

Venture to England (East Anglia & Yorkshire)
September 17-29, 2025

ITINERARY

You may wish to arrive in London (Heathrow) either the day before or several days ahead of the tour to enjoy the city or rest before the tour starts. Just let us know your flight plans.

Day 1 (Wednesday, September 17) London

Flights usually leave the US in the late afternoon for the overnight flight to London. Please plan to arrive at London's Heathrow Airport where you can catch a hotel shuttle to the hotel. The hotel and dinner tonight are included in the tour cost, but lunch is not. There are plenty of green areas around the airports and it's easy to catch a bus or train into Central London. I will meet you at the hotel this evening for dinner and to go over the plans for the next 2 weeks. *Night at Heathrow Airport, London*

Day 2 (Thursday, September 18) North Warren

After we leave London, we will drive north through Kent and Essex on our way to Halesworth, Suffolk, where we will spend the next three nights. After a lunch in a nearby Pub, we will enjoy an afternoon walk in the RSPB reserve of North Warren. This pleasant walk will be the perfect introduction to the birds and natural history of Suffolk and we should see Sedge and Reed Warblers, Hobby, Woodlark and other species. *Night in Halesworth*

Day 3 (Friday, September 19) Dunwich

Today will be a spectacular and easy walk of about 3 miles, from the picturesque village of Walberswick to Dunwich, through the marshes, reedbeds, and woods of this beautiful area. Summer residents around Walberswick include Nightingales, Whitethroats, Garden Warblers and Blackcaps. After lunch at The Ship (the place to experience English fish-and-chips!), we will visit Dunwich Forest, where we could see Goldcrest, Willow Warbler, Green Woodpecker and other woodland species. We will then make a brief stop at the "Cathedral of the Marshes," the huge 15th century stone church in the small village of Blythburgh. *Night in Halesworth*

Day 4 (Saturday, September 20) Minsmere

Today will be a full day at one of England's finest Bird Reserves, Minsmere. This area was flooded as an anti-invasion measure during the Second World War, and the resulting environment created perfect conditions for the first pairs of Pied Avocets to breed in England since the mid-19th century. Over 100 species of birds breed on the reserve. Eurasian Bitterns and European Marsh Harriers are seen regularly over the marshes and the reedbeds are full of Sedge and Reed Warblers and Bearded Reedlings. Lunch will be at a nearby Pub. On one of our nights in Halesworth, we will head out in the evening to Dunwich Heath to listen for the churring of the European Nightjar. *Night in Halesworth*

Day 5 (Sunday, September 21) Norwich

This morning we will head to Norfolk to Strumpshaw Fen. This is a beautiful spot for a good selection of wetland and woodland birds. This afternoon there will be time to explore the old city of Norwich, which is over 900 years old with a reputed 52 churches and 365 pubs. The fine cathedral has a Norman nave and tower and is a prominent feature of the Norwich skyline. Other attractions are Norwich Castle, which has a Norman keep and museum, and the cobbled streets of Elm Hill. After visiting Norwich we will continue driving to the North Norfolk coast. *Night in Kelling*

Days 6 and 7 (Monday, September 22 and Tuesday, September 23) Norfolk

North Norfolk is a birder's paradise and we will spend the next couple of days working our way along the coastline. The north Norfolk coast is characterized by pebble beaches, vast shallow wetlands and picturesque villages. We will visit a couple of the excellent local bird reserves, such as Cley-next-the-Sea, one of the finest "hot-spots" for birds in Norfolk. Common, Sandwich and Little Terns feed over the lagoons along with noisy Common Black-headed Gulls. We will also visit the outstanding Titchwell Reserve, where we can see species such as Common Kingfisher, Sand Martin, European Marsh Harrier and many more. *Nights in Kelling*

Day 8 (Wednesday, September 24) Yorkshire

Today will be a little bit of a driving day as we continue north to Yorkshire, with a birding stop at Fairburn Ings. This reclaimed area covers 720 acres where Common Snipe, Northern Lapwing and Common Redhank breed. We should arrive at the coastline in Flamborough in time for a late afternoon stroll along the cliffs overlooking the North Sea. Northern Fulmars are sometimes easy to see from these cliff tops. *Night in Flamborough*

Day 9 (Thursday, September 25) Bempton Cliffs

Today will be outstanding as we spend the morning visiting Bempton Cliffs to observe the nesting seabird colonies, including Atlantic Puffin, Guillemot, Razorbill, Black-legged Kittiwake and Northern Gannet. After lunch we will spend the afternoon birding and hiking in the lowland areas of North Yorkshire National Park looking for European Golden-Plover and Red Grouse (Willow Ptarmigan). *Night in Flamborough*

Day 10 (Friday, September 26) Ely

This morning we will spend more time exploring some of the Moors before heading south to Ely. If we have time we will make a stop at Rutland Water (home of the famous Birdfair birding festival) before arriving in the small town of Ely. The afternoon will be at leisure, with time to rest and an opportunity to stroll through the city or to visit Ely's famous medieval cathedral. *Night in Ely*

Day 11 (Saturday, September 27) Ouse Washes

We will spend the day at the Ouse Washes, a vast area of water meadows in Fenland. Winter wildfowl are the big attraction here, but even during the summer, an excellent selection of birds can be seen. Among the breeding birds here are Black-tailed Godwit, Lapwing, Redshank, and the extravagant Ruff. On past Ventures we have even heard the whip-lash call of the Spotted Crake in these wetlands. *Night in Ely*

Day 12 (Sunday, September 28) Breckland

We will spend the morning in the stony fields and heaths of the Brecklands of west Norfolk, a flat area of the country, home to US air bases during the last war. Here we hope to see European Stone Curlew and Golden Oriole, as well as Stonechat, Mistle Thrush and Northern Wheatear. Then we head south to London and our hotel. *Night near Heathrow Airport, London*

Day 13 (Monday, September 29) Heathrow

Our flights back to the US leave mid-morning, which gives us plenty of time to have a relaxing breakfast before heading to the airport.