



# Alaska

## *Specialties of the Far North*

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Tour Leaders: Eric Ripma and Matt Bell

June 6-17, 2026 - Extension: June 17-21, 2026

## **Itinerary Overview:**

June 6: Arrival at Anchorage International Airport - Transfer to Hotel  
June 7: Birding Anchorage - Transfer to Seward  
June 8: Boat Trip Out of Seward  
June 9: Birding Seward - Transfer to Anchorage - Flight to Utqiagvik  
June 10: Birding Utqiagvik  
June 11: Birding Utqiagvik - Flight to Anchorage  
June 12: Birding Anchorage - Flight to Nome - Birding Nome  
June 13-15: Birding Nome  
June 16: Birding Nome - Flight to Anchorage  
June 17: Departure from Anchorage

### **Extension:**

June 17: Morning birding in Anchorage - Flight to Dutch Harbor  
June 18: Pelagic birding out of Dutch Harbor  
June 19: Birding Unalaska Island (backup day for pelagic)  
June 20: Birding Unalaska Island - Flight to Anchorage  
June 21: Departure from Anchorage

## **Detailed Itinerary:**

### **June 6: Arrival at Anchorage International Airport - Transfer to Hotel**

Arrival in Anchorage and transfer to our nearby hotel. In the evening, we will have a welcome dinner in Anchorage. If time allows, we may spend some time birding around a nearby park.

*-Overnight: Anchorage, Alaska*

### **June 7: Birding Anchorage - Transfer to Seward**

We'll spend the morning birding around Anchorage where we will be looking for species such as Spruce Grouse, Barrow's Goldeneye, Boreal Chickadee, and American Three-toed Woodpecker among many others. After lunch, we will drive to Seward with some birding stops along the way. We'll be looking for a variety of species such as Chestnut-backed Chickadee, Pacific Wren, Pine Grosbeak, and Townsend's Warbler. We will be based out of Seward for the next two nights.

*-Overnight: Seward, Alaska*

### **June 8: Boat Trip Out of Seward**

We'll spend the whole day on a boat out of Seward. We'll visit Kenai Fjords National Park where we will see glaciers, the Chiswell and Beehive Islands where we'll see many nesting seabirds, and some open water in between where we might get lucky with more pelagic species. Our target species on this boat trip will be Kittlitz's Murrelet, Tufted and Horned Puffins, Thick-billed Murres, and Red-faced

Cormorants! Other species that are expected are Rhinoceros and Parakeet Auklets, and Marbled and Ancient Murrelets. Black Bears and Mountain Goats, whales such as the Orca and Humpback, a couple species of porpoise, Sea Otter, and other marine mammals may all be seen as well!

*-Overnight: Seward, Alaska*

### **June 9: Birding Seward - Transfer to Anchorage - Flight to Utqiagvik**



*Tufted Puffin*

After breakfast we will visit a couple of locations as we make our way back to Anchorage. We'll be looking for a variety of northern species such as Bohemian Waxwing, Pine Grosbeak, White-winged Crossbill, American Three-Toed Woodpecker, and Boreal Chickadee. We'll also have a good chance to see American Dipper, Canada Jay, Townsend's Warbler, Chestnut-backed Chickadee, and Varied Thrush. In the early afternoon we will catch our flights up to Utqiagvik (the northernmost city in the United States). In the evening, we will bird around Utqiagvik for the first time where we will look for species such as Spectacled and Steller's Eiders, Red-necked Stints, Yellow-billed Loon and a plethora of other breeding birds.

*-Overnight: Utqiagvik, Alaska*

### **June 10: Birding Utqiagvik**

We'll spend this day birding around Utqiagvik. We will spend time birding a variety of locations including Cakeeater, Gas Well, and Fresh Water Lake Roads, around Utqiagvik, and up towards Point Barrow. Some of the common species we'll see include Red and Red-necked Phalaropes, Pomarine and Parasitic Jaegers, Long-tailed Duck and Northern Pintail, Lapland Longspurs, and Snow Buntings. We should also see many shorebirds and while many will be species that are commonly seen elsewhere, there are few other areas where you can see their breeding displays. One of the main reasons for birders to visit Utqiagvik is the eiders! We will have a good chance to see Steller's, Spectacled,

and King Eiders at close range.

*-Overnight: Utqiagvik, Alaska*

### **June 11: Birding Utqiagvik - Flight to Anchorage**

We'll spend the day birding around Utqiagvik. Depending on what species we may have missed the day before we will choose which areas to bird on this day. In addition to the birds in this area, we will also spend some time looking for mammals such as Polar Bear, Caribou, Arctic Fox, and Bowhead Whale. While all of these occur in the area, they can be difficult to find. In the evening we will catch our flight back to Anchorage.

