

ELLISON ROBERTS TOURS

“Bespoke and original holidays”



Birdwatching in North Eastern Poland (9 days)

Introduction

North eastern Poland is the least populated region in the country. Nature and people have coexisted here for ages and respect for the natural environment and reasonable use of natural resources has created unique habitats.

The Biebrza Marshes and Białowieża forest are definitely the most rewarding birding sites in the country. In addition to many bird species, these regions offer interesting landscapes of wetlands, marshes, river pools and primeval forest. Traditional agricultural methods still means wooden cottages, horse-pulled carts and old 19th century cobbled tracks that lead through the countryside.

With the help of our expert local guides you will explore some exciting birding sites to discover Great Snipe and Ruff leks, the best sites for waders, breeding colonies of all three varieties of Marsh Terns, both spotted eagles, 10 species of woodpecker, a wide range of warblers and several southern and eastern species regularly breeding in Poland e.g. Citrine Wagtail, Bee-eater and Roller. A full bird list is at the end of the itinerary.

Itinerary

Day 1 - arrival in Warsaw. Depending on flight times take a short walk in the city to search for a few species that do not occur in the north-east of Poland (e.g. Nightingale, Syrian Woodpecker, Little Bittern) then transfer to Białowieża (240 km).

Day 2 - visit to the Strict Reserve of the Bialowieza National Park - primeval forest with ancient trees and many forest birds (Collared & Red-breasted Flycatchers, Three-toed Woodpecker, White-backed Woodpecker and others); birdwatching in the Narewka River valley (warblers, raptors),

Day 3 - walks in northern part of Bialowieza Forest in search of woodpeckers, other forest birds, and bison.

Day 4 - birdwatching around Siemianowka Lake (Citrine Wagtail, Black Stork, wildfowl, raptors) and look for Rollers in the old style villages along the Belorussian border.

Day 5 - transfer to Biebrza Marshes with stops en route (White Storks' colony near Tykocin, dry habitats with Tawny Pipit and Bee-Eaters, Dojlidy fish-ponds with ducks, grebes, crakes and terns)

Day 6 - birdwatching in vast meadows and marshes in Narew River Valley - White Storks, marsh terns, ducks, waders; late evening trip to Little Owl site

Day 7 - trip around Southern Basin of Biebrza Marshes with several stops for birdwatching in open marshes and river floods - waders, ducks, terns, Aquatic Warbler, Bluethroat, Black Stork.

Day 8 - Middle Basin of Biebrza Marshes - best places to watch raptors, esp. Lesser and Greater Spotted Eagles, White tailed Eagles, Harriers etc.

Day 9 - transfer to Warsaw, short birding stop in the Vistula valley (if time allows), departure transfer to the airport.

Tour cost

£1035 per person for a group of 2

£840 per person for a group of 4

£725 per person for a group of 6 or more (Max group size is 10)

Included in the price are:

Professional, English-speaking bird-guides/drivers with great knowledge of both the birds and where to observe them.

8 nights' accommodation in comfortable, privately run lodges located next to the nature areas.

Meals: breakfast, packed lunch & dinner.

Transportation in comfortable minibus/car (depending on the number of people)
National Park entrances (Biebrza and Bialowieza NP).

Not included:

Flights – but we can arrange these separately if required

Insurance

Personal expenses e.g. drinks, phone/internet charges etc.

This tour may be taken at any time to suit you or your birding group but late spring is best for most species. The duration can also be amended to suit your precise requirements.

For more details please e.mail [Steve Relf](mailto:Steve.Relf@ellisonroberts.com) or phone 01757 248643 or 07939 05606

Bird List – (species marked x are rare or impossible to spot on this trip)

