

WILDLIFE TRAVEL



Holidays 2026



all our profits are donated to conservation

Welcome,

to another year of Wildlife Travelling.

In the following pages, we have laid out our plans for the year ahead, our 39th holiday year... yes, amazingly, it's just one year to go before our Ruby Anniversary!

Highlights for 2026 include a more bird-focussed week in **Cyprus**; a return to **Crete** with an new itinerary based close to Chania on the north coast; our first autumn trip to the **Danube Delta**, as birds gather in large flocks; and our first trip to the 'seventh continent' of **Antarctica**, a real trip of a lifetime.

Many of next year's trips are already booking up, with our 2026 departures to Costa Rica, Botswana, New Zealand and our spring trip to the Danube Delta already fully booked. Remember, you can find the most up to date details of our holidays on our website, where you can also subscribe to our email newsletter. And if you have any questions or queries about our trips, just give us a call: we are always happy to talk through the details of our holidays.

As ever, we want to wish 'happy travels' to all Wildlife Travellers, and thank you for the pleasure of your company on our travels.

We look forward to travelling with you.

Laurie Philip



Looking back over the last year

Our 2024 holiday programme came to an end with two fully booked holidays to **Costa Rica**, where amongst the best wildlife sightings of the past year, an encounter with a Jaguarundi, a rarely-spotted, particularly slinky wild cat, must rank pretty highly for those lucky enough to have seen it. Fingers crossed our next visit to Costa Rica is equally successful.

Our autumn 2024 visit to **Estonia** coincided with a spectacular migration day, as more than 100,000 geese and sea duck flew south past where we sat one day, while a single Steller's Eider was a 'first' for everyone involved on our April 2025 visit to the same country.

Europe's largest moth, the Giant Peacock Moth again featured in our 2025 highlights reel, turning up to the moth trap every night in the **Cevennes**, while a remarkable herd of 43 Alpine Ibex and the scarce Spitzel's Orchid were amongst the many memorable sights for this summer's visitors to the **Vercors**.

For more on any of our past holidays, you can find trip reports and photo galleries on our website, and follow our socials for news from our travels.

If you are in touch with Wildlife Travel over the next year, you might notice an unfamiliar voice on the end of the phone... Dr Phil Saunders has been one of our leaders since 2018, and we are very pleased to welcome Phil to our office team from late autumn 2025.



MOROCCO

natural history, mountains and coast

28th February to 7th March 2026 Leader: Dominic Price
£2,190, full board, single room supplement £220

Based for the week at the wonderful Atlas Kasbah, a superb eco-lodge on the outskirts of Agadir, this holiday is intended to give an introduction to the plants, birds and other wildlife of this exciting and varied corner of southern Morocco, as well as an insight into the local Berber culture, at a typically 'Wildlife Travel' pace; relaxed and comfortable.

March is the best time for enjoying many of the flowers of the region, both on the coast and in the mountains. With Mediterranean, Macaronesian and African influences, this corner of the country has a fascinating mix of plants including succulent Euphorbias, colourful annuals, bulbs and shrubs, along with the endemic Argan tree.

Amongst the birdlife, we can expect to find some real Maghreb specialties, including Moussier's Redstart, Black-crowned Tchagra and Northern Bald Ibis, and we will visit the Souss-Massa National Park to find the large mammals that have been re-introduced here, including Addax, Dorcas Gazelle and the graceful Scimitar-horned Oryx.

"one of the best places we have stayed, anywhere!" 2018

TENERIFE

spring flowers and endemic wildlife

4th-11th March 2026. Leader: Phil Saunders
£2,765, full board, single room supplement £300

Tenerife sits at the centre of the Canary Islands archipelago, the largest of the seven main islands. Our daily excursions will enable us to explore the various important habitats of the island, from the arid coastal areas, with endemic succulent Euphorbias and Atlantic Canaries flitting about, to the misty laurel forests of the north of the island, where we will look for Bolle's Pigeon and Canary Island Red Admiral, giant sow-thistles and the lovely Canary Bellflower.

The island is dominated by the volcano of Mount Teide, Spain's highest mountain at over 3,700 metres above sea level, and we will have two days to explore the Teide National Park. We will take the cable car up to the summit itself, and explore the pine forests on the lower slopes where we will look for the beautiful Tenerife Blue Chaffinch, and a variety of endemic Echiums and Aeoniums.

The seas around Tenerife are rich in marine life, and we will take a whale watching trip, in the hope of spending time with some of the area's cetaceans, with several species of dolphin and resident Short-finned Pilot Whales all possible.

"lovely friendly hotel... fascinating volcanic scenery" 2024



CYPRUS

spring flowers and ancient sites

21st-28th March 2026. Leader: Philip Precey

£1,895, full board, single room supplement £145

We first visited Cyprus way back in 1991, and more than 35 trips later it is still one of our travellers' favourite destinations.

