



**BIRDING TOUR FINLAND & NORWAY:
TAIGA AND TUNDRA ADVENTURE**

24 MAY–04 JUNE 2027

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*This tour targets some fantastic grouse and owl species, such as the huge and charismatic **Western Capercaillie**, which we hope to find lekking in the forests around Kuusamo.*

Overview

There has been a long-held mysticism among birders regarding the northern part of Finland and Norway. The area conjures up images of vast forests, biting temperatures, and months of darkness. The reality is that the north of both Finland and Norway are two of Europe's premier birding locations and our Taiga and Tundra Adventure will showcase just that, with the bonus of 24 hours of daylight to maximize our birding experiences. While it is true that there are vast swathes of taiga forest, there are also stunning fjords, miles of breathtaking tundra, rocky mountain peaks, otherworldly coastlines, and charming fishing villages to enjoy. Moreover, there is a simply fantastic selection of wildlife, no more so than the avifauna of the region. This tour will cover the full range of habitats available as we make our way through Lapland's vast emptiness before joining the breathtaking Varangerfjord and exploring its length in its entirety.

Birding in the northern latitudes presents its own unique set of experiences. June in the region is surprisingly dry, as this area of Finland and Norway is sheltered from the Atlantic currents that bring lots of rain up through Scandinavia. This means that we will generally find good weather which, combined with the midnight sun, will give a lot of birding hours to enjoy. These northern latitudes do not have the sheer number of species you will find further south in Europe, but the climate and environment has led to a fascinating diversity of highly sought-after species that thrive in these areas.



*While exploring the Finnish forests we will search for the breathtaking **Great Grey Owl**.*

We will begin our tour in the city of Oulu in central Finland. Over the first three days of the tour we will explore the vast forests of the area. These forests are arguably the best in Europe for breeding owls and they will be the focus of the first part of our tour. With the aid of excellent and knowledgeable local guides, we hope to come across a number of highly desired owl species.

Whichever species we see will no doubt be an unforgettable experience, as is always the case with this charismatic family of birds. The chances of seeing our owl targets on this tour relies very heavily on the concentrations of voles, which varies each year. Some years are considered bad vole years, which means there are fewer breeding owls around, while in some years vole numbers may be high, which increases our chances of finding our owl targets! The forests around Oulu are also home to a range of other fascinating species, including **Black Woodpecker**, **Eurasian Three-toed Woodpecker**, **Wood Warbler**, and **Rustic Bunting**, amongst others.



*We hope to find the huge **Black Woodpecker** in the tall forests around Oulu.*

While around Oulu we will explore Liminganlahti. This superb wetland area plays host to many wildfowl and shorebird (wader) species. Highlights of our time here will likely include **Spotted Redshank**, **Caspian Tern**, **Black-tailed Godwit**, **Garganey**, **Whooper Swan**, and **Common Crane**. This activity is an irresistible lure to multiple birds of prey including **White-tailed Eagle**, **Western Marsh Harrier**, and **Peregrine Falcon**. Rarer species that we have a chance of coming across here include shorebirds (waders) like **Broad-billed Sandpiper** and the delicate **Pallid Harrier**, one of Europe's rarest (and most attractive) breeding birds of prey whose presence in the area is reliant on the concentrations of voles. We should also be well timed to witness the fascinating **Ruff** leks that occur in the area every summer.

We will then head east across the breadth of Finland to the city of Kuusamo, close to the Russian border. Along the route we will explore the vast swathes of lakes that form Finland's interior. Here we may come across **Smew**, **Common Crane**, **Common Scoter**, and **Eurasian Whimbrel**, among others. The variety of birds here is extensive, and as we continue to explore, we will come across small groups of **Common Goldeneye**, singing **Wood Sandpiper**, and stunning **Brambling**. This area of Finland is home to several eastern species of birds, including **Red-flanked Bluetail**, **Rustic**

Bunting, and **Little Bunting**. Taiga forest specials occur here too, including **Grey-headed Chickadee** (Siberian Tit), **Siberian Jay**, and the tricky **Two-barred Crossbill**. Our primary targets while birding around Kuusamo are the various grouse species, and we hope to find lekking **Western Capercaillie** and **Black Grouse**, as well as **Hazel Grouse**.