1	Red-throated Diver	x	55	Scaup	x	109	Black-winged Stilt	x
2	Black-throated Diver	x	56	Eider	x	110	Avocet	x
3	Great Northern Diver	x	57	Long-tailed Duck	x	111	Stone Curlew	x
4	Little Grebe		58	Scoter	x	112	Little Ringed Plover	
5	Great Crested Grebe		59	Velvet Scoter	x	113	Ringed Plover	
6	Red-necked Grebe		60	Goldeneye		114	Kentish Plover	x
7	Slavonian Grebe	x	61	Smew	x	115	Dotterel	x
8	Black-necked Grebe		62	Red-breasted Merganser	x	116	Golden Plover	
9	Cormorant		63	Goosander		117	Grey Plover	
10	Pygmy Cormorant	x	64	White-headed Duck	x	118	White-tailed Lapwing	x
11	White Pelican	x	65	Honey Buzzard		119	Lapwing	
12	Bittern		66	Black Kite	x	120	Knot	x
13	Little Bittern		67	Red Kite	x	121	Sanderling	x
14	Night Heron	x	68	White-tailed Eagle		122	Little Stint	x
15	Squacco Heron	x	69	Lammergeier	x	123	Temminck's Stint	x
16	Little Egret	x	70	Griffon Vulture	x	124	Curlew Sandpiper	x
17	Great Egret		71	Short-toed Eagle	x	125	Dunlin	
18	Grey Heron		72	Marsh-Harrier		126	Broad-billed Sandpiper	x
19	Purple Heron	x	73	Hen Harrier		127	Buff-breasted Sandpiper	x
20	Black Stork		74	Pallid Harrier	x	128	Ruff	
21	White Stork		75	Montagu's Harrier		129	Jack Snipe	x
22	Glossy Ibis	x	76	Goshawk		130	Common Snipe	
23	Spoonbill	x	77	Sparrowhawk		131	Great Snipe	x
24	Flamingo	x	78	Common Buzzard	x	132	Woodcock	
25	Mute Swan		79	Long-legged Buzzard	x	133	Black-tailed Godwit	
26	Black Swan	x	80	Rough-legged Buzzard		134	Bar-tailed Godwit	x
27	Bewick's Swan	x	81	Lesser Spotted Eagle		135	Whimbrel	x
28	Whooper Swan		82	Greater Spotted Eagle		136	Curlew	
29	Bean Goose		83	Steppe Eagle	x	137	Spotted Redshank	
30	Pink-footed Goose	x	84	Imperial Eagle	x	138	Redshank	
31	White-fronted Goose		85	Golden Eagle	x	139	Marsh Sandpiper	x
32	Lesser White-fronted Goose	x	86	Booted Eagle	x	140	Greenshank	
33	Greylag Goose		87	Osprey		141	Green Sandpiper	
34	Bar-headed Goose	x	88	Kestrel		142	Wood Sandpiper	
35	Snow Goose	x	89	Red-footed Falcon	x	143	Terek Sandpiper	x
36	Canada Goose	x	90	Merlin	x	144	Common Sandpiper	
37	Barnacle Goose	x	91	Hobby		145	Turnstone	x
38	Brent Goose	x	92	Eleonora's Falcon	x	146	Red-necked Phalarope	x
39	Red-breasted Goose	x	93	Saker	x	147	Red Phalarope	x
40	Shelduck	x	94	Peregrine Falcon	x	148	Pomarine Skua	x
41	Wood Duck	x	95	Hazel Grouse		149	Arctic Skua	x
42	Mandarin Duck	x	96	Black Grouse		150	Great Black-backed Gull	x
43	Wigeon		97	Capercaillie	x	151	Mediterranean Gull	x
44	Gadwall		98	Grey Partridge		152	Little Gull	
45	Baikal Teal	x	99	Quail		153	Black-headed Gull	
46	Teal		100	Pheasant		154	Slender-billed Gull	x
47	Mallard		101	Water Rail		155	Common Gull	
48	Pintail		102	Spotted Crake		156	Lesser Black-backed Gull	
49	Garganey		103	Little Crake	x	157	Herring Gull	
50	Shoveler		104	Corncrake		158	Yellow-legged Gull	
51	Red-crested Pochard	x	105	Moorhen		159	Glaucous Gull	x
52	Pochard		106	Coot		160	Kittiwake	x
53	Ferruginous Duck	x	107	Crane		161	Caspian Tern	x
54	Tufted Duck		108	Oystercatcher	x	162	Common Tern	

