



UNITED KINGDOM ENGLAND & WALES IN SUMMER

June 10-22, 2025

Guide: Steve Huggins
Maximum 7 participants

Price: \$6295 per person
Based upon double occupancy
Single room supplement: \$1340

Check out the trip website here: www.redhillbirding.com/unitedkingdom
To register, fill out the booking form here: redhillbirding.com/bookingform

We are excited to showcase the best of British birding during the breeding season. A great tour for a birder at any level, we will be visiting a wide array of habitats from woodlands, moorland, and marshes to open country and rugged coastal cliffs. Our tour will coincide with the breeding season for most species, including many landbirds, shorebirds, waders, and waterfowl. The mornings should be green and alive with song! We will also be stopping to visit the incredible seabird colonies in picturesque Wales where Razorbills, Common Murres, Atlantic Puffins and others come to breed, some arriving in the thousands! Beyond the birds, we will enjoy the stunning surroundings, charming towns, and unique cultural landmarks of the region, including Stonehenge and the Roman city of Bath. Your guide for this tour will be our favorite British expat, Steve Huggins – originally of Tewkesbury, England!

ITINERARY

Day 1, Tue, June 10, 2025. Arrival to London. Night: near Heathrow Airport.

Today is an arrival day. The group will be staying near Heathrow Airport. For those who arrive early enough, there will be a chance for some afternoon birding nearby to get the first taste of the UK's summer birdlife.

Day 2, Wed, June 11, 2025. Night: Norfolk coast.

Today we will set off on our UK adventure, heading northeast from London to the beautiful Norfolk coastline on the North Sea shore. We will make some stops for birding along the way, such as at the Welney Wetland Center. We will get a great introduction to British birds here, like Eurasian Moorhen, Common Shelduck, Whooper Swan, Eurasian Curlew, Northern Lapwing, Blue Tit, Long-tailed Tit, Chaffinch, Eurasian Blackbird, and Dunnock.

Days 3-5, Thu-Sat, June 12-14, 2025. Nights: Norfolk coast.

The tour is designed to take our time and thoroughly enjoy the birding, scenery, and vibes of the Norfolk coast, with ample time to explore and enjoy the region, one that isn't often visited by international visitors. We will be centrally located on coast to take advantage of all the best birding locations both on the coast and in the rural interior of the county. This will include legendary hotspots like the Cley Marshes, The Broads National Park, and Titchwell Marsh Reserve.

Norfolk in summer is home to many great birds. There's a chance for the rare and unusual like Great Bittern, Bearded Reedling, and Common Grasshopper Warbler; many wetland birds like Eurasian Spoonbill, Little Egret, Common Redshank, Eurasian Oystercatcher, Western Marsh Harrier, and Reed Bunting; open country birds like Stone Curlew and Wood Lark; woodland birds like Common Firecrest. Common Cuckoo (just listen for a cuckoo clock!), and Eurasian Green Woodpecker; coastal birds like Common Scoter, Common Eider, and Mediterranean Gull. Not to mention five species of crows and jays, four species of tits, five species of pipits and wagtails, and about seven species of finches.

Day 6, Sun, June 15, 2025. Norfolk to North Wales. Night: Anglesey.

Today will be a travel day, crossing the island of Great Britain from one of its easternmost points on the North Sea coast to one of its westernmost, about a six hour drive, on St. George's Channel in North Wales. We will break up the drive with a few short birding stops, but today will most be devoted to getting to the beautiful Welsh coast.

Day 7, Mon, June 16, 2025. North Wales Coast. Night: Anglesey.

Today will be a very good day! We will start at South Stack RSPB Reserve on the North Wales Coast - home to fantastic seabird colonies. Thousands of Common Murre and Razorbill and smaller numbers of Atlantic Puffin, Black Guillemot, and Black-legged Kittiwake will greet us on arrival. Looking out over the sea may yield Northern Gannet, Northern Fulmer, and various gulls and terns. There's a good chance to find birds like Red-billed Chough, Eurasian Linnet, Rock and Meadow Pipits, Northern Wheatear, and other landbirds as well.

A stop at the Valley Lakes could lead us to Reed Bunting, Common Reed Warbler, Cetti's Warbler, and various ducks, grebes, and other waterbirds. The nearby Cemlyn Nature Reserve hosts a fantastic tern colony with many Sandwich, Common, and Arctic Terns, along with a chance for Roseate Tern, which breeds here in small numbers.

Day 8, Tue, June 17, 2025. Anglesey to Rhayader. Night: Rhayader.

We'll spend a final morning in the Anglesey area, perhaps returning to South Stack to spend time at the seabird colony and searching scrubby areas for Greater and Lesser Whitethroat and Eurasian Bullfinch.

