

Operated by Wildlife Tours & Education

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Dartford Warbler – Dorset

1<sup>st</sup> July to 5<sup>th</sup> July 2021

£1090

This is a five day visit to the Jurassic Coast of Dorset to discover the birds and other wildlife so much a part of the beautiful calcareous landscape.

Departure is from Norfolk early morning of 1<sup>st</sup> July and drop off is in Norfolk on the evening of 5<sup>th</sup> July. Pick up and drop off 'en-route' can be arranged.

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Day 1	Arrive Dorset
Day 2	Brownsea Island
Day 3	Arne RSPB
Day 4	Swanage Cliffs and the Isle of Purbeck
Day 5	Return 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.**



Lulworth Skipper – Durlston Head

## Overview

This is a summer tour to the coastal region of Dorset centred on the Isle of Purbeck and the wonderful coastal area to see breeding and early autumn passage birds and other wildlife unique to the region.

### Day 1 - Thursday

We will leave Norfolk early morning and stop en route to take in a reserve known for its butterflies. Later we will search the cliffs at Bournemouth looking for Lizards. There are two species to be found here; Wall Lizards are usually easy to find but the Western Green Lizard are more difficult. Both species are either introduced possibly by the Victorians or they may be relict naturalised populations. Arriving at our Hotel we will have a hearty meal before retiring.

### Day 2 - Friday

After a filling breakfast we will make our way to the quay at Poole Harbour; the second largest natural harbour in the world. Here we will catch the ferry to Brownsea Island. The island is owned by the National Trust and has dramatic views over the Harbour and the Purbeck Hills. Lord Baden-Powell formed the Scout movement and first camped at this site in 1907. Today the island is famous for its resident population of Red Squirrels and the Nature reserve and lagoon owned and managed by the Dorset Wildlife Trust. Here we hope to see nesting Common and Sandwich Terns as well as the first waders returning to the site after their breeding further north. The isolated hide out in the lagoon, one of five on the island, has to be the best place in the country to see and photograph Little Egrets of which there are many; after all this is where they first started to populate the UK. Mediterranean Gulls and Spoonbills are regular here. After catching the ferry back to the mainland we may well have an early evening meal and visit a local heath to watch displaying Nightjars.



Nightjars will be churring during our visit

### Day 3 - Saturday

After breakfast we will visit the RSPB reserve at Arne. This is a large reserve covering almost 600 Hectares of heathland and old oak woodland. We will spend the day here looking for Dragonflies, Butterflies and Raft Spiders. Up to 22 species of Dragonfly have been seen on the reserve and we may also see the Silver studded Blue Butterfly. It is possible to find all of the UK reptile species at Arne including Smooth Snake and Sand Lizard but we would be very lucky indeed to see both.

It is by far easier to see the Dartford Warblers which occur here in good numbers. The gorse and heather covered heaths are ideal habitat for Dartford Warblers; this is without doubt the best place in the country to see them. Stonechats, Woodlark and Sika Deer also occur here in good numbers and there will undoubtedly be Spoonbills and a selection of waders viewable from the hides.

Depending upon time available we have a choice of visiting several heaths close by before returning to our Hotel for dinner.

### Day 4 – Sunday

We will spend the day exploring the cliffs around Durlston and surrounding areas. Much of the cliff top is managed for Butterflies and we hope to see many varieties including Marbled White, the beautiful Adonis Blue as well as the Lulworth Skipper which is found nowhere else within the UK.

Guillemots and Razorbills nest on the sea cliffs here and they will be rearing young during our visit.

Keeping an eye on the sea for cetaceans it is possible to see White Beaked as well as Bottlenose Dolphins and the occasional Balearic Shearwater at this time of the year.

### Day 5 - Monday

All too soon after breakfast we will be heading north but we will be calling in at some appropriate sites on the way home.



Common Tern – Brownsea Island

What is included?

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

All meals and lunches from lunch on day 1 to lunch on day 5 are included within the price.

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

Rooms are offered on a shared basis. A single room supplement of £90 is payable although sharing can be arranged on most occasions.

Photographic Tuition – this is an ideal tour for the wildlife photographer.

What is not included?

All drinks with meals and items of a personal nature.

Entry into the DWT reserve and Brownsea Island NT Area – around £3 and £15 respectively – free to members of DWT and NT.

Further notes.

This is a medium graded trip with most walking being on level ground although some footpaths at Durlston can be quite steep. As always our trips are not just about birds but aim to encompass any wildlife we see and we will be taking our time to search and explore.

Group Size.

4 Persons

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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