

2025 Wader Spectaculars

Depart from the RSPB Snettisham car park at these times:

Winter

No spectaculars.

Spring

March 2025

Sun 2nd 6.00am

Sat 29th 4.00pm

Sun 30th 6.00am

April 2025

Sun 27th 4.30pm

Mon 28th 5.00pm

Tues 29th 6.00am & 6.00pm



Summer

August 2025

Tues 12th 6.45am

Weds 13th 7.30am

Sun 24th 5.45am

Mon 25th 6.15am

Autumn

September 2025

Weds 10th 6.00am

Thurs 11th 6.45am

Fri 12th 7.30am

Tues 23rd 5.45am

Weds 24th 6.15am

October 2025

Fri 10th 6.15am

Sat 11th 7.30am

**Please do not expect to see the Spectacular outside of these times:
You may be disappointed.**



RSPB Snettisham

Wader Spectacular FAQs

What is the Wader Spectacular?

Tens of thousands of birds shimmer together as the rising tide pushes them off the mudflats. Be there at the right time and you can witness one of the UK's greatest nature spectacles.

What are the birds in the Wader Spectacular?

Most are small wading birds called 'Knot'. The mudflats of The Wash contain substantial amounts of their food, mainly shellfish and worms.

The area is likely to be hosting at least 90% of the world's population of Knot during late summer to early autumn.



I'm keen to witness this, when should I go?

These spectacles do not occur every day and are dependent on environmental factors. To avoid disappointment, we strongly urge you to use the dates and times we've selected above.



There are three main viewing points:

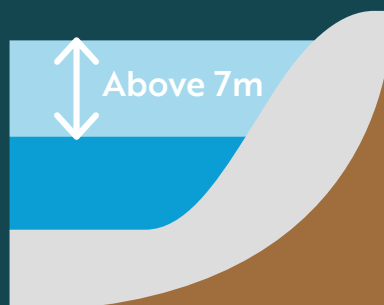
- 1. Your first glimpse of The Wash.** Follow the trail from the car park machine, and after a 1.3km walk you'll have climbed steps to the sea wall. Look for the incoming tide pushing the birds together.
- 2. The Wader Watch Point** (2.2km from the car park). Continue on, keeping The Wash to your right and you'll reach the Watch Point.
- 3. Knot's Landing** (3km from the car park). Take a front row seat and witness the birds taking refuge from the high tide. Make sure you take your camera!



I went on a 'high' tide and nothing happened. Why not?

The Wader Spectaculars require:

1. A VERY HIGH (7m+) tide so that the entire bay of The Wash fills up with seawater (tide-tables available).
2. Daylight. Remember, this is the period when the days are shorter, so visibility is unlikely to coincide with high tides.
3. Birds. This may sound obvious, but the large numbers only occur during late autumn or early spring.



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The Pink-Footed Goose Spectacles only occur in Winter.

At sunrise, you can witness thousands of geese leaving their roost in extraordinarily large flocks. At dusk, the reverse can happen. During these dates:

21st December 2024 - 7th January 2025

10th December 2025 - 29th December 2025

9th January 2025 - 15th January 2026



The tide does not affect the geese, but the moonlight does: Movement of geese can be erratic and unpredictable five days either side of a full moon.



The geese can be easily disturbed by lights, so please do not shine torches onto the mudflats.



They start to leave Norfolk in February (to go to their Arctic breeding grounds), returning around October.



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Finding your way to the Spectacular



It is a 2.2km walk from the car park to the Wader Watch point, so allow plenty of time. Follow the trail from the car park machine. The trail has steps and a variety of terrains underfoot.



This is a wild, remote site and there are no toilet or refreshment facilities.



The car park postcode is PE31 7RA and is signposted from the A149 via a brown sign.



Our team will be there on Spectacular dates to help you park. Please note: We may have to direct you to other (non-RSPB) parking nearby as our car park fills up easily.

The car park has a height barrier of 2.1m. Parking is pay and display via a machine in the main car park: Free for RSPB members (please scan your membership card), £4 for non-members. Please respect our neighbours and other visitors by parking responsibly.



Well behaved dogs on leads are welcome.

Please take your litter home.



Please do not cross our fences or climb shingle banks as this will cause disturbance (and spoil everyone else's experience).

No need for telescopes, but a camera is highly recommended! Please share with us @RSPBTitchwell_Snettisham.



Any other questions? Contact us at snettisham@rspb.org.uk

