

MULL IN AUTUMN



"This is the time to watch raptors, Otter, deer, divers and more on my favourite islands, at a perfect time of year, with autumnal light in wild landscapes."
Kate Mennie

Dates Sat 7 - Sat 14 Oct 2023
Price £2,250
Deposit £400 Single Supp £400

Leaders Kate Mennie and one from our team

Weather The weather can be mixed, so expect sun and showers, with temperatures in the range of 3-18°C.

Walking Coastal walks on uneven terrain of 1-4 miles. Walking boots recommended. Collapsible/telescopic walking poles could be useful for this trip

Meals All included from dinner on Day 1 to breakfast on Day 8

Insects Biting midges should not be a problem

Accom Double, twin and single rooms all ensuite

Group 12

Just some of what we hope to see:

White-tailed Eagle	Greenshank
Golden Eagle	Oystercatcher
Hen Harrier	Great Skua
Peregrine	Storm Petrel
Merlin	Rock Dove
Short-eared Owl	Twite
Black-throated Diver	Shag
Red-throated Diver	Kittiwake
Great Northern Diver	Harbour Porpoise
Slavonian Grebe	Common Dolphin
Whooper Swan	Minke Whale
Common Scoter	Common Seal
Eider Duck	Grey Seal
Razorbill	Otter
Black Guillemot	
Gannet	
Raven	

The combination of wildlife, colour and landscape will surely make Mull one of the best places in Britain to spend autumn; relaxing and watching some of the country's most spectacular wildlife.

- Scotland's wild places look at their most glorious in their cloak of autumn colours
- There will be fantastic opportunities for White-tailed and Golden Eagle
- Good chance of Otters throughout the trip
- Great Northern, Black and Red-throated Divers
- Possibilities of passage migrants and early arrival of winter visitors
- Stay in a comfortable hotel with spectacular views
- Travel up and back through Loch Lomond, Rannoch Moor and Glencoe

1-2 We shall meet up in Glasgow and make our way to our overnight base at Lochawe near Oban. In the morning we'll make our way through some beautiful scenery before catching a ferry from Oban to the Isle of Mull.

We may see Black Guillemots in Oban Harbour and as we journey across the Firth Of Lorne. These are rich waters and there is always a chance of Harbour Porpoise, Common Dolphin or, with luck, something even larger.

We'll be able to birdwatch immediately we arrive, as our hotel is on the shore overlooking the Sound of Mull.

3-6 We shall spend the next four days exploring the beautiful island of Mull enjoying the fresh air, open spaces and wild landscape, but most of all we shall be looking out for Mull's amazing wildlife.



We shall be taking daily drives out to different locations across the island. Our travel will be slow and sedate, given the narrow roads we shall be exploring, whilst looking out for eagles above, Harriers alongside and Otters below on the shorelines.

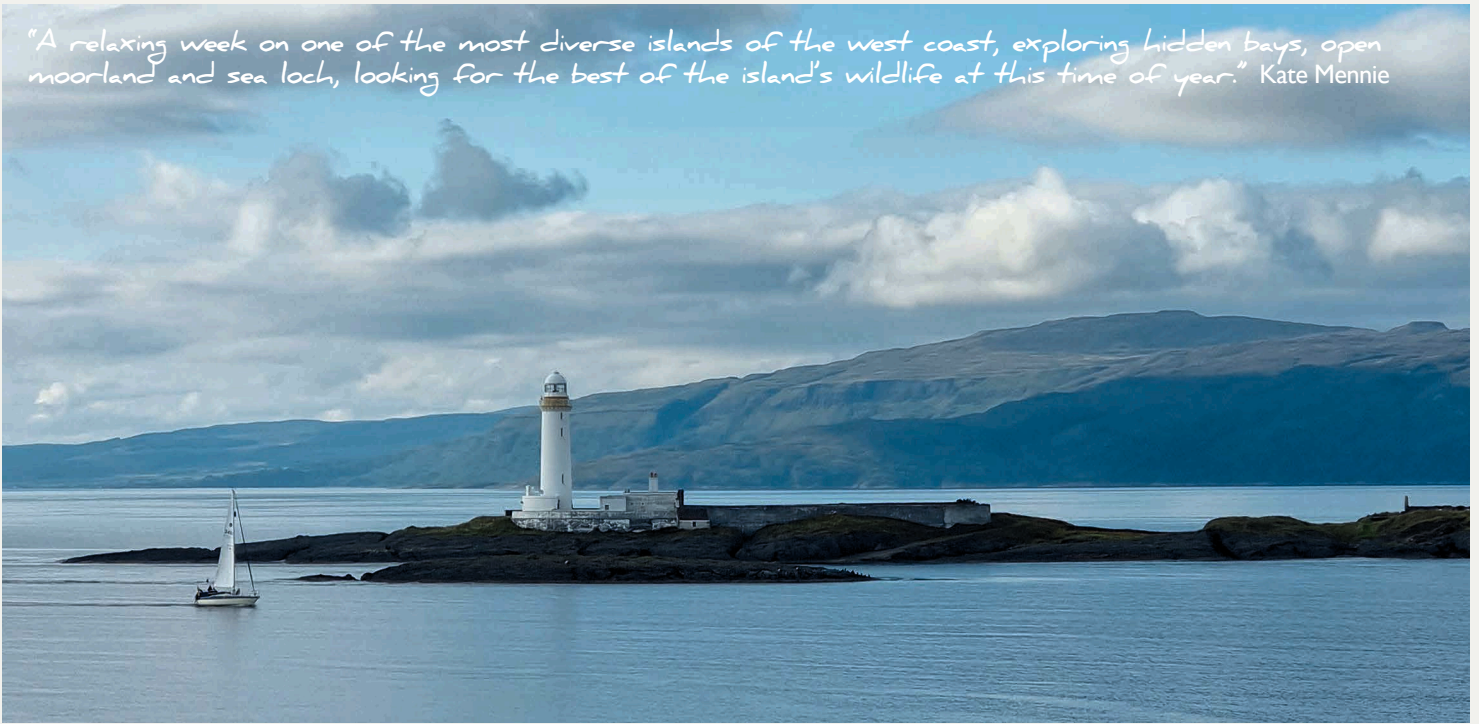
At this time of year we shall be hoping for good views of all three divers and perhaps a few wintering seaduck might be starting to arrive. Early Whooper Swans may also be arriving, as well as Slavonian Grebe, which spend the winter in sheltered bays.