***Boreal** (Tengmalm's) Owl (such as this juvenile) is one of several owl species we hope to encounter in Finland and Norway.*

From Kuusamo we drive north, crossing the Arctic Circle, heading through beautiful taiga forests to Ivalo. From Ivalo we continue our journey north (often enjoying **Pine Grosbeak** at a feeding station en route) and eventually cross into Norway. The landscape changes into boggy fells as the Arctic tundra begins to reveal some of its stunning birdlife, such as **Black-throated Loon** (Diver), **Bluethroat**, **Rough-legged Buzzard**, and **European Golden Plover**. The Tana River and delta should hold numbers of **Common Merganser** (Goosander), plus breeding **Temminck's Stint**, and small numbers of **Bar-tailed Godwit**.

After exploring the river, we head up to the northern harbor town of Båtsfjord on the north coast of Varanger. The high tundra en route is home to specials such as **Rock Ptarmigan**, **Long-tailed Jaeger** (Skua), **Eurasian Dotterel**, **Arctic Redpoll**, and **Lapland Longspur** (Lapland Bunting). While in the highlands, temperatures often hover around freezing, however, the birding is normally exceptional with many new trip birds as we make our way through the tundra. The tundra areas here also hold **Rough-legged Buzzard**, **Parasitic Jaeger** (Arctic Skua), **Short-eared Owl**, **Bluethroat**, **Horned** (Shore) **Lark**, and **Snow Bunting**.

The final leg of our tour is on the stunning Varangerfjord itself. Along the route we will scan the tundra pools for shorebirds (waders) like **Eurasian Whimbrel**, **Red-necked Phalarope**, **Temminck's Stint**, **Little Stint**, and **Bar-tailed Godwit**. These lakes and pools are also home to

breeding **Red-throated** and **Black-throated Loons** (Divers). Further into the fjord we will explore coastal sites for some special wildfowl. With luck, the flocks of **Common Eider** may still have a few **King Eider** and **Steller's Eider** (two amazing sea ducks), although most of these birds would have already moved off to their breeding grounds further east.

We will explore the peninsula's superb seabird colonies. The remote island of Hornøya, off the coast of Vardø, is something to behold. The rocky island is home to 25,000 pairs of **Black-legged Kittiwake**, plus around 150 pairs of **European Shag**. The island is also covered in alcids such as **Thick-billed Murre** (Brünnich's Guillemot), **Common Murre** (Guillemot), **Razorbill**, and **Atlantic Puffin**. This activity attracts the two principal birds of prey here, the massive **White-tailed Eagle** and the scarce **Gyr Falcon**.



European Shag usually provides us with incredible views on Hornøya, along with large numbers of other breeding seabirds.

From here we will make the journey back to Ivalo, stopping for birding en route, before drawing our tour to a close. This journey will see us head further east than Istanbul in Turkey and as far north as the Arctic Circle. This Scandinavian birding tour is one you do not want to miss!

Detailed Itinerary (12 days/11 nights)

Days 1–3. Arrival in Oulu, birding the Liminganlahti wetlands and the Oulu region

Welcome to the land of the midnight sun. You will be met in Oulu by your Birding Ecotours tour leader and expert Finnish local guide. Our first evening in Oulu will be spent getting settled into

our hotel and enjoying a traditional Finnish meal. Here we will discuss the trip and use the time to assist with anything the group may need.

We will spend the first three days of our tour in the area surrounding the city of Oulu. This city of around 200,000 inhabitants is the largest in northern Finland and will be our base for the next few days. Oulu happens to be surrounded by some of the best birding Finland has to offer and we will use the long hours of daylight to maximize the birding experiences. Here, we will explore the dense taiga forests in search of some of the amazing species that inhabit this vast wilderness. The Oulu region is one of the best in Europe for breeding owls and we will attempt to see a number of charismatic owl species here.

The smallest of these species is the **Eurasian Pygmy Owl**. Despite its small size this species is a voracious, mainly diurnal hunter, and often hangs around bird feeders and hunts in a fashion like that of small hawks. Another small owl species here is the **Boreal** (Tengmalm's) **Owl**. This species can be incredibly elusive, and our best bet will be to observe this species near nest sites. In more open habitats, we hope to come across **Short-eared Owl**, although this species often requires some luck to find.



