

WILDLIFE TRAVEL



Holidays 2021



all our profits are donated to the Wildlife Trusts

Wildlife Travel 2021

In our 2020 brochure, we told you that we were 'looking forward to what promises to be another exciting year of Wildlife Travelling'. Well who could have guessed, back in summer 2019, exactly how 'exciting' 2020 was going to be! As the traditional curse goes, we have indeed been living in interesting times!

Thank you

Most importantly, we hope you are staying well, and coping with these difficult times. Before we get into what is in store for us in the year ahead, we wanted to say a big 'thank you' to Wildlife Travellers past, present and future, and particularly those who have been affected by 2020's cancellations and curtailments, for your patience, good humour and understanding through what has been an enormously challenging time for all of us.

It has certainly been a difficult year for us, but it is thanks in no small part to the support and loyalty of our Wildlife Travellers that we find ourselves in the position to be able to continue planning exciting wildlife experiences to share with you next year and for many years to come. We look forward to travelling with you again, very soon.

Chris Philip Laurie

Wildlife Travelling in 2021

You will no doubt notice that our 2021 holiday programme bears more than a passing resemblance to our plans for 2020. We have rescheduled all of our cancelled 2020 departures, and as a result, moved some of our 2021 plans back to 2022.

We have a series of small group, socially distanced day trips planned for autumn/winter 2020 with our leaders looking forward to showing you around their local patch, from Dorset to Yorkshire: please check our website for details, and contact us to book your places as soon as possible.

Along with an expanded UK programme for 2021 and return visits to many 'old favourites', we are preparing trips further afield for when we can look to expand our horizons again, all being well. New destinations for 2021 range from the limestone dales of Derbyshire to the mountains of Sierra Nevada and the wildlife-filled forests of Peru.

As a result of so many bookings from 2020 being carried over to 2021, it is already looking likely to be a busy year. So do let us know if you would like to provisionally reserve your places on any of our holidays, to avoid disappointment.



Travelling in uncertain times

Exactly what the travel environment will look like in 2021 and beyond is, as yet, still very uncertain, and there are sure to be more challenges ahead of us. At the time of writing this, UK government advice is still against all overseas travel, except for an ever-changing small group of approved countries, and many borders around the world remain closed to tourists. In making our plans for the year ahead, we can only assume that while some destinations will stay off limits, many others will be opening up again.

Please be assured that, as and when we are able to travel again, we will continue to do all we can to ensure that our holidays are as safe as they can be. We will continue to monitor travel restrictions and rules on social distancing, as well as the latest health and travel advice, both in the UK and at our destinations, as the year progresses, and will make changes to the holiday itineraries, group sizes, second leaders and travelling arrangements as necessary, to keep you safe and comfortable.

You will notice that we haven't included any prices for next year's holidays. With so much uncertainty at the moment, from maximum possible group sizes to currency exchange rates, not to mention the possible changes to the travel environment following our exit from the EU, we have decided to hold off confirming prices for now, to give you the best price possible. We will be finalising holiday prices on a rolling basis, as we publish full details of each trip. For up to date information, and to provisionally reserve your place, please check our website, send us an email or give us a call.

Wildlife Travel holidays are operated by Sunvil Holidays (CAA -ATOL Licence 808, ABTA V6218, AITO, www.sunvil.co.uk). As always, rest assured that your booking is fully protected by Sunvil's bonding, should we have to cancel any future trips.



New Caledonian Myzomela



Rontulea cruciata, South Africa



Jersey Tiger



Black-bellied Hamster



Chilla Fox



Mimetus hottentoticus, South Africa



Moussier's Redstart

Wildlife Travelling UK 2021

Since our first UK holiday, to Shetland in 1998, we have long recognised that there is some wonderful wildlife to be found without ever needing a passport. Our 2021 UK programme will be bigger than ever, and we are also planning a series of socially-distanced small group day trips for autumn/winter 2020 and through 2021. For full details of these, please visit the website and contact us to book your place as soon as possible.

DEVON: winter birding in the West Country

11th-15th January 2021. Leader: Mike Symes

We will be staying in a beautiful 17th century cottage in the village of Chudleigh, from where we head out to visit some of the West Country's key sites for wintering birds. We will cruise amongst avocets and godwits on the Exe Estuary, watch Cirl Buntings in Devon's hedgerows and enjoy the spectacular Starling murmurations on the Somerset Levels.



