

OLAND IN SPRING



"I love the relaxed feel of this holiday - no long drives, just one place to stay, easy walks on flat trails - yet so much to see, from orchids to migrants, to exciting breeding birds - you'll love it!"
Roy Atkins

Dates Sun 30 May - Sun 6 Jun 2027
Price £3,195
Deposit £635 Single Supp £320

Leaders Roy Atkins and Jane Atkins

Flights Scandinavian Airlines, scheduled
Outbound: Morning, Heathrow-Kalmar
Inbound: Afternoon, Kalmar-Heathrow
(Outbound and Inbound via Stockholm)

Weather Weather can be variable and unpredictable, with temperatures between 10°-20°C. It can be windy and cloudy; rain is also possible, so bring layers and waterproofs

Walking Up to 2-3 miles on easy tracks, which may be muddy after rain

Meals All included from dinner on Day 1 to lunch on Day 8

Insects There may be a few mosquitoes in sheltered woodlands and marshes, so bring repellent

Accom Double, twin and single rooms all ensuite

Group 12

Just some of what we hope to see:

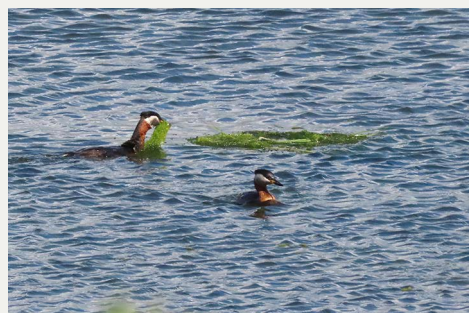
Collared Flycatcher	Woodcock
Red-breasted Flycatcher	Caspian Tern
Thrush Nightingale	Little Tern
Barred Warbler	Little Gull
Icterine Warbler	Garganey
Marsh Warbler	White-tailed Eagle
Wood Warbler	Montagu's Harrier
Red-backed Shrike	Nightjar
Tree Pipit	Military Orchid
Red-necked Grebe	Burnt-tip Orchid
Common Crane	Fly Orchid
Avocet	Elder-flowered Orchid
Black-tailed Godwit	Pasque Flower
Broad-billed Sandpiper	Spring Adonis
Temminck's Stint	Oland Rockrose

A relaxed holiday on this delightful island in Sweden, with spring migration and exciting breeding birds such as Collared Flycatcher and Montagu's Harrier - plus carpets of flowers.

- Ottenby Bird Observatory during spring migration - who knows what might turn up!
- Beautiful display of Alvar spring flowers, including island endemics such as Öland Rockrose
- Collared and Red-breasted Flycatcher, Thrush Nightingale, Icterine and Barred Warbler
- A host of orchids - including Green-winged, Burnt-tip, Fly and Military
- Chance to see a ringing demonstration and stunning lighthouse-top views
- Relaxed pace birding and botany, with most sites close at hand and lots to see!
- Susanne and Stephan provide a friendly welcome and amazing food at our great inn

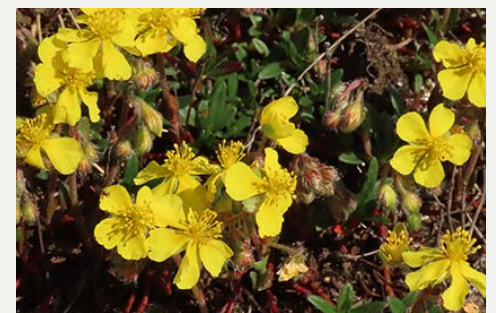
After our flight to Kalmar, via Stockholm, we then drive the short distance over the bridge to Öland and onward to our delightful inn at Gammalsby, where the Swifts race around overhead and Susanne and Stephan provide a warm welcome. Stephan is a mine of information about the island and its history, while Susanne's food is simply delicious - they are the perfect hosts!