In the afternoon we'll visit Gigrin Farm, where hundreds of Red Kite can be seen as they come in for a regular daily feeding. It's a remarkable turnaround for a species that was once considered endangered in the UK. Along with the kites, Common Buzzard and Common Raven can also be seen close up.

Day 9, Wed, June 18, 2025. Rhayader to Tewkesbury. Night: Tewkesbury.

We'll spend the morning in the Elan Valley, a beautiful and large area protected for the purpose of providing clean water to the region. Here we can look for birds like Pied Flycatcher, Common Redstart, Wood Warbler, Common Stonechat, Whinchat, Ring Ouzel, White-throated Dipper, and Eurasian Siskin.

After lunch we'll make the two-hour drive towards Tewkesbury for a relaxed evening.

Day 10, Thu, June 19, 2025. Gloucester to Bath. Night: Bath.

In the morning, we will bird Slimbridge WWT. Part of network of preserves by the Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust, Slimbridge is famous for an incredible collection of waterfowl (called wildfowl in Britain) from around the world, but the natural areas include great trails and hides allowing for close views of breeding waterfowl and shorebirds. Around the hides and water, we will look for birds like Eurasian Wigeon, Common Shelduck, Little and Great-crested Grebe, Common Crane, Pied Avocet, and Black-tailed Godwit. On the forested trails, we will keep our eyes out for birds like Common Kingfisher, Sedge Warbler, Eurasian Blackcap, and more.

After lunch, we will begin the drive to Bath, birding along the way. We will arrive in the old town of Bath, a getaway town since the Gregorian era named after the incredible Roman-built baths, in time for a nice meal.

Day 11, Fri, June 20, 2025. Ham Wall Area & touring Bath. Night: Bath

In the morning, we will bird the Ham Wall area and Somerset Levels. Another great area for us to pick up any species still missing on our trip with more great chances for waterfowl, waders, and raptors.

After birding, we will return to Bath for lunch and you will have some free time to explore the city. The only city in the UK to be designated a UNESCO World Heritage Site, Bath is worth the time to explore. We will explore the famed Roman baths and enjoy the beautiful architecture of Jane Austen's home town. There is also incredible shopping to be had in town!

Day 12, Sat, June 21, 2025. Great Bustard search and transfer to London. Night: London

On our final full morning we will enjoy some early birding before making our way to the Salisbury Plains outside of Amesbury, home to the Great Bustard Project, where we will learn about the restoration of Great Bustard in the UK and visit a reserve where (hopefully) they can be found. It should be an informative morning learning about another one of the many great restoration efforts happening in the country. Other birds we will be on the lookout for include Gray Partridge, Eurasian Skylark, Yellowhammer, and other species of open country.

After the morning's birding, we will make our way to one of the most important landmarks in the United Kingdom – Stonehenge. We will enjoy a part of our afternoon at this important site that has been protected since 1882.

After Stonehenge and a meal, we will begin our drive back to London to toast a great trip with our final meal as a group. We will be staying in a hotel near Heathrow for convenient transfers to the airport.

Day 13, Sun, June 22, 2025. Departures from Heathrow.

Today is a dedicated departure day, and flights can be scheduled for any time, or you can continue your UK vacation from there. Whether you are heading home or continuing your journey, we thank you for joining us on our inaugural tour to the United Kingdom!

IMPORTANT NOTES

Contact and registration information

To sign up, each participant should complete the [booking form](#). Once we receive the form, we will send you information about paying the trip deposit. If you have any questions before registering, please contact us at info@redhillbirding.com.

Timing and logistics

The trip will begin in London, England on the **evening of Tuesday, June 10, 2025**. The international airport is London's Heathrow Airport (LHR). This is a dedicated arrival day, but if you are hoping to arrive earlier, please let us know if you would like any recommendations or an extra night at our arrival hotel.

The trip will end in at the same location on the morning of **Sunday, June 22, 2025**. This will be a dedicated travel day, and you may arrange your flights for any time.

Currently, there are no entry requirements for the United Kingdom outside of a valid passport during your time in the United Kingdom and one blank passport page. There are no COVID-19 entry or exit requirements for travel to and from the United States. Please check the state department [HERE](#) for the most updated visa and passport information before traveling.

Physical difficulty & Pace

This trip is physically **easy**. Most walking will be done roadside and for short distances. Trails will be easy and there are no vigorous hikes needed, and a lot of birding will be done from the comfort of England's world-famous bird hides.