163	Arctic Tern	x
164	Little Tern	
165	Whiskered Tern	
166	Black Tern	
167	White-winged Tern	
168	Pallas's Sandgrouse	x
169	Rock Pigeon	
170	Stock Pigeon	
171	Wood Pigeon	
172	Collared-Dove	
173	Turtle-Dove	
174	Cuckoo	
175	Barn Owl	
176	Eagle Owl	
177	Snowy Owl	x
178	Hawk Owl	x
179	Pygmy Owl	
180	Little Owl	
181	Tawny Owl	
182	Great Grey Owl	x
183	Long-eared Owl	
184	Short-eared Owl	x
185	Tengmalm's Owl	
186	Nightjar	
187	Swift	
188	Alpine Swift	x
189	Kingfisher	
190	Bee-eater	
191	Roller	
192	Hoopoe	
193	Wryneck	
194	Grey-headed Woodpecker	
195	Green Woodpecker	
196	Black Woodpecker	
197	Great Spotted Woodpecker	
198	Syrian Woodpecker	
199	Middle Spotted Woodpecker	
200	White-backed Woodpecker	
201	Lesser Spotted Woodpecker	
202	Three-toed Woodpecker	
203	White-winged Lark	x
204	Crested Lark	
205	Wood Lark	
206	Skylark	
207	Horned Lark	x
208	Sand Martin	
209	Swallow	
210	Red-rumped Swallow	x
211	House Martin	
212	Tawny Pipit	
213	Olive-backed Pipit	x
214	Tree Pipit	
215	Meadow Pipit	
216	Red-throated Pipit	x

217	Rock Pipit	x
218	Yellow Wagtail	x
219	Citrine Wagtail	x
220	Grey Wagtail	x
221	White Wagtail	
222	Waxwing	
223	Dipper	x
224	Wren	
225	Dunnock	
226	Robin	
227	Thrush Nightingale	
228	Nightingale	x
229	Bluethroat	
230	Black Redstart	
231	Redstart	
232	Whinchat	
233	Stonechat	x
234	Northern Wheatear	
235	Siberian Thrush	x
236	Ring Ouzel	x
237	Blackbird	
238	Fieldfare	
239	Song Thrush	
240	Redwing	
241	Mistle Thrush	
242	Grasshopper Warbler	
243	River Warbler	
244	Savi's Warbler	
245	Aquatic Warbler	
246	Sedge Warbler	
247	Blyth's Reed Warbler	x
248	Marsh Warbler	
249	Reed Warbler	
250	Great Reed Warbler	
251	Icterine Warbler	
252	Melodious Warbler	x
253	Barred Warbler	
254	Lesser Whitethroat	
255	Whitethroat	
256	Garden Warbler	
257	Blackcap	
258	Greenish Warbler	x
259	Arctic Warbler	x
260	Bonelli's Warbler	x
261	Wood Warbler	
262	Chiffchaff	
263	Willow Warbler	
264	Goldcrest	
265	Firecrest	
266	Spotted Flycatcher	
267	Red-breasted Flycatcher	
268	Collared Flycatcher	
269	Pied Flycatcher	
270	Bearded Tit	
271	Long-tailed Tit	

272	Marsh Tit	
273	Willow Tit	
274	Crested Tit	
275	Coal Tit	
276	Blue Tit	
277	Azure Tit	x
278	Great Tit	
279	Nuthatch	
280	Tree Creeper	
281	Short-toed Tree Creeper	x
282	Penduline Tit	
283	Golden Oriole	
284	Red-backed Shrike	
285	Lesser Grey Shrike	x
286	Great Grey Shrike	
287	Woodchat Shrike	x
288	Jay	
289	Magpie	
290	Nutcracker	
291	Jackdaw	
292	Rook	
293	Crow	
294	Raven	
295	Starling	
296	Rosy Starling	x
297	House Sparrow	
298	Tree Sparrow	
299	Chaffinch	
300	Brambling	
301	Serín	
302	Greenfinch	
303	Goldfinch	
304	Siskin	
305	Linnet	
306	Twite	x
307	Redpoll	
308	Arctic Redpoll	x
309	Crossbill	
310	Scarlet Rosefinch	
311	Pine Grosbeak	x
312	Bullfinch	
313	Hawfinch	
314	Lapland Longspur	x
315	Snow Bunting	x
316	Pine Bunting	x
317	Yellowhammer	
318	Ortolan Bunting	
319	Little Bunting	x
320	Reed Bunting	
321	Corn Bunting	
322	Indigo Bunting	x



White-backed Woodpecker



Bluethroat



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