



North-Atlantic sea eagle over the lake at Eagle World

WELCOME TO

The Danish Eagle Reserve – Eagle World

Especially for cruise guests arriving by bus from Skagen Harbour

Ørnereservatet · Skagensvej 107, 9881 Bindslev, Denmark

www.eagleworld.dk

Your hour at Eagle World

Between Tversted and Ålbæk, surrounded by dunes, heath and forest, Eagle World invites you into the world of birds of prey – and into a partnership between people and birds built on patience, training and trust.

What you will experience

The program lasts about one hour and takes place outdoors by the reserve's lake. From the stands you look out over open terrain while the birds show their different flying skills and our guides tell you about each species and about our work with the birds.

- Humankind's long relationship with birds of prey – from the Viking Age and classical falconry to the training methods used today.
- Falconers working from the ground and in the demanding, classical discipline of falconry on horseback.
- A four-wheel drive used as a training tool in the dunes, so the birds can fly over longer distances through the terrain.
- Birds up close: as the falconers move along the stands you can see plumage, beaks and talons in detail.
- Stories about the biology and behaviour of birds of prey and the history of falconry, worldwide and in Denmark.

The program for cruise guests is the same whether you visit during or outside our official opening hours. Every program is shaped by the birds taking part and by the day's wind and weather, so it may vary a little from time to time – but most of it stays roughly as described here. There is a set framework, but also room for unexpected moments.

The horses

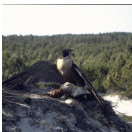
Danish Warmblood – a cooperative, sturdy horse used for mounted falconry with saker falcons and gyrfalcons. Friesian – the black Dutch horse on which a sea eagle lands on the rider's glove. Andalusian / PRE – an agile Spanish horse being trained for mounted falconry.



Steller's sea eagle – by many considered the largest eagle in the world.

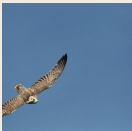
The birds and horses you may meet

These are the species presented on eagleworld.dk as part of the program. Which birds fly on a given day depends on the birds and the weather. The owls are special guests, not a fixed part of the daily display.



Peregrine Falcon *Falco peregrinus*

Wingspan 95–115 cm. The smallest bird in the program and the world's fastest animal, measured at 390 km/h in a dive. Its name means 'wanderer', as it lives on every continent. Peregrines live wild in Denmark and have increased in recent years.



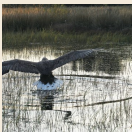
Saker Falcon *Falco cherrug*

Wingspan 110–130 cm. Its name comes from the Arabic word 'Ssakar', and it was treasured by Genghis Khan himself. It lives from Central Europe and the Middle East all the way to China and reaches about 110 km/h in level flight. At Eagle World it flies to a falconer on horseback.



Gyrfalcon *Falco rusticolus*

Wingspan 110–160 cm. The world's largest falcon, used for hunting by people for more than 1,500 years. Its plumage ranges from coal black to pure white, and no two gyrfalcons look exactly alike. It lives in the Arctic, including Greenland and Iceland, and is strong enough to take herons and geese.



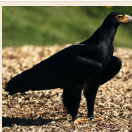
North-Atlantic Sea Eagle *Haliaeetus a. albicilla*

Wingspan 220–250 cm – one of Europe's largest eagles. It lives mainly on fish and seabirds, and its white tail shows it is adult, after 5–6 years. In the program up to three may fly at once, sometimes diving over the lake, and one lands on a falconer riding a Friesian horse.



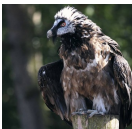
Golden Eagle *Aquila chrysaetos*

Wingspan 185–225 cm. The largest of the classic falconry birds, still used by nomads in Mongolia. It sees about 8 times more sharply than a human, and a pair stays together for life. A few pairs now breed in Denmark again.



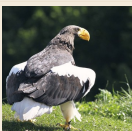
Verreaux's Eagle *Aquila verreauxii*

Wingspan 180–220 cm. A jet-black eagle from Africa's mountain regions, known by the white 'V' on its back and named after the French naturalist Jules Verreaux. It mates for life and lives almost entirely on rock hyraxes. It may walk among the seated audience with its falconer.



