

# WILDLIFE TRAVEL



more than just a wildlife holiday: discover a new world



Purple-bibbed White-tip, Ecuador



Passiflora, Costa Rica



Dorcas Gazelle, Morocco



Albufereta, Mallorca

## 2018: our 30th birthday

**1988 was a busy year.** Mikhail Gorbachev initiated his program of *perestroika* in the Soviet Union, the Winter Olympics were held in Calgary, Tim Berners-Lee described his plans for what would become the World Wide Web, Paddy Ashdown became the first leader of the Liberal Democrats and the Phantom of the Opera opened on Broadway. Meanwhile, in spring 1988, Dr Franklyn Perring and a group of like-minded friends set off to the island of Crete, with the intention of raising money for what was then the Royal Society for Nature Conservation, whilst enjoying the island's wild flowers. **Wildlife Travel was born, with our profits donated to the Wildlife Trusts ever since.**

30 years and 410 Wildlife Travel holidays later, having travelled to 48 countries over six continents (with our sights set on that seventh continent for 2019), and with **more than £200,000 raised** for the conservation work of the Wildlife Trusts, we are once again proud to present another program of holidays for the year ahead.

Our aim has always been to offer you more than just a standard wildlife holiday and our many repeat travellers suggest that we have done just that... **wildlife at its best** with some culture and ecology thrown in, and our team working hard to help you make the most of your trip. Remember, the price when you book is the price you pay, with no surcharges added later (unlike most of our competitors): a major factor in these uncertain times.

2018 will see us travel from the tropical forests of Costa Rica to the sea ice of Svalbard, the deserts of Morocco to the beaches of the South Pacific in New Caledonia, from the mountains of the Vercors to the rolling hills of Devon. **We hope you will be joining us!**

KEY: ● mainly wild flowers ● mixed natural history ● easy birding/wildlife

### ECUADOR: wildlife from the Andes to Amazonia

● 4th-21st January 2018. Leaders: Philip Precey & local guides

We return to Ecuador in search of some of the country's exciting mammal life: we will be searching for Mountain Tapir and Spectacled Bear, Oilbird and the newly-discovered Olinguito amongst others, while also enjoying the abundant birds, butterflies and botany.

**£4795 per person, full board, single room supplement £495**

### COSTA RICA: easy birding and natural history

● 1st-16th March 2018. Leaders: Philip Precey & local guides

From the Pacific to the Caribbean, this holiday is a perfect introduction to tropical natural history, exploring Costa Rica's exciting landscapes and wildlife, especially its rich birdlife.

**£4450 per person, full board, single room supplement £320**

### MOROCCO: natural history, mountains and coast

● 3rd-10th March 2018. Leaders: Charlie Rugeroni & Jess Hatchett

A relaxing introduction to the wildlife and spring flowers of southern Morocco, from the lower slopes of the High Atlas mountains to the Atlantic coast, based in a wonderful rural hotel outside Agadir. As well as the wildlife of the area, we will visit the souks of Tarroudant.

**£1545 per person, full board, single room supplement £150**

### MOROCCO: easy birding, from coast to desert

● 24th March-4th April 2018. Leaders: Mike Russell & Philip Precey

A new itinerary for us, travelling from the Atlantic coast to the deserts of south east Morocco and up into the High Atlas in search of some of the special birds of this country: a wide variety of desert birds, African Crimson-winged Finch and Northern Bald Ibis.

**£1975 per person, full board, single room supplement £210**

### ST LUCIA, TRINIDAD & TOBAGO: easy Caribbean birding

● 12th-25th April 2018. Leaders: Laurie Jackson & local guides

An introduction to the wildlife of the Caribbean, from the nesting Leatherback Turtles and endemic birds of St Lucia, to the wonderful Asa Wright Centre and Scarlet Ibis on Trinidad.

**£4195 per person, full board, single room supplement £525**

## **MALLORCA: spring in the western Mediterranean**

● 19th-26th April 2018. Leaders: Charlie Rugeroni & local guides

From the limestone Serra de Tramuntana to internationally important wetlands, in search of spring birds, butterflies and wild flowers. Flights from Leeds-Bradford and Gatwick.

**£1595 per person, full board, single room supplement £95**

## **LESVOS: spring on an Aegean island**

● 5th-12th May 2018. Leaders: Laurie Jackson & Philip Precey

We will explore the lovely island of Lesvos, one of the largest in the Aegean. The perfect introduction to the birds and spring flowers of the eastern Mediterranean

**£1545 per person, full board, single room supplement £100**

## **ISLES OF SCILLY: spring flowers and natural history**

● 7th-14th May 2018. Leaders: Rosemary Parslow & Liz Askins

A return to these iconic islands, in the company of local expert Rosemary Parslow to enjoy the best of the spring: there can be no better introduction to the islands' natural history.

**£1095 per person, B&B, single room supplement £250**

## **THE DANUBE DELTA: cruise in Europe's largest wilderness**

● 14th-22nd May 2018. Leaders: Philip Precey & local guides

A magical journey along the waterways of this unique area, travelling in our houseboat with wonderful views of the spectacular birdlife, visiting remote fishing villages, quiet backwaters and lily-covered lakes. Excellent local Romanian food, en suite cabins.

