



ROCKJUMPER

Worldwide Birding Adventures

Russian Far East Siberia's Forgotten Coast *23rd June to 6th July 2020 (14 days)*



Spoon-billed Sandpiper by David Erterius

This cruise combines the best of our 'In Search of the Spoon-billed Sandpiper' and 'Wake of Bering' Expeditions, and takes us through a land of extremes and myriad environments, including snow-capped active volcanoes, geothermal regions, vast forests, extensive tundra, uninhabited islands and some of the richest oceans on the planet.

Our journey starts in the city of Petropavlovsk-Kamchatskiy, so-named after two of Bering's ships, and we will also travel north by north-east, along what is still one of earth's remotest coastlines. Our voyage is dedicated to looking for birds and wildlife and we can expect to have some truly spectacular experiences. However, there is one bird in particular that makes this trip very special indeed, and that is the critically endangered Spoon-billed Sandpiper. It is believed that there are now less than 200 pairs

which make the annual migration to Northern Kamchatka and Chukotka to breed. Very few people have had the privilege of visiting this region to see this species and we hope to repeat the success of our previous expeditions, when we not only saw birds at Meinypil'gyno, the only monitored breeding site, but also made ornithological history by finding a new population further south.

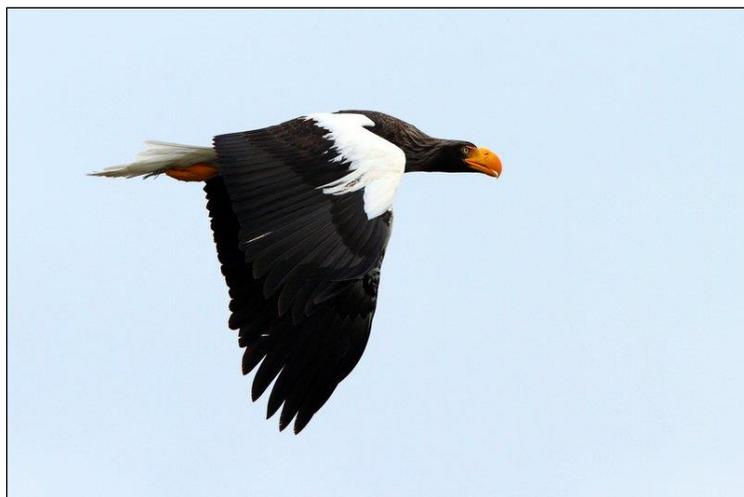
Whilst the Spoon-billed Sandpiper is certainly the central focus of our voyage, there will be plenty of other highlights to look forward to as well. Some of the special wildlife we will look for whilst ashore includes the massive Steller's Sea Eagle, Emperor Goose and Pechora Pipit, as well as Brown Bear, Kamchatka Marmot and Arctic Fox. The seas also support a rich diversity of birds and other animals, with Blue, Grey, Humpback, Sperm and Baird's Beaked Whales all being possible, along with an incredible 13 species of auks and other regional specialities such as Red-faced Cormorant and Red-legged Kittiwake.

THE TOUR AT A GLANCE...

THE ITINERARY

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|-------------------------|---|
| Day 1 | Arrival in Petropavlovsk-Kamchatskiy |
| Day 2 | Zhupanova River |
| Days 3 & 4 | Commander Islands |
| Day 5 | Karaginskiy Island |
| Day 6 | Verkhoturova Island and Govena Peninsula |
| Days 7 to 10 | Koryak and Chukotka Coast |
| Days 11 & 12 | Meinypil'gyno |
| Day 13 | Cape Navarin and Keyngypilgyn Lagoon |
| Day 14 | Port of Anadyr and depart |



TOUR ROUTE MAP...**THE TOUR IN DETAIL...**

Steller's Sea Eagle by Adam Riley

Day 1: Arrival in Petropavlovsk-Kamchatskiy. After arriving in Petropavlovsk-Kamchatskiy, the capital and administrative centre of the Kamchatka Region, you will be transferred to the port where you will board our ship and home for the next 14 days, the “Spirit of Enderby”. After an opportunity to settle into your cabin, we will then set sail through Avacha Bay, one of the greatest natural harbours in the world, and head north-east along the lower Kamchatka coastline.

As we cross the bay, we will look for Spectacled Guillemot, an uncommon



species that breeds here in small numbers; while other birds we could spot include Red-faced and Pelagic Cormorants, Pigeon Guillemot, Ancient Murrelet and Tufted Puffin.

Day 2: Zhupanova River. We plan to spend the morning Zodiac cruising on the Zhupanova River. Our main target here is the magnificent Steller's Sea Eagle and there are usually at least three occupied nests close to the river. Other possible species include Long-toed Stint, Aleutian Tern, Middendorff's Grasshopper Warbler and Yellow-breasted Bunting. Good numbers of Larga Seals are also often hauled out on sandbars in the river.

