

WILDLIFE TRAVEL



Holidays 2027



ALL our profits are donated to conservation

Wildlife Travel 2027

During the next 12 months we plan to return to some of our favourite destinations, trips that will no doubt be familiar to many of our travellers: Cyprus and Morocco, Estonia and the Vercors, Botswana and Costa Rica.

Alongside these tried and tested old favourites are some trips we want to tell you much more about, including our first visit to Bhutan and a long-overdue return to the Spanish Pyrenees.

Over the page is a calendar of our 2027 holiday programme. This is a snapshot of our current plans for the year ahead: as soon as we send this brochure to the printers, it will already be somewhat out of date. Plans change, holidays fill up, new trips are arranged, and dates may move slightly. For the most up to date details on all our holidays, visit our website: **www.wildlife-travel.co.uk**

And if you have any questions or queries, 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 your continued support.

We look forward to travelling with you.

Philip Laurie



Looking back over the last year

2025 ended on a high note for us, with our first holiday to **Colombia**, famously the most biodiverse country on the planet, and a fully-booked Christmas week in **Cyprus**, both trips which we hope to repeat very soon.

We started 2026 in **New Zealand**, where our group found Blue Duck, Hector's Dolphin and 'vegetable sheep', while a sighting of the elegant Agami Heron by our group in **Costa Rica** was much envied by those of us back home...

As always, March saw us head back to **Cyprus**, where a garden full of Collared and Semi-collared Flycatchers kept Laurie, Philip and James entertained, although the highlight of our two weeks on the island was finding a new site for the endemic Kotschy's Bee Orchid.

Crete returned to our holiday programme after a ten year hiatus, and it was a joy to return to the orchids of Spili and tulips of the Omalos plateau.

In **Estonia**, our group enjoyed an unforgettable evening with lekking Great Snipe and a roadside Eurasian Lynx (surely, the most exciting sighting of the year!), while Polar Bear, Beluga and Blue Whale were amongst the highlights for those Wildlife Travellers who made it to **Svalbard** in July.

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.



Holiday calendar 2027

Winter 2027

TASMANIA: marsupials and wilderness wildlife (+optional extension)

