



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

THE SHIP PALSAN

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

COVER: COMMON ROSEFINCH / PHOTO: PATRIK OLOFSSON/BIRDLIFE SVERIGE

Eco birdwatching Kolka – Gotland – Landsort



Itinerary

- Day 1:** Riga, transfer to Kolka. Overnight at Kolka.
- Day 2:** Birding Kolka. Evening transfer Ventspils. Boat overnight to Närshamn, Gotland.
- Day 3:** Birding southern Gotland. Overnight on board to Fårösund.
- Day 4:** Birding Fårö. Overnight on boat to Landsort.
- Day 5:** Birding Landsort, visit 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.

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: www.balticwings.org





Landsort.

The tour in summary

A nature tour across the Baltic Sea which focuses on birds specific to the central Baltic area. The transports are mainly done by the Latvian ship Palsa. In Kolka, Latvia, the interesting land and seabird migration is observed. In Gotland, Sweden, we are looking for special passerines like thrush nightingale, scarlet rosefinch and collared flycatcher. In Fårö, Gotland we are visiting a beautiful harsh landscape with rauks. 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 Cape 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 north western point. Passerines and birds of prey are trying to avoid the sea north of the cape 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 flycatchers breed in both deciduous and pine forests. In late May the small greenish warbler may show up. The golden oriole often calls from high deciduous trees. Fårö has one of the densest populations of curlew in Sweden, you can hear them calling everywhere in the open landscape. Thrush nightingales are breeding in Gotland. Mostly they sing when it is dark, but sometimes you can hear them at dawn and dusk, even in full daylight.

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

Transports, lodging and food

We are using the comfortable Latvian ship Palsa for the transports between the birding sites. Palsa has five 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



Velvet Scoter.



Golden Eagle.

(private facilities) right by the beach just 10 km from the Kolka Cape. Most of the meals are served on board on the ship Palsa. Vegetarian alternative is possible. Pick up and drop off at Riga airport are done by minibus. In Fårö we are doing a round-trip by minibus. In Landsort we are walking (light walks, short distances).

Included

- 7 days birding package
- 1 skilled English speaking bird guide during tour
- Boat transports day 2 to day 6
- Bus transfers
- Bus tour in Fårö
- Demonstration of bird ringing at Landsort
- All meals (breakfast 6, lunch 5, dinner 6)
- Travel report with checklist