March is certainly the best month to enjoy the abundant wild flowers of the Cypriot spring, most notably the great variety of orchids: the taxonomy of orchids seems to be in permanent flux, with little agreement from one year to the next on just how many species there are, but we can expect to find 25 or more different taxa in a week. Aside from the head-scratching orchids, our spring visits also enjoy colourful displays of Crown Anemone, Turban Buttercups, Persian Cyclamen and numerous other botanical delights. Sunny spells should reveal local reptiles including Troodos Wall Lizard, while the endemic Paphos Blue will be amongst the spring butterflies we expect to find on the wing.

Whilst spending most of our time admiring Cyprus's wildlife, it's impossible not to turn your attention to the history of the island: we will visit the spectacular mosaics and famous 'Tombs of the Kings' of the Paphos World Heritage Site.

"an orchid-oholic's glory at every step" 2024

CYPRUS

relaxed spring birding & natural history

28th March to 4th April 2026. Leader: James Lowen

£1,895, full board, single room supplement £145

Spring migration is well underway in the eastern Mediterranean by the end of March. Various warblers and chats, buntings and shrikes, waders, herons and crakes could turn up as we explore the countryside from our comfortable base on the Akamas peninsula, along with local specialties including both Cyprus Warbler and Cyprus Wheatear, while Cyprus Scops Owl sometimes calls from the gardens, all three endemic to the island.

We will visit various well-known migration hotspots, including the wetlands at Agia Varvara, the coastal fields around Mandria, the salt lake and gravel pits on the Akrotiri peninsula, the scrubby woodlands of Pegeia and the Baths of Aphrodite, and Paphos headland, well known both for its birdlife and for its archaeology.

Our itinerary gives us the opportunity for a relaxed exploration of the island's birdlife, while also having the flexibility to make sure we connect with some of the more exciting migrant sightings that may well turn up during the week: easy birding at its best.

NEW ITINERARY FOR 2026



ALGARVE

spring flowers and natural history

7th-14th April 2026 Leader: Philip Precey

£2,485, full board, single room supplement £445

Wonderful displays of spring flowers and some interesting birdlife will enliven our week of wandering the quiet footpaths and byways of southern Portugal.

We will spend time exploring the dramatic Cabo São Vicente, the most south-westerly point in mainland Europe, where the cliffs of the Atlantic coastline are bizarrely topped by sand dunes and outcrops of bare limestone. Along the south coast, we will explore the coastal wetlands and river valleys of the Algarve.

Inland, we will spend time amongst the limestone hills of the Barrocal, where we will enjoy a variety of spring orchids and look for the spectacular *Paeonia broteroi*, as well as heading for the isolated acid soils of the Serra de Monchique.

We will split our time between two four-star hotels. We will start in the stylish surroundings of Hotel Memmo Baleeira in Sagres, before moving to the historic Hotel Vila Galé Albarora, set in the heart of the Ria Formosa Natural Park, where we can walk out to enjoy the birds of the salt pans.

UPDATED ITINERARY FOR 2026

TANZANIA

'the Great Migration' Serengeti safari

13th-23rd April 2026. Leader: tbc

Price tbc, full board, single room supplement tbc

Enjoy a classic East African safari, following one of the world's great wildlife spectacles, the migration of millions of grazing animals. The ultimate wildlife holiday, staying in top quality lodges in some stunning locations.

Our journey starts on the lower slopes of Mount Meru, from where we head west to Tarangire National Park, where African Elephants browse amongst baobab trees. At Lake Manyara we will find thousands of Lesser Flamingos.

The centrepiece of this holiday will be our time spent in the Serengeti National Park. Here, with the plains stretching to the horizon, we will watch the annual migration of vast herds of Blue Wildebeest, together with Plains Zebra and Thomson's and Grant's Gazelles as they move in search of fresh grazing. The herds in turn attract predators, and we should enjoy memorable encounters with big cats and Nile Crocodiles.

We will end our trip with a stay on the rim of the famous Ngorongoro Crater, home to the highest density of Lions in the world, as well as Black Rhinoceros!

"amazing spectacle... a fascinating experience" 2017



CRETE

spring flowers and ancient sites

17th-24th April 2026. Leader: Philip Precey
£2,195, full board, single room supplement £200

Our very first Wildlife Travel holiday, way back in 1988, was an April week on Crete, famous for its carpets of springtime flowers and abundance of orchids. The island has held a special place in our hearts ever since, and almost four decades later, we are still being blown away by Crete's wild flowers, dramatic gorges and archaeological sites.

A highlight of any April trip to Crete is the time spent on the limestone hillsides around Spili, where twenty or more species of orchid can be found on a good day, alongside Cretan Iris and the beautiful red *Tulipa orphanidea*. We will also make sure to visit the Omalos plateau, where the delicate pink *Tulipa saxatilis* blooms across great swathes of the roadside.

There is of course so much more than 'just' the orchids and tulips, and our time exploring the quiet lanes, olive groves and archaeological sites of the west of the island will introduce us to Cretan Ebony, Cretan Cyclamen and Cretan Birthwort, along with Cretan Festoon, Cretan Wall Lizard and Cretan Pool Frog: this is an island rich in endemics!