(6th to) 8th to 26th January 2027 leader: Philip Precey with Mark Hanger

DRAKENSBERG: mountain flowers on the roof of South Africa

13th to 26th January 2027 leader: tbc, with Mayur Praag

Spring 2027

MOROCCO: easy birding tour, coast, desert and mountains

3rd to 15th March 2027 leader: Mike Symes

BOTSWANA: Victoria Falls, Chobe and the Okavango Delta

17th to 28th March 2027 leader: Laurie Jackson **2 spaces left**

CYPRUS: spring flowers and ancient sites

24th to 31st March 2027 leaders: Sarah Lambert and Phil Saunders

CYPRUS: relaxed spring birding and natural history

31st March to 7th April 2027 leaders: Phil Saunders and James Lowen

ALGARVE: spring flowers and natural history

7th to 14th April 2027 leader: Philip Precey, with 2nd leader tbc

CRETE: spring flowers and ancient sites

16th to 23rd April 2027 leader: Sarah Lambert, with 2nd leader tbc

LESVOS: spring wildlife in the Aegean

Stansted flights

25th April to 2nd May 2027 leaders: Philip Precey and Chris Kirby-Lambert

BHUTAN: spectacular wildlife of the Eastern Himalayas

30th April to 18th May 2027 leader: Laurie Jackson **NEW ITINERARY**

LA BRENNE: wildlife of the French Lakes by train

10th to 17th May 2027 leader: Mike Symes with Jason Mitchell

THE DANUBE DELTA: wildlife of Europe's greatest wetland

11th to 19th May 2027 leader: Philip Precey

BULGARIA: wildlife of the mountains

May/June 2027 (dates tbc) leader: Phil Saunders

TRANSYLVANIA: meadows, mountains and bears

22nd to 29th May 2027 leaders: Laurie Jackson and Owen Mountford

CÉVENNES & GRANDS CAUSSES: flowers in southern France, by train

27th May to 3rd June 2027 leader: Kieron Huston



ARAGON: wildlife of the Spanish Pyrenees

28th May to 4th June 2027

leader: Philip Precey

ESTONIA: spring wildlife and orchids of the Baltic

4 spaces left

29th May to 5th June 2027

leader: Sarah Lambert

Summer 2027

VERCORS: natural history of the pre-Alps, by train

3rd to 10th June 2027

leaders: Laurie Jackson and Dominic Price

THE BAVARIAN ALPS: wildlife of the moors and mountains, by train

8th to 16th June 2027

leader: Philip Precey

SLOVENIA: wild flowers and mountain wildlife

20th to 27th June 2027

leader: Laurie Jackson

SVALBARD: Polar Bears and wildlife of the High Arctic

June/July 2027 (dates tbc)

leader: tbc

SOUTH AFRICA: Kalahari, Kimberley and Northern Karoo

1st to 13th July 2027

leader: Mike Symes

Autumn/Winter 2027

BRAZIL: wildlife of the Pantanal and Atlantic Forest

August/September 2027

leader: Phil Saunders

DANUBE DELTA: autumn migration in Europe's greatest wetland

30th August to 7th September 2027

leader: tbc

TANZANIA: Serengeti great plains migration

16th to 26th September 2027

leader: tbc

ESTONIA: Brown Bears, birds and autumn migration

18th to 25th September 2027

leader: Laurie Jackson with Heleri Alles

CRETE: autumn bulbs and ancient sites

NEW ITINERARY

15th to 22nd October 2027

leader: Philip Precey

CYPRUS: autumn bulbs and ancient sites

17th to 24th November 2027

leader: Sarah Lambert

COLOMBIA: wildlife and birds of the Andes and Santa Marta mountains

November/December 2027

leader: Mike Symes

COSTA RICA: easy birding and natural history

December 2027/January 2028

leader: Laurie Jackson

Tasmania

Sitting some 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 January visit to Tassie.

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

There is of course much more to Tasmania than 'just' its approachable mammals. While the mammal watchers are enjoying the marsupials and monotremes, there are fifteen endemic bird species waiting for us including four honeyeaters found nowhere else, the critically endangered Swift Parrot and the delightfully-named Forty-spotted Pardalote. We will look for Little Penguins on their nesting beaches, and have a dusk encounter with 13,000 Short-tailed Shearwaters at their nesting colony on 'The Nut', on the north coast of the island.





For the botanists amongst us, several hundred endemic plant species will make for an exciting trip, as we explore alpine grasslands, coastal heaths and mountain pine forests.

We start in the island's capital Hobart, from where we will enjoy the alpine flora of Mount Wellington and the endemic birdlife of Bruny Island. Our circuit of the island takes in Gordon River World Heritage Site, Cradle Mountain National Park, the remote Tarkine wilderness and the beautiful Freycinet peninsula: some of the most scenic corners of the state.

An optional pre-tour extension will take us west of Melbourne for a couple of days. In the dry eucalypt woodlands of the You Yang Ranges we will look for Koala, Emu and Eastern Grey Kangaroo, while a day in the temperate rainforests of the Dandenong Ranges should introduce us to the Superb Lyrebird, famously one of the world's great mimics.

Our guide for this trip is Mark Hanger, a renowned naturalist guide and organiser of all our recent visits to Australia and his homeland of New Zealand. Mark's expert guiding will ensure we have a wonderful wilderness experience.



marsupials and wilderness wildlife

8th-26th January 2027

£6,385, single room supplement £1,100

pre-trip Victoria extension

6th-8th January 2027

£765, single room supplement £170

leaders: *Philip Precey with Mark Hanger*

Drakensberg Mountains

The Drakensberg escarpment - "the mountains of the dragon" - is the highest mountain region in southern Africa, reaching heights of over 3,000 metres and curving up from the Eastern Cape around Lesotho and towards Kwazulu-Natal. More than 2,000 species of plants are found here, of which almost one fifth are endemic, found nowhere else.

