



The Cairngorms Winter Wildlife Expedition 2025 with Iolo Williams

Sunday 9th - Thursday 13th February 2025

- Led by Iolo Williams
- A small group of 6 / 7 guests and 2 or 3 guides
- All inclusive package holiday - food, accommodation and wildlife tours.
- 4 nights staying at the famous Grant Arms Wildlife Hotel with all meals included.
- 5 wildlife tours in and around the Cairngorms National Park.
- Evening wildlife talks at the hotel.
- An evening out at a Badger / Pine Marten wildlife hide
- Target raptor species include - Ptarmigan, Snow Bunting, Golden Eagle, White-tailed Eagle, Mountain Hare, Red Squirrel, Crested Tit, Pine Marten, Red Kite and much more.

DAY One - Welcome and afternoon tour

We will meet at the Grant Arms Hotel at **2pm**.

**No packed lunch included on day one, have a bite to eat before meeting.*

We will explore local areas, checking habitats for **Red Squirrels**, **Crossbills** and **Crested Tits** before venturing out onto nearby moorland in search of **Red and Black Grouse**.

After our first evening meal at the hotel we will attend an evening wildlife talk at the Osprey Suite.

DAY TWO - The Realm of the Eagle

On our first full day we will venture down some wild highland glens to search for emblematic **Golden and White-tailed Eagles**. February can be a busy time for these birds preparing for breeding attempts with increased nest building and re-establishing pair bonds with courtship displays.

Another target species will be the **Mountain Hare** and we will undertake a walk (3km on estate track) up the glen in search of these charismatic sub-Arctic specialists which could be in their beautiful white winter pelage at this time of the year.

Other target species in these upland habitats include **Red Squirrels**, **Dippers**, **Red Grouse**, **Red Kites**, **Goshawk** and much more.

DAY THREE - The Cairngorm Mountains

The mountains are calling as we will drive up to the Cairngorm car park, which provides spectacular views of the surrounding national park. Target species around this area includes **Snow Buntings**, **Ptarmigan**, **Mountain Hares**, **Red Grouse** and potential **Golden Eagle**.

In the afternoon we will explore (walk of up to 5km) a couple of sites for **Mountain Hares** and **Ptarmigan** before arriving back to the Grant Arms Hotel at around 4pm to rest for a couple of hours before our evening meal.

DAY FOUR - Winter Wildfowl

A day exploring coastal habitats with target species including **Long-tailed Duck, Pink-footed Geese, Common Scoters, Common Eider, Grey Seals** and even a chance of King Eider and White-billed Diver.

In the afternoon we will visit a local RSPB reserve to check for **Crossbills, Red Squirrels** and any other wildfowl.

DAY FIVE - Caledonian Pine Forests

On the final day we will explore the spectacular Caledonian pine forests (a flat woodland walk of 2-3km) to search for wild inhabitants including **Crested Tit** and **Red Squirrel**. We will undertake a leisurely walk to connect with one of the most iconic habitats in Scotland and admire the wonderful ecology all around us!

The experience will finish at **2pm** (packed lunch included) but we have flexibility depending on peoples travel arrangements.

£1795 PP

- * There is no extra single supplement cost
- * Walks of 2-5km will be undertaken
- * Due to weather and recent wildlife sightings, the itinerary is subject to change
- * On booking please advise of any special requirements medical or dietary

WHAT TO BRING?

- Very warm clothes and waterproofs
- Outdoor footwear (outdoor trainers / walking boots)
- A reusable bottle (we will not be providing any bottled water, to try and reduce single use plastic)
- Binoculars (we have plenty of spare pairs if you do not have)

WHAT IS NOT INCLUDED?

- Travel insurance for the duration of its holiday in respect of cancellation and curtailment, injury, death, lost baggage and money, liability, medical expenses and repatriation.
- Drinks with evening meals at the hotel.