UPDATED ITINERARY FOR 2026

LESVOS

spring wildlife and easy birding

3rd-10th May 2026. Leader: Laurie Jackson
£2,075, full board, single room supplement £175

Set in the Aegean, just off the Turkish coastline, Lesvos is one of the lesser-known jewels of Greece, largely undiscovered for many, despite being the third largest Greek island. It is relatively undeveloped and retains its rural culture, interspersed with a few attractive towns and villages.

The island is justifiably famous for its birdlife, with local breeding specialities including Krüper's Nuthatch, Cinereous Bunting and Masked Shrike. We have timed this holiday to catch the best of the northwards spring migration, as well as the wonderful carpets of spring flowers. During our week on Lesvos, we visit the wetlands around Kalloni, the arid rocky landscapes of the west of the island, and the Sweet Chestnut forest and pine woods of the southern mountains.

A two-base holiday, we split our time between the scenic town of Molyvos on the north coast, where we stay with Stella and Dimitri right on the harbour, and the quiet village of Skala Kalloni, in a family run hotel within walking distance of some of the prime birding spots on the island, at the head of the Gulf of Kalloni.

"fantastic flowers, unspoilt countryside, easy walking" 2023



THE DORDOGNE

spring in south west France, by train

11th-18th May 2026. Leader: Phil Saunders

£2,320, full board, single room supplement £225

Our travels will take us through the wide valleys of the Dordogne and Vézère Rivers with opportunities to explore their diverse woodlands, wetlands, and of course the flower-rich limestone plateaux of the 'causses'.

We can expect to find a fantastic range of plants including a good selection of orchids, while the 'causses' support an abundance of butterflies, providing plenty of opportunity to get to grips with various blues, fritillaries and skippers, along with other interesting species such as the Ocellated Lizard.

As well as time on the plateaux, we will pass through the river valleys clad in oak woodland with outcrops of high, sculpted limestone cliffs; visit the wetlands at Tourbières de Vendoire, an important area of damp meadows and peat bog, with a rich dragonfly community; and explore the Forêt de la Bessède, a mixture of chestnut and pine on sandy soils.

In between some memorable wildlife encounters, we will have time to enjoy some of the area's charming villages, and sample the wares at a local market.

"a super trip... thanks for an excellent week" 2025

LA BRENNE

wildlife of the French lakes, by train

11th-18th May 2026. Leader: Mike Russell

£2,085, full board, single room supplement £210

Often called "the Land of a Thousand Lakes", La Brenne Parc Naturel Régional is located just south of the Loire Valley. A mosaic of fish ponds, lakes, reedbeds, meadows, heaths and broad-leaved forest set in a traditional farmland landscape, makes for a uniquely diverse flora and fauna.

During the spring, the birds of La Brenne are busy proclaiming their territories, with Nightingale, Golden Oriole, Wryneck and numerous warblers singing from the undergrowth, nine species of herons at their nesting colonies, several hundred pairs of Whiskered Terns and 10% of France's Black-necked Grebes nesting amongst the waterlilies.

Although best known for its birds, La Brenne has plenty of other wildlife on offer. With large areas of traditionally managed farmland and forest, flower-rich meadows, wetlands and heath, butterflies and dragonflies abound. An impressive 97 species of butterflies and almost 70 species of dragonfly have been recorded across La Brenne. For the botanist there's also much on offer, with an impressive 36 different species of orchid found across the Parc.

"a great success... exceeded expectations" 2024



MADEIRA

spring wildlife of the Atlantic islands

April/May 2026 Leader: tbc

price tbc, full board, single room supplement tbc

A springtime visit to the 'floating garden' of Madeira to explore the diversity of the island's habitats and its endemic wildlife along the way, all at a relaxed pace.

The mountainous centre of the island is cloaked in lush Laurisilva rainforest, home to three endemic birds: the Madeiran Chaffinch, Madeiran Firecrest and the shy Trocaz Pigeon. Around the rugged coast we will find endemic Pride of Madeira echiums and house leeks. Higher up, the misty mountain tops support interesting heath communities, as well as being the only nesting place for the endemic Zino's Petrel.

The seas surrounding the island are rich in marine life, with Sperm Whale, Short-finned Pilot Whale and several species of dolphin amongst the resident species likely to be seen from our whale-watching boat trip. There will be the opportunity (weather permitting) to take a day trip across to the arid Desertas Islands, with the chance to see the endemic Desertas Petrel alongside other seabirds, and perhaps even the critically endangered Mediterranean Monk Seal.

NEW ITINERARY FOR 2026

ESTONIA

spring wildlife and orchids of the Baltic

26th May to 2nd June 2026. Leader: Laurie Jackson

£2,350, full board, single room supplement £185

Late spring on the Baltic is a busy time, with birds courting, the meadows bursting into flower, many butterflies on the wing and dragonflies emerging over the wetlands, including the delightful whitefaces.

We can expect to catch the best displays of one of Europe's most flamboyant wild flowers, the spectacular Lady's Slipper Orchid, along with Siberian Iris, Military Orchid and Red Helleborine. During our time among Estonia's extensive woodlands, fens and bogs we should find a fine selection of interesting plant species.