January is the start of the South African summer and our visit is timed to coincide with the peak flowering season in the mountains. Among the many highlights of the trip we can hope to see swathes of bright pink Nerines, the blood red blooms of the Suicide Gladiolus, named for its precipitously steep habitat, up to ten species of Kniphofia red hot poker, several species of the iconic Eucomis pineapple lilies, sturdy proteas in full bloom and fields full of orchids... oh, so many orchids!

We will travel up the Sani Pass into the mountain-top kingdom of Lesotho, stopping along the way as the flora changes with altitude, from lush stream sides where elegant Dieramas blow in the wind, via protea-dotted slopes visited by the elegant Gurney's Sugarbird, to the alpine grasslands of the plateau, where the endearing (and endemic) Drakensberg Rock-Jumper bounces around the grounds of our hotel.





The caves and cliffs of these mountains hide one of the greatest concentrations of rock art in the world, some of which we hope to visit during our time at Giant's Castle, where we will also keep our eyes open for the stately Eland as well as a bewildering array of orchids: Disas and Disperis, Satyriums and Stenoglottis.

We will explore Golden Gate National Park, famous for its scenic sandstone buttresses and herds of antelope, including wary Black Wildebeest and the handsome Blesbok. The mid-altitude flora should include Brunsvigia candelabras and stands of red hot poker, the flowers of which are a favourite nectar source for the impressive Mountain Beauty butterfly

Moving higher into the upper reaches of the Royal Natal Park, we will spend three nights at the Witsieshoek Mountain Lodge, with sweeping views over the amphitheatre of the Drakensberg. An (optional) longer hike will take us towards the Chain Ladders, where the high altitude flora will certainly reward our exertions, as Cape Griffon and Bearded Vulture soar overhead.

We will be guided for this trip by award-winning photographer and expert South African botanist Mayur Praag.



mountain flowers on the roof of Africa

13th-26th January 2027

£5,995, single room supplement £450

visit our website for a gallery of photos taken on our 2026 visit to the Drakensberg.

***“magnificent... superb scenery,
almost too much to see and absorb”***

Colombia

Colombia is famously THE most biodiverse country in the world, with more species than anywhere else on the planet.

For many years, Colombia was overshadowed as a wildlife destination by its smaller neighbour Ecuador. More recently, as the security situation has become more settled, Colombia has come into its own and a great wildlife watching infrastructure of expert local guides and comfortable lodges has built up. The world's greatest biodiversity hotspot is now welcoming visitors!

After several planning trips, our inaugural holiday to Colombia took place in November 2025, and eleven intrepid Wildlife Travellers spent two weeks exploring the eastern Andes from Bogotá and the central Andes around Manizales, before flying north to the isolated Santa Marta mountains and the dry forests and lagoons of the Caribbean coast.

And we were certainly not disappointed: the birdiest country in the world lived up to its reputation, with 50 species of tanager, 45 species of hummingbird and ten antpittas all coming our way, along with some real local specialities: Northern Screamer, Grey-breasted Mountain Toucan, Vermillion Cardinal and a whole suite of endemics with Santa Marta in their name...





And while this is definitely a destination for the birders amongst us, the birds certainly aren't all we will be seeing along the way. From the giant Espeletias of the Andean paramo to cacti in the dry forests of the Caribbean, there are plenty of plants to keep the more botanically minded entertained, along with colourful butterflies and moths, and the chance of bumping into all sorts of mammals.

Colombia certainly isn't for everyone. With three branches of the Andes, each with their own suite of species, as well as the Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta, the world's highest coastal mountain range, it's inevitable that we will have to spend some time at relatively high altitudes. And this is the tropics: bird activity is at its peak in the first couple of hours after dawn, especially in the forests, so early starts will be unavoidable to make the most of our time in Colombia.

Philip is returning to Colombia in September to work with our partners at Nature Colombia on finalising the plans for our 2027 visit, as well as checking out one or two new spots... fingers crossed, there may even be a Harpy Eagle nest to visit! If Colombia is on your wish list, do let us know and we will make sure we send on the final details for next year's holiday just as soon as they are ready.



endemic birds of the Andes & Santa Marta

November/December 2027

price and dates tbc

leader: Mike Symes

visit our website for the trip report from our 2025 inaugural visit to Colombia

"breathtaking, so many birds!"