Out to sea we shall be looking for Gannets and other seabirds, including a real favourite, the Black Guillemot.

Mull is now a stronghold for White-tailed Eagle and we hope for regular sightings, as they never ever fail to impress. Their huge wingspan and



"A relaxing week on one of the most diverse islands of the west coast, exploring hidden bays, open moorland and sea loch, looking for the best of the island's wildlife at this time of year." Kate Mennie



tolerance of our presence, often gets us some incredible views of these breathtaking birds.

Mull's Golden Eagle population is also excellent so, although they tend to be a little more elusive, we shall be hoping for good views of adults and juveniles at this time of year. It is not unusual to see both species of eagle soaring together over the mountains.

Mull is famous for its eagles, but there are other spectacular raptors to be had too. The bird we all want to see is a male Hen Harrier and seeing one of these beautiful pearl-grey birds in the late autumn light is a sight never to be forgotten.

The rapid flight of the Merlin and the slow stealthy Short-eared Owl are what we shall be looking for over the moors, hillsides and marshes. Young birds of both species should be around if we are lucky.

As we travel from one corner of the island to another, we shall be driving through steep-sided mountain valleys, across open bog land and best of all, along the rocky shoreline that surrounds Mull. At this time of year we shall be looking for waders such as Redshank, Greenshank and Bar-tailed Godwit.

We shall also be hoping to see Common and Grey Seals hauled out on the offshore rocky islets and skerries. Of course, the jewel in the crown of these coastal areas is the European Otter. It will be all eyes open as we drive slowly along the coast hoping for a glimpse of one swimming, but best of all one resting up on a rock eating a crab or sunfish.



These Otter views are undoubtedly the holiday highlight for any trip to Mull, so we shall be working hard to find that special view for us all to enjoy.

On our travels we shall visit the pretty town of Tobermory in the north east of the island; the Mull Cheese Factory for a guided tour and a special tasting of their delicious cheese and also the White-tail Gin Distillery towards the south west of the island, for a special tasting of their glorious Gin.

7-8 On the penultimate day, we'll catch a morning ferry to Lochaline and take a fabulous drive inland and ultimately through the majestic strath of Glencoe and over Rannoch Moor, before arriving at our hotel overlooking the Clyde Estuary, for our last night.

In the morning we'll return you to Glasgow where we bid our farewells.



Outline Itinerary

- Days 1-2 Meet in Glasgow and make our way to our base for one night at Lochawe. Travel to Oban to catch the ferry to Mull 1 night at the Ben Cruachan Hotel
- Days 3-6 Birdwatching and wildlife exploration of Mull, including a visit to the White-tail Gin distillery and the Mull Cheese Factory 5 nights at the Isle of Mull Hotel
- Days 7-8 Catch the ferry to Lochaline and make our way back to our hotel travelling to Glasgow the following morning 1 night at the Gleddoch Hotel

Rob Martin: White-tailed Eagle, Common Dolphin
Julia Bevan: Corran Ferry View
Kate Mennie: Black-throated Diver, Otter
Jane Hope: Common Seals
Richard Stacey: Short-eared Owl