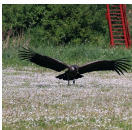
Bearded Vulture *Gypaetus barbatus*

Wingspan 2.3–3 m. It lives in high mountains from the Pyrenees to China and feeds almost entirely on bones, which it can swallow whole – its stomach acid is stronger than battery acid. It has a black 'beard' under its beak, eyes ringed with red, and colours its feathers reddish with iron-rich dust.



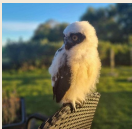
Steller's Sea Eagle *Haliaeetus pelagicus*

Wingspan 2–2.6 m. By many considered the largest eagle in the world and called 'the bear of the sky'. It lives on the coasts of north-east Asia, including Kamchatka, and its huge yellow beak can split even large fish. In the program it chases a four-wheel drive through the terrain and lands on the driver's glove.



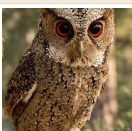
Andean Condor *Vultur gryphus*

Wingspan 3–3.5 m. Condors have no syrinx and are almost silent, and they are nature's clean-up crew, helping stop disease spreading. Our condor Molina arrived as a chick in November 2018 from Wildpark Lüneburger Heide in Germany and has been trained every day by Peter Wenzel.



Spectacled Owl *Pulsatrix perspicillata*

A rare owl from South America, named Delta. It moved in during spring 2025 and has been presented since late July. It is not a fixed part of the daily display, but appears on special occasions.



Philippine Scops Owl *Otus megalotis*

One of the world's smallest owls, 20–25 cm tall and about 200–310 g, named Papaya. It lives in lowland forest on the Philippine islands, eats insects, small rodents and lizards, and has large dark eyes and clear ear tufts. Like the spectacled owl, it appears on special occasions.



Andalusian Horse *Andalusian / PRE*

The horse of falconers and nobility, once kept at Europe's royal courts. Agile and intelligent, it can work with fast falcons diving towards the mounted falconer. At Eagle World it is ridden in the program together with the falcons.

50 years near Skagen

The history of the reserve

The story began at Lake Arresø in North Zealand, where the Wenzel family ran Arresø Naturcenter. In 1976 Frank and Irene Wenzel moved with their family to Skagensvej 107 near Skagen and founded the site – at first under the names Institute of Biology and Frank Wenzel Film. In 1980 exhibition facilities were inaugurated and the name Ørnereservatet was created. The reserve was not originally meant for the public, but so many people became interested that it opened at set times, adapted to the birds' daily rhythm. In 2005 it expanded with eagle species from every continent where eagles live, and seating stands were built. In 2026 the reserve celebrates 50 years near Skagen (1976–2026).

Who was Frank Wenzel?

Frank Wenzel, born in the former Germany (now Poland), was a pioneer of birds of prey in Denmark and helped reinstate Danish falconry. At 14 he published his first book, Musvågen (The Buzzard); at 20 he began a falconry apprenticeship. As a wildlife photographer he documented birds of prey and was one of the very first to breed them in human care. He led the reserve until 2015 and died at the age of 77, after a career of more than 70 years sharing his knowledge through the reserve, books, photographs and films.

Who is Peter Frank Wenzel?

Peter Frank Wenzel, Frank Wenzel's youngest son, took over the reserve in the summer of 2015 and leads Team Eagle World. Besides the classic discipline of falconry on horseback, he has brought in new training methods using four-wheel drives, GPS and drones. He trains the Andean condor Molina and in 2023 published the book The Eagle Has Landed at Skagen.

Our mission

From the start the mission has been to create awareness, knowledge and understanding of birds of prey and their importance in nature – a place dedicated to education, protection and, above all, respect for these birds. Guests are welcomed on the birds' terms: the public area is limited, while the birds' area is not. In line with Frank Wenzel's wishes, the reserve will eventually become a foundation so that the mission continues.



Eagle World from above: lake, heath, dunes and forest between Tversted and Ålbæk in northern Vendsyssel.



The bearded vulture.



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