

Arctic Seaducks and Puffins on Snow

Destination: Varanger fjord, Norway
Focus: Arctic Seaducks and Puffins
Grading: Moderate walks only

Group Size: 4 – 6 photographers
Time: 16 – 23 March 2023
Price: 4095 €, single supplement 285 €

Photograph the arctic Seaducks and Puffins on snow

Timed carefully, this photography tour offers great opportunities to photograph wintering **King and Steller's Eider** as well as spring migrants such as the **Atlantic Puffin** on snow in Varanger Peninsula! Located in the north, Varanger Peninsula is a versatile destination all year round and offers also the best opportunities to photograph **Aurora Borealis**.

The tour starts and ends in Finnish Lapland where excellent feeders attract **Pine Grosbeak, Siberian Tit, Siberian Jay** and **Red Squirrel** to be photographed at a close distance.



Highlights

King Eider, Steller's Eider, snow covered Hornoya bird island (with Brünnich's Guillemot, Common Guillemot, Razorbill, Atlantic Puffin, Kittiwake), Pine Grosbeak, Siberian Jay, Siberian Tit, Aurora Borealis

For more information:

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Day 1 Arrival to Ivalo

Arrival to Ivalo airport with the evening flight. Finnature guide will meet and welcome the group.

Drive to Neljän Tuulen Tupa in Kaamanen for dinner and accommodation. A short briefing of the tour.

Throughout the trip, if there are any signs of **Aurora Borealis**, we will go out to photograph them in the evening.

Day 2 Kaamanen - Båtsfjord

We spend the morning at a feeder set up by our lodge. The feeder attracts wintering passerines such as the colorful **Pine Grosbeak**, **Siberian Tit** and **Siberian Jay**, and also many **Red Squirrels**.

After lunch we start our long drive to Båtsfjord, Varanger Peninsula in northern Norway. We drive through snowy landscapes and cross the highlands before descending to a lovely small fishing town of Båtsfjord. Some photography stops on the way.

Dinner and accommodation in Polar Hotel, Båtsfjord.

Day 3 Båtsfjord

We spend the morning in floating hides photographing **King Eider**, **Steller's Eider**, **Common Eider** and **Long-tailed Duck**. The floating hides allow for amazing low-angle photography and the beautiful ducks come very close to the hides. We will also make a RIB boat ride to photograph flying seaducks.

Other photogenic subjects in Båtsfjord include **Kittiwake**, **Purple Sandpiper**, **Glaucous and Iceland Gull**, **Raven**, and, of course, the charismatic boats and houses so typical of a northern fishing community.

Northern Norway offers the best chances for Northern Lights, so as the days turn to night we again turn our eyes to the sky and hope for a clear night for possible Aurora Borealis.

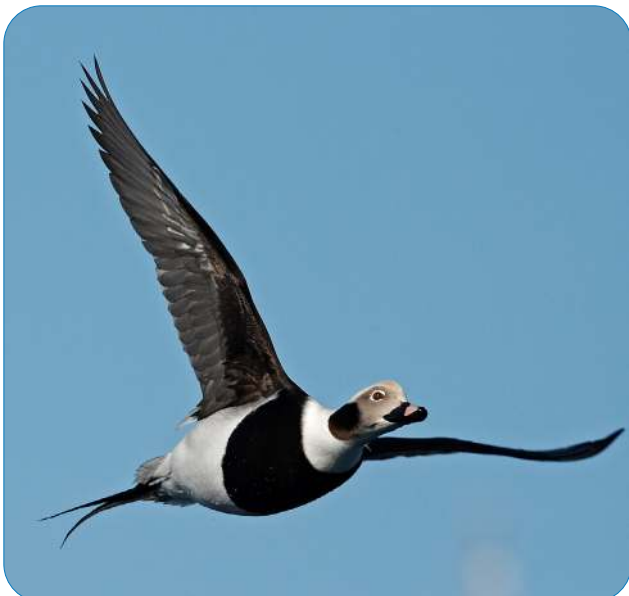
Dinner and accommodation in Polar Hotel, Båtsfjord.



Day 4 Båtsfjord - Vardö

Another early morning photography session from floating hides for seaducks, and after lunch drive to Vardö. We make some photography stops in the small harbours on the way.

Dinner and accommodation in Hotel Vardö.





Days 5 - 6 Vardö

Weather permitting, we visit the Hornoya bird island for seabird photography on both days. In March, thousands and thousands of **Common and Brünnich's Guillemots**, **Razorbills** and **Kittiwakes** fly around the island and fill the air with their calls. The first **Atlantic Puffins** should have arrived and there is a great chance to photograph them on snow. Sometimes the Puffins engage in fights while establishing their breeding grounds. The majestic **Gyr Falcon** often patrols over the island and causes panic among the masses of alcids. It is not uncommon to see a Gyr Falcon take the occasional unlucky prey.

We spend the whole two days on the island and return to Hotel Vardö for dinner and accommodation in the evenings.

Day 7 Vardö – Kaamanen

After breakfast we drive back to Finland. The drive will take most of the day but we have some photography stops in the harbours along the Varangerfjord on the way.

Neljän Tuulen Tupa for dinner and accommodation.

Day 8 Kaamanen – Ivalo

In the morning we have some time again to photograph **Pine Grosbeak**, **Siberian Jay** and **Siberian Tit** at the feeder. After morning session we have lunch and drive to Ivalo Airport for afternoon flight.

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

Price includes: land transportation from Ivalo, all meals, accommodation, Finnature guiding and use of professional photography hides.

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 recommend to arrive to and depart from Ivalo. Arrival with evening flight, departure in afternoon.

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/Mj

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