Black-tailed Godwit

SUSSEX: spring in southern England

26th-30th April 2021. Leader: Laurie Jackson

From our base at the foot of the South Downs, we will seek out spring wildlife including Early Spider Orchids, Duke of Burgundy butterflies and newly-arrived Nightingales, noisily proclaiming their breeding territories. Our Sussex sojourn wouldn't be complete without a visit to Knepp Wildland, the famous rewilding project in the heart of the county.



Seven Sisters

THE FEN EDGE: hidden gems of East Anglia

17th-21st May 2021. Leader: Sarah Lambert

This short break will explore the rich and often-overlooked wildlife of this part of Eastern England: the remnants of the royal hunting park of Rockingham Forest, the limestone country that inspired poet John Clare and the last echoes of the extensive wetlands that now form the core of one of Britain's most ambitious conservation projects, the Great Fen.



Pasque Flower *Pulsatilla vulgaris*

NORFOLK: Broads, Brecks and coast

23rd-27th May 2021. Leader: Philip Precey

In the Norfolk Broads, we will expect Swallowtail butterflies while Marsh Harriers fly overhead and Bitterns boom. In the sandy grasslands of the Brecks we will look for rare Mediterranean plants and nesting Stone Curlews. Heading up to the North Norfolk Coast, we will take a boat trip out to Blakeney Point, with its pupping seals and nesting terns.



Swallowtail

SCOTTISH HIGHLANDS: Lochaber and Speyside

6th-10th June 2021. Leader: James Lowen

We will focus on some of the Highlands' most charismatic wildlife: Pine Marten and Red Squirrel, Osprey and Crested Tit, Chequered Skipper and Azure Hawker, Small White Orchid and Lesser Twayblade should all come our way. This trip will be led by James Lowen, author of '52 Wildlife Weekends' and forthcoming 'Much Ado About Nothing'.



Pine Marten

DORSET: summer wildlife of coast and heath

14th-18th June 2021. Leader: Phil Saunders

Based near Corfe Castle, on the idyllic Isle of Purbeck, this relaxed midsummer visit will see us searching for some of the rare wildlife for which this corner of Dorset is famous. Lulworth Skippers and Adonis Blues around Portland, cliff-nesting auks and Bottle-nosed Dolphins at Durlston Head, churring Nightjars and all six native British reptiles on the heaths.

YORKSHIRE: seabirds and the North York Moors

28th June-2nd July 2021. Leader: Jono Leadley

Our time in 'God's Own County' will take us from the towering chalk cliffs of Flamborough Head, home to England's only mainland colony of Gannets alongside comical Puffins, to the limestone slopes of the Vale of Pickering, and the heather-cloaked uplands, where we will look for Large Heath and Small Pearl-bordered Fritillary.

SUSSEX: high summer in southern England

5th-9th July 2021. Leader: Laurie Jackson

We return to Sussex for a summer break, taking us from lowland meadows to the heaths of the Ashdown Forest, in search of wild flowers, high summer butterflies and dragonflies aplenty. Our visit will also take us back to Knepp Wildland during Purple Emperor season, and we look forward to tempting his majesty down from the treetops.

DERBYSHIRE: wildlife of the White Peak

12th-16th July 2021. Leader: Kieron Huston

This short break will explore the stunning scenery of the limestone dales in the Peak District National Park, where we will look for butterflies, orchids and other wild flowers. We will be based in the Derwent Valley Mills World Heritage Site, and there will be time to explore the industrial history at Arkwright's Mill, as well as sampling the original Bakewell Tart.

DEVON: rare mammals and summer wildlife

14th-18th July 2021. Leader: Mike Symes

Devon in the late summer is an idyllic place to be. This short break will introduce us to this beautiful county in the company of local conservationists, and give us the chance of seeing some of the county's most famous residents: the re-introduced European Beaver, Greater Horseshoe Bat at northern Europe's largest colony and dozy Hazel Dormouse.

