

PAUL McDOUGALL

wildlife photographer  photographic safaris

Small Group Isle of Mull Wildlife Photography Experience

May to September

From the comfort of the isle of mull hotel in craignure we will explore the beautiful island of Mull in search of a wealth of different birds and mammals, gaining a fascinating insight into island life along the way.

With luck we will enjoy views of otters, white-tailed and golden eagles, hen harrier and short-eared owl. A boat trip to the neighbouring Treshnish Isles will provide plenty of opportunity to spend time with one of the UK's most loved seabirds, the puffin, the short boat crossing offers the chance of seals, common and bottlenose dolphins, basking shark and even minke whale.

In the evenings we will enjoy a delicious meal, reflecting on the days many highlights.

DAY1 – Friday

Pick up from Glasgow hotel late morning and we will travel North to Oban. The drive covers some stunning scenery and we will stop off on route to take photographs as we travel.

If time permits, we may take a short detour to look for Red Deer enroute

We will arrive at Oban late afternoon, We will have dinner in the evening, and there will also be a full trip briefing and a short presentation on what can be expected on the isle of mull

DAY 2 - Saturday

We will get the morning ferry from Oban. Arriving in Craignure we will start our exploration of the beautiful isle of Mull. This will be very much an introduction to the island and we will check out some of the well known otter and eagle locations.

We will arrive at our accommodation and freshen up, before enjoying a delicious welcome meal and discuss the plans for the next few days.

DAY 3 – Sunday

White-tailed eagle boat trip

This is the day we get up close and personal with Britain's largest bird of prey, the white-tailed eagle.

We will take a trip with Mull Charters, the only boat operator on Mull to offer specialised sea eagle viewing and photography opportunities. They work within the RSPB's Code of Conduct to ensure the eagles stay safe and undisturbed, but they do come close, so be sure to have your cameras and lenses ready!

Depending on the time of the boat trip we will spend the time before or after the trip exploring one of the main lochs on Mull looking for otters.

Day 4 - Monday

We will explore the island of Mull looking for all of the main wildlife highlights. Golden Eagle, White Tailed Eagle, Otter, Hen Harrier and Short Eared Owl.

Day 5 - Tuesday

On this day we will join a local otter specialist and spend the day searching for otters and hoping to get the opportunity to photograph these incredible animals without causing any unnecessary disturbance. During the day you will

learn the importance of field craft and look for signs to make finding and watching otters easier.

In the evening, if you wish, after dinner we may go out to search for otters and owls at dusk.

DAY 6 - Wednesday

Full day boat trip to The Treshnish Isles

We will choose our day to ensure we get the best weather possible for our all-day visit to the magical Treshnish Isles, a Special Protection Area (SPA) for its nationally important population of nesting seabirds. Owned and managed by the Hebridean Trust, we sail from Ulva Ferry on the west coast of Mull and watch for seals and seabirds on route.

On Lunga, the main island of the Treshnish Isles, we ascend the slope up to the main puffin colony who will be there to greet us. It's a moment which will live in your soul forever.

If you wish you can literally spend all day with the puffins but there's also the chance to venture on a little further to Harp Rock where the cacophony and aroma of the main colony will hit you between the eyes (and nose!).

Kittiwakes, fulmars, razorbills, guillemots and black guillemots await and it's truly a sight to behold.

Day 7 - Thursday

We will again explore the island of Mull looking for all of the main wildlife highlights. Golden Eagle, White Tailed Eagle, Otter, Hen Harrier and Short Eared Owl.

Day 8 - Friday

Weather dependent we will take a boat trip from Tobermory to look for dolphins and whales and other cetaceans. We will also hope to see various sea birds and seals that can be photographed from the boat.

Day 9 – Saturday.

After breakfast we will depart for the Mainland and Oban.

End of Tour.

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The price for the trip is **£4,500** per person

The Price includes:

- 1 Night Accommodation in Oban. Dinner, Bed and Breakfast.
- 7 nights' accommodation in the Isle of Mull Hotel and Spa. Craignure. Isle of Mull. Bed and Breakfast and Evening Meal in the Sea Deck Bar.(Subject to availability)
- Puffin boat trip as described
- Eagle boat trip as described
- Otter workshop as described.
- Cetacean boat trip as described
- Lunch daily – either packed lunch or café lunch.
- All services from photographic guide.
- All transport and travel throughout.
- Bottled Water whilst on the whole trip

The price exclude.

- Any flights
- Tips and Gratuities
- Any drinks other than water.
- Travel Insurance.

Please Note accommodation options detailed above are subject to availability and may be changed. The order of the activities may also be changed based on availability. The boat trips are subject to suitable weather conditions.