single room and all meals provided here are first class.

Staying here gives you time to explore the city and do some last minute souvenir shopping.

We will have a final dinner here on the evening, before you are taken back to the airport next day for your flight home.



# Expedition Highlights

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- No baiting, calling or luring at either site; cats found by tracking, approached low and slow under ranger guidance, and photographed from vehicles, hides and vantage points
- Grey Wolf, Corsac and Red Fox, Siberian Ibex, Argali and a strong cast of wintering raptors and steppe birds
- Low-angle winter light throughout the day; sun never higher than 20°
- Three guests per 4WD, short walks (typically 1–2 km) and long vantage-point sessions — no mountain climbing

## Tour at a Glance

### Dates

30 November – 14 December 2027 (15 days / 14 nights)

### Tour type

Winter wildlife photography — Snow Leopard and Pallas's Cat — with steppe and mountain mammals, wintering raptors and a first morning of bird photography in Ulaanbaatar

### Key targets

Snow Leopard at Kharkhiraa (approx. 80% over five days) with a second chance at Margaz; Pallas's Cat at Margaz (approx. 90%); Siberian Ibex, Argali, Grey Wolf, Corsac & Red Fox; Bearded Vulture, Golden Eagle, Saker Falcon, Altai Snowcock

### Field time Flexibility

5 full Snow Leopard days at Kharkhiraa + 5 full days at Margaz = 10 full photography days, plus arrival-evening scans at both camps (we may spend more time at Kharkhiraa and less at Margaz - this can be decided during the tour).

### Guide & team

English-speaking wildlife guide throughout, working with David as photographic leader; 4–5 local spotters and trackers at each site; camp cooks and drivers — guide confirmed by name before departure

### Transport

Private 4WD Land Cruisers with experienced winter drivers, three guests per vehicle; domestic flights Ulaanbaatar–Ulgii and Ulaangom–Ulaanbaatar

### Physical rating

Moderate — vehicle-based with walks of typically 1–2 km (maximum about 3 km) to vantage points, short uphill sections mostly on scree; long stationary hours outdoors in winter cold. Any uphill walking is not steep and doable by seniors.

### Altitude range

~1,350 m (Ulaanbaatar) – ~2,500 m (highest vantage points); Kharkhiraa camp ~2,100 m, Margaz camp ~1,950 m

TEMPERATURE INVERSION

The basin floors trap cold air, so the slopes where we work are often warmer by day than the open steppe below. It is not unusual to leave a −25 °C valley at dawn and find −12 °C on a sunlit slope at midday.

SNOW

Mongolian winters are cold but dry. Kharkhiraa carries the most snow — a real cover on the upper slopes and the north-facing ground, which is what makes the leopard-on-snow image possible — while ridges and south-facing rock are often blown bare, keeping 4WD access and short walks feasible. Margaz has a thin, patchy cover, typically 5–20 cm in hollows and on shaded slopes, with the granite tors largely bare.

WIND

The main hazard is not temperature but wind. Still days at −25 °C are comfortable in the right clothing; a moderate wind at −15 °C is not. Vantage points are chosen with shelter in mind.

ALTITUDE

Camps sit at roughly 1,950–2,100 m and working elevations reach 2,000–2,500 m. Altitude sickness is unlikely, but the first mountain day may feel harder than expected, and dehydration in the very dry air is common and easy to underestimate.

AIR

Extremely dry, with humidity often under 30%. Bring lip balm and moisturiser, and drink far more water than thirst suggests. Ulaanbaatar has significant winter air pollution from coal heating; an N95 mask is useful for time spent outdoors in the city centre.