*The tiny **Eurasian Pygmy Owl** is a fearsome predator. Its small size not hindering it from being an effective hunter in the dense Finnish forests.*

Ural Owl and **Great Grey Owl** dwarf the other owl species here, but this does not necessarily make them any easier to see, though with our excellent local team we will stand a good chance! We will spend plenty of time searching the forests for these two mighty species. There is sometimes the possibility of seeing **Eurasian Eagle-Owl** too, however, as they are extremely sensitive breeders, we do not visit nesting sites, and so are reliant on finding roosting birds. While the owl species are the real highlight of the forests, they are not the only amazing species to be

found here. The taiga forests in June come alive as the daylight hours increase. By exploring the forest trails here, we should come across forest specials such as **Black Woodpecker**, **Eurasian Three-toed Woodpecker**, **Lesser Spotted Woodpecker**, **Grey-headed Woodpecker**, and perhaps **Eurasian Goshawk**.



*The massive **Ural Owl** should be another highlight of our time around Oulu.*

Passerines of the forest can be numerous in June, and we will search for **Bohemian Waxwing**, **European Crested Tit**, **Great Grey Shrike**, **Common Rosefinch**, **Fieldfare**, **Tree Pipit**, **Brambling**, **Red (Common) Crossbill**, **Eurasian Siskin**, and **Yellowhammer**. Forest birding can be challenging but this makes the rewards even greater and the forests around Oulu offer some sensational species for us to enjoy.

Another area we will explore during the first three days of the tour is the wetlands of Liminganlahti, situated to the south of Oulu. This wetland site is home to a multitude of wildfowl and shorebirds, including **Eurasian Curlew**, **Common Greenshank**, **Spotted Redshank**, **Ruff**, **Caspian Tern**, **Black-tailed Godwit**, **Northern Shoveler**, **Red-breasted Merganser**, and **Garganey**. Additionally, hundreds of young (non-breeding) **Whooper Swans** and **Common Cranes** spend their summer in the bay area. Usual sightings here also include **White-tailed Eagle** and **Western Marsh Harrier**, while **Peregrine Falcon** is a regular visitor from the nearby bog. **Terek Sandpiper** and **Pallid Harrier** are much sought-after rare breeding birds in the Oulu area.

During other excursions into forested areas there might be a chance to find **Wood Warbler**, **Thrush Nightingale** and **Blyth's Reed Warbler** – and perhaps even **Corn Crake**, and **Marsh Warbler**. It is fair to say that all these species have incredible songs and will provide more tour highlights.

Overnight (three nights): Finlandia Hotel Airport Oulu, (or similar) Kempele, Finland

Days 4–6. Birding the Kuusamo region

After three action-packed days around Oulu we will spend Day 4 undertaking our journey towards the beautiful northern regions of Finland. En route we will travel through stunning landscapes blanketed with forests, bogs, lakes, and rivers, with our end destination being the city of Kuusamo on the border with Russia.

Along the way we will stop at convenient points to do some birding around the wet bogs and lakes. In these areas we may come across **Smew** (one of *the* best-looking ducks on the planet), **Velvet Scoter**, **Common Scoter**, **Common Crane**, **Osprey**, **Eurasian Whimbrel**, **Green Sandpiper**, **Common Goldeneye**, **Wood Sandpiper**, and **Little Gull**, among others.

As we approach Kuusamo these lakes and bogs are broken up by sections of taiga forest. These are a real draw for species such as **Willow Tit**, **Common Cuckoo**, **Hooded Crow**, **Great Spotted Woodpecker**, **Brambling**, **Bohemian Waxwing**, and **Eurasian Siskin**.



*We will listen out for the distinctive song of **Wood Warbler** to help track it down.*

Once in Kuusamo we will explore the superb habitats of the region around the town. The real draw of this region is the grouse species which can be seen at traditional lekking sites. Grouse targets here include **Black Grouse**, **Western Capercaillie**, and **Hazel Grouse**. To find these grouse at their lekking sites we will need very early morning starts (around 3:30 am) to ensure we are on site before it warms up! We also look for several other species which are very range-restricted in Europe around Kuusamo, such as **Red-flanked Bluetail**, **Rustic Bunting**, **Little Bunting**, and **Grey-headed Chickadee** (Siberian Tit). These are all beautiful species and a huge bonus of birding in the area.

We also hope to be able to add to the above with some real forest specials such as **Siberian Jay**, **Parrot Crossbill**, **Pine Grosbeak**, and **Black Woodpecker**. The grassland sections between the forests often hold **Rough-legged Buzzard**, and **Common Rosefinch**.

