Full Detailed Itinerary - Alaska: Photo Tour

Day 1: Arrival Day

The tour will begin on this afternoon. Guests should arrive before 4pm on this day or plan to arrive a day earlier. We will go to a local park around Anchorage to look for a couple of target species like, Boreal Chickadee, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Orange-crowned Warbler, and most importantly Spruce Grouse, our biggest target.

Day 2: Anchorage to Nome

Depending on our flight time to Nome we will either kill a few hours in the morning targeting more species or we will travel to Nome. Once we travel to Nome, we will pick up our rental vehicle, check into our hotel, allow the midday heat and light to dissipate, grab dinner and then go out for the evening. The next four days will be spent in Nome.

Days 3-6: Nome

Nome is full of fascinating species. There are only several roads to drive so the plan is simple, drive these roads at strategic times in order to photograph as much as possible. Target species for these roads are; Willow and Rock Ptarmigan, Bluethroat, Arctic, Blackpoll, Yellow, and Wilson's Warbler, Northern Waterthrush, Fox, White-crowned, Golden-crowned and American Tree Sparrows, Gray-cheeked Thrush, Northern Wheatear, Lapland Longspur, Hoary and Common Redpoll, Rough-legged Hawk, Long-tailed Jaeger, Aleutian Tern, Red-throated Loon, Eastern Yellow Wagtail, and a host of shorebirds like; Pacific and American Golden Plover, Surfbird, Red Knot, Whimbrel, Semi-palmated Sandpiper, Western Sandpiper, Semi-palmated Plover, Black-bellied Plover and Red-necked Phalarope. And we of course keep our eyes out for the desirable mammals like the striking Musk Ox.

Day 7: Nome to Anchorage

Depending on our departure flights from Nome, we may have another morning to do some photography but if not, we will catch our flight back to Anchorage. Because of the unique layout of Alaska, there are no direct flights from Nome to Utqiagvik so we have to return to Anchorage. There is also only one flight per day to each location so depending on flights, we may be forced to spend 24hrs or so around anchorage. If this is the case, we will get another rental car for the 24hrs and see what else we can photograph around anchorage or nearby hotspots.

Day 8: Anchorage to Utqiagvik (formally Barrow)

Today we head up to Utqiagvik (formally Barrow). Upon arrival, we will grab our rental vehicle, check into the hotel and again, let the heat and midday light dissipate. We will grab our dinner and then head out for some great bird photography. Utqiagvik is a really cool place. Boggy Tundra attracts a variety of species and due to the 24 hour daylight, we can photograph to our hearts desire. Birds like; King, Steller's, and Spectacled Eider, Snow Bunting, Lapland Longspur, Hudsonian Godwit, Red and Red-necked Phalarope, Dunlin, Pectoral Sandpiper, Long-billed Dowitcher, Greater White-fronted Goose, Northern Pintail, Long-tailed Duck, Pacific Loon and other potential (but harder) birds like Snowy Owl, Pomarine and Parasitic

Jaeger and Sabine’s Gull. The next five nights will be spent in Utqiagvik. ?Day 9-12: UtqiagvikWe have four full days based in Utqiagvik in order to maximize chances of getting fantastic photos of all the special birds.

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Day 13: Utqiagvik to Anchorage

Depending on our departure flights from Utqiagvik, we may have another morning to do some photography but if not, we will catch our flight back to Anchorage. A night will be spent in Anchorage, before departures out the next day, for those not joining the St. Paul extension.

Day 14: Departure from Anchorage

The tour ends this morning. The hotel has a free airport shuttle, so you can leave whenever you wish.

Tour Extension 1

Day 1: Anchorage to St. Paul

We will take a morning flight out of Anchorage to the island of St. Paul, where we will spend 4 nights. This day is also the departure day for the main tour.

Days 2-3: St. Paul

Two full days will be spent photographing birds on St. Paul.

Day 4: St. Paul to Anchorage

We will depart St. Paul for Anchorage. After arrival in Anchorage, there are no more activities, and so you are free to leave Anchorage at any time you wish after arrival in Anchorage on this day. Please check with the office about flight schedules from St. Paul before booking your departing flight.

Toll free from the USA & Canada: (800) 348-5941

International number: +1-409-515-9110

Toll free from the UK: +0800-046-5654

Email: info@tropicalbirding.com