

Polish Eagles Photography Tour: 8th – 12th January 2021

Cost: £900 per person. Deposit: £100

Maximum Number: 4



Itinerary

Friday 8th January – First Day

Meet at **Warsaw Chopin** Airport early evening. Advised flights are with **Wizz** from **London Luton** (Departing afternoon). We then take a transfer to our hotel for the next three days.

Saturday 9th – 11th January

We spend **3 full days** in the eagle hide, each day we are taken to the hide and returned to our hotel. The days in the hide are long – we enter the hides around 6.00am and leave at approximately 4.00pm.

Tuesday 12th January – Last Day

We leave after breakfast for Warsaw Chopin for our return flights home.

The Eagle Hides

These hides have been chosen specifically due to their **reliability**. Weather can be a big factor in terms of success with raptor hides, however this site has proved to attract eagles even in **mild conditions**. Your images will be different to others - as of February 2020 **these hides have never been used by any photographers from the UK (other than myself)**.

There are **three** hides; two are situated at the main location and give a wide view over open fields with a distant treeline. One hide is for sitting, one is for lying down. There is also a third hide nearby (lying down) which is more enclosed, offering a different backdrop of trees – here we have more chance of **Goshawk**. If you choose the lying down hide you will be on a large mattress; it will become uncomfortable so we have also provided chairs in the hide which allow you to take a break; also consider an angle finder so you can change your shooting position. These are **not glass hides; photography is through lens sleeves**; well designed, small, one-way glass windows allow you to see what's coming. **Once we settle in the hides we will be there for the entire day – approximately 10 hours.**

The 'Toilet Situation'

We have a facility for “Number 1’s” with a curtain that can be pulled across. Whilst this is fine for men it may be an issue for women. Please ask if you need more information. There is no access to a proper toilet.

Species: White tailed Eagle, Common Buzzard, Raven, Magpie, Hooded Crow. There is a possibility of Goshawk.

Rules & Etiquette

It is important to follow our guidelines on behaviour in the hide. It is **very important** that you do not use continuous shooting and/or move your lens quickly when the eagles first come down. The birds are very wary and will assess any danger when they first arrive - **consequently any disturbance early on could result in the lack of any eagles for the rest of the day.** Please wait for myself or your guide to give a signal to begin shooting. Please begin by taking single shots; once the birds are comfortable you can use continuous mode. Note – whilst low light levels are not conducive to stills photography, it can be a good time for video. Please be respectful of the birds, and fellow photographers, and bear in mind that making sudden movements with the camera lens, or too much noise, can have adverse effects.

Equipment Required

Lenses from 400mm – 600mm, on a full frame are ideal. If you have a 300mm this is also suitable for action shots of eagles. There are mounting plates in the hides – you just need to bring along a tripod head, ideally a gimbal or strong ball head. We may have an alternative option one day for some ‘in the field’ photography so please bring a tripod also, just in case. High end DSLRs and mirrorless cameras are best, although entry level cameras may be suitable – do not worry about camera noise, the eagles will become accustomed. We arrive in darkness so you will also find a head-torch useful when setting up.

Climate & Clothing

Whilst recent winters have been mild (similar to the UK), temperatures in Poland can get well below zero with possible hard frosts and/or snow. Please dress accordingly. Advised clothing: thermals, layers, warm coat, hat and gloves; fleece lined boots. One of the best ways to stay warm is to use a sleeping bag. Whilst it may not be extremely cold, please plan for sub-zero temperatures. Ask if you are unsure about suitable clothing. Occasional use of a gas heater in the hide helps keep us warm.

Intensity

The only walking involved is a short walk from the car to the hides. Usually we are dropped off directly outside the hide; if the area is very wet then we will need to walk further. The main intensity of this tour is due to the long days: we will be up around 4.00am (enter the hide around 6.00am) and leave the hide around 4.00pm. These are long days and if you choose the lying down hide it can be quite uncomfortable.

Accommodation

We stay at [Hotel Podgrodzie](#) . All rooms are **single en-suite** unless you are sharing with a partner/friend. The hotel has air-conditioned rooms with free WiFi. All rooms are equipped with a wardrobe, a desk and a flat-screen TV. Please note: little English is spoken by the staff, but we will have the help of a Polish born English speaker.

Food

We will be provided with a very early breakfast before leaving in the morning. This will be a continental style including meats, cheese, cereal, yoghurt. We will have a packed lunch to take into the hides; we will have one flask of tea or coffee, but please consider bringing your own flask. Our evening meal is taken in the hotel – there is a wide range of food on offer including Polish dishes. Evening meals are up to a value of approximately 50 Polish Zloty.

What's Included in the Cost

Accommodation; use of hides; all meals, English speaking guide, airport transfers. **Additional costs: external flight; food on the evening of arrival; food on the last day (breakfast is included) and alcoholic drinks. Plus any personal extras.**



Payment

A deposit is paid via preferred **Bank Transfer**, Cheque or Paypal. Please contact me to pay the **balance** either by **cheque** or **bank transfer**.

Insurance

You must have adequate **travel insurance** as in the **Terms & Conditions**. Please also ensure your camera equipment is insured.

Bad Weather

Bad weather should have no impact on the birds. At this site, eagles have consistently visited in all weathers. Rain, in fact, can provide wonderful images at this location with raindrops and splashes.

Exchange Rates (as of February 2020)

£1 GBP = 4.98 Polish Zloty

\$1 USD = 3.84 Polish Zloty

€1 Euro = 4.19 Polish Zloty

Further questions:

If you have any further questions on any aspect of the tour please don't hesitate to get in touch by email: paul@naturephotographycourses.co.uk or by phone +44(0)7759485791

Thank you for your interest in this Tour