Another important target around Kuusamo (and as we head further north) is the striking **Northern Hawk-Owl**. This species is a real star of the taiga forest and it is often seen on roadside wires scanning the grasses for small mammals. It is one of the few owls to be solely diurnal and this will help us locate this species. The habitats closer to Kuusamo will provide us with a different range of species to those found nearer Oulu such as **Red-necked Grebe**, **Spotted Redshank**, and **Jack Snipe**. Exploring the surrounding forests will give us another chance of spotting **Northern Hawk-Owl** and **Boreal** (Tengmalm's) **Owl**, plus **Western Capercaillie**, **Black Grouse**, and **Hazel Grouse**.



*The striking **Black Grouse** may be seen in forest clearings near Kuusamo.*

We will also spend time in the breathtaking old forests of the Oulanka National Park. Oulanka is the westernmost extreme of the taiga or boreal coniferous forest zone. In addition to the vast spruce forests, we can enjoy lichenous upland pine forests, wild river valleys, and watery mires. The flora and fauna of Oulanka's river valley is a distinctive mix of northern, eastern, and southern species.

One of the true stars of the area is the **Red-flanked Bluetail**, for which we will walk up Valtavaara Hill, where the birds should be singing. While exploring the area we will attempt to see the often-elusive **Hazel Grouse** and **Siberian Jay**, and other highlights here could include **Golden Eagle**, **White-throated Dipper**, **Red-necked Grebe**, **Little Gull**, **European Pied Flycatcher**, and **Common Redstart**. If luck is on our side, we may also have an unforgettable encounter with (European) **Brown Bear** or **Moose** (confusingly called Elk in Europe!).

Overnight (three nights): Holiday Club Kuusamon, (or similar) Tropiikki, Finland

Day 7. Crossing the Arctic Circle to Lapland, transfer to Ivalo

Today will be a travel day as we make the drive north from Kuusamo to Lapland, and the town of Ivalo. We will stop along the route, as we have done in previous days, to look for the area's key species such as **Eurasian Dotterel** and **Broad-billed Sandpiper**.

Overnight: Hotel Ivalo, (or similar) Ivalo, Finland



Eurasian Dotterel is one of several stunning shorebirds possible on this tour.

Day 8. Birding the Tana River, its delta in Norway and crossing the tundra to Båtsfjord

Today we will make another northward journey from Ivalo all the way to the northern edge of Europe on the Barents Sea. Along the way we will notice how the landscape begins to change with the vegetation becoming sparser as we move into tundra habitats. We start by exploring some superb pine forest and bog habitat. Here we will look for similar species to the previous days, such as **Siberian Jay**, **Pine Grosbeak**, and perhaps even **Jack Snipe**. As we move north, new species will start to reveal themselves.

As we approach the border with Norway the vast forests begin to give way to more expansive bogs. Here we should come across **Black-throated Loon** (Diver), **Common Crane**, **Tufted Duck**, **Bluethroat**, **Rough-legged Buzzard**, **European Golden Plover**, and **Spotted Redshank**. Other shorebirds in the area might include **Temminck's Stint**, with its butterfly-like display flight, as well as **Common Ringed Plover**. We will also aim to watch a few spectacular male **Ruffs** at their lek sites. Differently colored males concentrate on winning the females' attention in a dazzling display of color and movement, something not to be missed.



*Male **Ruffs** of many different colors may be seen lekking in Finland and Norway.*

Next, we will drive along the Tana River and into Norway. The ancient deciduous woodland around the river is an excellent spot to look for **Northern Hawk-Owl** and woodland passerines. We will then visit the Tana River delta, which is famous for good numbers of **Common Merganser** (Goosander), **Temminck's Stint**, and other breeding waders, plus **Arctic Tern**. The area is also productive for birds of prey, with **Golden Eagle**, **Rough-legged Buzzard**, **Common Kestrel**, **Peregrine Falcon**, and **White-tailed Eagle** all regular in the area.

The delta is also a good place to look for **Harbor Seal**, with the vast river deposits forming islands for them to rest on. These islands also make good loafing sites for birds such as **Common Gull**, **European Herring Gull**, **Great Black-backed Gull**, **Great Cormorant**, **Northern Raven**, **Common Eider**, **Whooper Swan**, and **Barnacle Goose**. Offshore we may spot passing **Parasitic Jaeger** (Arctic Skua), **Pomarine Jaeger** (Skua), and **Long-tailed Jaeger** (Skua).

