

The Birding In Spain  
Bonnie Birding Scotland Tour 2019



- Get close to Atlantic Puffins as they come and go at their breeding colonies
- It's the male Eurasian Dotterel who cares for the young!
- Displaying Black Grouse are an unforgettable sight
- The famous Red Grouse
- Crested Tits have a lot of character

**COME SEE SCOTLAND WITH US!**





We'll be taking both the high road and the low road, over mountain, moor and into the glens, looking for birds and wildlife along the way...

## Dates of the *Bonnie Birding Scotland Tour*: 14<sup>th</sup> to 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2019

- Why those dates?

Well, there are so many places it's great to be in **May**, and **Scotland** is one of them! It's not too late in the season to be out looking for displaying **Black Grouse** and **Capercaillie**, all the migrant breeding birds should have arrived, while the other breeding birds are all in beautiful breeding plumage. There are likely to be some winter stragglers around - maybe geese, ducks, divers or swans - as well as a late migrant or two, which would add some interesting species and variety. Cliff breeding seabird colonies are usually bustling with activity.

- The Basic Itinerary

### Day 1. Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> May - From Inverness to the west coast

The tour starts with morning pick up either at **Inverness** airport or an Inverness hotel. If you cannot arrive in the morning we will recommend an overnight stay in Inverness city or near the airport. From here we'll be driving to **the northwest coast** and birding en-route to our hotel.

Hotel: Between Ullapool and Tongue  
Total driving time less than 4 hours

Some birds we could see today are: White-tailed Eagle, Merlin, Black-throated Diver, Red-throated Diver, Red-breasted Merganser, Goosander, Black Guillemot, Fulmar, Shag, etc.

### Day 2. Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> May - Handa Island and the west coast

We'll take a morning "ferry" to the Island of Handa and spend several hours enjoying the spectacle of the bustling seabird colonies here. Then in the afternoon we'll make a gentle exploration of the nearby lochs and coastal inlets.

Today's birds could be: Atlantic Puffin, Common Guillemot, Razorbill, Great Skua, Arctic Skua, Northern Gannet, Arctic Tern, Common Tern, Eurasian Oystercatcher, Twite, and more.

### Day 3. Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> May - the north coast

Today we'll be exploring the northwest corner of the Sutherland coast. Lochs, inlets, rivers, sandy and rocky shores await us.

Total driving time less than 4 hours.

Birds we could see are: Corncrake, Common Snipe, Greenshank, Golden Plover, Greylag Goose, Pink-footed Goose, Great Northern Diver, sea duck,

gulls, Red Grouse, Whinchat and Ring Ouzel. We also have a fair chance of finding a European Otter or two.



*White-throated Dipper and Black-throated Diver - two handsome birds*

Day 4: Friday 17<sup>th</sup> May. From the west coast to the Cairngorms National Park

We say goodbye to the wild west coast of Scotland and hello to the gentler east coast. Several stops at strategic points to the north of Inverness are followed by a spot of dolphin-watching and then some more birding, now in the vicinity of the mountainous Cairngorms National Park, which has 4 of the 5 highest peaks in Scotland.

Hotel: Grantown-on-Spey

Total driving time may be just over 4 hours

Some birds could be: Long-tailed Duck, Common Scoter, (King Eider), Common Shelduck, Red Kite, Sparrowhawk, Buzzard, Redshank, Common Sandpiper, White-throated Dipper, Grey Wagtail, Sedge Warbler, Redstart, Goldcrest, Siskin.

Also: Bottle-nosed Dolphin and Harbour Porpoise.

Day 5: Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> May. Around Abernethy forest and up the Cairngorms

We'll be birding around the Cairngorms National Park today. If we can manage the ascent up the Cairngorms themselves then the rewards will almost certainly make it worth the effort. Lower down there are forests, lochs and rough pastures which also hold a lot of interest for the visiting birder.

Some birds could be: Eurasian Dotterel, Snow Bunting, Rock Ptarmigan, Ring Ouzel, Osprey, Black Grouse, Red-throated Diver, Slavonian Grebe, Goldeneye, Common Redstart, Tree Pipit, Eurasian Treecreeper, Wood Warbler, Lesser Redpoll, and more.





Day 6: Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> May. Exploring Speyside

Today we'll be continuing our exploration of lochs, forests, glens and hillsides to seek out more of Scotland's attractive and at times elusive birdlife.

Birds: Dunlin, Northern Lapwing, Eurasian Curlew, Red Grouse, Short-eared Owl, Merlin, Black-throated Diver, (Capercaillie), Crested Tit, Crossbill, Slavonian Grebe, seaduck, Golden Eagle, White-tailed Eagle, and more.



*Two jewels of the Speyside region: Golden Eagle and Wood Warbler*

Day 7: Monday 20<sup>th</sup> May. Heading south through the glens and then a look at a loch or two

Leaving Speyside, we're heading south over mountains and down into glens. Some short walks will hopefully take us close to the most characteristic birds of these parts. Then we'll visit a loch nature reserve before we arrive at our hotel near Perth.

