



UNITED KINGDOM: ENGLAND IN WINTER TOUR

TOUR-SPECIFIC INFORMATION



Bohemian Waxwing is possible during our United Kingdom winter birdwatching tour.

GENERAL INFORMATION ABOUT THE UNITED KINGDOM CAN BE READ HERE**TOUR OUTLINE**

This set departure United Kingdom (UK) winter tour will start and end in London. The tour will enjoy excellent winter birding, featuring a wide range of resident species and numerous winter visitors. Wildfowl, shorebirds, gulls, and numerous exciting passerines from northern and eastern Europe and further east into Asia provide an interesting list of birds to look for on this bird-filled yet also relaxed-pace tour.

As we travel through the east of England, birding in Norfolk, Suffolk, Lincolnshire, Yorkshire, Durham, and Northumberland, we will also find an impressive array of sites of important cultural heritage, such as churches, cathedrals, and castles, as well as visit historic cities such as Norwich, York, and Alnwick.

WEATHER/CLIMATE

Winter in the UK is generally cool, wet, windy, and cloudy. Temperatures at night rarely drop below 14°F (-10°C) and in the day rarely rise above 59°F (15°C). Precipitation can be plentiful throughout the season, though snow is relatively infrequent despite the country's high latitude.

DAILY ACTIVITIES, PHYSICAL REQUIREMENTS, AND TOUR PACE

This is a relaxed pace tour though we do cover the whole of the east coast of England north of London, up to almost to the Scottish Borders. During the tour, sunrise will be around 08:00hrs and sunset around 16:30hrs. This will mean particularly early starts and late finishes to the day's birding will not be necessary for the most part. Most of the tour is spent in the lowlands and at sea-level, though we will spend time in higher elevations, but these are still rather low and are unlikely to provide any constraints to anyone. Our United Kingdom: Ultimate Spring Tour is a faster-paced more intensive birdwatching tour, with a different set of birds possible.

A great deal of our birding will be undertaken at established nature reserves, such as those managed and operated by the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) and regional wildlife trusts and organizations, such as Norfolk Wildlife Trust, Yorkshire Wildlife Trust, and Northumberland Wildlife Trust, among others. Most of the reserves we visit have good facilities, such as trail networks, viewing blinds (hides), and visitor centers often (including gift shops and cafes). These reserves often allow great views of many species and can also offer good photographic opportunities. It is however important to note that this set departure tour is not designed as a photographic tour, if you would like a custom photography tour for you or a group of friends, please let us know as we can put together something specific for you.

DOMESTIC FLIGHTS

There are no domestic flights included in this tour.

ACCOMMODATION

We will be staying in comfortable bed-and-breakfast (B&B) accommodation for most of the tour, with the exception of the beginning/end of the tour when we overnight in a hotel near Heathrow airport in London. All accommodation on this tour has private rooms and bathroom facilities.

WHAT TO BRING: CLOTHING

In addition to the clothing mentioned in the general information document, please make sure you bring clothing suitable for cold, wind, and rainy weather. This would include suitable waterproof clothing (e.g. jacket and trousers) and layers to provide extra heat, such as thermal trousers and shirt, and sweaters (jumpers), fleece, and over-jacket. A woolly (beanie) hat, scarf/snood, and gloves will be extremely useful and probably essential.

WHAT TO BRING: OTHER ITEMS

In addition to the items listed in the general information document, a thermos flask for keeping hot water/hot drinks is recommended for maintaining heat throughout the day. Hand warmer packets can be useful if the conditions are particularly cold.



European Goldfinch is a common and widespread species in the UK but for visiting birders (and UK-based birders alike) it is a spectacular must-see species.