

# ORIOLE BIRDING

## TOUR CALENDAR

### 2021



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## Harpy Eagle by Ashley Saunders

One of the highlights of 2019 was our tour to the Darien province of Panama in December. For our lucky group, we enjoyed some truly spectacular birding in this remote and exciting corner of the Neotropics.

Every year, the success of the tour hinges largely on the availability of an accessible nest of Harpy Eagles—and thankfully due to the hard work of the Canopy Camp team, this is becoming increasingly reliable! We had an exhilarating boat ride, followed by a trek through heavy rain, to reach the nest site. The weather cleared as we arrived and we spotted the male Harpy perched distantly on the edge of the treeline—result!

However, this was just the warm up, as we were treated to magnificent close range views of the female, perched close to the nest, having just been brooding the chick through the heavy downpour. She was a bit bedraggled, but nonetheless impressive!

Hi Everyone,

Welcome to our 2021 Tour Calendar!

Here at Oriole Birding our ethos is simple—small groups guided by experienced personable leaders to top destinations. We blend the professionalism and security of travelling with a larger company, with the small business touches that make your wildlife tour experience the best available. Above all, we aim to make it fun, and try to break the mould by offering superb wildlife encounters which give you the opportunity to learn and improve your field skills, while remembering the reason you came in the first place—to go on holiday! We take our birding very seriously, but we understand too that people want to learn and enjoy wildlife in a relaxed atmosphere, and we think that our unrivalled breadth of destinations offers just that—glance through our tour resume and you will find a mix of far flung destinations alongside familiar UK hotspots and everything in between. You won't find this mix of destinations with any other company. Things are a little different this year as we are not producing a printed brochure, due to the likelihood of changes to some of the tour logistics along the way as we negotiate our way through the Covid-19 situation. But we hope that some of you might still print the brochure off yourself for a bit of light reading!

Our website has been designed to make it as easy as possible to find the birding holiday you are looking for, and has a wealth of information for each destination we visit. You can view tours alphabetically, by season or in date order, and there is also a built in search facility to help you find what you are looking for. Our tour reports are comprehensive, perhaps more so than any other company on the web, and you will find them saved as PDF files which you can download or print, often going back many years. Please take the time too to read the many testimonials sent to us by our clients, to hear for yourself why our tours are so popular! Then follow the link to the booking page and away you go! Don't miss our popular news blog, the Birding Diary, to be found on the Latest News tab of our website, for daily updates, pictures and video clips direct from our leaders in the field.

Oriole Birding has faced several challenges over the years, this being our 20th year of offering high quality, small group tours. But the Covid-19 pandemic has been our greatest challenge yet without a doubt. We are a financially robust and well-run company and we will survive this difficult situation with your continued help and support. Thanks to all of you for your patience, understanding and kindness during this difficult journey and we hope to see you all again soon on an Oriole tour.

Good birding!

*Ashley & Nick*



# ORIOLE BIRDING TEAM



## **Ashley Saunders - Owner and Tour Leader**

With seven years of running his own company before helping to form Oriole Birding in 2009, and vast experience in tour leading in the UK and abroad, there is no-one more skilled and enthusiastic to lead your birding holiday than Ashley. As a joint shareholder in the company, Ashley oversees tour logistics and itineraries, and looks after our website when not guiding tours. Ashley leads some of our Norfolk tours, plus the majority of our UK based holidays as well as several trips overseas, and has birded in France, Germany, Spain, Greece, Mallorca, South Africa, Costa Rica, Florida, Israel, Cyprus, Panama, Sri Lanka, Bulgaria, Hungary, The Gambia, Holland, Romania, Morocco, Cuba, Estonia, Canary Islands, Colombia, Honduras and Trinidad. Finding rare birds is Ashley's great passion, developed through a lifetime of birding remote east coast locations during the spring and autumn migration. Ashley joined the Norfolk Rarities Committee in July 2017, an accolade which arrives as a result of many years of high quality rarity submissions at both county and national level. He lives in the Norfolk market town of Fakenham with his wife Lucy and 8 year-old daughter Lily and enjoys supporting Norwich City in his spare time.



## **Nick Parsons - Owner and Tour Leader**

Nick came on board as a 50% shareholder and Director of Oriole in 2017, giving him the opportunity to combine his business background with his love of the natural world. His role within the company includes working alongside Ashley on general management of the business and marketing, but also involves acting as a second leader when required. Nick's interest in birds started as a child, but like for so many others until recently his career diverted him from his love of birding. Nick and his family now live in Norfolk, where their Great Ryburgh home has become the centre of operations for Oriole Birding. Nick is a firm believer in putting something back when it comes to nature and he is Chairman of the Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust and on the board of the Sherwood Forest Trust too. Locally, he is also an active committee member of the Ryburgh Wildlife Group. When work and family commitments allow Nick is usually to be found out in the field in Norfolk putting in the effort to find his own birds, ever hopeful of unearthing something impossibly rare. He is a seasoned birder overseas and has birded in China, the United States, Spain, Bulgaria, Romania, Lesvos, Mallorca, Morocco, Canary Islands, Cyprus, Israel and South Africa. His other interests are cricket, football, history and archaeology.



## **Jason Moss - Tour Leader**

Jason started in a full time role for Oriole in January 2018. He immediately impressed us with his people and birding skills, the two most important aspects of being a tour leader! Jason has had a passion for birds and nature conservation for as long as he can remember. However the hobby became more of a profession after completing an undergraduate degree in Biology at Portsmouth University, when he began working as a warden on a wide variety of UK nature reserves, beginning with Blakeney Point in Norfolk. Working closely with both sea and migrant birds led to a strong passion for both, and a keen interest in bird ringing, leading to further work on similar seabird and migration hotspots, such as the Farne Islands in Northumberland, Fair Isle in Shetland and Skomer Island, Pembrokeshire, where he recently worked as seabird warden. Living in these remote hubs of bird migration has meant that Jason has been fortunate to witness many stunning days of migrant arrivals and falls, whilst also finding numerous rarities and scarcities including Britain's second Magnolia Warbler and Europe's first Siberian White Wagtail. Jason has also travelled extensively on birding trips, including Argentina, Israel, Estonia, Cyprus, Lesvos, Southern Africa, mainland Spain and Mallorca, where he spends much of his spare time with his partner Elisa.



## **Jane O'Leary - Tour Operations Manager**

Behind the scenes comes a lot of logistical organisation and admin, and we are delighted to have Jane O'Leary on board, having joined as our company administrator in September 2018. When you ring the office with an enquiry or to make a booking Jane is the person you are mostly likely to speak with. Jane's background is in public sector insurance, risk management and civil claims, so her move to Oriole Birding was certainly a change of direction! As well as fulfilling her role as the administrator, ensuring your bookings are properly processed and the tours well organised, Jane provides expertise in company governance, finance and all things risk related!

Of course, we use many other tour leaders on a freelance basis and these include Paul Roberts, Andrew Kinghorn, Neil Glenn, Gary Elton, Marcus Nash & Bob Flood.



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# COSTA RICA – JEWEL OF THE NEOTROPICS

9TH – 20TH JANUARY 2021 with Jason Moss & Erick Castro

Tour Cost: £4599.00 Single Room Supplement: £500.00 Deposit: £1000.00.

Group size: 8 (min 5)

When birders think of the Neotropics, then Costa Rica tends to be the first country that springs to mind – colourful birds, a wonderful diversity of habitats in a small area, and a well developed tourism infrastructure. But there is more to it than that, and to discover why it is such an amazing place for birds requires an appreciation of the bigger picture. Vast areas of protected land, a blanket ban on sport hunting, and a keenness to educate its young people on the importance of conserving wildlife are just a couple of reasons why this is such a great country to visit. Join us with our friends at Cotinga Tours who will guide us around their wildlife-rich country on this diverse and bird-filled itinerary. Our tour offers the chance to visit all the main habitats on both the Caribbean and Pacific slopes, from the high mountain 'paramo' to the lowland primary forests. The itinerary is comprehensive, but not rushed, and we have included two nights in most of the key lodges to give us time to enjoy each location.

We start out in the capital San Jose, arriving mid afternoon on a direct British Airways flight from London. Our first night is spent on the edge of the city, at a suburban hotel with extensive grounds, which gives us our first taste of Neotropical bird families on our first morning! From here we head into the mountains, where our next two nights will be spent getting to grips with some of the birds of higher altitude forest – notably the iconic Resplendent Quetzal which can even be right around our lodge! From here we drop down to the Pacific coast, where a more sultry climate is encountered as we start getting stuck into to some serious tropical forest birding with woodcreepers, antpittas and tanagers galore -not forgetting the spectacular Scarlet Macaws! A boat

trip along the Tarcoles River here is often a tour highlight, as we get close views of a variety of American shorebirds and herons, several mangrove specialities plus spectacular views of American Crocodile!

The Pacific dry forest brings a new set of species, as we add more species of colourful motmots, trogons and kingfishers and search for the impressive Jabiru Stork. Our route then takes us back into the cooler hills around Arenal volcano, where we concentrate on seeing some fabulous hummingbirds plus amazing encounters with curassows and guans around our lodge grounds. Our final port of call is the wet zone forest on the Caribbean slope, where sloths and tree frogs add excitement to a roll call of highlights that could include King Vulture and Crested Owl. By the time we return to San Jose, your head, and your notebook, will be brimming with wonderful memories of this wildlife-rich birders paradise.

You can expect to see in excess of 350 species of birds plus a wide variety of reptiles, amphibians and mammals. The terrain is

mainly easy, with walking on good quality paths and seldom of more than one mile in length, making this a tour suitable for most levels of physical fitness.

**Key Species:** Resplendent Quetzal of course! Plus a huge variety of tanagers, toucans, motmots, antbirds, flycatchers, warblers, raptors, parrots, woodpeckers, woodcreepers and hummingbirds.

**What's Included:** Return economy class flights to San Jose from London and specified luggage allowance, ten nights en suite accommodation in eco lodges/hotels of a good standard, all meals from in flight on day one to in-flight on day twelve, ground transport, services of leaders, boat trip and reserve entrance fees. Tips for guides and staff are not included, but essential. Allow \$100 per person.

*"Once again Oriole pulled out all the stops to make Costa Rica come to life before our very eyes. The birds, animals, scenery and of course the camaraderie of such a cheery group, which includes Erick and Rodrigo our driver, made this for me the best birding holiday ever. Thanks to Oriole Birding, and those behind the scenes who take us to a paradise like Costa Rica and back without a hitch!" - R.B, Liverpool.*





# COLOMBIA – ENDEMIC\$ OF \$ANTA MARTA & PERIJA

19TH – 30TH JANUARY 2021 with Ashley Saunders & local guides

Tour Cost: £4499.00 Single Room Supplement: £450.00 Deposit: £1000.00.

Group size: 8 (min 5)



Colombia is one of the premier birding destinations in the World, with a species list of almost 2000 it is unmatched by any other country. Positioned at the gateway to Central America, but with influences of the Amazon and Andes in its southern quarters, this is a large country and of course too big to cover it all in one tour! This trip is devised to focus on the Northern region encompassing the Caribbean and the famous Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta and Perija mountain ranges, which host a crop of range-restricted endemics. The region is served by connecting flights from Bogota to the city of Barranquilla, where our itinerary will start, returning via the city of Valledupar. This allows us to cover this fairly small region in one tour and reduce the amount of time spent travelling by road. Especially for those of you who have already cut your Neotropical birding teeth in the Central American countries of Panama and Costa Rica, Northern Colombia represents the logical next step, with many species and families you will already be familiar with, supplemented by a true South American influence to the avifauna and of course some highly desirable endemics. From Barranquilla, our route takes us east along the Caribbean coast, soaking up some warm weather and more familiar waterbirds before we head into the mountains. The coastal sierras of Santa Marta have been isolated from the main Andes chain for a very long time and as such have developed a high level of endemism for such a relatively small and recently discovered area. We aim to see all the accessible specialities here before continuing along the coast to Tayrona National Park and Camarones, before ending the trip at Perija. This range of hills sits on the border with Venezuela, and hosts another crop of very special birds with often very restricted global range. The high altitude paramo will be a contrast to the humid forest we will have experienced at lower elevations, and brings a whole new suite of birds.

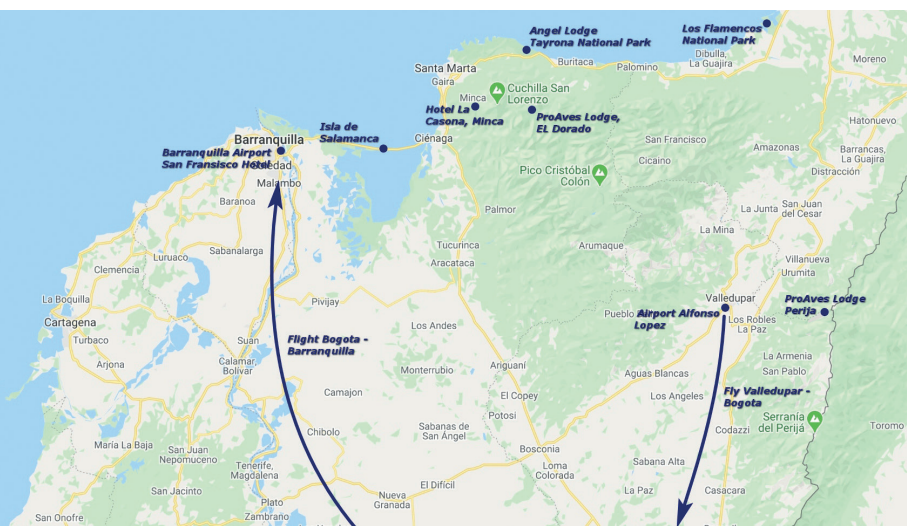
Here at Oriole Birding we pride ourselves in the specialism we have developed in delivering top quality birding tours to the Neotropics, led by Ashley Saunders who has a wealth of experience of guiding trips in the region. We use the best local guides that enjoy working with our ethos, of enjoying spectacular birding without trying to pack too much into rushed itineraries. Our group size is 8, a maximum number which is absolutely essential to maintain the high standards of customer care on these tours and to make sure everyone has the best chance to see all available species on narrow forest trails. This simply cannot be achieved with larger groups. Working with our partners on the ground, Neblina Forest, you can be sure that Oriole will once again deliver you a first class experience for your birding trip to Colombia. You can expect to see around 325 species, 22 of which are endemic.

**Key Species:** Golden-headed & White-tipped Quetzals, Santa Marta & Rusty-breasted Antpittas, Santa Marta endemic Parakeet, Blossomcrown, Foliage-gleaner, Screech-owl, Mountain-tanager Warbler, bush-tyrant, woodstar and brush-finch. Tyrian Metaltail, White-tailed Straffrontlet, Blue-billed Currawong, Sapphire-bellied Hummingbird, Military Macaw, Scaled Piculet, Russet-throated Puffbird, Golden-winged Sparrow, and Black-backed Antshrike. Perija



endemics of Tapaculo, Metaltail, Bristletail & Brush-finch. Rufous Antpitta, Andean Condor, Streak-backed Canastero, Red-crested Cotinga, Andean Guan and Tocuyo Sparrow.

**What's Included:** Return flights London/ Barranquilla and Valledupar/London (via Bogota with Avianca), nine nights accommodation (please note rooms must be shared for the one night at Perija, all en suite), guidance and transport in Colombia, bottled water, all meals from in-flight on day one to in-flight on day twelve, pre-tour pack and checklist and reserve entrance fees. Tipping is not included, allow \$100 per person.





# ECUADOR – ANDES & ANTPITTAS

9TH – 20TH FEBRUARY 2021 with Ashley Saunders & local guides

Tour Cost: £4499.00 Single Room Supplement: £250.00 Deposit: £1000.00.

Group size: 7 (min 5)

This makes a perfect birding holiday for anyone who wants to see some of the most iconic birds of South America with as much ease and comfort as possible. We'll see literally hundreds of fabulous species - on our recce we had 51 species of hummingbirds, 38 species of tanagers and 7 species of antpitta all seen well, as were other great birds such as the iconic Andean Cock-of-the-Rock. Even though we'll be on, or close to the equator we'll spend most of our time in the Andes so we'll hardly ever feel hot and sweaty and this trip is designed to take us to places where many of the best birds literally come to us. As a result, fabulous forest birds such as tinamous, barbtails, treehunters, foliage-gleaners, woodcreepers, ant-thrushes, nightingale-thrushes, tapaculos and quail-doves will be lured out of cover to within feet of us. And that's not including all the hummingbirds and tanagers that will come to the feeders of our lodges. Despite their often loud calls, antpittas are notoriously difficult to see, and one of the most iconic birds of South America, the Jocotoco Antpitta, will be top of our list. This species is so rare it was only discovered in 1997 yet, with the help of local guides, we can hope to get at least one bird to come within a few feet of us.

Just one example of an exhilarating days birding in Ecuador, starts before daylight as we head to a site where Cock-of-the-Rock is known to display. This is one of most wanted birds of South America and there's no wonder. They're members of the Cotinga family, about the size of a thrush but rather plump. The males are dazzlingly red with black wings and tail and grey tertials that hang like roof tiles over their lower back. Their most startling feature is a vertical comb-like crest over the front of the head, making the head look bizarrely swollen. Both males and females gather to display at traditional lekking sites - in the dim light the red plumage of the males seems to glow,



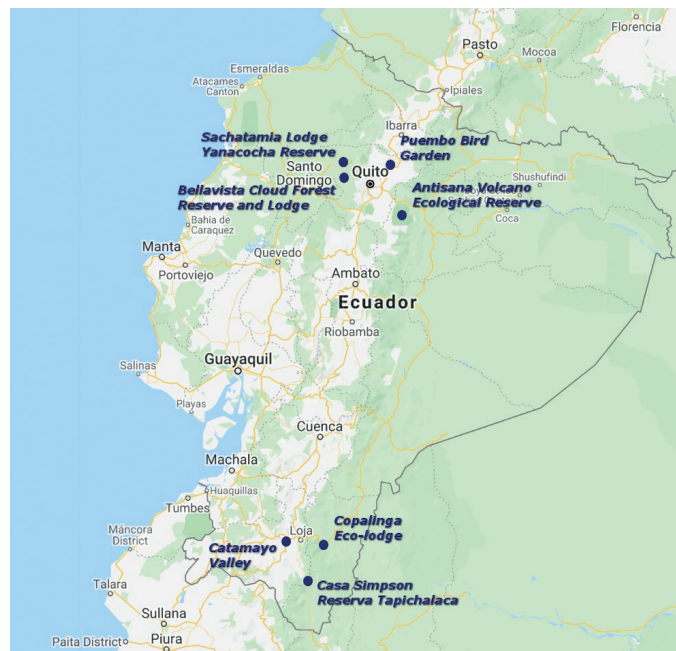
the forest comes alive with the sound of their jay-like squawks and kikoo-ooooawwk calls and we'll watch their intense bowing and wing-flapping displays. On our 2018 visit we were further rewarded by the appearance of a Cloud-forest Pygmy Owl perched and calling right above our heads - a newly-split species endemic to Ecuador. The local guides here have perfected methods of finding impossible-to-see jungle inhabitants by whistling their calls, and we will join them in search of some of the most desirable species in the Neotropics. In addition to Giant Antipitta, we might also be introduced to 'Shakira', an Ochre-breasted Antpitta famous for her gyrating hips as well as Moustached Antpitta, Chestnut-crowned Antpitta, several Dark-backed Wood-Quails and even Rufous-breasted Ant-thrush - all 'impossible' birds made possible by the local guides knowledge and patience.

The full write up for this tour is of course on our website, operated in conjunction with our friends at Neblina Forest, who also act as ground agents for our

Pantanal tour. Ashley Saunders will lead this tour, and is very experienced at guiding tours throughout the Neotropical region. He will be assisted throughout by expert local guides

**Key Species:** Too numerous to list! Andean Cock-of-the-Rock, Andean Condor, Torrent Duck, Grey Tinamou, Andean Ibis, Golden-headed Quetzal, Toucan Barbet, Plate-billed Mountain Toucan, Rufous-breasted Anthrush, Tanager Finch, Lanceolated Monklet, Band-bellied Owl, Cloud-forest Pygmy-owl, Lyre-tailed Nightjar, Paramo Pipit, Jocotoco Antpitta, Giant, Moustached, Chestnut-crowned, Chestnut-naped, Ochre-breasted and Yellow-breasted Antpittas, Sword-billed & Giant Hummingbirds, Ecuadorian Hillstar, Black-tailed Trainbearer, Violet-tailed Sylph and Booted Racket-tail.

**What's Included:** Return economy class flights London-Quito and specified luggage allowance, ten nights lodge accommodation in en suite rooms, all meals from in flight on day one to in-flight on day twelve, ground transport, services of leaders and reserve entrance fees. Tips for guides and staff are not included, but essential. Allow \$100 per person.





# MOROCCO – DESERT, MOUNTAINS & COAST

9TH – 20TH MARCH 2021 with David Gosney & local guides

Tour Cost: £1950.00 Single Room Supplement: £200.00 Deposit: £350.00.

Group size: 10 (min 5)



Every European birder should visit Morocco. Apart from being a fascinating place with truly awe-inspiring scenery it is home to many species of birds that are difficult or impossible to see anywhere else. The variety of habitats from stony deserts (hammada), sand dunes, lakes, rivers, estuaries and the immense Atlas Mountains gives it one of the most interesting avifauna in the Western Palaearctic. But this is not all about the birds... Situated in North West Africa, Morocco has for centuries drawn travellers in search of adventure and the exotic. The quality of the soft golden light in the hour before sunset is a definite highlight, and a perfect opportunity for a sundowner! You will enjoy some fabulous Moroccan cuisine and some lovely traditional hotels full of character. This will add an extra dimension and help to ensure the best possible holiday to this exotic and vibrant corner of Africa. All of this in the company of Dave Gosney, who is vastly experienced and a justifiably popular leader.

The tour starts in Agadir and the first couple of days are spent on the coast birding the estuaries for waders, terns, gulls and the often elusive Barbary Partridge. We shall also be searching for one of the prize birds of the trip, the rare Northern Bald Ibis. We shall also have chances for the increasingly rare Plain Martin. On one evening we will look for Red-necked Nightjar near the Royal Palace. Thereafter we begin our journey east and start to enjoy numerous desert specialities; including many species of lark and wheatear. We should also see Black-bellied and Pin-tailed Sandgrouse. We will explore the famous Tagdilt Track and by the time we reach Merzouga we will be in view of the awesome sand dunes of Erg Chebbi. We spend a full day exploring the true desert in 4x4's looking for Houbara Bustard, Spotted and Crowned Sandgrouse.

The iconic Desert Sparrow, Pharaoh Eagle Owl and African Desert Warbler can also be found, along with the superbly camouflaged Egyptian Nightjar. Eventually we reach the Atlas Mountains where the most sought after birds are Atlas Horned Lark, Crimson-winged Finch and Seebohm's Wheatear around the Oukaimeden ski resort. We should also see Alpine and Red-billed Chough, Rock Bunting and Alpine Accentor. We also will spend time looking for Tristram's Warbler a bird we have an excellent track record of finding. We conclude the tour in Marrakech where the souk and food stalls await! Expect to see approximately 180 species and to walk two or three miles or less per day. The terrain is mostly easy but the day in the mountains has one or two inclines though these are not strenuous.

**Key Species:** Desert Sparrow, Houbara Bustard, Egyptian Nightjar, Pharaoh Eagle Owl, Thick-billed, Greater Hoopoe, Bar-tailed and Temminck's Horned Larks, Seebohm's, Maghreb, Black, White-crowned Black, Desert & Red-rumped Wheatears, Tristram's & African Desert Warblers, Fulvous Babbler, Crimson-winged Finch, Audouin's Gull, Plain Martin, Levillant's Woodpecker, Moussier's Redstart, Black-crowned Tchagra, Black-shouldered Kite, Crowned & Spotted Sandgrouse, Cream-coloured Courser, House Bunting and Northern Bald Ibis.



**What's Included:** Return flights London/Agadir/Marrakech/London with budget airline, 20 KG luggage allowance, transport in minibus and 4 x 4 vehicles with drivers, all meals from lunch on day one to breakfast on final day, services of leaders and reserve entrance fees.





# ISRAEL – SPRING ON THE ARAVA VALLEY FLYWAY

13TH – 21ST MARCH 2021 with Nick Parsons & local guide

Tour Cost: £2499.00 Single Room Supplement: £400.00 Deposit: £500.00.

Group size: 10 (min 7)

The Southern Arava Desert is quite simply one of the world's best migration hotspots. Situated on one of the most important flyways in the Western Palaearctic, southern Israel offers birders a magical migration experience. Our trip is timed to coincide with huge numbers of migrants, making their way through the region to their northern breeding grounds. Whilst the itinerary will take in all of the classic locations such as Yotvata, Eilat salt pans and North Beach, Holland Park, Nizzana, the Negev Desert and the Dead Sea, it will also be as flexible as possible to ensure that time in the field is maximised. Showers of rain or even sand storms can ground huge numbers of migrant birds, and irrigated areas of cultivation can be bouncing with hundreds of wagtails, pipits, larks and buntings. Flowering trees attract migrant warblers, especially of the genus *Sylvia*, and among the hundreds of Lesser Whitethroats it is possible to find Ruppell's, Eastern Orphee and even the occasional Menetries Warbler! The Eilat salt pans provide the chance to get to grips with large numbers of passage shorebirds, and on previous tours we have seen Greater Sandplover, Sociable Lapwing, White-tailed Plover and Kittlitz's Plover here.

One of the most memorable sights in Israel is that of thousands of raptors flying overhead and given the correct conditions this will be one of the highlights of our tour as tens of thousands of Steppe Buzzards and other large raptors and storks pass along the Eilat Mountains. We will aim to coincide with these movements at the best watchpoints to witness large flocks of soaring birds and hope to pick out the larger

Lesser Spotted & Steppe

Eagles moving through with them. Huge kettles of migrating storks and vultures can also pass, while Pallid Harriers ghost through the open desert areas on their way north.

To offer a real taste of Israeli life, we have chosen to base ourselves at different Kibbutz's, following our enjoyable stays on previous tours. These pockets of greenery amid the desert act like a magnet for migrants too, and sometimes the bird can be so good around the organic gardens that it is difficult to tear ourselves away! Blackstart, Little Green Bee-eater, Palestine Sunbird and Namaqua Dove can be garden birds, while bushes and trees come alive with migrants first thing in the mornings. For many birders though, the real specialities are some of the desert species and we will be heading into the Negev where a whole host of delights await. Perhaps

we will get the chance to watch Lichtenstein's Sandgrouse coming to drink, or MacQueens Bustard displaying at first light. Nick Parsons will be the Oriole leader for this tour, assisted throughout by a local guide with up to date local knowledge of the best spots. The walking is generally easy and averages three or four miles per day. You can expect to see 150 – 175 species.

