

KAZAKHSTAN – Central Asian birding
Astana-steppe, Taukum Desert, Turenga
Forest & Tien Shan Mountains
15 days. May – August



By Michael W. Andersen/*Miksture*

This is a “classical Kazakhstan” journey that provides excellent birding, and Miksture/Michael knows thoroughly the locations and the birds of course. We have done this tour for many years, and we continue to improve and keep the route updated, so our clients get the best logistic and itinerary – in short: The best and most rewarding birding in Kazakhstan. Our team provides good meals, and we always make the journey as comfortable and smooth as possible. We don’t make any compromises, however we always make priority not to flush and frighten the birds. This is birding where you can expect to get the majority of well known Kazakhstan birds at a fair price, cool and safety pace. Birding Kazakhstan provides some of the most prolific and rewarding birding – and, some of the most wanted species known as “dream-species.” Central Asia is known as an essential destination for anyone with a serious interest in Palearctic birds, and this journey providing the opportunity to see a high concentration of Central Asian specialties. In addition there is a great selection of species present in Southern Europe and South Siberia – and of course, the endemic species and subspecies.

Tour start: In Astana, Kazakhstan or Almaty, Kazakhstan

Friendly greetings

Miksture/Michael Westerbjerg Andersen, Bishkek 06. June 2011



Key species – some of the species expected to be seen during Miksture Kazakhstan tour...

White-headed Duck, Himalayan Snowcock, Dalmatian Pelican, Black Stork, Oriental Honey-buzzard, Black Kite ssp lineatus, Lammergeier, Himalayan Griffon Vulture, Pallid Harrier, Shikra, Long-legged Buzzard, Steppe Eagle, Eastern Imperial Eagle, Red-footed Falcon, Saker Falcon, Demoiselle Crane, Ibisbill, Black-winged Pratincole, Greater Sand Plover, Caspian Plover, Sociable Lapwing, Marsh Sandpiper, Terek Sandpiper, Red-necked Phalarope, Great Black-headed Gull, Slender-billed Gull, Heuglin’s Gull, White-winged Black Tern, Black-bellied Sandgrouse, Pin-tailed Sandgrouse, Pallas’s Sandgrouse, Yellow-eyed Stock Dove, Oriental Turtle Dove, Striated Scops Owl, Blue-cheeked Bee-eater, European Bee-eater, European Roller, White-winged Woodpecker, Bimaculated Lark, White-winged Lark, Black Lark, Pale Sand Martin, Citrine Wagtail, Dipper ssp leucogaster, Brown Dipper, Black-throated Accentor, Brown Accentor, Altai Accentor, Rufous Bush Robin, Common Nightingale ssp hafizi, White-tailed Rubythroat, Eversmann’s Redstart, Blue-capped Redstart, Gldenstdt’s Redstart, Siberian Stonechat, Isabelline Wheatear, Pied Wheatear, Desert Wheatear, Rock Thrush, Blue Rock Thrush, Blue Whistling Thrush, White’s Thrush, Moustached Warbler, Paddyfield Warbler, Blyths Reed Warbler, Clamorous Reed Warbler, Booted Warbler, Sykes’s Warbler, Asian Desert Warbler, Hume’s Warbler, Sulphur-bellied Warbler, White-browed Tit Warbler, Azure Tit, Rufous-naped Tit, Songar Tit, Turkestan Tit, White-crowned Penduline Tit, Black-headed Penduline Tit, Turkestan Shrike, Long-tailed Shrike, Lesser Grey Shrike, Steppe Grey Shrike, Rose-coloured Starling, Saxaul Sparrow, House Sparrow ssp bactrianus, Red-fronted Serin, Plain Mountain Finch, Brandt’s Mountain Finch, Desert Finch, Mongolian Finch, Red-mantled Rosefinch, White-winged Grosbeak, White-capped Bunting, Grey-necked Bunting, Red-headed Bunting, etc



