



UNITED KINGDOM: ULTIMATE SPRING TOUR

TOUR-SPECIFIC INFORMATION



*The clown of the North Atlantic! We will enjoy watching breeding **Atlantic Puffins** on this United Kingdom spring birdwatching tour.*

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

This small group, set departure United Kingdom (UK) spring tour will start in London (Heathrow), England and end in Edinburgh, Scotland. The tour is timed during the peak of the spring migration within the UK and when breeding for a number of species will also be well underway. This comprehensive tour will connect with a wide range of rare and localized breeding species and will spend time focusing on the famed “Scottish Specials”, species not found further south in England, such as **Golden Eagle**, **Rock Ptarmigan**, **Western Capercaillie**, **European Crested Tit**, and **Scottish Crossbill**.

WEATHER/CLIMATE

Spring is generally a calm, cool season, particularly because the Atlantic has lost much of its heat throughout the autumn and winter period. As the sun rises higher in the sky and the days get longer, temperatures slowly rise, but the solar effect is mitigated by the effect of the cool ocean waters and westerly winds that blow across them. The average nighttime temperature in the UK in spring is 44 °F (7 °C), with the daytime temperature average of 60 °F (16 °C). We will be making several early morning starts, visiting northern latitudes, and spending some time at higher elevations on this tour, so we will likely experience a wide range of temperatures (see more below).

DAILY ACTIVITIES, PHYSICAL REQUIREMENTS, AND TOUR PACE

This tour covers a large part of the eastern UK and is at a faster pace than some of our other tours, for example our United Kingdom: England in Winter Tour is a slower-paced and less intensive birdwatching tour, with a different set of birds possible. During this spring tour, sunrise will be around 05:00hrs and sunset around 21:30hrs, the tour will require some early starts and late finishes to our days in the field. Most of the English leg of the tour is spent in the lowlands and at sea-level, though we will spend time in higher elevations, but these elevations are still rather low and are unlikely to provide any constraints to anyone. We will venture to higher ground (around 3,300 feet / 1,000m) when birding in the Scottish Highlands, potentially a little higher, briefly.

Much 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 in England, among others, such as the Scottish Wildlife Trust. 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) though we will also be walking on rough tracks at times. Please note that the further north we go (such as when birding in Scotland), we will be spending more time on rougher tracks and will spend time walking some hills, though we will go at a pace suitable for everyone in the group.

The nature reserves we visit often allow great views of many species and can also offer good photographic opportunities, though please 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. Note the tour starts in London (Heathrow), England and ends in Edinburgh, Scotland.

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 in London/Edinburgh. All accommodation has private rooms and bathroom facilities.

WHAT TO BRING: CLOTHING

In addition to the clothing mentioned in the general information document, a ‘midge net hat’ is recommended for when we are birding in Scotland. Although this tour takes place in late-spring, suitable clothing for cool mornings and evenings is recommended and rain should be expected at any time, so good waterproof clothing is necessary. Sturdy walking boots are recommended for this tour.

WHAT TO BRING: OTHER ITEMS

A walking/hiking stick will be useful for walking in some areas on this tour, such as when in Scotland.



Rock Ptarmigan will be a target of ours while birding in Scotland.