

# Itinerary - Eider ducks and Aurora Borealis in Varanger



Varanger and Pasvik. March-early April

## *Day 1*

You will meet the guide at the Kirkenes airport, before driving into the Pasvik valley. Here we will stay the first two nights. We will do some birding along the road and in the area around the hotel.

## *Day 2*

You will enter the taiga forest and look for species such as Siberian Tit, Willow Tit, Siberian Jay, Northern Hawk Owl, Pine Grosbeak, Arctic Redpoll, Bullfinch, Capercaillie and Black Grouse. We will mainly watch from the road and visit several feeders.

In the evening, we will look for the Northern light. That is something we will do every evening the weather conditions are good.

## *Day 3*

We will drive towards the Varanger peninsula. We will drive thru the Tana valley and cross over the mountains to Båtsfjord.

Along the road, we will do several stops to look for among other species, Willow Grouse, Rock Ptarmigan, White-tailed Eagle and Arctic Redpoll.

## *Day 4*

Those who want to can go early morning to the floating photo hide. This is excellent for photographers! It also includes a boat trip on the fjord.

In the Båtsfjord harbour we will see Steller`s Eider, King Eider and Long-tailed Duck on close range as well as Glaucous Gulls and Purple Sandpipers. In the afternoon, we will drive towards Berlevåg and look for Iceland Gulls and Gyr Falcon.

## *Day 5*

We will drive over the mountains again toward the spectacular Varangerfjord. Here you will stay the next two nights.

We will do several stops, at places like Nesseby, Varangerbotn and Vestre Jacobselv. Here we will look for seabirds like Yellow billed diver, Black Scoter, Velvet scoter, Black Guillemot and more eiders and white-tailed eagles.

## *Day 6*

Now it is time to go the Hornøya birdcliff. It is a 5 minutes boat trip from the Vardø harbour. Here you will experience the intensity of a seabird colony on close range. Brunnick`s Gullemtot, common Guillemot, Razorbill, Atlantic Puffin, Kittiwakes and European Shag all breeds here, close to the path.

In the afternoon we will go to the fishing harbours at Svartnes and Kiberg. There might also be time to visit the big Witch burning memorial at Vardø.

## *Day 7*

Drive back to the airport in Kirkenes. If we have time, we will do a couple of short stops along the road.

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