Prior departure Miksture mail a detailed list of birds. Meanwhile the numbers and species of birds seen during this tour is equivalent to previous Miksture KAKIs – these reports can be found at www.travellingbirder.com or at our Miksture website: www.miksture.com

*Day 1. Arrival Astana, Kazakhstan; transfer to Korgalzhyn Nature Reserve
Day 2 and 3. Korgalzhyn Nature Reserve
Day 4. Astana – Almaty
Day 5. Almaty – Karaoi; Panders Ground-Jay-country
Day 6. Karaoi: PGJ
Day 7. Karaoi – Zhelturanga
Day 8. Zhelturanga - Taukom (desert birds):
Konchengel*

*Day 9. Zhelturanga – Tien Shan. Big Almaty Lake.
Night in observatory
Day 10. Big Almaty area
Day 11. Big Almaty – Almaty
Day 12. Almaty - Chilik. Kokpek Pass
Day 13. Barthogay. Charyn Canyon. Night in Charyn
Day 14. Charyn - Almaty
Day 15. Heading home – Welcome home!*

Day-to-day program

Miksture always try to make the journey according to program, but sometimes it can be necessary to change routes, and order of the locations. Miksture always try to optimize the birding hence we can add extra locations or change locations. One month before departure Miksture mail an updated program. Please note following meals provided during the days is agreed with the place where you stay. B (Breakfast), L (Lunch) and D (Dinner)

Miksture is of course always ready to answer questions and for more information. Please feel free to contact us.



Day 1. Arrival Astana, Kazakhstan; transfer to Korgalzhyn Nature Reserve

Welcome! Morning arrival in Astana, Kazakhstans capital. Miksture will be pleased to organize a night in a hotel in Astana for anyone preferring to arrive a day early in order to rest up after the long international flight.

Kazakhstan is a giant country – ornithologically too. There is lots of habitats and to maximize our birding we visit as many habitats as possible. More than 500 species has been seen in Kazakhstan. In the SE corner of Kazakhstan there is mountains. In Kazakhstan one of the famous birding events occurs in the northern part of the country at the steppe. This is of course included in our departure, and we use the best local guide available, and Miksture know the area very well from more than 25 visits.



Astana is the new capital of Kazakhstan (former Almaty lost that status ten years ago). The city were founded in 1824 and named Akmolinsk. This name was replaced by Tselinograd by minister president Nikita Khrushchev. I 1991 the name was changed again to Aqmola, but this name is almost similar to Russian word for "white burial" hence it was finally changed in 1998 to present name Astana – a simple word meaning just... capitol! After arrival we drive to Korgalzhyn Nature Reserve, c.140 km from Astana. It takes some hours but we stop here and there were interesting birds appear – Red-footed Falcon colonies, ponds etc. Korgalzhyn Nature Reserve is Kazakhstan's biggest nature reserve and established 1968. The little remote village Karachar is our base from where we explore the area during the coming days. The village is situated at the shore of a lake, and within hundred meters from our accommodation it's possible to watch good numbers of interesting birds; reed beds with warblers and overflying birds. The program for the coming days depends on the weather



and road conditions. The dominating type of habitat is agriculture land and grass steppe with lots of small ponds and lakes. A combination that attracts huge numbers of birds. The steppe is considered as a threatened type of landscape – huge parts already are converted to agriculture and the pristine habitat we find in the reserve is increasingly rare. The following days we explore the area using our own bus and my local friend. Usually we drive out in the morning, make excursions – stop here & there were birds present – sometimes we hike but always short distances. The area is app. 2.500 km², of which most is steppe lakes. Following lines are cited from Mauri Leivo and Pauli Dernjatins excellent article "Kazakhstan - The land of the Pallas Sandgrouse", *Aula* 2/2000 and describe in excellent choice of words, the areas unique atmosphere: "Several "Baraba Gulls" *Larus cachnans/heuglini/barabensis*, flew around us maybe hoping for bread, fish remains or some other handout (actually the fishermen throw fish remains every evening while they clean fish, attracting several species of gulls, MWA). A few Greater Black-headed Gulls, tens of marsh Harriers and large flocks of Pochard, Greylag Goose and Flamingo were flying on the lake". During the following says, we'll explore the area by private bus and easy hiking. Accommodation in small wood chalets or guesthouse in the village of Karazhar at Lake Tengis. LD