Butterflies on the wing should include some exciting species such as Scarce Fritillary, Poplar Admiral, Map, Cranberry Blue and Northern Chequered Skipper.

Summer visitors, including Blyth's Reed Warbler, Citrine Wagtail and Common Rosefinch will be setting up their territories, alongside residents including various owls and woodpeckers. Elk and Roe Deer feed in the floodplain meadows of Matsalu National Park, where Beavers are common along the wooded waterways.

"excellent guides, a good variety of wildlife" 2024



THE CÉVENNES

wildlife and walking, by train

27th May to 3rd June 2026. Leader: Kieron Huston
£2,280, full board, single room supplement £185

From the rolling limestone plateaux with their deep-cut gorges to the more rugged granite landscapes, the twin parks of the Cévennes and Grands Causses have much to offer the naturalist. Butterflies include a variety of blues and fritillaries, skippers and coppers, with Nightingales serenading from every bush, all four European vultures circling overhead and Western Green Lizards amongst the undergrowth.

The region is particularly rich botanically, and our visit is timed to make the most of the wonderful spring flowers, with 30 or more orchids possible during our visit, while the steppe-like grasslands are full of wild flowers, with rock-rose, pasque flowers and Wild Tulip all adding splashes of colour.

We will take daily excursions to explore the various habitats and hidden corners of the area, from the limestone grasslands to the deep river gorges.

We will visit one of the area's spectacular caves, enjoy a boat trip along the River Tarn, visit a restored Templar village, and learn about local conservation projects.

"kind, helpful leaders with excellent knowledge!" 2022

THE VERCORS

natural history of the pre-Alps, by train

4th-11th June 2026. Leader: Laurie Jackson
£2,395, full board, single room supplement £195

A day's train journey takes us away from the noise and hustle of London St Pancras to the Vercors massif, our favourite quiet corner of the French pre-Alps, and a warm welcome in the sleepy village of Les Nonières. We have had so many enjoyable visits to the Vercors, more than 20 since our first, in 1998, and we look forward to returning again this year.

Our early summer visit is timed to make the most of the natural history of the area, when the best of the flowers bloom, most notably the staggeringly beautiful Lady's Slipper Orchids, while an abundance of butterflies are on the wing, including Apollo and Clouded Apollo, up on the higher meadows. Along the way we will keep our eyes peeled for the typical mammals of the high mountains: Alpine Ibex, Alpine Marmot and Chamois, while high altitude birdlife may include Citril Finch, Lammergeier and Alpine Chough.

This trip will appeal to anyone who enjoys stretching their legs through stunning, wildlife-rich countryside and stunning scenery, all without having to go near an airport.

"the scenery was fantastic... met all my expectations" 2023



THE BAVARIAN ALPS

relaxed mountain wildlife, by train

12th-20th June 2026. Leader: Philip Precey

price tbc, full board, single room supplement tbc

The limestone mountains of the Bavarian Alps may not be as familiar as their higher Austrian or Swiss neighbours, but they are home to some fantastic wildlife. Highlights of our trip should include wet meadows full of marsh orchids; scarce butterflies such as Woodland Brown and Dusky Large Blue; high mountain birds such as Ptarmigan, Alpine Chough and Snowfinch; delicate alpine flowers including primulas, gentians and the beautiful *Soldanella alpina*; and some awe-inspiring mountain scenery, with views taking in four countries. Oh, and if you like apple cake, hot chocolate and Bavarian beer, all the better!

This holiday is based in the scenic alpine town of Mittenwald, from where we will explore the woods, meadows, wetlands and the high mountains in the surrounding area.

Throughout the holiday, we will be doing all of our travel by public transport, travelling first by Eurostar to Paris and then by express train to Munich. In Bavaria, we will take advantage of the fantastic local train service together with the cable cars that give us direct access to the mountains.

"an inspired choice... unforgettable" 2025

SVALBARD

Polar Bears & wildlife of the High Arctic

6th-17th July 2026. Leader: Philip Precey

£8,495, full board, single room supplement £100 (hotel only)

The archipelago of Svalbard lies well north of the Arctic Circle, midway between the North Cape (the northernmost point on mainland Europe) and the North Pole. Way up here, where the summer sun never sets, we travel with Oceanwide Expeditions on an expedition cruise around the islands.

The wildlife of the Arctic can be truly spectacular. Huge numbers of birds include around 850,000 pairs of Brünnich's Guillemots and over a million pairs of Little Auk nesting amongst the islands' cliffs, with King Eider, Grey Phalarope and Ivory Gull amongst the high arctic specialities we hope to find during our cruise. Cetaceans include Beluga and Blue Whale, while Walrus haul out on their favourite beaches.

The human population is outnumbered by that of the Polar Bear, surely the highlight of any trip to Svalbard: there can be few places on Earth where we have a better chance of encountering this wonderful beast. And to do it amongst the spectacular glaciers, mountains and icebergs of Svalbard... this is the stuff wildlife holiday dreams are made of.

