



The Norfolk Wildlife Expedition with Iolo Williams

Monday 29th Sept - Friday 3rd Oct 2025

Day 1

Meet the group in the car park of the Le Strange Hotel at **2pm** (lunch NOT provided on day one) and it is a short trip (2 miles) to the Holme complex of National Nature Reserves, Norfolk Wildlife Trust reserve (Holme Dunes) and Holme Bird Observatory. Here you will find a mixture of hides and coastal walking to get into your first day of magical Autumn birding. There are few sights in Norfolk more evocative than the ghostly form of a Barn Owl carefully quartering the fields and dykes. NWT Holme Dunes is one of the best places to catch up with the ethereal birds as they hunt silently over the grazing marshes in the late afternoon. Calm days are the best time to observe them.

We will also be looking out for migrating waders, like Spotted Redshank, Green Sandpiper, Ruff and Curlew Sandpiper. If the wind is right there could be Redstart, Pied Flycatcher and with the chance of Wryneck and various warblers in the pines like Yellow browed, Icterine and Barred Warblers. We return to the hotel for a well earned meal with chance of birding around the hotel.

Day 2

With so many sites to choose from it is the turn of the RSPB reserve at Titchwell to start the day. Some of the main target species include Bittern, Bearded Tit and Marsh Harrier. Here we will also listen for the deep shaded Cetti's Warbler and hoping for a sitting with fields of Dark-bellied Brent Geese coming all the way from Siberia to the reserve. Again waders will be a big hit with various hides allowing us great views of many species. We will look for the tiny Little Stint amongst the Dunlin, Wood Sandpipers and Greenshank, Avocets and several plovers. We will look for sulking Water Rails and walk to the beach to scan the sea for moving gulls, terns and skuas. Along with a large number of Marsh Harriers we will check for other raptors in the area.

Close by is the Holkham estate with its famous avenue and pines where a mixture of birds can be found. Geese often use the fields so a scan may produce Pink footed, Brent and Greylag Geese while ducks like Wigeon and Teal will be building up their winter populations. Walking through the pines we may encounter tit flocks with rare warblers or even the odd Red breasted Flycatcher. Holkham was the first place where Spoonbills returned to breed in Norfolk and they will still be around along with Great White Egrets and passing raptors.

Day 3

We visit Dersingham Bog NNR, part of the Sandringham Estate but run by Natural England for its heathland wildlife. The area will have plenty of Dragonflies and classic birds like Woodlark, Stonechat, Green Woodpecker, Goshawk and also Hobby. A large wetland is found into the heath where many ducks gather. To finish the day we cover the white cliffs of Hunstanton to look for migrants and check the sea for passage.

Close by we have the Snettisham Coastal Park and also Ken Hill Wood to add to our list of birds with migrant Wheatears to Woodpeckers.

Day 4

RSPB Minsmere - An early start for a 2 hour drive and a whole day here with an exceptional number of hides if the weather is wet. The famous 'Scrape' picks up waders like Spotted Redshank, Curlew Sandpiper to even American waders like Pectoral Sandpiper. Woodland has a mix of species from Firecrest to Green Woodpecker. The reeds are classic for Cetti's Warbler, Bearded Tit and Bittern with one hide named after this bird as the best viewpoint! We will be present at the time of the Red Deer rut with Minsmere having a large herd. There is chance for other deer species as well as Otter and Adder.

Day 5

Depending on the tides, we start the day at the famous Snettisham RSPB reserve where we will be looking for the great flocks of waders pushed in with the Wash providing a great spectacle as the birds make their way to the islands on the lagoons in the reserve. Thousands of Knot, Dunlin, Oystercatchers, Bar tailed and Black tailed Godwits swirling around often pushed by a Peregrine Falcon. The hides here will allow us to check for other waders and spot different duck and geese. This location also sees 1000s of Pink footed Geese using the Wash as a safe roosting site.

Given Norfolk's great potential for birds, we can change the order of visits to match a 'fall' in migrants if needed but this trip is not a 'twitch' but what we can find on our days present. Back the hotel we will depart and say our goodbyes at around **2pm**.

£1795 per person

WHAT TO BRING?

- Warm clothes and waterproofs
- Outdoor footwear (outdoor trainers / walking boots)
- A reusable bottle (we will not be providing any bottled water, to try and reduce single use plastic)
- Binoculars (we have plenty of spare pairs if you do not have)
- Camera (although not a photo experience, we will try and accommodate any photography interests during the experience)
- A swimming costume as there is a pool at the hotel!

WHAT IS NOT INCLUDED?

- Travel insurance for the duration of its holiday in respect of cancellation and curtailment, injury, death, lost baggage and money, liability, medical expenses and repatriation.
- Bar drinks with evening meals at the hotel.

*** A single supplement cost of £150**

*** This experience will be a small group of 7 guests and 2 guides.**

*** Walks of 1-5km will be undertaken**

*** The price includes...hotel accommodation (4 nights), 4 Breakfasts (Tuesday - Friday), 4 Packed Lunches (Tuesday - Friday), 4 Evening meals (Monday - Thursday), 5 wildlife tours around Norfolk (Monday - Friday).**

*** This itinerary is subject to change depending on the weather and local wildlife sightings in the area.**