NORFOLK: winter wildlife and natural history

6th-10th December 2021. Leader: Philip Precey

Norfolk is justly famous for its wildlife, with spectacular bird roosts and large flocks of wintering wildfowl a particular feature of this winter visit. Exploring the Broads and the North Norfolk Coast, along with the birds we will also pay attention to some of the county's special mammals, including newborn Grey Seal pups and charming Chinese Water Deer.



Adonis Blue



Northern Gannet



Purple Emperor



Lathkill Dale



European Beaver



Wigeon

Overseas Holidays 2021

After a notably sedentary 2020, we are looking forward to getting back out 'on the road' again in the year ahead, to share some wonderful wildlife with you, from the spring flowers of Cyprus and Lesvos to the bird-filled wetlands of Poland and Hungary. Where group size allows, a second Wildlife Travel leader will join those trips without a local guide.

MOROCCO: natural history, mountains and coast
6th-13th March 2021. Leader: Philip Precey + 2nd leader
Our regular spring visit to Morocco will take us from the Atlantic coast to the rugged Anti-Atlas mountains, the foothills of the High Atlas and the argan forests of the Sous Valley, in search of spring flowers, endemic reptiles and abundant birdlife. Based near Agadir at the Atlas Kasbah.
"a truly wonderful hotel, felt like home immediately" 2020

COSTA RICA: easy birding and natural history
11th-26th March 2021. Leader: Mike Symes
Costa Rica is a natural history paradise, from the dry forests of the western, Pacific coast to the tropical forests of the eastern, Caribbean slope, via the cloud forests of the central ridge. We are returning for our 13th visit to this beautiful, colourful, biodiverse and friendly country.
"superb wildlife, itinerary faultless, Mike was excellent" 2020

SOUTHERN MOROCCO: easy birding tour
13th-25th March 2021. Leader: Mike Russell + 2nd leader
Our second visit of the year to Morocco, focussing on the birds of the varied habitats. We will look for Moussier's Redstart and the rare Northern Bald Ibis on the Atlantic coast, larks and wheatears in the rocky deserts, visit the sand dunes of Erg Chebbi, and end at the snow line in the High Atlas, with Crimson-winged Finch and Alpine Chough.

CYPRUS: spring wildlife on Aphrodite's island
22nd-29th March 2021. Leader: Philip Precey + 2nd leader
We first visited Cyprus back (way back!) in 1991, and we are looking forward to returning once again, our 33rd holiday to this friendly, wildlife-rich country. Late March is an ideal time to enjoy wild flowers, and migrant birds under warm spring sunshine. Along the way we will explore the island's long history, and enjoy some great local food.

GARGANO: spring flowers in southern Italy
14th-21st April 2021. Leader: Philip Precey + 2nd leader
The Gargano Peninsula is a mountainous chunk of limestone, rising up 1000m above the surrounding Italian plains and jutting out into the Adriatic. We will spend a relaxed week exploring the area, famous for its diversity of orchids, multi-coloured irises, wild tulips and showy peonies.
"leaders superb, a really nice trip, five stars" 2019



Tioute Palmery



Red-headed Barbet



Desert Wheatear



Ranunculus asiaticus



Iris bicapitata

TURKEY: spring natural history on the Lycian coast
23rd-30th April 2021. Leader: Philip Precey

A holiday with something for everyone: spring flowers from the coast to the mountains and cedar forests, endemic reptiles and amphibians, exciting bird life, a relaxed boat trip to the island of Kerkova and some wonderfully atmospheric archaeological sites. We will spend our week in the company of expert local botanist Cenk Durmuskahya.

POLAND: Bierbrza Marshes and Bialowieza Forest
25th April-2nd May 2021. Leader: Mike Russell

We will visit the vast floodplain wetlands of Bierbrza Marshes, home to Aquatic Warbler and Great Snipe, alongside plentiful terns and waders. From here we head into the primeval Bialowieza Forest, looking for woodpeckers, owls and European Bison in the company of Marek Borkowski, Poland's finest wildlife guide and a leading conservationist.

LESVOS: spring on an Aegean island

6th-13th May 2021. Leader: Philip Precey + 2nd leader

We will explore the lovely island of Lesvos, one of the largest in the Aegean. The island is justifiably famous for its birdlife and we have timed this holiday to catch the very best of the northwards spring migration, along with the local specialities as they set up territory, with wonderful carpets of spring flowers among the olive groves and chestnut forest.