After returning to the ship, we will then set sail again and by late afternoon, we should be over deep water heading for the Commander Islands. New species we will be looking for include Laysan Albatross, Mottled Petrel and Fork-tailed Storm Petrel. The Kamchatka Trench can also be excellent for cetaceans and we have previously seen Blue Whales on this crossing.



Crested Auklets by Adam Riley

Days 3 & 4: Commander Islands. The wildlife-rich Commander Islands were first discovered by the Commander Vitus Bering when his ship was wrecked here in 1741. We intend to explore the islands through a combination of landings and Zodiac cruises, with our first stop being the village of Nikolskoye where there is an interesting museum. Birding around the village is also excellent and we should find Rock Sandpiper, Mongolian Plover, Glaucous-winged Gull and Pechora Pipit, with possibilities on subsequent landings including Rock Ptarmigan, Buff-bellied Pipit and Grey-crowned Rosy Finch. Zodiac cruising is often spectacular and we hope to encounter Red-faced Cormorant, Red-legged Kittiwake, Pigeon Guillemot, Horned Puffin, and Parakeet, Crested and Whiskered Auklets.



Steller's Sea Lion by Adam Riley

Our plans also include a ship cruise along the southern coast of Bering Island, as this area is excellent for cetaceans. Regularly encountered species include Humpback, Sperm, Northern Minke and Baird's Beaked Whales.

Day 5: Karaginskiy Island. Our proposed landing site is a patchwork of boggy tundra, ponds and shingle spits, and an interesting range of waders can be found here, including Pacific Golden Plover, Red-necked Stint and Red-necked Phalarope. The ponds also support a range of waterfowl and previously we have encountered Red-throated Diver, Bean Goose, Greater Scaup and Long-tailed Duck. Potential



passerines include Kamchatka Leaf Warbler, Dusky Warbler, Bluethroat, Red-throated Pipit and Eastern Yellow Wagtail.

Day 6: Verkhoturova Island and Govena Peninsula. Verkhoturova Island has some huge seabird colonies and by following a short trail to the cliff top, we should be able to enjoy some fantastic views of Tufted Puffin, Thick-billed Murre (Brunnich's Guillemot), Pelagic Cormorant and Black-legged Kittiwake. Both Steller's Eider and Harlequin Duck occur too and we may also see Steller's Sea Lions, as they are often hauled out on some offshore rocks. Later in the day, there will be either a Zodiac cruise or a landing on the Govena Peninsula. Good numbers of Brown Bears can often be found here, as well as King and Common Eiders and Black and Stejneger's Scoters.



Male King Eider by Alasdair Hunter

Days 7 to 10: Koryak and Chukotka Coast. We spend the next 4 days slowly cruising north along the spectacular Chukotka Coastline, stopping each day to explore secluded bays, walk onshore and enjoy the wealth of wildlife that abounds in this remote and little-visited region. We will keep the itinerary flexible to take account of the weather conditions, the advice of our Expedition Leader and the sightings we have already enjoyed over the past few days. There are many equally wonderful areas to explore, including Pavla Bay, around which Brown Bears patrol and Steller's Sea Eagle soar, and the dramatic Bogoslova Island. Onshore we will explore a mix of tundra, coastal marshes, birch and pine forest and freshwater lagoons, home to a wide variety of birdlife, including many of the species already outlined above, plus White-billed Diver, Taiga and Tundra Bean Goose, Emperor Goose, King Eider, Long-tailed Duck, Sandhill Crane, Rough-legged Buzzard, Gyr Falcon, Temminck's Stint, Red-necked Phalarope, Arctic Warbler, Red-flanked Bluetail, Little Bunting and Common Rosefinch. Flowers such as Kamchatka Rhododendron and Alpine Bearberry carpet the landscape, whilst land mammals to look out for, in



Walrus bull by Adam Riley

addition to Brown Bears, include Red Fox, Arctic Ground Squirrel, Mountain Hare and even the rare Snow Sheep, which was recorded on one lucky occasion. Larger land mammals – although present – are elusive and rarely seen.

As we track north, we will also keep our eyes peeled for more seabirds, which may include the diminutive Kittlitz's Murrelet and tiny Least Auklet, as well as the more common Horned and Tufted Puffins, Crested Auklet, Short-tailed Shearwater and various skuas.

Days 11 & 12: Meinypil'gyno. We hope that today will be the ornithological highlight of our cruise, the opportunity to view one of the



world's rarest and most beautiful waders on its remote nesting grounds! The enigmatic Spoon-billed Sandpiper is critically endangered. Over the past few decades, their population has nosedived from an estimated 2,000 – 2,800 pairs in the 1970s to less than 100 pairs in 2011. They only breed on the remote tundra of Kamchatka and Chukotka and then migrate over 8,000 kilometres to their wintering grounds in South-East Asia. The threats to this attractive little wader are many and varied so we will learn more of their plight during the cruise as well as raise money for their continued protection.



