



Corncrake – Carl Chapman

Tour Dates 5<sup>th</sup> to 11<sup>th</sup> May 2023

£1940

This is a trip taking in not only the Island of Mull but also the splendid Yorkshire Dales and the magnificent coastal regions of Lancashire.

Departure is from Norfolk early morning of Friday 5<sup>th</sup> May and drop off is in Norfolk late evening Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> May. Pick up and drop off 'en route' can be arranged.

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Day 1	Yorkshire Dales
Day 2	Yorkshire Dales to Oban
Day 3/5	Isle of Mull
Day 6	Mull to Lancashire
Day 7	Lancashire 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 not only the beautiful Island of Mull off the Scottish Mainland but we will break up our journey to and from Scotland with visits to key areas for birds in Lancashire and the Yorkshire Dales. There will be a trip on a boat for our rarer seabirds as well as several ferry crossings.

We shall look for Golden and White-tailed Eagles, Black and Red-throated Divers, Corncrake, Wood Warblers, Pied Flycatcher and Redstarts and many more species of bird. As always with our birding tours it is never just about birds and there will be ample time to look at other wildlife including orchids, cetaceans and other mammals, Basking Sharks and butterflies.

#### Day 1 - Friday

An early start from Norfolk will enable us to have an afternoons birding in the Yorkshire Dales. We will walk a wonderful and easy walk in the upper reaches of a sessile Oak Wood that grows alongside a golden peaty river flowing off the moors above. Woodland summer visitors such as Redstart, Pied Flycatchers and Wood Warblers will be take our attention as will the Dippers and resident colony of Mandarin Ducks. We will stay in local comfortable accommodation overnight.



Pied Flycatcher – Carl Chapman

#### Day 2 – Saturday

Leaving the Dales we will make our way to Oban in Scotland passing through some of the most dramatic scenery in the world. There may be time to explore the local coastline and Seil Island before spending the night in some wonderful accommodation. Weather permitting this area of coast has some of the most stunning sunsets in the world.

#### Day 3 – Sunday

We have a last chance to explore the coastline around Oban where we may encounter a small colony of Black Guillemot which may be viewed at close range. After which we will catch the ferry to the island of Mull. The ferry crossing is an opportunity to Seawatch for good seabirds as well as cetaceans and both are not uncommonly seen. On arrival on Mull we will visit a locally good area for raptors before retiring to our hotel for a hearty meal and a good night's sleep.

#### Day 4/Day 5 – Monday/Tuesday

Early rises are a feature of this break and we will be using our time wisely to seek out Corncrakes and Eagles as well as some of the rarer seabirds.

On one day we will go on a boat trip out to sea. Anything is possible among the Manx Shearwaters, Skuas, Basking Sharks, Storm Petrels as well as Common Dolphins, Minke Whales and Harbour Porpoise and the ever present plunging Gannets.

We will also drive the length of Mull seeking out some hidden areas for Golden and White tailed Eagles as well as Wheatears and Whinchats. A ferry crossing to the religious centre of Iona is also on our agenda. Here the small rough fields and Iris beds are home to our most elusive summer visitor; the Corncrake. Hearing this bird will be relatively easy compared to seeing it but with a little luck we will get a glimpse of this iconic Hebridian species.

#### Day 6 – Wednesday

We must leave Mull and will catch the ferry from Craignure and travel down through the Highlands and make our way south from Glasgow. We will stop for the night in a comfortable hotel in Lancashire and then head south but not before visiting some of the best coastal bird watching areas in northern England.

#### Day 7 – Thursday

After an early rise we will visit the RSPB reserve at Leighton Moss in search of Marsh Birds such as Bittern, Bearded Tit and Marsh Harrier. There may be a little time to do more bird watching en route to Norfolk dropping guests off as we go.

#### What is included?

All meals and lunches from lunch on day 1 to lunch on day 7 are included within the price. The evening meal on day 7 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 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.

Entrance to the Abbey on Iona that you may wish to visit.

#### 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](mailto:carl@wildlifetoursandeducation.co.uk)

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White tailed Sea Eagle – Carl Chapman