Average Temperatures During The Tour

|                                 | Day              | Night            | Cold Spell                             |
|---------------------------------|------------------|------------------|----------------------------------------|
| Kharkhiraa camp (~2,100 m)      | −8 °C to −14 °C  | −20 °C to −28 °C | −35 °C; wind chill on ridges to −40 °C |
| Margaz & Great Lakes Depression | −10 °C to −16 °C | −22 °C to −30 °C | −36 °C; record below −40 °C            |
| Ulaangom (transfer days)        | −15 °C to −20 °C | −28 °C to −34 °C | below −40 °C                           |
| Ulaanbaatar                     | −10 °C to −16 °C | −22 °C to −28 °C | −32 °C                                 |

Sunrise/Sunset Times On The Tour

| Place & date              | Sunrise | Sunset | Daylight | Max sun altitude |
|---------------------------|---------|--------|----------|------------------|
| Ulaanbaatar • 30 November | 08:18   | 17:02  | 8 h 43 m | 20°              |
| Kharkhiraa • 2 December   | 09:29   | 17:55  | 8 h 26 m | 18°              |
| Kharkhiraa • 6 December   | 09:34   | 17:54  | 8 h 19 m | 18°              |
| Margaz • 8 December       | 09:18   | 17:40  | 8 h 21 m | 18°              |
| Margaz • 12 December      | 09:22   | 17:40  | 8 h 17 m | 18°              |

## Insurance, Risk & Contingency

Comprehensive travel and medical insurance is compulsory for every guest and must include emergency evacuation from remote areas, cover for winter conditions and altitude to 2,500 m, and cover for photographic equipment. Proof of cover must be provided before departure.

## FLIGHT DISRUPTION

Domestic flights to Ulgii and from Ulaangom are the principal logistical risk, and winter cancellations occur. Our contingency is a road transfer or a re-scheduled flight. The group's return to Ulaanbaatar on the evening of 13 December builds a full night's buffer before the international departures on the 14th.

## MEDICAL

The nearest hospitals are in Ulaangom and Ulgii, four to six hours from the camps. Serious cases require evacuation to Ulaanbaatar. Guests must disclose relevant medical conditions at the time of booking; our field team carries a first-aid kit and satellite communication for emergencies.

## Responsible Wildlife Viewing

We operate a strict low-disturbance policy at both sites.

- No baiting, calling or luring of any species, at either site
- Approaches to a located cat are made only under tracker or ranger guidance, low and slow, stopping at the first sign of unease
- Immediate withdrawal if an animal shows any sign of disturbance; no pursuit of a cat that moves off
- No interference with dens, kills or marking sites

|                         |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
|-------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Dates</b>            | 30 November – 14 December 2027 (15 days / 14 nights)                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| <b>Tour type</b>        | Winter wildlife photography — Snow Leopard and Pallas's Cat — with steppe and mountain mammals, wintering raptors and a first morning of bird photography in Ulaanbaatar                                                                      |
| <b>Key targets</b>      | Snow Leopard at Kharkhiraa (approx. 80% over five days) with a second chance at Margaz; Pallas's Cat at Margaz (approx. 90%); Siberian Ibex, Argali, Grey Wolf, Corsac & Red Fox; Bearded Vulture, Golden Eagle, Saker Falcon, Altai Snowcock |
| <b>Field time</b>       | 5 full Snow Leopard days at Kharkhiraa + 5 full days at Margaz = 10 full photography days, plus arrival-evening scans at both camps - this is flexible and we may spend more days at Kharkhiraa and less at Margaz                            |
| <b>Guide &amp; team</b> | English-speaking wildlife guide throughout, working with David as photographic leader; 4–5 local spotters and trackers at each site; camp cooks and drivers — guide confirmed by name before departure                                        |
| <b>Transport</b>        | Private 4WD Land Cruisers with experienced winter drivers, three guests per vehicle; domestic flights Ulaanbaatar–Ulgii and Ulaangom–Ulaanbaatar                                                                                              |
| <b>Physical rating</b>  | Moderate — vehicle-based with walks of typically 1–2 km (maximum about 3 km) to vantage points, short uphill sections mostly on scree - not steep; long stationary hours outdoors in winter cold                                              |
| <b>Altitude range</b>   | ~1,350 m (Ulaanbaatar) – ~2,500 m (highest vantage points); Kharkhiraa camp ~2,100 m, Margaz camp ~1,950 m                                                                                                                                    |
| <b>Accommodation</b>    | Khubilai Hotel (Ulaanbaatar), Kharkhiraa Conservation Center ger camp, Margaz Conservation Center ger camp — twin-share; single rooms and gers under the single supplement                                                                    |
| <b>Price</b>            | £6,699 per person. Single rooms in hotel at start and finish. Twin Rooms in Gers - two people sharing. To book your own Ger, it’s a £485 single supplement                                                                                    |