2-7 Wooden windmills and burial mounds dot the charming open landscape of this remarkably flat island. We stay just a short distance from the famous Ottenby Bird Observatory, set in meadows, scrub and heathland, surrounded by low boulder beaches and coastal bays. This whole area makes for excellent birding, with geese and waders on the shore, migrants in the bushes and some exciting nesting birds nearby. The extensive oak and birch woodlands here are just beautiful



in spring, with the oak leaves a pale green and the trees alive with birds at this time. Common nesting species such as Willow Warbler, Blackcap, Garden Warbler, Great Spotted Woodpecker, Treecreeper and Nuthatch of the rather paler Scandinavian race, make for a great background, but are joined by much scarcer species such as Collared and Red-breasted Flycatcher, Icterine and Wood Warbler, with a slimmer chance of Common Rosefinch, while Golden Oriole nest in small numbers but are almost impossible to see.

Migrants add excitement to the trip, with the possibility of some great birds including Garganey, Broad-billed Sandpiper, Temminck's Stint, Little Gull, Caspian Tern, Red-backed Shrike and perhaps a Bluethroat or Wryneck - or something much rarer! Some of the passage waders are likely to be in their beautiful breeding plumage - let's hope for





"Springtime on this wonderful island is a joy, with the wild flowers, the lilacs, the windmills and the excitement of spring migration - and such a delightful place to stay." Jane Atkins

Grey Plover, Spotted Redshank or Knot at their best! Late May and early June can be the best time for rarities, with species such as Greenish Warbler, Red-footed Falcon and Marsh Sandpiper turning up surprisingly regularly. The Observatory staff regularly check the mist-nets and Heligoland traps and we'll make a visit to watch ringing in action and learn about the research and results of many years of work here, one of the oldest bird ringing stations in the world. Common birds can look so beautiful when seen at such close quarters.

One striking feature of Öland is the Stora Alvaret - a bedrock of limestone that breaks the surface over an area some 40km long and 10km wide in the southern centre of the island. On our autumn trip there is little to be seen here, but in spring we expect fabulous flowers including several species of orchid. Siberian, Arctic and Southern European flowers mingle here with sheets of Meadow Saxifrage, Sticky Catchfly, yellow patches of Öland Rockrose and purple Wild Chives.

We'll look for delicate Birdseye Primrose, Maiden Pink, Yellow Oxytropis, tiny Rue-leaved Saxifrage and endemic Öland Womwood. Plus there will be orchids! Flowering times depend a little on the weather, but we hope to catch the last of the Early Purple, Green-winged and Elder-flowered Orchid - the latter known locally as Adam and Eve as it may be purple or yellow. These species might be going over or may be in huge numbers, with occasional Early Marsh Orchid amongst them. Delightful Burnt-tip Orchids are scattered here and there, but the star of the show must surely be

the amazing Military Orchids - so very rare in the UK, yet surprisingly abundant here. Being a week later than last year we may find species of Spotted Orchid or Butterfly Orchid.

We'll visit a couple of interesting ancient fortress remains at Isentorp and Gråborg - interesting in their own right, but also with excellent orchid sites where we have chances of Fly Orchid and Sword-leaved Helleborine, plus interesting plants such as Angular Solomon's Seal. Beautiful woodlands nearby hold Lily-of-the-Valley, Solomon's Seal and Herb Paris, however Lady's Slipper Orchid may be difficult as, in many years, it does not produce flowers at the only easily visitable site. We'll also visit a Reserve to see the unusual and rather spectacular Spring Adonis also known as Yellow Pheasant's Eye - with large yellow flowers and feathery foliage.

Returning to birds - elegant Montagu's Harrier may be a fabulous feature of the holiday, as they nest close to our hotel and one evening we shall try for Nightjar with chances of roding Woodcock and a sound track of Thrush Nightingale - a tricky bird to see but we will try. Avocet and Black-tailed Godwit breed here, as do Little Terns, Marsh and Barred Warblers and Red-necked Grebe in their stunning breeding plumage. Common Cranes may be passing through and we'll watch out for resident White-tailed Eagles.

8 After birding in the morning we catch an afternoon flight home, via Stockholm.



Outline Itinerary

Day 1 Fly to Kalmar via Stockholm and transfer to Gammalsby 7 nights Gammalsbygarden Inn

Days 2-7 Birdwatching, botany and wildlife exploration including visit to the Ottenby Bird Observatory.

Day 8 Transfer to Kalmar for our flight back to the UK, via Stockholm

Roy Atkins: Red-breasted Flycatcher, Hoary Rockrose, Red-necked Grebes, Icterine Warbler, Military Orchid, Montagu's Harrier
Jane Atkins: Ottenby Lighthouse