Day 2 and 3. Korgalzhyn Nature Reserve

We spend next day's exploring the area. Of course species like Demoiselle Cranes, Black and White-winged Larks, Sociable Plover, Pallid Harrier, White-headed Duck, pelicans, shorebirds etc are target species. We drive out in the morning, returns to Karachar at lunch and make yet another excursion in the afternoon. The days are busy, but with pleasant time for watching the species well. Evening and early morning is rewarding birdwatching in Karachar. BLD

Day 4. Astana – Almaty

We say goodbye to the Black Larks and travel south. During afternoon we fly from Astana – Almaty, the former capital in SE Kazakhstan. Accommodation in hotel downtown Almaty. BD

Day 5. Almaty – Karaoi; Panders Ground-Jay-country

In Almaty our Kyrgyz team arrive with buses and we drive direction west until we late afternoon arrive in Karaoi. This is semi-desert-area, and famous for its occurrence of Panders Ground Jay. Tomorrow we will try to get a sighting of it! Meanwhile the village

itself is a excellent birding spot! Just outside the door is Sykes Warbler, Azure Tit, Saxaul Sparrow and Turkestan Tit. Other goodies could include: White-winged Woodpecker, Blue-cheeked Bee-eater, European Bee-eater, European Roller, Booted Eagle, Shikra, Steppe Grey Shrike, Lesser Grey Shrike, Eurasian Golden Oriole, Bearded Reedling, Asian Desert Warbler, Great Reed Warbler, Paddyfield Warbler, Cettis Warbler, Desert Wheatear, Dalmatian Pelican, Black-eared Kite, Pied Wheatear (usually we see, white-throated 'vittata' morph too), Siberian Stonechat, Isabel-line Wheatear, Bluethroat, Common Nightingale ssp hafizi, Rufous Scrub Robin, Masked Wagtail, Hoopoe, Little Bittern, Little Owl, Long-eared Owl, Turkestan Shrike, Yellow Wagtail ssp feldegg, Red-rumped Swallow, Tawny Pipit, Crested Lark, etc. Night in tents or in a primitive house – we never know in advance, but usually we manage to find indoor accomodation. BLD



Day 6. Karaoi: PGJ

We spend the day trying to find PGJ – other good birds have been seen in the area: Asian Desert Warbler, Desert Wheatear, Desert Finch, Blue-cheeked Bee-eater, Saxaul Sparrow, Steppe Grey Shrike, Long-legged Buzzard, etc. BLD



Day 7. Karaoi – Zhelturanga

Karaoi - Turenga Forest. Early morning observations and breakfast. Then we drive (150km) to the regions special forest-type, the endemic Turenga Forest with its rare birds. The species list for this area includes some of the most sought after birds in Central Asia: White-winged Woodpecker, Eversmann's Dove (Yellow-eyed Pigeon [F: Eastern Stock Pigeon]), Saxaul Sparrow and Turkestan Tit. There are several other interesting species in the Turenga Forest: Sykes warbler, Shikra, Short-toed Eagle, European Scops Owls, Pallid Scops Owl, European Beeeater, European Roller, Little Ringed Plover, Shikra, Steppe Grey Shrike, Booted eagle, White-tailed Eagle, Lesser Whitethroat - two subspecies are possible: S.c.minula (sometimes treated as seperate species: Desert Lesser Whitethroat) and the more rare S.c.althaea (Hume's Lesser Whitethroat), etc. Night in tents (BLD)



Day 8. Zhelturanga - Taukum (desert birds): Konchengel

After final morning birding and breakfast we continue our journey. This time our goal is the endless semi-desert plain of Taukum. Impressing numbers of raptors along the road: Booted Eagle, Black-eared Kite, Steppe Eagle and Long-legged Buzzard. At our campsite there is an interesting selection of semi-desert birds: Demoiselle Crane, Little Ringed Plover, Black-bellied Sandgrouse, Pin-tailed Sandgrouse (rare), Common Pratincole (Collared Pratincole), Greater

