



Great Skua – Carl Chapman

Tour Dates 18th to 23rd July 2022

£2117

This is a trip taking in perhaps the most wild and remote part of the UK with some spectacular wildlife.

Departure is from Norfolk early morning of Monday 18th July and drop off is in Norfolk late evening Saturday 23rd July. Pick up and drop off 'en route' can be arranged.

Day 1	Journey to Cumbria where we visit RSPB Leighton Moss
Day 2	Travel to Ullapool
Day 3	Vist to Handa Island.
Day 4	Seawatch from Stoer Lighthouse
Day 5	Cruise from Ullapool around the islands of Western Scotland
Day 6	Travel South back to Norfolk

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 not only the wild parts of the 'flow country' in Sutherland but also Handa Island and some of Western Scotland's smaller little know islands within the Bay of Ullapool.

We shall see breeding Great Skuas and Arctic Skuas as well as one of the largest Auk colonies in the UK. Over 10,000 sea birds regularly visit Handa island to breed each year. Several rarer orchids will also be in evidence as well as scarce dragonfly species.

Day 1 - Monday

An early start from Norfolk will enable us to have an afternoon at one of the largest reedbeds in North-West England. RSPB Leighton Moss is a reserve where anything can turn up but breeding Bittern and Marsh Harriers are usually on show. We will stop locally in our hotel.



Bittern – Carl Chapman

Day 2 – Tuesday

After an early breakfast we will make our way North to Ullapool stopping at interesting places on route. On arrival at our hotel, which will be our home for the rest of the tour, we will have a refreshing evening meal.

Day 3 – Wednesday

We have a chance to explore the local area and visit Handa Island. We will take the ferry to the island and after instructions from our hosts, the Scottish Wildlife Trust, we will be allowed to walk around the island and visit skua colonies. Skuas can be quite aggressive and it is best to wear a hat to give some protection from dive bombing birds, We will see cliffs full of Guillemots, Puffins, Razorbills, Fulmars and Kittiwakes. Often Divers come on to the lochs on the island to fish. Black Guillemot are often seen during the crossing to and from the islands.



Arctic Skua – Carl Chapman



Puffin – Carl Chapman

Day 4 – Thursday

A restful day at Stoer lighthouse sea watching and looking for cetaceans. Harbour Porpoise, Minke Whale and Orca are all possible at this time of the year. Even rarer cetaceans such Atlantic White sided Dolphins are possible at this location.

We will also keep an eye open for some of the scarcer orchids.



Minke Whale – Carl Chapman



Frog Orchid – Carl Chapman

Day 5 – Friday

Today we will go on a cruise around some of the smaller less-known islands within the Bay of Ullapool. We will see seabirds and cetaceans throughout our 2 to 3 hours on the water. We will spend the rest of the day driving around the area to other points of interest. We will return for our last evening meal at the hotel.

Day 6 – Saturday

Rising early, we will reluctantly make our way south back to Norfolk stopping at places on route.

What is included?

All meals and lunches from lunch on day 1 to lunch on day 6 are included within the price. The evening meal on day 6 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 we may visit all ferries, tolls 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 some 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. Most walking will be on level or gently undulating ground.

RSPB members are asked to bring along their membership cards.

Group Size.

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How to Book

Please telephone 07833 463 034 or 01263 837 038 at a time convenient to yourself or email carl@wildlifetoursandeducation.co.uk

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