



The Uists Wildlife Expedition - Outer Isles Birding

August Mon 24th - Fri 28th 2026

OVERVIEW

- Led by Theo De Clermont and another Nature Scotland guide
- A small group experience of 6-7 guests plus 2 guides
- 4 full days and a half day 'sea watch' on the ferry crossing to finish on day 5
- All inclusive, wildlife tours, hotel accommodation and meals
- Starting in Mallaig, we will all travel together in our 9 seat people carrier

An early autumn adventure to explore the Islands of the Uists - North and South Uist and Benbecula via the 100+ miles of west coast road from white sand beaches, to dunes and Machair, to freshwater lochs, grassland and moorland and the impressive peaks of South Uist, its an island group with so much to offer.

Out on the Uists there is a huge variety of wildlife passing through the islands as migrants and residents, with far more to see than our "spotlight" species that our Nature Scotland Mull tours specialise on. With this in mind, this tour is going to be

more of a Birding tour, where we are aiming to see these migrants and other scarcities, but we'll be confident to bump into our fan favourites too.

Day 1:

Meet **08:30** in the morning at the Mallaig ferry terminal, we will be in the ferry queue with the van, looking out for guests and ready to help you with luggage.

- * *Due to the early start, it is highly advised to stay local in or near Mallaig the night before*
- * **FREE PARKING** - East Bay Car Park, Mallaig: Continue past the main ferry area towards the far end of the village (east) for potential free parking, often allowing several days (around 5-7). Check Google for the latest info. 10 minute walk back to the ferry terminal...

East Bay Car Park - <https://maps.app.goo.gl/CvP9ymnBZR45dcMM7>

We will get aboard the Calmac ferry, departing 09:45 from Mallaig. Passing the Small Isles in hopefully calm water we'll be looking for any marine mammals, including **Harbour Porpoise, Common Dolphin** and **Minke Whale** as well as any feeding seabirds. Further out into the Minch **Storm Petrel, Fulmar, Manx Shearwater** are on the cards and maybe a **Sooty Shearwater**.

Arriving at Lochboisdale we'll head straight over to Eriskay, great wildflowers and grassland habitats and a look out for the famous Eriskay Ponies of course.

Working our way up South Uists we'll stop in at the historical Round Houses, an insight into how life would've been on the Outer Isles.

Next onto Rubha Ardvule, a coastal point with surrounding freshwater lochs and grasslands, a good area to find our first wildfowl and waders. Continuing up South Uist, we'll keep eye out for our first **Short-eared Owls** and **Hen Harriers** of the trip on our way up to the Dark island Hotel, Benbecula where we'll be based for the duration of the trip.

Day 2:

A day around North Uist. Starting off at Langass wood, if the winds are in our favour this can be a good area for migrants, with the minimal tree cover for birds on the islands, these areas are very important. Onto the west side grassland and coastlines looking for any waders including **Lapwing, Golden Plover, Curlew, Oystercatchers** and **Black-tailed Godwits**. A chance of **Whooper Swans** which breed here in small numbers, maybe still with large cygnets.

Next onto Loch Paible for small waders like **Knot, Dunlin** and **Ringed Plover** and a chance of scarcities like **Little Stint** and **Curlew Sandpiper**. This spot has a rich history of transatlantic scarce waders we'll be hoping to find.

A coastal walk at RSPB Balranald, marvelling at the Machir, especially dominated by the vivid purple **Knapweed**, whilst keeping an eye and ear out for **Corn Bunting** and **Twite** as well as hunting Harriers and Owls.

The island of Bernerary will be our next stop, checking a few coastal bays along the way. On arrival a wander along the vast sands of West Beach along with coastal grasslands and machir and Loch Bhrusda for any wildfowl and waders.

Into the afternoon we'll be heading south via the famous Committee road, the first area of moorland we'll cover and a great area for Raptors, **White-tailed and Golden Eagles** along with **Kestrels, Buzzards, Short-eared Owls** and **Hen Harriers** and the occasional **Merlin** seen here.

Day 3:

We'll start in our more local areas of Benbecula. Starting with looking for wildfowl on a couple of Freshwaters lochs, like **Tufted Duck, Wigeon, Teal, Shoveler** and **Gadwall** and Geese. White-tailed Eagle and **Peregrine Falcon** patrol these areas looking for a meal. Next we'll head on to one of the island's hotspots at the aptly named Stinky bay! With lots of rotting seaweed it's a waders paradise, **Sanderling, Turnstone, Redshank, Bar-tailed Godwits** and often large numbers of small waders feed here. Searching the flocks we'll look for any hidden scarcities amongst the common waders and any **Eiders** and **Red-breasted Mergansers** offshore.

A couple of other coastal bays to check, before we'll move onto the islands east side around the moorland and rocky coastlines. We hope to see more Raptors out here as well as **Red Deer**. In the coastal bays **Seals** and a chance of elusive **Otters**, this being a birding trip, they aren't a species we're going to be focusing on too much.

Day 4:

A day for South Uist. Starting at the north of South Uist we'll see the vast numbers of **Mute Swans** at Loch Bi before heading round the loch and out onto the The Range, The pools here often hold **Black-tailed Godwits** and **Ruff** and on the flat grassland, a great area for **Lapwing** and **Golden Plover** flocks, these are great carrier species for transatlantic waders like **American Golden Plover** and **Buff-breasted Sandpiper**.

Heading further down South Uist and onto the east side, we'll have a short walk looking at the mountains for Eagles and Loch below for **Divers** and **Black Guillemots** with heather in bloom around us. Back to the west coast grassland and freshwater bodies for more wildfowl, waders and raptors.

Day 5:

Straight down to Lochboisdale for the morning ferry back to Mallaig, searching for cetaceans and seabirds enroute to finish the trip in style.

We say our goodbyes at **13:10** back in Mallaig.

£1595 per person

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.

* There is £100 extra cost for single occupancy.

* Ferry costs included in the price

* On booking please advise of any special requirements medical or dietary.

* Easy going walks of 1-5km will be undertaken.