



# The Cairngorms Winter Wildlife Expedition 2025

**Monday 3rd - Friday 7th February 2025**

- Led by Ewan Miles and co-led by John Miles
- 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 - Travel day & Welcome**

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

*\* No packed lunches included on day one (have a bite to eat before meeting)*

We will explore local areas, checking habitats for **Red Squirrels** 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 King Eider and White-billed Diver**. Wader species include **Oystercatchers, Curlew, Turnstones, Dunlin, Golden Plovers, Grey Plovers** and much more.

**Red Kites** have been re-introduced into the surrounding area so we will keep an eye out for this raptor species which is beginning to recolonise its former areas in the UK.

## **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, Red Squirrel and even the illusive Capercaillie**. 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** but we have flexibility depending on peoples travel arrangements.

## **£1395 PP**

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

### **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.