

PHOTOGRAPHY TOUR TO CANADA IN WINTER: SNOWY OWLS!

7 days | 23 Jan 2022 - 29 Jan 2022

 Group tours  Photography  Bird tours  Workshops  Travel photography

Snowy Owls breed on the high arctic tundra, very far north in Alaska, Canada and Siberia. During winter however, they migrate south to Canada in high numbers and are easily found near Montreal, Quebec and Ottawa. The owls occupy an open landscape with small towns and miles of open farmland. This provides excellent hunting grounds, with plenty of voles and rodents to catch. A habitat that is a fantastic photo-setting at the same time: flat open snowy fields, with small authentic barns, old fence posts, and Snowy owls blending in the icy white landscape, against a low sun creating a stunning light show! A freezing cold wind is blowing, but the snowy owls don't seem to mind. We however are protected by warm clothing fighting the cold, and wait for the big moment. It's time for the owls to start hunting, and all lenses are pointed towards it. Time for action and some great photography!

→ TO GUARANTEE THE RESERVATION OF THIS EXCLUSIVE WORKSHOP, SUBSCRIPTIONS SHOULD BE MADE BEFORE THE END OF FEBRUARY 2021.

Great conditions for photography

The Canadian **snowy owls** recently got very popular among birdwatchers and photographers. In a short time it got quite busy on the public spots and crowds of photographers gathered. Yves is working together with a snowy owl expert that has exclusive access to some of the best areas. It will only be our group and the snowy owls on stage. Nobody to come and disturb us. We stay close to these places and have a great accommodation nearby.

This means we don't have to travel far each day and lose a lot of time. We will get up very early each day to be ready before sunrise and photograph through the morning. Our lunch breaks are scheduled in a warm place and in the late afternoon we go out again, shooting until all twilight colors have faded out in the evening sky. We are with a very small group, thus very flexible. We search for the best conditions, every moment.



Arctic atmosphere in Canada

Photographing **snowy owls** is done with style: dressed warm in our down parka's, warm hat and gloves as well as big snow boots. We spend hours close to the snowy owls. They will give us shows never to forget. The landscape and winter conditions are amazing. In a week time we can expect all kinds of weather; sun, misty, white out snow blizzards,... It is all the same for the Snowy Owls, and all these conditions are great for photography. White on white subjects are very appealing, and we will use all our photography skills to use the cool tones in the pictures. We go out every day, in whatever weather conditions and not miss a single moment. It is these extremes we are looking for, which makes the most impressive pictures.





Snowy owls everywhere!

Target species number one is of course the **snowy owl**. After a long journey 'south' they come to winter and hunt on voles and rodents in the wide open fields of southern Canada. Every owl has its own mind, and can be photographed in different ways. The easiest ones can be approached within just a few meters, making even those long lenses too big! We search for various winter landscapes, so we can photograph the owls in as many different situations as possible. Most common are the speckled younger and female birds, but if we are lucky, we might even find an adult male in pure white plumage. Some years also other species of owls are to be found and photographed, including **great grey owls, northern hawk owl** and **boreal owl**.

Autofocus and exposure controls and many more

For a bird photographer nothing is more exciting than to have a Snowy Owl in the viewfinder, when it jumps up from the snow and goes for its hunt straight to your camera in full speed. During our week every photographer will get plenty of instructions how to adjust your camera's and lenses AF settings to get the highest success rate in sharp frames. Exposure of white subjects on white sunny backgrounds is very challenging for your camera, so we will have a very close look at this as well. Before we get out in the cold, we will prepare you how to dress appropriately and how to protect your precious gear, and how to handle long lenses and when to use or not use your tripod. We will get into every aspect of how to get those stunning shots! This might probably be the biggest bird action photography your camera will ever get to see! All explained carefully by our top guide [Yves Adams](#).





Early birds (catch more): pre-extension

Do you wish to extend this trip? Join our extension to Algonquin. We try to spend some days in the park to photograph **songbirds and martens**. The animals we are looking for, are used to feeders. This means we can guarantee your photography pleasure! Especially **blue jays, grey jays, chickadees and woodpeckers** wander around. Together with **squirrels and martens**, a fantastic experience.