Target Wildlife

PRIMARY TARGETS

SNOW LEOPARD *Panthera uncia*

Five full tracking days at Kharkhiraa with the trackers who follow the resident cats — accessible, vantage-point-based work with success around 80%, and in early December the cats hunting the ibex on the lower, snow-covered slopes in daylight. Margaz then gives a second, independent chance in quite different terrain: a female has raised cubs in these low granite hills in recent seasons and the rangers follow her closely. The two-site design exists precisely so that a second chance follows the first.

PALLAS'S CAT *Otocolobus manul*

Naturally rare and sparsely distributed across the cold steppes of Central Asia, the manul is among the most difficult small cats in the world to see well — except here. The Margaz Mountains, protected by their resident ranger community, offer an encounter rate of around 90%, and five full days are given to this one animal: the densest winter coat of any small cat, the flattened face, and a talent for melting into granite. The cats are located by tracking and worked from vehicles and low positions; they are never baited, called or chased.

SECONDARY MAMMALS

*Siberian Ibex · Argali · Grey Wolf · Corsac Fox (near-daily at Margaz) · Red Fox · Tolai Hare · Pallas's Pika · Mongolian Gerbil*

TARGET BIRDS

*Bearded, Himalayan & Cinereous Vultures · Golden Eagle · Upland Buzzard · Saker Falcon · Eurasian Eagle-Owl · Altai Snowcock · Chukar · Pallas's Sandgrouse · Mongolian Ground Jay · Horned · White-winged & Père David's Snowfinches · Brown, Altai & Kozlov's Accentors · Azure Tit on the Tuul*

