



Pine Marten – Carl Chapman

Tour Dates 26<sup>th</sup> May to 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2021

£1967

This is a personalised 9 day round Britain trip taking in Northumberland, the central Scottish Highlands as well as the very furthest point of mainland Britain. It includes a visit to the waters off the Cairns of Coll and a ferry ride to Orkney. It is designed for a small number of guests.

Departure is from Norfolk early morning of Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> May and drop off is in Norfolk very late evening Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> June. Pick up and drop off 'en route' can be arranged.

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Day 1	Northumberland
Day 2/3	Scottish Central Highlands
Day 4/5/6	John O'Groats
Day 7/8	Ardnamurchan Peninsula
Day 9	Return travel to Norfolk

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**Although we will endeavour to follow our planned programme due to bad weather and other considerations this is not always possible. You can rest assured that any alterations to our planned itinerary will be made to make maximum use of our time and weather conditions.**

#### Overview

This is a tour taking in the beautiful coastal region of Northumberland where it is not only possible to see Bottlenose and White beaked Dolphins from the shore but also a heard of Wild Cattle; the only ones in the UK. Moving north we will spend a couple of days exploring the highland region of Scotland for iconic creatures such as Red Squirrel, Scottish Badger, Pine Marten, Mountain Hare, Red Deer, Feral Goats and the Bottlenose Dolphins of the Moray Firth. Moving North again our tour takes in the annual migration of Orcas around the very northern point of mainland Britain.

Moving south we intend to spend time on the Ardnamurchan Peninsula looking for Wildcat with a boat trip to the Cairns of Col where we hope to see Minke Whale, Common Dolphin and Harbour Porpoise as well as Grey and Common Seals. There will of course be other wildlife we encounter such as birds, orchids, butterflies and the possibility of basking sharks

### Day 1 - Wednesday

An early start from Norfolk will enable us to visit the Chillingham Wild Cattle of Northumberland. These are wild animals. They are not cared for in any way and are truly wild. With the assistance of the park ranger we will try to get close ... but not too close ... to these fascinating creatures that have remained unchanged for millennia. Moving on we may have time to check the sea for Dolphin species. Bottlenose are the predominant species here but White beaked are also possible. Overnight in a comfortable hotel in Northumberland



Wild Cattle

### Day 2 – Thursday

Leaving the coastal region of Northumberland we will venture north to the Spey valley in Scotland. We may well call in at a reserve where Beavers and Otters are sometimes seen. After checking in at our hotel and having an evening meal we may well venture out to find Roe and Red Deer on an evening drive.

### Day 3 – Friday

Our second day based in the Spey Valley gives us an opportunity to explore the region. We will look for Mountain Hares which at this time of the year come down into the valleys to have their young. Herds of Red Deer and Feral Goat are possible but our main target for the day will be the Moray Firth Bottlenose Dolphins. These animals come close to shore as they chase Salmon. It is possible we will see them down to a few metres.

After returning to our hotel for our evening meal we will visit a local hide in an attempt to see the enigmatic Pine Marten and Scottish Badgers before returning to our hotel for a good night's sleep.



Bottlenose Dolphin – Moray Firth – Carl Chapman

Day 4 - Saturday

Rising early we will make our way north once more to the very north of mainland Britain. Over the past few years Orcas have been observed passing the headlands on a migration. We will spend the later part of the day perhaps joining the Sea Watch Foundation team watching the sea in anticipation of spotting a Killer Whale as it migrates back to Iceland.



Orca – Carl Chapman

We will check into our hotel and have a hearty meal before retiring for the evening.

#### Day 5 and Day 6 – Sunday/Monday

We will spend the days searching from the local headlands for passing cetaceans. As well as Orca in recent years Risso's Dolphins have been seen. Once again we will return to our hotel for our evening meals.

#### Day 7 – Tuesday

After breakfast we make the journey to the west coast of Scotland via Loch Ness to the Ardnamurchan Peninsula. This is the last strong hold of the now very rare British Wildcat and we will do an evening drive in the endeavour to catch one in the headlights.

Our hotel is our base for the next two nights.

#### Day 8 – Wednesday

After an early breakfast we will meet our survey boat to explore the regions offshore. It is likely we will see cetaceans. Close encounters with Minke Whale, Common Dolphin and Harbour Porpoise are all possible. It is also possible depending on water temperature that we will see Basking Sharks.

#### Day 9 – Thursday

We must venture south and return to Norfolk. It may be possible to stop at a site or two as we do so.

#### What is included?

All meals and lunches from lunch on day 1 to lunch on day 9 are included within the price. The evening meal on day 9 will be at your own expense.

Transport to and from Norfolk and pick up en route at suitable locations.

Any entrance fees to reserve areas and parks we visit as well as all ferry crossings and boat trips.

Accommodation is normally in en suite rooms and lunches will be packed to give us more time in the field.

A single room supplement of £190 is payable although sharing can be arranged on most occasions.

#### What is not included?

All drinks with meals and items of a personal nature.

#### Further notes.

This is a trip which will give us the maximum amount of time in the field therefore early mornings and late evenings to make use of available light is usual. Walking on the tour is minimal but any we do will be on level or gently undulating ground.

National Trust and RSPB members are asked to bring along their membership cards.

Group Size.

3 to 4

How to Book

Please telephone 07833 463 034 or 01263 576 995 at a time convenient to yourself or email [carl@wildlifetoursandeducation.co.uk](mailto:carl@wildlifetoursandeducation.co.uk)

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Mountain Hare – Carl Chapman