**Key Species:** MacQueen's Bustard, Crowned, Spotted and Lichtenstein's Sandgrouse, Nubian Nightjar, Dead Sea Sparrow, Graceful Prinia, Scrub Warbler, Arabian Babbler, Steppe Eagle, Arabian Warbler, Blackstart, Sinai Rosefinch, Fan-tailed Raven, Little Green Bee-eater, Desert Finch, Pallas's Gull, Western Reef Heron, Clamorous Reed Warbler, White-crowned Black & Hooded Wheatears, Bar-tailed, Desert, Hoopoe, Thick-billed and Temminck's Larks, Sand Partridge, Namaqua Dove and many migrants!!

**What's Included:** Return flights London/Tel Aviv, eight nights accommodation at Kibbutz accommodation, meals from dinner on day one to lunch on final day, airport transfers, services of leaders, transport and reserve entrance fees.





# CUBA - ANTILLEAN ENDEMIC - EARLY BIRD DISCOUNT OF £150 IF BOOKED BEFORE 30TH NOVEMBER 2020

22ND MARCH – 2ND APRIL 2021 with Neil Glenn & local guides

Tour Cost: £3850.00 Single Room Supplement: £125.00 Deposit: £1000.00.

Group size: 7 (min 5)



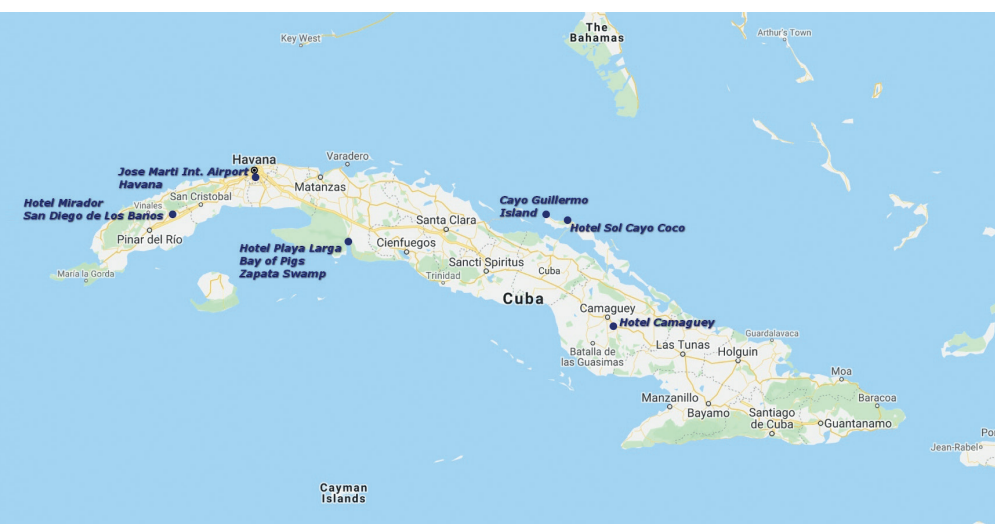
Cuba is the largest island in the Caribbean and in area is not much smaller than England. Like all the Antillean islands it arose from the ocean due to tectonic activity rather than by splitting off from existing landmasses. All the flora and fauna therefore arrived by either air or sea resulting in there being no large mammals on the island but also, over millennia, high levels of endemism. Cuba has between twenty six and twenty eight endemic bird species and our tour is specially designed to ensure that you have the best chance of seeing most of them, including the smallest bird in the World - the Bee Hummingbird.

Our tour takes in many of the best spots in the island, starting in the far west for the Cuban Solitaire, a gorgeously subtle endemic which can be found in the same habitat as one of the most gaudy and sought-after – the absolutely delightful Cuban Tody. Our tour is also timed to coincide with the migration of American warblers, and of course, they will all be in breeding plumage! In the north of Cuba on the offshore cays, we will hit some early morning warbler spots and marvel at Black-throated Blue, Magnolia, Cape May, Blackburnian, Worm-eating and Black and White Warbler among others, while Ovenbirds flit among the leaf litter which is also home to several species of endemic quail-doves. At many spots, screens have been erected to view these beautiful birds at close range, and the Blue-headed Quail-dove often runs some of the more well-known Cuban specials close for 'bird of the trip'!

The Zapata peninsula will be our last base and perhaps the most exciting. Here we get to explore some magnificent unspoilt habitats and of course have our chance for the Bee Hummingbird. Our accommodation is sometimes

in the path of the migrating land crabs, which is itself quite a sight. So is a Kildeer on a puddle outside your cabin, and flocks of noisy Cuban Parrots visiting fruiting trees at dusk. Zapata is a special place, and it's own iconic endemic is of course the Zapata Rail, which we don't have much if any chance of seeing! The Zapata Wren is far more likely, and should feature among a crop of fantastic birds on offer during our time here. You can expect some very long drives and long days in the field as we cover most of the island west to east. You will walk up to 2 miles per day and can see in excess of 150 species of birds,

**Key Species:** Cuban Tody, Cuban Nightjar, Zapata Wren, Fernandina's Flicker, Cuban Solitaire, Cuban Grassquit, Cuban Palm Crow, Blue-headed Quail-Dove, Bee Hummingbird, Cuban Blackbird, Cuban Trogon, Yellow-headed Warbler, Olive-capped Warbler, Cuban Green Woodpecker, Cuban Parrot, Oriente Warbler, Cuban Vireo, Cuban Black Hawk, Cuban Parakeet, Giant Kingbird, Cuban Pygmy Owl, Red-shouldered Blackbird, Cuban Screech Owl, Cuban Martin, Key-west Quail Dove, Bahama Mockingbird, Antillean Nighthawk, and throngs of American migrant passerines & waders.



**What's Included:** Return economy class flights London/Havana, specified luggage allowance, transport in air conditioned minibus with local driver, all meals from lunch on day one to breakfast on flight on final day, services of leaders and local guides and reserve entrance fees. Accommodation is in a variety of hotels of different standards, from four-star tourist type all inclusive hotel on Cayo Coco to very basic accommodation at Zapata but all with en suite rooms. Havana walking tour is also included and all main gratuities.



# BHUTAN – LAND OF THE THUNDER DRAGON

1ST – 17TH APRIL 2021 with Paul Roberts & local guides

Tour Cost: £5999.00 Single Room Supplement: None Deposit: £1000.00.

Group size: 8 (min 5)

We are delighted to be able to offer this exciting itinerary to Bhutan, also known as Druk Yul, or 'Land of the Thunder Dragon', the remote Himalayan kingdom steeped in tradition, folklore and deep-seated Buddhist beliefs. The country only opened up to foreigners relatively recently and numbers are restricted on a yearly quota, in order to avoid the worst depredations of the mass tourist industry. No one lucky enough to visit this fascinating country can fail to be impressed by the friendliness of the people, the rich culture and the breath-taking natural beauty. Roughly two-thirds of this thinly populated and scenically spectacular land is forest, the remaining fraction is either above the tree line in the high peaks, or under agriculture along the narrow valley bottoms. These protected forests hold a bounty of birdlife, providing some of the best birding in the Himalayas. All these factors combine to make this country one of the most rewarding and thrilling bird tour destinations available today. Our Bhutan tour will traverse the country from west to east, following the winding national highway, set amid stunning mountain scenery. Starting our adventure in Paro, we will seek out riverine species, including the unmistakable Ibisbill, before heading up to the highest motorable point, Chele La, one of the best places to see the splendid Himalayan Monal plus a variety of high-altitude species. From here, we travel to the capitol, Thimpu, where we will experience some of the rich culture on offer in Bhutan.

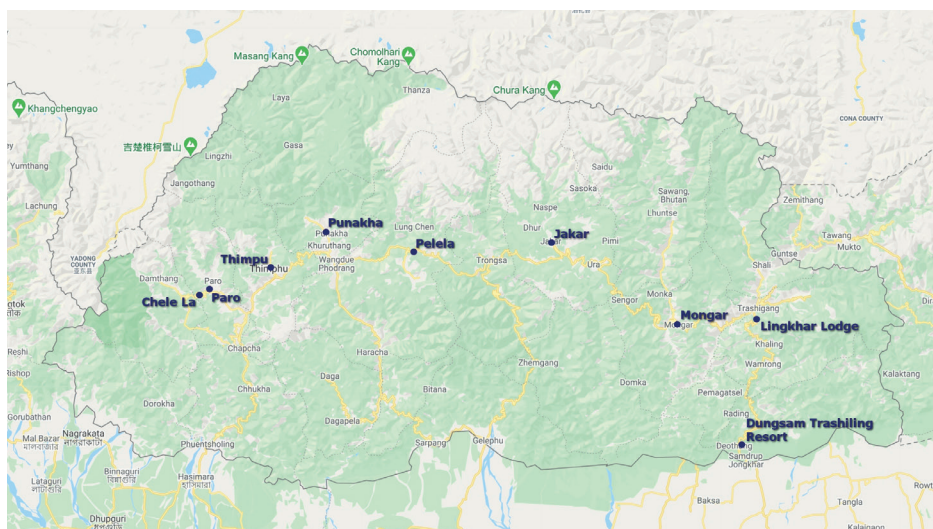


Continuing eastwards, we will visit the high pass at Dochula, next visiting the Royal Botanic Gardens at Lampelri, adding a host of forest birds to our growing list. Further east again, we will travel through a range of habitats, including broad-leaved forests rich in orchids, blazes of Rhododendrons and vast conifer forests. We will experience some of the best birding in Bhutan in Phrumsengla National Park and along the famous 'Limnethang Road', before ending the tour in the tropical and subtropical forests north of Samdrup Jongkhar. There will be no camping on this tour and the standard of hotels is generally reasonable to good. Drives may be fairly lengthy at times, as the roads are invariably winding, but the fantastic views and frequent birding stops should help compensate! We also guarantee a group size no bigger than eight participants, with two guides at all times, meaning a great chance to see all the birds on offer. You can expect to see around 250 species.

**Key Species:** Himalayan Monal, Ibisbill, Satyr Tragopan, Blood Pheasant, Black-tailed Crake, Brown

Dipper, Kalij Pheasant, White-bellied Heron, Fire-tailed Myzornis, Bhutan Laughingthrush, Tawny Fish Owl, Ward's Trogon, Rufous-necked Hornbill, Yellow-rumped Honeyguide, Slender-billed Scimitar-Babbler, various Wren-Babblers, Yellow-throated Fulvetta, White-naped Yuhina, Greater Rufous-headed Parrotbill, Blue-fronted Robin, Dark-rumped Swift, Broad-billed Warbler and Beautiful Nuthatch.

**What's Included:** Return flights from London to Paro and Guwahati to London, all accommodation, meals from in-flight food on day one, to in-flight breakfast on the final day, services of the leaders, transport and reserve entrance fees, Bhutan entry visa cost, gratuities (tips to drivers and lodge staff, porters, etc.).





# KAZAKHSTAN – IN THE SHADOW OF THE TIEN SHAN MOUNTAINS - EARLY BIRD DISCOUNT OF £150 IF BOOKED BEFORE 20TH DECEMBER 2020

22ND MAY – 5TH JUNE 2021 with David Pearce & local guides

Tour Cost: £3900.00 Single Room Supplement: £300.00 Deposit: £1000.00.

Group size: 10 (min 5)



Kazakhstan – the very sound of the word conjures up images of a wild and exotic land. Birders have been enjoying this stable country and its fantastic birds and history ever since independence following the collapse of the Soviet Union. There is a wide range of habitats which in turn attracts large array of species that are much wanted by western birders. Everything is on a vast scale here, which is not surprising given it is the ninth largest country in the world! Great expanses of flat steppe grasslands merge into sandy and stony deserts. Dotted here and there are saline and freshwater lakes which act like magnets to nesting and migrant birds. Mouth-watering species for UK birders include Demoiselle Crane, Red-tailed, Steppe Grey and Long-tailed Shrikes. Syke's Warbler, Red-headed Bunting, White's Thrush, colonies of Pallas's Gulls, Oriental Turtle Dove, Black Lark, Sociable Lapwing and flocks of nomadic Rose-coloured Starlings, plus a special effort to see the enigmatic Pallas's Sandgrouse, a species which one can only dream of making a reoccurrence in Britain.

In sharp contrast, we also visit the massive towering peaks of the Tien Shan Mountains - an extension of the Himalayas which rise here to over 20,000 feet. Here we find ecosystems varying from massive tracts of deciduous and coniferous forest cut by untamed rivers in deep gorges at lower elevations, to snow-capped peaks and flower-rich alpine meadows higher up. The pinnacle of this leg of the tour is surely to try and see the Himalayan Snowcock, but really this is just the tip of the iceberg.

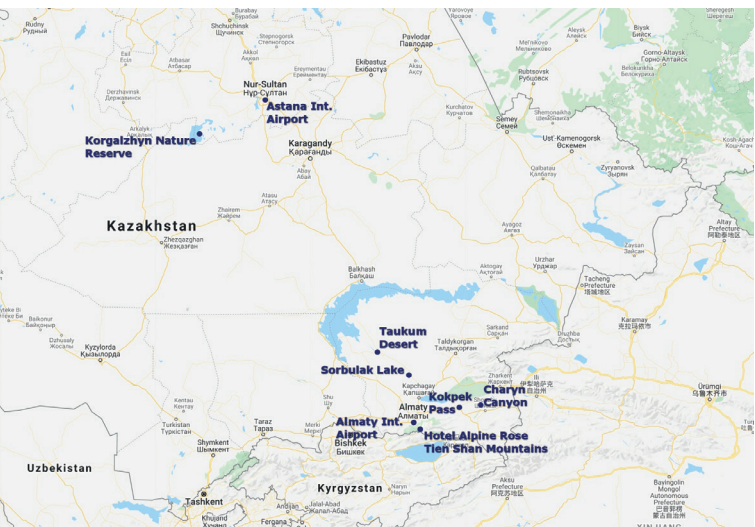
Awakening in the midst of the remote Tarkoum desert, we will likely be watching the amazing display of McQueen's

Bustards close to our yurt camp and last year found Caspian Plovers breeding nearby - even Wolves and Persian Gazelles are sometimes seen. In an area of unique Turanga woodland we should encounter such specialties as Turkestan Tit, Saxaul Sparrow, White-winged Woodpecker, Yellow-eyed Pigeon and if we are especially lucky Pallid Scops-Owl.

A visit to the southeast and centre of the country is sure to be a success and an unforgettable experience. The bird-life is stunning, not to mention some very interesting mammals and reptiles!! Our accommodation will range from western type hotels to nights under the stars in traditional desert yurt camps. Terrain will vary and a reasonable level of physical fitness is required to undertake this tour, and some long days travelling can also be expected.



**Key Species:** Ibisbill, Black-winged Pratincole, Caspian Plover, White-headed Duck, Fire-fronted Serin, White-winged Lark, Himalayan Snowcock, White-tailed Rubythroat, Brown Dipper, Sulphur-bellied, Hume's Leaf, Paddyfield & Blyth's Reed Warblers, Azure & Songar Tits, White-winged Grosbeak, Grey-necked, Pine & White-capped Buntings, White-browed Tit-warbler, White-winged, Blue-headed, Eversmann's, Guldenstadts and Rufous-backed Redstarts, Red-mantled Rosefinch, Himalayan, Black-throated & Brown Accentors and Blue Whistling Thrush plus a whole lot more!



**What's Included:** Return, non direct, economy class flights London/ Almaty/Astana/London via Kiev, 23KG luggage allowance, internal flight Almaty/Astana, thirteen nights' accommodation in tourist hotels, hunting lodges, yurt camp and guesthouses [not all en suite & single rooms only available in Almaty & Astana], all meals from in flight dinner on day one to in flight breakfast on day fifteen, ground transport in Kazakhstan, services of leaders, reserve entrance fees and drinking water.



# UGANDA – ALBERTINE ENDEMIC\$ & PRIMATE TRACKING - EARLY BIRD DISCOUNT OF £200 IF BOOKED BEFORE 31\$T JANUARY 2021

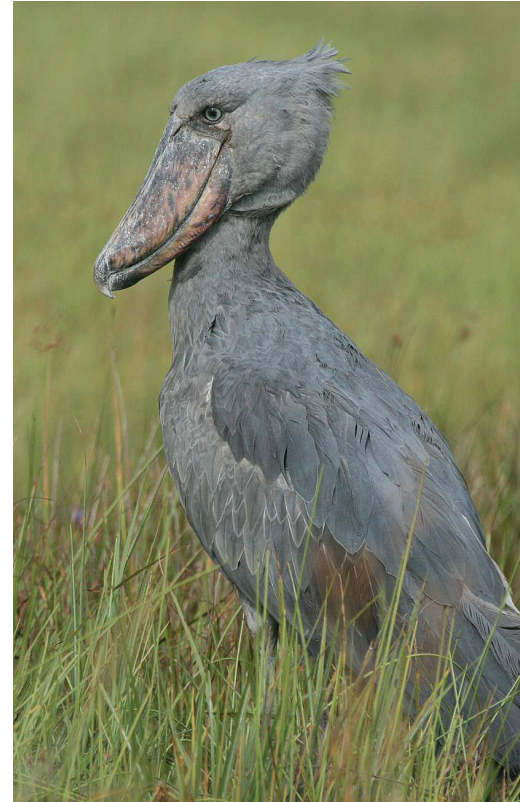
11TH – 28TH JULY 2021 with Jason Moss & Herbert Byaruhanga  
Tour Cost: £4899.00 Single Room Supplement: £575.00 Deposit: £1000.00.  
Group size: 8 (min 5)

This superb tour will take us to some spectacular places in search of a whole host of special wildlife including a chance to track the Mountain Gorillas. These primates are, of course, the major attraction of this tour and our visit to the Bwindi Impenetrable Forest is sure to register as a once in a lifetime experience. The activity of Gorilla tracking may take anywhere between one and eight hours and can be tough on difficult trails in humid forest, so a good degree of fitness is required. It is a wonderful experience to stare into the eyes of these gentle giants; watch them in awe as they play and go about their daily activities. Each encounter is different and has its own rewards, but you are likely to enjoy close views of adults feeding, grooming and resting as the youngsters frolic and swing from vines in a delightfully playful display. In addition, we will also undertake a Chimpanzee tracking session, giving you the chance to encounter both these magnificent primates on the same trip. The forest here is also home to 23 localised Albertine rift endemic birds, and provides some of the best birding on the continent.

Top of the most people's wish list is the extraordinary Shoebill and you are not likely to leave disappointed as we paddle through its marshy home by boat. In fact the Mabamba – Kamengo Wetlands are our first port of call on the trip, about fifty kilometres west of Entebbe on the shores of Lake Victoria. This is one of the few remaining swamps in Uganda protected by the local communities - an extensive papyrus swamp with its labyrinth of

channels and lagoons, classified as an Important Bird Area and home to several pairs of Shoebills, Uganda's most famous avian resident. We also visit the Lake Albert Delta, and make a second boat trip there to ensure we have views of what is certainly amongst the most sought-after birds in Africa.

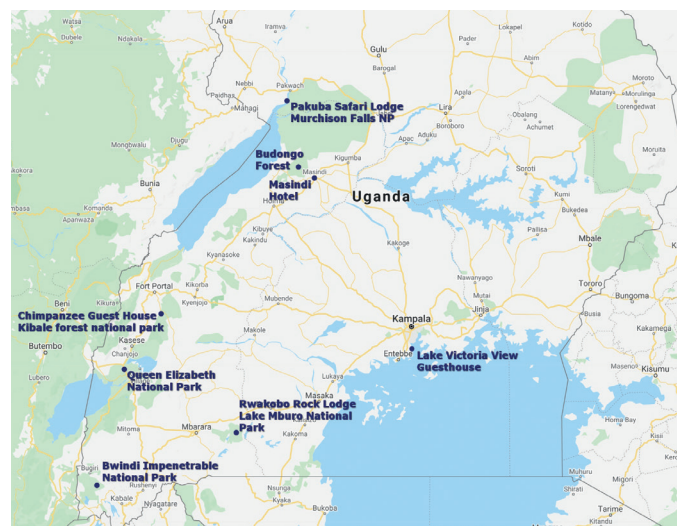
Later in the tour we will transfer to Lake Mburo National Park, situated in rolling hills and open grassy valleys. This park is home to the largest diversity of both plant and wildlife of all Uganda's national parks. It is also the best place to see the gigantic Eland Antelope as well Zebra, Topi, Impala, the more uncommon Klipspringer, Burchell's Zebra, Hippopotamus, and several acacia associated birds. On a game drive here, you will have good chances to see these animals and hopefully add to the Lion, Giraffe and African Elephant seen earlier in the tour on the Borassus grasslands. A boat ride gives us the chance to spot hippos, crocodiles and a variety of water birds too, including the much desired African Finfoot.



The full itinerary on our website is a must to get a feel for the whole tour and what can be expected. As well as the often hot temperatures and difficult terrain, there will be some long drives on this tour – but you can expect to see in excess of 500 species!

**Key Species:** Shoebill, Mountain Gorilla, Chimpanzee, Lion, Giraffe, Hippopotamus, Leopard, African Elephant, L'hoest's Monkey, Warthog, Spotted Hyena. The bird list is far too extensive to list here but you can expect to see a fine selection of raptors and soaring birds, water birds, bee-eaters, warblers, shrikes, pittas, flycatchers, shorebirds, weavers, owls and woodpeckers, several of which are endemic to the Albertine Rift.

**What's Included:** Fifteen nights en suite accommodation in very comfortable hotels, lodges and camps, return economy class flights from UK/Entebbe with one overnight on board the aircraft, all meals from breakfast on day two to dinner on day sixteen, all ground transport and boat trips in Uganda, Gorilla and Chim tracking permits, services of leaders and reserve entrance fees.





# BRAZIL – PANTANAL & AMAZON - EARLY BIRD DISCOUNT OF £200 IF BOOKED BEFORE 31ST JANUARY 2021

12TH – 25TH JULY 2021 with Ashley Saunders & Xavier Munoz

Tour Cost: £5999.00 Single Room Supplement: £400.00 Deposit: £1500.00.

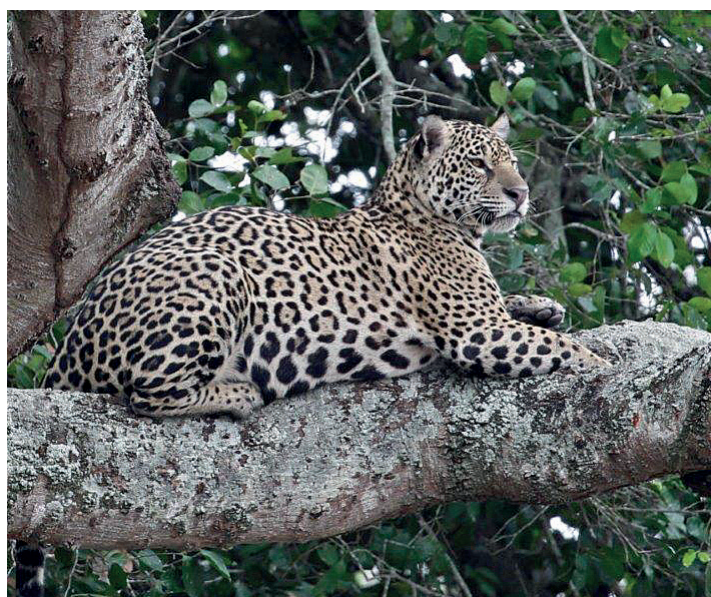
Group size: 7 (min 4)



Think 'Brazilian wildlife' and you probably think 'Amazonian rain forest'. The Amazon jungle is the largest collection of living plants and animals in the world and 60% of it is found within Brazil. But Brazil offers far more than just the incredible diversity of the Amazon jungle. As a country it is equivalent in size to the entire United States so the possibilities are endless but on this trip, in addition to the Amazon, we'll concentrate on the Pantanal – the largest seasonal freshwater wetland on the planet. Think of it as the Okavango delta of South America, but at least ten times bigger! To make this trip even more special it will include another of Brazil's special ecotones, the more open Cerrado, where a quite different selection of exciting species is possible. To explore the Amazon we'll visit an area called the Rio Azul Forest and Cerrado. Hence the total species list for this region is over 450 species, many of which are endemic including the recently discovered Bald Parrot. Another highlight is likely to be the magnificent Harpy Eagle which we will have a good chance of seeing. The vast Pantanal can be reached via only one road, the Transpantaneira highway but this links up with various rivers and channels which we can also explore by boat. This will enable us to encounter all the iconic wildlife of this area. Birdwise, this includes some of the biggest and most spectacular birds in South America, including the Hyacinth Macaw, the largest macaw in the world.

But in the Pantanal it's not just the

amazing individual birds you will enjoy, it's also the sheer numbers. You will experience literally hundreds of kingfishers, herons, storks, whistling ducks, limpkins and raptors. Imagine seeing over 100 Snail Kites in a day or over 100 of the amazing Nacunda Nightjars. And even if there were no birds at all, the Pantanal would be a must-visit destination for anyone interested in wildlife. This is simply the best place in the world to see Jaguars. If you've ever seen fabulous footage of Jaguar on a nature programme it's almost certain to have been filmed in the Pantanal. Our guides have so much experience in finding this iconic species of big cat that you are pretty much guaranteed seeing one for yourself – you might actually see several in a day. Not quite so fearsome but at least as beautiful is another large cat, the Ocelot and we will visit a stake-out where you have a very good chance of seeing this exquisite species too. You can be sure that every day will include some unforgettable wildlife experiences.



**Key Species:** See website for full itinerary. Too many highlights to list here (apart from Hyacinth Macaw!) - expect plenty of toucans, motmots, woodcreepers, manikins, tanagers, woodpeckers and waterbirds! Mammals should include Jaguar, Ocelot, Giant Otter, Brazilian Tapir, Crab-eating Fox, Howler Monkey & Giant Ant-eater.

**What's Included:** Return economy class flights London-Sao Paulo via Lisbon or Amsterdam with specified luggage allowance, 12 nights accommodation in a variety of lodges of a good standard, all meals from in-flight on day one to in-flight on day 14, internal flights, all ground transport and transfers in Brazil, services of leaders, boat trips and reserve entrance fees.