**£1825 per person, full board, single room supplement £250**

## **ROMANIA: the Danube Delta and Transylvania**

● 22nd-31st May 2018. Leaders: Philip Precey & local guides

Combining the highlights of our popular Danube Delta itinerary with a visit to the Carpathian mountains, in search of Wallcreeper, Brown Bear and spring flowers.

**£1895 per person, full board, single room supplement £300**

## **ESTONIA: spring wildlife and orchids of the Baltic**

● 26th May-2nd June 2018. Leaders: Charlie Rugeroni & local guides

A spring visit to the meadows and forests, bogs and islands of Estonia. Courtship for the newly-returned birds will be in full swing, whilst we will also be paying particular attention to the good numbers of orchids in flower, most notably some spectacular displays of the wonderful Lady's Slipper.

**£1675 per person, full board, single room supplement £160**

## **MULL: eagles, otters and natural history**

● 29th May-4th June 2018. Leaders: Mike Symes & local guide

The spectacular coastal scenery and superb wildlife of the west coast of Scotland. As well as the wildlife and history of Mull itself, we will also explore Iona, Ulva, Staffa and Lunga.

**£1225 per person, half board, single room supplement £95**

## **TRANSYLVANIA: meadows, mountains and bears**

● 4th-11th June 2018. Leaders: Laurie Jackson & local guides

A week's exploration of traditional hay meadows, ancient wood-pastures, alpine meadows, dense forest and fortified Saxon churches of Transylvania and the Carpathian mountains. Wild flowers, mountain birds and Brown Bears will all be in our sights.

**£1645 per person, full board, single room supplement £150**

## **THE BURREN: wild flowers and ancient sites**

● 7th-12th (optional to 14th) June 2018. Leader: Brian Eversham

We return to the dramatic scenery and fascinating history of this corner of western Ireland, with plenty of wonderful wild flowers, ancient monuments, superb coast and friendly local hospitality, with the option of extending your stay to explore the nearby Aran Islands.

**£945 (£1065 to 14th) per person, half board, single supplement £60 (£70)**

## **VERCORS: wild flowers of the pre-Alps (by Eurostar/TGV)**

● 9th-16th June 2018. Leaders: Charlie Rugeroni & Jess Hatchett

With its combination of landscape, marvellous diversity of wild flowers and remarkably unspoilt character, the southern Vercors is a wonderful setting for our week in France.

**£1795 per person, full board, single room supplement £110**



St Lucia Amazon, St Lucia



Anemone pavonina, Lesvos



European Bee-eater, Romania



Lady's Slipper, Estonia



Viscri church, Transylvania



Gentiana acaulis, The Vercors

## WEST CARPATHIANS: butterflies and natural history

● 18th-25th June 2018. Leaders: Graham Bellamy & Martin Hrouzek

Visit this little-known corner of central Europe, on the mountainous borders of Slovakia, Czechia and Hungary, to enjoy the diversity of butterflies, flowers and other wildlife.

£1595 per person, full board, single room supplement £100

## SVALBARD: natural history of the high Arctic

● 18th-27th June 2018. Leaders: Mike Symes & cruise guides

A ten day arctic holiday, cruising aboard the MV *Ortelius*. We will explore the Spitsbergen archipelago, home to nesting seabirds and of course the king of the Arctic, Polar Bear.

£5125 per person, full board, single room supplement £75 (hotel only)

## DEVON: rare mammals and summer wildlife

● 15th-19th August 2018. Leaders: Mike Symes & 2nd leader tbc

Devon in late summer is an idyllic place to be. This short break, in the company of local experts, will give us the chance of seeing some of the county's special mammals, including beavers and otters, Hazel Dormouse and Greater Horseshoe Bat.

£625 per person, B&B, single room supplement £80

## SOUTH AFRICA: natural history of the Cape Floral Kingdom

● 22nd Aug-4th Sept 2018. Leaders: Charlie Rugeroni & local guides

The spectacular flora of the Cape, with the highest biodiversity in the world and a stunning range of plants from the famous proteas of the fynbos shrublands to the 'stone' plants of the deserts and attractive bulbs and annuals, familiar to our gardens.

£4995 per person, full board, single room supplement £350

## NEW CALEDONIA: endemic wildlife of the South Pacific

● 3rd-17th September 2018. Leaders: Philip Precey & Mark Hanger

Set in the idyllic South Pacific, 1300km east of Australia, New Caledonia is one of the world's great biodiversity hotspots. We will explore the island in search of its wildlife, which includes five endemic families of plant, and 20 endemic birds, including the unique Kagu.

£4745 per person (plus flights), full board, single room supplement £670

## BULGARIA: easy birding on the Black Sea coast

● 8th-15th September 2018. Leaders: Laurie Jackson & local guides

With kettles of raptors and storks overhead, waders thronging the wetlands and sea birds passing by off-shore, the autumn bird migration is one of the bird world's 'must see' experiences. This week will be spent on the 'Via Pontica', on the Bulgarian coast.