THE DANUBE DELTA: Europe's greatest wetland

17th-25th May 2021. Leader: Laurie Jackson

The Danube Delta is a sanctuary for huge numbers of birds, from pelicans and herons to warblers and woodpeckers, rollers and bee-eaters. Our home for a week is a floating hotel, giving us perfect access to the numerous side-channels, oxbow lakes and extensive reedbeds.

"a special, beautiful place with great birds... stunning " 2019

THE BURREN: wild flowers and ancient sites

23rd-30th May 2021. Leader: Charlie Rugeroni + 2nd leader

We return to the dramatic limestone scenery and unbeatable hospitality of this corner of western Ireland. We will enjoy an abundance of wonderful wild flowers, visit soaring sea cliffs with their seabird colonies, encounter mysterious ancient monuments and enjoy great food!

"guesthouse perfect... a most accommodating host " 2018

THE CEVENNES & GRANDS CAUSSES by train

1st-8th June 2021. Leader: Philip Precey + 2nd leader

A relaxed week of wild flowers and country walks in southern France. From Montpellier, we will cross the rolling limestone plateaux of the Grands Causses and the rugged granite landscapes of the Cevennes, where orchids abound. We will visit one of the area's cave systems and enjoy a boat trip along the River Tarn, beneath high cliffs where vultures soar.



Kerkova



Bierbrza Marshes



Anemone pavonina



European Roller



Poulnabrone Dolmen



Military Orchid, *Orchis militaris*

LAKE KERKINI & MACEDONIA: spring natural history 2nd-9th June 2021. Leader: Laurie Jackson

We return again for a week in this little-known and unspoiled corner of the Balkans, exploring the warm hillsides and sheep-grazed steppe of Northern Macedonia, rich in butterflies, reptiles and wild flowers, and the wetlands of Lake Kerkini and its surroundings, across the border in Greece, with breeding birds including pelicans, herons and spoonbill.

THE VERCORS: wild flowers of the pre-Alps by train 4th-11th June 2021. Leader: Charlie Rugeroni + 2nd leader

The Vercors region in the French pre-Alps combines impressive landscapes and marvellously diverse wild flowers and wildlife, with good accommodation and some truly great French food. We have enjoyed our visits to the Vercors so much, that this will be our 20th visit to the region.

"outings were perfect, always fun, a memorable trip" 2019

ARMENIA: wild flowers of the Caucasus

15th-25th June 2021. Leader: Laurie Jackson

Set amongst the mountains of the southern Caucasus, Armenia is a country of rugged landscapes, interesting history and diverse habitats. Its rich flora includes more than half of the species found in the entire Transcaucasian region. We will explore this fascinating country in the company of expert local botanist Anna Asatryan.

SIERRA NEVADA: high mountains of southern Spain

22nd-29th June 2021. Leader: Philip Precey

The second highest mountains in western Europe, after the Alps, the Sierra Nevada is home to a remarkable diversity of endemic flora, more than 450 species found here and nowhere else. We will spend a week exploring the mountains, as well as the semi-desert habitats at Cabo de Gata and the spectacular Alhambra palace at Granada.

BULGARIA: mountain butterflies and wild flowers

28th June-5th July 2021. Leader: Laurie Jackson

The mountains of western Bulgaria are home to interesting endemic plants and a staggering diversity of butterflies. We start in the Western Rhodopes where the rounded hills are cut by rivers running through deep gorges, before moving west to the pine-cloaked high massifs of Rila and Pirin.

"thank you for such a wonderful, memorable holiday" 2019

SOUTH AFRICA: wildlife of the Cape Floral Kingdom

23rd August-5th September 2021. Leader: Claudio Vidal

The Cape Floral Kingdom boasts around 8,600 species of plants in an area roughly the size of Scotland, of which two thirds grow nowhere else. We will travel from Mediterranean 'fynbos' to semi-desert and temperate rainforest, enjoying antelopes and zebras, Southern Right Whales and African Penguins, alongside the spectacular unique flora.