# GEORGIA – RAPTOR MIGRATION AND CAUCASIAN SPECIALITIES

7TH – 16TH SEPTEMBER 2021 with Jason Moss & Johannes Jansen

Tour Cost: £2995.00 Single Room Supplement: £250.00 Deposit: £700.00.

Group size: 8 (min 5)

Georgia, positioned on the east coast of the Black Sea, is a small country which punches well above its weight regarding the sheer birding riches and spectacle that it offers. With the Lesser Caucasus mountains forming a migration bottleneck with the Black Sea coast, the migration of birds of prey over Batumi is the 3rd largest in the whole world, with over 1,000,000 birds of prey passing during the autumn. We time our tour to coincide with this incredible spectacle, watching as Honey Buzzards are passing in their tens of thousands and harriers, eagles and accipiter's pass in one of the greatest concentrations on earth. A migratory hotspot for many birds, the coastal areas can be alive with migrant warblers, shrikes, larks, chats, pipits and wagtails from Russia. Visits to the Chorokhi Delta and Mtirala National Park will feature migrant waders, marsh terns, herons and egrets, and many breeding specialities.

Our tour will also see us travel into the incredible Greater Caucasus Mountains, staying within touching distance of such enchanting species as Caucasian Snowcock, Caucasian Black Grouse, Caucasian Chiffchaff, Guldénstadt's Redstart, Green Warbler and Great Rosefinch. The mountains, reaching over 5,000 meters at their highest and spanning from the Black Sea to the Caspian Sea, are home to a host of other specialist species including Red-fronted Serin, Kruper's Nuthatch, Western Rock Nuthatch, Lammergeier, and possibly Wallcreeper, and are sure to blow us away. Focusing on the western end of the range, we will spend our time in the Svaneti National Park, visiting key areas to maximise our chances of

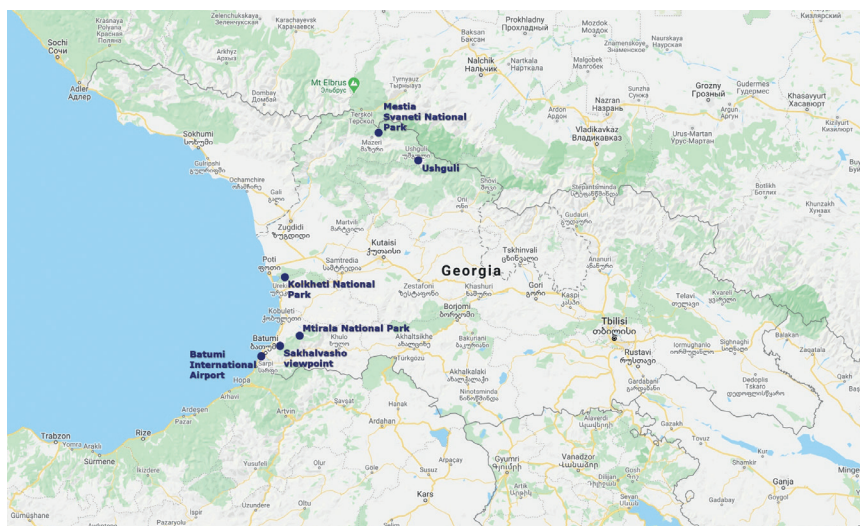
seeing the most desirable species. This is a newly discovered region, combining relatively easy access and high chance of seeing the key species. The scenery will be stunning, and the birding equally so, with many other superb species on offer here! A tour not to be missed!

You can expect to see upwards of 170 species on this tour, walking on mostly easy terrain but with some steeper walking. Climate will be humid by the coast, and potentially cold in the mountains, particularly during the morning.

**Key Species:** Caucasian Snowcock, Caucasian Grouse, Guldénstadt's Redstart, Great Rosefinch, Grey-headed Swamphen, Kruper's Nuthatch, Mountain Chiffchaff, Green Warbler, Wallcreeper, Bearded Vulture, European Honey Buzzard, Crested Honey Buzzard, Lesser Spotted Eagle, Greater Spotted Eagle, Steppe Eagle, Booted Eagle, Golden Eagle, Pallid Harrier, Montagu's Harrier, Levant Sparrowhawk, Black Kite, Red-footed Falcon, Terek Sandpiper, Broad-billed Sandpiper,

Yelkouan Shearwater, Little Crake, Baillon's Crake, Middle-spotted & Black Woodpecker, Red-breasted Flycatcher, Lesser Grey Shrike, Alpine Chough and a variety of migrant species. Local subspecies include Shore Lark ssp. penicillata, Water Pipit ssp. coulteii and Twite ssp. flavirostris.

**What's included:** Nine nights en suite accommodation in comfortable hotels, return flights UK/Batumi with Turkish airlines, ground transport in Georgia including 4x4 minibuses for mountain access, airport transfers, all meals from dinner on day one to breakfast on day ten, services of both leaders, road tolls and reserve entrance fees.





# ETHIOPIA – ENDEMIC BIRDS & MAMMALS - EARLY BIRD DISCOUNT OF £150 IF BOOKED BEFORE 31ST MARCH 2021

6TH – 24TH OCTOBER 2021 with Steve Cale & Measho Legesse

Tour Cost: £4499.00 Single Room Supplement: £150.00 Deposit: £1000.00.

Group size: 8 (min 5)



A wonderland with historical footprints which is over three thousand years old and rich in cultural heritage, Ethiopia is Africa's second most populous nation, so it follows that there exists a bounty of exotic costumes, colourful ceremonies and celebrations, arts, crafts, music and dance. It is a land of extremes covering an area of over one million square kilometres ranging from Mount Ras Dashen at 4620 metres to Lake Asal at one hundred and fifty metres below sea level, while Dallol is recognised as one of the hottest places year round on earth. There are thirty one endemic bird species and over eight hundred and fifty species have been recorded, making it a must-visit destination for anyone interested in African birds. At 19 days in length, you really need to visit the website to get a proper feel for what this tour offers and to read our previous trip report, but as a taster, our leader Steve Cale writes an insight into our ascent of the Sanetti plateau: "The Bale Mountains are quite simply stunning! The eponymous National Park was set up primarily to protect two very special endemic mammals; Ethiopian Wolf and Mountain Nyala. We will depart early and ascend the Bale Mountain massif en route to the unique Sanetti Plateau, which lies between 12,540 and 14,444ft above sea level. As we leave Goba, we soon reach nice stands of Juniper-Hagenia forest that are home to endemic Abyssinian Woodpecker, White-backed Black Tit, Abyssinian Catbird and Abyssinian Slaty Flycatcher, plus Abyssinian Ground Thrush. Here, we will be driving on Africa's highest road, passing close to the summit of Ethiopia's second highest mountain. Here, on an island of tundra in the tropics, the habitat is classified as "Afro-alpine moorland" characterized by a fascinating range of unique plants including Jibrra, or Giant Lobelias, which tower like monolithic giants over the rich tussock grasslands and extensive cushions of yellow Everlasting flowers. Groundsels and Hypericum have evolved here into trees, the latter festooned with epiphytes.

The grasslands are estimated to support an incredible biomass of 8,800lb of rodents per hectare. Amazing! This obviously attracts a rich array of raptors and we should see Steppe and Golden Eagles, Augur Buzzard and elegant Pallid Harriers courting over this verdant floral sea. They share this abundant food source with the plateau's most celebrated resident, the Ethiopian or Simian Wolf, crowned with the unenviable title of "the world's rarest canid." Watching these vibrantly coloured animals, most closely related to the European Timber Wolf, exhibiting their hunting prowess whilst pouncing on Giant Mole-rats (another endemic to the Sanetti Plateau) is surely amongst Africa's greatest wildlife experiences." There will be some long drives on sometimes poor roads, birding at altitude and some very variable weather including extreme heat during the day and cold temperatures at night, though the walking is mostly easy. You can expect to see approximately 420 species.



**Key Species:** Thick-billed Raven, Salvadori's Seedeater, Abyssinian Owl, White-collared Pigeon, Abyssinian Longclaw, Yellow-fronted Parrot, Abyssinian Woodpecker, White-billed Starling, White-backed Black Tit,

Blue-winged Goose, Spot-breasted Lapwing, Black-winged Lovebird, Abyssinian Catbird, Abyssinian Ground Thrush, Abyssinian Slaty Flycatcher, Black-headed Siskin, Brown-rumped Seedeater, Wattled Ibis, Rouget's Rail, Ankober Serin, Yellow-throated Seedeater, Prince Ruspoli's Turaco, Stresemann's Bush-Crow, African Hobby, Black-naped & Wattled Cranes, Northern Carmine Bee-eater, Crowned Eagle, Slender-tailed & Montane Nightjars, Cape & Greyish Eagle Owls, Narina Trogon and the critically endangered White-tailed Swallow, as well as the much sought after Simian Wolf, African Wild Dog, Cerval, Gelada Baboon, Mountain Nyala and a huge variety of other birds, primates and mammals; many of which are range restricted.



**What's Included:** Return economy class overnight, direct flights London/Addis, 16 nights accommodation in the best available hotels and lodges, all meals from dinner on board the flight on day 1 to breakfast on board on day 19, all ground transport in well maintained vehicles, service of leaders and reserve entrance fees.



# BRAZIL – ATLANTIC RAINFOREST ENDEMIC

31st OCTOBER – 9TH NOVEMBER 2021 with Ashley Saunders & local guides  
Tour Cost: £3199.00 Single Room Supplement: £300.00 Deposit: £1000.00.  
Group size: 8 (min 4)

Serra dos Tucanos is a small lodge within the 46,000ha Tres Picos State Park in the heart of the Atlantic rain forest, south-east Brazil. Previously a large family home Serra dos Tucanos Lodge was extensively refurbished and now caters specifically for birdwatchers, naturalists and those who just want a peaceful break away. Together with large landscaped gardens, the lodge has two rivers winding through the grounds and an array of flowering and fruiting trees and plants that attract a wealth of fauna. The lodge offers comfortable accommodation for up to 14 people, making it small enough not to interfere with the surrounding environment and to be managed in such a way that guests feel like they are staying at a true home from home. As the lodge is surrounded by forest, the flora and fauna in the gardens alone is quite spectacular. But for those wishing to explore further there a number of trails within the grounds that offer a variety of walks and excellent opportunities to search for various species of birds. In the fifty acre grounds of the lodge over 200 species have already been recorded, of which 60+ are Atlantic forest endemics! This makes Serra dos Tucanos Lodge the prime location in which to stay in the Atlantic rain forest. The grounds also have a number of bird tables, feeding stations and hummingbird feeders, which offer a chance to see a number of species close-up, this together with the specially built photo hide offers guests superb opportunities for photographing some of the rare and colourful endemics.

Many birders who visit south-east Brazil go in search of the endemic Three-toed Jacamar. On our full day excursion we visit several sites where this bird is regularly found. Along the way we pass through a variety of habitats

stopping regularly en-route to look for other species too and we could encounter Whistling and Capped Heron, Lesser Yellow-headed Vulture, Savanna Hawk, Laughing Falcon, Aplomado Falcon, Red-legged Seriema, Blue-winged Macaw, White-eyed Parakeet, Blue-winged Parrotlet, Striped Cuckoo, Planalto Hermit, Glittering-bellied Emerald, Sapphire-spangled Emerald, Amethyst Woodstar, White-eared Puffbird, Crescent-chested Puffbird, Black-necked Aracari, White Woodpecker, Band-tailed Hornero, Orange-eyed Thornbird, Ochre-faced Tody-Flycatcher, Gray and White-rumped Monjita, Streamer-tailed Tyrant, Yellow-browed Tyrant, Long-tailed Tyrant, White-rumped and Tawny-headed Swallow, Black-capped Donacobius, Curl-crested Jay, Magpie, Hooded, Hepatic, Brazilian and Gilt-edged Tanagers and Hooded Siskin just on this one exploration, giving you a taste for how diverse this region is for birds! On another excursion, we will ascend to around 200m in search of high-altitude endemics, and could find Bay-chested Warbling Finch, Diademed Tanager, Blue-billed Black Tyrant and Rufous-tailed Antbird. As we walk further uphill we begin to enter the habitat where we stand a good chance of seeing the rare and endemic Grey-winged Cotinga, Serra do Mar Tyrannulet, Swallow-tailed Cotinga and



Black and Gold Cotinga. We shall also try in this area for Brazilian Anthrush and Mouse-colored Tapaculo. Even the rare and endemic Itatiaia Thistletail can be seen here. Overall, you can expect to see approximately 270 species on this tour of which 80 are endemic.

**Key Species:** See website for full itinerary. Too many highlights to list here but the tour focuses on the endemics of the Atlantic rainforest region of south-east Brazil. Expect plenty of toucans, motmots, woodcreepers, manikins, tanagers, woodpeckers and waterbirds!

**What's Included:** Return economy class flights London-Rio via Paris, Lisbon or Madrid on overnight flights with specified luggage allowance, 7 nights en suite accommodation in Serra dos Tucanos Lodge, all meals from in-flight on day one to in-flight on day ten, all ground transport and transfers in Brazil, services of leaders and reserve entrance fees.





# **SOUTH AFRICA – BEST OF THE WESTERN CAPE**

## **- EARLY BIRD DISCOUNT OF £150 IF BOOKED BEFORE 31ST MARCH 2021**

**1ST – 13TH NOVEMBER 2021 with Jason Moss & Brian Vanderwalt**

**Tour Cost: £3499.00 Single Room Supplement: £250.00 Deposit: £1000.00.**

**Group size: 7 (min 4)**



This magical tour around South Africa's south-west corner is a feast of stunning scenery, great birding and once in a lifetime wildlife experiences, starting in the southern peninsular of the beautiful Western Cape. Boulders Beach and its African Penguin colony is right by our hotel, and we can expect stunning views of these charismatic (if not a little smelly!) birds. We explore the cape fynbos ecosystem which supports many of the regions endemic birds, from the dramatic Cape Sugarbird to the curious Ground Woodpecker. We will take a trip up Table Mountains and a full day pelagic off the cape, where three species of Albatross and many thousands of other seabirds and cetaceans might be seen. Finding a trawler is the key to success, and we might encounter hundreds of White-chinned Petrels, and find ourselves spine-tinglingly close to Shy Albatross, Pintado Petrel and Southern Giant Petrel, among others. On past tours, we have also had extremely good views of Southern Right and Humpback Whales.

Heading north, the success of our itinerary is variety and we choose our accommodation bases carefully to be close to the best areas. We reach the beautiful Langebaan Lagoon on the West Coast before passing coastal Strandveld scrub and then into the Tanqua Karoo – a semi-desert region which supports the highest diversity of succulent plants in the World. Each time we enter a new habitat a new suite of birds and endemics awaits us. Expect lunches in carefully chosen and beautiful spots, amazing scenery and birds! The karoo is a wonderful place for larks, and we have a chance of seeing many different species on this tour including Cape Long-billed, Cape Clapper and Spike-heeled Larks. Southern Black Korhaan

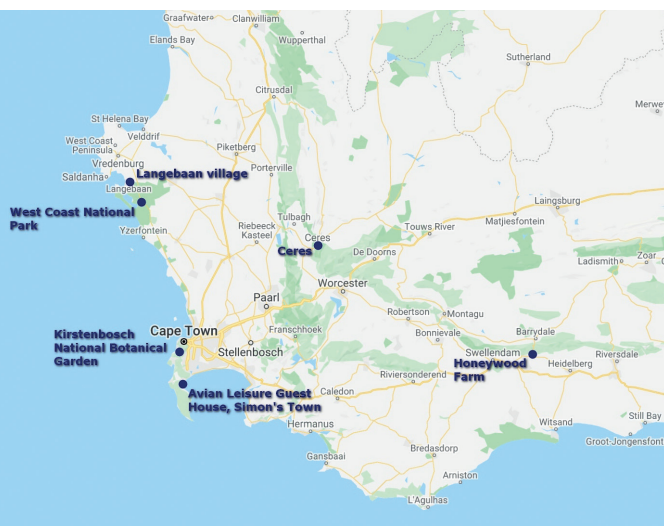
– a beautiful, small member of the bustard family – can often be incredibly confiding right by the roadside, and the stunning Black Harrier is often to be found quartering the coastal 'strandveld'.

Towards the end of the tour, we drop back down towards the coast and stay for two nights among the tranquillity of Grootvadersbosch Forest. Here the sought-after Narina Trogon is sometimes found, along with a roll-call of exciting birds such as Blue-mantled Crested Flycatcher, Knysna Woodpecker and Olive Bush-shrike. We cross grasslands where the Secretary Bird roams and look for South Africa's National Bird, the gorgeous Blue Crane. Throughout the tour we enjoy expert guidance from our man on the ground, Brian. There is little walking involved in this tour, but some long days on the road often on dusty tracks, but we travel throughout in an air-conditioned vehicle. We can expect to see somewhere in the region of 250 species, many of which are endemic to the Southern African region.



**Key Species:** African Penguin, Yellow-nosed, Black-browed & Shy Albatrosses, Humpback & Southern Right Whales, Cape Sugarbird, Orange-breasted Sunbird, Ground Woodpecker, Southern Boubou, Spotted Eagle Owl, Cape Siskin, Bully, Forest, Cape & Protea Canaries, Bank & Cape Cormorants, Damara Tern, Martial Eagle, Southern Black Korhaan, Karoo Korhaan, Agulhas Long-billed Lark, Black Harrier, Blue Crane, Narina Trogon, Secretary Bird, Rufous-eared, Knysna and Victorin's Warblers, Fairy Flycatcher, Bokmakierie, Cape Weaver, Cape Vulture, Cape Francolin, Cape Rockjumper, Cape Rock Thrush, Cape Bunting, Verraux's Eagle and Burchell's Coucal.

**What's Included:** Return non direct economy flights London/ Cape Town, specified luggage allowance, ten nights accommodation in a variety of hotels and guest houses, all of a good standard (some with shared bathroom facilities), all meals from in-flight day one to in-flight day twelve, ground transport, Table Mountain trip, pelagic trip, services of leaders and reserve entrance fees.





# THE GAMBIA – BIRDING THE SMILING COAST

12TH – 19TH NOVEMBER 2021 with Gary Elton, Marcus Nash & local guide

19TH – 26TH NOVEMBER 2021 with Gary Elton & local guide

Tour Cost: £1750.00 Single Room Supplement: £150.00 Deposit: £500.00.

Group size: 10 (min 5)



The Gambia is a popular destination with European birders, and for good reason. Located just the other side of the Sahara, The Gambia is easily accessible and most importantly for us, the country hosts a fine selection of typical African birds. Aimed as a relaxing and bird filled break maybe for those taking their first steps into African birding, the pace will reflect this and there will plenty of opportunities for down time as well as an exciting programme of excursions. These start right around our hotel, where there is no better introduction to sub-saharan birds. Exotic species such as Western Grey Plantain-eater, Hammerkop, African Harrier-Hawk, Red-cheeked Cordon-bleu, Bearded Barbet, Shikra, and 3 species of Glossy Starling are often to be seen just around the gardens!

Heading out with our local guide and driver, we will visit some of the remnants of coastal forest at sites such as Abuko, where it is possible to find the secretive Western Bluebill, African Goshawk, African Paradise Flycatcher and both Green and Violet Turacos. African Pied Hornbill and Swallow-tailed Bee-eater can also be found – in fact we could see many species from colourful groups such as the kingfishers, rollers and bee-eaters, all of which are well represented here in The Gambia. Kingfishers range from the tiny African Pygmy, sitting quietly in the shade on the edge of a woodland path, to the fabulous Giant, often to be seen fishing from the wires above the famed Kotu Bridge.

We will bird around rice fields filled with waterbirds, explore mangroves by boat to look for Mouse-brown Sunbird and Goliath Heron, and work the open areas of savannah at places such as Tujerang to try and get to grips with some of the trickier small birds that really make or break a checklist. Senegal Batis, Klass's Cuckoo, Chestnut-crowned Sparrow-weaver, Little Weaver, Brurbu, Black

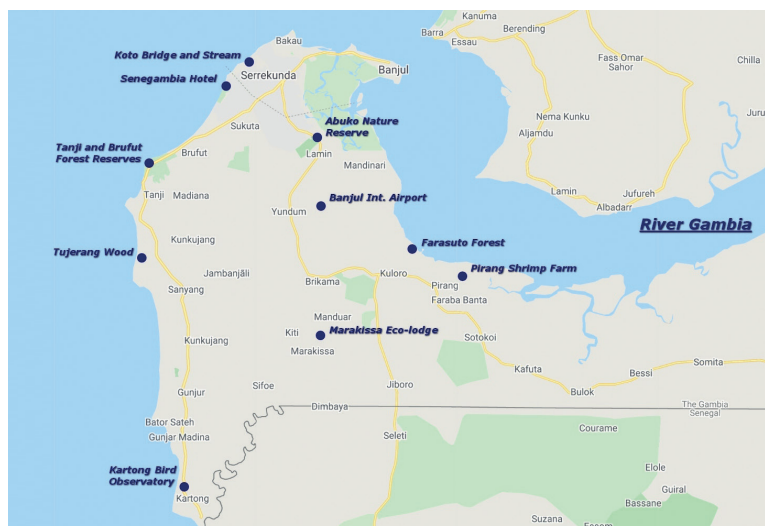
Scimitarbill and Quail-finch. Brufut woods is another well known birding spot, where mixed feeding flocks in the early morning can be overwhelming as all manner of birds come to the forest edge to feed. The highlights here though also include small drinking ponds where a variety of woodland birds come to seek water and allow brilliant viewing opportunities, and the day-roosting Long-tailed Nightjars beneath the bushes.

No trip to The Gambia should be complete without a visit to Kartong, down in the south of the country on the Senegal border. We spend a day with our friend Colin Cross who runs the observatory here, and explore the various lagoons and reedbeds which attract a fantastic variety of species. This includes some really desirable birds such as Greater Painted Snipe, Dwarf Bittern, African Pygmy Goose and sometimes even Northern Carmine Bee-eater. A wonderful end to a relaxed and bird-filled week of winter sunshine. Expect it to be hot, to walk up to three miles per day on sandy terrain, and to see over 220 species of birds.



**Key Species:** Western Bluebill, Swallow-tailed, Little & White-throated Bee-eaters, Abyssinian, Rufous-crowned, Broad-billed and Blue-bellied Rollers, Violet and Green Turaco's, Lesser and Greater Honeyguide, Yellowbill, Goliath Heron, Kelp Gull, Giant, African Pygmy, Grey-headed, Malachite, Woodland, Blue-breasted and Pied Kingfishers, African Green Pigeon, Hammerkop, Four-banded Sandgrouse, Painted Snipe, Dark Chanting, African and Gabar Goshawks, African Grey, Red-billed and African Pied Hornbills, Dwarf Bittern & White-backed Night-heron.

**What's Included:** Seven nights en suite accommodation at good tourist standard Senegambia Beach Hotel with air-conditioned rooms, return charter flights London/Banjul, all meals from dinner on day one to lunch on day seven (buffet style evening meals at hotel), local transport, services of leaders and boat trip at Kartong.





# PANAMA – CANOPY CAMP DARIEN & HARPY EAGLE!

21ST – 29TH NOVEMBER 2021 with Ashley Saunders & local guides

Tour Cost: £3199.00 Single Room Supplement: £200.00 Deposit: £1000.00.

Group size: 8 (min 5)



The Darién, as this entire eastern-most region of Panama is called, is perhaps the most diverse and species-rich region of Central America. Here, some of the last large, relatively untouched swathes of lowland rainforest wait to be explored! Long coveted by avid birders as an impenetrable haven for rare species, including the majestic Harpy Eagle, Panama's national bird, this region is now readily accessible by a new highway extending through the spine of Panama right into the heart of this bird-rich land. During this exciting adventure, we visit, en route to the Canopy Camp, the Bayano Reservoir, to look for such specialties as the starkly beautiful Black Antshrike, Rufous-winged Antwren and stunning Orange-crowned Oriole. We also visit the swampy meadows of Aruza and the riparian forests of Río Torti, the haunts of the magnificent Spot-breasted Woodpecker! We will enjoy great birding around El Real where we hope to get excellent views of Black-capped Donacobius, Yellow-hooded Blackbird and other species which share their range with northern Colombia.

We will spend our nights at the new Canopy Camp Darien, where we will enjoy comfortable, large, safari-style tent accommodations, each with full-size beds, private bathroom facilities with hot water and flush toilets, electricity, and fans. The protected forests of the Filo del Tallo Hydrological Reserve surround the camp. In the vicinity of the camp itself we will enjoy such regional specialties as Gray-cheeked Nunlet, Barred Puffbird and White-headed Wren! This tour offers other surprises, such as Spectacled Parrotlet, Golden-green Woodpecker, Double-banded Greytail, King Vulture and the spectacular Great Curassow! To cap off this ground-breaking tour, we will venture farther into Darién National Park, beyond the reach of paved roads, into the lowlands and foothills of the fabled Cerro Pirre, where Harpy Eagle, Red-and-green & Chestnut-fronted Macaws, Moustached Antwren, Great Jacamar

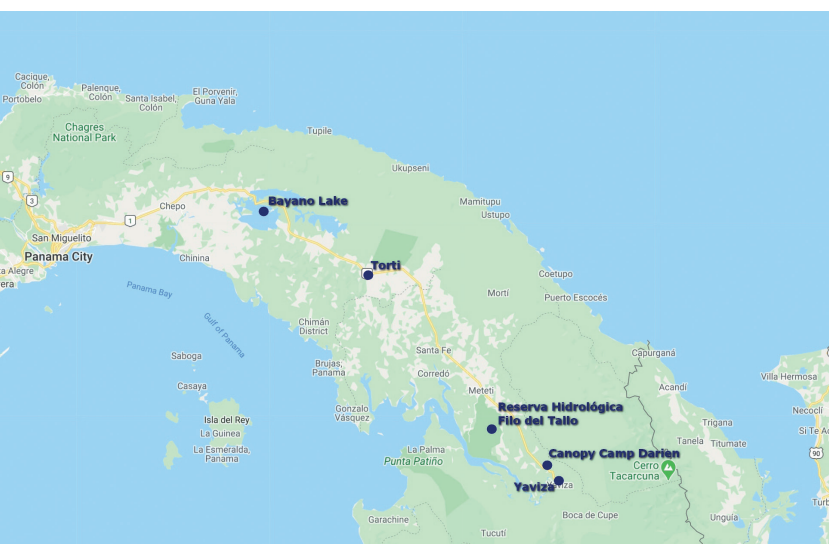
and many other exciting species can be found that we cannot see anywhere else in Central America. We will hopefully have the chance to visit an active Harpy Eagle nest site, and to see this majestic bird glaring down at us from the canopy would be a once in a lifetime experience indeed.