*-Overnight: Anchorage, Alaska*



*Spectacled Eider*

### **June 12: Birding Anchorage - Flight to Nome - Birding Nome**

We will spend some time birding a nearby park where we hope to see species such as Boreal Chickadee, White-winged Crossbill, and American Three-toed Woodpecker among more common species. After breakfast at the hotel, we'll transfer to the airport for our flights to Nome. By mid-day we will be birding outside of Nome. After lunch, we'll spend the afternoon exploring areas along the coast close to Nome. Some of the species we will be looking for include Pacific and Red-throated Loons, Aleutian and Arctic Terns, and many species of shorebirds and ducks. During our time in Nome some of our targets will be Emperor Goose, Willow and Rock Ptarmigan, Bristle-thighed Curlew, Aleutian Tern, Arctic Loon, Bluethroat, and Eastern Yellow and White Wagtails. There are a few (very long) roads that we will bird during our time in Nome. Depending on conditions we will choose which roads we bird on which days.

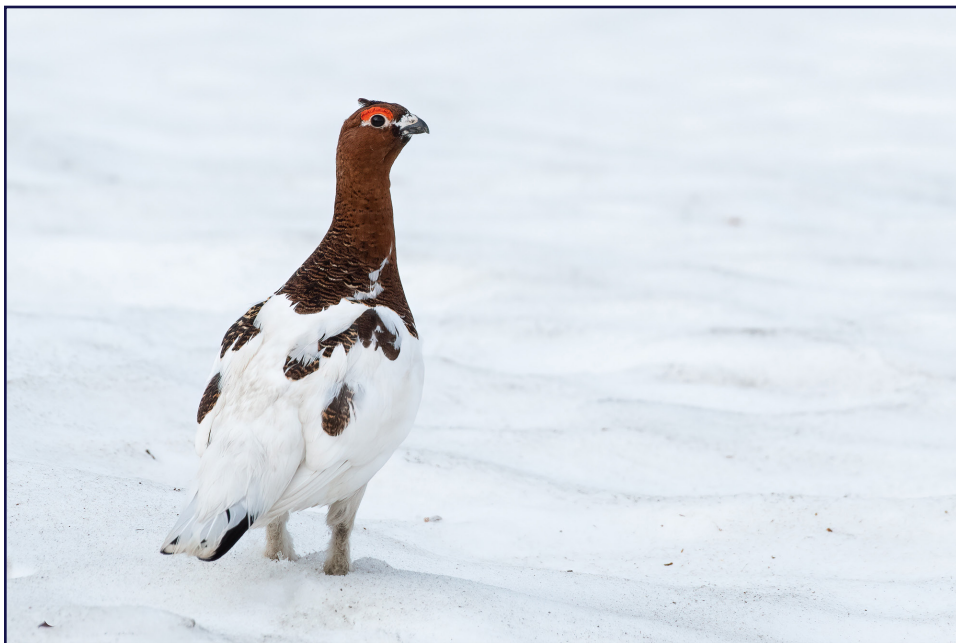
*-Overnight: Nome, Alaska*



### **June 13-15: Birding Nome**

We'll spend each of these days birding one of the long roads that lead out of Nome. Each of these roads lead far out into the tundra and are remote so we will be taking our lunch with us each day. Also note that there aren't any restrooms along these roads, so we'll have to use the bush when nature calls.

**Nome-Teller Highway:** This gravel road runs for 73 miles northwest of Nome to the town of Teller. We likely won't make it more than halfway down this road with all the stops we'll make for birds and other wildlife. Some of the birding highlights might include Willow and Rock Ptarmigans, Long-tailed, Parasitic, and Pomarine Jaegers, American and Pacific Golden-Plovers, Bar-tailed Godwit, American Dipper, Bluethroat, Northern Wheatear, Bluethroat, and Eastern Yellow Wagtail. We'll also see many other breeding shorebirds, ducks, and songbirds along the road.



*Willow Ptarmigan*

**Kougarok Road:** This gravel road runs north out of Nome for 86 miles to where it ends at the Kougarok River Bridge. The main target along this road is the Bristle-thighed Curlew which regularly breeds at Coffee Dome, 72 miles from Nome. After this 72 mile drive, we will make a hike to the top of Coffee Dome where we will spend time looking for this special curlew. Many other birds are possible on this drive and we will focus on finding Golden Eagle, Arctic Warbler, and Bluethroat. This road is also great for mammals and we have a good chance to see Brown Bears, Moose, Red Fox, Alaskan Hare, and if we get really lucky, a Canada Lynx.