Colombia 2025

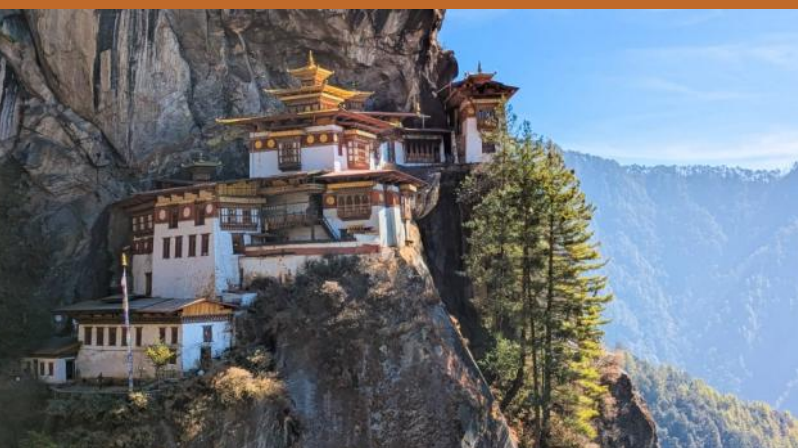
Bhutan

The 'Land of the Thunder Dragon' sits high in the eastern Himalayas, sandwiched between India and China. Closed to visitors for much of its history, the last few decades have seen Bhutan open up to the rest of the world, and it has now become a real 'one day, must see' dream destination.

When local ecotourism company Langur Eco Travels invited us to visit and to add Bhutan to our holiday programme, we jumped at the chance: a global pandemic may have gotten in the way, but in December 2025 Philip finally got to take them up on the offer. Suffice to say, Bhutan more than lived up to expectations...

Through a combination of its isolation, and the strong Buddhist ethos of its people, Bhutan has held on to much of its forests. Once you venture beyond the central valley between the airport at Paro and the capital city of Thimpu, that's the most notable thing about the country: the forests, more than 2.5 million hectares, covering over 70% of the country.

During our time in Bhutan, we will explore these forests, from the rhododendron and Bhutan Pine forests of the high mountain passes to the lush subtropical rainforests of Royal Manas National Park, in the lowlands of the Indian border.





Our trip will introduce us to some of the iconic birds of the eastern Himalayas: the unique Ibisbill along the mountain rivers, colourful pheasants including Himalayan Monal and Satyr Tragopan, Ward's Trogon on oak-cloaked slopes, and Beautiful Nuthatch in the pristine subtropical forests.

As well as the wonderful bird life, we will of course be paying attention to all the other flora and fauna that may cross our path. The forests will be filled with various flowering rhododendrons, primulas, hydrangeas and more, which in turn attract a variety of butterflies. For the mammal-lovers amongst us, we can expect to see various squirrels, including the Black Giant Squirrel, and four species of primate, including the beautiful Golden Langur. Our travels will also take us through the favoured habitat of the endearing Red Panda, while Dhole, Asian Black Bear and Himalayan Serow all make these forests their home.

Along with its wildlife, Bhutan has retained much of its traditional way of life, including the traditional costumes of the great majority of the Bhutanese and a characteristic architecture: we will enjoy several cultural sites including Punakha Dzong, Tharpaling monastery and the iconic 'Tiger's Nest' Paro Taktsang complex.



wildlife of the eastern Himalayas

30th April to 18th May 2027

£7,785, single room supplement £450

leader: *Laurie Jackson*

visit our website to see a gallery of photos taken on our recce visit to Bhutan in winter 2025/26.

Kalahari & Karoo

Our trip to northern South Africa offers an exciting 'safari' exploration of the arid habitats and spectacular wildlife of the Northern Karoo, Kimberley and Kalahari, focussing our attention of some of South Africa's lesser known and rarely seen mammals: Aardvark, Aardwolf, Brown Hyena, Honey Badger, Bat-eared Fox, Black-footed Cat and the characterful Meerkats are amongst the species we hope to encounter, as well as big cats, desert antelopes and plenty of birds.

Our journey starts in the Northern Karoo, where large flocks of Blue Cranes gather, four species of bustard stalk the scrubby grasslands and our first night drives will introduce us to Springhare, Cape Porcupine and more.

