

China Mammal Trip Report:

Sichuan and the Tibetan Plateau:

China Mammal Trip Report – June 2026

Below is a short mammal trip report from our June 2026 China trip.

This was predominantly a mammal and birding tour, but we did ensure that we spent at least one night in Labahe Reserve, Tangjiahe Reserve and on the Tibetan Plateau to target mammals. Some of the highlights included Tibetan Fox, Asian Black Bear, Red Panda, Tibetan Gazelle, Northern Hog Badger, Golden Snub-nosed Monkey and Mainland Leopard Cat.



Golden Snub-nosed Monkey ©Marc Cronje

Our trip started in Chengdu, from where we had a couple of days looking for pheasants and other fantastic birds endemic to this part of the world. This was not an area where we focused on mammals, but we still found Pallas's Squirrel and Pery's Long-nosed Squirrel. While visiting the bird hides, we had brilliant views of Temminck's Tragopan, Himalayan Monal, Sichuan Partridge,

Lady Amherst's Pheasant, Silver Pheasant, Chinese Bamboo Partridge and Red-billed Leiothrix, to mention just a few.

The next stop was Wawu Mountain, and although we had only one morning here, we had an incredible close-up encounter with a Red Panda, as well as Swinhoe's Striped Squirrel. Tibetan Macaque was the other new mammal seen here. From a birding point of view, this place is great for Parrotbills, Golden Bush-Robin, Black-faced Laughingthrush, Golden-breasted Fulvetta, Emei Shan Liocichla and Chinese Babax.



Red Panda ©Marc Cronje

From here, we made our way to Labahe Nature Reserve. Due to the short itinerary, we only had one night, so we had to make the best use of our time. During our afternoon and evening drive, we found Sambar (very common around the hotel), Red-and-white Giant Flying Squirrel, Mainland Leopard Cat, Masked Palm Civet, Pearson's Horseshoe Bat and Confucian White-bellied Rat. On a visit to a high mountain pass, we found Gansu Pika and Glover's Pika, as well as Himalayan Marmot, at three different spots. Some of the great birds seen here included Tibetan Snowcock, Snow Partridge, Snow Pigeon, Grandala, White-eared Pheasant, Blue-eared Pheasant and Chinese Chestnut-throated Monal Partridge.

We headed up to the Tibetan Plateau, where we only had two nights, and due to our late arrival, only one night drive. This is a good place to see mammals, and we found Tibetan Fox, Red Fox, Tibetan Gazelle, Plateau Pika, Himalayan Marmot, Woolly Hare, Sika Deer and Eastern Roe Deer without too much effort. Some searching was required, but we did have two great sightings of Blue Sheep and Tufted Deer.



Himalayan Marmot ©Marc Cronje



Red Fox ©Marc Cronje



Tibetan Fox ©Marc Cronje

Unfortunately, we ran out of time to look for Chinese Mountain Cat. More time in this area would have given us a very good chance of finding this species, as well as Grey Wolf. Bird highlights included Blood Pheasant, Ring-necked Pheasant, Sichuan Tit, Saker Falcon, Tibetan Lark, Eurasian Eagle-Owl and the monotypic Przevalski's Pinktail.

Our last stop on this trip was one night in Tangjiahe Reserve, where again we would have loved to have had more time. We did, however, still have great sightings, including two separate Asian Black Bears, Malayan Porcupine, Chinese Goral, Reeve's Muntjac, Northern Hog Badger, Masked Palm Civet, Père David's Rock Squirrel, Tibetan Macaque, Eurasian Wild Pig and Mainland Leopard Cat.



Asian Black Bear ©Marc Cronje



Reeve's Muntjac ©Marc Cronje



Tibetan Macaque ©Marc Cronje

We had one final stop to find Golden Snub-nosed Monkey and had a great time watching these beautiful primates for an hour.

All in all, not bad for a short trip focusing on both mammals and birds. If people are planning a mammal trip to Sichuan, at least two nights at Labahe and Tangjiahe are a must.

We are planning a longer, more detailed China Mammal Tour that will include Snow Leopard and Pallas's Cat as targets, as well as a separate extension to look for Giant Panda in 2028.

If you are interested in joining us, please do get in touch at info@naturetravelexpeditions.com.

A separate birding trip report will be posted on www.naturetravelbirding.com for those interested.