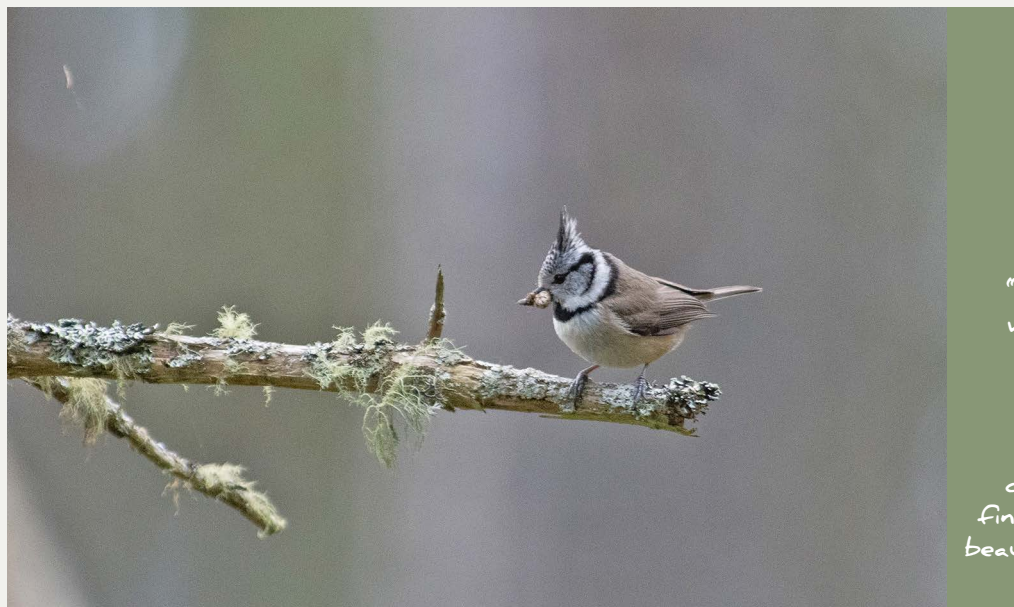


SPEYSIDE 24/7



"This spring time holiday has wildlife bursting from every corner of the Cairngorms National Park; from eagles in the mountains and Black Grouse on the moors, to crossbills in the pine forests, finishing each day with the most beautiful, relaxing accommodation."
Ailie Brown

Dates Sat 25 April - Sat 2 May 2026

Price £2,750

Deposit £550 Single Supp £370

Leader Ailie Brown

Weather Varies from cold to warm and sunny (8°-15°C), with less rainfall than much of Scotland but snow possible in the mountains

Walking Most walks are 1-2 miles on wide sandy tracks, although there is the possibility of a forest walk of up to 5 miles

Our Cairngorm walk is more steep and uneven, but low-level unguided alternatives are available. Walking boots will be needed and walking poles may be helpful

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

Insects Not a problem at this time of year

Accom Double, twin and single rooms all ensuite or with private facilities

Group 6

Just some of what we hope to see:

Golden Eagle	Golden Plover
White-tailed Eagle	Rock Dove
Osprey	Crested Tit
Red Kite	Redstart
Peregrine	Dipper
Great Northern Diver	Ring Ouzel
Black-throated Diver	Raven
Red-throated Diver	crossbill
Slavonian Grebe	Pine Marten
Velvet Scoter	Mountain Hare
Long-tailed Duck	Otter
Black Grouse	Red Deer
Ptarmigan	European Beaver
Red Grouse	Red Squirrel
Black Guillemot	Bottlenose Dolphin
Purple Sandpiper	

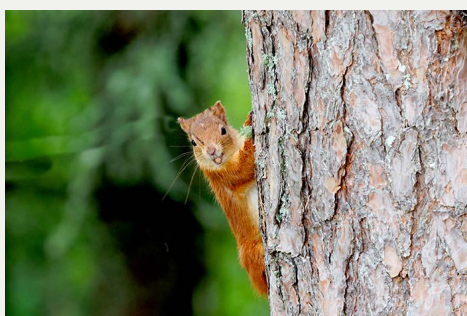
Twenty four of the best birds, seven of the best mammals - all in one action-packed week - around the mountains and forests of Speyside, plus the West Coast of Scotland.

- Kick off your year's wildlife quest in style with the Highland specialities
- See 7 - and more - of the most sought-after Scottish mammals
- Dusk visits to our hide for Pine Marten and Badger
- 24 premier birds including Golden Eagle, Crested Tit, crossbills and Black Grouse
- West Coast day for White-tailed Eagle, Black Guillemot, Otter and much more
- On the Moray Firth and Black Isle coast - divers, seaduck, terns and dolphins
- Visit locally to see European Beaver at dusk

Our action-packed week starts with dinner together on Saturday evening, followed by a chat about the coming week.

