



"Summer on the magical island of Mull, in my view the best place in Britain to see eagles and Otters. We'll take a boat to the stunning Treshnish Isles, where we watch Puffins up close and wheeling around in vast flocks. It's sure to be a highlight, in fact it has to be the ultimate 'Puffin fix'!
I for one can't wait!"
Craig Round

Dates Sat 3 - Sat 10 Jun 2017
Price £1575
Deposit £300 Single Supp £100

Leaders Craig Round and Simon Pawsey
Travel Easy to get to meeting point in Oban
Walking Coastal walks on uneven terrain of 2-3 miles. Walking boots recommended. Collapsible/telescopic walking poles could be useful for this trip
Weather The weather can be mixed, but we can reasonably expect sun and showers, with temperatures in the range of 15-25°C, though it can of course be cooler at times. It is likely to be cooler on our boat trip. You may want to bring sunscreen
Boat Trip Our trip to Lunga lasts approximately six hours, including three hours ashore
Insects Biting midges will be encountered
Meals All included from dinner on Day 1 to breakfast on Day 8. Good quality hotel food
Accom Isle of Mull Hotel - double, twin and single rooms all ensuite
Group 12

Just some of what we hope to see:

White-tailed Eagle	Gannet
Golden Eagle	Arctic Tern
Hen Harrier	Eider
Peregrine	Greenshank
Merlin	Rock Dove
Short-eared Owl	Raven
Manx Shearwater	Twite
Red-throated Diver	Hooded Crow
Puffin	Dipper
Black Guillemot	Otter
Guillemot	Minke Whale
Razorbill	Common Seal
Arctic Skua	Grey Seal
Great Skua	Harbour Porpoise

A week on this beautiful island, perhaps the best place in Britain for White-tailed and Golden Eagle and Otter and a boat trip for "up close and personal" views of Puffins and seabirds.

- High numbers of White-tailed Eagle, Golden Eagle and Otter
- Short-eared Owl, Hen Harrier and divers close up
- A trip to Iona for calling Corncrake and the famous Abbey
- Treshnish Isles boat trip for close up Puffins and seabirds
- Weed-strewn shores with great Otter watching
- We've years of experience with Mull's superlative wildlife

On our journey from Oban we may see Guillemot and Kittiwake and Harbour Porpoise close inshore. Common Dolphins could make an appearance.

We shall pass the ancient and impressive Duart Castle guarding the approach to the Sound of Mull. After docking, just a two-minute drive brings us to our shore side hotel, where we may have time for some local exploration.

At the end of the day, the lighthouse on the Isle of Lismore winks back at us, as Otters play around the shore.

2-7 From our hotel, with lovely views of the rocky seashore, right by Craignure Bay, Gannets and Arctic Terns go by and nearby, meadows are sprinkled with orchids and play host to Snipe, Curlew, Whinchat and Redpoll.



The mighty White-tailed Eagle is a real highlight in this area, together with majestic Golden Eagle, both busy feeding young at this time of year. Mull is probably 'the' best place in Britain to see eagles. With around 16 pairs of White-tailed Eagles and 24 pairs of Golden Eagles, the island's breeding birds are at their highest density anywhere in Europe. It's not unknown for us to see White-tailed Eagle and up to six Golden Eagles in a single day!

Nearby, piping Common Sandpipers, fledged Wheatear and noisy 'kleeping' Oystercatcher are on weedy shores, where Common Seals haul out, with mottled drake Eider and resting Red-throated Divers offshore. Birch and oak woodland can hold Redstart, Tree Pipit and Wood Warbler, as well as Sparrowhawk overhead. Here and in moorland glens, are some of our favourite



As we landed on the island of Lunga, Great Black-backed Gulls and several Great Skuas cruised menacingly along the cliff edge looking for an unwary auk, sending the vast flocks of Puffins spilling like a waterfall from the cliffs, before wheeling out to sea like an immense avian carousel!"

Craig Round



places to see Golden Eagle, whilst Merlin nest in the boggy upland glens.

Estuaries have waders such as Greenshank, Bar-tailed Godwit and Dunlin, whilst offshore the myriad skerries hold noisy Common Gull and Common and Arctic Terns. Peaty burns by freshwater lochs are home to Dipper and Grey Wagtail, whilst coniferous woodland has Siskin and sometimes Common Crossbill.

A short distance away on rugged shorelines, we have often been lucky with fine views of Otters; engaging animals, as easy to see here as anywhere in Scotland. As we watch, Hooded Crow pick along the shore.

Red-breasted Merganser and the occasional Black-throated Diver occur, whilst Kestrel, Raven and Peregrine patrol the forbidding basalt cliffs. In the dramatic folds of inland glens, Hen Harrier and Short-eared Owl hunt over the moorland and young coniferous plantations, where Whitethroat give their scratchy song.

Journeying along the croft land on the Ross of Mull, Buzzards adorn every telegraph pole and we'll take the short passenger ferry to the beautiful white sandy beaches and azure blue seas of Iona.

The white cottages and famous Abbey are surrounded by tall hay meadows, where good numbers of calling Corncrake reside, but can be difficult to see at this time of year, now that the vegetation has grown tall, whilst Rock Dove and Twite are more obvious.



Iona, the last resting place of Scotland's early monarchs and Clan Chiefs, is one of the most beautifully tranquil places anywhere in the Hebrides, Its attraction as a place of pilgrimage, that started with the cult of Columba in the 8th Century, continues to this day. A marvellous mixture of history and wildlife at our feet, Iona is sure to provide some memorable moments.

A trip highlight will be our boat journey to the seabird spectacle of the Treshnish Isles, alert to possible Minke Whales or Common Dolphins as we go. We'll watch for Black Guillemot and Great Skua, Manx Shearwater and Storm Petrel on the crossing.

We take in the island of Staffa and the basalt columns of 'Fingal's Cave', before landing on the incredible island of Lunga. We have several hours to wander right amongst Puffins that greet us, whilst green-eyed Shag squawk their disapproval and an incredible throng of Guillemot and Razorbill roar in a cacophony. 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!

8 After breakfast on our final day, we return to Craignure for the ferry back to Oban where we make our farewells.



Outline Itinerary

- Day 1 Catch the evening ferry from Oban to Craignure wildlife watching enroute then take the short journey to our hotel overlooking Craignure Bay.
- Days 2-7 Birdwatching and wildlife exploration including a trip to Iona to visit the Abbey and a boat trip to the Treshnish Isles where we shall see Fingal's Cave and have time to explore the island of Lunga
- Day 8 Return on the morning ferry to Oban, wildlife watching enroute

Craig Round: Short-eared Owl, White-tailed Eagle, Black-throated Diver, Otter
Simon Eaves: Lunga, Guillemot
Jane Hope: Puffins

