

## Wildlife of West Scotland

*5-day privately-guided tour exploring the coastal and highland regions of west Scotland*



*Explore the beautiful western coast of Scotland and discover the abundant wildlife that calls the region home on our 5-day Wildlife of West Scotland itinerary. Come face to face with seals and possibly even sea otters while kayaking in the waters of Loch nan Ceall; visit a successful beaver reintroduction project in Argyll; discover the island home of sea eagles and osprey; and enjoy looking for a multitude of inland bird species as you wander between ancient standing stones at Kilmartin Glen. Throughout your 5-day journey in western Scotland, you'll be accompanied by an expert guide who will ensure that you make the very most of your wildlife encounters.*

### **Day 1 – Arrive Fort William (-)**

Make your own way to Fort William in the Scottish Highlands for one night at the Moorings, a cosy 30-room hotel positioned on the edge of the Caledonian Canal.

### **Day 2 – Sea kayaking with seals (B, L)**

Meet your guide this morning and head west along the beautiful 'Road to the Isles' (otherwise known as the A830!), at the end of which awaits the clear waters and silver beaches of Arisaig, Lochaber.

In the village of Arisaig, you'll meet with your local kayaking guide and set out in sea kayaks to explore the rocky skerries that the local seal colony calls home. The waters of Loch nan Ceall are calm and sheltered, meaning



that no previous experience of sea kayaking is necessary, allowing you the special experience of closely observing the marine life in its natural habitat.



Seals are commonly seen in the waters and on the rocky islands of Loch nan Ceall; more elusive is the sea otter, though with luck you might manage to spy one of these aquatic hunters as you explore the waters around Arisaig! Other rarities include the white-tailed sea eagle, sometimes seen in the skies above Loch nan Ceall.

At the end of the day you'll be returned to Fort William, with the evening at leisure.



### **Day 3 – The Isle of Kerrera (B, L)**

Depart Fort William this morning and journey down the coast to the bustling fishing port of Oban, from where you take a short ferry ride to reach the Isle of Kerrera. This wonderfully quiet island is a haven for all kinds of wildlife, including sea eagles, otters, wild goats and sika deer. Enjoy a relaxed hike with scenic views out over the other islands, and hear the stories of the atmospheric ruin of Gylen Castle from your knowledgeable guide.

Returning to Oban on the late afternoon ferry, you'll check in at your waterfront hotel, the Perle, with the rest of the evening at leisure.

*Walk details: Approx 4.5 Hours, 11km/ 6.75 miles, 275m/ 902ft of ascent*

### **Day 4 – Moine Mhòr & wild Scottish beavers (B, L)**

The Moine Mhòr National Nature Reserve is home to hundreds of species of bird, including osprey, hen harrier, snipe and curlew. The reserve is also next to the remarkable site of Kilmartin Glen, an archaeological landscape featuring standing stones and burial cairns. You'll learn more about both the region's wildlife and history as you explore the area with your guide, even visiting the hilltop where ancient kings of Scotland were once crowned.



Later, visit a fascinating project which has successfully reintroduced wild beavers to the Scottish landscape. Take a walk with one of the dedicated environmental officers and learn how and why these charismatic animals were settled here.

After a day spent exploring Moine Mhòr and Knapdale Forest, you'll be returned to the Perle Hotel in Oban.

*Walk details: Approx 4 Hours hiking, Up to 8km/ 5 miles, 50m/ 160 ft of ascent*

**Day 5 - Short hike, return to Fort William & depart (B, L)**

There are various options for one last hike this morning, depending on your preferences. Enjoy a coastal walk with wonderful island views amid the noise of seagulls chattering as they swoop over the beaches; or a quiet woodland wander with chances to see rare butterflies and wildflowers. After the morning's walk, your guide will then transfer you back to Fort William (or to Inverness if preferred), for your onward travel.

*Walk details: Variable. Up to 2.5 hours, 7.75km/ 4.75 miles, 168m/ 551ft of ascent*



## Price Guide:

The cost of this itinerary is from **£1,872 per person**, based on four travellers in twin/double accommodation and travel between May and October. For winter departures, or for alternative group sizes, please [contact us](#).

### Includes:

- 2 nights' accommodation (twin/double rooms) at the Moorings or similar 4 star property in Fort William on B&B basis
- 2 nights' accommodation (twin/double rooms) at the Perle Hotel or similar 4-star property in Oban on B&B basis
- An experienced walking guide accompanying you from days 2-5
- All transfers in a private vehicle driven by your guide from day 2 to day 5
- Lunches are included on days 2-5
- All guided hikes, entrance fees and activities, specifically:
  - Day 2 - Private Sea Kayaking Session - full day
  - Day 3 - Ferry to Kerrera, guided hike
  - Day 4 - Guided hike. Private talk & hike with ranger.

### Excludes:

- Transfers to/from Fort William
- Dinner is to your own account
- Travel insurance
- Personal expenses and tips