We take a boat trip to a remote village and meet the local people who bring their wares for sale, wearing colourful traditional dress. After being welcomed into their village we have the chance to moor on the river bank and try for Dusky-backed Jacamar, a species rarely seen by western birders. This is just a small taster of how exciting birding can be in Darien! Expect hot and very humid conditions, and birding on sometimes muddy trails requiring wellingtons (provided on site). You are sure though to have the birding adventure of a lifetime with around 220 species, 70 of which are likely to be in addition to the Central Panama tour. \*Please note this tour runs consecutively with our Central Panama itinerary and the two tours can be combined. In this event, you will receive a discount to take into account the flights. Enquire for details \*



**Key Species:** Harpy Eagle will be a key focus, and we will attempt to visit a nest site. In addition, specialties of Darien include Great Green Macaw, Sharpbill, Lemon-spectacled Tanager, Grey-cheeked Nunlet, White-headed Wren, Spectacled Parrotlet, Ruby-topaz Hummingbird, Dusky-backed Jacamar, White-eared Conebill, Barred Puffbird, Rufous-crested Coquette, Black-capped Donacobius, Black Oropendola, Red-throated Caracara, Chestnut-fronted Macaw, Capped Heron, Rufous Nightjar, Black-tailed Trogon, Blue Ground-dove, Moustached Antwren, Great Jacamar and Choco Syristes.

What's Included: Return flights UK/Panama City with KLM via Amsterdam (local airport options available), specified luggage allowance, one nights at Riande Airport Hotel, six nights at Canopy Camp ecolodge (singles limited), all meals from dinner day one to lunch day eight, ground transport, services of leaders and reserve entrance fees. Tips for guides and staff are not included, but essential. Allow \$100 per person.





# PANAMA – CANOPY TOWER & EL VALLE

28TH NOVEMBER – 7TH DECEMBER 2021 with Ashley Saunders & local guides

Tour Cost: £3399.00 No Single Room Supplement Deposit: £1000.00.

Group size: 8 (min 5)

We are pleased to be able to offer this exciting itinerary to tropical Panama and the world famous Canopy Tower, one of our flagship tours to the Neotropical region. Nestling between Columbia and Costa Rica, this narrow isthmus boasts a rich tropical avifauna of around nine hundred species. The transport links are very good due to the well developed Canal Zone, we spend relatively little time in the vehicle as most of the birding spots are close to hand. Our friends at the Canopy Tower and Lodge will guide us throughout our visit to some of the country's best birding areas, and there will also be time in the itinerary to visit the breathtaking lock systems at Miraflores on the Panama Canal. We visit at the end of the wet season, so we can expect some heavy downpours but an otherwise hot and dry climate, particularly on the Pacific coast. At this time, many migrants from North America are settled in for the winter and this adds a huge range of exciting warblers, vireos and waders to the trip list! Blackburnian, Chestnut-sided, Golden-winged and Bay-breasted Warblers can often be seen flitting about the canopy from the viewing gallery, where we start our mornings watching the sun rise over the rainforest and listening to the roar of distant Howler Monkey troops. A range of parrots and toucans and tricky canopy species such as Green Shrike-Vireo, can be seen at eye level from this remarkable viewpoint, as well as Three-toed Sloth and diminutive Geoffrey's Tamarind Monkey. Visiting the world-famous Pipeline Road, we'll be searching for elusive forest residents such as various ant-wrens, ant-vireos, ant-shrikes and ant-pittas which often follow the Army Ant swarms through the forest. Woodcreepers, trogons and motmots of various kinds can also be found and perhaps we will get a glimpse of the near-mythical Rufous-vented Ground-Cuckoo! Pipeline road is one of the most famous

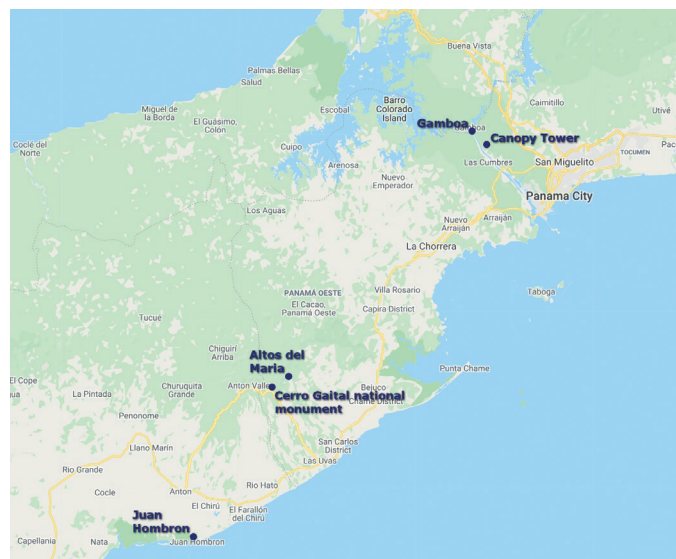
birding trails in the Americas, and certainly gives a feel of birding off the beaten track as we delve further into the rainforest by 4x4 trucks to try and find some of the rarer species occasionally glimpsed here.

Moving to Canopy Lodge, we enjoy a new set of birds around the caldera of an extinct volcano as we seek such gems as the enigmatic Snowcap and Black-crowned Antpitta among the mossy branches and bromeliads of the cloud forest. The Pacific lowlands bring a whole new habitat again as we visit coastal ricefields for a plethora of American shorebirds and herons as well as a chance of the rare Aplomado Falcon. Your tour leader will be Ashley Saunders, who has a wealth of experience guiding Central American birding tours having travelled extensively in Costa Rica, Panama, Honduras and the Caribbean. Days in the field will be long with some early starts, but we will build in down time as well for relaxation – essential 'hammock time'! We could see around 325 species and expect to walk 1-2 miles per day on good paths.

**Key Species:** Too numerous to list! Some of the rarer species

possible include Rufous-vented Ground-Cuckoo, Green Shrike-vireo, Sunbittern, Black-headed Antpitta, Orange-bellied Trogon, Snowcap, White-tipped Sicklebill, Rosy Thrush-tanager, Tody Motmot, Great Potoo, Jet Antbird, Emerald Toucanet, Great Tinamou, Spectacled & Mottled Owls, Smoky-brown Woodpecker, Dull-mantled Antbird, Blue Cotinga, Buff-rumped Warbler, Black-mandibled Toucan and Collared Forest-falcon.

**What's Included:** Return non direct economy flights London/ Panama City with KLM (local airport departure options available), specified luggage allowance, nine nights accommodation in eco-lodges [singles not en suite at Tower], all meals from in-flight day one to in-flight day ten, ground transport, Miraflores locks visit, services of leaders and reserve entrance fees. Tips for guides and staff are not included, but essential. Allow \$100 per person.





# SRI LANKA – THE GEM OF SOUTH ASIA

29TH NOVEMBER – 12TH DECEMBER 2021 with Paul Roberts & local guide  
Tour Cost: £4150.00 Single Room Supplement: £700.00 Deposit: £1000.00.  
Group size: 8 (min 5)



We are delighted to be offering an exciting itinerary to this fantastic country, surely one of the most pleasurable birding and wildlife destinations in the world, following a successful fact-finding trip in December 2018. For a relatively small island – 437km long from north to south and only 235km at its widest – Sri Lanka boasts a wealth of habitats from the mountains of the south-central region which rise to 2500m, through verdant undulating hills, to dense rainforest, open plains, lowland forests, coasts and countless wetlands. Not only is Sri Lanka remarkably biodiverse, its isolated geographical position has also resulted in a high degree of endemism in the fauna and flora. For the birdwatcher, the island has the attraction of upwards of 30 endemic species (plus many endemic subspecies) and we will endeavour to encounter most, if not all, on our visit, including one of the most sought-after, the Serendib Scops Owl, discovered as recently as 2001. Northern migrants such as Indian Pitta, Pied Thrush, Orange-headed Thrush and Kashmir Flycatcher are another attraction, joining a host of resident species, many of which can be hard to see elsewhere.

It's not just birds, of course, and we will hope to see a good variety of mammals including Asian Elephant, Purple-faced Langur, Stripe-necked Mongoose and maybe even Leopard and Sloth Bear. Add to this a fascinating history, a vibrant culture, tasty cuisine and welcoming people, and you have the recipe for a hugely rewarding birdwatching holiday. In fact the food itself deserves special mention – if you like curry then this is the place for you! The national dish of 'rice and curry' is a far cry from western versions of Indian cuisine. Largely vegetarian based, they are hugely flavoursome without being too spicy, and the fresh local ingredients and spices make all the difference. Zingy coconut sambals accompany

delicate fish curries and both beetroot and green beans are popular accompaniments, as well as Roti bread and crispy 'Hoppas' made from rice flour batter. Be warned though – you may eat curry three times per day, as it's so good!

On our tour we will visit all the key sites, including Sinharaja World Heritage Site, Bundala National Park, Yala National Park and Horton Plains. We will enjoy a number of game drives in some of the surprisingly expansive national parks, but will bird on foot as conditions dictate. One of the highlights is sure to be getting up close and personal to wild elephants, amid lagoons thronged with storks, herons and waders. The tour pace is mostly

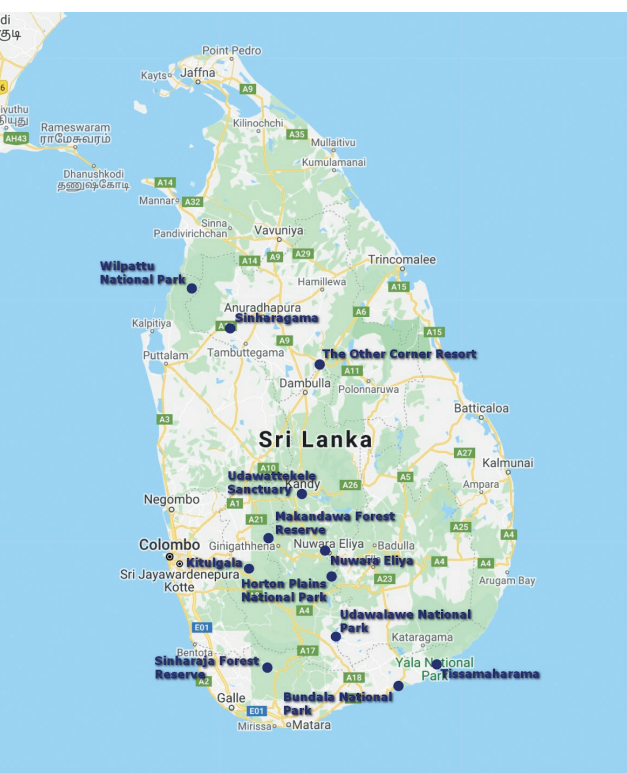
undemanding, but in common with most tropical birding destinations, early starts are the norm.

However, there

should usually be time to relax during the hotter middle of the day before a less intensive afternoon birding session. We will stay in a mixture of comfortable lodges and tourist hotels, all being en suite. We can expect to see around 230 species.

**Key Species:** Sri Lankan endemics range from the gorgeous Sri Lankan Hanging Parrot to the peculiar Sri Lankan Scimitar Babbler to a range of endemic barbets, the Serendib Scops Owl, near-endemic Ceylon Frogmouth and some exciting eastern migrants such as Blyth's Reed and Green Warblers, Orange-headed Thrush, Forest Wagtail and Lesser Sand Plover.

**What's included:** Return flights London/Colombo with specified luggage allowance, internal flight, all accommodation, all meals including in-flight meals on first and last days, drinking water, all excursions, services of leaders, minibuss transport, all reserve entrance fees and airport transfers.





## EXTREMADURA – WINTER IN THE SPANISH STEPPES

28TH JANUARY – 2ND FEBRUARY 2021 with Jason Moss

Tour Cost: £1099.00. No Single Room Supplement. Deposit: £250.00.

Group size: 7 (min 4)

Winter is a great time of year to get to grips with the speciality birds of Extremadura, when resident species form flocks in the rolling steppes and cork oak dehesa. A relaxing tour based at beautiful rural accommodation, this itinerary offers the perfect combination for an overseas birding trip among some superb scenery. We are based throughout at the charming Vina las Torres, nestled among low wooded hills near the town of Trujillo. From here, we explore the vast grassy plains towards Monfrague National Park, where raptors abound and we enjoy eye level views of the Griffon Vultures! In the south of the region, ricefields host huge flocks of bugling Common Cranes, foraging on the cork oak acorns before their migration north. This is also a superb time of year to see the iconic Black-winged Kite, which can be approachable and much easier to find than in the nesting season. You can expect to see upwards of 140 species and find the walking easy with most of the birding from tracks and roads.

**Key Species:** Great Bustard, Little Bustard, Pin-tailed Sandgrouse, Black-bellied Sandgrouse, Spanish Imperial Eagle, Black-winged Kite, Purple Swamp-Hen, Black Vulture, Azure-winged Magpie, White-spotted Bluethroat, Alpine Accentor, Thekla Lark, Calandra Lark and large flocks of Common Cranes.

**What's Included:** Four nights en suite accommodation of a good standard at Vin alas Torres, return flights London/Madrid with budget airline, specified luggage allowance, all meals from lunch on day one to lunch on day five, minibus transport on tour, services of leader and wine with dinners.



## BULGARIA & ROMANIA – BLACK SEA WINTER BIRDING

1ST – 5TH FEBRUARY 2021 with Paul Roberts & Dimitar Georgiev

Tour Cost: £1099.00 Single Room Supplement: £60.00 Deposit: £250.00.

Group size: 6 (min 4)

This short winter break focuses on one of the world's most attractive wildfowl species - the Red-breasted Goose. We hope to see hundreds of these much sought-after birds on the crop-fields and coastal lagoons of eastern Bulgaria and Romania, and with a little luck, we may even see thousands. The dawn fly-out of these geese can be truly spectacular! We will also sift through the flocks of Greater White-fronted Geese in the hope of locating the globally threatened Lesser White-fronted Goose, which occurs here in small numbers. A rich supporting cast of other geese and ducks, birds of prey also occur, and combine with seven of Europe's woodpeckers and some excellent roosts of Long-eared Owls to make this an exciting new tour. Centred around the Romanian town of Constantia, the itinerary must be as flexible as possible to take into accounts the movements of the geese. This could see us travelling south into Bulgaria as far as Bourgas, and visiting some of that countries extensive wetlands around Durankulak. The terrain is mostly easy, though of course it can be cold and perhaps muddy in places. Our friends at Neophron Tours will provide the ground arrangements, transport and local guide for this tour.

**Key Species:** Red-breasted Goose, Rough-legged Buzzard, Saker, Greater Spotted Eagle, Smew, Pygmy Cormorant, Grey-headed, Black and Syrian Woodpeckers, White-tailed Eagle, Long-legged Buzzard, Long-eared Owl and Lesser White-fronted Goose.

**What's Included:** Four nights en suite accommodation at a variety of guest houses, return flights London/Constantia or Bourgas with budget airline, specified luggage allowance, all meals from dinner on day one to breakfast on day five, minibus transport on tour, services of leaders and any reserve entrance fees.





## THE PYRENEES – WALLCREEPER & DUPONT'S LARK

26TH FEBRUARY – 3RD MARCH 2021 with Marcus Nash & Carles Oliver

4TH – 9TH MARCH 2021 with Jason Moss and Carles Oliver

Tour Cost: £1299.00 Single Room Supplement: £50.00 Deposit: £250.00.

Group size: 7 (min 4)



A late winter short break designed to connect with two key target birds at the optimum time of year, which offers a whole lot more besides! We have a well-planned itinerary to get the most of our time in the mountains and plains of Catalonia and Aragon. Sites we will visit include the Llobregat Delta, Boumort reserve and various sites around Lleida, the Aragonese Pyrenees, the Los Monegros Steppes and of course the SEO reserve at El Planaron. Expect the weather to be extremely variable, from cold with lying snow in the mountains to warm on the plains. There are several long drives on this tour but the walking is mostly easy with most birding from roads/tracks, though with one or two steep walks on narrow, stony paths. Over 120 species are possible.

**Key Species:** Wallcreeper, Dupont's Lark, Moustached Warbler, Alpine Chough, Snow Finch, Citril Finch, Lammergeier, Black Vulture, Lesser Short-toed Lark, Black-bellied and Pin-tailed Sandgrouse, Great and Little Bustard, Eurasian Griffon and Egyptian Vultures, Black Wheatear, Alpine Accentor, Thekla Lark, Spectacled Warbler, Golden and Bonelli's Eagles, Lesser Kestrel, Purple Swamp-Hen, Black Woodpecker, Rock Bunting, Blue Rock Thrush and migrating Common Crane flocks.

**What's Included:** Five nights en suite accommodation at La Guspira near Balaguer, Casa Oliban near Arbanies and Rincon del Cierzo in Lecera. Return flights London Gatwick to Barcelona on budget airline, specified luggage allowance, all meals from dinner on day one to breakfast on day six, transport and services of leaders.

## ESTONIA – STELLER'S EIDERS & TAIGA FORESTS

11TH – 16TH MARCH 2021 with Jason Moss and Local guide

Tour Cost: £1599.00 Single Room Supplement: £150.00 Deposit: £300.00.

Group size: 6 (min 5)



Few places in Europe can match Estonia's amazing birdlife at almost any time of year. The most important wintering area for Steller's Eider, Europe's most endangered sea duck, is off the coast of the country's biggest island, Saaremaa. These eye-catching birds arrive in December and can congregate in flocks of 300-400 birds here at this time of year. Our trip is timed to see the birds before they depart, without visiting during the coldest (and shortest!) months of the year. Spring in the Estonian Taiga forests begins in late March when woodpeckers start their drumming and the swamps and bogs resound with displaying Black Grouses at sunrise. We will make dawn and dusk visits to the forest, searching for its elusive specialists! Accommodation has been carefully selected by our ground agent and may well exceed expectations, with superb food [especially the lunches!] to boot. You can expect to walk around 1-2 miles per day on this tour, but wrap up warm - it could be as cold as -15C with snow on the ground. You can expect to see approximately 80 species.

**Key Species:** Steller's Eider, Ural, Northern Hawk & Eurasian Pygmy Owls, White-backed, Three-toed, Grey-headed, & Black Woodpeckers, Nutcracker, Black Grouse, Capercaillie, Goshawk, Rough-legged Buzzard, White-tailed Eagle, Taiga & Tundra Bean Geese, Great Grey Shrike, Waxwing, Smew, Long-tailed Duck, Velvet Scoter, Northern Bullfinch, Northern Long-tailed Tit, Common Crane, Hawfinch and Hazel Grouse.

**What's Included:** Return flights London/Tallinn with budget airline, specified luggage allowance, five night's accommodation in very comfortable traditional hotels with en suite rooms, meals from dinner on day one to breakfast on day six, ground transport, ferry crossing, services of leaders and reserve entrance fees.



## SOUTHERN CYPRUS –

### MIGRANTS & ENDEMICS OF APHRODITE'S ISLE

21ST – 28TH MARCH 2021 with Jason Moss

31ST MARCH – 7TH APRIL 2021 with Jason Moss

Tour Cost: £1599.00 Single Room Supplement: £100.00 Deposit: £400.00.

Group size: 7 (min 4)

Cyprus has long been recognized as an outstanding place to see migrants as they move through the Eastern Mediterranean basin, and our tours in recent years have realised all its potential and more, as we have been lucky to unearth some incredible rarities including Hooded Wheatear, Blyth's Pipit, Blue-cheeked Bee-eater, Desert Wheatear, Greater Sandplover and the first Siberian White Wagtail for the Western Palearctic. At Oriole we are proud of our track record at unearthing the unexpected! Our hotel is at the edge of the beautiful Dhiarizos Valley, which runs north towards the foothills of the Troodos Mountains. Just a few kilometers along the motorway is the tourist destination of Paphos, where a headland juts out into the Mediterranean and provides a sparsely vegetated refuge for tired migrants arriving from Africa – regular early morning checks, especially after showers, can produce spectacular birding. Heading east from our base, we find wetlands at Akrotiri and Larnaca brimming with waders, herons and reedbed species, and to the north-west, we know some great spots to find migrants massing along the coast prior to their departure towards Turkey. The terrain is mostly easy with short walks and you can expect to see approximately 150 species.

**Key Species:** Cyprus Warbler, Cyprus Pied Wheatear, European Roller, Great-spotted Cuckoo, Black Francolin, Ruppell's, Eastern Orphee, Eastern Subalpine and Spectacled Warblers, Lesser Grey and Masked Shrikes, Red-throated Pipit, Little Crane, Little Bittern, Squacco Heron, Long-legged Buzzard, Bonelli's Eagle, Pallid Harrier and Booted Eagle.

**What's Included:** Return flights London to Paphos/Larnaca with budget airline, specified luggage allowance, seven night's accommodation in very comfortable traditional hotel with en suite rooms, meals from dinner on day one to breakfast on day eight, ground transport, services of leader and reserve entrance fees.



### EXTREMADURA – LAND OF THE CONQUISTADORS

1ST – 7TH APRIL 2021 with Marcus Nash

Tour Cost: £1499.00 Single Room Supplement: £175.00 Deposit: £350.00.

Group size: 7 (min 4)

Extremadura is the secret wilderness of Spain, and set in the heart of this diverse country we will find huge rolling expanses of prime steppe, miles of cork oak woodland and rugged mountain scenery, brought alive by some of the most spectacular birds in Europe. With traditional methods of agriculture and a distinct lack of tourism pressure, birdlife thrives in this beautiful place, and from our base near the historic town of Trujillo, we will see why this area is so good as both an introduction to European birding, and an example of Iberia's special birds. Expect some long days in the field and 3-4 hour transfers, walking up to one mile per day with one steep climb to the Castillo de Monfragüe (optional). You can expect to see up to 150 species of birds with raptors featuring highly, along with bustards and sandgrouse on the rolling plains. We visit such hotspots as Monfragüe National Park, the superb reservoirs at Alcollarin and Moheda Alta in the south and the flowering steppes of Santa Marta. A must-visit destination for any birder!

**Key Species:** Great Bustard, Little Bustard, Pin-tailed & Black-bellied Sandgrouse, Spanish Imperial Eagle, Black-shouldered Kite, Purple Swamp-Hen, Black Vulture, Azure-winged Magpie, Thekla Lark, Calandra Lark, Lesser Kestrel, Booted, Bonelli's, Golden & Short-toed Eagles, Rock Sparrow, Black Wheatear, Black-eared Wheatear, Montagu's Harrier, Great Spotted Cuckoo, Black Stork, Egyptian Vulture and Roller.

**What's Included:** Six nights en suite accommodation of good standard, return flights London/Madrid with budget airline, specified luggage allowance, all meals from lunch on day one to lunch on day seven, minibus transport on tour, services of leader and wine with dinners.





# HUNGARY – SPRING INTO EASTERN EUROPE

18TH – 24TH APRIL 2021 with Ashley Saunders & Local Guide

Tour Cost: £1650.00 Single Room Supplement: £120.00 Deposit: £250.00.

Group size: 7 (min 5)



Hungary is the birding gem of Eastern Europe, and after a successful return there in 2019, we are pleased to offer a spring visit again in our 2020 programme. For the first three nights, we are based in the beautiful wooded valleys and limestone karst habitats in the Bukk Hills. We then transfer south of the capital, where miles and miles of open skies, quiet villages, steppes and fishponds are some of the landscape features of the Kiskunság – a bird-rich steppe region with bustards and the iconic Saker Falcon. Our tour will encompass all of the richly diverse habitats that give this landlocked country such an amazing wealth of breeding birds. Nine European woodpeckers are possible and several scarce European breeding birds such as have strong populations. Many of the farmland birds that are now under threat in Britain are still quite common here, thriving in a landscape which time forgot. We expect to walk a maximum of 3 or 4 miles a day over mostly easy terrain. You can expect to see 150–170 species.



**Key Species:** Lesser Grey Shrike, Eastern Imperial Eagle, Saker, Collared Flycatcher, Great Bustard, Syrian, Black, Middle-spotted, Grey-headed and White-backed Woodpeckers, Lesser Spotted Eagle, Black Stork, Eagle Owl, White-winged Black Tern, Pygmy Cormorant, Ferruginous Duck, Little Bittern, Golden Oriole, Moustached Warbler, Marsh Sandpiper and Red-footed Falcon.

**What's Included:** Return flights London/Budapest on budget airline, specified luggage allowance, six night's accommodation in traditional hotels, meals from dinner on day one to lunch on final day, transport in Hungary, services of leaders and reserve entrance fees.

# MALLORCA – SPRING IN THE BALEARICS

24TH APRIL – 1ST MAY 2021 with Jason Moss

Tour Cost: £1750.00 Single Room Supplement: £300.00 Deposit: £500.00.

Group size: 7 (min 4)



At Oriole Birding, we take pride in the fact that our Mallorca birding holidays have always been a bit different from the rest, and we continue to pursue this ethos. Our new take on our old spring migration holiday is based from a wonderful Agrotourism hotel on a working ecological estate in the north of the island. Aside from the accommodation being absolutely fabulous, the grounds in which we will be staying are excellent for birding, meaning that the birding starts right on our doorstep, be it on a pre-breakfast wander or a walk before dinner! Our holiday offers a relaxed pace, as we spend our days visiting some of the best birding sites on the island and our evenings enjoying a beer or glass of wine over dinner and checklist, all this to the sound of calling Stone Curlews and European Scops Owl around our gardens! An excellent destination to cut your European birding teeth, the island offers unrivalled opportunities for studying migrant birds, but also has its own list of specialities. Very special features of this tour are the visits we make to the islands of Cabrera and Dragonera; both premier sights in Spain for observing migration. The terrain is mostly easy and you can expect to walk approximately five kilometres per day. You can expect to see approximately 120 species.



**Key Species:** Marbled Duck, Scopoli's Shearwater, Balearic Shearwater, Greater Flamingo, Griffon Vulture, Black Vulture, Booted Eagle, Bonelli's Eagle, Honey Buzzard, Eleonora's Falcon, Red-Knobbed Coot, Western Swamphen, Stone Curlew, Audouin's Gull, Black Tern, Turtle Dove, Scops Owl, Pallid Swift, Thekla Lark, Bluethroat, Moltoni's Warbler, Balearic Warbler, Moustached Warbler, Balearic Flycatcher, Balearic Woodchat Shrike and Golden Oriole.