Corsac Fox

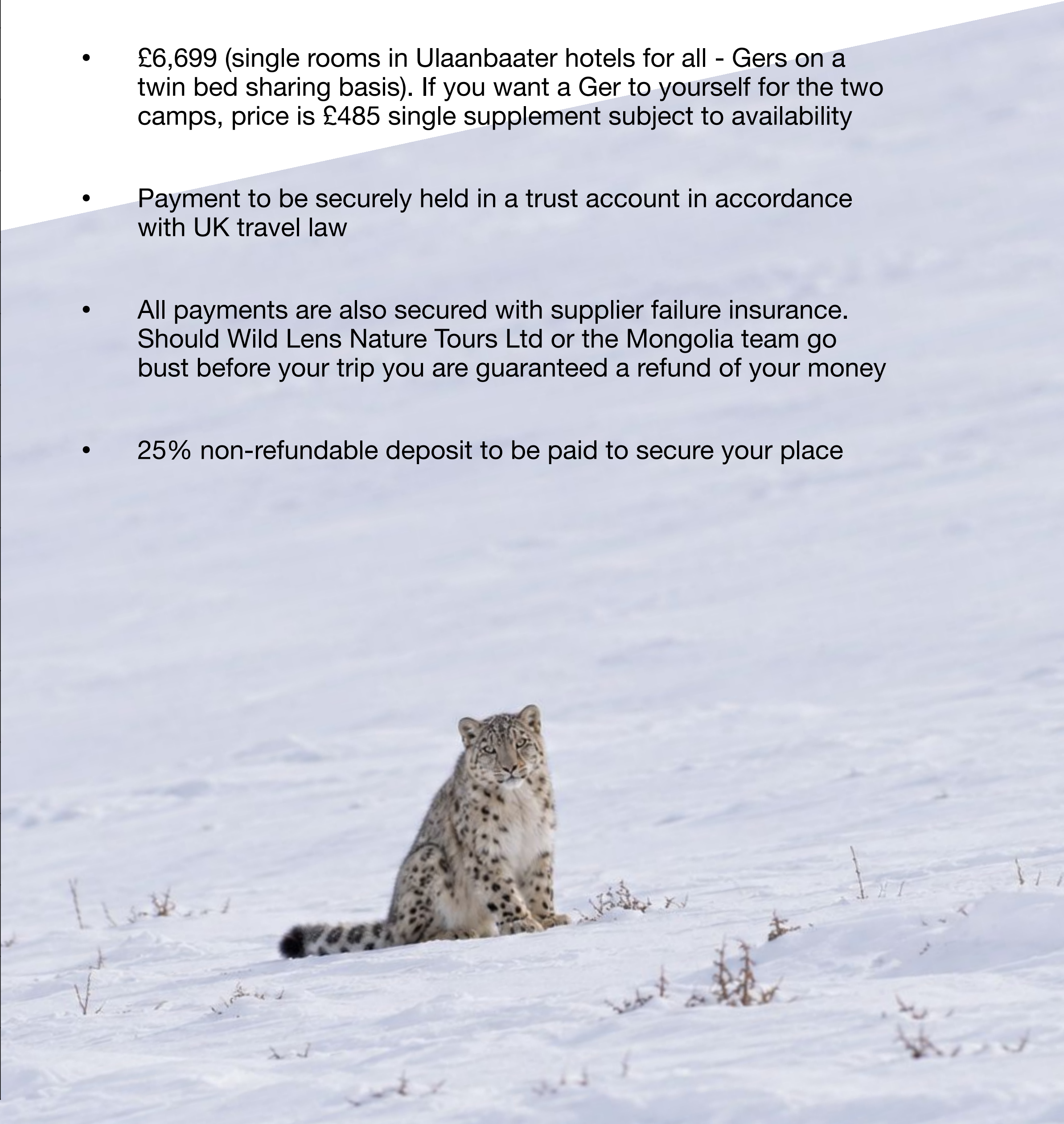


# The Itinerary

| Day | Date       | Destination                      | Focus                           | Transfer           | Overnight       | °C      |
|-----|------------|----------------------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------|-----------------|---------|
| 1   | Tue 30 Nov | Arrive Ulaanbaatar               | Birds                           | Drive ~1h          | Khubilai Hotel  | −14/−24 |
| 2   | Wed 1 Dec  | Fly Ulgii — drive to Kharkhiraa  | Travel, evening scan            | Fly 2h, drive 4–5h | Kharkhiraa CC   | −10/−26 |
| 3   | Thu 2 Dec  | Kharkhiraa Mountains             | Snow Leopard                    | Local 4WD          | Kharkhiraa CC   | −10/−25 |
| 4   | Fri 3 Dec  | Kharkhiraa Mountains             | Snow Leopard                    | Local 4WD          | Kharkhiraa CC   | −11/−26 |
| 5   | Sat 4 Dec  | Kharkhiraa Mountains             | Snow Leopard                    | Local 4WD          | Kharkhiraa CC   | −11/−26 |
| 6   | Sun 5 Dec  | Kharkhiraa Mountains             | Snow Leopard, mountain wildlife | Local 4WD          | Kharkhiraa CC   | −12/−27 |