From the Tana delta we once again head north and it is from this point that we will see the most dramatic change in habitat as we enter the true tundra region. As the road twists, turns and slowly begins to climb we will notice that the last of the trees will vanish and in front of us will emerge a vast area of high-altitude tundra, a vast rocky landscape broken up by small bogs and lakes. We will stop and explore the tundra area and experience the hardy birds that live here such as **Rock Ptarmigan**, **Willow Ptarmigan**, **Merlin**, **Long-tailed Jaeger** (Skua), **Eurasian Whimbrel**, **Eurasian Dotterel**, **Lapland Longspur** (Bunting), **Temminck's Stint**, **Red-necked Phalarope**, **Eurasian Golden Plover**, **Greater Scaup**, and **Long-tailed Duck**. We may also come across **Bluethroat**, **Horned (Shore) Lark** and **Lapland Longspur** (Bunting), which spend the summer here. We will keep checking rare bird news for any reports of **Snowy Owl** which is occasionally seen in the area.

Overnight: Båtsfjord Hotel, (or similar) Båtsfjord, Norway



*The high tundra is home to many pairs of striking **Long-tailed Jaeger (Skua)** which feed on lemmings in the area.*

Days 9–10. The Varangerfjord and Hornøya

The next two days will be spent on the Varangerfjord. Our birding here will be a mixture of tundra walks, checking coastal bays and river inlets, sea-watching, and visiting the huge seabird colonies in the area. We will also search for the key mammals of the area, with the open tundra habitat home to **Reindeer**, **Red Fox**, **Mountain Hare**, and **Arctic Fox** (although this is now a rare mammal here).

The tundra exploration will be like that of the previous days, however being further south we should come across a bit more variety here as we move back to areas with a bit more tree cover. In these areas we may come across **Rough-legged Buzzard**, **Bluethroat**, **Short-eared Owl**, **Arctic Redpoll**, **Common Redpoll**, **Horned (Shore) Lark**, **Snow Bunting**, **Lapland Longspur** (Bunting), **Fieldfare**, **Redwing**, **Brambling**, and plenty of other species. We may also, once again, bump into **Northern Hawk-Owl** around the villages which lie adjacent to the fjord.

The high tundra off the Varangerfjord will see us come across the breeding territories of **Long-tailed Jaeger** (Skua), **Parasitic Jaeger** (Arctic Skua), **Red-throated Loon** (Diver), **Black-throated Loon** (Diver), **Long-tailed Duck**, and **Red-necked Phalarope**. Shorebirds (waders) breed in this area too with **European Golden Plover**, **Eurasian Whimbrel**, **Wood Sandpiper**, and **Ruff**, all in the higher areas.

Exploring the sheltered bays, river inlets, and harbors along the coast of the fjord will give us fantastic close-up views of several species of shorebirds, ducks, geese, seabirds, gulls, and terns. Some of the key species that we may come across include **Purple Sandpiper**, **Red-necked Phalarope**, **Temminck's Stint**, **Bar-tailed Godwit**, **Tundra Bean Goose**, **Northern Fulmar**,

Pink-footed Goose, Barnacle Goose, Velvet Scoter, Arctic Tern, Glaucous Gull, and occasionally Iceland Gull.



Northern Hawk-Owl is yet another charismatic owl species we hope to find on this tour.

The real stars of these coastal sites are the large numbers of **Common Eider** which are present here through most of the summer. While common, their stardom comes from sometimes holding small numbers of the beautiful **King Eider** and **Steller's Eider** within their flocks. While both these birds have declined in summer in recent years, we hope for some individuals to linger into June, and we will spend time looking for these rare and striking ducks.

While in the Varangerfjord we will make a boat excursion from the town of Vardø to the islet of Hornøya. The Hornøya Nature Reserve is the easternmost of the protected bird colonies in Norway, home to about 25,000 pairs of **Black-legged Kittiwake** and 150 pairs of **European Shag**. Northern alcids breeding here include **Thick-billed Murre** (Brünnich's Guillemot), **Common Murre** (Guillemot), **Razorbill**, and several thousand pairs of **Atlantic Puffin**.

The relentless noise from the colony attracts birds of prey and corvids to the area and it is not uncommon to see hunting in action here. We may witness the giant **White-tailed Eagle** grabbing adult **Black-legged Kittiwakes** from the cliffs while **Gyr Falcon** may occasionally be seen while on the lookout for unsuspecting birds below! While watching and photographing the breeding seabirds of the islet we will also be on the lookout for **European Rock Pipit** and **Twite** which are normally found on the higher areas of the island, towards the lighthouse.