**What's Included:** Return flights from UK/Palma with budget airline, specified luggage allowance, seven nights accommodation including all meals, packed lunches, minibuss transport, services of guides and reserve entrance fees.



## LESVOS – JEWEL OF THE AEGEAN

1ST – 8TH MAY 2021 with Nick Parsons and Neil Glenn

Tour Cost: £1599.00 Single Room Supplement: £150.00 Deposit: £350.00.

Group size: 10 (min 5)

The island of Lesvos has gained a reputation as one of the must visit birding destinations in Europe. The combination of first-class migration and several hard-to-find and range-restricted species adds up to ensure you experience a holiday to remember. The islands geographical location and rich variety of habitats make it an important stopping place for migrants from both east and west. Our base will be the village of Kalloni, on the southern coast- an area ideally situated for exploring the whole island and which also offers birds right on our doorstep. We do not set a fixed itinerary, but carefully watch weather conditions to decide where will best be visited on a daily basis. We do however expect to visit all the classic locations such as Potamia and Napi Valleys, Molivos, Kalloni Salt pans, Achladeri forest, Sigri and Ipsilou - and possibly a few that are not mentioned! Walking is easy with up to three miles per day and you can expect to see in excess of 150 species on this wonderful relaxed spring birding itinerary.

**Key Species:** Krupers Nuthatch, Cinereous Bunting, Eleonora's Falcon, Yelkouan and Scopoli's Shearwaters, Rock Sparrow, Levant Sparrowhawk, Masked Shrike, Little Crake, Collared Flycatcher, Ruppell's Warbler, Olive Tree Warbler, Eastern Olivaceous Warbler, Rufous Bush Robin, Black-headed Bunting and a wide variety of migrants!

**What's Included:** Return flights London/Mytilini on charter airline, specified luggage allowance, seven night's accommodation in 3 star graded hotel, meals from dinner on day one to breakfast on final day, transport in Lesvos, services of leader.



## NORTHERN GREECE – LAKE KERKINI IN SPRING

4TH – 10TH MAY 2021 with Paul Roberts

Tour Cost: £1399.00 Single Room Supplement: £100.00 Deposit: £350.00.

Group size: 7 (min 5)

Beautiful Lake Kerkini lies in the north of Greece, near the Bulgarian border, and has emerged as one of Europe's most up and coming birding destinations. We have been visiting since well before then, of course, in keeping with the Oriole tradition of pioneering new destinations! The lake and the surrounding wetlands are bordered by the Belles Mountains to the north and the Marvovouni Mountains to the south, our traditional hotel serves excellent fresh, local cuisine and we enjoy a boat trip on the lake for close up views of the wide range of species present. As well as fantastic birding around the lake, the surrounding forested hills are excellent for raptors, woodpeckers and passerines too and we visit the wetlands around the bay of Thessaloniki for some amazing coastal birding too. The terrain is mostly easy with little walking, and you can expect to see approximately 170 species at a relaxed pace. There is little travelling involved, and the lake is only a one hour transfer from Thessaloniki – the perfect European birding break, which has fast become a favourite of our regular clients!

**Key Species:** Masked, Red-backed and Lesser Grey Shrike, Grey-headed, Black, Middle Spotted, Lesser Spotted & Syrian Woodpeckers, Eastern Olivaceous, Olive Tree, Eastern Subalpine, Eastern Orphean and Great Reed Warblers, Rock Partridge, Dalmatian Pelican, Collared Pratincole, Black-headed Bunting, Sombre Tit, Western Rock Nuthatch, Blue Rock Thrush, Rock Sparrow, Red-footed Falcon, Lesser Spotted Eagle, Broad-billed, Terek & Marsh Sandpipers and Temminck's Stint.

**What's Included:** Return flights London/Thessaloniki on budget airline, specified luggage allowance, six night's accommodation in traditional hotel, meals from dinner on day one to breakfast on final day, transport in Greece, boat trip, services of leaders and reserve entrance fees.





## BULGARIA – BRILLIANT BALKAN BIRDING

6TH – 15TH MAY 2021 with Steve Cale & Dimitar Georgiev

Tour Cost: £1750.00 Single Room Supplement: £125.00 Deposit: £350.00.

Group size: 10 (min 5)



Bulgaria is one of Europe's premier birding destinations, and with an eastern flavour to its avifauna, includes some really exciting species in its repertoire. The country is dotted with fishpond systems and many small and bigger rivers which makes for excellent breeding habitat for many water birds and reed bed passerines. Many regions of Bulgaria are still rather under developed with farmland that still hosts good numbers of birds. The weather at this time of year is invariably warm, whilst water levels are low, making for excellent shorebird watching conditions. Our carefully planned itinerary will take you to the many wonderful reserves in this fascinating and beautiful nation. Walks are mostly over easy terrain with short walks, though there are one or two slightly steeper climbs but should not pose any problem with anything other than the most basic level of fitness. You can expect to see between 175 – 200 species, one of the most diverse of any of our European destinations, and we use the expert local knowledge of our friends at Neophron Tours to maximise the birding potential.

**Key Species:** Semi-collared Flycatcher, Pied Wheatear, Long-legged Buzzard, Lesser Grey Shrike, Alpine Swift, Black Stork, Honey Buzzard, Corncrake, Black & Grey-headed Woodpeckers, Nutcracker, Ortolan Bunting, Eastern Imperial Eagle, Western Rock Nuthatch, Scop's Owl, Sombre Tit, Olive Tree Warbler, Levant Sparrowhawk, Masked Shrike, Isabelline Wheatear, Ferruginous Duck, Pygmy Cormorant, Dalmatian Pelican, Barred & Icterine Warblers and Red-breasted Flycatcher.

**What's Included:** Return flights London/Sofia on budget airline, specified luggage allowance, nine night's accommodation in 3 star equivalent hotels, meals from dinner on day one to breakfast on final day, transport in Bulgaria, services of leaders.

## BELARUS – EUROPE'S EASTERN BIRDING FRONTIER

17TH – 24TH MAY 2021 with Neil Glenn and local guides

Tour Cost: £2299.00 Single Room Supplement: £150.00 Deposit: £750.00.

Group size: 8 (min 4)



Belarus has now come to the fore on the birding radar, as relaxation of visa requirements mean British nationals can visit for up to thirty days as a tourist without one. This makes travelling to the country a lot easier, and as a result, more ground operations and better hotel options have become available on the key birding routes. For many, Azure Tit is the species sitting top of the want's list, an enigmatic bird often gazed at in the field guide but seldom clapped eyes on. Belarus is the place to see it, but also, has the largest accessible populations of Aquatic Warbler too – not to be missed. Throw in a landscape that time forgot, with huge pristine forests, and you have a tour with a difference that we are sure you will love! Join Neil Glenn on our inaugural trip put together carefully with our eastern European ground agent Gerard Gorman. The tour takes in some of the best birding areas in the country as we visit wetlands along the River Prypiat at Turau, the Bielaje fishponds, the Sporauski Reserve, and old mixed forests in the Pripiatsky National Park, the Vyhanshchanski Reserve, and finally at the legendary Bielaviezsskaja Pušca. The birding between these sites is great, too! Key birds we will search for include several decidedly 'eastern' specialties, but we will also visit a Great Snipe lek on one evening too. We can expect over 150 species. We will be assisted throughout by knowledgeable local guides.

**Key Species:** Azure Tit, Aquatic Warbler, Great Snipe, Terek Sandpiper, Marsh Sandpiper, White-backed Woodpecker, Thrush Nightingale, Citrine Wagtail, River Warbler, Lesser Spotted Eagle, Hazel Grouse, Three-toed Woodpecker, Great Grey Owl, Tengmalm's Owl, Pygmy Owl, Red-breasted Flycatcher, River Warbler, Bluethroat, Collared Flycatcher, Common Rosefinch, European Bison, Elk, Wild Boar and Beaver.

**What's Included:** Return flights London/Minsk, specified luggage allowance, seven nights accommodation, all meals from dinner on day one to breakfast on day eight, ground transport, services of leaders, reserve/park entrance fees.



# ROMANIA – THE DANUBE DELTA & DOBRUGEA PLAIN

25TH MAY – 1ST JUNE 2021 with Marcus Nash & local guide

Tour Cost: £2195.00 Single Room Supplement: £150.00 Deposit: £350.00.

Group size: 12 (min 8)

This spectacular tour includes a voyage through Europe's largest delta with some very special birds. For part of the tour we are based on a private houseboat, which offers us total flexibility and super food and service. This is the only way to explore the real heart of this superb wetland wilderness. The numbers of birds involved are truly amazing and anyone who enjoys the pure spectacle of watching wildlife will be sure to enjoy this holiday. We'll have our own crew and chef, a motorboat and rowing boats for excursions and twin and single cabins. We'll also explore the salt-lakes, dry steppes and farmlands, lagoons, marshes and woodlands of Dobrogea, the open country that borders the Black Sea, from our land-based hotel in the port town of Tulcea. You can expect to see approximately 150 species and the terrain is very easy with little walking. NB The boat is extremely comfortable, but double cabins are relatively small when accommodating two people plus luggage.

**Key Species:** Dalmatian Pelican, Pygmy Cormorant, Ferruginous Duck, Levant Sparrowhawk, Rose-coloured Starling, European Roller, Black-headed Bunting, Pied & Isabelline Wheatears, Penduline Tit, Calandra Lark, Collared Pratincole, Paddyfield Warbler, Ruddy Shelduck, Whiskered Tern, Stone Curlew, Long-legged Buzzard, Red-footed Falcon, White-tailed, Lesser Spotted, Short-toed & Booted Eagles, Sombre Tit, Pallas's Gull, Rufous-tailed Rock Thrush, Thrush Nightingale, Great Reed, Savi's and Eastern Olivaceous Warbler and late passage shorebirds such as Broad-billed and Marsh Sandpipers.

**What's Included:** Return flights London/Bucharest, specified luggage allowance, three nights en suite accommodation in good standard hotel and four nights on board Ibis Houseboat, all meals from dinner on day one to breakfast on day eight, ground transport, services of leaders and reserve entrance fees.



# POLAND – PRISTINE MARSHES AND PRIMEVAL FORESTS

29TH MAY – 5TH JUNE 2021 with Simon Ginnaw and local guides

Tour Cost: £1799.00 Single Room Supplement: £100.00 Deposit: £300.00.

Group size: 12 (min 8)

Primeval forests, extensive marshlands, idyllic wild flower meadows & quiet backwaters – not the first image that springs to mind when you think of Poland, but you can expect to encounter all of these habitats on our comprehensive and fascinating tour to one of Europe's premier birding locations. Our tour takes us from the pristine marshes at Biebrza to the fairytale like forest at Bialowieza. This is the largest remaining remnant of the primeval forest that once covered most of Europe and is a wonderful place to relax amongst a wealth of wildlife. Some of the regions most sought after birds reside here plus a good selection of passage shorebirds is usually present and a typical avifauna of Eastern European breeding birds. Additionally, a fine selection of other wildlife is present which might include the mighty European Bison, Pine Marten, Red Squirrel, Elk, Red and Roe Deer, Raccoon Dog and with extreme good fortune Wolf or Eurasian Lynx. Carpets of wildflowers and meandering rivers stretch as far as the eye can see - well over the border into Belarus, providing a wonderfully serene backdrop for your stay in these special areas. The way of life is a reminder of a gentler time, and traditional farming methods that have done so much to enhance the area for nature are still evident in some places. Traditional manor house accommodations in great locations and hearty local dishes all add up to a fantastic introduction to birding in Eastern Europe. Your tour leader will be Simon Ginnaw, assisted by local guides, and you can expect to see around 150 species.

**Key Species:** All nine European Woodpeckers plus Wryneck; Common Rosefinch, Icterine Warbler, Thrush Nightingale, Hazel Grouse, Collared & Red-breasted Flycatchers, Barred Warbler, Red-backed Shrike, Citrine Wagtail, Greater Spotted Eagle, Nutcracker, Pygmy Owl, Great Snipe, Bluethroat, Black Stork, Marsh Warbler, Golden Oriole, Aquatic Warbler, Beaver, European Bison, Elk.

**What's Included:** Return flights London/Warsaw, 20KG luggage allowance, priority boarding and allocated seats, seven nights en suite accommodation, all meals from dinner on day one to lunch on day nine, ground transport, services of leaders, drinking water, tea & coffee and reserve/park entrance fees.





## FINLAND – THE OWLS TOUR

2ND – 7TH JUNE 2021 with Andrew Kinghorn & local guide

Tour Cost: £2299.00 Single Room Supplement: £200.00 Deposit: £450.00.

Group size: 10 (min 5)



This exciting Finland tour is designed to provide a superb opportunity to get to grips with some of Europe's most wanted birds among some pristine habitats. From the magnificent Great Grey Owls that inhabit the deep and enchanting taiga forests to the enigmatic Siberian Jays the excitement begins at dawn and ends at dusk. There is literally so much to see that the birding is intense and long hours are spent in the field - this is the only way to get the most out of such a bird rich destination. Whilst every spring is different, our tour is timed so that owls and woodpeckers should still have young at the nest, and consequently, we have a realistic chance of encountering most of the species mentioned. The migrant passerines should also be well into breeding routines and still singing which makes them so much easier to find. Walks are short and much of the birding is done from the roadside or from tower hides.



**Key species:** Great Grey, Ural, Pygmy, Tengmalms & Hawk Owls, Terek Sandpiper, Citrine Wagtail, Three-toed and Black Woodpeckers, Hazel Grouse, Thrush Nightingale, Blyth's Reed Warbler, Red-flanked Bluetail, Little & Rustic Buntings, Arctic & Greenish Warblers, Siberian Tit, Siberian Jay, Pine Grosbeak & Parrot Crossbill

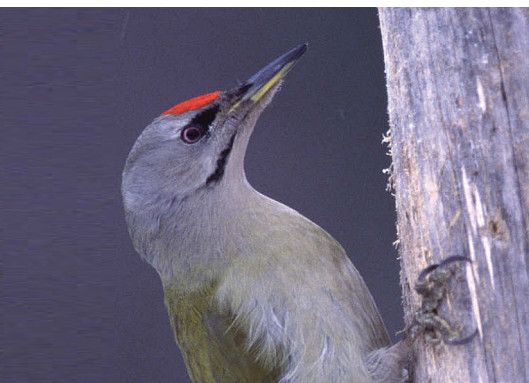
**What's Included:** Return flights London/Helsinki/Ivalo with Finnair and specified luggage allowance, en suite accommodation for five nights in good standard hotels, meals from dinner on day one to breakfast on day six, ground transport in Finland, services of leaders.

## ESTONIA – EARLY SUMMER IN THE BALTIC

15TH – 22ND JUNE 2021 with Jason Moss & local guide

Tour Cost: £1899.00 Single Room Supplement: £150.00 Deposit: £350.00.

Group size: 10 (min 5)



The Baltic state of Estonia offers some of the most extraordinary birding opportunities in eastern Europe. The hotels we use are carefully chosen, small and traditional with excellent home cooked food offering a real taste of what the country has to offer. This early summer itinerary sees us making a circuit of the best birding areas, from the taiga forests and their owls, woodpeckers, Red-breasted Flycatchers and Greenish Warblers, to the vast bogs and marshes where Great Snipe display. Like much of Eastern Europe, farming practices are less intensive here and populations of breeding birds far greater than we are used to 'back home'. Many birding tours visit the region in early to mid May, to see the Arctic seaduck and diver migration. However, we have opted for a different tour which instead focusses on the breeding species, which will all be back on territory and in song. In May, many migrant species have not yet arrived (Booted Warbler for example), weather can be more variable and while you may witness seabird passage, it is in any case not guaranteed! We think June is an excellent option - for sampling the breeding birds of the Baltic, this takes some beating.



**Key Species:** Great Snipe (may still be displaying but not guaranteed), Ural Owl, White-backed & Three-toed Woodpeckers, Citrine Wagtail, Blyth's Reed, Greenish, Barred, Icterine, Marsh, River & Savi's Warblers, Penduline Tit, Lesser Spotted Eagle, European Honey Buzzard, Common Crane, Capercaillie, Black Grouse, Hazel Grouse, Nutcracker, Red-backed Shrike, Smew, White-tailed Eagle, Thrush Nightingale, Black Tern & Golden Oriole.

**What's Included:** Return flights London/Tallinn with budget airline, specified luggage allowance, seven night's accommodation in traditional hotels, meals from dinner on day one to lunch on final day, transport in Estonia, services of leaders and guided tour of Tallinn old town.



# MADEIRA – IN SEARCH OF EUROPE'S RAREST SEABIRDS

5TH – 9TH JULY 2021 with Dr Robert Flood

Tour Cost: £1550.00 Single Room Supplement: £100.00 Deposit: £300.00.

Group size: 9 (min 6)

The subtropical island of Madeira is one of Europe's farthest outposts, in the Atlantic Ocean one thousand kilometres south-west of Portugal, situated between the Azores to the north and the Canary Islands to the south. Madeira boasts the largest surviving area of laurel cloud forest on the planet. Madeira supports fewer than fifty species of breeding birds, but the small number of species is compensated for easily by their fascinating nature and often-extreme rarity. Birding the land habitats on Madeira is a wonderful experience, but the island's open-ocean position means that the greatest prizes are awarded to those who look seawards. Put simply, Madeira's collection of seabirds is unique. The principle aim of our tour is to search for the much wanted selection of seabirds that are present in the region and to achieve this; we will take a selection of offshore pelagic trips and chum in known areas for the optimum results. This should afford us the opportunity to get up close and personal with these enigmatic species. The land based walks are easy and on good trails though the Zino's petrel trip at night requires a good head for heights. You can expect to see approximately 40 species.

**Key Species:** Zino's Petrel, Fea's Petrel, Bulwer's Petrel, White-faced Storm-petrel, Madeiran Storm-petrel, Wilson's Storm-petrel, European Storm-petrel, Cory's Shearwater, Macaronesian Shearwater, Trocaz Pigeon, Madeira Firecrest, Plain Swift, Berthelot's Pipit, Canary, Rock Sparrow, Yellow-legged Gull, Spectacled Warbler and Spanish Sparrow.

**What's Included:** Return flights UK/Funchal with budget airline, specified luggage allowance, four nights en suite accommodation at Dom Pedro Baía Hotel, meals as outlined per the itinerary, ground transport in Madeira, three pelagic boat trips and land based excursions, service of leaders and reserve entrance fees.



## MALLORCA – BALEARIC BIRDING IN AUTUMN

18TH – 25TH SEPTEMBER 2021 with Jason Moss

Tour Cost: £1750.00 Single Room Supplement: £300.00 Deposit: £500.00.

Group size: 7 (min 4)

At Oriole Birding, we take pride in the fact that our Mallorca birding holidays have always been a bit different from the rest, and we continue to pursue this ethos. Our new autumn migration holiday is based from a wonderful Agrotourism hotel on a working ecological estate in the north of the island. Aside from the accommodation being absolutely fabulous, the grounds in which we will be staying are excellent for birding, meaning that the birding starts right on our doorstep, be it on a pre-breakfast wander or a walk after dinner! Being based at such a well-appointed site surrounded by Mallorcan countryside and mountains, we can really take advantage of the birding opportunities which abound here. Our holiday offers a relaxed pace, excellent birding and a true taste of what this tried and tested birding destination has to offer during the less well-watched peak of autumn migration. We spend our days visiting some of the best birding sites on the island and our evenings enjoying a beer or glass of wine over dinner and checklist, all this to the sound of calling Stone Curlews and European Scops Owl around our gardens! An excellent destination to cut your European birding teeth, the island offers unrivalled opportunities for studying migrant birds, but also has its own list of specialities such as Eleonora's Falcon, a real highlight on this tour. Very special features of this holiday are the visits we make to the islands of Cabrera and Dragonera; both premier sights in Spain for observing migration. We will spend a night on the beautiful Cabrera, allowing us to really soak up the atmosphere of this beautiful archipelago, while also putting us in the best position for observing migration. Raptors including Honey Buzzards can pass in large numbers at this time of year, funnelling south to this remote set of islands, while the islands track record for attracting rarities is unparalleled anywhere else in Spain. The terrain is mostly easy and you can expect to walk approximately five kilometres per day. You can expect to see approximately 120 species.



**Key Species:** Marbled Duck, Scopoli's Shearwater, Balearic Shearwater, Greater Flamingo, Griffon & Black Vulture, Booted Eagle, Bonelli's Eagle, Honey Buzzard, Eleonora's Falcon, Red-Knobbed Coot, Stone Curlew, Western Swamphen, Audouin's Gull, Black Tern, Turtle Dove, Scops Owl, Pallid Swift, Thekla Lark, Bluethroat, Moltoni's Warbler, Balearic Warbler, Moustached Warbler, Balearic Woodchat Shrike and Golden Oriole.

**What's Included:** Return flights from UK/Palma with budget airline, specified luggage allowance, seven nights accommodation including all meals, packed lunches, minibus transport, services of guides and reserve entrance fees.



# CANARY ISLANDS – BIRDING ON THE EDGE OF EUROPE

8TH – 14TH NOVEMBER 2021 with Paul Roberts & Javi Elorriaga

Tour Cost: £1699.00 Single Room Supplement: £100.00 Deposit: £300.00.

Group size: 8 (min 6)



This tour was new in 2019 and we are delighted to team up with Javi Elorriaga who many of you have met on our Spain tours in the past. To see the full range of endemic species on offer in the archipelago, it is necessary to visit a minimum of two islands – one from the dry, desert like eastern group and one from the more forested, humid western group. Fuerteventura and Tenerife will be visited on this carefully planned itinerary, in order for us to maximise our chances to see all the key birds the Canary Islands have to offer. Our tour is timed to visit in late autumn, when it is also frequently possible to connect with a number of rare vagrant species, such as Olive-backed Pipit, Yellow-browed Warbler and Little Bunting, Amercian shorebirds, and occasional African vagrants such as the famous 2018/19 Dwarf Bittern! We will enjoy a relaxed pace trip with plenty of time to visit all the key locations, and stay in two different hotels. You can expect to walk about 2-3 miles per day on sometimes rough terrain and see around 70 species of birds.

**Key Species:** Barbary Partridge, Ruddy Shelduck, Cory's Shearwater, Egyptian Vulture, Common Buzzard ssp insularum, Barbary Falcon, Houbara Bustard, Cream-coloured Courser, Yellow-legged Gull sp atlantis, Black-bellied Sandgrouse, Laughing Dove, Bolle's Pigeon, Laurel Pigeon, Plain Swift, Southern Grey Shrike ssp koenigi, Lesser Short-toed Lark, African Blue Tit, Tenerife Goldcrest, Canary Islands Chiffchaff, Spectacled Warbler, Fuerteventura Stonechat, Berthelot's Pipit, Tenerife Blue Chaffinch, Trumpeter Finch, Island Canary & Rock Sparrow.

**What's Included:** Return flights London/Canary Islands with a budget airline, internal flights, specified luggage allowance, six nights en suite accommodation, all meals from dinner on day one to breakfast on day seven, minibus transport on tour, services of leaders and reserve entrance fees.

## SPAIN – IBERIAN LYNX – IN SEARCH OF EUROPE'S RAREST FELINE

13TH – 17TH DECEMBER 2021 with Jason Moss & Javi Elorriaga

Tour Cost: £1150.00 Single Room Supplement: £75.00 Deposit: £200.00.

Group size: 8 (min 5)



On this specially devised tour, we will put considerable effort into seeing the most threatened feline in the entire world, the Iberian Lynx. This rare cat is principally located in two areas, El Coto Doñana and the area around Andujar National Park in south-east Spain. We will focus most of our time on searching suitable habitat around the latter area, and we will strictly follow the guidelines established by the Spanish Government for the observation of this endangered mammal. Furthermore, while we enjoy watching for mammals, we should see a variety of raptors and wintering birds in the beautiful Mediterranean Forest Landscapes. Spanish Imperial Eagle has one of its best strongholds in Spain in this region, and a range of other mammals and typical Spanish hillside birds can be expected. A visit to the excellent wetland area adjacent to Malaga airport is likely to produce a nice range of winter waterbirds, not least the specialities – including White-headed Duck. The terrain is mostly easy though not always on good paths and patience will be required if we are to encounter Lynx as they are extremely shy animals.

**Key Species:** Iberian Lynx, Otter, Red Deer, Spanish Ibex, Wild Boar, Moufflon, Iberian Green Woodpecker, Azure-winged Magpie, Spanish Imperial Eagle, Iberian Grey Shrike, Black Vulture, Rock Bunting, White-headed Duck, Audouin's Gull, Rock Sparrow, Blue Rock Thrush, Western Purple Swamp-hen.

**What's Included:** Flights from UK/Malaga with a budget airline and specified luggage allowance, four nights' accommodation in en suite rooms at three star equivalent hotel Los Pinos, meals from dinner on day one to breakfast on day five, ground transport on tour, services of leaders and reserve entrance fees.



## ISLAY – HEBRIDEAN WINTER WILDLIFE

23RD – 28TH FEBRUARY 2021 with Ashley Saunders

Tour Cost: £1099.00. No Single Room Supplement. Deposit: £250.00.

Group size: 7 (min 4)

Our Scottish island tours are extremely popular, and Islay is no exception. This tour is packed full of wonderful winter birding in typically dramatic Scottish West Coast scenery. Quite different to the other islands, Islay is distinctly more populous and bustling, no doubt aided by its nine distilleries which attract visitors from across the world. It is also more wooded and low lying, with a great variety of habitats on offer. It is perhaps best known for its geese, and watching flocks of Barnacle and Greenland White-fronted Geese will certainly be a major focus as we search for rarer species that can include Cackling Goose or Snow Goose from across the Atlantic. In fact we can view geese from the sun room of our fantastic accommodation near Port Ellen in the south of the island, where we hire two self-catering houses for the tour and enjoy a house party experience which is perfectly suited to this holiday. We break our journey north overnight in Carlisle and then spend 4 nights on Islay before leaving on the morning of the sixth. You can expect to see around 100 species and walk 2-3 miles per day.

**Key Species:** Golden Eagle, Chough, Barnacle Goose, Pale-bellied Brent Goose, Greenland White-fronted Goose, Merlin, Glaucous & Iceland Gulls, White-tailed Eagle, Dipper, Black Guillemot, Twite, Black-throated & Great Northern Divers, Long-tailed Duck, Greater Scaup, Slavonian Grebe, Hen Harrier, Otter.

**What's Included:** One night en suite accommodation at Premier Inn Carlisle, four nights self catering accommodation (ask about en suite facilities), return ferries Scotland/Islay, all meals from dinner on day one to breakfast on day six, wine with dinner at Balaclava Croft, minibus transport on tour, services of leader.



