

Eastern Poland - 23rd-30th May 2010 - Update

Well, the dates are now fixed and several of you have already reserved your places. There are a few still available, so please could you ring me as soon as possible if you would like to come along. Eight people have confirmed that their flights are booked (see Wiz Air details below) and my view is it would be better if we all flew together, so again I would need to discuss with you further details. You would need to be in a position to also book and pay for your own flights. We are currently limiting numbers to a maximum of 18 people – i.e. two nine-seater people carriers, so please book early to avoid disappointment.

Dates and Flights

This exciting trip will start at Warsaw Airport at approx 12.00 noon on **Sunday 23rd May 2010**. Most of the party will travel by Wiz Air departing Luton at 08.20 hrs and arriving Warsaw at 11.40 hrs (see Wiz Air website for further details). Currently, the cost (including taxes and a case per person in the hold) is between £100 and £110, but prices will undoubtedly increase as more seats are taken. Some people may wish to avoid an early flight and travel to Poland on the Saturday perhaps staying in Warsaw overnight? You will then need to get a taxi back to the airport to join the party on the Sunday. The party will return again by Wiz Air from Warsaw at 17.35 hrs on **Sunday 30th May** arriving Luton at 19.10.

Accommodation

We are currently looking into finding accommodation where we can all stay together. I'm sure that you would agree that this would be much more fun? My thoughts are to go for something middle of the road and I have found a couple in the two locations. One of the hotels is advertising approx £30 for a twin room, so approx £15 each. A room with a view will cost a bit more. The plan is to stay in Bialowieza village for three nights (23rd-25th) and Biebrza for four nights (26th-29th).

Itinerary

The following is a rough idea of our thoughts to make our birding week in Poland special, although times and locations may vary depending on what's about when we arrive. It will generally be dawn to dusk birding with some owl/great snipe nights thrown in. However, there will be opportunities for those who wish to avoid dawn starts as we will meet for breakfast and those lying in can rejoin the group then. The log will be called at dinner each evening.

A further insight into the wildlife in Poland will be given at Steve's talk at Bungay Community Centre on 18th January. Not to be missed.

Sunday 23rd May

12.00 noon - party to meet at Warsaw Airport and travel together to Bialowieza Forest, with frequent birding along minor road via Bielsk Podiaski and Hajnowka

15.30 hrs – tea stop at Bransk

18.00 hrs – arrive Bialowieza
20.30 hrs - dinner

Monday 24th May

05.30 hrs - tour of “restricted area” with local bird guide (optional)
09.30 hrs – breakfast
10.30 hrs – walk forest trail
13.00 hrs – lunch
14.00 hrs – bird the dead forest
18.30 hrs – dinner
20.00 hrs – visit Great Snipe lek

Tuesday 25th May

05.30 hrs – walk forest trail
09.30 hrs – breakfast
10.30 hrs – walk forest trail
13.00 hrs – lunch
14.00 hrs – bird Park Palacowy
20.30 hrs – dinner

Wednesday 26th May

05.30 hrs – walk forest trail
09.30 hrs – breakfast
12.00 hrs – Siemienowka Reservoir
16.00 hrs – Bialystok Reservoir
19.00 hrs – arrive Biebrza

Thursday 27th May

06.30 hrs – early breakfast
08.00 hrs – walk marsh trail (Wisna Marsh) - this will be an all-day event (packed lunch)
17.00 hrs – evening watch from Rutkowskie view point
20.30 hrs – dinner

Friday 28th May

06.30 hrs – early breakfast
08.00 hrs – explore Budy area - this will be an all-day event (packed lunch)
20.30 hrs – dinner

Saturday 29th May

06.30 hrs – early breakfast
08.00 hrs – walk marsh trail (Red Marsh) - this will be an all-day event (packed lunch)
20.30 hrs – dinner

Sunday 30th May

05.30 hrs – pre-breakfast birding
08.00 hrs – breakfast
09.30 hrs – return to Warsaw Airport

Transport

As soon as we know the final numbers, transport will be booked. We will probably plumb for two people carriers with Roger driving one and Steve the other. However, we are also making enquiries with regard to the hire of a minibus. The cost is looking to be in the region of £100 per person plus fuel and additional accident waiver insurance. We will be calling on participants to forward a deposit once the transport is booked

Kathy Piotrowski