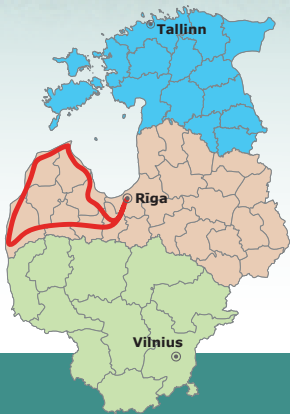


# Spring Birdwatching Tour



Latvia is among one of the world's three most important bird migration paths, and during migration seasons tens of thousands birds can be seen at one place. The tour will spent significant time along the sea coast in order to catch the highlights of migration. In spring time also flood-lands become alive with activities of thousands of birds and provide great atmosphere for birdwatchers. This tour explores different biotops to get the best impressions of the spring time migration.



(10 Days)

Pygmy owl (*Glaucidium passerinum*)



**Selected species:** These territories are essential for migrating geese, different plovers, also Great Snipe, Corncrake, Lapwing and Curlews. Artificially made fish breeding ponds are great places to spot not only different types of ducks and waders but also predators like Sea Eagle, Marsh Harrier and others.

**General Route:** Riga - Jelgava - Jaunmokas - Engure - Kolka - Ventspils - Liepāja - Saldus - Bauska - Rīga

between the Forest House and Lake Sloka; A visit to the visitors centre; Overnight in Jaunmokas.

## Day 1

### Arrival in Rīga

A tour of the Latvian capital of Riga and its Old Town. Overnight in Rīga

## Day 4

**Jaunmokas-Bērciems-Engure-Bērciems-Mērsrags-Ģipka-Kolka-Košrags (~195 km)**  
Breakfast. Sites and attractions en route: an overgrown seashore with reefs - ideal places to watch wading and water bird; Lake Engure, a pasture of wild horses and cows and a birdwatching tower (the Lake Engure Nature Park); Mērsrags seashore meadows and Pekrags. A complex of lagoon-type biotopes, including meadows, areas of reeds, a rocky seashore, shoals and bird watching tower. This is a small area of wetlands located where a lagoon from the ancient Litorine Sea once was. Overnight in Košrags.

Great Bittern (*Botaurus stellaris*)



## Day 2

**Rīga - Jelgava - Svēte - Jelgava - Slampe-Dunduru Wiese - Smārde - Jaunmokas (~160km)**

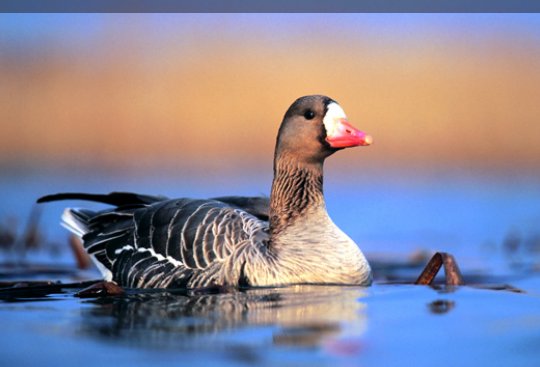
Breakfast. Sites and attractions en route: The Svēte flood-lands: a majorsirte of migrating geese, ducks and different plovers; Jelgava Palace's island (reserve); The Dunduri Meadows are an important part of the forested area of the Ķemeri Heath along the curvy shores of the little Slampe River. There is a birdwatching tower, as well as so-called Throat of Melnragi -wetlands flooded by beavers; The Jaunmokas Manor Park; Overnight in Jaunmokas.

## Day 5

**Košrags - Kolka - Pūrciems - Dundaga-Slītere - Mazirbe - Košrags (~74km)**

Breakfast. Sites en route: Cape Kolka is one of the best places for birdwatching when it comes to the diversity of species during the spring migration – nearly all of the species that are present in Latvia can be found here at the right time; The Pēterezers Nature Trail (3,5 km), which offers a set of dunes with high swamps and a samp lake that are unique at the European level; The wetlands of Ģipka; Slītere National Park - the former coast-

The Greater White-fronted Goose (*Anser albifrons*)





...one of the world's top most important migration paths!

## TRIP DETAILS

Package price per person:  
from EUR 820.00

\*Minimum number of persons - 8.

by 10 persons: 720.00 EUR

by 12 persons: 600.00 EUR

### INCLUDES:

- Accommodation based on shared DBL room with breakfast
- Bus transfers
- Guide/ornithologist (10 d)
- Information pack

### EXTRA COSTS:

- Single supplement
- Other meals
- Possible fees

### TOUR GUIDE:

Māris Strazds, ornithologist

### PERIOD OF TRAVEL:

End of Apr - beginning of May

### WALKING:

Short walks combined with bus drives.

Nature trail at Ķemeri National Park



Pine forest at Slitere National Park



Birdwatching days at the Lake Engure Nature Park



line of the ancient Baltic Ice Sea. Overnight in Košags.

### Day 6

**Mazirbe - Oviši - Ventspils - Užava - Labrags (~140 km)**

Breakfast. Sites and attractions en route: The Irbene radar station, The coastline of Oviši, a sandy seashore, The Užava Estuary, with a restricted area to protect a biotope which includes the grey dunes - rare in Europe; The meadows and polders of the lower reaches of the Užava River; The steep shores of the little Muižupīte River. Overnight in Labrags.

### Day 7

**Labrags - Liepāja - Nīca - Grobiņa - Durbe**

(~130 km)

Breakfast. Sites and attractions en route: the cape of Labrags; The Liepāja port, Lake Liepāja, village of Nīca, the Old Durbe School. Overnight in Durbe.

### Day 8

**Durbe - Liguti - Vītiņi - Skrunda - Saldus (~175 km)**

Breakfast. Sites and attractions en route: The Liguti Estate park; The Vītiņi Meadows on the eastern shore of Lake Liepāja are the largest area of damp meadows in Latvia. The last nesting place for the dunlins. Pastures of wild horses and cows. The fish ponds of Skrunda; Lunch in Skrunda. Overnight in Saldus.

### Day 9

**Saldus - Pilsrundāle (~85 km)**

Breakfast. Sites and attractions en route: The Sātiņi fish ponds are an important place for water birds to feed and rest (Northern swans, waders). The territory can be viewed from different locations; Lunch in Saldus; Zvārde – former military base; The Tērvete Park, river valley. Overnight in Pilsrundāle.

### Day 10

**Saldus - Sātiņi - Saldus - Kokmuiža - Tērvete - Pilsrundāle - Rīga (~140 km)**

Breakfast. Sites and attractions en route: The Rundāle Palace Park and the palace itself; The Cena Heath, Getliņi; Departure.