## THE FOREST OF DEAN & THE SOMERSET LEVELS

14TH – 19TH MARCH 2021 with Paul Roberts

Tour Cost: £899.00. Single Room Supplement: £100.00. Deposit: £100.00.

Group Size: 8 (min 5)

This exciting tour covers two of England's premier areas of relict habitat, starting in the ancient woodlands of Gloucestershire's Forest of Dean and finishing in the vast marshes of the Somerset Levels, an area recently benefitting by increased habitat preservation and creation which has really put it on the birding map as a top destination. Its network of relatively new reserves will safeguard landscape scale tracts of this important wetland habitat for generations to come. We will target the specialist birds in both areas but also try to connect with any rares (previous tours have seen Pied-billed Grebe, Two-barred Crossbill and Glossy Ibis) and early spring migrants. We recommend travelling to and from the tour by public transport and will pick up and drop off at Newport. We spend two days/ nights in the Forest and then two in the Levels. You can expect to see 100+ species and walk approximately 4 miles per day on mostly good paths.

**Key Species:** Hawfinch, Northern Goshawk, Peregrine, Common Crossbill, Marsh Tit, Mandarin Duck, Goosander, Common Raven, Great Grey Shrike, Firecrest, Great Bittern, Bearded Tit, Great White Egret, Cattle Egret, Marsh Harrier, , Pied Avocet, Sand Martin, Garganey.

**What's Included:** Four nights en suite accommodation at ETB four star Meare Manor Guesthouse, Somerset & four star Speech House Hotel, Forest of Dean; all meals from dinner on day one to lunch on day five, ground transport on tour, reserve entrance fees and services of leader.





## SCOTLAND— EARLY SPRING IN SPEYSIDE

30TH MARCH – 5TH APRIL 2021 with Neil Glenn

Tour Cost: £1125.00. Single Room Supplement: £50.00. Deposit: £150.00.

Group Size: 8 (min 5)



Early spring is a glorious time to enjoy the wildlife of the spectacular Scottish Highlands. In particular, we seek out the special forest birds of the area and enjoy the aerial acrobatics of displaying raptors. This is also a time when coastal bays are thronged with extensive flocks of migrating wildfowl and secluded bays and lochs resound to the haunting calls of displaying divers. Add to this the magical atmosphere of the tracts of native Caledonian forests, dramatic mountain vistas, including Cairngorm, wide open skies and the gushing waters of the mighty River Spey and its many tributaries and an unforgettable experience is in prospect. We break our journey north with an overnight stay in Dunfermline, also taking in a trip to RSPB Loch Leven. After that we base ourselves in Carrbridge right in the heart of the majestic Abernethy Forest. The weather can be very cold in the mountains, and you can typically expect to walk up to two miles per day on good paths and see upwards of 120 species. NB - Although the trip is aimed at seeing the Scottish specialities, in recent years we have seen some excellent rares (American Coot, King Eider and Blue-winged Teal). If the opportunity arises we will of course try for these.

**Key Species:** Black Grouse, Crested Tit, Rock Ptarmigan, White-tailed & Golden Eagles, Scottish/Parrot Crossbill, Slavonian Grebe, Red-throated, Black-throated & Great Northern Divers, Black Guillemot, Great Skua, Velvet Scoter, Long-tailed Duck, Dipper, Goosander, Red Grouse, Osprey, Red Kite, possible Capercaillie, White-billed Diver and white-winged gulls.

**What's Included:** One night at Premier Inn and five nights at STB three star graded Carrmoor Guest House all in en suite rooms, all meals from dinner on day one to breakfast on day seven, ground transport on tour, reserve entrance fees, Cairngorm Mountain Railway trip and services of leader.

## KENT & SUSSEX – BIRDING THE GARDEN OF ENGLAND

23RD – 28TH APRIL 2021 with Simon Ginnaw

Tour Cost: £1150.00. Single Room Supplement: £100.00. Deposit: £100.00.

Group Size: 7 (min 5)



Introduced in 2019 our tour to the Garden of England explores the rich and myriad habitats of Kent and Sussex during the peak of spring migration. Arguably a region neglected by birders living away from the South East and yet it has superb birding in classic English countryside. The tour coincides with the best time of year for number and variety of spring migrants, the chance of some skua passage, singing Nightingales and scarce and rare birds at famous coastal locations such as Sandwich Bay and Dungeness. Throw in breeding colonies of terns, heathland specialists and deciduous woodland resonating to spring birdsong, and we have a great new tour! We are delighted to be working with Simon Ginnaw, a local expert who shares our ethos for top birding experiences with a relaxed friendly manner. This trip is already a regular favourite! We stay in comfortable accommodation in Faversham and then Rye. You can expect to see around 130 species and walk 3-4 miles per day.

**Key Species:** Spring migrants, Common Nightingale, Pomarine Skua, Little Tern, Dartford Warbler, Woodlark, Turtle Dove, Cetti's Warbler, Great Bittern, Great White Egret, Hobby, Cuckoo, Ring Ouzel, Mediterranean, Little, Yellow-legged and Caspian Gulls, Tree Pipit, Common Redstart, Common Crossbill, Firecrest and Corn Bunting

**What's Included:** Five nights en suite accommodation in two guest houses, all meals from dinner on day one to lunch on day six, minibus transport on tour, services of leader and reserve entrance fees.



# ORIOLE BIRDING ANNIVERSARY CRUISE

3RD – 12TH MAY 2021 with Ashley Saunders

Tour Cost: £4799.00. Single Room Supplement: None. Deposit: £1000.00.

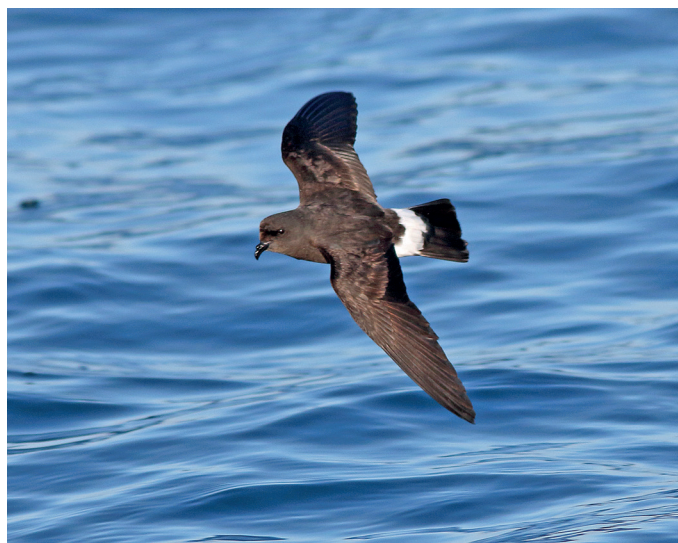
Group Size: 7 (min 5)

We are pleased to announce that to mark the 20th season of running birding tours, Ashley is offering the opportunity for an exclusive group to join him on this exciting Hebridean Cruise in conjunction with St Hilda Sea Adventures on board the Seahorse II! We have long dreamt of taking a tour to St Kilda, one of the most remote outposts in the British Isles, and this will, weather permitting, be the pinnacle of our adventure in the Hebrides. Join us as part of an exclusive small group with our own crew and on board chef, as we set sail from Oban to Mull and then on to the Small Isles, North Uist and St Kilda. Along the way we will sample some of the finest birding in the Hebrides, joining land based guides for excursions on Mull and North Uist, and stepping ashore on remote islands to explore on foot and witness some of the most spectacular seabird cliffs, and scenery, in the British Isles. We know these islands well after running many tours there over the years, but we will also be visiting some new spots never before set foot on by Oriole groups! Accommodation throughout is in comfortable cabins on board Seahorse II, some of which offer en suite facilities which will be allocated on a first come first served basis. We will moor in sheltered bays and dine on board ship, enjoy dusk rafting of Manx Shearwaters and even witness Storm and Leach's Petrels coming ashore at night to breed. Migrant birds should abound and could include skuas bound for the Arctic, and maybe, just maybe, a Snowy Owl! Throw in Golden and White-tailed Eagles, more Puffins than you can shake a stick at and exciting land based birding searching for Corncrake, Short-eared Owl, Hen Harrier, Wood Warbler and a variety of other small birds and you have the recipe for a once in a lifetime trip. Ashley Saunders, founder of Oriole Birding, will be leading this trip assisted by local guides on land and you can expect to see over 100 species.

\*NB - The itinerary stated is totally subject to the weather and we cannot guarantee that it will run in the order stated, or that we can visit all the places mentioned.\*

**Key Species:** Pomarine, Arctic, Great & Long-tailed Skuas, Corncrake, Golden & White-tailed Eagles, Red-throated, Black-throated and Great Northern Divers, Black Guillemot, Iceland & Glaucous Gulls, Short-eared Owl, Hen Harrier, Merlin, Purple Sandpiper, Red-necked Phalarope, Otter, Manx Shearwater, Puffin, Whinchat, Grasshopper Warbler, Cuckoo, Arctic Tern, Storm Petrel, Leach's Petrel, Corn Bunting, Minke Whale, Common & Bottle-nosed Dolphin.

**What's Included:** Nine nights accommodation on board ship. There are a combination of en suite cabins and those with shared facilities. The services of the St Hilda crew and chef, land based guides, ground transport, all meals from dinner on day one to breakfast on day ten and services of leader.





## THE OUTER HEBRIDES – CORNCRAKES & SKUAS

13TH – 19TH MAY 2021 with Jason Moss

19TH – 25TH MAY 2021 with Nick Parsons

Tour Cost: £1299.00. Single Room Supplement: £100.00. Deposit: £250.00.

Group Size: 8 (min 6)



The enchanted chain of islands that are the Outer Hebrides are a haven for a rich variety of birdlife and flora. White sandy beaches, Atlantic surf and crystal-clear waters await on this magical tour, where the machair resounds to the creaking of the Corn Crake and calls of resplendent breeding plumaged shorebirds. While White-tailed and Golden Eagles soar over the hills and Otters play in secluded sea lochs. That's not all; Aird an Runair is internationally famous for its annual passage of Long-tailed and Pomarine Skuas. We hope that the winds will be in our favour to witness this most spectacular of events. We also regularly connect with rare birds; having seen Snowy Owls on three trips, Semi-palmated Sandpiper, Purple & Night Herons and Surf Scoters. There is always the chance of an unexpected surprise on this tour! We take the evening ferry from Oban or Mallaig, taking dinner on board before arriving at Lochboisdale on South Uist our base for the trip. We will visit several islands including Benbecula, North Uist, Eriskay and Barra. There is very little walking involved, though it can be cold and windy. Expect around 130 species of birds.

**Key Species:** Pomarine, Arctic, Great & Long-tailed Skuas, Corncrake, Golden & White-tailed Eagles, Red-throated, Black-throated and Great Northern Divers, Black Guillemot, Iceland & Glaucous Gulls, Short-eared Owl, Hen Harrier, Merlin, Purple Sandpiper, Red-necked Phalarope, Otter, Red Grouse, Manx Shearwater, Puffin, Long-tailed Duck, Whinchat, Grasshopper Warbler, Cuckoo, Arctic Tern and Corn Bunting.

**What's Included:** Six night's en suite accommodation at the Lochboisdale Hotel, all meals from dinner on day one until breakfast on day seven, ground transport on tour, services of leader and ferry crossings Oban or Mallaig/Lochboisdale and Eriskay/Barra. A lift to Oban/Mallaig may be possible.

## ORKNEY – SPRING IN THE NORTHERN ISLES

23RD – 30TH MAY 2021 with Jason Moss

Tour Cost: £1499.00. Single Room Supplement: £150.00 Deposit: £350.00.

Group Size: 7 (min.6)



This exciting itinerary to the Orkney archipelago offers a fantastic island birding experience during the peak of the Northern spring migration. Visiting the migration outpost of North Ronaldsay and staying for three nights at the Bird Observatory, we will also spend time birding on Mainland Orkney and many of its smaller islands searching for its breeding specialities. Divers, raptors and seabirds feature highly as we birdwatch amid some of the most spectacular scenery in the British Isles, and around some of its most fascinating historical and archaeological sites. We sail from Aberdeen on the night ferry to Kirkwall on day 1, returning to Scrabster and breaking our journey south in Inverness en route home. Expect some long days, and around 120 species of birds are possible.

**Key Species:** Breeding divers, Golden & White-tailed Eagles, Hen Harrier, Short-eared Owl, Corncrake, breeding seabirds, European Storm Petrel, breeding moorland waders, scarce migrants such as Red-backed Shrike, Bluethroat, Common Rosefinch, Icterine and Marsh Warblers. We have also logged Short-toed Lark, White-billed Diver, Surf Scoter, Bee-eater and Rose-coloured Starling on our recent tours!

**What's Included:** Return ferries Aberdeen/Kirkwall, North Ronaldsay/Orkney and Stromness/Scrabster, three nights accommodation at STB 4-star rated Sands Hotel in en suite rooms, three nights accommodation at North Ronaldsay Bird Observatory [basic but comfortable with en suite facilities], meals from dinner on day one to dinner on day seven, ground transport on tour, services of leaders and reserve entrance fees. Free lifts to Aberdeen/from Scrabster are possible free of charge with pick ups en route from Norfolk, Doncaster or Edinburgh – enquire when booking.



# NORTH EAST ENGLAND – THE GRAND TOUR

1ST – 7TH JUNE 2021 with Jason Moss

7TH – 13TH JUNE 2021 with Ashley Saunders

Tour Cost: £1099.00. Single Room Supplement: £150.00. Deposit: £150.00.

Group Size: 8 (min.5)

Our four-county tour to North East England has spectacular birding. With a visit to the magnificent Frampton Marsh, the migration hotspots of Spurn & Flamborough, the towering seabird cliffs at Bempton and boat trips to the majestic Farne and Coquet islands featuring among many highlights. We will visit Lincolnshire, East Yorkshire, Northumberland and County Durham on our journey along the North Sea coast. The short distance across the North Sea to continental Europe makes this area an ideal stopping off point for migrants heading further East, and we usually encounter some uncommon species alongside some special breeding birds, making for an exciting and varied species list. We will walk among tern colonies, whilst thousands of seabirds throng the ledges of their high-rise breeding sites, all while enjoying some glorious coastal scenery. We walk 3-4 miles per day on good paths, and some long periods of travelling. We normally see around 130 species of birds. Don't miss this firm favourite in the Oriole calendar – some of our regulars have been with us 3/4 times on this tour!

**Key Species:** Puffin and thousands of other breeding seabirds, Arctic, Little and Roseate Terns, Red & Black Grouse, Golden Plover, Ring Ouzel, Dipper, Spotted Flycatcher, Common Redstart, Pied Flycatcher, Whinchat, Goosander, , Common Crossbill, Grasshopper Warbler, Little Gull, Spoonbill, Cuckoo, Lesser Whitethroat, Yellow Wagtail, Corn Bunting, Barn, Tawny & Little Owls. We have also seen Black Kite, Roller, Golden Oriole, Icterine and Marsh Warblers, Red-breasted Flycatcher, Short-toed Lark, Bee-eater, Dotterel, Broad-billed Sandpiper, Lesser Grey and Red-backed Shrikes & Rose-coloured Starling on this tour in past years!

**What's Included:** Three nights en suite accommodation at ETB four-star West Carlton Country Guest House & three nights en suite at Visit England four-star rated Coquetvale Hotel in Rothbury. All meals from dinner on day one to breakfast on day seven, minibuss transport , services of leaders, boat trips and reserve entrance .



## THE FOREST OF DEAN & SOMERSET LEVELS IN SPRING

9TH – 13TH JUNE 2021 with Paul Roberts

Tour Cost: £899.00. Single Room Supplement: £100.00. Deposit: £100.00.

Group Size: 8 (min.5)

This exciting tour covers two highly contrasting and productive areas of habitat; firstly the extensive and varied woodlands of Gloucestershire's Forest of Dean, followed by the vast marshes of the Somerset Levels, rapidly gaining a reputation as a prime birding destination. The Forest of Dean is characterised by over 110 square km of mixed woodland, one of the surviving ancient woodlands of England. Here the main focus will be a variety of woodland birds, including several desirable species. Our transfer south then normally see's a stop off at Goldcliff lagoon for some added waterbird variety, and perhaps a scarce wader might be found here. The Somerset Levels is sparsely populated lowland grazing marsh system holding one of the most important inland wetland landscapes in the UK. Here we visit its many reserves including Shapwick Heath, Ham Wall, Westhay and Catcott. The terrain is mostly easy on good paths; you will walk approximately four miles per day and expect to see approximately 110 species.

**Key Species:** Pied Flycatcher, Common Redstart, Wood Warbler, Tree Pipit, Hawfinch, Common Crossbill, Firecrest, Northern Goshawk, Mandarin Duck, Dipper, Goosander, Peregrine, Bearded Tit, Bittern, Great White Egret, Garganey, Hobby, Cuckoo and a variety of warblers as well as good possibilities of rare herons and Nightjar.

**What's Included:** Four nights en suite accommodation at ETB four star graded Meare Manor Guesthouse & four star graded Speech House Hotel, all meals from dinner on day one to lunch on day five, ground transport on tour, reserve entrance fees and services of leader.





## MULL & IONA – MIDSUMMER MAGIC

28TH JUNE – 4TH JULY 2021 with Ashley Saunders

Tour Cost: £1599.00. Single Room Supplement £150.00. Deposit: £200.00.

Group Size: 8 (min.5)



Rugged scenery and long summer nights epitomise the romantic Western Isles of Scotland. Here Sea Lochs host strong populations of Otter for which the island is famous mean we can often see these fantastic animals right outside our hotel. It may not be long before we encounter the majestic White-tailed Eagle which is at a higher density here than anywhere else in Scotland and our special boat trip with world-renowned Mull Charters could allow spine-tingling close ups of this, the world's second largest eagle, plunging into the water. Weather permitting, we hope to visit the uninhabited islands of Lunga and Staffa, home to a variety of sea birds as well as the world-famous Fingal's Cave. The island of Iona, famous for its Abbey and St Columba who spread Christianity to Scotland, now resounds to the call of the Corncrake behind its dazzling white sand beaches. Wildflowers and insects abound in equal proportions and after fifteen years of visiting these islands, we know the best spots well. You can expect very little walking, though some long days travelling in the minibus and occasional encounters with the famous Scottish 'midges', and we normally see around 110 species of birds.

**Key Species:** White-tailed & Golden Eagles, Hen Harrier, Short-eared Owl, Red-throated Diver, Corncrake, Whinchat, Puffin, Manx Shearwater, Great Skua, Twite, Crossbill, Redstart, Wood Warbler, Spotted Flycatcher, Tree Pipit, Otter, Marsh Fritillary butterfly and many species of orchids.

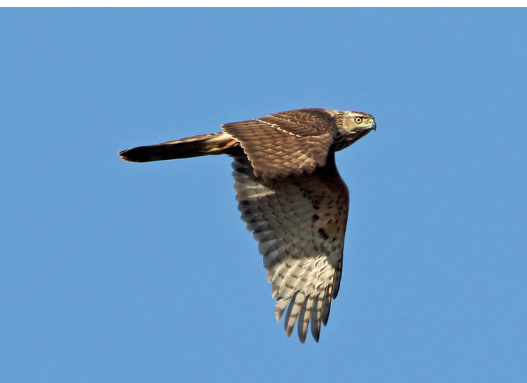
**What's Included:** Six nights en suite accommodation at four star graded Pennyghael Hotel, all meals from dinner on day one to breakfast on day seven, ground transport on tour, services of leader, Iona ferry crossings and return ferry Oban/Craignure. Please note excursion to Treshnish Isles (allow approximately £65.00 per person) and Sea Eagle boat trip (allow approximately £45 per person) are not included. Free lifts to and from Oban from Norfolk may be possible with pick ups en route - enquire when booking.

## NEW FOREST & WILTSHIRE DOWNS – SUMMER WILDLIFE

6TH – 10TH JULY 2021 with Jason Moss & Nick Acheson

Tour Cost: £875.00. Single Room Supplement: £75.00. Deposit: £100.00.

Group Size: 7 (min.5)



The New Forest offers opportunities to see some of Britain's rarest insects! Let the Oriole team open your eyes to a new world, as we explore the ancient woodlands, heaths and streams of the beautiful New Forest on the micro scale. The Beautiful Demoiselle will entrance the explorer of the forests tranquil woodland streams, the powerful and majestic Golden-ringed Dragonfly may be seen patrolling the more open waterways that flow through the heath lands and the inquisitive Downy Emerald may gaze at the fortunate visitor through its 'other-worldly' metallic green eyes as it hunts along the margins of the forests many small ponds. Birds can be excellent here too, and we make a special effort to connect with the declining Honey Buzzard still at one of its UK strongholds. We also venture onto the beautiful chalk downs in the west of the county of Hampshire, and into the ancient Bentley Wood in Wiltshire for the regal Purple Emperor and its woodland courtiers, the Silver-washed Fritillary and White Admiral. We could expect to see 20 species of butterfly, 85 species of birds and 20 species of Odonata. Expect to walk 2-3 miles per day, but terrain can sometimes be soft and muddy in places.

**Key Species:** A wide variety of butterflies and odonata, including rarities such as Scarce Blue-tailed, Southern and Small Red Damselflies, Purple Emperor, Goshawk, Honey Buzzard, Firecrest, Wood Warbler, Eurasian Hobby, Hawfinch, Common Crossbill, Wood Lark, Common Redstart, Nightjar, Spotted Flycatcher, Dartford Warbler and Corn Bunting.

**What's Included:** Four nights en suite accommodation at AA four star graded Whitemoor House in Lyndhurst, all meals from dinner on day one to lunch on day five, ground transport on tour, reserve entrance fees and services of leaders.



## HAMPSHIRE & DORSET – SUMMER WILDLIFE

3RD – 7TH AUGUST 2021 with Nick Acheson

Tour Cost: £875.00. Single Room Supplement: £75.00. Deposit: £100.00.

Group Size: 7 (min.5)

A short break, with the butterfly and dragonfly enthusiast particularly in mind, based once again in the delightful New Forest town of Lyndhurst. Following the successes in recent years of our July New Forest trips, we are pleased to continue with this new tour following successful recent visits. We have timed this holiday to optimise the chances of seeing some of Britain's most localised, and scarcest, butterflies, as well as a fantastic range of localised odonata. At this time of the year, there will still be plenty of great birds to see in the forest too, as raptors fledge their young and summer migrants feed busily as they ready themselves for departure. You could see over thirty species of butterfly on this tour the best variety on any of our UK natural history holidays. We might expect to see approximately 30 species of butterfly, 20 species of Odonata and 85 species of birds. Walking is generally easy and on good paths, totalling 2-3 miles per day.

**Key Species:** Chalkhill & Small Blues, Lulworth & Silver-spotted Skippers, White-letter & Purple Hairstreaks, White Admiral, Silver-studded Blue, White-legged Damselfly, Beautiful Demoiselle, Golden-ringed Dragonfly, Keeled Skimmer, Small Red & Southern Damselflies, Small Red-eyed Damselfly, Red-veined Darter, Brown Hairstreak, Goshawk, Honey Buzzard, Firecrest, Hobby, Hawfinch, Common Crossbill, Woodlark, Common Redstart, Nightjar, Spotted Flycatcher, Dartford Warbler and Corn Bunting.

**What's Included:** Four nights en suite accommodation at AA four star graded Whitemoor House in Lyndhurst, all meals from dinner on day one to lunch on day five, ground transport on tour, reserve entrance fees and services of leaders.



## ISLES OF SCILLY PELAGIC WEEKEND

6TH – 9TH AUGUST 2021 with Ashley Saunders & Dr. Robert Flood.

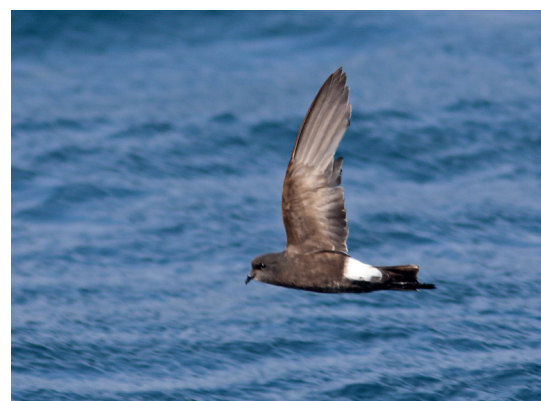
Tour Cost £699.00. Single Room Supplement £60.00. Deposit £200.00.

Group Size: 20 (min 10). Pelagic only price £375.00

This unique weekend tour to the Isles of Scilly in early autumn offers an exciting mix of spectacular scenery and a sense of adventure as we endeavour to savour the very best sea birding the UK has to offer. Heading out to the isles onboard the Scillonian MV, an odyssey of pelagic birding awaits us as search for some of the most sought after seabirds occurring in British waters. Onboard Sapphire, we will be searching for the enigmatic Wilson's Storm Petrel among other species. The Sapphire has been involved for several years in the pioneering pelagic trips for which the islands have become famous, and has recorded several Fea's Petrel, Swinhoe's and Madeiran Petrels and Scopoli's Shearwater as well as the regular specialities. Blue Sharks are regularly recorded and we have also seen a great range of cetaceans and Basking Shark. Crucially, we will have the opportunity to study seabirds at extremely close quarters, something which is not possible larger cross-channel vessels. With free time on the islands, we will also have the opportunity to search for migrants and catch up with anything unusual that might be around. Quality rather than quantity means a trip list of around 70 species, and for the land based parts of the tour a fair amount of walking is required (if desired).

**Key Species:** Wilson's Storm-petrel, European Storm-petrel, Great, Cory's Sooty, Balearic & Manx Shearwaters, Great Skua, Sabine's Gull, Grey Phalarope, occasional Pomarine & Long-tailed Skuas, Black & Roseate Terns, Blue Shark, Common Dolphin, Ocean Sunfish, as well as potentially rarer seabirds and transatlantic shorebirds.

**What's Included:** Return crossings on MV Scillonian from Penzance to St Mary's, three pelagic trips, guesthouse accommodation on bed and breakfast basis, luggage transfers between quay and accommodation and services of leaders.





## SHETLAND – AUTUMN MIGRATION

24TH SEPTEMBER – 5TH OCTOBER 2021 with Ashley Saunders

Tour Cost: £1995.00. Single Room Supplement: £100.00 Deposit: £350.00.