| 7   | Mon 6 Dec  | Kharkhiraa Mountains             | Snow Leopard                    | Local 4WD          | Kharkhiraa CC   | −12/−27 |
| 8   | Tue 7 Dec  | Transfer to the Margaz Mountains | Travel, evening scan            | Drive 7–8h         | Margaz CC       | −13/−30 |
| 9   | Wed 8 Dec  | Margaz Mountains                 | Pallas's Cat & Snow Leopard     | Local 4WD          | Margaz CC       | −12/−28 |
| 10  | Thu 9 Dec  | Margaz Mountains                 | Pallas's Cat                    | Local 4WD          | Margaz CC       | −12/−28 |
| 11  | Fri 10 Dec | Margaz Mountains                 | Pallas's Cat                    | Local 4WD          | Margaz CC       | −12/−29 |
| 12  | Sat 11 Dec | Margaz Mountains                 | Snow Leopard & Pallas's Cat     | Local 4WD          | Margaz CC       | −12/−29 |
| 13  | Sun 12 Dec | Margaz Mountains                 | Pallas's Cat                    | Local 4WD          | Margaz CC       | −13/−29 |
| 14  | Mon 13 Dec | Drive Ulaangom — fly             | Travel                          | Drive 5–6h, fly 2h | Kempinski Hotel | −15/−26 |
| 15  | Tue 14 Dec | Depart home                      | —                               | Drive ~1h          | —               | —       |