Moving on to the Kimberley region, we will spend time on the private Marrick Farm where more night drives give us our best chances of seeing Aardvark, Aardwolf and (with luck) perhaps the lovely Black-footed Cat, the world's smallest feline, while we hope to find Meerkats and Eastern Rock Sengi during the daytime.

Heading west, we will visit the spectacular Augrabies Falls, where colourful flat lizards chase on the edges of the waterfall, and Klipspringers bound across the rocks.





The arid dunes and dried riverbeds of the Kalahari Desert, the 'place of thirst' straddle the borders between Botswana, Namibia and South Africa: we will spend our time in the South African sector of the Kgalagadi Transfrontier Park, based at the southern entrance to the park, at Twee Rivieren, where the dry beds of the Nossob and Auob rivers converge.

What little water is present in this arid landscape is concentrated along the two riverbeds, with the grazing herds of Blue Wildebeest, Gemsbok, Springbok, Southern Giraffe, Common Eland and Red Hartebeest naturally gravitating towards these water holes. Where ever the grazers go, so the predators will follow... Cheetah, Leopard and Lion are all present in the park in good numbers, and we can look forward to some memorable encounters with the big cats. Smaller predators include Black-backed Jackal, Cape Fox, African Wildcat and Honey Badger, while this is one of the best places to spot the solitary Brown Hyena. Flocks of finches, larks and sandgrouse visit the water holes dotted through the park, and huge communal nests of the Sociable Weaver adorn the acacia trees and telegraph poles.

Our group is limited to just seven travellers, to ensure we can enjoy the best of the area's wildlife. With plenty of photo opportunities to be expected along the way, this promises to be a memorable trip.



Kalahari, Kimberley and Northern Karoo

1st to 13th July 2027

£7,350, single room supplement £500

leader: Mike Symes

visit our website for the trip report from our 2025 holiday to the Kalahari

"excellent guides, good company!"

Greek Islands: Lesvos

Set in the north-eastern 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. Local breeding specialities include Krüper's Nuthatch and Cinereous Bunting, along with Olive-tree Warbler, Sombre Tit and Masked Shrike, while the island offers some of the most exciting northbound migration in the eastern Mediterranean. We time our spring visits to the island to catch the best of the spring birds, while also making the most of the island's wild flowers and other wildlife.

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 Kallonis.



Crete



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 entrancing archaeological sites.

A highlight of any April trip to Crete is the time spent at the famous 'Spili bumps', an area of limestone hillside where twenty or more species of orchid can be found on a good day, alongside Cretan Iris and the beautiful red *Tulipa orphanidea*. We 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, Cretan Birthwort and Cretan Palm, along with Cretan Festoon, Cretan Wall Lizard and Cretan Pool Frog: this is an island rich in endemics!

Later in the year, autumn bulbs come to the fore, and our attention turns to crocuses and colchicums, narcissi and sternbergias, cyclamens and the ghostly autumn-flowering *Biarum davisii*.



Lesvos: spring in the Aegean

25th April to 2nd May 2027

£2,195, single room supplement £185

Crete: spring flowers & ancient sites

16th-23rd April 2027

£2,395, single room supplement £220

Crete: autumn bulbs & country walks

15th-22nd October 2027

£2,395, single room supplement £220

Romania: Danube Delta

At the end of a 1,700 mile long journey across Europe, the mighty Danube River empties into the Black Sea. Here, the river splits into numerous channels and canals, creating the second largest delta on the continent (after the Volga). Vast expanses of swamp and willow 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, the *Kingfisher*, equipped with all the 'mod cons' we might need, along with an open deck for bird-watching 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 some good Romanian wine.

During our spring visit, Roller, Bee-eater and Red-footed Falcon will all be seen from our loungers as we pass by, while large numbers of wildfowl gather in the autumn, as well as fly-pasts of both White and Dalmatian Pelicans, Pygmy Cormorant, White-tailed Eagle and flocks of all three species of marsh terns. Seasonal local specialities include Pallas's Gull and Paddyfield Warbler.

