

ORIOLE BIRDING

Your Number One team in worldwide bird watching holidays!



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ORIOLE BIRDING is a UK based company specialising in birdwatching tours of Norfolk and South Wales, with a wide range of other UK destinations as well as a comprehensive programme of international holidays. Neil Donaghy and Ashley Saunders have over nineteen years experience in the business between them, running their own companies Celtic Bird Tours and Oriole Adventures, before merging the two to create this new venture which we hope you will agree offers the complete bird tour package. We are confident that there is a birding tour here to suit everyone, whether you are after a short break enjoying winter wildfowl on the Norfolk coast or an exciting birding adventure to a far flung destination.

Neil and Ashley remain firmly committed to the value for money, small group ethos that has worked so well for both companies over the years, and unlike so many other tour operators, our definition of a small group really does mean that. We often have two leaders for a group size of seven and occasionally less, which means that everyone has a realistic chance of seeing the birds and in addition, it helps our tour leaders to get to know each individual and offer a more personal experience; something that many of our participants rate as being very important. Often, however, even with our small group sizes, we are equally as competitively priced or cheaper than many other companies that offer near identical holidays at much higher prices.

Our ever growing number of repeat participants seem to agree that we have a very good balance of each tour being well run, bird filled and importantly an enjoyable social occasion too. We always aim to use the best accommodation in each area we visit, and we always try to ensure they are well situated with good amenities and wherever possible are en suite. It is the personal touch that has allowed both Celtic Bird Tours and Oriole Adventures to blossom in a very competitive industry and we have made many good friends as a result of our travel – many of whom now travel year after year with us. It is this friendly and personal service that most think set us aside from other companies. We also have very good relationships with all of our international ground agents and UK based accommodation and local services. So much so, that most seem to go the extra mile for our participant's enjoyment.

Bringing all these aspects together to form Oriole Birding has been a long and exciting journey for us, and we look forward to welcoming you on the next leg as we embark on this exciting new range of birding holidays. Enjoy the website and we'll see you soon on a birding adventure!

This year we are travelling to a range of destinations with our traditional Norfolk and South Wales tours supplemented by a comprehensive range of UK holidays including Solway, Cornwall [winter and autumn tours], North Wales, Speyside, Mull & Iona, Outer Hebrides, Fair Isle, New Forest, East Yorkshire and North-east England. We also have a wide range of International tours from Armenia to Utsira, and we recommend that you check out our website for more details.

We are also able to offer customised tours for small groups or individuals in our home regions of Norfolk and South Wales, but also a range of other destinations due to our network of contacts. Please get

in touch if you can't see what you are looking for on our website, or if the advertised dates don't fit with your availability as we may be able to help!

THE NETHERLANDS—NEW YEAR GOOSE FEST!

16TH – 20TH JANUARY 2010 £725 PER PERSON, £100 SINGLE SUPPLEMENT

With excellent transport links to the UK and short travelling times, The Netherlands is an ideal destination for a short winter break. With large areas of the land lying at sea level and reclaimed for agricultural purposes, it provides suitable habitat for some huge concentrations of birds. The nutrient rich polders are home to many thousands of Greater White-fronted and Barnacle Geese, Northern Lapwing, European Golden Plover and Eurasian Curlew, while Red-breasted, Snow, Lesser Canada and Lesser White-fronted Geese are regular winter visitors in very small numbers, though an element of luck is certainly required to encounter any of them. Smaller numbers of Ruff, Ruddy Turnstone, Common Snipe and Dunlin can also be expected, while inevitably large numbers of raptors will also be present. Common Buzzard and Common Kestrel are ubiquitous throughout and we can also expect to encounter Eurasian Sparrowhawk, Northern Goshawk, Marsh and Hen Harriers, Peregrine and Merlin. Rough-legged Buzzard and White-tailed Eagle however may take a little more searching for. Snow Bunting, Brambling, Willow and Marsh Tit, Common Redpoll, Water Pipit, winter thrushes and in some years Bohemian Waxwing provide passerine interest. In addition, the many bodies of open water harbour uncountable numbers of wildfowl such as Eurasian Wigeon, Great Crested Grebe, Tufted Duck and Common Pochard. The delightful Smew, Greater Scaup, Common Goldeneye and Goosander are present in smaller numbers, while Great White Egrets stalk the reed fringed shallows and the trumpeting of small herds of Whooper and Bewick's Swans provide a wonderful atmospheric soundtrack to the marshes. Woodlands may hold Black Woodpecker, Hawfinch, Crested Tit, Firecrest, Eurasian Woodcock and Short-toed Treecreeper among others, while good fortune may provide us with the opportunity to see roosting Long-eared Owls. We should also encounter Europe's only Indian House Crows in the port at Hoek van Holland.

