



THE ISLE OF MULL SPRING WILDLIFE EXPEDITION - SEARCHING FOR SKYDANCERS

Sunday 24th - Thursday 28th March 2024

DAY ONE – Welcome & Afternoon Excursion

We will meet at Oakfield House at **2pm** (no packed lunch included on this day)

We'll head straight out to the island's west coast to a couple of **White-tailed Eagle** territories and a **Golden Eagle** territory whilst keeping an eye out on the coastlines in case any **Otters** or **Seals** do decide to make an appearance. Checking for any Gulls and Waders on the shorelines and sea ducks, Grebes and Divers on the open water. Ending the day hopefully with a famous Hebridean sunset and the **Great-Northern Diver** roost which can number up to and over 100 birds in some years!

DAY TWO – Going for Gold!

Heading straight for the magnificent Glen More in search of all raptors big and small. As we enter the 'Realm of the Eagle' we'll head to a few viewpoints looking for glacial evidence that sculpted this huge valley, that our **Golden Eagles** in particular on Mull call home. **Kestrels** and the occasional **Merlin** do venture into these areas in early spring.

Afterwards we may drive along one of our larger sea lochs looking for any wildfowl and waders before heading back through the moorland stretches to see if any **Hen Harriers** are returning to roost or Owls coming out to hunt.

DAY THREE – Searching for Skydancers

We will spend day three in the south-east of Mull. Starting the day looking for **Hen Harriers** in the moorland, looking out for them rising out of the grassland cover and taking to skies undulating in the air to impress their mates, in the display that is known as skydancing. Keeping our eye out for **Short-eared Owls**, **Curlews** and any passing migratory birds

overhead.

Continuing on we'll have an afternoon looking for **Otters** and wildfowl around one of the sea lochs, not a species in particular on our hit list for the trip as they can be very elusive in spring, spending a lot of time up in the hills, bizarrely hunting frogs!

DAY FOUR – The Reign of the Reptiles

After breakfast, head to the north of the island. If it's bright and dry, reptiles may want to appear in particular **Adders** and **Slow Worms**.

Venturing further up and onto the sparse and open moorland to look for **Hen Harriers**, **Red Deer** and over **Golden Eagle** Territory. Concentrating on these areas for a good percentage of the day with fabulous views over the sea and islands to our west, before heading to the coast for a seawatch and sunset. A slow drive back we'll be looking for Owls and any **Irish Hares** in the fields.

DAY FIVE - Final Day

We will spend the morning revealing some of the uncovered sites on the island and also targeting any species which have so far eluded us during the week.

A walk into some woodland for any early spring songsters whilst keeping our eyes to the hills for any White-tailed and Golden Eagles will certainly be on the agenda.

After lunch together we will say our goodbyes at **2pm**

£1295 per person

- Single supplement is £150
- All rooms are ensuite
- The itinerary is subject to change due to weather and local wildlife sightings
- On booking please advise of any special requirements medical or dietary
- Leisurely walks of 1-5km will be undertaken

WHAT TO BRING?

- 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)
- Camera (although not a photo experience, we will try and accommodate any photography interests during the experience)

WHAT IS NOT INCLUDED?

- Travel insurance for the duration of the holiday in respect of cancellation and curtailment, injury, death, lost baggage and money, liability, medical expenses and repatriation.
- Ferry tickets to the island

Notes on the accommodation (Oakfield House)...

What3Words - <https://what3words.com/tens.nightlife.removes>

Google Maps - <https://maps.app.goo.gl/1Kvfd7LHWzkGUo3U6>

- You will be okay to arrive and get settled in from 10am on the first day of the package.
- There are towels provided and hairdryers available.
- If you are keen to stay an extra day(s) before and/or after the tour, we will be able to offer you your room (no meals) at the house for an extra fee, get in touch to arrange this.