2-7 From our base in Dulnain Bridge, near Grantown-on-Spey there is plenty to see close to home and we may start with a walk down the river or visit the beautiful pine forest nearby. Here, amongst the ancient pines, we shall search out delightful Crested Tit and parties of crossbill - which we'll need to check carefully, as Common, Scottish and Parrot Crossbills have nested in the area in recent years - though identification can be a serious challenge.

Redstarts, Tree Pipits, Siskins and countless Willow Warblers are singing in the forest clearings and Cuckoos call from the wooded slopes. Red Squirrels scamper through the branches and we'll



visit our own baited hide for fabulous close-up views of Badgers and hopefully Pine Martens too. An early start one morning takes us to see Black Grouse as they strut, bubble and flutter at each other. It is a wonderful sight to see this behaviour.

Nearby lochans hold beautiful Slavonian Grebes, with golden plumes in their breeding finery. This is a great time of year to see displaying Golden Eagle or Osprey, the latter just returning to nests and in recent years sightings of White-tailed Eagles have increased locally.

The Black Isle and Moray Coast have a few of the Long-tailed Duck, Scaup and perhaps Common and Velvet Scoters that winter here amongst the Eiders, while Purple Sandpiper may be on rockier coasts. We'll visit Udale Bay, where passage waders may include Knot, Bar-tailed Godwit and



"Our central location enables us to explore the coast with ease, in search of dolphins, Otters and divers. A drive to the West Coast with the hope of White-tailed Eagles and stunning scenery, to an evening walk for Beaver, this Highlands holiday sees some of the best places in Scotland." Ailie Brown



more. Flocks of wintering geese may include Pink-footed, still lingering before they head north and there may be hundreds of Wigeon with Teal and other duck, including a few Pintail. Flocks of Golden Plover feed in nearby fields and we'll look out for farmland birds such as Tree Sparrow and Yellowhammer.

We'll make a special effort to see the resident group of Bottlenose Dolphins at a headland on the Black Isle, where they can often come remarkably close to shore, as they hunt fish moving in on the rising tide - with luck perhaps we'll see some acrobatics!

One evening we have the exciting chance to see Scotland's newest mammal - European Beaver. Introduced locally they are doing well and are showing regularly at certain sites. We shall learn how they are affecting the landscape and hopefully get to see one or two as they come out to feed at dusk. Using a bat detector we shall see what species are flitting around the trees - Pipistrelle is most likely but other species such as Daubenton's are possible too.

We have places to search for camouflaged Mountain Hare, as Red Deer watch us from the skyline - and we shall keep an eye on the sky for hunting Golden Eagle, Red Kite or Peregrine. Raven pass overhead and Dipper breed in the fast flowing rivers, Wheatear have arrived on the slopes and we hope for Hen Harrier or Red Grouse displaying.

Weather permitting we'll venture into the Cairngorms, or alternatively use lower-level paths to search for Ptarmigan and other wildlife that can be seen on the mountain slopes, with chances of newly arrived Ring Ouzel near the base station.

We'll have a wonderful day amidst the dramatic mountain peaks and shores of the West Coast. As we drive west, the scenery becomes more and more impressive and the beach at Mellon Udrigle is beautiful and so peaceful. It is a great chance to see Great Northern, Red-throated and Black-throated Divers in breeding plumage just offshore, before they move to their nesting sites.

Wild Rock Doves nest on the cliffs and we'll look out for Ravens, Hooded Crow, Twite and Black Guillemot, plus Common Seals loafing on the rocks. Along the seaweed strewn shoreline we'll search for Otters, as they hunt for butterfish and crabs, while another big target here is the resident White-tailed Eagles - huge and impressive as they soar over Scottish Islands. With so much to see - it'll be a busy week!

8 We say our farewells after breakfast.



Outline Itinerary

- Day 1** Arrive in Dulnain Bridge in time for an evening meal and a chat about what we shall do for the coming week.
7 nights at Tigh na Sgiath Hotel, Dulnain Bridge
- Days 2-7** Wildlife and birdwatching exploration including Abernethy Forest, Dava Moor, the Cairngorms, the Moray Firth and West Coast
- Day 8** After breakfast we say our farewells

Bob Longhorn: Crested Tit
Jane Hope: Lochindorb, Black Grouse
Steve Batt: Red Squirrel
Andrew Seal: Osprey
Michael Pearcey: crossbill
Tom Cadwallender: Pine Marten

