

Scottish Birders Week – Trip Itinerary

2025

Operated by Wildlife Tours & Education

Tour Dates

10th April to 16th April 2025

£1859

This is a trip focusing on the Scottish Highlands and all the Scottish speciality birds it contains.

Departure is from Norfolk early morning of 10th April and drop off is in Norfolk late evening 16th 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	Speyside
Day 6	Cairngorm
Day 7	Depart Speyside



Crested Tit 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 relaxed tour of the beautiful Speyside area of Scotland and beyond with an opportunity to see the bird specialities of the region as well as enjoy stunning scenery. It is a longer tour than we normally have to visit the region and includes some wonderful bird watching.

We shall look for Golden and White-tailed Eagles, Goshawk, Ospreys, Slavonian Grebe, Ptarmigan, Black and Red-throated Divers, Red Kite, Peregrine, Red and Black Grouse, Snow Bunting and three species of Crossbill. There will also be a wealth of other species to be seen.

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 dining.

Day 2 – Friday

We will have an early morning visit for local birds. There may also be the added benefit of Crested Tit in the surrounding woodlands and Black Grouse on local Moorland.



Black Grouse by Carl Chapman

We will hope to venture into some of the higher valleys for raptors. Golden Eagle, White tailed Eagle, Ospreys and Goshawk are all on the agenda, as are the iconic Mountain Hares.



Golden Eagle by Carl Chapman

Day 3 – Saturday

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.

Venturing South we will ascend the heights afforded by the road to Glenshee. Exploring both the areas around Bridge of Brown and other local areas once we descend back to the edge of the plateau.

Day 4 – Sunday

We will venture towards the coast. Scotland, at this time of the year, holds a number of late winter visitors. We hope to encounter white winged gulls or maybe a King Eider. Over recent years the coast has played host to several other regular visitors at this time of the year such as Ross's Gull and White billed Diver.

Day 5 – Monday

Exploring the local areas around Grantown can be fruitful with forest birding yielding many species including Redpolls and Siskin; while riparian species such as Dipper, Red breasted Merganser and Goosander are also on our agenda. If it is possible an evening visit to a hide will be arranged where

the possibility of seeing Pine Marten and Badgers is on the cards. In recent times Wild Cats have been reintroduced into Speyside and they have also been seen locally.

Day 6 – Tuesday

The hotel where we stay has a bespoke hide that we will be making use of to view Slavonian Grebes. However, on our penultimate day we will be exploring the heights of Cairngorm as well as the pine forests and Lochs that surround the area. We may also be able to ascend the mountain in the funicular railway if our earlier trip south to Glenshee for Ptarmigan was not successful.

Day 7 – Wednesday

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.



Slavonian Grebe by Carl Chapman

What is included?

All meals including 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 cost.

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

Any entrance fees to reserve areas we may visit, ferries and funicular charges.

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.

RSPB members are asked to bring along their membership cards.

Group Size.

3+

How to Book

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

Carl Chapman
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