

MULL IN SUMMER



"The Isle of Mull and surrounding islands are full of wildlife, where eagles can occur right overhead, Puffins sit at your feet and Otters fish on the lochs. It really is an island for some of the best wildlife experiences."
 Kate Mennie

Dates Sat 17 - Sat 24 June 2023

Price £2,495

Deposit £450 Single Supp £630

Leaders Kate Mennie and Sally Nowell

Weather The weather can be mixed, so expect sun and showers, with temperatures in the range of 7°-18°C
 It can be cooler on our boat trip, but you may wish to bring sunscreen

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

Boat Trip Our trip to Lunga lasts approximately six hours, including three hours ashore

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

Insects Biting midges will be encountered

Accom Double, twin and single rooms all ensuite

Group 12

Just some of what we hope to see:

White-tailed Eagle	Common Sandpiper
Golden Eagle	Oystercatcher
Hen Harrier	Corncrake
Peregrine	Great Skua
Merlin	Storm Petrel
Short-eared Owl	Rock Dove
Manx Shearwater	Twite
Red-throated Diver	Shag
Great Northern Diver	Kittiwake
Puffin	Harbour Porpoise
Arctic Skua	Common Dolphin
Razorbill	Minke Whale
Black Guillemot	Common Seal
Gannet	Grey Seal
Raven	Otter
Greenshank	

Mull in summer - one of Britain's very best islands, with striking wildlife, including eagles, Otters and a boat trip for "up close and personal" views of Puffins and seabirds

- Amazing opportunities for White-tailed and Golden Eagle in spectacular habitat
- Otter spotting around the coast wherever we go
- Short-eared Owl, Hen Harrier and divers
- A trip to Iona with a chance to hear and maybe see the elusive Corncrake
- Treshnish Isles boat trip for close-up Puffins, auks and loads more
- Shoreline hotel with views across the Sound of Mull
- Travel up and back through Loch Lomond, Rannoch Moor and Glencoe

1-2 We shall meet up in Glasgow and travel to our overnight base near Oban, passing the 'bonnie' banks of Loch Lomond and through the 'rest and be thankful' road pass.

In the morning we shall catch a morning ferry to the Island of Mull. We may see Black Guillemots in Oban harbour and as we journey across the Firth of Lorne, Common and Arctic Terns, Gannet and maybe even a Common Dolphin or Harbour Porpoise could be seen. Marvelling at the spectacular landscape we'll look out for our first eagles, before reaching our hotel, overlooking the Sound of Mull, in the evening.

3-6 Here, Gannets fly by, whilst just offshore Red-throated and Great Northern Diver linger and we'll watch for majestic White-tailed and Golden Eagles, now busy feeding young.

The White-tailed Eagle is the UK's largest land-based predator and the fourth largest eagle on Earth. They have recolonised Mull since the early 1980's and the breeding population is now more than 15 pairs, so we can encounter these enormous birds just about anywhere.

Mull's Golden Eagle population is one of the densest anywhere in Europe and after year's of experience watching them, we know the best places on the island to look for them. It is not unusual to see both species soaring together over the mountains and sea lochs of "Eagle Island".

Although the island is rightly famous for its eagles, we shall be looking for other upland raptors as well. Hen Harrier, Merlin and Short-eared Owl frequent the moors, hillsides and estuaries, as they too have young to feed. Peregrine patrol the sea cliffs around Gribun, while family parties of Raven



"The landscape around Mull can change in a minute, with views over to the mainland, up to Ben More on Mull and out west towards the Treshnish Isles, Coll and Tiree. Every corner of Mull has something to offer and our comfortable hotel will be the perfect base for the week." Kate Mennie



fill the air with their cronking calls. There are moments on this fabulous island when the sky can seem to be filled with raptors, especially eagles, so along with owls, we may come close to a double digit tally of species by the end of the trip!

Around the coast, Common Seals haul out on the offshore rocky islets and skerries, whilst the larger Grey Seals swim menacingly through the water, however much of our time will also be spent quietly seeking out some of the island's plentiful Otters. The rich rocky coastline provides a bountiful supply of food for these engaging animals and, with patience, we should be rewarded with great views, whilst Greenshank, Common Sandpiper and noisy 'kleeping' Oystercatcher, will keep us company on weedy rocks.

On one day we'll drive down the Ross of Mull, an area of surprising contrast for this small island and take the short ferry crossing to visit the stunning white shell-sand beaches and famous Abbey on Iona, where the ancient kings of Scotland were buried; the grave slabs a reminder of the island's rich history.

Here Corncrakes call from hay meadows full of wildflowers and from iris beds and gardens. With luck and some patience, we may see these remarkable birds alongside a clear azure blue sea, but even if we only hear them, their rasping call is unmistakable.

A highlight of the holiday will be our day out on the Treshnish Isles. On the boat trip over to the islands, we'll be alert for Minke Whales and also watch out for Black Guillemot and the odd Great Skua, Manx

Shearwater and Storm Petrel. Long-tailed Skua is a possibility. We'll take in the island of Staffa and the astonishingly shaped basalt columns of 'Fingal's Cave', whilst listening to Mendelssohn's overture, before landing on the rocky shores of Lunga Island with its fantastic, approachable, seabird colony.

Rock Dove and Twite are here and we'll wander amongst hundreds of Puffins, green-eyed Shags, Guillemots and Razorbills on the Harp Rock. Fulmar cackle, Kittiwake cries echo up from narrow chasms and Arctic Skuas patrol offshore, amongst the flocks of wheeling seabirds ... it's a wonderful place! Unlike some other seabird colonies, we shall be right in amongst the action and not just looking at cliffs from afar:

7-8 On the penultimate day, we'll catch a morning ferry to Lochaline and travel inland through the majestic strath of Glencoe and over Rannoch Moor, along the bonnie banks of Loch Lomond, to our hotel for our last night.

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



Outline Itinerary

- Day 1 Meet in Glasgow and make our way to our base for one night in Lochawe 1 night at Ben Cruachan Inn
- Days 2-6 Birdwatching and wildlife exploration of Mull, including a trip to Iona and a boat trip to the Treshnish Isles via Staffa, for Fingal's Cave and then time to explore the island of Lunga 5 nights at Isle of Mull Hotel
- Day 7 Catch the ferry to Lochaline and make our way to our last hotel 1 night at Loch Lomond Arms
- Day 8 After breakfast we make our way back to Glasgow

Andrew Dodds: Otter
Jane Hope: White-tailed Eagle, Black Guillemot
Maggie & John Tester: Lunga
David Petts: Hen Harrier
Maggie Bucknell: Staffa, Puffin