Hotel: In the vicinity of Perth  
Total driving time is under 3 hours

Birds: Capercaillie, Black Grouse, Red Grouse, Woodcock, Scottish/Parrot Crossbill, Common Crossbill, Osprey, White-throated Dipper, Grey Wagtail, Hen Harrier, Yellowhammer, Bullfinch, Spotted Flycatcher....

Also Red Squirrel, Otter, Eurasian Beaver (reintroduced)

Day 8: Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> May. Some early morning grousing and then birding along the coast of Fife

An early morning search for Black Grouse could be on the books if we have still not encountered this emblematic species on our travels. The woodland and fields in the area also hold interesting birds. Then we head for the coast of east Fife to search out coastal and sea birds from different headlands, bays and estuaries along the Fife coast.

Birds: Manx Shearwater, Mediterranean and other gulls, seaduck, Black-tailed Godwit and other waders, Northern Goshawk, Eurasian Sparrowhawk, Black Grouse, Goldeneye, Goosander, Red-breasted Merganser, Green Woodpecker, Great Spotted Woodpecker, etc.

Day 9: Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> May. Past Edinburgh and along the Lothian coast



We drive past Edinburgh and make a series of stops along the coast of Lothian, perhaps as far as Dunbar before returning along the same route. This most southerly point of our itinerary should enable to come into contact with a number of species that are difficult or impossible to see further north.

Possible birds: Manx Shearwater, Eurasian Wigeon, Common Pochard, Tufted Duck, Great Crested Grebe, Little Grebe, Sandwich Tern, Little Tern, Grey Partridge, Skylark, Eurasian Reed Bunting, Whitethroat, Grasshopper Warbler, Blackcap, Garden Warbler, Lesser Whitethroat, Eurasian Nuthatch.

Day 10: Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> May. This Bonnie Birding Scotland Tour ends today with a transfer to either Edinburgh airport or city for a city extension

**Some more aspects of the tour**

Our **good-quality accommodation** will be as follows:

- 3 nights in a guesthouse or hotel along the northwest coast between Ullapool and Tongue
- 3 nights in a hotel in or near Grantown-on-Spey
- 3 nights in a hotel or guesthouse in or near Perth

**Rooms** are typically double or twin en-suite with a single room supplement applicable for single occupation.

All **meals** are included: Buffet-style or full English breakfast; light picnic-style lunches; evening meal of 2 or more courses.

International **flights**: from the USA there are direct international flights to Edinburgh from Orlando, Washington, Philadelphia, Chicago, and New York.

From Canada flights to Edinburgh are likely to connect through a London airport.

Ground **transfers** during the tour will be in a private vehicle, either a car or minibus driven by the leader(s).

**Group size** - It is expected to be between 4 and 10 people.

**And the price?**

**Only 2,275 euros (2,600 USD\*)**

\*The price in USD is for informative purposes only, as we will be working with euros and GBP, and our prices are calculated in euros. Therefore it is possible that any USD prices indicated are liable to some fluctuation, in line with that of the respective currencies involved.



*Will you be having a wee dram now?*



For further information about the tour, and including our cancellation policy, booking procedure, payments, etc. please contact us at:

e-mail: [steve@birdinginspain.com](mailto:steve@birdinginspain.com) or [info@birdinginspain.com](mailto:info@birdinginspain.com)

website: [www.birdinginspain.com](http://www.birdinginspain.com)

Tel: +34 (Spain) 973210757 or +34 606855571





*Why not plan an extension to visit the delightful city of Edinburgh?*

### So, a reminder why you shouldn't miss this Bonnie Birding Scotland Tour 2019

- We'll be taking in the scenically striking and unforgettable Scottish Highlands and the northwest coast, to the gentler east and southeast coasts.
- Watching the frantic activity of the seabird colonies on coastal cliffs and islands, and getting close to Puffins, skuas and the like will be one of the memorable features of this tour. But there's more...
- Looking at beautiful summer-plumaged divers (loons) on lochs surrounded by mountains, seeking out the treasures of the ancient Caledonian forests, scanning for seaducks, waders and more along the east coast.
- The Bonnie Birding Tour is especially - but not exclusively - oriented towards non-European birders, as by incorporating some of the more southern and eastern areas of Scotland we will get a more complete look at the birdlife of the whole country than most tours would normally offer.
- In addition to the rich experience of the birds and the wildlife, you can take the opportunity to extend your visit to spend some time in the Scottish capital Edinburgh, a wonderfully attractive city in its own right, with much to see and do.
- Then if you are fond of a wee dram now and then, well, welcome to the home of Scotch whisky!

Photo credits: Steve Garvie, Dylan de Jonge, Lutz Lucker, Jamie MacPherson, Luis Mayoral, Michele Mendi, MPF, Oldskool Photography, Franck Renard, Eva Solanes, Francesco Veronesi, Luc Viatour, VNP, Sander Wehkamp.





Map of Scotland. The Bonnie Birding Scotland Tour 2019 will be visiting the area inside the red box, staying in the approximate areas indicated by the green circles.