Common Glider

La Valle de Combeau



Iris paradoxa



Chaenorhynchum glareosum



Purple-shot Copper



Arctotis and Dimorphotheca spp

PERU: the Manu Road and Machu Picchu

27th August-13th September 2021. Leader: Laurie Jackson
An inspiring, wildlife-filled journey along the famous Manu Road sees us journey from montane 'puna' grassland, through vast cloud forests and on into the vibrant Peruvian Amazon. Of course, no visit to Peru would be complete with a visit to the celebrated Inca city of Machu Picchu as well as the opportunity to explore the Andean city of Cusco.

HUNGARY: easy birding and natural history

22nd-29th September 2021. Leader: Mike Symes
Timed to catch the best of the south-bound bird migration, we will focus much of our attention on the flat lands of the Hortobagy, where thousands of Common Cranes and White-fronted Geese gather in the wetlands, Great Bustards strut on the plains and Saker hunt overhead. We also visit the limestone hills of Slovakia, home to woodpeckers and owls.

MADEIRA: subtropical gardens & autumn wildlife

September 2021 (dates tbc). Leader: tbc
An autumn visit to Portugal's 'floating garden', famous for its mild climate, lush green *Laurisilva* forests and mountain heathlands, home to endemic plants and birds. We will visit some of the island's numerous gardens, with subtropical plantings, and take an (optional) whale-watching trip in search of Sperm Whales, dolphins and interesting seabirds.

NEW CALEDONIA: endemics in the South Pacific

1st-15th October 2021. Leader: Philip Precey
We return to the island of New Caledonia in the company of Mark Hanger. One of the world's greatest biodiversity hotspots, some 19 birds, 99 reptiles and more than 3000 of the island's 4000 plant species are found only here, including 19 species of *Araucaria* and the flightless Kagu.

"Mark and Philip make a great team. We saw so much" 2018

MOROCCO: natural history at Christmas

22nd-29th December 2021. Leader: Laurie Jackson
We return to Morocco to immerse ourselves in the friendly local culture. We will enjoy Scimitar-horned Oryx in the Sous Massa National Park, look for flamingos and Ospreys on the coast and discover endemic lizards and interesting wild flowers, while escaping the festive season back home.

"Laurie was superb... such depth of knowledge" 2019

CHILE: alpine flowers and *Araucaria* forests

January 2022, with Claudio Vidal. Leader: Philip Precey
Chile stands out as one of our favourite destinations, and this year we continue our exploration of this varied country in search of the spectacular alpine flora of the high Andes, including beautiful, rosette-forming *Violas*, as well as the wonderful 'monkey puzzle' *Araucaria* forests and the scenic Lake District, with its Burrowing Parrots and Andean Condors.



Andean Cock-of-the-Rock



Great Bustard



Madeira



Kagu



Scimitar-horned Oryx



Araucaria forests

Looking further ahead

Whilst 2021 isn't yet begun, we are already turning our attention to 2022 and beyond. We are always keen to hear from you, our travellers, about where you would like to visit. If there are any destinations that you would like to see included in our holiday programme, be they places we have visited before or entirely new for us, do let us know.



Great Frigatebird



Locojoco Antpitta



Diuris corymbosa



Pallas's Cat



Meerkat

GALAPAGOS: cruising in Darwin's footsteps

early 2022

We return to the 'Enchanted Islands', with our itinerary taking us to the eastern islands of the archipelago: Espanola, home to almost all the world's nesting Waved Albatrosses; Genovesa, with its Red-footed Boobies and friendly fur-seals; and San Cristobal, where Charles Darwin first set foot on the islands that made him famous.

ECUADOR: wildlife of southern Ecuador

April 2022, with Xavier Munoz

In previous years we have visited the cloud forest of the Choco region, explored the high Andes in search of Spectacled Bear, and visited the wonderful rainforest lodges of the Amazon basin. This new itinerary takes us south, to the dry forests of the Tumbesian region and the cloud forests of the Tapichalaca and Podocarpus reserves.

WESTERN AUSTRALIA: wild flowers and wildlife

September 2022, with Mark Hanger

Western Australia is a vast botanical garden: forests, shrublands and heath are home to over 4000 species, 80% of which grow nowhere else. Mid-spring is the time when the flowers are at their best. Banksias, grevilleas, myrtles, kangaroo paws and a bewildering diversity of orchids combine to create a truly remarkable flora.

