



Day program

Day 1: Riga, transfer to Kolka. Overnight at Kolka.

Day 2: Birding Kolka. Evening transfer Ventspils. Boat over night to Fårösund, Gotland.

Day 3: Birding by bicycle in Fårö. Overnight on board to Gotska Sandön.

Day 4: Birding on Gotska Sandön. Overnight on boat to Landsort.

Day 5: Birding Landsort, visit to ringing station. Overnight on board.

Day 6: Birding Landsort in morning, boat back to Ventspils.

Day 7: Morning transfer to Riga airport.

Do you want to bring someone who is not as interested in birds as you? This trip will surely be an adventure for anyone who enjoys being out in beautiful and peaceful nature.



Season: May and June
Group size: 6–10 guests
Booking and contact: info@gotlandnature.com
 www.gotlandnature.com

THE SHIP PALSA

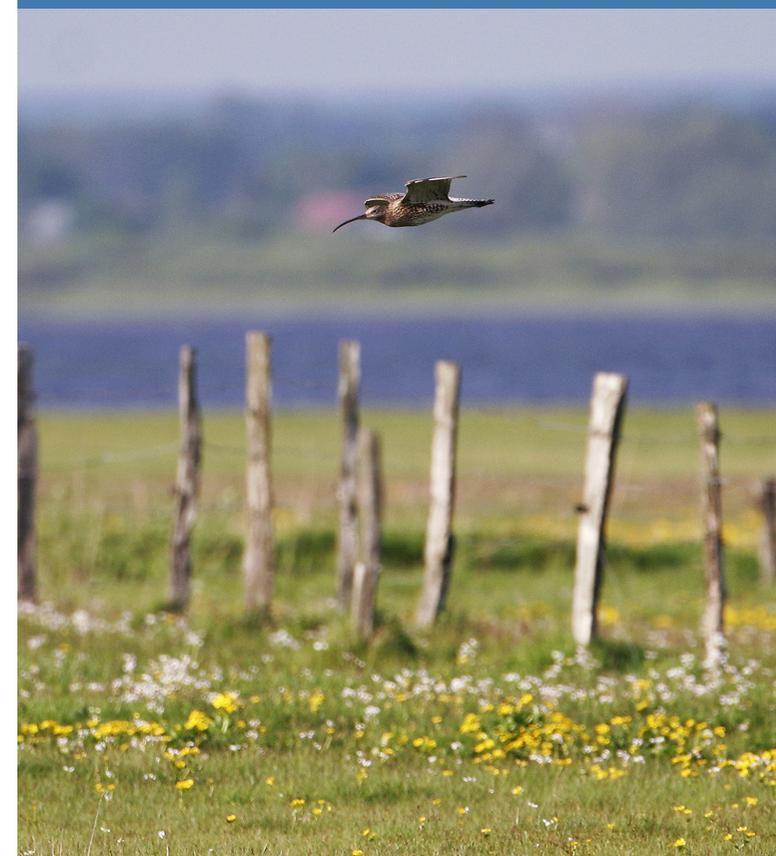
Length: 20 m, width 5,5 m, sea-gauge 2,4 m
Speed: 8 knots
Main engine: 400 hp Iveco diesel
Safety: 50 p liferaft
Electronic equipment: GPS, VHF, DCS, satellite telephone

The Baltic Wings project has developed the central Baltic area as a nature and birdwatching destination through infrastructure investments, capacity building in co-operation with local entrepreneurs as well as other stakeholders, marketing and information. Read more at www.balticwings.org.

COVER: CURLEW / PHOTO: PATRIK OLOFSSON/BIRDLIFE SVERIGE



Eco Birdwatching Kolka – Gotland – Gotska Sandön – Landsort





Landsort.

The tour in summary

A nature tour across the Baltic Sea with focus on birds specific to the central Baltic area. We are trying to arrange this trip as eco-friendly as possible. For transports in Latvia we are using regular local buses. On the sea we are travelling with the Latvian ship Palsa.

In Kolka, Latvia, the interesting land and seabird migration is observed as well as nesting species like woodpeckers, owls, capercaillie and other birds of the boreal forests. In Gotland, Sweden, we are looking for special passerines like thrush nightingale, scarlet rosefinch and collared flycatcher. Waders, golden and white-tailed eagles will also be seen. In Fårö, Gotland we are visiting a beautiful harsh alvar landscape and rauks. One full day is spent birding on Gotska Sandön, a very remote island in the center of the Baltic Sea. Finally, we are visiting Landsort (Öja), a small island in the Stockholm archipelago. The birding there includes a demonstration of bird ringing at the bird observatory.

Birds in focus

The birds in focus on this tour are typical for the central Baltic area. In Kolka, Latvia, we are going to observe the spring migration, which can be massive

in the middle or last part of May. Arctic ducks, waders, skuas and divers are passing close to the northwestern point. Passerines and birds of prey are trying to avoid the sea north of the point and can be easily seen when approaching. The scarlet rosefinch is some years very common.

Gotland is the best area to find golden eagle. Over 50 pairs are breeding in the island. The collared flycatcher is common on the island. The flycatcher breeds in both deciduous and pine forests. In late May the small greenish warbler may show up. The golden oriole often calls from high leaf trees. Fårö has one of the densest populations of curlew in Sweden, you can hear them calling everywhere in the very open landscape. Thrush nightingales are breeding in Gotland. Usually they sing when it is dark, but sometimes you can hear them at dawn and dusk, even in full daylight. Gotska Sandön is mainly covered by pine forest on sandy ground and in the forest you can find both common and parrot crossbills. In deciduous forests you can find greenish warbler and red-breasted flycatcher.

On Landsort (Öja) in Stockholm archipelago, we are going to visit the bird observatory with the ringing activities. Besides common species like willow warbler, pied flycatcher, lesser and "greater" white-throats, more exclusive birds have often been caught in the nets. Bluethroats, red-breasted flycatcher, grasshopper warbler and red-backed shrike are regularly ringed at the station.



Thrush Nightingale.



Razorbill.

Transport, lodging and food

We are using the comfortable Latvian ship Palsa for the transports between the birding sites. Palsa has five double cabins. The facilities are shared. All nights except the first night are spent on board. In normal weather it takes 10 hours to get from Ventspils to Gotland. The ship is certified for Baltic Sea travel and has all required security and electronic navigation equipment. The first night is spent at the guest house Viesu nams Melnsils (private facilities) right by the beach just 10 km south from the Kolka point. Most of the meals are served on board on ship Palsa. Vegetarian alternative is possible. Pick up and drop at Riga airport are done by bus. In Latvia we are travelling by regular local buses. In Fårö we are birding by electric bikes. On Gotska Sandön we are walking (short walks but can be a little bit tough in the sandy paths). In Landsort we are walking (light walks, short distances).

Included

- 7 days birding package
- 1 skilled bird guide during tour
- Boat transports day 2 to day 6
- Bus transfers
- Bicycle (electrical bikes) tour in Fårö
- Visit to Gotska Sandön
- Demonstration of bird ringing at Landsort
- All meals (breakfasts 6, lunches 5, dinners 6)
- Travel report with checklist