

Island Ventures Update

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Please find enclosed our Autumn *Island Ventures* Update detailing the vacancies for this year's Tours around Britain/France, Longer-Haul Tours to Cambodia & Cuba next Winter, plus dates for some of our forthcoming new Tours in Spring 2010

VACANCIES FOR TOURS AROUND BRITAIN

Cap Gris Nez, Marquenterre & Oye Plage, France

"Autumn Migration", Flowers & Butterflies" Sept. 16-18

Visiting the famous scenic headland of Cap Gris Nez plus two nights at the lovely *Auberge da la Dune* adjacent the Marquenterre reserve on the Somme Estuary – warblers, chats, flycatchers, pipits & wagtails, raptors, waders gulls & terns. Expect to see well over 100 species. **ONE PLACE LEFT!**



Marquenterre, France

"Birding et gourmet dinner" Oct. 20-21

The morning at either Dunkirk Harbour or Cap Gris Nez for "visible migration" of seabirds or passerines [depending on the wind direction], then driving down to Marquenterre for the afternoon high tide, birding all the lagoons for September birds + winter thrushes etc. Over-nighting at *Les Pilotes* in Saint Valery-sur-Somme and enjoying a gourmet déjeuner "fruits de mer". Next day birding locally and returning to Cap Gris Nez and on to Oye Plage for waders. **ONE TWIN ROOM LEFT.**



"Autumn Migration", Treco & Bryher, Isles of Scilly

New Inn, Treco, Sept.26-Oct.1 Hell Bay, Bryher, Oct.1-6

Vacancies for both venues. An idyllic paradise and very much for the discerning birder! Annual scarce migrants inc. Spotted Crake, Pectoral Sandpiper, Dotterel, Wryneck, Tawny Pipit, Ortolan & Lapland Buntings, Barred Warbler, Red-backed Shrike & Firecrest.



Islay, Jura & Colonsay

"Geese, Eagles & Otters", Oct. 12-17

20,000 Barnacle & Greenland White-fronted Geese taking to flight, Golden Eagles soaring overhead, Red-billed Chough scavenging, Whooper Swans arriving from Iceland, Otter fishing offshore, Red Deer standing aloof. All from the comfort of the delightful *Port Charlotte Hotel* serving delicious fresh, local produce. Simply magical! **TWO TWIN-BEDDED ROOMS AVAILABLE.**



"Coastal Birding", Norfolk Nov. 5-9

The ornithological "mecca"! Skeins of Pink-footed & Brent Geese, sea-duck inc. Eider, Scoter & Goldeneye, Red-throated Diver & Slavonian Grebe. Peregrine, Marsh & Hen Harrier along with Bittern & Barn Owl. Thousands of waders, notably Knot, Golden Plover & Bar-tailed Godwit. Diurnal movements of thrushes, finches, starlings & larks can be very impressive, along with late seabirds inc. skuas & Little Auks. Snow Bunting, Shore Lark, Cetti's Warbler & Bearded Tit complement the passerines. Based at the comfortable & friendly *Briarfields Hotel* and visiting all the classic "Hot Spots" inc. Titchwell & Snettisham RSPB Reserves, Holkham Gap, Cley NWT, Hunstanton Cliffs & Wells Woods. Great birding! **3 ROOMS STILL AVAILABLE.**



VACANCIES FOR 2010 WINTER LONG-HAUL TOURS

An Introduction to Cambodia

“Birds, Angkor Wat & Culture”

Jan. 9-22

Cambodia, the best kept secret in south-east Asia! Safe, friendly &, offering the most wonderful mixture of birdwatching & culture. Sarus Cranes, Painted, Open-billed & Lesser Adjutant Storks, Spot-billed Pelicans & the endangered Black & White-collared Ibis top the avian list, with the very rare Mekong River Irrawaddy Dolphins an added wildlife attraction. Then Angkor, headquarters of the ancient Khmer empire and the largest religious monument on earth, totally awe-inspiring and recognised as one of the new Top Ten “Wonders of the World”. Plus wandering around attractive eco-villages & the Royal Palace of Phnom Penh all add up to a superb experience! **THERE ARE FIVE PLACES LEFT ON THIS TOUR.** Please refer to our website for full itinerary & details.



Spot-billed Pelican



Sarus Cranes



Irrawaddy Dolphins

CUBA, “Birdwatching & Culture”

Feb. 14-25

Repeating our highly successful Tour of 2008! Cuba, the “Pearl of the Antilles” is the largest and least commercialised country in the Caribbean, boasting some twenty endemic species alone, including the world’s smallest bird, the Bee Hummingbird, along with migrant species from North America. We shall concentrate in visiting the *Sierra del Rosario*, Cuba’s first Biosphere Reserve, and the *Zapata Peninsula*, the largest wetland in the Caribbean combining touring Havana & Trinidad, both designated UNESCO World Heritage Sites. **JUST FOUR PLACES REMAIN AVAILABLE.** Again, please refer to our website for full itinerary & details or contact Sarah in the *Island Ventures* Office.



Cuban Trogon

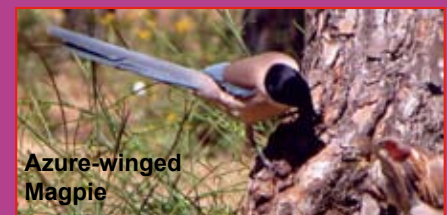


Red-legged Thrush

ADVANCE DATES FOR SOME NEW TOURS DURING SPRING 2010

Coto Donana, Spain Mar. 22-26

Arguably the richest area in Western Europe for birds! Based in El Rothio and beautifully positioned to explore the legendary Coto Donana. National Park. Specialities – too numerous to list, but just a few for tasters – Squacco Heron, Greater Flamingo, Glossy Ibis, Marbled Teal, White-headed Duck, Red-knobbed Coot, Audouin’s Gull, Spanish Imperial Eagle & Azure-winged Magpie.



Azure-winged Magpie



Ural Owl

“Owls & Woodpeckers”, Hungary Apr. 15-19

Based in the Zemplen Hills adjacent the wine region and World Heritage Site of Tokaj, searching for Eagle & Ural Owls, White-backed, Syrian, Middle-Spotted, Lesser-Spotted & Black Woodpeckers. Also visiting the famous Hortobagy NP for displaying Great Bustard, Long-legged Buzzard, White-tailed Eagle, Eastern Imperial Eagle, Saker, Pygmy Cormorant & Black Stork.

Birdwatching in Suffolk May 17-21

Golden Orioles, Lakenheath RSPB, Wood Lark, Santon Downham, Bittern, Marsh Harrier & Bearded Tit, Minsmere RSPB, Avocet & Spoonbill, Havergate RSPB....and champagne breakfast whilst cruising along the Rivers Alde & Ore!



Avocet



Spring Gentian

“The Burren & Aran Isles”, S. Ireland May 24-28

Botanically it’s superb! Stunning limestone pavement and home to a vast array of plants from the Arctic tundra to the Alps & Pyrenees. Spring Gentians, Mountain Avens, O’kelly’s Spotted Orchid, Common Twayblade, Irish Orchid & Bloody Cranesbill to name but a few. Combining with a super day out sailing to the Aran Isles. Red-billed Cough, Razorbill, Guillemot & Arctic Tern too!