At the end of the day, we are lulled to sleep by a chorus of Marsh Frogs, tree frogs, Great Reed Warblers and the seemingly ever-present Nightingales.



Transylvania



The mountains and meadows of the Carpathians are one of the last remaining areas of Europe where traditional countryside management is still practiced on a large scale: it's not unusual to see shepherds out with their sheep, while meadows are cut and hay stacked by hand.

Staying in two centres gives us the chance to explore the area, and see some of the characteristic habitats and species of Transylvania.

Our visits to the area focus on the hay meadows and wood pastures of Saxon Transylvania, home to some of the oldest veteran trees in Europe, along with the limestone gorges of Piatra Craiului National Park, where Poplar Admiral and Hungarian Glider flit about the path, nectaring on Red Lungwort and Carpathian Leopard's-bane. Traditional hay meadows are filled with Wild Clary, Yellow Rattle and Carthusian Pink, with Red-backed Shrike hunting from the bushes.

A cable car takes us up onto the high altitude alpine meadows of the Bucegi Massif, where we will find Alpenrose, Trailing Azalea and Alpine Pasqueflower, while listening out for Water Pipit and Horned Lark. One evening we accompany a local guide to a hide in the forest, where we will watch Brown Bears, part of the area's very healthy large predator population.



Danube Delta: spring cruise

11th to 19th May 2027

£2,595, single room supplement £350

Transylvania: meadows, mountains & bears

22nd to 29th May 2027

£2,465, single room supplement £180

Danube Delta: autumn birding

30th August to 7th September 2027

£2,595, single room supplement £350

Spanish Pyrenees

We last visited the Spanish Pyrenees back in 2012, when we spent a fantastic week in the Parque Natural Valles Occidentales, in Aragon: with sightings of Apollo butterflies, orchids and gentians, Bearded Vulture and Wallcreeper, all amongst very impressive scenery, a return to the Pyrenees is long overdue!

After flying to Barcelona, our base for this week will be a comfortable hotel in the heart of the scenic Echo valley, an easy walk away from the spectacular Boca de Infierno gorge and the pretty village of Echo. From the high alpine meadows at the head of the valley down to the gentler landscapes of the valley floor, there is so much to be seen on our doorstep that travel will be kept to a minimum.

Wild flowers should include a good variety of orchids, while local specialities include Pyrenean Vetch, Pyrenean Saxifrage, Pyrenean Hyacinth, Pyrenean Iris and Pyrenean Honeysuckle: you'll certainly know where you are!

The flowers in turn attract a plethora of butterflies: skippers and blue, fritillaries and heaths aplenty. Griffon and Egyptian Vultures soar overhead, Western Green Lizards scuttle amongst the bushes, and we will look for Alpine Marmot and Pyrenean Chamois on the grassy slopes.



Bavarian Alps



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 specialities including 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, nestled amongst the mountains from where we will explore the woods, meadows, wetlands and, of course, the high mountains in the surrounding area.

From London to Munich and then 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: a perfect holiday for anyone who appreciates wildlife and walking in the hills, and who enjoys the gentler pace of travel.



Spanish Pyrenees: wildlife and wild flowers

28th May to 4th June 2027

price tbc

leader: *Philip Precey*

Bavarian Alps: relaxed wildlife by train

8th to 18th June 2027

price tbc

leader: *Philip Precey*

Tailor made: Polar cruises

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 a comfortable expedition cruise around the archipelago,

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. Several species of seal and whale are abundant in the rich polar waters, including a chance of Beluga and Blue Whale, while Walrus haul out at their favourite beaches.

The human population is outnumbered by that of the world's largest land predator, and surely the highlight of any trip to Svalbard, the Polar Bear. There can be few places on the planet 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.



with Oceanwide



Way down at the other end of the planet, a visit to the 'seventh continent' surely features high on every wildlife traveller's wish list, and we are very excited to be able to share this dream destination with you.