Sandplover, European Nightjar, Hoopoe, plenty of larks a.o. both species of short-toed larks and even White-winged Lark, Indian Sparrow, more species of wheatears, Asian Desert Warbler, Spanish Sparrow, Red-headed Bunting, etc. This is one of the strongholds of Houbara Bustards. Less common but quite possible are species like: Caspian Plover, Blue-cheeked Bee-eater, Saker, Pallas Sandgrouse etc. Night in tents – arranged by our team of course. BLD

Day 9. Konchengel – Nurly

We return towards East. Long days drive and we arrive to guesthouse in Nurly late evening. We leave very early morning which allows us to make an important birding stop enroute. Night in Nurly BLD

Day 10. Sogety valley: Nurly-area

We use most of the day birding in the Nurly-area, one of the strongholds for the rare Pallas Sandgrouse. The species are increasingly rare in this part of its distribution, but so far we always managed to find them, and with one day in the area we have sufficient time. Plenty of other good birds around, e.g. Houbara Bustard is increasing in numbers, Rufous Bush Robin, Bluethroat, Desert Finch, Steppe Eagle, Crested Honey Buzzard, etc. We will be accommodated in guesthouse or tents – depending on weather and the birding. BLD

Day 11. Sogety Valley: Nurly – Charyn Canyon via Kokpek Pass and Barthogai: Lesser Grey Shrike, Greenfinch (Turkestan ssp), Starling ssp poltaratskyi, European Roller, Chiffchaff ssp tristis (Siberian Chiffchaff), Stonechat (ssp Siberian), Hume’s Leaf Warbler, Richard’s Pipit, Azure Tit Chestnut-breasted Bunting, Pied Wheatear, Rock Bunting, Lesser Kestrel, Golden Eagle, Lammergeier, Eurasian Griffon Vulture, Blue Rock Thrush (ssp pandoo), Black-eared Kite (Black Kite ssp lineatus), Grey-necked

Bunting, Desert Finch, Asian Crimson-winged Finch, Mongolian Finch, Horned Lark, Isabelline Wheatear, Tawny Pipit, Rufous-tailed Thrush, Turkestans Shrike, Chukar, Kyrgyz Pheasant, Hobby, Booted Eagle, Black Stork, Desert Wheat-



ear, Himalayan Griffon Vulture, Steppe eagle, Rock Petronia, Syke's Warbler, Central Asian Lesser Whitethroat, Asian Desert Warbler, Saker Falcon, Red-headed Bunting, Rose-coloured Starling, etc. Accommodation in tents at Sharyn Canyon. BLD

Day 12 and 13. Mountain birds - Big Almaty Lake

We return via Sogety Valley heading towards the mountains near Almaty. In this South-Eastern corner a northern branch of the Tien-Shan mountains reach into Kazakhstan – and here we spend the remaining days. Species to be seen include: Black Vulture, Lammergeier, Himalayan Griffon Vulture, Golden Eagle, Long-legged Buzzard, Altai Accentor [Himalayan Accentor], Himalayan Rubythroat, Güldenstädt's Redstart, Black Redstart, Eversmann's Redstart, Blue-capped Redstart, Carrion Crow, Fire-fronted Serin, Red Crossbill, Brandt's Mountain Finch (Brandt's Rosy Finch), Plain Mountain Finch (Hodgson's Rosy-Finch, Hodgson's Mountain Finch), Ibisbill, Himalayan Snowcock, White-winged Grosbeak, Mistle Thrush, White's Thrush, Sulphur-bellied Warbler, Blue Whistling Thrush, Common Dipper ssp leucogaster, Brown Dipper, Common Crossbill, Songar Tit, Steppe Buzzard, Red-billed Chough, Brown Accentor, Altai Accentor, Black-throated Accentor, etc

Day 14. Big Almaty Lake – Almaty

After some final birding we head back to Almaty. A combination of crisp-clear spring air and beautiful landscapes en route ensure that we arrive Almaty in high spirits... We expect to get back to Almaty in time to seek out a good restaurant and sample some of the famous Central Asian food, and as we think back on some outstanding nature watching in the course of a very special trip knock back a shot or two of the local firewater. Night at hotel in Almaty. BLD

Day 15. Heading home – Welcome home!