"more than exceeded expectations... exhilarating" 2017



SOUTH AFRICA

Kalahari, Kimberley & Northern Karoo

13th-24th July 2026. Leader: tbc

price tbc, full board, single room supplement tbc

An exciting 'safari' exploration of the arid habitats and spectacular wildlife of the Northern Karoo and Kalahari, focussing on some of South Africa's rarer mammals.

Our journey starts in the Northern Karoo, where flocks of Blue Cranes gather, several species of bustard stalk the grasslands and our first night drives will give us a good chance of seeing Springhare, South African Porcupine and Striped Polecat.

We travel on to the Kimberley region and a private farm where night drives give us the best chance of seeing Aardvark, Aardwolf and perhaps the lovely Black-footed Cat, while during the day we hope to find endearing Meerkats and elephant shrews.

We end up amongst the arid dunes and dry riverbeds of the Kalahari Desert, the 'place of thirst', where daily safari drives will give us the chance to find all three of Africa's big cats, along with herds of Springbok, Blue Wildebeest and the elegant Gemsbok. This is one of the best places to look for the solitary Brown Hyena, and we will also be looking for African Wild Cat, Cape Fox and Honey Badger.



MONGOLIA

Snow Leopard, Pallas's Cat and more

13th-27th August 2026. Leader: Phil Saunders

£6,995, full board, single room supplement £350

We are very excited to be returning to Mongolia, where our search for some iconic mammals and birds amongst jaw-dropping scenery promises some fantastic wildlife rewards.

The undoubted highlight of this trip is the chance to see Snow Leopards, without needing to climb to uncomfortable altitudes. We will spend a week in the foothills of the Altai Mountains, where sharp-eyed local trackers help to maximise the chances of finding the elusive big cats.

We have tweaked our previous itinerary to give us an even better chance of finding the famously 'grumpy' Pallas's Cat, while other exciting mammal sightings should include wild Przewalski's Horses, Mongolian Saiga, Grey Wolf, Corsac Fox, and more, while the birdlife along the way should include such mouth-watering specialities as Pallas's Sandgrouse, Mongolian Ground Jay and Güldenstädt's Redstart.

Our itinerary takes a more relaxed pace and more wide-ranging wildlife focus than others: after all, there is so much more to this wonderful country than 'just' Snow Leopards!

"phenomenal... such special memories" 2023



BRAZIL: THE PANTANAL

Jaguars & the world's largest wetland

9th-25th September 2026. Leader: Laurie Jackson

£7,385, full board, single room supplement £475

A visit to the Pantanal offers a wildlife holiday of superlatives: everything here is bigger, better and bolder than anywhere else. At some 200,000km², the Pantanal is the world's largest wetland, whose waters are home to the Green Anaconda, the world's longest snake and the world's heaviest rodent, the Capybara, as well as the highest density of crocodiles (Yacaré Caiman) on the planet.

Giants of the Pantanal include the Giant Anteater and South America's heaviest mammal the Lowland Tapir. The Toco Toucan boasts the largest beak relative to body size, and alongside it we can hope to find the Hyacinth Macaw, the world's largest parrot, along with more than 400 other bird species, including great congregations of waterbirds.

And at the heart of it all, stalking the banks of the 'Three Brothers' rivers where we spend a good chunk of our time, is South America's largest predator, the Jaguar. A trip to the Pantanal is a 'must' for anyone who wants to spend time with this most beautiful of big cats.

"truly amazing... the jaguar encounters phenomenal" 2019

CHILE: ATACAMA DESERT

wild flowers of the 'blooming desert'

22nd Sept to 9th Oct 2026. Leader: Sarah Lambert

£7,850, full board, single room supplement £680

For our tenth visit to one of our most favourite countries, we will travel north from Santiago, through the Mediterranean regions of Central Chile to the spectacular Pacific coastline, where we will explore the unique 'lomas' vegetation, rich in bulbs, cacti and other endemic plants, as well as the rich marine life just off-shore.

Stretching from Peru into northern Chile, the Atacama is an amazing place of salt pans, geysers and 'lunar landscapes'. Extending inland from the Pacific, the desert rises through the foothills of the Andes and becomes the impressive altiplano, with its alluvial salt basins (salars), snow-capped volcanoes and a surprising variety of wildlife.

The rains are unpredictable in this, the driest place on earth, but we will be hoping that enough moisture has fallen to trigger the "blooming desert", when the horizon becomes filled with colour, as annuals and bulbs burst into flower.

We will be in the safe hands of our friends at Far South Expeditions, who have guided all our previous visits to Chile.

"spot on in all respects... so impressed by Chile!" 2016



DANUBE DELTA

autumn birding and natural history

28th Sept to 6th Oct 2026. Leader: Phil Saunders
£2,390, full board, single room supplement £350

At the end of a 1,700 mile long journey across Europe, the great Danube River reaches the Black Sea. Here, the river splits into numerous channels and canals, creating the vast Danube Delta. Great swathes of swamp and forest, as well as a scattering of lakes surrounded by thick reedbeds, provide a perfect sanctuary for a great diversity of birds.

