

Berlin Goshawk Tour: 3rd – 7th March 2025

Cost: £1550 per person (2 Clients) / £1250 per person (3 Clients)

Deposit: £250

Maximum Number: 3



Itinerary

Monday 3rd March (First Day)

We will meet at **Berlin Brandenburg Airport at 12.00pm, midday**. I will meet you **outside Burger King at Arrivals, the main building, Terminal 1**. We then take a transfer at 1.00pm to our hotel in Potsdamer Platz – journey of around 30 minutes. So long as we have time, we will visit the nearest Goshawk site after check-in, late afternoon.

Tuesday 4th – Thursday 6th

We have 3 full days photography, visiting various locations around Berlin. We will also spend a session at a site for very tolerant Kestrels. Other possibilities include Red Squirrel and woodland birds such as Nuthatch, Middle spotted Woodpecker and Jay. Corvids can also approachable, including Hooded Crow, Rook and Raven. We will re-visit locations that we agree, as a group, provide the best photo opportunities. We take an early breakfast at our hotel before heading out.

The Goshawks

I will take you to known Goshawk nest sites where these birds can be seen both perched and in flight. We will mostly be looking up at the birds. We will also some visit some new sites which I have researched online. These locations can throw up all kinds of opportunities - I have personally seen Goshawks perched, preening, and on the ground collecting nesting material. I have witnessed a number of food passes. I have also watched them flying above woodland, stooping and flying low through the trees. We will use our knowledge to seek out the best photo opportunities.



All of our photography is done out in the field, mostly in urban locations. Therefore there may be other people around but this is very unlikely to affect our photography. Woodland sites offer shelter whilst other locations can be very open, so please dress appropriately.

Please note: whilst Goshawks can be seen and photographed from public locations (and are usually very tolerant), they are still protected by law and must be treated with respect. Please be careful not to overstep boundaries to minimize disturbance to these majestic birds.

The Kestrels

We visit one of the best sites in Europe to photograph these falcons. Here they have become incredibly tolerant of humans allowing a close approach. It is possible to create a portfolio of images including flight shots, hovering and even catching and eating prey! Hooded Crows regularly harass the Kestrels so interactions and behavioural shots are also possible. This site is also excellent for Skylarks - so long as they have returned to their breeding grounds we will have good opportunities for Skylarks singing in flight. Corn Buntings may also be present.

Friday 7th March (Last Day)

We have one last breakfast at our hotel. We will then take our transfer to Berlin airport in the morning.

Further Information

Equipment Required

Ideal focal lengths are from 500mm – 600mm. Please bring an extender if you have one. A focal length of 300 - 400mm may be useful at times. We can do quite a lot of walking so it might be beneficial to have at least the option of a lighter lens if possible, for hand-holding or with a monopod. We will have times where we spend a lot of time in one spot which makes a tripod more practical. Please ask if you're unsure.

Accommodation

We stay at [Motel One-Potsdamer Platz](#) This contemporary stylish, 4 star hotel is located at the Mall of Berlin, a 2-minute walk from Potsdamer Platz U-bahn station and 4 km from the iconic Berlin Wall. Rooms come with complimentary Wi-Fi, flat-screen TVs and desks, and small balconies. All rooms are en-suite. Breakfast is provided in the hotel. The hotel also has a relaxing bar for evening drinks.



Transport

We largely use the S-Bahn and U-Bahn to get around Berlin. Trains are very regular and provide the quickest and easiest form of transport. This allows us to get to various locations easily in one day. You will be provided with a train ticket to use during our trip.

Food

Breakfast at the hotel is included; there is a good mixture here which caters for various tastes. Evening meals are included in a mid-range restaurant. Dishes are similar to the UK but you might want to try the curried sausage... or not. For lunch we will mostly buy sandwiches to take with us (this is not included).

What's Included in the Cost

4 nights' accommodation with breakfast, evening meals; all transport in Berlin; airport transfers; photographic guidance as required. **Not Included:** lunches, all other food and drink; flights; any personal extras; travel insurance.

Climate & Clothing

Late February / early March temperatures are averagely around 5 degrees. Early mornings can be colder and there is always a chance of sub-zero conditions. The weather can be changeable – think similar to the UK. Make sure to have a warm windproof coat and good walking shoes / boots. Bring a hat and gloves.

Intensity

There can be a fair amount of walking involved – this can be up to approx. 5 miles in a day, but not all at once - and the majority is on very flat ground. We will mostly be walking through parks and gardens and on public pavements. There can also be quite a few steps up and down as we use the U-Bahn.

Bad Weather

In bad weather we will still aim to visit our locations. If photography time is reduced due to bad weather, as a last resort, we will spend more time reviewing our images and discussing photo technique.



Potential Hazards

There is no extreme terrain or environment on this tour. However we do need to take care when crossing busy roads and using U-Bahn and S-Bahn stations and trains, including steep steps. It is part of the terms and conditions that you agree to accept any hazards involved in using public transport.

The city of Berlin

We will have free time in the evenings, so you have plenty of opportunity to explore Berlin if you wish. Night photography is a good option. Whilst I have been to Berlin previously, I am not overly familiar with the sights.

Payment

A deposit can be paid via Paypal, Cheque or bank transfer. 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.

Cash

The currency in Germany is Euros. Many places will take cards, but it is worth taking out some cash. There are ATMs at the airport and close to our hotel.

Exchange Rates (as of March 2024)

£1 GBP = 1.17 Euros

Please Note: Whilst locations have been researched for specific photo opportunities, Paul Miguel cannot be held liable for lack of photo opportunities. However, the sites included in this tour have been visited on a number of occasions and researched carefully to provide the best chance of success.



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

Paul