

INNER HEBRIDES



"If you love the idea of spending a week filling your lungs with fresh, clean, sea air; getting away from it all and seeing some of Scotland's most iconic wildlife, then this is the holiday for you!"
Sally Nowell

Dates Wed 17 - Thu 25 Aug 2022

Price £2,950

Deposit £500 Single Supp £450

Leaders Sally Nowell and Kate Mennie

Weather We can experience all the seasons during this trip and at times it can be windy and cold especially at sea, so please be prepared for all conditions and weather, with potential temperatures between (5°-25°C)

Walking Coastal walks on uneven terrain of up to three miles - walking boots recommended, but trainers or even sandals suitable on some occasions. Collapsible/telescopic walking poles could be useful for this trip

Boat Trips Be prepared for all weathers on our boat trips. Waterproof clothes including gloves are recommended. As a precaution, you may wish to bring seasickness medication with you. Toilet onboard

Meals All included from dinner on Day 1 to breakfast on Day 9

Insects Biting insects can be a problem at this time of year in certain conditions, so come prepared with insect repellent

Accom Double, twin and single rooms all ensuite. Private or shared bathroom in some rooms on Coll

Group 10

Just some of what we hope to see:

Manx Shearwater	Hen Harrier
Storm Petrel	Arctic Skua
Gannet	Great Skua
Black Gulliemot	Basking Shark
Black-throated Diver	Bottlenose Dolphin
Red-throated Diver	Common Porpoise
White-tailed Eagle	Grey Seal
Golden Eagle	Common Seal
Corncrake	Otter
Short-eared Owl	Red Deer

This trip will take us to the outer edges of Scotland on a pelagic adventure looking for Basking Shark, Minke Whale, Common Porpoise, Manx Shearwater and White-tailed Eagle.

- Basking Shark and Britain's cetaceans are our target species
- Venture into some of the more remote parts of the UK by land and sea
- Spend plenty of time at sea looking for shearwaters, petrels and other seabirds
- Visit the beautiful Ardnamurchan Peninsula
- Travel to the islands of Rum, Eigg, Skye, Coll and Tiree
- Comfortable hotels throughout
- Convenient start time and location in Inverness

1 Our adventure begins with a meal together in Inverness and a run through the trip itinerary.

2 Today we take a relaxing drive alongside Loch Ness down towards Fort William on the west coast. We shall be stopping enroute to do some roadside birding, then from Fort William we shall drive towards the delightful fishing village of Mallaig. We arrive in Mallaig in plenty of time for you to wander round the village, walk to the harbour and settle into our hotel.

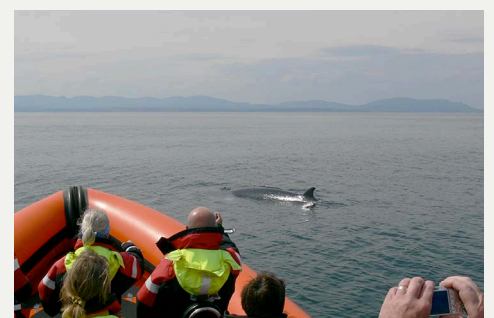
3 We shall start the day with a short drive to Arisaig, where we board our chartered boat and travel across the Sound of Sleat towards the community-owned island of Eigg and then on to the Island of Rum, the first place in the UK where White-tailed Eagles were released. As we sail, we shall be scanning the sea for fins of cetaceans, in particular Minke Whale and keeping an eye on the

skies for the massive wingspan of a White-tailed Eagle, as they soar over the peaks of Rum.

