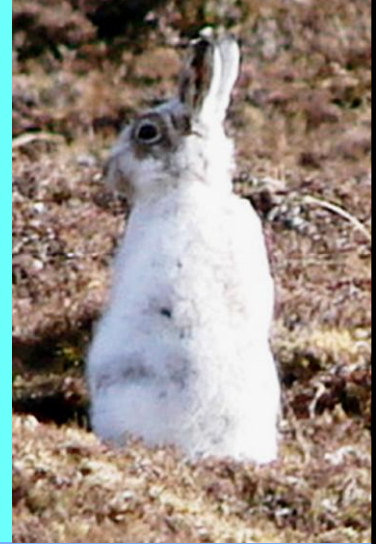


SCOTTISH HIGHLANDS & SKYE

Birds & Mammals

"In Comfort & Style"

April 5-12



Birding Areas & Highlights

The Highlands. Black Grouse, with maybe Capercaillie plus Ptarmigan & Snow Bunting on the high mountain tops, Red Grouse, Golden Eagle, Osprey & Peregrine Falcon. Goldeneye & Slavonian Grebes, Black-throated & Red-throated Divers. Scottish Crossbill & Crested Tit, Dipper, Siskin & Redpoll, with possibly Ring Ouzel & Northern Wheatear. Plus fabulous white Mountain Hares, Red Squirrel, Red & Roe Deer, and if lucky, both the elusive Pine Martin & Badger.

Exploring the Spey Valley and Cairngorms National Park inc. Abernethy Forest, Loch Garten & Tulloch Mhor, Aviemore & the Cairngorms Funicular Railway to the top of Cairn Gorm. Also the Insh Marshes RSPB Reserve & Lochindorb.

The Isle of Skye. Driving across the Sound of Sleat offers some of the best scenery on all Skye, looking out for White-tailed & Golden Eagles over the iconic Cuillins, possibly Hen Harrier & Merlin, along with Great Northern Diver, Eider, Black Guillemot & Red-breasted Mergansers around the coast, plus Otter, Grey & Common Seals. Driving further afield passed the Cuillins & Dunvegan Castle to explore the Duirinish region, offering further stunning scenery, with maybe more Eagles, seabirds, Rock Dove, Raven & Twite all possible.

Accommodation & Itinerary

Depart Inverness after b/fast and drive via Loch Ruthven RSPB & The Findhorn Valley for 4 nt-stay based at the highly personable, family-owned *Tigh-na-Sgiath* Country House Hotel near Grantown-on-Spey. The Hotel offers bedrooms individual in character and a dinner menu making delightful creative use of local & organic produce.

Then driving over to the Isle of Skye for further 3-nt. stay at the superb *Kinloch Lodge*, beautifully situated overlooking the Sound of Sleat. Again, a family-run Hotel, combining relaxed comfort with Highland hospitality. Individual bedrooms, plus 5-course dinner serving the best of meat & game, fish & shellfish. Beautiful indeed!

Early evening return to Inverness.

Cost: £2195 (s/s £375)

Deposit: £200

B/L due: Feb. 5

Included in the cost: 4nts. dinner, bed & b/fast at *Tigh-na-Sgiath*, 3 nts. dinner, bed & b/fast at *Kinloch Lodge*, entrance onto the Cairngorm Funicular, entrance to the private Pine Martin hide, full transportation and guidance throughout.

Not included in the cost: Lunches, drinks, travel insurance, gratuities & items of a personal nature.

(NB: Cost based on 8 guests min.)