

# Spring Birdwatching on the Isles of Scilly – Trip Itinerary 2022

Operated by Wildlife Tours & Education

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Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> May to Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> May 2022

£2385

This is an 8 day trip focusing on seeking out spring migratory birds on the Isles of Scilly.

Departure is from Norfolk early morning of 24<sup>th</sup> May and drop off is in Norfolk late evening 31<sup>st</sup> May. Pick up and drop off 'en-route' can be arranged.

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- Day 1 Arrive Cornwall.
  - Day 2 Sail to Isles of Scilly and explore St Mary's
  - Day 3 to 5 Visit to various Islands around the Archipelago
  - Day 6 Explore St Mary's and Sail to Penzance
  - Day 7 Drive back to Norfolk dropping off en route
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Night Heron – rare herons of several species will be a feature of this tour

**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 unique tour visiting the very beautiful Isles of Scilly in Spring. Stunning sea cliffs, beaches and flowering fields will be the backdrop for our search for birds both on migration and overshooting the continent.

We shall concentrate on finding vagrant birds that so often congregate in this part of the world during May.

### Day 1 - Tuesday

On our way to Cornwall, picking up party members en route, we may well have the chance to call in at several locations to see a rarity or scarcity. We arrive at our overnight accommodation in Penzance. Situated a stone throw from the famous Cornish Valleys and Hayle Estuary, there may be the opportunity to see if the areas holds any migratory birds before our trip offshore the following day or upon our return at the end of our stay. The rooms in our accommodation are comfortable and we will take our evening meal in Penzance.

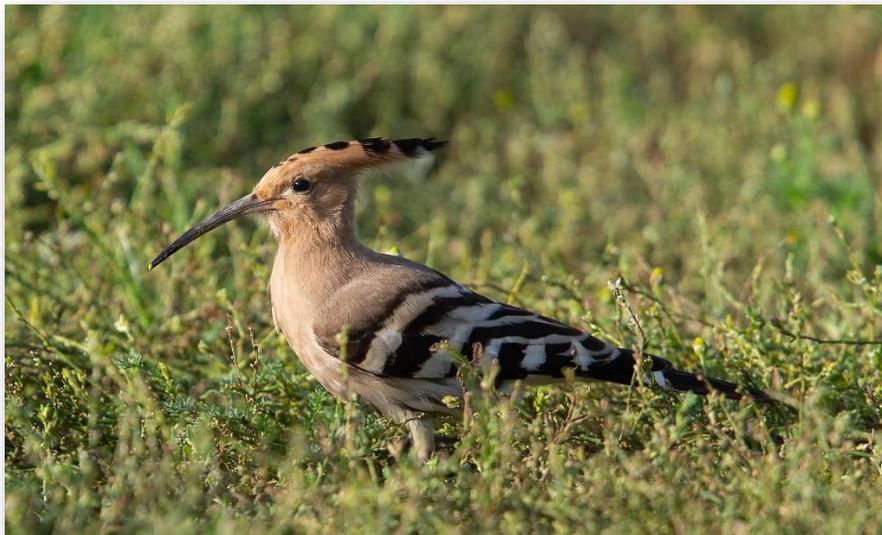
### Day 2 - Wednesday

Our sailing will take a few hours but will give us the chance to catch up with some truly pelagic species at this time of the year Storm Petrels are possible as well as an encounter with cetaceans. Once we have landed, we'll have transport to our very comfortable hotel and the rest of the day we will probably spend on St Mary's but this is dependent upon where the best birdwatching is to be found. We will then retire as we will each evening to our hotel for our evening meal.