The tour concludes with post-breakfast transfer from the hotel to the Almaty International airport for departure. Usually flight depart very early morning. Welcome home!



Mammals

Though its birds we go for, there is an excellent range of mammals to be seen in the region, and good bird sites usually is good places for other animals... During the years we have seen a long list of mammals (and insects, butterflies, flowers, etc): Wolf, Deer, Wild Pigs, Ibex, Persian Gazelles, Tolai Hare, Goitered Gazelle, Great Gerbil, Red Pika, Corsac Fox, Marbled Polecat, Marmot, Red Squirrel, Ground Squirrel, etc.



This is a journey with character of expedition. Participants should tolerate and be ready for hiking (easy!), transportation in vehicles less comfortable etc The activity level is adjusted so it fit all clients, and everyone can enjoy this journey. There is certain flexibility, so individual wishes and pace can be respected. We don't climb mountains or endure tough levels of activity, but this is birding and participants should be ready getting up early – and participants should be ready to endure changing climatic conditions. We visit deserts, semi-deserts, mountains – with cool climate, etc when this is said, it should be stressed that Miksture and my team are very experienced in handling these tours. We know the areas and the conditions. We are

well prepared, and make sure the participants achieve the best possible comfort – tasty, healthy and enough food! And comfortable accommodation whenever it's possible. There will be nights in tents because no other possibilities are present, but it's solely an advantage as we are close or right in the centre of the best birding sites. Our vehicles are comfortable and increasingly better year for year. Now we use Mercedes Sprinter and similar vehicles, and our drivers always are sober and experienced drivers. Many companies here in central Asia offers rotten service for the participants and made silly excuses that other possibilities are not present...We don't – we value and respect uttermost the clients, and Miksture have lots of clients that already have been on 3 or 4 journeys with us. When it's said please remember that tourism and service are not the same high level here as in many other parts of the world. Tourism is new here and it took years before guesthouses and hotels were available. When I began here in 1993 and think back, it's incredible what a change have happened – year for year the comfort has increased and travelling nowadays is pleasure! So please bear this in mind and be patient if the breakfast on the guesthouse are served ten minutes later than agreed, or the breakfast served is different than at home... etc.

What to bring...?

Note that only the most basic medical facilities exist away from Almaty: all participants must accept the full implications of this, but we are of course capable handling most incidences and our team is well educated and experts in moving in mountainous conditions. However, anyone in general good health and reasonably fit should find that acclimatization is achieved within a few days of arrival, ensuring full enjoyment of this exciting journey.

VISA: A visa is needed entering Kazakhstan; this we will inform about prior departure – special permits relating to our itinerary are secured for us locally prior to our arrival.

LUGGAGE

Please bring soft luggage if at all possible (i.e. lockable bag, strong nylon or canvas bags rather than hard suitcases, which are for more difficult to pack into the vehicles and take up more room). In addition take a small to medium sized rucksack which should be carried as cabin baggage. Pack photographic equipment, binos and things of this sort in your rucksack for the journey.

CLOTHING

You will be outside most days unless you request to stay at base for any reason, so it is essential to be properly kitted out. At the same time, try to travel as lightly as possible; leave superfluous clothing etc at home. It will be both cool and warm. However, clothing needs to cater for these fluctuating needs. The season is predominantly dry in southern Kazakhstan.. In addition, in the mountains it can be windy and cold. Remember that it is easier to keep warm if you wear several layers. Essential equipment: Warm jacket! Rainproof jacket & ditto over trousers; long-johns; hiking boots; hat; gloves; sun glasses; sunscreen lotion & ditto lip balm. There is few opportunities to do any washing); torch and towel. However prior departure we will provide informative and plentiful information about this matters. Please note that outer layers must be in muted colours to decrease the risk of spooking e.g. those shy animals.

