

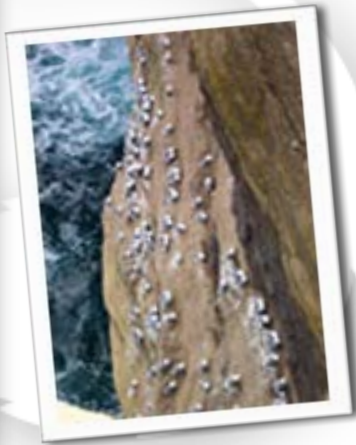
Birds, Birds, Birds and Wonderful Wildlife West Iceland

This tour will take you through the most interesting bird watching areas in West Iceland when migrating birds flock to Iceland either to stay (or leave) or pass through on their way to Greenland or Canada.

Travel period: May to mid June and mid August to mid Sept.

Day 1 – Arrive in Iceland – head for an over-night at the English Lodge near Borgarnes, next to Langá river.

Day 2 - Explore the birdlife at the mouth of Langá river and along the Mýrar coast. Drive along the south coast of Snæfellsnes where you may see the Slavonian Grebe and the Loon, among many other birds. Overnight at Hotel Hellnar. Enjoy an evening walk down to the bird cliffs right in front of the hotel (5 min) where kittiwakes and fulmars nest, and migrating birds make a stop on the sandy beach. Or sit on the deck of the hotel and watch whales such as orcas and minke whales swim in the sea just off the coast.



Day 3 – Spend time in the Snæfellsjökull National Park enjoying the birdlife at Svalpufa and Þufubjarg cliffs, as well as at Malarrif and along the coast between Malarrif and Djupalón. Go to the Öndverðarnes bird cliffs and watch birds or possible whales there. There is always the chance of spotting the arctic fox in the Snæfellsjökull National Park. Go for an evening tour to the top of Snæfellsjökull Glacier to enjoy the sunset – from the “entrance to the Centre of the Earth” as termed in Jules Verne’s book *Journey to the Centre of the Earth*. Overnight at Hotel Hellnar.

Day 4 – Drive to Stykkishólmur (1 hour 15 min) for a birdwatching tour at 11 a.m. Duration of tour is 2 hrs 15 min. Birds you might see are puffins, kittiwakes, the white-tailed sea eagle, cormorants etc – and you will also enjoy eating scallops directly from the shell, as the crew net a few for the guests onboard. Explore the birdlife around the north coast of Snæfellsnes, particularly around Grundarfjörður. Overnight at Hotel Olafsvík, Guesthouse H-Hús or Hotel Hellnar.

Day 5 - Take a whale watching tour from Olafsvík at 11 a.m., head back for Reykjavík or your next birdwatching area.



A list of birds sighted by a group of birdwatchers in Snaefellsnes in May 2006

*Avian Adventures Bird Tour of Iceland 13th - 20th May 2006
Two nights staying at Hotel Hellnar 13th - 15th May 2006
Birds seen around the Hotel
and the Snaefellsnes Peninsula :- 53 species.*

Slavonian grebe - Fulmar - Gannet - Cormorant - Shag - Whooper Swan - Pink-footed Goose - Greylag Goose - Light bellied Brent Goose - Eurasian Wigeon - Common Teal - Mallard - Tufted Duck - Greater Scaup - Common Eider - Harlequin Duck - Long-tailed Duck - Red-breasted Merganser - Merlin - Rock Ptarmigan - Eurasian Oystercatcher - Common Ringed Plover - European Golden Plover - Purple Sandpiper - Dunlin - Common Snipe - Black-tailed Godwit - Whimbrel - Common Redshank - Ruddy Turnstone - Red Knot - Sanderling - Arctic Skua - Great Skua - Black-headed Gull - Lesser black-backed Gull - Herring Gull - Iceland Gull - Glaucous Gull - Great black-backed gull - Black-legged Kittiwake - Arctic Tern - Common Guillemot - Brunnich's Guillemot - Razorbill - Black Guillemot - Barn Swallow - Meadow Pipit - Northern Wheatear - Redwing - Common Raven - Common Starling - Snow Bunting.

Birds also found in the area that were missed by the group:

White-tailed Eagle - Gyr Falcon - Red-necked Phalarope - Snowy Owl - Atlantic Puffin.

Other bird species that may be found at different times of the year:

King Eider - American Wigeon, Ring-necked Duck - Petrel sp - Shearwater sp - Grey Phalarope etc.

Mammals seen by the group :

Arctic Fox - Killer Whale -
White-beaked Dolphin - Common Seal - Grey Seal