# Investment

- £6,699 (single rooms in Ulaanbaater hotels for all - Gers on a twin bed sharing basis). If you want a Ger to yourself for the two camps, price is £485 single supplement subject to availability
- Payment to be securely held in a trust account in accordance with UK travel law
- All payments are also secured with supplier failure insurance. Should Wild Lens Nature Tours Ltd or the Mongolia team go bust before your trip you are guaranteed a refund of your money
- 25% non-refundable deposit to be paid to secure your place





## What's Included

- English-speaking wildlife guide throughout
- David's photo tuition
- Two nights and all meals in two different 5 star Ulaanbaatar hotels. The first close to the airport, the 2nd in the city at the end of the trip giving you the chance to explore Ulaanbaatar
- Private 4WD vehicles with professional drivers, three guests per vehicle
- 4–5 local spotters and trackers at each site
- Domestic flights but if these are cancelled due to weather we will drive
- Camp cooks and all meals from lunch on Day 1 to breakfast on Day 15, with drinking water, hot drinks and field snacks; accommodation for 14 nights;
- All airport transfers on the tour dates
- Protected-area entry and community conservation fees; road tolls.
- Transfers back to the international airport on the last day
- Wifi available at both camps throughout the tour

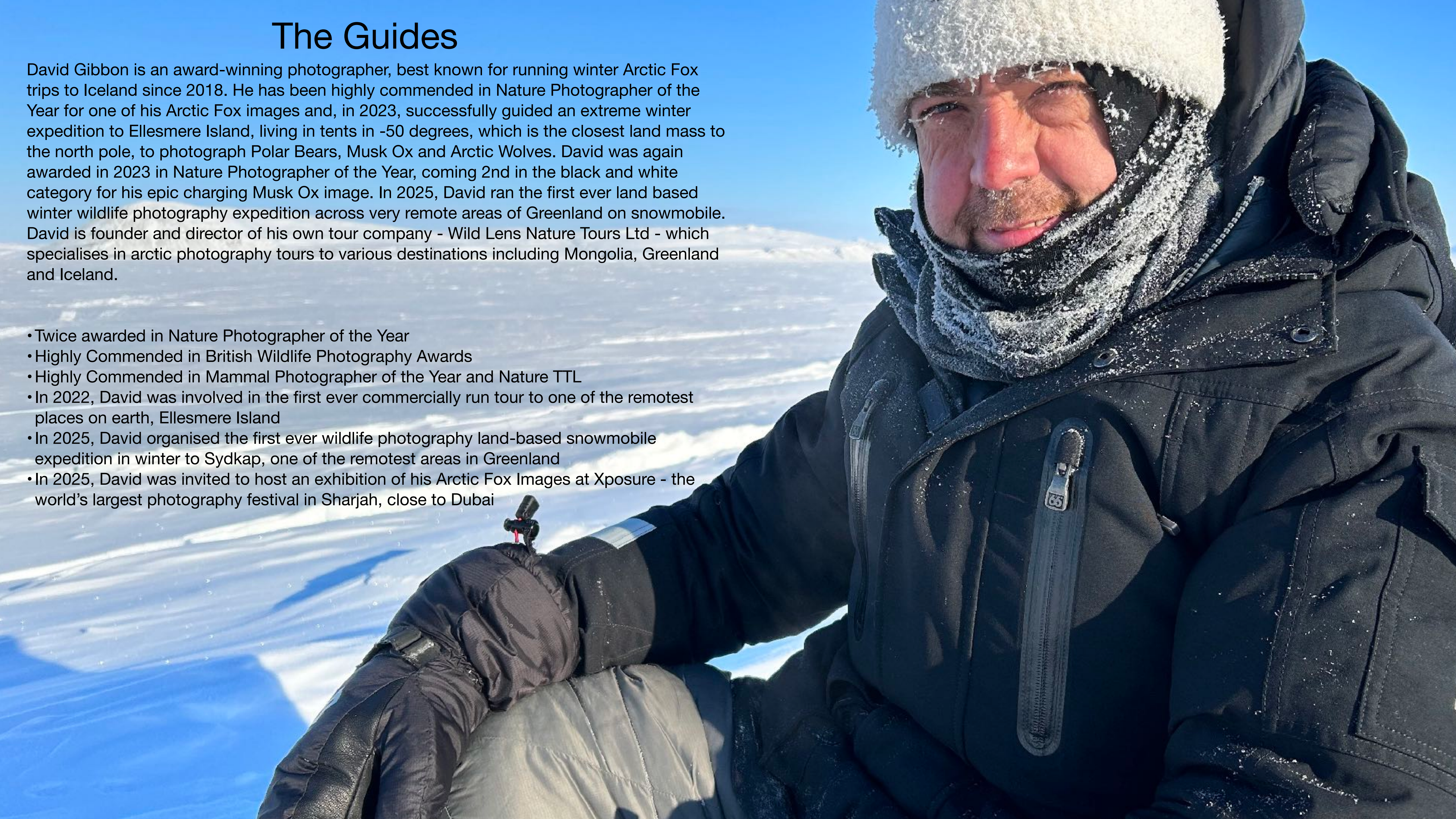
## What's Not Included

- All flights, meals and accommodation to get to Mongolia
- Travel insurance (you must take this out before travelling with us)
- Photography gear

