



# NURTURE YOUR CURIOSITY ABOUT WILDLIFE

## How to experience wildlife responsibly in Scotland

Scotland is home to a wealth of wildlife from delicate land-based creatures, to large impressive sea mammals which can leave us with a feeling of wonderment at how special Scotland is throughout all seasons.

Getting closer to nature and capturing species in their natural habitat is an ambition for many of us. With Wild Scotland you can learn how to do this with a skilled guide so you can experience wildlife watching safely, sustainably and responsibly whilst creating memories which will stay with you.

# NURTURE

YOUR NEED FOR FREEDOM & ADVENTURE

## INSPIRATIONAL ACTIVITIES



### BOOK A HOLIDAY WITH A FOCUS ON WILDLIFE WATCHING

Combine a holiday in Scotland with your love of wildlife with fun and dedicated time to seek out amazing wildlife on land, at sea or in the sky at a pace you'll enjoy to really savour it.



### EXPERIENCE WILDLIFE ON A BOAT TRIP OR TOUR

Scotland's waters are rich with wildlife, close to shore, out at sea, and around protected islands. Go meet the stunning creatures from sea birds such as puffins to sea mammals such as minke whales, in their natural home as the seasons change and create moments you'll never forget whilst sharing with friends and family.



### LEARN SKILLS WHICH YOU CAN KEEP FOREVER

Discover the best equipment for wildlife watching, how to photograph wildlife and capture the moment through a lens and how to respect species and safely approach wildlife in Scotland. These are skills that you can use on your own wanders and pass to others too.



### SEEK OUT SAFE WILDLIFE & NATURE SPOTS

Couple your outdoor walking adventures with wildlife watching and guided tours so you can get closer to wildlife as you watch them from dedicated facilities such as hides, reserve park hubs or at interactive exhibits - perfect for all the family.

# HOW TO EXPERIENCE WILDLIFE IN SCOTLAND

Learn the safest and most-beneficial way to experience wildlife with our Wild Scotland Members.

## YOU CAN FIND ALL THESE OPERATORS RIGHT HERE!



[FOR WILDLIFE WATCHING TOURS >](#)



[FOR WILDLIFE WATCHING HOLIDAYS >](#)



[FOR CONSERVATION HOLIDAYS, VOLUNTEERING & FIELD STUDIES >](#)



## BENEFITS TO YOU

- Get to spot an amazing range of wildlife on land including the Big 5; red squirrel, red deer, golden eagle, otter and harbour seal
- See whales, dolphins and porpoises enjoying the fresh Scottish waters throughout different seasons
- Learn about wildlife behaviours, how to respect their environment and where you can easily spot a variety of species as part of your whole experience
- Nurture your curiosity about how wildlife survive as well as play in the great outdoors
- Capture moments on camera, in a safe, sustainable and responsible way, which you can keep forever
- Document your wildlife spots and contribute to conservation studies



## HOW TO TAKE CARE WHEN WATCHING WILDLIFE

- Maximise your chances of watching wildlife, and ensure it's undertaken safely and responsibly.
- Choose a Wild Scotland operator or guide who is signed up to our code of conduct and will know when, where and how to watch wildlife.
- Always carry a map and a compass and know how to use them, keep next of kin informed and carry a mobile phone with extra batteries, carry shelter, food and extra clothing if forced to stay out longer than intended.
- Never get too close to wildlife. Take a pair of binoculars. You may be able to borrow a pair from your accommodation or activity provider.
- When in or on the water, take extra care not to disturb wildlife on river banks and loch shores.
- Dogs and wildlife watching rarely mix, so keep your dog under control, or leave him with a dog-sitter.
- Keep a good distance and never approach nesting birds; whilst remembering birds also nest on the ground and can be difficult to see.
- Never call out to wildlife to get their attention.
- Never approach a mother and/ or it's young.
- Leave no trace. Don't clear away live foliage, stones or fallen branches so you can watch wildlife.
- If you find a dead animal of any species, please don't pick it up. Carcasses may present health risks and are best left alone. Instead, note where you saw the dead animal and contact your local NatureScot area office for advice.
- The only exception is if you find a dead bird with a ring on its leg. If you can remove this and return it to the address on the ring, so that we can build up our knowledge of the species. You should wear disposable gloves to remove the ring.
- When wildlife watching, wearing strong smelling scent is a bad idea. Many animals and birds depend on a keen sense of smell and the 'alien' scent of Chanel may send them quickly off in the opposite direction!