



Itinerary

- Day 1:** Stockholm, birding Stockholm archipelago. Overnight at Arholma.
- Day 2:** Birding Stockholm archipelago. Evening transfer to Kökar. Overnight Kökar.
- Day 3:** Birding in Kökar. Night transfer to Hiiuma
- Day 4:** Birding Hiiuma. Night transfer to Ventspils.
- Day 5:** Early morning bus transfer to Kolka. Birding at Kolka. Evening bus transfer to Ventspils. Night transfer to Gotland.
- Day 6:** Birding at Hoburgen in Gotland, visit ringing station. Overnight Gotland.
- Day 7:** Birding at southern part of Gotland. Overnight Fårösund, Gotland.
- Day 8:** Birding by bicycle in Fårö. Night transfer to Gotska Sandön.
- Day 9:** Birding in Gotska Sandön. Night transfer to Landsort.
- Day 10:** Birding Landsort, visit ringing station. Boat to Nynäshamn.



Price: EUR To be defined

Season: May and June

Group size: 6–10 guests

THE SHIP PALSA

Length: 20 m, width 5,5 m, sea-gauge 2,4 m

Speed: 8 knots

Main engine: 400 hp IVECO diesel

Security: 50 p liferaft

Electronic equipment: GPS, VHF, DCS, satellite telephone

The Great Central Baltic Spring Birding Tour

Starts and ends in Stockholm



COVER: CASPIAN TERN. PHOTO: PATRIK OLOFSSON/BIRDLIFE SVERIGE

The **Baltic Wings** project has developed the central Baltic area as a nature and birdwatching destination through infrastructure investments, capacity building in co-operation with local entrepreneurs as well as other stakeholders, marketing and information. Read more at www.balticwings.org.



The tour in summary

Our adventure begins inside the vibrant city of Stockholm, we navigate our ship out of the city through interesting cultural landmarks and beautiful nature. Very soon we are in the Stockholm archipelago where we meet our first birds, Baltic Lesser Black-backed Gull, White-tailed Eagle and others. We pass a variety of islands, rocks and islets – the Stockholm archipelago has more than 30 000 islands! After a few stops on islands in the northern archipelago, we head out towards Kökar, a fantastic island group located far away from mainland Sweden and Finland. After a day in Kökar with many opportunities for varied bird watching, our journey continues east to the Estonian island Hiiuma (Dagö). In Hiiuma we will visit the vast wetland at Orjaku. From a bird tower we will have a good view over the rich birdlife of the wet meadows. The next target is Kolka Cape in Latvia, a good place to see the migration of passerines, birds of prey and seabirds.

Now it is time to head west again, towards Gotland, the largest island in the Baltic Sea. We first visit Gotland's southernmost part where we visit the ringing station. In the bushes by the dry, limestone cliffs one can find barred warblers, rosefinch and many other passerines. Gotland is the best area to find golden eagles. Over 50 pairs breed on the island. We move to Fårö at the northern end of Gotland, where we get to see a beautiful harsh landscape with rauks. A full day is spent birdwatching on Gotska Sandön, a remote island and national park in the center of the Baltic Sea where all kinds of birds can appear during migration.

Our last stop is Landsort, the southernmost island of the Stockholm archipelago, where we get to learn how to ring birds and why at the ringing station. It is always interesting to study the birds so closely!

Some nights the ship will take us to the next island under a starry sky, sometimes with exciting bird sounds out in the dark – a magical and unique experience. Throughout the trip you will be amazed at the spectacular sunrise and sunset over the sea.

PHOTO: PATRIK OLOFSSON/BIRDLIFE SVERIGE



Razorbills.

Route planning

Our route is planned for us to meet and follow the migratory birds, and the islands we visit are strategically selected to optimise the chance to see many birds. The route may change slightly and the visit to one of the islands may be cancelled or replaced with another island in case of bad weather conditions.

Visiting interesting bird areas

We are in the middle of the bird migration, some birds are already in place and offer us beautiful singing and interesting courtship and many Arctic birds pass on their way to northern latitudes. We have selected excellent birding sites along the route to optimise our chances to see a lot of birds, but the whole tour in the Baltic Sea – also on board – is like one big bird site! Most places we visit have bird towers or platforms. On some islands we have local bird guides to take part of the latest news on the bird front. Keep in mind that the weather can affect our possibilities to see some of the species, but hopefully we will get to see over 150 species.

Do you want to bring someone who is not as interested in birds as you? This trip will surely be an adventure for anyone who enjoys being out in beautiful and peaceful nature.

Some of the birds we hope to see

Barnacle Goose, Brant Goose, Whooper Swan, Eider, Velvet Scoter, Long-tailed Duck, Red-throated Loon, Black-throated Loon, Lesser Spotted and Golden Eagle, White-tailed Eagle, Oystercatcher, Grey Plover, Curlew, Bar-tailed Godwit, Ruddy Turnstone, Red Knot, Baltic Lesser Black-backed Gull, Caspian Tern, Arctic Tern, Parasitic Jaeger, Common Murre, Razorbill, Black Guillemot, Eagle-Owl, Barred Warbler, Thrush Nightingale, Rock Pipit, Golden Oriole, Red-breasted and Collared Flycatcher, Lesser Whitethroat, Icterine Warbler, Greenish Warbler, Blyth's Reed Warbler.

Lodging and transport

We are using the comfortable Latvian ship Palsa for the transports between the birding sites. The ship is also our accommodation throughout the trip. Palsa has five double cabins. The facilities are shared. All nights, except the first night, are spent on board. In normal weather it takes 10 hours to get from Ventspils to Gotland. The ship is certified for Baltic Sea travel and has all needed security and electronic navigation equipment. We eat breakfast on board, lunch and dinner are usually served on the islands we visit. On the islands we move on foot, by bike or electric bike or possibly by bus. The trip ends in Nynäshamn, where you can take the commuter train, bus or taxi to Stockholm.

Included in the trip price

10 days birding package, boat trip, all meals, tour leader and bird guide on the whole tour (Swedish and English speaking), transports during the trip, various fees, guides at ringing stations, bike rental, species list. The price of the trip does not include alcoholic beverages.

Contact, more information:

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