

Norwegian Eagles & Winter Wildlife - Flatanger Mountains, Norway

February 14th to February 21st 2015



Tour Overview

Day 1:

Depart UK and arrive at Trondheim Vaernes airport where we will be met by Ole, who will then drive us to our superb accommodation in the little village of Lauvsnes on the spectacular Flatanger coastline.

During our drive cameras should be at the ready for taking images of the spectacular ice falls that line the roadside in the latter part of our journey.

We will arrive in Lauvsnes around 2 hours after our pick up from Trondheim.



The house that is our base for the duration of the trip



and what a view!



Once settled in we'll either eat in the house or go to Zanzibar – whichever takes our fancy. After our evening meal Ole will give us a bit of a chat about the following days and how to work in the hides.

I will then give you a quick run through of some of the images we can expect to get the following day as well as the technical pitfalls that can crop up when shooting in snow and the variety of lighting conditions we will encounter.

DAYS 2 to 7 – Sunday 15th to Friday 20th February The next few days will be what the trip is all about – Eagles!



The eagle hides are up in the mountains in a stunning wild and unspoilt area. We'll arrive about 1 hour before sunrise as we need to be fully ensconced in the hide long before the eagles can either see or hear us. The walk to the hide is under 5 minutes and is not difficult at all – unless like me you are a bit of a 'shorty' and keep disappearing up to your waist in snow!



The hides have facilities for 5 photographers, with telephoto lenses on tripods. Lenses are pushed through gaitered camera ports, and setting up the camera equipment is the first order of the day.

It isn't possible to change lenses at all, but you can very carefully change from full frame to crop bodies and alternate teleconverters if necessary.

We will have access to two hides in the mountains and from the second day we will have the option to form two groups, thus giving you the opportunity to have two camera/lens setups working at the same time if you have the equipment with you.

Lighting conditions can change rapidly here – one minute it's full sunshine, five minutes later you can be in a near-total white – out; then twenty minutes later the sun will be shining again.

The eagles will come down to feed in most weather conditions and at all times of day.



Ravens, Jays and Hooded crows are also drawn to this area and it's not only an excellent opportunity to photograph these other species but also fascinating to watch the interactions between them and the eagles – especially the total lack of respect afforded the White-tailed Eagles by those clever Ravens.



But everything vacates the area when the “Ultimate Raptor”, the Golden Eagle arrives – such is their level of aggression – they have no social skills at all!!



As daylight begins to draw to a close the birds will melt away to roost overnight and suddenly Ole will appear, as if by magic, to collect us and take us back to Lauvsnes.

After 10 hours in the hide, a shower, change of clothes and a sit down will be most welcome. After our evening meal we'll have a debrief on the day, look at some of the great images that we've obtained and address any technical issues that might have arisen.

There are other hides available to us where we can photograph Red Squirrel, Bullfinch and Crested Tit – together with the chance of Goshawk.



Client Photo by Graham Coull.

We will have 'a day off' in the middle of the trip and journey north to photograph Dippers, then on to Namsskogan where we will have sole access inside enclosures to photograph Arctic Fox and Eurasian Lynx, as well as Wolf and Red Fox.



Day 8 – Saturday 21st February Ole will come to the house to collect us at around 7.30 to 8am for the return trip to Trondheim Vaernes Airport.

EQUIPMENT:

As a minimum a 300 or 400mm plus teleconverters will yield good results on a cropped sensor body. 500mm lenses are ideal as indeed are 600mm and the Sig 300-800mm has also proved mighty in the past; though a fixed 800mm may will be too much "gun", even on a full frame body.

A sturdy tripod and gimbal head are essential – these can be stripped down and placed in your checked baggage.

A wide angle lens might well be a useful addition to your kit as landscape shots are everywhere!

As many CF cards as you can muster and either a laptop or some other method of bulk storage such as a Hyperdrive are highly recommended, as the number of frames you take will be enormous!

Insulated boots and thermal clothing are essential as the hides are very cold when you first enter them – last year we had one day when it was -17 Celsius on entry, but the temperature soon rises once 5 bodies are in there, and there are small heaters in the hides should they be required.

For any more information on equipment etc: please contact Andy direct.

COSTS: AIR FARE (Clients responsibility).

Wildlife in Pixels is not a travel agency and we do not book or take money for flights – you are responsible for your own travel arrangements both to and from your chosen UK departure point and Trondheim Vaernes airport.

You are also responsible for your own travel insurance.

The cost of travel between Trondheim Vaernes and Lauvsnes together with all other travel within Norway, guide and hide fees and food (less alcohol & sundries) ARE included in the price.

COSTS:

WORKSHOP FEE

The price for the trip is *22,500 NKR per person including all internal transport in Norway, food (excluding alcohol) hide and admission fees. This fee needs to be paid in Norwegian currency as set out below.

DEPOSITS & BALANCE:

NB: Fees need to be paid in Norwegian Kroner **cash only**.

A non-refundable deposit of 8000NKR cash is needed to secure a place on this workshop.

The remaining balance of 14,500NKR cash must be paid no later than 60 days before departure (Tuesday 16th DECEMBER 2014).

Wildlife in Pixels will issue a receipt for your deposit, and a further one on balance payment. Wildlife in Pixels MUST be notified of cancellations BEFORE Tuesday 16th DECEMBER 2014.

In the event of a client having paid in full and needing to cancel in under 60 days a) the initial deposit remains nonrefundable, and b) the balance remains nonrefundable unless the client manages to sell the place on (to a third party). Wildlife in Pixels MAY HAVE a list of “reserve customers” whom the client might perhaps negotiate with; but undertake NO responsibility to find or supply the client with means to recoup any monies paid.

If Wildlife in Pixels need to cancel a holiday for any reason, a full refund of the amount paid by you will be made, however Wildlife in Pixels will accept no further liability.

* This is the total fee payable to Wildlife in Pixels and **can only be paid in CASH Norwegian Kroner**. No other currency, money orders, cheques or credit cards will be accepted in either part or full payment.