MONGOLIA: in the realm of the Snow Leopard

Autumn 2022

Border closures forced us to postpone our trip to Mongolia to recce an exciting new itinerary, on the trail of some real dream mammals: Pallas's Cat, Prezwalski's Horse and of course the near-mythical Snow Leopard will all be very much in our sights, along with some superb birdlife and some absolutely magnificent scenery in the Altai Mountains.

SOUTH AFRICA: Kalahari and Kimberley

Autumn/Winter 2023

This new itinerary will explore the semi-arid north of South Africa, in search of some of the continent's most charismatic mammals. We will be hoping to find Meerkats, Black-footed Cat, Aardvark and Honey Badger in our time here, along with the big cat trio of Cheetah, Leopard and Lion in the spectacular setting of Kgalagadi National Park.

Responsible Travel

As responsible travellers, we need to ensure that all our holidays provide positive gains to the local environments and communities that we visit, particularly when we fly to the destination, as the detrimental effects of air travel are increasingly accepted.

We endeavour to always travel responsibly and to engage with local people and communities wherever practical. We try to stay in locally-owned and often family-run hotels, and to eat locally-produced food. We try, where possible, to include opportunities for our travellers to visit local markets and artisans, ensuring that our visit has positive economic value to the community, while avoiding items made of exploited wildlife products.

We encourage both our travellers and our local agents to consider their impact on our destinations and to limit the use of single-use plastics and other resources.

Carbon and climate

Aviation is recognised as a major source of damaging carbon emissions: there is no doubt that our flights have a negative impact on the climate. We have therefore been 'off-setting' all our flights as a matter of course since 2005, rather than as an 'optional extra': **if you fly with us, your flights are 'carbon balanced' automatically.**

We are keen to ensure that we do much more than 'just' carbon off-setting. The most significant driver of biodiversity loss has been, and continues to be, land-use change and habitat loss. This land-use change, particularly deforestation, is also a very significant source of carbon emissions. Since 2007, our flight carbon emissions have been mitigated through the **World Land Trust's certified 'carbon balancing' scheme.** The amount of CO₂ generated by the flights our travellers take is calculated, and these emissions are then offset by investing in reforestation and protecting areas of high biodiversity forests in the tropics, particularly in Ecuador, a country we have a long and happy history of visiting.

Supporting conservation around the world

As well as donating all our profits to the Wildlife Trusts, we do our best to ensure that, wherever possible, we also contribute positively to the work of nature conservation organisations in our destination countries. Our groups have supported local conservation and research in Tasmania, Ecuador and South Africa amongst others.



“well thought out holiday... excellent accommodation.

We look forward to joining you on another trip in the future”

Morocco 2019

“thrilled to see beavers and to hear about the conservation work... just what I hoped for.”

“expert leaders were a highlight of the holiday, helping me to learn more about the wildlife.”

Devon 2019

“the whole experience was excellent, well led, full of activity and wide ranging in content... we always recommend you to friends and hope to travel with you again soon”

The Gargano 2019

“really nice to look at all aspects of the wildlife... [Claudio was] wonderful, extremely kind and patient. A wonderful trip”

Chile 2019



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Wildlife Travel Ltd. Reg. No 2237697 Contact us for the Wildlife Trusts' charity numbers



Photo credits: all Phillip Precey/Wildlife Travel except: Mike Symes (p4 Black-tailed Godwit, p5 European Beaver, p6 Red-headed Barbet, p7 European Roller, p8 Common Glider); Laurie Jackson (p4 Seven Sisters, p5 Purple Emperor, pp 6&7 Transylvania, p8 Vercors, p12 group photos); Phil Saunders (p5, Adonis Blue); Dave Green (p7, Biebrza Marshes); Juan Carlos Poveda (p8, Chaenorhinum); Chris Donnelly (p8, Cape flora); José Luis Avandano (p9, Andean Cock-of-the-Rock); Madeira Flora and Fauna (p9, Madeira); Claudio Vidal (p9, Araucaria forest); Xavier Muñoz (p10, Jocotoco Antipitta); Soaring Expeditions (p10 Pallas's Cat).