# The Guides

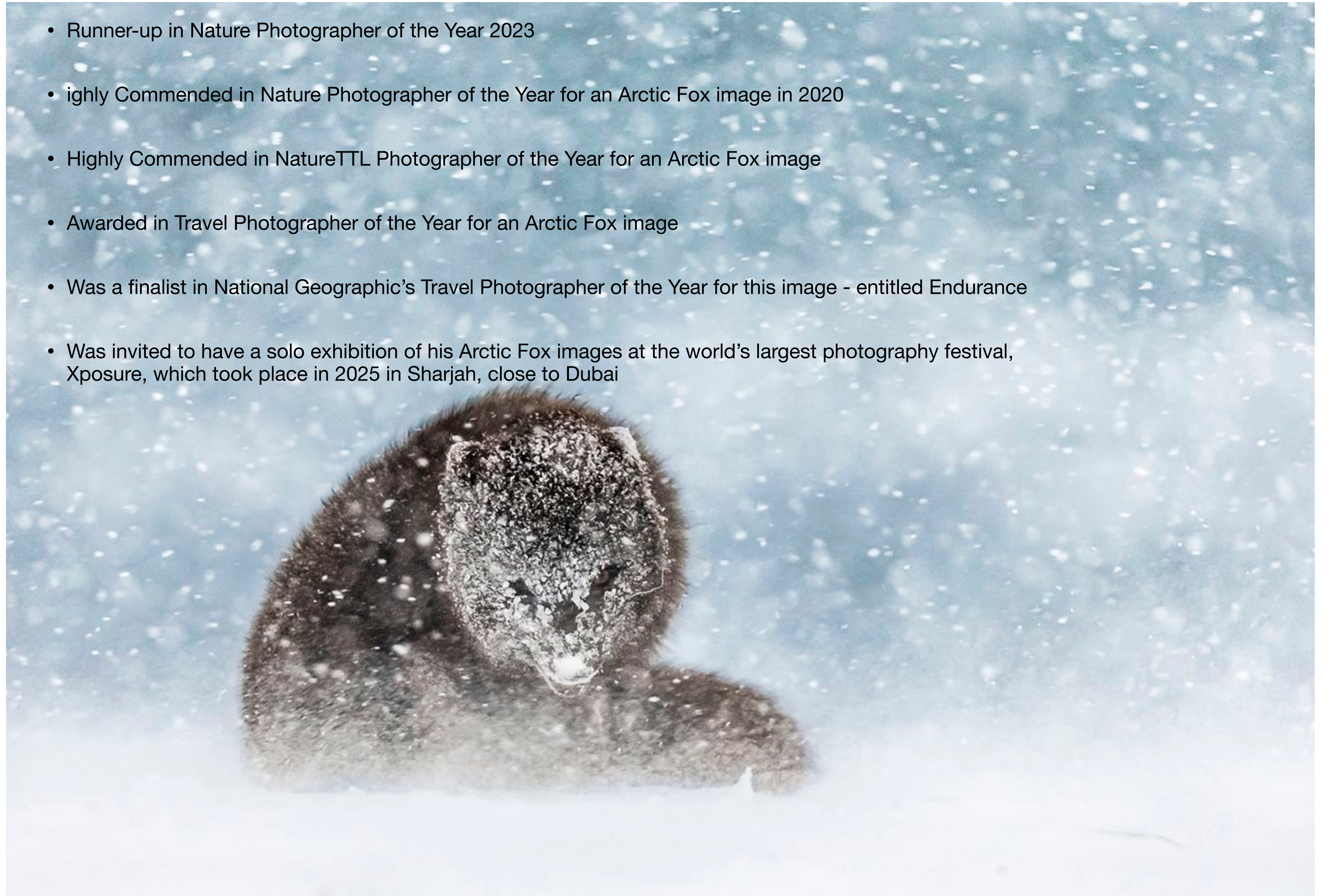
David Gibbon is an award-winning photographer, best known for running winter Arctic Fox trips to Iceland since 2018. He has been highly commended in Nature Photographer of the Year for one of his Arctic Fox images and, in 2023, successfully guided an extreme winter expedition to Ellesmere Island, living in tents in -50 degrees, which is the closest land mass to the north pole, to photograph Polar Bears, Musk Ox and Arctic Wolves. David was again awarded in 2023 in Nature Photographer of the Year, coming 2nd in the black and white category for his epic charging Musk Ox image. In 2025, David ran the first ever land based winter wildlife photography expedition across very remote areas of Greenland on snowmobile. David is founder and director of his own tour company - Wild Lens Nature Tours Ltd - which specialises in arctic photography tours to various destinations including Mongolia, Greenland and Iceland.

- Twice awarded in Nature Photographer of the Year
- Highly Commended in British Wildlife Photography Awards
- Highly Commended in Mammal Photographer of the Year and Nature TTL
- In 2022, David was involved in the first ever commercially run tour to one of the remotest places on earth, Ellesmere Island
- In 2025, David organised the first ever wildlife photography land-based snowmobile expedition in winter to Sydkap, one of the remotest areas in Greenland
- In 2025, David was invited to host an exhibition of his Arctic Fox Images at Xposure - the world's largest photography festival in Sharjah, close to Dubai



# David's Award-Winning Portfolio

- Runner-up in Nature Photographer of the Year 2023
- Highly Commended in Nature Photographer of the Year for an Arctic Fox image in 2020
- Highly Commended in NatureTTL Photographer of the Year for an Arctic Fox image
- Awarded in Travel Photographer of the Year for an Arctic Fox image
- Was a finalist in National Geographic's Travel Photographer of the Year for this image - entitled Endurance
- Was invited to have a solo exhibition of his Arctic Fox images at the world's largest photography festival, Xposure, which took place in 2025 in Sharjah, close to Dubai



# Testimonials from just a few of our Arctic Fox clients

I have just returned from a photography tour with David. Quite simply the experience of a lifetime, David was attentive with a great knowledge of both subject and environment. Travel to and from the lodge was exciting and very much part of the experience, a very safe and capable boat and crew. Once at the lodge our host was excellent and produced food you'd expect from a professional kitchen, This is no five star health spa, rather a traditional Icelandic coastal lodge, in the most perfect location, with many arctic fox, What can I say, if you love photography, nature and adventure .....GO ! Memories I will never forget. Thank you David, and all concerned.