The pace of the trip is **moderate**. A typical day will have us up early to take advantage of early-morning bird activity. On some days, we will have the option to relax near our lodging, but on some days we will continue birding straight away after lunch, or will be traveling to another destination. Some longer drives of 5+ hours will happen on this tour, and there will be a few hotel stays of only one night (along with some longer stays). This tour also includes plans for downtime and time for cultural excursions and exploring towns.

Price

The price of the trip is \$6,295 per person and is based upon double occupancy. The single room supplement is \$1,340. The price **includes** all meals (excluding alcoholic beverages) from dinner on Day 1 to breakfast on Day 13; all transportation and accommodation during that period; an expert Red Hill Birding guide; any park or entrance fees; and a bound checklist to keep track of sightings during the trip. It **does not include** alcoholic beverages, travel insurance, optional activities, snacks, laundry, tips (apart from meals), or other items of a personal nature.

A deposit of \$1200 per person and the submission of the booking form will secure your place on the trip. Upon receiving your booking form, we will send you deposit details. Final payment

info@redhillbirding.com

is due by March 10, 2025. We accept payment by Zelle, check, and bank transfer/electronic check. We also accept payment by credit card with an additional 3.3% processing fee.

Please note that the final price of this tour could change slightly in the event of significant currently fluctuations.

Hotels & Food

Hotels are generally very good to excellent – with the expected wonderful service and hospitality of the region. Whenever possible, we will be staying in locations that allow us to be both near birding but also in areas of cultural and architectural interest. Rooms are often smaller and cozy, as is typical in England, but all will have en suite bathrooms. This, luckily, is not hard to find! Food in the United Kingdom is generally very good to excellent, too. We will have ample opportunities to enjoy some more traditional dishes to the region. Power outlets in the United Kingdom are Type G, a different plug configuration to that of the United States and Canada. They are 230V supply voltage and 50Hz. You will need a Type G plug adapter. Most modern electronics and plug adapters have built-in converters that will convert it to the US standard of 120V and 60Hz.

Weather

In June, England experiences the onset of summer, bringing a mix of conditions across the country and along the coast. Inland, temperatures often range from 59 to 77, while coastal areas with the influence of the ocean can be cooler. Coastal regions might enjoy refreshing sea breezes, contributing to a comfortable and mild atmosphere. However, occasional showers are not uncommon, and the weather can be quite varied, with strong winds and rain possible on the coasts especially. Some biting insects, including mosquitos, can be present at some inland locations, but are generally not a big nuisance. It is advisable to bring some bug spray.

Packing considerations

You will generally want to wear comfortable, light-weight clothing. Long sleeves and long pants are recommended for sun and insect protection. Sturdy walking and or hiking boots/shoes will be beneficial on some trails and a lightweight but warm jacket is useful for cool mornings and along the coast with a breeze. For some more prone to getting cold, having light gloves and/or a warm hat could be helpful. It is essential to pack a rain jacket or an umbrella for the trip, as rain is possible at any time.

Resources

The best field guide for the United Kingdom is the recently released 3rd edition of *Collins Bird Guide* by Lars Svensson, Killian Mullarney, and Dan Zetterstrom. It covers all of the species on our tour and is very thorough.

Another excellent tool is the Merlin Bird ID App by Cornell University. In it, you can download “bird packs” for regions all over the world. Included is a nice pack for the Britain and Ireland

that includes all the species we will target on this tour. This app is free and includes photos and audio, which is very helpful.

eBird

Your Red Hill Birding guide and/or local guides will be eBirding the entire tour. If you have an eBird account, they will collect your username/email address to share those lists and will share them out when it is convenient. You are welcome to edit your lists to add/remove species, edit text, or change numbers as much as you would like, since any edits you make to your lists do not change others' lists. And we love it when participants add photos and sound recordings to the checklists!

Your leader will also provide an eBird Trip Report after the tour and will add participants who have an eBird account to the report; this way, you can see your own personal trip details and those of the whole group. These trip reports are accessible to anyone who has the link, so participants who do not have eBird accounts can still view the report to see the trip list, photos, and any added text.

Travel insurance

We do not require travel insurance for international travel. However, we recommend purchasing it to help protect you against the unexpected. For your convenience, we offer travel protection through Travelex Insurance Services. For more information on the available plans or to enroll, go to www.travelexinsurance.com or contact Travelex Insurance Services at 800-228-9792 and reference location number 13-0441.

Travelex Insurance Services, Inc CA Agency License #0D10209. Travel Insurance is underwritten by, Berkshire Hathaway Specialty Insurance Company, NAIC #22276. 55Y

Note that to be eligible for some benefits, travel insurance must be purchased within 1-2 weeks of paying the trip deposit.