**Nome-Council Road:** This gravel road runs northeast along the coast for about 30 miles before turning inland and continuing for another 42 miles to the town of Council. There are several rivermouths that attract a number of waterbird species and are good areas to check for vagrants. The road also takes you to Cape Nome which is one of the best spots to scope for migrating waterbirds. One of the main hotspots along this road is Safety Sound. This area is the most likely spot to find Emperor Geese

at this time of year. As the road continues inland, the rocky habitats and cliffsides provide a good chance to see species such as Golden Eagle, Gyrfalcon, and Northern Wheatear.

*-Overnight: Nome, Alaska*

### **June 16: Birding Nome - Flight to Anchorage**

We'll spend this day birding around Nome and looking for species we may have missed or spend more time along the coast looking for any odd vagrants that could be around. In the late afternoon we'll catch our flights back to Anchorage.

*-Overnight: Anchorage, Alaska*



*Bristle-thighed Curlew*

### **June 17: Departure from Anchorage**

#### **Extension:**

### **June 17: Morning Birding in Anchorage - Flights to Dutch Harbor**

We'll spend the morning birding in Anchorage, looking for any species we may have missed during the main tour. In the afternoon we will fly to Dutch Harbor in the Aleutians where we will be staying for the next three nights.

*-Overnight: Dutch Harbor, Alaska*

### **June 18: Pelagic Birding out of Dutch Harbor**

We'll spend this day on a pelagic out of Dutch Harbor. Our target species on this pelagic is the Whiskered Auklet. Other species that are expected are Marbled, Kittlitz's, and Ancient Murrelets, Horned

and Tufted Puffin, Cassin's Auklet, Laysan Albatross and Short-tailed Shearwater. With a little luck, we may also see Black-footed Albatross or Red-legged Kittiwake. The numerous auklets and puffins are sure to make this an exciting day.

*-Overnight: Dutch Harbor, Alaska*

### **June 19: Birding Unalaska Island (backup day for pelagic)**

We will spend this day birding around Unalaska Island (unless we were not able to go on the pelagic the previous day). We will look for birds on the island such as Rock Ptarmigan, Harlequin Duck, Black Oystercatcher, Rock Sandpiper (Aleutian Island and Alaska Peninsula subspecies), Common and Thick-billed Murres, Pigeon Guillemot, Marbled, Kittlitz's, and Ancient Murrelets, Horned and Tufted Puffin, Black-legged Kittiwake, Gray-crowned Rosy-Finch (Aleutian and Kodiak Island subspecies), Common Redpoll, Lapland Longspur, and Snow Bunting.

*-Overnight: Dutch Harbor, Alaska*

### **June 20: Birding Unalaska Island - Flight to Anchorage**

We will spend this day birding around Unalaska Island (looking for many of the same species as listed for the previous day). In the afternoon we will catch our flights back to Anchorage where we will have a great farewell dinner!

*-Overnight: Anchorage, Alaska*

### **June 21: Departure from Anchorage**



*Whiskered Auklet*



## **Trip Details:**

### **Cost:**

Main Tour:

Price per person (double occupancy), from Anchorage, Alaska: \$9,499

Single Supplement: \$2,100

Minimum Participants: 6

Maximum Participants: 6

Extension:

Price per person (double occupancy), from Anchorage, Alaska: \$6,999

Single Supplement: \$1,000

Minimum Participants: 4

Maximum Participants: 4

### **Price Includes:**

2 Expert Guide

Ground Transportation in Alaska

All flights within Alaska

All Lodging

All Meals including

Park Entrance Fees

### **Price Does Not Include:**

Airfare to and from Anchorage

Airport Taxes

Passport and Visa Fees (if applicable)

Alcoholic Beverages

Personal Items

Travel Insurance

Tips

### **Deposit:**

A deposit of \$500 per person is required to hold your spot on this tour. The remaining balance is due no later than 4 months prior to the scheduled start date of the tour (February 6, 2026).

If you have an questions about this tour, please contact us at [info@sabrewingnaturetours.com](mailto:info@sabrewingnaturetours.com), by phone at 317-324-8505, or register through our website at [sabrewingnaturetours.com](http://sabrewingnaturetours.com).

### **Responsibility/Disclaimer Statement:**

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