

Scottish Birders Special Tour – Trip Itinerary

2023

Operated by Wildlife Tours & Education

Tour Dates

13th April to 17th April 2023

£990

This is a trip focusing on Scottish speciality birds

Departure is from Norfolk early morning of 13th April and drop off is in Norfolk late evening 17th April. Pick up and drop off 'en-route' can be arranged.

Day 1	Arrive Speyside
Day 2/3	Speyside
Day 4	Coastal Birding
Day 5	Depart Speyside



Ptarmigan by Carl Chapman

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 concentrated tour of the beautiful Speyside area of Scotland with an opportunity to see the bird specialities of the region as well as enjoy stunning scenery.

We shall look for Golden and White-tailed Eagles, Ospreys, Slavonian Grebe, Ptarmigan, Black and Red-throated Divers, Red Kite, Peregrine, Red and Black Grouse, Capercaillie, Snow Bunting and three species of Crossbill.

Day 1 - Thursday

On our way to Scotland, picking up party members en route, we may well have the chance to call in at several locations to see some of our target species. We arrive at our comfortable accommodation in Speyside; situated close to the Spey we will have the birds almost at our doorstep. The rooms are comfortable and our hosts provide some wonderful food.

Day 2 – Friday

We will have an early morning visit for Capercaillie. There may also be the added benefit of Crested Tit in the surrounding woodlands. Later in the day a visit to the higher Mountain Plateau on Cairngorm may well give us the opportunity to see first of all Black Grouse followed by Red Grouse and Snow Bunting and as we press upward the enigmatic Ptarmigan. How close we get will depend on the weather and if the funicular is operating.



Crested Tit by Carl Chapman

Day 3 – Saturday

Early rises are a feature of this break and we will be using our time wisely to seek out Scottish Crossbill, Britain's only endemic species, which in some years are very difficult to find. We will target the raptors which soar along the valley tops; we hope to see Ospreys along with Golden and White tailed Eagle as well as Red Kite.

We may also encounter Ring Ouzel on the higher scree.

Later in the day we will look for Red and Black Throated Divers as well as Slavonian Grebes that inhabit the lochs.

Day 4 – Sunday

We will venture towards the coast. Scotland, at this time of the year, holds a number of late winter visitors such as white winged gulls, King Eider and maybe even a White billed Diver.

Day 5 – Monday

We must take our leave of Speyside but there may well be an opportunity to call in to see any species which we may have missed.

We will also be dropping off en route back to Norfolk.



Golden Eagles by Carl Chapman

What is included?

All meals and lunches from lunch on day 1 to lunch on day 5 are included within the price. The evening meal on day 5 will be at your own cost.

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

Any entrance fees to reserve areas we may visit.

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 £95 is payable although sharing can be arranged on most occasions.



Black throated Diver by Carl Chapman

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. The one exception may be when we ascend towards the Cairngorm Plateau when a reasonable level of fitness is required; although we will be taking our time to explore the area thoroughly so our ascent will not be rapid. For those who feel the walk may be too much or in the event of bad weather ascent by funicular railway may be possible although in recent years essential repairs have not been undertaken and the funicular's future is uncertain.

RSPB members are asked to bring along their membership cards.

Group Size.

4+

How to Book

Please telephone 07833 463 034 or 01263 837038 at a time convenient to yourself or email carl@wildlifetoursandeducation.co.uk

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