Other good equipment: Thermos for tea (must not leak), your own sleeping bag & mattress, small everyday ruck-sack, sunglasses, sun screen, pills for indigestion, diarrhoea etc, Kleenex tissues, wet wipes, travel wash and mug.

ACCOMMODATION in Guest houses/Hotel: Guesthouses are provided with twin beds. Extra blankets are provided in guesthouses. Most guesthouses have adequate bathrooms with hot running water for at least part of the day, but its central Asia so hot water may not be available outside towns. Mugs and glasses are also provided but not necessarily toilet paper;

so bring 1-2 rolls/person. Good sterilised mineral water and beer (lager type) are available during the travel.

CAMPING: We might be under canvas or in simple covered accommodation. You will need to bring a good sleeping bag (can be rented, please contact Michael prior departure). Karrimot, are provided; though if you prefer you need to bring the more modern self inflated Thermo rest' mattress. There are no air mattresses.

MEALS: The food is very delicious here in Central Asia. When we are in the field we bring our own kitchen team who serve three meals a day: Good, healthy and delicious food! We provide mineral water during all tour, and serve tea and coffee to all meals. When possible and wished we make tea and coffee-breaks.

ELECTRICITY: Guesthouses and hotels have electricity. If you need to recharge batteries you don't need an adapter. On the rest of the trip we will bring a generator, but in general: Charge whenever possibilities are available.

LAUNDRY: Bring your own washing powder; guesthouses have a no laundry service.

MEDICAL: Vaccinations. None are compulsory. It is recommended that you protect yourself against tetanus. A check up with your doctor and dentist are wise precautions before departure. Please ensure that if you use any medicament, you have an adequate supply to last for the trip; they will be difficult, if not impossible, to purchase in Kyrgyzstan. Bring: Simple pain killer (e.g. Paracetamol), Lip salve, and travel sickness pills if required, 1-2 toilet rolls, Sun screen with a high protection factor (e.g. 25 sun block is recommended), Sunglasses, suitable for screening out high UV at altitude. Sun hat. If you are prone to diarrhoea then Lomotil or Imodium and Dioralyte or Rehydrat may be useful.

TIPPING: is generally welcomed!

SPENDING MONEY: Kazakhstan's currency is no use outside the country. Exchange is possible only in the cities! Travellers cheques, Standard bank cards such as ACCES5, MASTERCARD, VISA and AMERICAN EXPRESS can usually not be used outside big cities. Bring EURO or USD in cash – best is new, intact bills of 50/100 USD/EURO. If not intact or smaller notes, a less exchange rate is given.

Bird Photography: Opportunities are good!

Tour Price pr. person (in shared double-room) Please contact us for a non-obligatory quote. To book a seat on our tours a non-refundable deposit should be paid – You are not reserved a seat before the deposit is paid. This deposit will be paid back if the tour is cancelled by Miksture. The remaining amount should be paid agreement prior departure.



Price include: Guiding by Miksture/Michael Westerbjerg Andersen and his team • Local (English-speaking) interpreters • Transportation according program • All accommodation in Kazakhstan according day-to-day program – guesthouses, huts and tents • All food in Kazakhstan • Necessary permits for Restricted Area sites and other paperwork • Services of tour leader, porters and driver • Administration from Miksture • Local entrees and fees according day-to-day program • Domestic flight Astana – Almaty • – hotels, guesthouses, tents • Bottled water and some drinks

Price does NOT include: International flights and other transportation not mentioned in the program • Alcoholic beverage at meals in restaurants and cafes • Arrangements not mentioned in the program • Tips to drivers and interpreter • Travel insurance – mandatory! • Evt. other insurances • Money for own expenses – actually very little needed • Visa to Kazakhstan • Visa support, e.g. Letter of Invitation • Anything strictly personal (e.g. laundry, phone calls, any excess luggage charges, snacks).

