



Magic of the Arctic Summer

Destination: Varanger peninsula, Norway

Focus: Breeding Atlantic Puffins and other seabirds
Arctic highland birds

Grading: Moderate walks only

Group Size: 4 – 6 photographers

Time: 13 – 20 July 2020

Price: 3 650 €, single supplement 260 €

Arctic Summer - Birds and the midnight sun

Northern Norway in summer is magical - it is the season of the midnight sun and the Arctic Summer is here. The sun does not set at all, providing 24 hours of light for amazing photography. The nightless night offers beautiful opportunities to capture arctic birdlife and the spectacular landscapes which are very much worth a visit. During one week we visit the highlands for breeding highland birds such as Long-tailed Skua and Dotterel, make a boat trip to a Gannet colony at the shore of the Barents Sea, and spend two days (or three nights) in Hornoya bird island steaming with arctic seabirdlife. The iconic Atlantic Puffins with beak full of Capelins is what we're after, but the island has a lot else to offer as well!

This one-week tour is planned for keen bird photographers and we aim to make the most out of evening and morning lights, sometimes even staying out the whole night if the weather is clear. In short, this tour is a memorable photography experience in the beautiful landscapes of northern Europe!



Highlights

Seabird colony of Hornoya island with breeding Atlantic Puffin, Brünnich's Guillemot, Razorbill, Shag, Kittiwake etc., Gannet, highland birds such as Long-tailed Skua, Dotterel, Temminck's Stint, Rough-legged Buzzard, Red-throated Pipit, Lapland Bunting, Snow Bunting

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ITINERARY

Day 1 Arrival to Ivalo

Arrival to Ivalo airport in the evening where our guide will meet and welcome the group. Drive north of Ivalo to Neljän Tuulen Tupa in Kaamanen for dinner and accommodation. A short briefing of the tour.

Day 2 Kaamanen - Båtsfjord

We spend the morning at feeders set up by our lodge. Throughout the summer, the feeders attract northern breeding passerines such as the colorful Pine Grosbeak and Brambling in summer plumage. Some years Siberian tits nest in the nearby nest boxes, and several Red Squirrels run around and climb the trees nearby.

The day is spent traveling to Gedjne highlands in Varanger Peninsula in northern Norway. Here we explore this barren environment which is surprisingly steaming with birdlife. Throughout the tour, we aim to spend the evening and morning out and make the most out of the lights - and if the weather is clear we might even stay out the whole night.

Gedjne highlands is an absolutely beautiful area of arctic nature and landscapes, and we enjoy it for the next two nights. We look especially for stunning breeding Long-tailed Skuas and Dotterels here, but also arctic passerines such as Bluethroat, Red-throated Pipit and Lapland Buntings which should all be taking care of their young. We might even find Rock Ptarmigans with young here. We will use portable canvas hides to get close to birds.

Dinner and accommodation in Polar Hotel in a lovely small fishing town of Båtsfjord.



Days 3 - 4 Båtsfjord

We either spend the whole night or just the early morning out in Gedjne highlands photographing arctic breeding birds. We drive back to Båtsfjord for breakfast and a break during the day. After early dinner we head out again for another memorable evening or night in the highlands. Weather permitting, on Day 3, we will make a few hours boat excursion to a Gannet colony at Stauran birdcliffs by the Barents Sea. Other arctic seabirds nest on the cliffs as well but our main focus is the Gannet.

Dinner and accommodation in Polar Hotel, Båtsfjord.



Day 5 Båtsfjord - Vardö

Late breakfast and a little break in the hotel and then we're off to Vardö. We make some photography stops in the small harbours along the way but our intention is to visit the seabird colonies of Hornoya bird island near Vardö already this evening and make the best out of evening lights on the island. Our main target on the island are the breeding Atlantic Puffins but the island is thriving with Brünnich's and Common Guillemots, Razorbills, Shags and Kittiwakes as well.

If the weather is clear we can stay on the island the whole night. Packed snacks make our stay comfortable.

Dinner and accommodation in Hotel Vardö.

Days 6 - 7 Vardö

Photography in Hornoya bird colony until late morning and return to Vardö Hotel for breakfast and a daybreak. After dinner we departure back to Hornoya island for the evening - and stay out the whole night if the weather is clear.

Dinner and accommodation in Hotel Vardö.

Day 8 Vardö - Ivalo

After breakfast we drive back to Ivalo, Finland. We will make some stops on the way but we drive to catch the evening flight back home.

For more pictures: [Finnature's Flickr Gallery](#)

Price includes: land transportation from Ivalo, all meals, accommodation, Finnature guiding and boat trips to Stauran Gannet colony and Hornoya bird island (weather permitting)

Accommodation: Clean and cozy accommodation in Finland, hotels in Norway.

Food: Local delicious dinners, picnic lunches, breakfast.

Leader: Finnature guide

Booking: shop.finnature.com

Recommended flights: We confirm the recommended flights as soon as Finland's national airline Finnair releases flight details.

Please notice: The itinerary might change due to weather conditions and bird situation. Unfortunately we cannot guarantee any of the species, but our expert Finnature guides do their utmost to ensure best possible photography opportunities during the tour.

Official Package travel trader (Organiser) and Travel agent Registration number: 1193/05/MjMv

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