In the Delta we stay on a very comfortable, travelling houseboat, equipped with all the 'mod cons' we might need, along with an open deck for birdwatching and relaxing as we travel. Our meals are as local as it gets, with Danube Herring, carp, goose and marshland lamb all likely to feature on the menu, along with good Romanian wine.

Our traditional spring visit to the Delta this year is already fully booked, but we are delighted to be returning for our first autumn trip to this, a favourite Wildlife Travel destination for the last 20 years. This holiday is timed to coincide with the big build up of waterbird numbers, as they gather in great flocks before heading south for the winter.

"a special and beautiful place with great birds" 2019

MOROCCO

autumn wildlife and easy birding

5th-12th October 2026. Leader: Philip Precey
£2,190, full board, single room supplement £220

We return to explore the landscapes, autumn bulbs and south-bound migrants of southern Morocco, from the ancient Anti-Atlas mountains to the breakers of the Atlantic coast, enjoying a great introduction to the natural history of the region.

The autumn is a great time to experience the interesting bird life of the area, with all the resident North African specialties alongside passage migrants from across Europe. At wetlands along the coast, we will find Osprey and various terns and waders heading southwards, while flycatchers, warblers and chats flit past and south-bound raptors pass overhead.

The fascinating mix of plants includes two delicate autumn-flowering bulbs, *Hannonia hesperidum* and *Vagararia ollivieri*, both endemic to this small corner of Morocco, as well as the iconic Argan tree, a keystone of the local culture.

An ideal trip for anyone wanting a taste of Morocco in the company of expert leaders whilst enjoying a high standard of accommodation at a wonderful hotel on the outskirts of Agadir, with easy, comfortable travel.

"hotel was ideal... traditional feel and excellent staff" 2022



ANTARCTICA

Falkland Islands and South Georgia

20th Oct to 16th Nov 2026. Leader: Laurie Jackson

£18,995, full board, single room supplement £380

A visit to the 'seventh continent' of Antarctica surely features high on every wildlife traveller's wish list. This expedition cruise with our friends at Oceanwide Expeditions will take us from Argentina down to the Falkland Islands, across to the remote South Georgia, and then down to the snowy shores of Antarctica.

After a visit to Buenos Aires and the Valdes peninsula, we will set off in the company of Sei Whales and Black-browed Albatrosses, crossing to the Falkland Islands where we will be entertained by Southern Rockhopper Penguins, Falklands Steamer Ducks and Commerson's Dolphins.

Our journey continues on to the remote South Georgia where we will walk amongst King Penguins, Wandering Albatrosses and Southern Elephant Seals, before heading down to the vast icy expanses of the Antarctic peninsula. Here we expect to see yet more penguins, perhaps even the wonderful Emperor Penguin as well as Snow Petrels, Leopard Seals, Killer Whales and plenty more.

NEW ITINERARY FOR 2026

COLOMBIA

wildlife and birding in the Neotropics

November 2026. Leader: Mike Symes

price tbc, full board, single room supplement tbc

Colombia is one of the great biodiversity hotspots, home to more bird species than any other country in the world, encompassing a variety of habitats from the tropical forests of the Pacific and Caribbean lowlands to the mountains and valleys of the Andes.

Our visit begins in Bogotá, with a visit to the alpine grasslands of nearby Chingaza National Park and several days spent in the cloud forests of the Andean valleys

After our time in the Andes, we head to Colombia's north coast. Here we will spend time in the dry forests of the Caribbean coast, as well as visiting some important wetlands and lagoons.

Our attention then turns back to the mountains, heading upwards to the isolated range of the Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta, well known for its biodiversity, including a wealth of endemic species, and we will spend time at different elevations to get a flavour of the wildlife here.

Our tour comes to an end around the historic city of Cartagena, before our flights back to the UK.



TASMANIA

marsupials and wilderness wildlife

8th-26th January 2027. Leader: Philip Precey
£5,995, full board, single room supplement £1,100

Sitting 150 miles off the south coast of Victoria, the island of Tasmania has survived as a fox-free refuge, leaving healthy populations of many mammals now rare or lost completely from the mainland, and these furry survivors are a major feature of our visits to Tassie.

During the days we will look forward to bumping into Bennett's Wallaby, Rufous-bellied Pademelon, Common Wombat, Short-beaked Echidna and the iconic Platypus, while our nocturnal excursions could reveal bandicoots and possums, Eastern Bettong, Long-nosed Potoroo, both Eastern and Spotted-tailed Quolls and (fingers firmly crossed!) the eponymous Tasmanian Devil.

While the mammal watchers are enjoying all the marsupials and monotremes, there are fifteen endemic bird species waiting for us, as well as the spectacular flora and scenery of the state's national parks: Cradle Mountain, Ben Lomond, Bruny Island, Lake St Clair and Franklin-Gordon Wild Rivers will all feature on our itinerary.

"brilliant... something new and interesting every day" 2016

COSTA RICA

easy birding and natural history

14th-29th January 2027. Leader: Laurie Jackson
£5,645, full board, single room supplement £550

From the dry forests and mangroves of the Pacific slope to the broad beaches and rainforest of the Caribbean, via the cloud forests of the Talamanca mountains, this is a perfect introduction to the wildlife of the tropics.