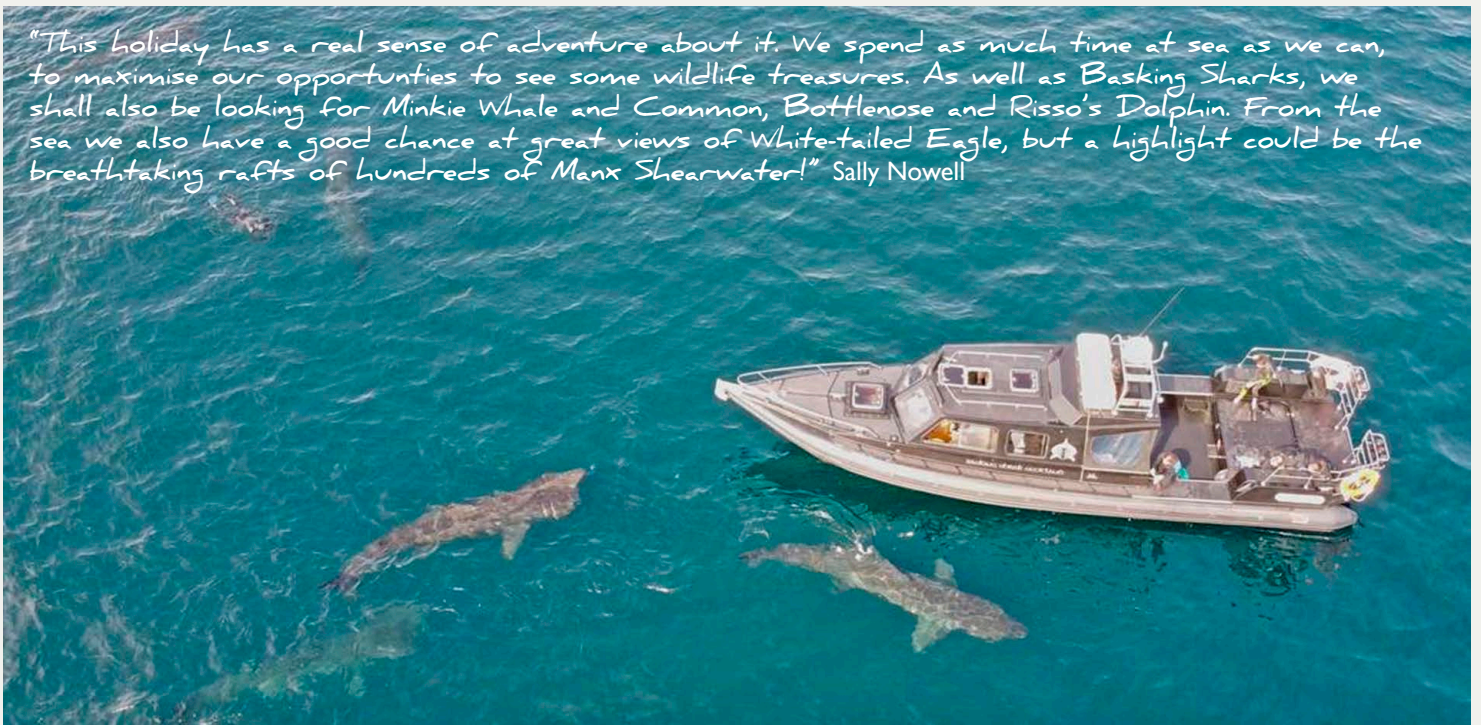
Our views of the islands we pass are often spectacular and a real favourite with photographers. After our day at sea, we shall be pleasantly relaxed and ready to head back to our hotel in Mallaig for dinner and a good night's sleep.

4 After a more leisurely start and breakfast, we shall begin a day's drive towards and across the Ardnamurchan peninsula.

We shall stop at the stunning Sanna Bay, visit RSPB Glenborrodale and also the Ardnamurchan Natural History Centre. As we drive, we shall be looking for Golden Eagle above and Otters along the shore and out to sea we might be lucky and catch a glimpse of a cetacean; Ardnamurchan can be a great place to spot Orca!!



