ALASKA: UTQIAGVIK (BARROW) – TOP OF THE WORLD

26–30 JUNE 2027
26–30 JUNE 2028
24–28 JUNE 2029



*The remarkable **King Eider**, one of four species of eiders we should see on this tour*

Overview

Utqiagvik (formerly Barrow), Alaska, is the northernmost city in the United States, located over 300 miles (480 kilometers) into the Arctic Circle. In the summer the sun never fully sets as the area experiences 24-hour daylight, an amazing phenomenon to see firsthand. Several species utilize this high-Arctic habitat for breeding, such as **Steller's**, **Spectacled**, and **King Eiders**, **Long-tailed Duck**, **Tundra Swan**, and numerous shorebirds.

This trip can be combined with our main tour **Alaska: Vast Beauty**, which immediately precedes it and covers many other amazing areas of Alaska.

Detailed Itinerary (5 days/4 nights)

Day 1. Arrival in Utqiagvik

This extension trip will start in Anchorage at the tail end of our main Alaska tour as we take an afternoon flight to Utqiagvik (formerly known as Barrow). Once we arrive we will get settled in for the evening with potential for some birding, depending on time and conditions.

Overnight: Utqiagvik



*The powerful **Pomarine Jaeger** patrols the waters of Utqiagvik.*

Days 2–3. Birding the Top of the World

We will have the next two days to fully experience the culture and birding of Utqiagvik. With a large percentage of the population being Iñupiat, an indigenous Inuit ethnic group, there are many cultural aspects that give us a small insight into the life in the high Arctic. We will be birding around town, where the ice thaw can create nice ponds and lakes while also changing the habitat drastically day-to-day. These areas are famous for their small nesting populations of **Steller's**, **Spectacled**, and **King Eiders** as well as other waterfowl, such as **Tundra Swan**, **Brant Goose**, and **Long-tailed Duck**. Some of these thaws will also create shallower waters that are utilized by numerous shorebirds like **Red** and **Red-necked Phalaropes**, **Pectoral Sandpiper**, **Semipalmated Sandpiper**, and **Dunlin**. We will also spend some time birding Point Barrow, where **Pomarine Jaegers** are staples, with **Glaucous Gulls** hanging around, and we may even have a shot at a drifting **Yellow-billed Loon**. The combination of great birding, cultural experience, and the never-setting sun make Utqiagvik a memorable experience.

Overnight: Utqiagvik



*We hope to find the beautiful **Red-necked Phalarope**.*

Day 4. Back to Anchorage

We'll spend the morning birding around town again for our final looks at several species before catching an afternoon flight back to Anchorage. Once we arrive we will shuttle to a hotel for the evening.

Overnight: Anchorage

Day 5. Departure – tour concludes

This morning we will use the hotel shuttle services to take us to the Anchorage airport to catch our various flights home. This concludes the extension tour to the unique area of Utqiagvik.

Overnight: Not included

Please note that the itinerary cannot be guaranteed as it is only a rough guide and can be changed (usually slightly) due to factors such as availability of accommodation, updated information on the state of accommodation, roads, or birding sites, the discretion of the guides, and other factors. In addition, we sometimes have to use a different guide from the one advertised due to tour scheduling or other factors.

Tour Details

Duration:	5 days
Group size:	4–8
Dates:	26–30 June 2027 26–30 June 2028 24–28 June 2029
Start:	Anchorage
End:	Anchorage
Prices:	US$ 3,988 per person sharing, assuming 4-8 participants (2027) US$ 4,290 per person sharing, assuming 4-8 participants (2028) US$ 4,480 per person sharing, assuming 4-8 participants (2029)
Single supplements:	US$ 831 (2027) US$ 890 (2028) US$ 930 (2029)

Price includes:

Meals
Accommodation
Transport
Guiding fees
Native Land Birding Permit
Flights Anchorage – Utqiagvik – Anchorage

Price excludes:

Flights to and from Anchorage
Personal insurance
Alcoholic beverages
Gratuities
Laundry service
Personal expenses such as gifts
Gratuities (please see our tipping guidelines blog)