Group Size: 8 (min.4)



Approximately ninety miles long and situated at the North-eastern tip of the British Isles, Shetland is a birders paradise. Becoming increasingly popular with Britain's active birders and rarity-hunters, its appeal has risen in recent years as increased observer coverage makes it an attractive alternative to the Scilly Isles in autumn. Exploring every nook and cranny is the key to success and this involves walking ditches and stone dykes, scanning pools and peering into gardens – the Shetland people are largely very friendly and in the past we have even been invited in for a better look! Easterly winds are not vital for bringing rarities either – a change in the wind is often all that is required to create an arrival of migrants from the east, while westerly depressions can race in and deposit American warblers and thrushes too. Join us for a real bird migration adventure this autumn as we start in South Mainland, arriving on the overnight ferry from Aberdeen to Lerwick. After three days here, we head north to the island of Unst, which also gives us the chance to explore neighbouring Fetlar and Yell. We can see around 120 species, but expect wet and windy weather, and walking on boggy and uneven ground.

**Key Species:** Yellow-browed Warbler (often 30+ in a single trip), Common Rosefinch, Barred Warbler, Bluethroat, Wryneck, Red-backed Shrike, Blyth's Reed & Marsh Warblers, Richard's Pipit, Red-breasted Flycatcher, American Golden Plover, Lapland Bunting, Jack Snipe, Hawfinch, Long-eared Owl & Little Bunting all likely. Red-flanked Bluetail, Olive-backed Pipit, Arctic Warbler, Rustic Bunting, Pechora Pipit, Pallas's Grasshopper Warbler and catharus thrushes all regular, plus many other possibilities and of course a host of common migrants!

**What's Included:** Return ferry crossings Aberdeen/Lerwick with Northlink Ferries and en suite cabins on board (shared for singles), 5 nights (split) en suite accommodation of three star standard at Sumburgh Hotel, four nights self catering accommodation of four star standard at Saxa Vord (shared facilities), meals from dinner on day two to breakfast on day eleven (but no lunches except when at Saxa Vord), ground transport, services of leader and inter-island ferries.

## EAST YORKSHIRE – AUTUMN MIGRATION

3RD – 8TH OCTOBER 2021 with Jason Moss

Tour Cost: £950.00. Single Room Supplement: £75.00 Deposit: £100.00.

Group Size: 8 (min.5)



The East Coast of the UK is synonymous with the arrival of migrant birds from Scandinavia during the autumn migration period and this area stands out for its amazing record of producing scarce and rare birds. As always weather plays a big hand in producing optimum fall conditions but whatever happens during our stay we are sure to enjoy our time here and see some great birds. Occasionally large falls of common species such as Goldcrests, European Robins, Song Thrushes and Blackbirds take place which sees these species present in huge numbers, and we might also have the opportunity to observe bird ringing at the Spurn Observatory. Weather patterns, tides and winds will dictate our itinerary and you should expect to potentially visit the same areas more than once on this tour. Walks are over flat terrain, but of at least five miles per day, and you can expect around 120 species.

**Key Species:** Yellow-browed, Barred and Radde's Warblers, Red-breasted Flycatcher, Wryneck, Red-backed Shrike, Pomarine & Long-tailed Skua, Curlew Sandpiper, Little Stint, Sooty Shearwater, Grey Phalarope and perhaps a Leach's Petrel. With luck, we may even encounter something much rarer such as Red-flanked Bluetail or Olive-backed Pipit, both of which have been seen in recent years. We have also seen Masked Shrike, Dotterel, Richard's Pipit and Ortolan Bunting in recent years.

**What's Included:** Five nights 4 star graded en suite accommodation at West Carlton Country Guest House, all meals from dinner on day one to lunch on day six, minibus transport on tour, services of leader and reserve entrance fees.



# NORTH RONALDSAY – AUTUMN ON ORKNEY'S MAGIC ISLE

10TH – 19TH OCTOBER 2021 with Jason Moss

Tour Cost: £1499.00. Single Room Supplement: £100.00. Deposit: £250.00.

Group Size: 7 (min.4)

Following several recent spring visits to Orkney, we are pleased to offer this exciting autumn adventure to our portfolio this year. North Ronaldsay will be our prime focus, a small island lying at the north-east tip of the Orkney archipelago and around 25 miles from Fair Isle to the North. Arriving into Kirkwall on the ferry from Aberdeen, we overnight in the islands before transferring by small plane to 'North Ron' the following day. We then spend six night here, birding one of the UK's most iconic island outposts at a peak time of year for rare birds. Based at the comfortable observatory throughout, we will be exploring using a combination of walking and making short drives using the obs minibus to lighten the load. North Ron is a flat island, with no significant hills, and our days will be spent working the stone dykes, ditches, fields and gardens for migrant birds. The island also has several freshwater lagoons which attract waders, and good opportunities for seawatching. Don't miss out on this prime rarity-hunting adventure guided by a top drawer enthusiastic leader.

**Key Species:** Yellow-browed Warbler, Common Rosefinch, Barred Warbler, Bluethroat, Red-backed Shrike, Marsh Warbler, Red-breasted Flycatcher, Richard's Pipit, Lapland Bunting, Jack Snipe, Hawfinch, Long-eared and Short-eared Owls, Sooty Shearwater & Little Bunting all likely. Red-flanked Bluetail, Olive-backed Pipit, Blyth's Reed & Arctic Warblers, Pechora Pipit, Lanceolated & Pallas's Grasshopper Warbler and catharus thrushes are also occasionally recorded – or what about that male Siberian Blue Robin from 2017??

**What's Included:** Return ferry crossings Aberdeen/Kirkwall with Northlink Ferries, inter-island flight, 6 nights en suite accommodation of three star standard at North Ronaldsay Bird Observatory, two nights en suite accommodation at Sands Hotel on South Ronaldsay, meals from lunch on day two to lunch on day nine, ground transport and services of leader.



## DURHAM & NORTHUMBERLAND – AUTUMN MIGRATION

11TH – 17TH OCTOBER 2021 with Andrew Kinghorn

Tour Cost: £1250.00. Single Room Supplement: £150.00. Deposit: £350.00.

Group Size: 8 (min.4)

Here at Oriole Birding we have always been proud of our portfolio of UK migration-based tours, with Norfolk, Cornwall, Shetland and East Yorkshire featuring among our regular destinations and turning up some rare and exciting birds. Our tours always aim to try and find our own birds and with that in mind, we are delighted to introduce a new itinerary to our migration portfolio, guided by Durham's county recorder Andrew Kinghorn. Andrew has been guiding trips around his local region for the last couple of years and knows the area intimately, being well connected and knowing many good spots off the beaten track to search for incoming autumn migrants. On this six night itinerary, split into two bases of three nights apiece, you will be exploring many little known East coast locations as well as some popular ones such as the excellent North Tees marshes and RSPB Saltholme. After spending a couple of days sampling the Durham hotspots (many of which will be new to regular Oriole clients) we move north to an area many of you will be familiar with from our very popular North-east England June tours. Druridge Bay, with its network of excellent coastal reserves, and Holy Island - a rarity hotspot on this coast - will be on the agenda. Based in the picturesque town of Rothbury, we will be ideally placed to cover these areas on the second leg of the tour. An exciting foray into the North-east in autumn awaits!

**Key Species:** The focus is searching for our own birds, with vagrants from the east high on the agenda. It's a good time of year for Yellow-browed & Pallas's Warblers, Little Bunting, Olive-backed Pipit and Red-flanked Bluetail. Estuaries and lagoons will add a host of waders, ducks & gulls, while seawatching could produce skuas, shearwaters, petrels and terns.

**What's Included:** 6 nights en suite accommodation, meals from dinner on day 1 to lunch on day 7, ground transport and services of leader.





# WEST CORNWALL – VALLEYS & HEADLANDS

17TH – 23RD OCTOBER 2021 with Gary Elton

Tour Cost: £1199.00. Single Room Supplement: £50.00. Deposit: £100.00.

Group Size: 8 (min.4)



October is a fantastic time of year to be birding in this region, and West Cornwall is excellently placed to receive arrivals from all points of the migrant compass, but has the added bonus of no crowds of birders, and a real opportunity to find our own rares! Its enviable geographic position, sheltered valleys and many headlands ensure that there is always something of interest to be found. The walks are mostly over easy terrain with one or two steeper climbs and average four or five miles per day. As usual on our migration holidays, we do not set a fixed itinerary, but are flexible to take into account weather conditions, tide times and the arrival of any major rarities. We do however expect to visit all of the well-known sites plus a few spots off the beaten track too. As always the weather is paramount to the success of finding rare birds though the beauty of Cornwall in October is that they can appear from any point of the compass—Siberian vagrants from the east are just as likely here! Expect to see around 100 species on this tour.

**Key Species:** Over the years we have seen Alder Flycatcher Dusky Warbler, Least Sandpiper, Laughing & Franklin's Gulls, Little Bunting, Lesser Scaup, Ring-necked Duck, Serin, Grey Catbird, Pallas's Warbler, Red-breasted Flycatcher, Barred Warbler, White-rumped Sandpiper, Upland Sandpiper, Melodious Warbler, Isabelline Wheatear and a host of seabirds (Balearic Shearwater and Pomarine Skua likely).

**What's Included:** 7 nights en suite accommodation at Enjoy England Four-star rated Bosavern House near St Just, meals from dinner on day one to lunch on day eight, ground transport and services of leader.



**Oriole group birding at Sumburgh Head, Shetland in Autumn 2019.  
Come and join us for the best birding, in some of  
the most spectacular destinations in the UK!**



## NORFOLK - WINTER WILDFOWL SPECTACULAR

2ND - 7TH JANUARY 2021 with Ashley Saunders

10TH - 15TH JANUARY 2021 with Ashley Saunders

7TH - 12TH FEBRUARY 2021 with Ashley Saunders

Tour Cost: £849.00. No Single Room Supplement. Deposit: £100.00. Group Size: 8 (min 2)

Winter is a wonderful time to enjoy Norfolk at its best. Nowhere else in Britain can match the variety of habitats and species, the numbers of wintering wildfowl, and the number of scarce over wintering and resident species that are difficult to find outside this magical county. With a knowledgeable local guide, visit places off the beaten track and see the best birdlife that the region has to offer. During this tour, we will explore the Norfolk coastal marshes and reed beds, including reserves at Titchwell, Cley and Holkham NNR, plus full day visits to Breckland and the Norfolk Broads. We can expect to see upwards of 125 species and walk 4-5 miles per day.

**Key Species:** Shore Lark, Snow Bunting, Common Crane, Hawfinch, Merlin, Rough-legged Buzzard, Taiga Bean Goose, Great Bittern, Hen Harrier, Twite, Common Crossbill, Northern Goshawk, Water Pipit, Velvet Scoter.

**What's Included:** Five nights 4 star graded en suite accommodation at the Blue Boar Inn Great Ryburgh, all meals from dinner on day one to lunch on day six, minibuss transport on tour, services of leader and reserve entrance fees.

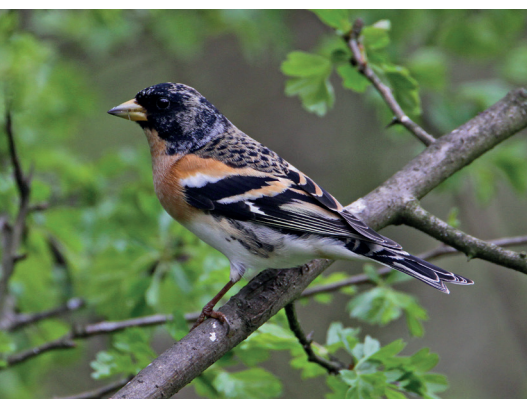


## NORFOLK - BRECKLANDS & COASTAL

4TH - 7TH MARCH 2021 with Ashley Saunders

12TH - 15TH MARCH & 16TH - 19TH MARCH 2021 with Ashley Saunders

Tour Cost: £549.00. No Single Room Supplement. Deposit: £100.00. Group Size: 8 (min 2)



This short break has the emphasis on some difficult to find forest species, as well as lingering winter visitors and early spring migrants. We explore the riches of Breckland, a dry region of south Norfolk typified by pine forest and sandy heath, and our local knowledge is critical in finding the trademark birds. These include the scarce and localised Lesser Spotted Woodpecker and early spring gatherings of Hawfinches. On the Norfolk coast, we cover dunes, marshes and shore and of course, scarce visitors such as a Rough-legged Buzzard or Great Grey Shrike can occur here. You can expect to walk up to five miles per day on flat terrain and on good paths, seeing in excess of 115 species of birds.

**Key Species:** Goshawk, Hawfinch, Firecrest, Common Crossbill, Woodlark, Dartford Warbler, Lesser Spotted Woodpecker, Brambling, Lesser Redpoll, Stone Curlew, Snow Bunting, Bearded Tit, Rough-legged Buzzard.

**What's Included:** Three nights 4 star graded en suite accommodation at the Blue Boar Inn Great Ryburgh, all meals from dinner on day one to lunch on day four, minibuss transport on tour, services of leader and reserve entrance fees.

## NORFOLK - SPRING MIGRATION

26TH - 29TH APRIL 2021 with Gary Elton

7TH - 10TH MAY 2021 with Gary Elton

Tour Cost: £549.00. No Single Room Supplement. Deposit: £100.00. Group Size: 8 (min 2)

Spring in North Norfolk is an exciting event, as thousands of birds hurry northward to their breeding grounds. This action-packed mini break sees us birding along the acclaimed North Norfolk coast visiting the full range of habitats and observing a vast spectrum of migrants from warblers to shorebirds, with the chance of course to pick out something extra special from the throng! With a full day exploring the bird-filled heaths and forest of Breckland too, this is a really exciting short break. Carefully reading the weather patterns and anticipating the arrivals we use our knowledge of the area to give you an unrivalled experience. Expect to walk up to 5 miles per day on flat terrain and see 115 species.

**Key Species:** Ring Ouzel, Garganey, Bearded Tit, Northern Goshawk, Marsh Harrier, Great Bittern, Eurasian Hobby, Little Tern, Wood Lark, Firecrest, Common Crossbill, Stone Curlew, Tree Pipit, Common Redstart, Barn & Little Owls, Ruff, Wood Sandpiper, Eurasian Spoonbill, Great White Egret, Dartford Warbler and Turtle Dove. Over the years, we have seen many rare or uncommon migrant birds on these trips too!

**What's Included:** Three nights 4 star graded en suite accommodation at the Blue Boar Inn Great Ryburgh, all meals from dinner on day one to lunch on day four, minibuss transport on tour, services of leader and reserve entrance fees.





# NORFOLK – THE COMPLETE TOUR

16TH – 22ND MAY 2021 with Ashley Saunders

Tour Cost: £950.00. No Single Room Supplement. Deposit: £100.00. Group Size: 8 (min 2)



This long running tour is as popular now as ever & it's hardly surprising given the quality of birds on offer. Summer plumaged shorebird pass in good number, and all of our breeding summer migrants have returned from warmer climes. We will cover all of Norfolk's diverse habitats, including coastal marshes and reed beds, the Norfolk Broads and Breckland, aiming to see the best of the county's flagship birds, Hoping for surprises along the way! Expect to walk 5 miles per day on flat terrain and to see around 130 species of birds plus a selection of butterflies.

**Key Species:** Bearded Tit, Marsh Harrier, Great Bittern, Common Crane, Eurasian Hobby, Little Tern, Woodlark, Common Crossbill, Firecrest, Stone Curlew, Tree Pipit, European Nightjar, Eurasian Woodcock, Barn, Tawny & Little Owls, Curlew Sandpiper, Eurasian Spoonbill, Great White Egret, Dartford Warbler, Common Cuckoo and Turtle Dove. We have seen many

rare or uncommon migrant birds on these trips too!

**What's Included:** Six nights 4 star en suite accommodation at the Blue Boar Inn Great Ryburgh, meals from dinner on day 1 to lunch on day 7, minibs transport on tour, boat trip (if applicable), service of leader and reserve entrance.

## NORFOLK – SUMMER WILDLIFE

14TH – 17TH JUNE 2021 with Ashley saunders & Adrian Riley

Tour Cost: £625.00. No Single Room Supplement. Deposit: £100.00. Group Size: 8 (min.5)

This tour aims to cover all aspects of natural history amid some of our most beautiful Norfolk countryside. The main attractions are provided by the chance to observe the stunning Swallowtail butterfly in the Norfolk Broads, and along with the Norfolk Hawker, we will take a boat trip across Hickling Broad to visit areas out of bounds to the public where we can look for these animals. The Norfolk Breckland region offers diverse habitats which host gems as diverse as Stone Curlew and Scarce Emerald Damselfly, while an evening trip to look for the bizarre European Nightjar and roding Eurasian Woodcock will also feature, as will a day amongst the North Norfolk Marshes. Expect around 100 species of birds, 15 each of butterfly and Odonata and to walk 3-4 miles per day on good paths.

**Key Species:** Swallowtail, Norfolk Hawker, Scarce Emerald Damselfly, Variable Damselfly, Scarce Chaser, Keeled Skimmer, Brown Argus, Banded Demoiselle, Dark Green Fritillary, White-letter Hairstreak, Turtle Dove, Stone Curlew, Little Tern, Eurasian Spoonbill, Great White Egret, Bearded Tit, Dartford Warbler, Woodlark, Firecrest, European Nightjar, Eurasian Woodcock, Common Crane, Great Bittern, Eurasian Hobby and Common Cuckoo.

**What's Included:** Three nights en suite four star graded accommodation in Great Ryburgh, all meals from dinner on day one to lunch on day four, ground transport on tour, reserve entrance fees, boat trip and services of leaders.

## NORFOLK SUMMER BREEDERS & LATE MIGRANTS

21ST – 24TH JUNE 2021 with Ashley Saunders

Tour Cost: £549.00. No Single Room Supplement. Deposit: £100.00. Group Size: 8 (Min.2)



Norfolk in high summer has lots to offer, and its array wide array of special breeding birds is quite extraordinary. Several of these are not only unusual but difficult to find elsewhere, and it is these sought-after species that will form a focus for this three-day break. As well as a wide variety of breeding birds and summer visitors, we can see the first returning migrant waders and possibly late vagrants from the south and east [Great Knot & Spectacled Warbler previous examples!]. An evening excursion for European Nightjar and 'roding' Eurasian Woodcock will also feature. We walk 4-5 miles per day on good paths and can expect to see around 120 species of birds.

**Key Species:** Stone Curlew, Great White Egret, Bearded Tit, Dartford Warbler, Wood Lark, Firecrest, European Nightjar, Turtle Dove, Little Tern, Mediterranean Gull, Eurasian Spoonbill, Woodcock, Tree Pipit, Common Redstart, Common Crane, Great Bittern, Eurasian Hobby, Common Cuckoo,

Spotted Redshank, Ruff and rarities!

**What's Included:** Three nights en suite four star graded accommodation in Great Ryburgh, all meals from dinner on day one to lunch on day four, ground transport on tour, reserve entrance fees and services of leader.





## NORFOLK – BUTTERFLIES & DRAGONFLIES

11TH – 14TH JULY 2021 with Ashley Saunders & Adrian Riley

Tour Cost: £599.00. No Single Room Supplement. Deposit: £100.00. Group Size: 8 (min. 4)

Mid-summer is the best time to encounter & learn about Norfolk's specialist butterflies and dragonflies, and this tour aims to enjoy a wide range of these fascinating insects include several scarce and localised species. Our itinerary will be flexible to adjust for the weather, but at this time of year it is possible to see the greatest variety of butterfly species among some of the most beautiful habitats in North Norfolk. We will also turn our attention to the bustling coastal lagoons and their migrant wading birds, terns, wild-fowl, Eurasian Spoonbills and maybe a rarity! Expect approx. 20 species of butterfly and Odonata and 85 species of birds, and to walk around 3-4 miles per day on good paths.

**Key Species:** Small Red Damselfly, Small Red-eyed Damselfly, Keeled Skimmer, Purple Hairstreak, Banded Demoiselle, Scarce Chaser, Black Darter, Emerald Damselfly, White Admiral, Silver-washed Fritillary, Dark Green Fritillary, Spoonbill, Bearded Tit, Dartford Warbler, Wood Lark, Firecrest, Eurasian Hobby, migrant waders such as Wood, Green and Curlew Sandpipers, Spotted Redshank, Ruff, Little Tern and possibility of rarities.



**What's Included:** Three nights en suite four star graded accommodation in Great Ryburgh, all meals from dinner on day one to lunch on day four, ground transport on tour, reserve entrance fees and services of leaders.

## NORFOLK - SHOREBIRDS & EARLY MIGRANTS

26TH – 29TH JULY 2021 with Ashley Saunders

23RD – 26TH AUGUST 2021 with Jason Moss

Tour Cost: £549.00. No Single Room Supplement. Deposit: £100.00. Group Size: 8 (Min.2)



Late summer in Norfolk is a time of plenty as balmy summer days offer great birding opportunities during the start of the southbound autumn passage. Norfolk's diverse range of habitats, vast coastal marshes and strategic geographical position ensure some of the best wader watching conditions in the UK, giving participants a great chance to get to grips with the various wader species, whilst also enjoying the sheer spectacle of 1000's of waders at sites like the internationally important Wash RSPB reserve. Seawatching can be rewarding at this time of year if we have onshore winds, and the first passerine migrants are also starting to pass through, providing us with superb variety! You can expect to see approximately 120 species, and walk 4 to 5 miles per day on mostly easy terrain.

**Key Species:** Wood Sandpiper, Curlew Sandpiper, Little Stint, Spotted Redshank, Eurasian Spoonbill, Great White Egret, Hobby, Bearded Tit, Whinchat, Pied Flycatcher, Spotted Flycatcher, Arctic Skua and chances for

Icterine Warbler, Wryneck, Manx and Sooty Shearwater, Great Skua, Barred Warbler and rare waders.

**What's Included:** Three nights en suite four star graded in Great Ryburgh, all meals from dinner on day one to lunch on day four, ground transport on tour, reserve entrance fees and services of leader.

## NORFOLK – AUTUMN MIGRATION LONG WEEKEND

16TH – 19TH SEPTEMBER 2021 with Gary Elton

14TH – 17TH OCTOBER 2021 with Ashley Saunders

Tour Cost: £549.00. No Single Room Supplement. Deposit: £100.00. Group Size: 8 (min 5)

This highlights-packed long weekend is timed when autumn migration is in full swing and we will be exploring Norfolk's famous coastline in search of north-bound migrant birds. The weather will dictate our exact itinerary, explained to you by your guide during your meeting on day one. Rest assured, you will be well placed to find the best birds at well-chosen sites that we know intimately at a time of year when exciting arrivals from Northern Europe and Siberia are on the cards! Expect to walk up to 6 miles per day on flat terrain and see 120 species.

**Key Species:** Yellow-browed Warbler, Red-backed Shrike, Barred Warbler, Arctic & Great Skuas, Sooty Shearwater, Sabine's Gull, Leach's Petrel, Barn, Tawny & Little Owls, Curlew Sandpiper, Eurasian Spoonbill and Great White Egret. Rarities noted over the years on our trips include Icterine Warbler, Little Bunting, Olive-backed Pipit, Red-breasted Flycatcher, Long-billed Dowitcher and Grey & Red-necked Phalaropes to name just a few!



**What's Included:** Three nights 4 star graded en suite accommodation at the Blue Boar Inn Great Ryburgh, all meals from dinner on day one to lunch on day four, minibuss transport on tour, services of leader and reserve entrance fees.



## NORFOLK – AUTUMN MIGRATION

26TH SEPTEMBER – 2ND OCTOBER 2021 with Gary Elton

Tour Cost: £950.00. No Single Room Supplement. Deposit: £100.00. Group Size: 8 (min.2)



Norfolk is a great place to witness migration and learn about identifying a wide range of species from warblers to shorebirds. In optimum weather conditions, falls of continental migrants such as thrushes, chats & warblers make landfall, and these may include scarce and rare species. Your guide will use his extensive local knowledge in combination with weather charts to choose the itinerary, maximising our chances of finding autumn migrants. Sea watching can be good in onshore winds, and we will also pay visits to the Norfolk Broads and Brecklands, enhancing this already fantastic tour! Expect to walk 5+ miles per day on flat terrain, and see around 140 species.

**Key Species:** Yellow-browed Warbler, Red-backed Shrike, Barred Warbler, Arctic, Great & Pomarine Skuas, Sooty Shearwater, Sabine's Gull, Common Crane, Stone Curlew, Owls, Curlew Sandpiper, Spoonbill and Great White Egret. Rare species noted on our tours include Radde's & Blyth's Reed

Warblers, Lesser Grey Shrike, Red-flanked Bluetail, Olive-backed Pipit, Red-breasted Flycatcher, and Grey & Red-necked Phalaropes to name a few!

**What's Included:** Six nights 4 star graded en suite accommodation at the Blue Boar Inn Great Ryburgh, all meals from dinner on day one to lunch on day seven, minibs transport on tour, service of leader and reserve entrance fees.

## NORFOLK – WINTER THRUSHES & EASTERN VAGRANTS

24TH – 29TH OCTOBER 2021 with Ashley Saunders

Tour Cost: £849.00. No Single Room Supplement. Deposit: £100.00. Group Size: 8 (min.2)

Late October is a hugely exciting time to be out birding in North Norfolk, and we have a track record for some amazing days at this time of year. Huge flocks of winter wildfowl fill the fields and falls of thrushes, Robins and Goldcrests arrive from the continent in the right weather conditions. Associated with this, scarce and rare species often arrive, much to our anticipation! We will also visit to the Norfolk Broads and Brecklands, enhancing this tour further. Expect around 130 species, and to walk 5+ miles per day on sometimes muddy paths, sand and shingle.

**Key Species:** Yellow-browed & Pallas's Warblers, Ring Ouzel, Pomarine Skua, Little Gull, Bearded Tit, Marsh Harrier, Bittern, Common Crane, Stone Curlew, Hawfinch, Great White Egret, Hen Harrier, Merlin, Snow & Lapland Buntings, Woodcock, Barn Owl and Spoonbill. Rarer species noted over the years include Red-flanked Bluetail, Pallid Harrier, Olive-backed Pipit, Little Bunting, Pectoral Sandpiper and Grey Phalarope to name a few!

**What's Included:** Five nights 4 star graded en suite accommodation at the Blue Boar Inn Great Ryburgh, all meals from dinner on day one to lunch on day six, minibs transport on tour, services of leader and reserve entrance fees.