£1545 per person, full board, single room supplement £95

## ANDALUCIA: easy birding, Coto Doñana and Tarifa

● 10th-17th September 2018. Leaders: Mike Russell & local guide

The second of our 'easy birding' autumn migration tours, this time focussing on the migration hotspots of southern Spain, as well as a whale watching trip off-shore.

£1725 per person, full board, single room supplement £240

## CHILE: Chiloé, Juan Fernández and Easter Island

● 28th Oct-14th Nov 2018. Leaders: Laurie Jackson & Claudio Vidal

Chile has been one of our favourite destinations since we first visited in 2004. This exciting itinerary takes us from the temperate rainforests of Chiloé to endemic-rich Juan Fernández (Robison Crusoe Island) and then to Easter Island and its famous 'moai' statues.

£price to be confirmed

## NORFOLK: winter wildfowl and natural history

● 3rd-7th December 2018. Leaders: Laurie Jackson & second leader tbc

Justly famous for its winter wildlife, we return to Norfolk in search of some spectacular gatherings: wildfowl and waders, roosting raptors and cranes, and maybe even an otter.

£860 per person, full board, single room supplement £110

## MOROCCO: natural history at Christmas

● 20th-27th December 2018. Leaders: Philip Precey & second leader tbc

We return to southern Morocco and the wonderful Atlas Kasbah, from where we will explore the mountains, coast and countryside and enjoy a Berber family celebration.

£1685 per person, full board, single room supplement £175



Apollo, West Carpathians



Polar Bear, Svalbard



Horned Parakeet, New Caledonia



Southern Pudu, Chile



Orange-breasted Sunbird  
South Africa

# Why Wildlife Travel?

We believe that a Wildlife Travel trip is different to any other. However, there are many travel companies out there. So why should you travel with us? What makes Wildlife Travel different?

## Travel with us and support nature conservation

Conservation is at the very core of our business. Wildlife Travel was set up with the express aim of supporting nature conservation. Our profits are donated to the Wildlife Trusts to support their work here in the UK: your booking will enable us to donate to your local Wildlife Trust. Wherever possible, we also work with local nature conservation organisations to support their important work. We balance carbon emissions from all flights included in your booking through the World Land Trust Carbon Balance programme which protects tropical areas with high biodiversity.

## Our leaders and holidays

Our leaders all have conservation backgrounds and a wealth of wildlife knowledge between them, from birds and butterflies to botany and geology. Of course, they don't just provide natural history expertise: our leaders also ensure that you have a safe, enjoyable and rewarding time. We pay special attention to planning so that each trip is well researched and well organised. We use good accommodation, enjoy great local food and take things at a relaxed pace: it is a holiday, after all!

## Wildlife Travellers

A Wildlife Travel holiday is ideal for anyone who wants like-minded company, wonderful wildlife, local culture, and the knowledge that they are supporting conservation. One of the most rewarding things over the years has been the friendships developed when sharing our travels, between leaders, Wildlife Travellers and local guides. We are very grateful to, and proud of, the many 'repeat travellers' who travel with us time after time and recommend us to their friends. Don't just take our word for it: here is how our travellers described last year's holidays...

*"the perfect trip... leader energetic, knowledgeable and organised as ever"*

*"enjoyed the variety of wildlife and information about the way of life... a great experience of another country"*

Transylvania 2017

*"enjoyed the informality of the holiday... a nice relaxing atmosphere"*

Mull 2017

*"exceeded expectations... excellent leaders, flowers were a delight"*

*"bugs, birds and flowers... we found the mixture really great"*

Vercors 2017

*"we loved the hotel... superb"*

Morocco 2017

*"amazing! who would have thought we'd be so close to such animals"*

Svalbard 2017

## Booking your holiday

Please ask us for the full details for any trip. These include the complete itinerary, together with details of travel, accommodation and leaders, as well as confirming what is included in the price. Payment and cancellation details are also given. Wildlife Travel holidays are operated by Sunvil Holidays (CAA-ATOL Licence 808, ABTA V6218, AITO), protecting your booking.

[www.wildlife-travel.co.uk](http://www.wildlife-travel.co.uk)

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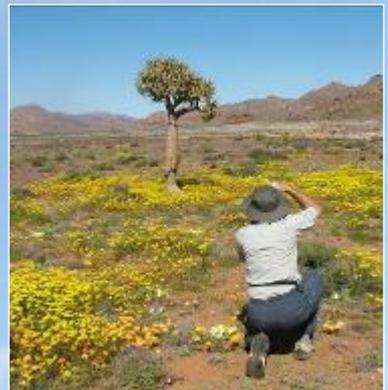
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All photos by Wildlife Travel leaders

except Albufereta (page 1) by Pere Vicens, St Lucia Amazon (page 2) courtesy of MotMot Travel, Lady's Slipper (page 2) courtesy of NatourEst and Horned Parakeet (page 3) by Mark Hanger



our profits are donated to the Wildlife Trusts