Paul Gray

Firstly, David is a gentleman and ensured our experience was the best it could be even when the weather was not playing ball. What a location.....Foxes fab, landscape fab, food fab, aurora fab, company fab. Ok, not the arctic weather I was expecting but you can't have everything, maybe next year. Can't give a better recommendation except make sure I book before you do. Thank you David.

Steve Field

This is my third Iceland tour with David and once again, his communication and organisation regarding the tour and his adaptability when weather thwarted travel plans was on point. Every group I have travelled with through David have been lovely and the photographic opportunities have been plentiful. The accommodation, logistics and photographic assistance were all right up there too.

Julia Richardson

I was fortunate enough to visit Iceland to photograph the Arctic Fox with Wild Lens Nature Tours, i had the best experience with them that I had to join them again to Mongolia to photograph the Snow Leopards and the Pallas Cats.

It's not just about the incredible logistics that i had in both trips (which was amazingly more than I expected), it's also about how nice David is .. without doubt David is one of the most humble person I have ever met in my life. He cares for everyone and every detail in the trip, he always smiles and makes sure that everyone is comfortable and happy.

David helped me a lot in both trips, he double checked everything with me before each trip just to make sure i have the right tools, clothes and camera gear for the trip.

I came back home with lots of incredible shots, lots of great memories and new friends.

I would definitely recommend everyone to join David and Wild Lens Nature Tours for any of their very well tailored trips for nature photographers.

Mohammad Murad, Canon Ambassador

Just returned from a brilliant trip to Hornstrandir with David to photograph the blue morph Arctic Foxes and now I am desperate to do another trip with him. He is not only a great photographer but a tremendous guide too who did everything in his power to help us get the shots we wanted. And did I say that he is a thoroughly nice chap? Well, he is. From start to finish, he made this trip first class. But don't book up all available slots – leave some for me!

Jacki Gordon



**آيسلندا**

يضم هذا المعرض صوراً لتعاليب القطب الشمالي الزرقاء الآيسلندية، بعدسة المصور البريطاني الحائز على جوائز، ديفيد جيبون. منذ عام 2017، يزور ديفيد محمية هورنستراندر الطبيعية في أقصى شمال آيسلندا كل شتاء، وقد حصدت صوره القطبية العديد من الجوائز، بما في ذلك مرتين في مسابقة مصور الطبيعة لهذا العام ووصله إلى النهائيات في مسابقة مصور السفر من ناشيونال جيوغرافيك.

تعد تعاليب القطب الشمالي الزرقاء نادرة عالمياً، إذ أن أكثر من 90% من تعاليب القطب الشمالي حول العالم بيضاء. في المقابل، تعتبر آيسلندا موطناً مميزاً لها، حيث تمثل التعاليب الزرقاء أكثر من 80% من إجمالي هذه التعاليب، ما يجعلها وجهة مريدة لرؤية هذا النوع النادر.

وثق ديفيد عبر سنوات عمله هذا النوع الجميل وهو يكافح للبقاء في بيئة الشتاء القاسية، من البحث عن الطعام إلى بناء الأنسج، وتكشف صوره عن الحياة البرية في أبهى صورها وأقساها.

## ICELAND

This exhibition of Iceland's blue morph Arctic Fox features images by award-winning British wildlife photographer David Gibbon, who has been visiting the Hornstrandir Nature Reserve, in the far north of Iceland, every winter since 2017. David has won a number of awards for his arctic images, including National Geographic's Traveler's Choice Nature Photographer of the Year and a finalist in National Geographic's Travel

Some of the images from David's Arctic Fox exhibition at Xposure - near Dubai - in 2025



A workshop David held at Xposure

More images from David's Arctic Fox  
exhibition at Xposure - near Dubai -  
in 2025