## NORFOLK – WILD GEESSE WINTER WEEKEND

9TH – 12TH DECEMBER 2021 with Ashley Saunders

Tour Cost: £549.00. No Single Room Supplement. Deposit: £100.00. Group Size: 8 (min 5)



Winter is a magical time of year to visit Norfolk for a birding trip. Cascading flocks of Pink-footed and Brent Geese set the scene, while the county boasts some of the UK's most sought-after wintering species. We will explore the Norfolk coastal marshes and reed beds, including reserves at Titchwell and Holkham NNR, Burnham Overy and various sites in East Norfolk, as well as a range of inland areas searching for goose flocks and winter flocks of farmland birds. You can expect to see around 120 species, and expect to walk up to 5 miles per day on flat terrain.

**Key Species:** Pink-footed, Greater White-fronted, Tundra and Taiga Bean & Dark-bellied Brent Geese, plus a chance of rarer species in some winters. Rough-legged Buzzard, Hen Harrier, Merlin, Barn, Tawny & Short-eared Owls, Common Crane, Shorelark, Twite, Snow Bunting, Great Grey Shrike, Whooper & Bewick's Swans, Water Rail, Jack Snipe, Water Pipit, Woodcock,

Slavonian Grebe, Velvet Scoter, Long-tailed Duck and Corn Bunting.

**What's Included:** Three nights 4 star graded en suite accommodation at the Blue Boar Inn Great Ryburgh, all meals from dinner on day one to lunch on day four, minibs transport on tour, services of leader and reserve entrance fees.



# BOOKING, PAYMENT & PROTECTION

payments powered by

**WorldPay**<sup>TM</sup>



Our online booking system offers three payment options at check out. If you wish to pay by cheque, this is still possible, and you can still print out and complete a form (or use the one supplied with this brochure) and send by post if you wish. An online BACS payment or bank transfer is the easiest way to pay and is completely free, and we also offer card payments powered by WorldPay with a Debit or Credit Card using our secure online payment system. The prices shown in this brochure are correct at the time of going to print, and valid until 31st October 2019. After this time, they may be subject to change particularly with the uncertainty of Brexit and the strength of the pound. The prices shown on our website are always current. Surcharges may be applicable to existing bookings as per our terms of booking

## VISA & PASSPORT INFORMATION



Under each individual tour description on our website, you will find information regarding visa requirements for UK nationals, and information regarding passport criteria. It is essential that you read this information before booking and ultimately, it is your responsibility to ensure that you have the correct documents to travel. If you are unsure, please ask us for more information and we will of course assist where possible.

## HEALTH INFORMATION

Before travel, you should check the health requirements for your destination and ensure that you have taken the correct precautions. Oriole Birding cannot offer medical advice, and we strongly recommend that you visit the MASTA website ([www.masta-travel-health.com](http://www.masta-travel-health.com)) to check inoculation requirements for your trip. A print out can then be taken along to a travel appointment at your local medical practice, where correct advice and if necessary, inoculations or medication for your trip, can be administered. Leave plenty of time before your tour to make these arrangements.

## TRAVEL INSURANCE

It is a pre-requisite for joining one of our international holidays that adequate travel insurance is obtained before travel, to cover medical expenses, potential repatriation, force majeure and evacuation from potentially remote environments. We are not able to provide, nor advise, on travel insurance, but we do require by law a copy of your policy details prior to commencement of the tour. Expensive optical and photographic equipment is not normally covered by such a policy, and you should add these to your home insurance policy as specified items.

## FINANCIAL PROTECTION



In line with the UK Package Travel Regulations, Oriole Birding protects monies paid over by our clients in one of two ways, depending on the type of tour. All the flights and flight-inclusive holidays in this publication and on our website are financially protected by the ATOL scheme. When you pay you will be supplied with an ATOL Certificate. Please ask for it and check to ensure that everything you booked (flights, hotels and other services) is listed on it. Please see our booking conditions for further information or for more information about financial protection and the ATOL Certificate go to: [www.atol.org.uk/ATOLCertificate](http://www.atol.org.uk/ATOLCertificate).

Total Payment Protection (topp) Policy cover:

In compliance with The Package Travel and Linked Travel Arrangements Regulations 2018, an insurance policy has been arranged with Travel & General Insurance Services Limited (t&g), to protect customers' prepayments in the unlikely event of our financial failure, and paid in respect of:

- non-flight inclusive packages commencing and returning to the UK
  - the ground handling aspects of packages where the customer is responsible for arranging travel to the destination offered on this website
  - non-ATOL flight inclusive packages sold to customers outside of the European Economic Area (EEA)
- for:

- a refund of such prepayments if customers have not yet travelled, or
- making arrangements to enable the holiday to continue if customers have already travelled
- repatriation of customers as may be applicable, subject to the terms of the insurance policy.

Customers' prepayments are protected by a topp policy.

In the unlikely event of financial failure please contact the claims helpline on 01702 811397. A copy of the policy is available on request.

This policy is provided by Travel & General Insurance Services Limited (t&g), registered number 02527363 and underwritten by Hiscox Insurance Company Limited (Hiscox), registered number 00070234. t&g and Hiscox are authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority and the Prudential Regulation Authority (number 113849)





# Terms & Conditions

## Your Financial Protection

When you buy an ATOL protected flight or flight inclusive holiday from Oriole Birding Ltd ATOL 6839 you will receive an ATOL Certificate. This lists what is financially protected, where you can get information on what this means for you and who to contact if things go wrong. We, or the suppliers identified on your ATOL Certificate, will provide you with the services listed on the ATOL Certificate [or a suitable alternative]. In some cases, where neither we nor the supplier are able to do so for reasons of insolvency, an alternative ATOL holder may provide you with the services you have bought or a suitable alternative [at no extra cost to you]. You agree to accept that in those circumstances the alternative ATOL holder will perform those obligations and you agree to pay any money outstanding to be paid by you under your contract to that alternative ATOL holder. However, you also agree that in some cases it will not be possible to appoint an alternative ATOL holder, in which case you will be entitled to make a claim under the ATOL scheme. If we, or the suppliers identified on your ATOL certificate, are unable to provide the services listed [or a suitable alternative, through an alternative ATOL holder or otherwise] for reasons of insolvency, the Trustees of the Air Travel Trust may make a payment to [or confer a benefit on] you under the ATOL scheme. You agree that in return for such a payment or benefit you assign absolutely to those Trustees any claims which you have or may have arising out of or relating to the non-provision of the services, including any claim against us, the travel agent. You also agree that any such claims maybe re-assigned to another body, if that other body has paid sums you have claimed under the ATOL scheme.

From 1st October 2012 the following financial protection will apply “Many of the flights and flight-inclusive holidays in this brochure are financially protected by the ATOL scheme. But ATOL protection does not apply to all holiday and travel services listed [in this brochure/on this website]. Please ask us to confirm what protection may apply to your booking. If you do not receive an ATOL Certificate then the booking will not be ATOL protected. If you do receive an ATOL Certificate but all the parts of your trip are not listed on it, those parts will not be ATOL protected. Please see our booking conditions for information or for more information about financial protection and the ATOL Certificate go to: [www.atol.org.uk/ATOLCertificate](http://www.atol.org.uk/ATOLCertificate)”

For package holidays described on this website which do not include a flight and are therefore not covered by our ATOL, your payments are protected through the Total Payment Protection (topp) Policy cover.

In compliance with The Package Travel and Linked Travel Arrangements Regulations 2018 an insurance policy has been arranged with Travel & General Insurance Services Limited (t&g), to protect customers' prepayments in the unlikely event of our financial failure and paid in respect of

- non-flight inclusive packages commencing and returning to the UK
- the ground handling aspects of packages where the customer is responsible for arranging travel to the destination offered on this website
- non-ATOL flight inclusive packages sold to customers outside of the European Economic Area [EEA]

for:

- a refund of such prepayments if customers have not yet travelled, or
- making arrangements to enable the holiday to continue if customers have already travelled
- repatriation of customers as may be applicable, subject to the terms of the insurance policy

Customers' prepayments are protected by a topp policy.

In the unlikely event of financial failure please contact the claims helpline on 01702 811397. A copy of the policy is available on request.

This policy is provided by Travel & General Insurance Services Limited (t&g), registered number 02527363 and underwritten by Hiscox Insurance Company Limited (Hiscox), registered number 00070234. t&g and Hiscox are authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority and the Prudential Regulation Authority (number 113849)

So whichever holiday type you choose, you can book with confidence with Oriole Birding that your money is fully protected

## Flights

If desired, and where possible, we will arrange your holiday flight from your local airport. There is usually a supplement to pay in addition to the quoted holiday price and this service can only be offered if it does not interfere with the holiday schedule. We may also take advantage of the ever growing number of budget airlines to ensure that small groups can travel rather than cancel tours owing to lack of numbers and also if the schedule involves a return from an airport other than that by which you arrived. Participants must reconfirm their flights with the given airline 72 hours in advance of departure at the end of the tour. This does not apply to Easy Jet which is a ticket less airline. Oriole Birding can not be held responsible for any missed departures by way of failure to comply with this clause.

## Your Tour Contract

When you make a booking, you guarantee that you have the authority to accept, and do accept, on behalf of your party the terms of these booking conditions. A contract will exist as soon as we issue our confirmation invoice. This contract is made on the terms of these booking conditions, which are governed by English Law and both agree to submit to the jurisdiction of the English Courts at all times.

\*\*\*\*\* Please ensure if you are travelling overseas that the name [s] on the booking form matches that exactly on your passport [s]. Failure to do so may result in you being turned away at the point of departure. Mistakes on tickets prior to travel may incur a financial penalty or cancellation fee with no guarantee of an alternative seat being available \*\*\*\*\*

## Payment of Balance

When you receive your confirmation invoice you will be issued with a payment deadline for the remaining balance. This is normally 10 weeks prior to departure for overseas tours and 4 weeks prior to departure for UK tours. Please note we do not send balance payment reminders, and your pre-tour information pack will not be sent until the balance has been received. We accept BACS payments, cheque or debit/credit card payments. Failure to pay the balance by the due date may result in cancellation of your tour arrangements and we reserve the right to levy any cancellation charges as set out below. If the minimum number of participants has not been reached by the balance due date for your tour, we will contact you to advise of a new payment deadline in order to allow time for sufficient numbers to be reached.

## Your Tour Price

When you make your booking, you must pay the required deposit as set out in our literature unless agreed otherwise. The balance of the cost of your tour arrangements must be paid at a specified date before your departure and no reminder will be sent. If the deposit or balance is not paid in time, we reserve the right to cancel your tour arrangements.

The cost of your tour arrangements is subject to surcharges. Surcharges will be levied only to allow for price increases which are a direct consequence of; the price of transport resulting from the cost of fuel or power; charges, taxes or fees made by third parties, such as airport fees or tourist taxes; or changes to exchange rates.

We will absorb small increases, but if a decision is made by us to impose a surcharge we will provide an explanation of the increase and a calculation of it at least twenty days before the start of the tour. The surcharge will be calculated on any increase in costs from the point when the tour was first advertised to the point when the surcharge is levied. Only amounts up to 8% of your total tour costs will be surcharged. If we decide that you have to pay more than 8% of your tour costs, you may cancel your tour and receive a full refund of all monies paid. Within fourteen days you must either accept the proposed surcharge or terminate the contract without paying a termination fee. If you do not confirm within fourteen days then we may terminate the contract and refund all payments made.

You have a right to a price reduction corresponding to any reduction in costs referred to in this section above before the start of the tour but after the contract is concluded. Any price reduction will be net of any administrative expenses.

\*Please note that currently prices for 2021 tours are held only to 30th June 2020\*

## If You Change Your Booking

If, after our confirmation invoice has been issued, you wish to change your tour arrangements, we will do our utmost to make these changes, but it may not always be possible. Any request for changes to be made must be made in writing from the person who made the booking at least 21 days prior to departure. You will be asked to pay an administration charge to cover any cost we incur in making this alteration. You should be aware that these costs will increase the closer to the departure date that changes are made and therefore you should contact us as soon as possible. Note: Certain travel arrangements [e.g. Apex Tickets] cannot be changed after a reservation has been made and any alteration request will incur a 100% cancellation.

## Refunds

Deposits are non refundable, but are transferable to another specified tour but are subject to deductions for any expenses incurred by us. Balance payments are also non-refundable except at our sole discretion, but are transferable in accordance with Transfer of Bookings. Please note that we are unable to refund any cancelled boat trips on any of our tours. Travel Insurance is therefore essential. See below for more details regarding refunds on deposits and balances due to cancellations.

## Transfer of Bookings

Tour participants may transfer their booking to another person if they are prevented from proceeding with the tour due to sickness or accidents suffered by them or their close family or for other unavoidable reasons such as jury service. However, if there is a waiting list for the tour the place must first be offered to the people on that waiting list. If there is no waiting list and the participant can find another person to take up the place, any additional costs incurred by Oriole Birding Ltd relating to the transfer have to be paid for by the transferee. Reasonable notice must be given to us about such a transfer and cannot be made within 90 days of departure [42 days for Norfolk tours].

## If You Cancel Your Tour

You, or any member of your party, may cancel your tour arrangements at any time. Written and dated notification from the person who made the booking must be received at our office. Since we incur costs in cancelling your tour arrangements, you will have to pay the applicable cancellation charges. Cancellations more than 90 days in advance of departure will result in loss of deposit only unless the tour arrangements have been made in advance of this 90 day rule as a result of sufficient bookings being received to make the tour viable. In this instance cancellation will be subject to 100% of tour costs. Thereafter the following charges will apply:-

|                 |                                                                                |
|-----------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 90 days or more | deposit and any additional services incurred on your behalf will be forfeited. |
| 89 - 29 days    | 80% of total tour costs                                                        |
| 28 - 0 days     | 100% Of total tour costs                                                       |

If the reason for your cancellation is covered under the terms of your insurance policy, you may be able to reclaim these charges.

Please note that if you have paid by card, then any refund owed to you under these terms due to a cancellation made by you will be made by bank transfer or cheque.

NB for Norfolk tours, the following cancellation schedule will apply:-

|                 |                                                                              |
|-----------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 42 days or more | deposit and any additonal services incurred on your behalf will be forfeited |
| 41 - 28 days    | 80 % of total tour costs                                                     |
| 27 - 0 days     | 100% of total tour costs                                                     |

## Travel Insurance

Appropriate travel insurance is essential on all tours outside the UK [and we strongly recommend you take travel insurance for UK tours too]. It must include insurance against force majeure and repatriation from potentially remote locations, in order to protect yourself against potentially costly overseas medical expenses should you fall ill on tour. It is your responsibility to ensure that the cover you purchase is adequate for your particular needs. Oriole Birding Ltd must be supplied with a copy of your insurance details at the point of balance payment, to show cover extending beyond the time of travel. Please note that travel insurance policies seldom cover optical/photographic equipment, and you should add this to your home insurance contents policy instead as a specified item.



### Flight Delays

If flights are delayed, we will make every effort to assist you in making alternative travel, accommodation and meal arrangements, should these be necessary. Such arrangements are sometimes not covered by the airline, so please make sure your travel insurance covers any possible extra costs involved. Any necessary arrangements that are required as a result of such delays would be payable locally by the client, though we will do our best to assist in arranging these where possible, either through your tour leader or direct from our office. You may be able to claim against the airline for these costs under EU or UK law. Again, we will assist you with any claim but please note current rules state that it is the passenger and NOT the tour operator who has to claim.

### If We Change or Cancel Your Tour

It is unlikely that we will have to make changes to your tour, but we do plan the arrangements many months in advance. Occasionally, we may have to make changes and we reserve the right to do so at any time. Most of these changes will be minor and we will advise you at the earliest opportunity. We also reserve the right in any circumstances to cancel your tour. For example, if the minimum number of clients required for a particular tour is not reached, we may have to cancel it. However, we will not cancel your tour [assuming that it is already a guaranteed departure] less than ten weeks before departure date, [four weeks within UK and not applicable to pelagic boat trips where cancellation may be advised by the boat skipper on the day due to adverse weather conditions] except for reasons of force majeure or failure by you to pay the final balance. The deadline for cancellation of the tour by us due to insufficient numbers being reached [i.e. not already a guaranteed departure] will be your balance due date. We may, however, contact you prior to this date in order to extend this deadline, in which case your balance due date would also be extended to the same date. The minimum number of participants required for each trip is detailed in the brochure and on our website. Should major changes to the itinerary occur, participants will be advised and may withdraw without penalty. Any changes that are beyond our control whilst the tour is in progress and incur additional costs, such as weather delays, strikes, acts of war, natural disasters, disease, acts of god, terrorism, financial failure of airlines, or any other causes beyond our control, are the responsibility of the participants. Please note that carriers such as airlines used in our tours may be subject to change. Such a change is deemed to be a minor change. Other examples of minor changes include alteration of your outward/return flights by less than twelve hours, changes to aircraft type, change to accommodation to another of the same standard, changes in the order of sites to be visited, changes advised by our tour leaders. We reserve the right to send home at their own expense, anyone that will not conduct themselves in an acceptable manner or who show scant regard for any wildlife that we may be watching.

If you have paid for your tour arrangements by card, and we have cancelled your tour due to any reason stated above, we will refund any monies due back to you by bank transfer.

### If You Have a Complaint

If you have a problem during your tour, please inform the tour leader immediately so that they can endeavour to put things right. If you fail to follow this simple procedure, we will have been deprived of the opportunity to investigate and rectify your complaint whilst you were on the tour and this may affect your rights under this contract. If your complaint is not rectified locally, please follow this up within 28 days of your return by writing direct to our Customer Service Department at The Manor House, Great Ryburgh, Norfolk NR21 0DX, giving your booking reference and all other relevant information. Please keep your letter concise and to the point. This will assist us in quickly identifying your concerns and speed up our response to you.

### Our Liability to You

Oriole Birding Ltd will take all reasonable steps to ensure that all services provided are supplied as described in our marketing literature. We cannot, however, accept liability for physical injury, loss, damage or expense resulting from any event whatsoever beyond our control. Whilst every care is taken in the preparation of our brochure, mistakes can and sometimes do occur. Unless the published error or omission has a major effect on the tour arrangements to the extent that the number of species seen is materially affected then there are no grounds for claims for compensation. Birding tours by their nature involve an element of danger, with walking on often steep/rocky/slippery/icy trails or across otherwise difficult terrain. We can supply information regarding each individual tour on request and will highlight any particularly dangerous elements in the tour details, but participants must ensure they are physically fit enough to undertake these activities and we cannot accept responsibility for any injuries sustained as a result.

### Conditions of Carriage

The contractual terms of the companies that provide the transportation for your tour will apply to this contract. These may contain terms, which affect your right to compensation. You may request a copy of the relevant conditions of carriage from our office. The brochure is our responsibility, as your tour operator. It is not issued on behalf of, does not commit any airlines mentioned therein or any airline whose services are used in the course of your tour arrangements.

### Passport and Health Regulations

It is the sole responsibility of all participants to ensure that they possess a passport that is valid for up to six months after completion of their tour. It is the participants responsibility to ensure they have the correct visas for the destination and while we may offer guidance to this end on individual tour pages, this could become out of date and we will supply more detail in our pre-tour information pack. In addition, health requirements and any inoculation certificates are also the participants' responsibility. We cannot advise on these matters and any information given either verbally or in our literature must be taken as a guide only as we are not medical professionals. Well in advance of your trip, you should visit the website [www.masta-travel-health.com](http://www.masta-travel-health.com) and download a free health brief, which should be taken to your local medical centre for further advice. A reasonable level of physical fitness is required, as all tours will include some walking, possibly on uneven or slippery surfaces. Any limitations on your ability to participate must be advised prior to booking. Participants are requested not to smoke whilst in tour vehicles, hides and when in close proximity to other group members.

### TOUR PROTOCOL

#### Birds

The birds and other wildlife listed in the itineraries are meant as a guide only and are not guaranteed to be present. Some birds not listed may also occur. When watching wildlife, we ask all our guests to be courteous to other members of the party and to put the welfare of the bird or animal first. We cannot tolerate 'flushing' of wildlife in order to obtain photographs. Please also note that while we may use playback on some of our tours, particularly in the neotropics, the law and common sense prevents us from using playback for sensitive species in the UK during the breeding season. Please ask us when booking if you would like to know more.

#### Tips and Gratuities

We prefer to leave this aspect of our tours purely to your personal discretion. Tips in North American restaurants are included in your tour price.

#### Behaviour and Language

Tour participants spend a long time in each other's company during a tour. Inevitably a wide variety of political, religious and cultural beliefs will be held by participants. Relaxed exchanges and the ability to speak freely are the hallmark of a good trip. However, tour participants are asked to be considerate to the beliefs and sensitivities of others. If in the opinion of the tour leader a particular conversation becomes too controversial, divisive or otherwise upsetting to one or more participants, he or she will request that the conversation is terminated. There are no circumstances in which we shall tolerate racist or discriminatory comments. If any tour participant is concerned about the behaviour or comments of another then to allow us the opportunity to resolve or tackle the issue we ask that they speak in confidence with the tour leader, to share those concerns. The tour leader will discuss the concerns and seek to agree steps to resolve the issue.

### PRIVACY NOTICE

1. This notice sets out the way we gather, use, disclose and manage our customer's personal information.
2. Oriole Birding is a Limited Company with our registered office at The Manor House, 9 Station Road, Great Ryborough, Norfolk, NR21 0DX. We are committed to maintaining high standards of confidentiality in relation to the information provided to us in the course of our business. Please read this notice carefully and contact us if you have any queries by emailing us at: [info@oriolebirding.com](mailto:info@oriolebirding.com).
3. This notice applies to all persons whose personal information we collect and process. This includes the categories below:
  - a. Our customers
  - b. People who are involved in contracts and transactions we are working on, such as other businesses or individuals our clients are contracting with.
  - c. Our regulators, insurers, auditors and professional advisors.
4. In the course of our business, we will collect and process certain types of personal information. We cannot list all of these. However, we will only process and collect personal information where necessary for the provision of our services. Most commonly, we collect and process contact information for people (such as full name, date of birth, address, email address and telephone number) and passport details for the booking of flights on your behalf.
5. Where we received personal data in connection with our business of arranging and leading birdwatching and general nature holidays, we process that data for the purposes of the provision of those services. This includes:
  - i. Arranging travel and accommodation for our tours;
  - ii. Complying with legal obligations, such as disclosure required by court order;
  - iii. Disclosure where required by our regulators;
  - iv. Processing required in connection with any actual or proposed sale, merger, joint venture, assignment, transfer or other transaction relating to our business.
6. We may transfer personal data outside the European Union if a tour takes place there. We shall only do this where it is necessary to arrange and deliver a tour.
7. We keep personal data in accordance with our retention and destruction policy for no longer than 4 years after the personal data was provided to us.
8. We are strongly committed to data security and we take reasonable steps to protect the personal information we hold from unauthorised access, loss, misuse, alteration or corruption.
9. Data Protection law requires us to have a legal basis for processing your information. In most cases we will only process your personal information:
  - i. So we may carry out our contract with you, or take any necessary steps before entering into a contract with you;
  - ii. As necessary to comply with any legal obligations;
  - iii. Where necessary, for our legitimate purposes in providing tours and birdwatching services and/or for the legitimate purposes of our customers in receiving those services. For example we shall send the occasional email, newsletter and annually our brochure for those clients who have agreed to receive these.
10. If we process your personal data, you have a number of rights. You may request a copy of your data that we hold about you and you may object to our processing of it, ask us to rectify if, restrict the way we can process it, or erase it from our records. If you have a complaint about the way in which we process your personal data, then please contact Nick Parsons at the address given at paragraph 2 above. If you remain dissatisfied you may wish to consider approaching the Information Commissioners Office ([www.ico.gov.uk](http://www.ico.gov.uk)).



We require a completed and signed booking form for each individual booking you wish to make, and further copies are available to download from our website. By signing this form you agree that you have read and accept our terms and conditions, available for you to read in this publication. Please note that unsigned booking forms will be returned, so make sure you complete all the relevant sections. Passport information is not required for any of our UK holidays. All the flights and flight-inclusive holidays in this publication and on our website are financially protected by the ATOL scheme. When you pay you will be supplied with an ATOL Certificate. Please ask for it and check to ensure that everything you booked [flights, hotels and other services] is listed on it. Please see our booking conditions for further information or for more information about financial protection and the ATOL Certificate go to: [www.atol.org.uk/ATOLCertificate](http://www.atol.org.uk/ATOLCertificate). Forward your completed form to:-



**Oriole Birding Ltd, The Manor House, 9 Station Road, Great Ryburgh, Norfolk, UK NR21 0DX**

## Oriole Birding Booking Form

I/we wish to book places on the following holiday (Title as shown) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Dates \_\_\_\_\_

Full name including title (Client 1) \_\_\_\_\_

(Client 2) \_\_\_\_\_

(This must match exactly to that on your passport as mistakes cannot be rectified once tickets are issued.)

Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Postcode \_\_\_\_\_

NB \* Passport number including start and expiry dates (Client 1) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ (Client 2) \_\_\_\_\_

It is vital that we receive this information at the time of booking or as soon as possible afterwards to secure seats

Date of Birth (Client 1) \_\_\_\_\_ (Client 2) \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

Mobile \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_ Deposit \_\_\_\_\_

Name of insurer and policy number

\*Please note we MUST have this information for international holidays by the balance due date\*

Please indicate the type of room you require. Single ☐ Twin ☐ Double ☐

Please note that if you do not wish to share or a suitable roommate cannot be found, you will be required to pay the single room supplement.

Special Requirements

(e.g dietary needs)

Emergency contact name and number \_\_\_\_\_

Method of Payment: Cheque (payable to Oriole Birding Ltd) ☐ Bank Transfer ☐ Debit/Credit Card ☐

For card payments, please call our office on 0800 999 3036 for us to take payment over the phone

For Bank transfer payments, our account details are as follows:-

Oriole Birding Ltd, National Westminster Bank acc/no 87370050 sort code 51-81-29

I/We have read the conditions of booking and agree that this reservation will be subject to them. Please update my data preferences as follows: I/we are happy to receive marketing information by email ☐ post (brochure) ☐

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_





**Oriole Birding, The Manor House, Great Ryburgh, Norfolk NR21 9DX**  
**Tel: FREEPHONE 0800 999 3036**

**E-mail: [info@oriolebirding.com](mailto:info@oriolebirding.com) Website: [www.oriolebirding.com](http://www.oriolebirding.com)**

**Front cover: European Cuckoo by Gary Thoburn**

**Back cover: Black Grouse (Top), Dunlin & Ringed Plover (Bottom) by Gary Thoburn**

**Oriole Birding is a Limited Company Registered Number 9051076**