### Day 3 – Thursday to Day 7 – Monday

The Isles of Scilly is a magnet to birds that are otherwise difficult to see in the rest of the UK. For instance, in recent springs Golden Oriole, a bird very difficult to find on the mainland now have featured prominently throughout May. Rare wagtails too such as Ashy headed and Blue headed are likely. In fact every conceivable bird that is heading back North to breed may also call in on us; from Marsh Harriers to Cuckoos and Pied Flycatchers can be common place finds. We may also have the chance to see any other wildlife we come across during our stay such as Minke Whales, Dolphins, Harbour Porpoise and Red Squirrels.

Additionally, we also have the chance to see and maybe even find for ourselves a rare vagrant that has made landfall having overshoot its European breeding range. The Isles of Scilly is THE place within the UK where this is most likely. Literally anything can turn up here. During the last couple of springs many, many rare birds have turned up on the archipelago as well as commoner and scarce species that are far too many to list.



Hoopoe is a likely vagrant in May on Scillies

If this doesn't get your mouth watering nothing will!

Each day we will be venturing out around the islands after breakfast and call at a local cafe or restaurant for lunch or sometimes taking a packed lunch. Catching a boat from the quay in Hugh Town or making our way around St Mary's we will walk footpaths and beaches the like of which you will not find anywhere else in the world. The islands are steeped in history, are truly, truly beautiful and contain unique flora as well as fauna.



Golden Oriole are regular spring visitors to the isles of Scillies



Rare Falcons are a feature of spring vagrants and the end of May is the time to see Red footed Falcons or maybe something even rarer such as a Lesser Kestrel.

Our hotel is located within Hugh Town on St Mary's. The Scillies is composed of many islands but the other islands we may visit are:

Tresco: The home of the famous gardens.

St Martins: A large open island to the north complete with a patchwork of fields.

St Agnes and Gugh: Two islands connected by a sand bar that is passable at low tide. St Agnes is the most easterly island and the home of the famous Turks Head Pastie!

Bryher: A small island to the west of Tresco.

Our detailed itinerary will depend upon where the birds are being found and we shall remain in the loop of information that passes around the islands at peak migration time.

On our last day after searching the islands one last time we will catch the Scillonian III back to the mainland where we will stay once more in local accommodation.

#### Day 8 – Tuesday

Depending upon time available we may well search either the Cornish Valleys or other Cornish sites such as Marazion Marsh, a reedbed reserve nearby, that has held many Waders as well as scarce Warblers and Ducks. We will then continue our onward journey to Norfolk dropping off en route and maybe calling in at a suitable location or two to catch up with any rarities. We hope to arrive back in Norfolk during the evening.

#### What is included?

The services of a guide that has been to the Isles of Scilly during over 28 previous Autumn migration seasons and 4 Spring seasons.

Lunch on day 1 is included within the price. All evening meals and breakfasts with the exception of your evening meal on day 1 and 7 taken in Penzance, and day 8 taken as we travel home.

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

Return sailing to the Isles of Scilly.

Transport to and from Hotel/Quay on St Mary's.

Up to three return boat trips to the outer islands.

Accommodation is normally in en suite rooms.

A single room supplement of £250 is payable although sharing can be arranged on most occasions.

#### What is not included?

All drinks with meals and items of a personal nature.

Lunches with the exception of lunch on day 1.

#### Further notes.

We will be walking each day although we will be taking our time to explore areas thoroughly during our time on the islands.

Please bring with you photographic ID in case we have to fly off/onto the island.

It is possible to arrange to fly to/from the Isles of Scilly rather than sail but this would incur a premium charge.

Group Size.

Minimum 4 maximum 6 plus tour leader

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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Mobile 07833 463 034    Office 01263 576 995    Website: [www.wildlifetoursandeducation.co.uk](http://www.wildlifetoursandeducation.co.uk)



Ortolan Bunting – a regular autumn and spring vagrant on the Isles of Scilly.



It's not all about birds. This photograph of a Common Dolphin was taken on our 2015 October tour but they are regular each and all year. Just one of four species of cetacean often seen around the islands.



Bee-Eaters are regular in Spring as are full breeding plumage Red backed Shrikes