NB! International flight:

Air Travel To & From the Tour: Miksture or our fellow partners can arrange your air travel in connection with the tour from a departure point anywhere in the world, or you may arrange your own air travel if you prefer. We can tailor-make your itinerary to your personal requirements, so if you would like to travel in advance of the tour (and spend a night in an hotel so you will feel fresh when the tour starts), or return later than the end of the tour, or make a side trip to some other destination. Miksture will be happy to assist. Please contact us about your air travel requirements.

Single room & tent: If available a single room surcharge will apply for anyone not sharing. However we usually make it without extra surcharge if there is enough space in the guesthouse. We don't charge for single-tent. Please note that, single room accommodation may not be available at some places, but this will be explained and agreed prior departure.

It's possible to rent sleeping bags and karimats. Pls contact Miksture for further info.
Miksture v. Michael Westerbjerg Andersen

Booking procedure:

1. Contact Miksture for available seats and account details
2. Agreed deposit should be paid to Mikstures account (pls mark it: "**Deposit Kazakhstan** light ticket: The earlier it's booked – the cheaper. Miksture of course assist if wished. We recommend Turkish Airlines and Aeroflot. Both have comfortable and swift service on this destination.
3. Mail a JPG-file of the "picture-page" in your Passport, or a scanned copy of the page to Miksture. This will be used for obtaining permits, and book accommodation. Pls note – the copy of the Passport SHOULD be the same as you will use during your journey to Kazakhstan!
4. Visa – pls contact Miksture and we assist with this matter
5. The remaining amount is paid upon agreement prior departure.



If you require any further information please contact us – any question is welcome!

Miksture v. Michael Westerbjerg Andersen
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WELCOME!

Miksture v. Michael Westerbjerg Andersen

All birders are welcome and on our travels there usually is a mix-ture of nationalities. Language is no problem: English, French, German and Danish are spoken. Miksture provide information about travelling in the region and specific ornithological information. In May/June and July 2010 we go again to Kyrgyzstan and Kazakhstan. My team and I can be hired for birding in Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Southern Siberia and Western China. We are able to "tailor-make" the journey according your wishes – destinations & species as well as duration. It's possible to book me as leader or co-leader for your journey in the region. We use our own vehicles, own gear – tents, kitchen-team, etc. Everything to increase your birding experience and your safety. In addition our prices are reasonable for everyone. We have an excellent team by whom I have travelled and worked together with for more than ten years. They are some of my very best friends and in combination; we know thoroughly the areas and the birds. Usually we arrange tours for 4-15 pax – best group's size for birding is 5-10 participants; but we are flexible. Fair prices, security, honesty and great birding are keywords – try us! Please contact me for further information. Programs can be studied on our websites. You are welcome to contact me for further information and I welcome any remarks and dialogue.

Miksture was established with the purpose of encourage and combine Eco-tourism and biological scientific research in Central Asia; mainly Kyrgyzstan and Kazakhstan. The approach of combining Eco-tourism and Nature Conservation is in many ways opposite activities, but in Kyrgyzstan we have done it without severe compromises for the visitors and the environment. Our tours are the result of friendship and strange ideas and our carefully planned itineraries and intensive approach have since 1994 given those who travel with us an unusually experience.

Miksture is an independent company, established and owned by Michael Westerbjerg Andersen. You will always be in contact with Michael when you contact us. All itineraries are accompanied by the staff of Kyrgyz-Travel who posses the knowledge and experience to make the tour wholly successful. They know the areas thoroughly and take pride in showing those who travel the local hotspots, confidently coping with any problems that may arise and so greatly increasing the chance that everything will run smoothly. Leading a tour in Europe or North America is one thing, leading one in Central Asia where logistical problems are a fact of life is quite another! Where practicable and necessary we obtain the assistance of local leaders who have both an intimate knowledge of their home areas and the ability to look after the group to the required standard.