



## Photo Tour Varanger – Arctic Norway

Varanger is situated in the northeastern part of Norway and is spectacular throughout the whole year but during the winter months, and especially during the early springtime, when 100,000s of arctic seabirds are returning to their northern breeding grounds, it is beyond phenomenal and provides amazing, photographic opportunities. We will start our journey in Ivalo, Finland where we will photograph **Pine Grosbeak, Arctic Redpoll, Siberian Tit and Siberian Jay** before we drive to Varanger.

The Varangerfjord breaths photography: the bird cliff in Hornøya houses tens of thousands of **Common- and Brünnich's Guillemot, Kittiwake, Razorbill** and the iconic **Atlantic Puffin** which we will try to photograph on snow. **Gyrfalcons and White-tailed Eagles** may be patrolling the bird cliff. We will have our private well-positioned low-angle floating hide from which we will photograph **Long-tailed Duck, King-, Steller's-, and Common Eider** all in their breeding plumage. There are certainly good chances to see other species such as **Mountain Hares, Reindeer, Rock Ptarmigan and Willow Grouse**. Throughout the whole trip we will have lots opportunities to photograph photogenic **winter landscapes** and colorful fishing villages. Throughout the evenings we will keep an eye on the sky for **Northern Lights**. During our photo tour we will stay at comfortable hotels close to all of these unique photography opportunities.



I welcome you to my next journey to  
Varanger, Norway in March 2021



**Dates:** 20 to 27 March 2021

**Duration:** 8 days

**Place:** Varanger (Norway)

**Cost:** Prices for 2022 will be announced shortly

**Deposit:** Prices for 2022 will be announced shortly

**Cost includes:** Accommodation, all local transport, hide fees, breakfast, light lunch and dinner \*

**Cost excludes:** International flights, snacks, and alcohol

\* Due to the fact that people are likely to arrive at different times on the 20<sup>th</sup> of March, only on that day, dinner is not included

**Meeting place:** Ivalo airport (Finland)

**Target group:** Photographers, from beginners to experts

**Group size:** max 5

**Accommodation:** Clean and comfortable Scandinavian guest houses and hotels

**Level of fitness and weather:** Walks to the places of interest can involve deep snow and steep climbs, but are rarely more than 10-15 minutes. The days can get cold, even up to -25 °C, in Finland. However, in Varanger, temperatures are milder and average around -5 to 0°C during daytime. Nevertheless appropriate clothing and footwear is recommended.

**Themes:** Amazing winter landscapes, Northern Lights, Mountain Hares and birds including local specialities such as King Eider, Steller's Eider, Long-tailed Duck, Pine Grosbeak, Siberian Tit, Siberian Jay, Brünnich's Guillemot, Common Guillemot, Razorbill, Atlantic Puffin and Kittiwake).

Born in one of the smallest towns you can find in the Netherlands, I now live and work in one of the largest *metropolitan* areas of Finland. I love the days when steel and concrete are replaced by the wilderness of nature. Once back in that remote forest or arctic winter land I channel my passion to nature photography. Sounds familiar?

I have lived in Finland for over 20 years and I know many remote forests and arctic winter lands, such as Varanger in Norway, like the back of my hand.

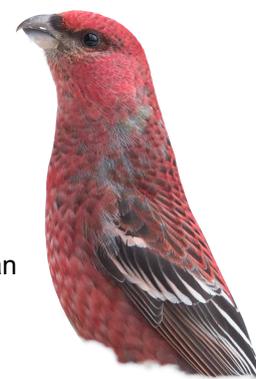
## Itinerary:

### Day 1, Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> of March

- Pick up from Ivalo airport (Finland) and transfer to our local accommodation in the area of Ivalo
- Walk through the program with those present and consider newly presented photographic opportunities (see next page bottom \*)
- Lookout for Northern Lights

### Day 2, Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> of March

- Breakfast before sunrise
- Drive towards Kaamanen (Finland) to photograph Pine Grosbeak, Siberian Tit, Siberian Jay and Arctic Redpoll
- Lunch in Kaamanen before the drive to Båtsfjord in Varanger (Norway)
- Time to stop for landscape photography and lookout for Hawk Owls along the Tana River Delta
- Transfer to accommodation and dinner
- Lookout for Northern Lights