Highlights of your trip could include the awe-inspiring sight of tens of thousands of King Penguins at their breeding colonies on South Georgia, jousting male Southern Elephant Seals on the beaches, navigating across the Drake's Passage in the company of Black-browed and Snowy Albatrosses, zodiac cruising amongst the pack ice looking for Leopard Seals and Snow Petrels, breaching Humpback Whales and pods of the iconic Killer Whales, on the search for their next meal... Each voyage to the southern oceans encounters unique weather, sea-ice conditions and wildlife-viewing opportunities. While we can never guarantee what we will see, we can promise that your trip will be one-of-a-kind. ...

We can tailor make a polar cruise for you with our friends at Oceanwide Expeditions, whether you prefer independent travel or to be accompanied by an experienced Wildlife Travel guide. From midsummer Polar Bears to the stunning scenery of Greenland, or a dream trip of a lifetime to the Falklands and South Georgia.

If you've been bitten by the polar bug, we can help you scratch that itch...



Svalbard: Polar Bears and arctic wildlife
June/July 2027 (dates and price tbc)

Tailor made:
Antarctica, Falklands and South Georgia
October to April

The Arctic: Svalbard and Greenland
June to October

Contact us to make your plans.

Meet the Team

There are definitely bigger companies out there, but we like to think that doesn't necessarily equate with better. We are a small business, with our office manned (well, virtually at least) by **Philip** and **Laurie**. Small but perfectly formed, it means that you will always know who it is at the end of the phone or replying to your emails. It also means that we get to know you, our travellers, and can make sure that any trip is right for you. Between them, Laurie and Philip have travelled to almost all of our destinations, and know our itineraries well, so if you ever need advice on what a trip involves or whether it's the right holiday for you, then just get in touch. It's important to us that you get the most out of your travels, and come home having had a memorable holiday, for all the right reasons.

When you travel with us, you will always be accompanied by one of our team of experienced tour leaders. Our leaders all have a background in nature conservation and ecology, with a wealth of wildlife knowledge between them, from birds and butterflies to botany and geology.

Of course, they don't just provide the natural history expertise and wildlife spotting skills that go to making so many great wildlife memories: our leaders also ensure that you have a safe, comfortable, rewarding and, most importantly, a fun trip!



Our leaders are among the very best in the business... but then, we would say that, wouldn't we. Don't just take our word for it: here is how recent Wildlife Travellers have described their travels with us.

"Sarah made the trip very enjoyable... so much expertise"
Transylvania 2026

"Philip and James were both excellent leaders, very knowledgeable and helpful"
Cyprus 2026

"Mike S was excellent - knowledgeable, friendly and very easy to get on with."
Devon 2023

"I cannot praise Phil enough... ! He helped us with any little issues and made sure everyone could see the birds"
Costa Rica 2026

"Mike R excellent, as always"
Danube Delta 2025

"Kieron was lovely!"
Cevennes 2024

"Laurie was absolutely first class!"
Estonia 2026

"Jono was excellent... always cheerful, helpful and knowledgeable"
Estonia 2025

Wildlife Travel leaders (clockwise from top left): Philip Precey, Laurie Jackson, Mike Symes, Phil Saunders, Sarah Lambert, James Lowen, Chris Kirby-Lambert, Dominic Price, Michael Blencowe, Mike Russell, Kieron Huston, Jono Leadley



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, friends and single travellers, travelling together with one or two Wildlife Travel leaders, often a local guide, and a driver with a comfortable minibus: our 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, a visit to a nearby cultural site or just quiet contemplation over a coffee or ice cream along the way.



Booking your holiday

To find out more about any of our holidays, **check our website for up to date information on our current holiday programme**, along with the detailed trip itineraries, dates and prices.

If you want to book on a holiday, or have any queries about travelling with us, just get in touch: send us an email or pick up the phone. We are more than happy to talk through the details of each trip, 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: for the majority of our holidays, the price **includes 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 members of ABTA (ABTA V6218), giving you the benefit of ABTA's assistance and code of conduct, and recognised as a Which? Recommended Provider.





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www.wildlife-travel.co.uk

01954 713575

wildlifetravel@wildlifebcn.org



/WildlifeTravel.UK



@wildlifetraveller



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Manor House, Broad Street, Great Cambourne, Cambridge CB23 6DH

Directors: Brian Eversham, Laurie Jackson, Philip Precey, Mike Russell, Dr Tim Upson

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