



## UNITED KINGDOM BIRDING TOUR: ENGLAND IN SPRING

### TOUR-SPECIFIC INFORMATION



*The clown of the North Atlantic! We will enjoy watching breeding **Atlantic Puffins** on this England in Spring birdwatching tour.*

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

This small group, set departure United Kingdom (UK) birding tour along the eastern coast of England in spring will start in London (Heathrow), England and end in Edinburgh, Scotland. The tour is timed during the peak of the spring migration, and when breeding for a large number of species will be well underway. This tour will connect with a wide range of rare and localized breeding species such as the UK endemic **Red Grouse**, charismatic **Atlantic Puffin**, **European Nightjar**, **Eurasian Stone-curlew**, **Pied Avocet**, **European Turtle Dove**, and **Common Nightingale** among others.

**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 the UK. 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 eastern England 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, and as such the tour will require some early starts and late finishes to our days in the field. Most of the tour is spent in the lowlands and at sea-level, though we will spend time in slightly higher elevations, but these elevations are unlikely to provide any constraints to anyone.

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. 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, 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 hotels or bed-and-breakfast (B&B) accommodation throughout the tour. All accommodation has private rooms and bathroom facilities.

**WHAT TO BRING: CLOTHING**

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 the hill country around York.