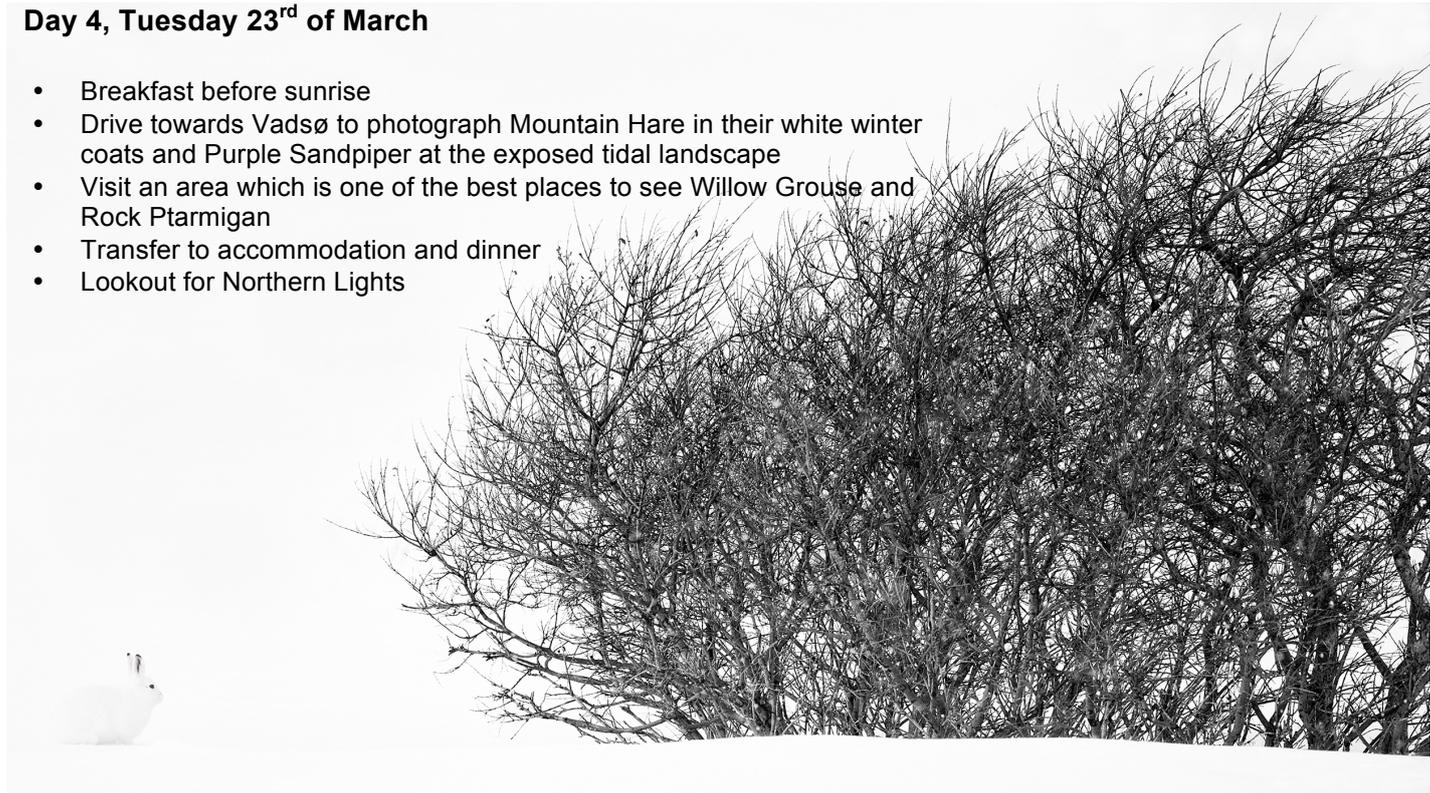
### Day 3, Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> of March

- Transfer to the harbor of Båtsfjord to photograph King Eider, Steller's Eider, Common Eider and Long-tailed Duck from well-positioned low-angle floating hides
- Breakfast will be provided by the hotel and taken to the hide
- Ride with a rigid inflatable boat (RIB) to photograph flying ducks
- Photograph the iconic fishing community with its beautiful colorful houses from a higher vantage point
- Transfer to accommodation and dinner
- Lookout for Northern Lights



## Day 4, Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> of March

- Breakfast before sunrise
- Drive towards Vadsø to photograph Mountain Hare in their white winter coats and Purple Sandpiper at the exposed tidal landscape
- Visit an area which is one of the best places to see Willow Grouse and Rock Ptarmigan
- Transfer to accommodation and dinner
- Lookout for Northern Lights



## Day 5, Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> of March

- Breakfast before sunrise
- Photograph Mountain Hare in their white winter coats and Purple Sandpiper at the exposed tidal landscape
- Visit an area which is one of the best places to see Willow Grouse and Rock Ptarmigan
- Drive via Ekkerøy, which has one of largest colonies of Kittiwakes, towards Vardø
- Transfer to accommodation and dinner
- Lookout for Northern Lights



## Day 6-7, Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> & Friday 26<sup>th</sup> of March

- Breakfast before sunrise
- Early morning transfer to Hornøya to photograph tens of thousands of Common- and Brünnich's Guillemot, Kittiwake, Atlantic Puffin & Razorbill
- March is the month when the seabirds return and fly around the island and fill the air with their large numbers
- Chance to photograph fighting Atlantic Puffins on snow
- Gyrfalcons, Northern Ravens and White-tailed Eagles may be patrolling the bird cliff
- Transfer to accommodation and dinner
- Lookout for Northern Lights



## Day 8, Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> of March

- Breakfast
- Transfer from our accommodation towards Ivalo airport

### Reservations and information:

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Please take the following into consideration: The itinerary and its priorities are in principle fixed, however the nature of wildlife, and in particular in winter, will define what the exact daily photographic opportunities \* and priorities are, we will go after. Hunting Northern Hawk-owls, Great Grey Owls or the chance to spot a Gyrfalcon may be such opportunities changing the daily plans. In addition, weather in Varanger can be harsh; therefore we need to be flexible with parts of the tour. Strong wind means that we may not be able to get to Hornøya and have to shuffle program around. Anyways, the trip is built in such a way that there are various options every day to ensure a marvelous photographic experience.



**Things to bring (check list):**

Documents

- Passport
- Flight tickets
- Insurance papers

**Clothing** (warm and weatherproof to keep your head, feet and hands warm)

- Waterproof walking boots with thermal lining
- Thermal underwear and woolen socks
- Fleece
- Hiking pants with thermal lining
- Down coat or any coat which can handle up to -30 °C
- Hat, waterproof gloves (fingerless mittens are a plus)

**Camera equipment**

- Camera
- Several batteries + charger
- memory cards
- remote trigger
- lenses (telephoto (300 or 500), extender, zoom (70-200) wide angle (14 or 24-70), macro)
- cleaning kit
- filters (polarizer, neutral density and stoppers)
- tripod
- laptop
- headlamp + batteries
- thermo bottle

Please contact me if you got any question.

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