Costa Rica is a natural history paradise, as discovered by those who travelled with us on our previous 12 visits to this biodiverse country, where a high percentage of the land is managed for conservation. The wildlife will captivate both the new and the more seasoned traveller as we explore coastal forests and mangroves, cloud forests, rainforests and dramatic volcanic cones.

Travelling by boat to our lodge in Tortuguero National Park on the Caribbean coast, we have a wonderful tour through the waterways. Moving to the Talamanca mountains, we explore cloud forest in search of the Resplendent Quetzal! We then head to the Pacific coast, visiting the dry forests in the west of the country, home to Scarlet Macaw and several species of monkey, as well as the American Crocodiles of the Tarcoles river.

"stunning country, local guide very knowledgeable" 2024



BOTSWANA

Chobe, Okavango & Victoria Falls

17th-28th March 2027. Leader: Laurie Jackson

£7,915, full board, single room supplement £725

A luxurious 'safari' exploration of the pristine wilderness habitats of northern Botswana, to enjoy some of the most spectacular wildlife to be found anywhere in Africa while staying in some of the very best accommodation.

Our journey begins on the Chobe River, with its amazing density of African Elephants and other large mammals, before a short charter flight takes us in to the depths of the Okavango Delta, a dream destination for any wildlife enthusiast. Our journey ends in Livingstone, across the border in Zambia, with a visit to the magnificent Victoria Falls, 'the smoke that thunders', and a cruise along the mighty Zambezi River.

The region boasts some excellent wildlife viewing. With luck, we may find Leopard, Lion and Cheetah and we will be visiting areas where the rapidly-declining African Wild Dog can still be found. Birding too is most rewarding: the Delta is one of the best places to see Wattled Crane, Slaty Egret and Pel's Fishing Owl, amongst many others.

"absolutely brilliant... our best wildlife trip ever!" 2019

BHUTAN

natural history from north to south

Spring 2027 (dates tbc). Leader: tbc

price tbc, full board, single room supplement tbc

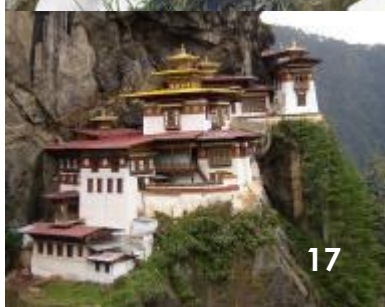
The Himalayan kingdom of Bhutan has been on our 'to do' list for some time now, having first been invited to visit back in 2019. It's taken us a while, but we are at long last finalising an exciting wildlife-rich itinerary, in search of Red Panda and Golden Langur, colourful butterflies and pheasants, and the unique Ibisbill.

Bhutan has been protected by its isolation within the Himalayas and its mountainous terrain. The deep valleys and almost impenetrable jungles have acted as allies in preventing destruction of the forests. Today, over 70% of the land is forested and 60% is protected.

The great variation in altitude, from 150m to 4,500m, creates a wide range of habitats, from undisturbed tropical jungles, through mixed temperate broad-leaved forest to high alpine meadows. In this pristine environment, where religion states that all life is sacred, wildlife flourishes.

Our spring tour will take us through beautiful landscapes, where we should encounter a wonderful variety of birds and butterflies, wild flowers and more.

NEW ITINERARY FOR 2027



What to expect

Wildlife Travel holidays are aimed at anyone who has an interest in wildlife, from birds to butterflies wild flowers to whales, and everything in between. If you want to discover wildlife at a relaxed pace, with good company, expert leaders, comfortable travel and plenty of opportunities for photography and local culture, then our holidays are for you.

A typical Wildlife Travel group would be made up of around six to twelve like-minded wildlife enthusiasts, generally a mix of couples and single travellers, travelling together with one or two Wildlife Travel leaders, often a local guide, and a driver with a comfortable minibus: our tour leaders don't drive rental people-carriers, unlike other companies you may have travelled with.

We use **good, comfortable accommodation**, ideally locally-owned and family-run, with private facilities and enjoy good local food, either in the hotel or using nearby restaurants. Our holidays are generally 'full board', with all meals included from the time you arrive at the hotel on the first night, with a mixture of picnic lunches to make the most of our time in the field, and occasional 'sit down' lunches to enjoy a taste of the local cuisine.

We take life at a relaxed pace: there may be the occasional early start when we have an internal flight to catch, or to make the most of our safari drive, but generally pre-breakfast 'dawn chorus' bird walks or after-dinner 'night drives' are optional: it is a holiday, after all!

Our leaders and local guides are **expert naturalists**, so you don't have to be! They will make sure you see everything (or as much as is possible), and get the most out of your trip.

We pride ourselves on our **wide-ranging wildlife focus**: while some trips may be a little more 'birdy' or flower-focussed than others, we will always try and look at everything we find along the way: we will be watching birds one minute, butterflies the next, studying orchids in the morning and hunting for lizards in the afternoon. And there will always be time for photography along the way.