Yves will learn how to choose a good location, to set up the fore- and background, go for the best light and the importance to work at the same location for different days. You will learn the different settings to photograph in the snow and how to protect yourself and your gear against the cold. The perfect preparation for the snowy owl trip.

What makes this photography trip to Canada so special?

- Undisturbed photography! During the trip we get help from a local snowy owl expert who gives us private access to the best spots.
- The snowy owls often approach us so close that photography becomes almost impossible: pure enjoyment!
- In the field, you learn the tips and tricks from both a top photographer and a snowy owl expert.

Get to know your tour guide

During this photoweek you will be guided by Yves. He travelled to Canada years ago to photograph Snowy Owls. He met a real 'Snowy Owl whisperer,' and agreed to come back and guide a trip together for dedicated photographers. Now they are eager and ready to plow through the deep snow in search of Snowy owls together with the passionate photographer. Yves loves the freezing cold and Arctic birds, such as the Snowy owl, and he will help you at any time to prepare for the cold, how to get to know as much as possible about the Snowy owl and how to photograph them.



Is this photography trip to Canada something for you?

You're not shy from shooting on icy mornings and taking long days for the best images.

You are fascinated by the beautiful snowy owl and want to learn how to creatively portray it.

You have a lot of patience and don't mind waiting for hours in the same place at the right time.

Experience



Beginner

Expert

Comfort



Basic

Luxurious

Condition



Easy

Heavy



Photography Level



Nature Level



Interested? We keep you posted

Itinerary & Locations

18/01

Departure PRE-EXTENSION: arrival Montréal

Arrival in Montréal for the pre-extension.

19/01 - 22/01

PRE-EXTENSION: Algonquin National Park

4 days in the park photographing **squirrels, martens and songbirds** in the snow (pictures in the gallery).

23/01

Departure day + arrival at base camp (flight not included)

Arrival in Montreal airport. From there we drive to our base camp: a cozy B&B.



The flights are not included in the price, but we can help to find a suitable flight schedule.

24/01 - 28/01

Photographing snowy owls

We organize photo sessions in the morning and afternoon. We have lunch at a local lunch bar and dinner at a restaurant.

The small group allows us to plan further trips to remote locations if there are interesting photo opportunities.

29/01

Goodbye snowy owls! (flight not included)

We fly back home through Montreal (flight not included in the price).

Practical

Accommodation

We stay in a cozy B&B, from where we are close to our locations each day. We opt for single rooms, but exceptions are possible for interested couples. It is not excluded that we travel a greater distance to possibly find other or better conditions. We are with a small group, so we can quickly adapt to any changing circumstances.

Transport and flights

We fly to Montreal and drive a bus to our base camp for about an hour and a half upon arrival.

The international flights are not included in the price, but we are happy to make a proposal for an appropriate flight schedule. Tip: you can combine this trip with the photography trip to Yellowstone, also with Yves. Ask for more information when registering.

Climate and clothing

Very warm clothes are essential for this trip, because we will be out for many hours in sub zero temperatures. Yves will explain you how to dress warm, and what kind of clothes to bring for this trip. We can expect very different temperatures, ranging from -5°C to -25°C, windchill factor not included!

We'll never walk large distances, but deep snow, cold and long days will be the challenging factors. Everybody is welcome to join us on this adventure, and with appropriate clothing you will be able to fight the cold.

Gear

We will photograph fast moving birds, so bring very fast camera's, with lenses from 200mm to 600mm. Distances to the owls will vary a lot, from just a few meters to birds in the landscape. Lenscovers will protect your gear against cold and snow.

On a normal day we will get to shoot loads of pictures, so you will need a lot of battery power! Bring big and fast memory cards too. We advice to bring a laptop and fast card readers and big memory disks. You will be amazed by the number of pictures we can take each session. Don't expect to have enough time to download during the lunchbreak.