The Arctic waters are also home to **Grey Seal** and **Harbor Seal**, which we may see from the boat on the trip to or from the island. Cetaceans may be seen here too including **Killer Whale** (Orca), **Humpback Whale**, **Harbor Porpoise**, and on occasion, **Beluga Whale**.

We will also make an excursion towards Hamningberg, connected by road from Vardø. The wild landscape on the road to Hamningberg is something special. We may take several short walks to the tundra and to the bogs here. We will do some sea-watching south of Hamningberg, hoping to see **Yellow-billed Loon** (White-billed Diver), **Northern Gannet**, **Northern Fulmar**, **Long-tailed Jaeger** (Skua), **Parasitic Jaeger** (Arctic Skua), or even **Beluga Whale**.

Overnight (two nights): Hotel Vardø, (or similar) Vardø, Norway



*The intricately patterned **Yellow-billed Loon** is often seen near Varangerfjord.*

Day 11. Transfer to Ivalo

Today will mostly be a travel day as we make the drive south from Vardø in Norway back to Finland, and the town of Ivalo. We will stop along the route, as we have done in previous days, to look for any of the area's missing key species. After our bird-filled days in the Arctic weather, we will retreat to our comfortable hotel in Ivalo.

Overnight: Hotel Ivalo, (or similar) Ivalo, Finland

Day 12. Departure from Ivalo

Time permitting, we may bird in the morning before heading to Ivalo Airport for your flight home, or further connections.

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 must use a different guide from the one advertised due to tour scheduling or other factors.

Tour Details

Duration:	12 days
Group Size:	4–12
Dates:	24 May–04 June 2027 24 May–04 June 2028
Start:	Oulu Airport, Oulu, Finland
End:	Ivalo Airport, Ivalo, Finland
Prices:	€ 6,778 per person sharing for 8–12 paying participants (larger group than usual to keep prices lower) or € 9,322 per person sharing for a small group trip of 4–7 participants (2027) € 7,185 per person sharing for 8–12 paying participants (larger group than usual to keep prices lower) or € 9,881 per person sharing for a small group trip of 4–7 participants (2028)
Single Supplements:	€ 863 (2027) € 915 (2028)

In the event of fewer than four participants signing up to the tour there will be the option of a surcharge to guarantee departure. The amount of the surcharge will depend on how many participants are signed up to the tour and will occur if all participants agree.

Price includes:

All accommodation (Day 1 until Day 11 as described above, or similar)
Meals (from evening welcome dinner on day 1 until breakfast on Day 12)
Drinking water – please bring a refillable water bottle
Boat trip to Hornøya
Expert tour leader
Local bird and wildlife guide fees
Birdwatching site entrance fees and travel permits
All ground transport and tolls/taxes while on tour, including airport pick-up (on Day 1) and drop-off (on Day 12)

Price excludes:

Flights to Oulu Airport, Oulu, Finland

Flights from Ivalo Airport, Ivalo, Finland

Expenditures due to flight cancellations/delays or other causes beyond our control (force majeure)

Visa fees if visa required

Departure tax

Items of a personal nature, e.g. gifts, laundry, internet access, phone calls etc.

Any pre- or post-tour accommodation, meals, or birding/sightseeing excursions

Soft/alcoholic drinks

Personal travel insurance

Gratuities (please see our [tipping guidelines blog](#))

Useful information

During this tour, your guide will be driving you in a comfortable vehicle. The tour does require some walking and hiking to see certain species of birds and there are opportunities for longer hikes if you wish. Some of these walks and hikes will be on rough, steep terrain so please make sure you are of a good level of fitness for this tour.

Due to the costs involved with visiting Scandinavia we run this tour with a slightly larger group than we would to other destinations so that we can spread the cost and keep costs down for everyone involved. This decision is also based on the habitats we will be birding in on the tour which allow for larger groups, without reducing the experience of the tour.

The weather in the area can also be highly variable with day temperatures often ranging from 28°C to -8°C in this period depending on the wind strength and direction. Nights are frequently cold and as the sun does not set, many of our excursions will occur later into the evening and early morning.

The forested areas will have noticeable populations of biting insects if the weather is warm so please ensure you bring some form of repellent with you. Despite the northern latitudes, the sun here can be strong in summer, so a hat and sun block are advised.