Booking your holiday

If you would like to know more about any of our holidays, **you can find up to date holiday information on our website**, along with the full trip itineraries.

If you want to book a place on a holiday, or if you have any queries about any aspect of travelling with us, please get in touch. We are always happy to talk through our holiday details, and can send you a holiday booking pack, containing all you need to know to book your trip.

Full details of what's included in the holiday price are given in the specific holiday information pack, but generally the price you see will **include everything from the time you arrive at the departure airport, to when you land back in the UK again**. The only things you can expect to pay for are your drinks with dinner, occasional coffee stops during the day and gratuities for our local guides and drivers, plus the odd bit of souvenir shopping.

For more than 30 years now, our holidays have been operated by our friends at **Sunvil Holidays**. Sunvil is a bonded tour operator (CAA-ATOL Licence 808) and member of AITO, giving you financial security and peace of mind. They are also members of ABTA (ABTA V6218), which means you have the benefit of ABTA's assistance and code of conduct. Sunvil are recognised as a Which? Recommended Provider, meaning you can rest assured that you are in safe hands when travelling with us.





Ever since our very first holiday, back in 1988, **we have donated all of our profits to the Wildlife Trusts**, totalling a little over £241,000 by the end of 2024.

This year, we are very pleased to make a donation of **£10,000** to the Wildlife Trusts' **Lost Rainforests of the British Isles** appeal.

Britain's temperate rainforests, also known as Atlantic woodland or Celtic rainforest, once covered vast areas of the western British Isles: now only fragments remain.

Temperate rainforests are wet, wonderful places full of life: ancient Sessile Oaks, spindly Birch and Rowan and an understorey of Holly and Hazel, amongst which grow a rich tapestry of ferns, mosses, liverworts and lichens, seemingly covering every surface.

Areas of rainforest often feature open glades or river gorges too. Conditions for growth require a very particular oceanic climate: wet, humid, and without extremes of temperature... a speciality of the British Isles! Many of the moisture-loving plants depend on the air being relatively free from pollution.



The UK's rainforests were destroyed over thousands of years: cut down for timber and cleared for farmland or urban development. Pests, disease and invasive species, pesticides and pollution, over-grazing and the impacts of climate change all threaten the precious fragments that remain.

Temperate rainforest once covered a fifth of our land, but today the scattered fragments stretch across just 1% of the UK. Such an important habitat needs restoring, for the homes it provides our wildlife and the carbon benefits it bestows. That's why **The Wildlife Trusts are establishing new rainforests** where the climate is just right, helping to reconnect the few sites that remain and create bigger areas of well-managed rainforest.

From the magical glens of the Isle of Man, to the soaring heights of the Cumbrian mountains, new Wildlife Trust-owned and managed rainforest sites will be hubs of activity, with tree planting, volunteering and in some cases, low-impact grazing to help manage them. Just as importantly, local communities will be at the heart of restoring these rainforests over the coming years, creating havens for wildlife and local people for decades to come.

For more details on the Lost Rainforests of the British Isles appeal, and to make a donation, visit **www.wildlifetrusts.org/appeals/lost-rainforest**

If you are not already a member of your local Wildlife Trust, do consider joining. You can find more details at **www.wildlifetrusts.org/get-involved/membership**





**WORLD
LAND
TRUST**

Saving land
Saving species

Since 2007, we have worked with the World Land Trust's 'Carbon Balanced' programme to mitigate the negative effects of the flights that we take together.

The Carbon Balanced programme recognises that the single most effective climate action we can take is to avoid further forest loss, particularly in the tropics. Trees are the oldest and most reliable carbon capture technology we have, and by protecting and restoring tropical forests, they also deliver an array of other benefits for people and wildlife.

This year, we are very pleased to be contributing a further **£2,500** to the vital work of the **World Land Trust**.

To find out more about the Carbon Balanced programme, including how you can carbon balance more of your personal travels or those of your business, visit www.worldlandtrust.org/what-we-do/carbon-balanced



Trees for Global Benefits

Uganda's Albertine Rift is a stunning landscape of wide valleys and volcanic peaks, rivers, crater lakes and montane forest. It is a hotspot for endemism and its importance as a refuge for primates in particular, including the endangered Mountain Gorilla, has led to the creation of protected areas across the Rift's forests. Increasingly, deforestation for agriculture and timber has encroached into the reserves themselves and fragmented the wider landscape, threatening the ecological connectivity vital for so many species.

We are very happy to hear that our payments will go towards the newest project to join the Carbon Balance programme. **The Trees for Global Benefits programme is a long-term carbon sequestration project**, working with rural communities in three areas of Uganda. Trees for Global Benefits supports farmers to move to alternative farming practices and plant native trees to support agroforestry activities, improve livelihood and bolster resilience and adaptability to climate change.

The success of the project speaks for itself: having begun with 33 farmers, the programme now partners with more than 50,000, with over two million trees planted to date.

If you would like to make a donation to the work of the World Land Trust, visit <https://donate.worldlandtrust.org>





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