

# Birding Ecotours



ALASKA: UTQIAGVIK (BARROW) – TOP OF THE WORLD

24 - 28 JUNE 2024



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

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.

### 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.

*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 international guide from the one advertised due to tour scheduling.*

- Duration:** 5 days  
**Group Size:** 4 – 8  
**Dates:** 24 – 28 June 2024  
**Start:** Anchorage  
**End:** Anchorage  
**Prices:** US\$3,250 per person sharing, assuming 4-8 participants (2024)  
**Single supplements:** US\$690 (2024)

**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](#))