



🇬🇧 The number two attraction at Nordkapp (North Cape) 🇺🇸

How to get more from your trips in the North

BirdSafari a/s offers you:

- Introductory bird safari - half price
- 1.5 hour boat trip to the bird life at Gjesværstappan Nature Reserve
- Daily departures in the Summer
- We guide in English and Norwegian (other languages also possible)
- Your groups can be 15 – 147 pax
- Our boat trips are in accordance to all Norwegian legal requirements and include insurance
- You can order anytime (at least 24 hours before bird safari)
- Cancellations are due one month before the bird safari. You must pay 50% of agreed payment if cancellations are made less than one month prior to the bird safari
- Invoices are sent weekly and are payable in 15 days. Cash payments can also be made
- Ask for a price (guide and bus driver – free)



Please contact us for more information

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Welcome to an unforgettable 1.5 hrs nature experience!

Every year since 1992, thousands of visitors have had the fortune to experience the bird safari near Nordkapp. A bird safari that according to long-time tour guide Nacho Engel from Spain is "like a BBC wildlife documentary."

Take advantage of your moment in the north to experience **one of Europe's greatest and most accessible sanctuaries of Atlantic birds**. Be dazzled by millions of individual birds breeding, diving, and flying at Gjesværstappan Nature Reserve.



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It is one of the top wildlife experiences in the world

- You fly to **Australia** to see **kangaroos** in the wild.
- You travel to **Yellowstone National Park** in the **USA** to see **American bison**.
- The **giraffe** can be seen in **Kenya**.
- The **Siberian tiger** is in the far south-east of **Russia**.
- You would travel to southern **Chile** to see **penguins**.
- And, in **Gjesvær/Nordkapp** you can see **Atlantic seabirds**.



Why can't you see more Atlantic birds anywhere else

There are three reasons that BirdSafari is the best place for you to watch many different seabirds in large numbers:

- The ocean currents and the water temperature make the area in the county of Finnmark a good place for fry, capelin and other small fish. Therefore, **a great place for the birds to find food** for their chicks.
- The Midnight Sun, north of the Arctic Circle: **The birds can feed their chicks 24 hours every day**. The faster the offspring can defend itself, the better.
- The bird rocks are **only 5 – 10 minutes away**.



Three reasons for you to chose BirdSafari instead of the Nordkapp plateau

- You have been to Nordkapp **before** (?)
- You know that Nordkapp - the plateau - **isn't the northernmost point** anyway. The northernmost point is Knivskjelodden, west of Nordkapp. You get there only by foot after three hours, and then you have to hike back.
- You know that most likely you won't see the (midnight) sun at Nordkapp. Most of the time, the only thing you see is fog. **The birds at BirdSafari are always present** in the summer.



The bird safari

This is one of your once-in-a-lifetime nature opportunities. The 1.5 hour boat tour leaves from Gjesvær to Gjesværstappan Nature Reserve, 15 km west of the Nordkapp cliff.

You will be at the Gjesværstappan 10 minutes after departure from the pier. Please advise the people in your group, that once they are onboard, they should get into one of the arctic suits (to insure a warm bird safari). Onboard you can get a cup of coffee, biscuits and souvenirs. Everybody can move freely onboard. We will address any question you might have. You can do the guiding together with the captain. Toilette facilities are onboard.



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To set foot on the islands is not allowed, but from the boat you can observe one of Norway's largest groups of Puffins and Kittiwakes. The Puffins, easily recognisable by their colourful bill, nest in holes in the grassy hills.

The nesting period, April to September, teems with life in the air and on land. Mighty White-tailed Eagles can be seen hovering overhead as they hunt for prey. Guillemots, Razorbills, Cormorants, Arctic Skuas, Fulmars, and Gannets are also part of the flourishing bird life at Gjesværstappan.

What the tour guides have said about us:

- The bird safari consists of different birds and happenings throughout the bird safari. Last time we saw an Eagle chasing a Puffin
- Two hours of nature emotions
- Great island landscape
- No time wasted
- The only negative about the bird safari is that it is not a photo safari. You don't get real close-up shoots of the birds with cameras the travellers normally use
- Low waves – seasickness is not a problem
- What I really like is that I can guide the group myself together with the crew. I am allowed to use the microphone
- The arctic suite insures a warm bird safari when needed
- I have been a guide in Norway since 1991 and taken my groups to the bird safari since 2001. The bird safari is one of the best adventures in the country
- Normally, the groups have no preconceived perception of the bird safari and are surprised afterwards. They can't imagine the bird safari beforehand

The Bird Road – from the moon to arctic idyll

Honningsvåg - Gjesvær (36 km): 15 km along E69 towards Nordkapp. From the junction E69 / Fv156 it is 21 km to Gjesvær.

The road to Gjesvær resembles at certain places a moon landscape. Not much grows there. Just before you can see the Arctic Ocean, you may think that you are on the way to nowhere. Then the idyllic island scene of Gjesvær comes into sight from the top of the hill. The contrast is magnificent. You arrive at our place two minutes later. You will park max 100 meters from the boat.

Boat - Facts

Your group will go to the Gjesværstappan with M/S Havsula or M/S Lundekongen. Our maximum capacity is 147 pax. There is plenty of deck space on both. All passengers can enjoy the safari on the deck if they so desire.

Some onboard equipment: Toilette, central heating, 220V power outlet, necessary means of rescue (rafts and lifejackets), and a microphone.



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Gjesvær – Vikings, war and trivia

The first people to settle Gjesvær did it some 6000 years ago. The coastline with small islands breaking the arctic waves provided a natural and safe harbour for fishing.

Gjesvær is mentioned in Snorre Sturlason's Heimskringla (1225) as the first landing site from the north. In 1026, returning from a raid in Russia, Tore Hund killed fellow Viking Karle in Gjesvær.

In 1030, Tore Hund lethally wounded Norwegian king Olav Haraldsson at Stiklestad. Both killings were part of a revenge for the murder of Tore Hund's nephew Asbjørn Selsbane in 1024.

The name Gjesvær has its origin in an extinct bird, the Great Auk. In Norwegian: Geirfugl. The last Geirfugl is believed to have been seen in Vardø, in eastern Finnmark, in the 19th century.

The final stages of World War II proved disastrous for Gjesvær when German troops pulled out of the area. The whole community was burned to the ground in the autumn of 1944. Already in the summer of 1945 some of the people came back and started to rebuild Gjesvær.

Until 1976 the people of Gjesvær travelled by boat. Then the construction of the road between Honningsvåg and Gjesvær was finished and the automobile became the most important means of transportation.

Today, 130 individuals live in Gjesvær.

Gjesværstappan – an important bird sanctuary

The Gjesværstappan became a nature reserve in 1983. The environmental authorities wanted to protect important seabird colonies, plants and wildlife. The land area of the reserve is 1.7 square km.

The reserve also includes 5.5 square km of the sea surrounding the islands. Between June 15th and August 15th you are not allowed to set foot on the biggest island: The Storstappen, which highest peak is 283 meters.

The environmental authorities are very keen to protect the largest colony of Puffins in Finnmark. The first observation of the Fulmar was made in 1978 and the numbers of Fulmars are increasing. In the 1980s the Gannet established itself at Gjesværstappan. Among other birds you can observe at Gjesværstappan are: Kittiwakes, Cormorants, Shags, Guillemots, Razorbills and White-tailed Eagles.

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