Whiskered Auklet by Adam Riley

Over the past few years, Heritage Expeditions have built up a close relationship with the staff at the 'Spoon-billed Sandpiper Recovery Taskforce' in the remote settlement of Meinypil'gyno, which monitors about 10 breeding pairs in the area. This is located on a 40km long shingle spit and is the most important breeding site in the world for the 'Spoonies', and if possible, the researchers may guide us to view one of the nests of this amazing wader - a rare and privileged experience indeed! The Spoon-billed Sandpiper's territory is also home to a wide variety of other birds, including Emperor Goose, Sandhill Crane, Pacific Diver and Black Scoter, whilst offshore we will keep our eyes open for ghostly white pods of Beluga Whales, the sheer numbers of which can be breathtaking at times and are certainly comparable with some of the best known whale-watching sites in the world.

Day 13: Cape Navarin and Keyngypilgyn Lagoon. This coastline is rich in marine mammals and one creature we will be looking for, in particular, is the fabulous Walrus, as there is a known haul-out in the area. The animals regularly move between locations, however, so finding them is always very much a matter of luck, although we have had previous success here. Good numbers of Grey Whales also often congregate in the area, and we may well end the expedition's activities by Zodiac cruising some spectacular cliffs where tens of thousands of seabirds breed, giving us a final chance to watch birds such as Tufted Puffin and Black-legged Kittiwake.



Tufted Puffin by Adam Riley

To the north of Cape Navarin is Keyngypilgyn Lagoon that we will also visit, an excellent location for waterfowl and waders, including Emperor, Greater White-fronted and Brant Geese, Whooper Swan, King Eider, Red Knot and Aleutian Tern.

Day 14: Port of Anadyr. As we cruise into Anadyr Bay there is an excellent chance of seeing more Belugas, while after a final breakfast on board the Spirit of Enderby, it will



then be time to disembark. We will provide complimentary transfers to a downtown hotel and the airport.

FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS:

The fee for the **Siberia's Forgotten Coast** cruise is as follows:

- Triple **US\$ 7,380** per person sharing;
- Main Deck **US\$ 8,640** per person sharing;
- Superior **US\$ 9,280** per person sharing;
- Superior Plus **US\$ 10,000** per person sharing
- Mini Suite **US\$ 10,420** per person sharing;
- Heritage Suite **US\$ 11,430** per person sharing.

Additional charges:

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| Obligatory Landing Fees/Local Payment: | US\$ 500 per person |
| Charter Flights: | US\$ 1,000 per person |
| Optional Kayaking supplement: | US\$ 1,050 per person |

This includes:

- Transfers from the airport/your hotel to the ship;
- Transfer from the ship to a central city hotel or airport;
- All shore excursions as outlined in itinerary;
- All accommodation and meals; and
- Services of Expeditions leaders and guides.

This excludes:

- **ANY** International and/or domestic flights;
- Visas and Travel insurance;
- Gratuities; and
- Laundry, drinks and other items of a personal nature.

IMPORTANT NOTES:

- Due to constantly fluctuating exchange rates, we now quote our tours in 4 currencies (see website for all 4 currencies). The tour price is however fixed only in the currency printed in bold, and the actual cost in the other currencies listed will be adjusted according to prevailing exchange rates at the time of final invoicing (usually 4 months before the tour.) The same applies to approximate domestic flight and single supplement rates, which are also quoted in the respective fixed currency.**
- Please also note that Rockjumper has taken an allotment on this cruise rather than chartering the cruise in entirety, and a Rockjumper leader may not accompany the expedition unless a minimum of 10 participants are signed up through Rockjumper. In the case that a Rockjumper leader is not on board, the professional expedition staff will take care of all participants signed up through Rockjumper.**
- Furthermore, these costs are subject to unforeseen increases in tour related costs and may have to be adjusted as a result.**



d) Lastly, we may be forced to change or alter the itinerary and/or the designated Rockjumper leader at short or no notice due to unforeseen circumstances; please be aware that we will attempt to adhere as close to the original program as possible.

Ship specifications:

Our vessel, the 'Spirit of Enderby' (Professor Khromov) is perfect for this kind of travel. The real focus and emphasis of every expedition is getting you ashore as often as possible for as long as possible with maximum safety and comfort. The ship carries just 50 passengers in very comfortable accommodation, measures 72 metres in length and is fully ice-strengthened.

Please note:

- It is important for the comfort of your fellow travellers that you do not over-pack. Kindly stick to 20 kg (44 lb) for check in luggage and 8 kg (18 lb) for hand luggage.
- This tour does not require a high level of fitness, but participants should be in good general health and reasonably fit. Guests will be notified when longer walks may be undertaken. If you have any physical or medical limitations or conditions, please notify us in advance of departure.

Arrival and Departure Details:

This tour **does not** include ANY airfares. The tour will begin in Petropavlovsk-Kamchatksiy on day 1 and will conclude in the Port of Anadyr on day 14 of the trip. **IMPORTANT: Please do not book a flight before 13:00 on day 14 to allow for disembarkation procedures.** If you wish to arrive early and/or depart late and would like assistance or advice in this regard, kindly contact the Rockjumper office.