"This holiday has a real sense of adventure about it. We spend as much time at sea as we can, to maximise our opportunities to see some wildlife treasures. As well as Basking Sharks, we shall also be looking for Minkie Whale and Common, Bottlenose and Risso's Dolphin. From the sea we also have a good chance at great views of White-tailed Eagle, but a highlight could be the breathtaking rafts of hundreds of Manx Shearwater!" Sally Nowell



After leaving Ardnamurchan we shall weave our way down to Oban, all the time scanning the shorelines and enjoying the stunning views this drive has to offer. We shall overnight in Oban.

5-7 An early ferry today takes us across to the Island of Coll. Coll and Tiree are the sunniest places in the UK, and are also some of the most remote. They are surrounded by stunning white sand beaches and are known for their peace and tranquillity. Not that easy to get to, we shall certainly feel 'away from it all' here! The air could not be clearer and the skies not much darker.

After transferring to our hotel and a briefing regarding our time onboard, we shall have our first boat trip in search of the awesome Basking Shark.

Depending on weather conditions, we shall head north to the offshore whale and dolphin grounds. We shall visit Common Seal colonies and look for a variety of bird species including rafts of Manx Shearwater, Storm Petrels and Arctic and Great Skuas, plus the huge colonies of Shags along the coast which are quite spectacular.

We shall head south looking for Basking Sharks and Grey Seals and have a number of other cetaceans on our target list which will include Common, Bottlenose and Risso's Dolphin, Minke Whale, Porpoise and if we are really lucky, we might even see Orca!

We shall hope to get up close to diving Gannets in the tidal races. Tiree and Coll both hold good

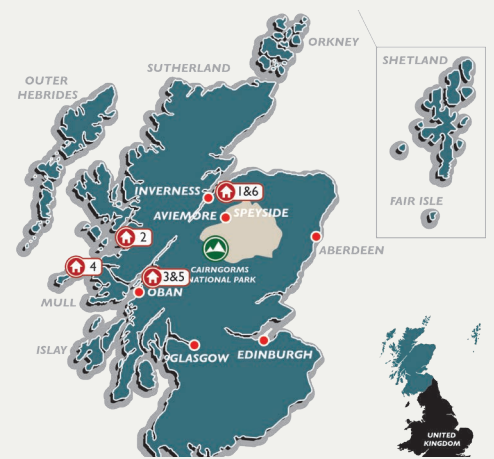
populations of Corncrake and though we shall be visiting late in the season, we shall be aiming to visit both islands on our full day's boat trip, in the hope of catching a glimpse or sound of this bird. There are other birds here too though and we shall definitely be on the trail of the beautiful Hen Harrier.

The wildflowers on both islands are legendary and there should still be evidence of some of the most healthy 'machair' in Scotland. After our days out on the boat, we shall spend some time on Coll to explore this delightful island from the land.

On our last evening on Coll we shall catch the ferry back to Oban, with plenty more chances of cetacean sightings enroute. We shall also be hoping to glimpse White-tailed Eagles and we stand good chances of great views of these from the sea.

8 We shall make our way back to Inverness birding enroute before spending our final night in Inverness.

9 After breakfast we shall say our goodbyes and depart.



Outline Itinerary

- Day 1 Meet at hotel in Inverness
1 night Premier Inn, Inverness
- Day 2 Drive to Mallaig birding enroute
2 nights West Highland Hotel, Mallaig
- Day 3 Drive to Arisaig, boat trip to Rum/Eigg
- Day 4 Travel to Oban via Ardnamurchan and Glenborrodale
1 night Oban Bay Hotel, Oban
- Day 5 Early ferry to Coll, boat trip around the island for rest of the day
2 nights Tigh na Mara Guest House, Coll
- Day 6 Boat trip for the whole day including landing on Tiree
- Day 7 Boat trip for the whole day, evening ferry back to Oban
1 night Oban Bay Hotel, Oban
- Day 8 Drive back to Inverness
1 night Premier Inn, Inverness
- Day 9 Depart Inverness

Basking Shark Scotland: Basking Shark, Basking Sharks
Kate Mennie: Common Seal
Craig Round: Minke Whale
Christine Maughan: Great Skua
Louise Darby: Otter

