

SCOTLAND

Birding, Natural History, & Culture

57.48° N - 55.94° N

June 1 - 11, 2026



Wild **LATITUDES**
WORLDWIDE NATURE TOURS

SCOTLAND

Birding, Natural History, and Culture

Greetings, Fellow Explorer!

Join us on this 11-day adventure, traversing the Highlands of Scotland, exploring one of the most historic and stunning countries in the world. We'll bird many of the country's top hot spots, visit historic castles & monuments, and enjoy the rich atmosphere of Scotland's ever-present old-world pubs and the charm of the Scottish people.

We'll land in the northern city of **Inverness** where we team up with one of Scotland's premier birders to assist us on our journey. The woodlands and estuaries surrounding Inverness and the nearby **Black Isle** offers a nice introduction to the nature and bird life of Scotland, and species like the **Wheatear**, **Eurasian Siskin**, **Chaffinch**, and **European Robin** are all easily found here. The first leg of the trip will be based in Grantown, located at the base of the stunning **Cairngorms National Park**. Here live a few of the specialties we hope to find, including some of Scotland's rarest birds, like the **Red Grouse**, **Capercaillie**, and the **Scottish Crossbill**.

Next it's off to the far north to bird **Handa Island**, one of the best sites in the world for nesting **Atlantic Puffins**, **Great Skua** and **Razorbills**. Then we head south, along the banks of **Loch Ness**, where we'll visit the Hamlet of **Drumnadrochit**, home to the **Urquhart Castle** and the **Loch Ness Center**, a museum dedicated to scientifically solving the mystery of the Loch Ness Monster.

Leaving Loch Ness, we head west to the **Isle of Skye**, one of Scotland's premiere birding destinations. We'll spend two days exploring the many varied habitats of the island, in our search for **Golden** and **White-tailed Eagles**, and the many other species possibly found on this island of stunning beauty.

We'll end the main trip with two nights in the beautiful village of Stirling, with visits to the legendary **Sterling Castle** and the **Wallace Monument**. From here folks may travel home, or join us on our one day extension to the **Scottish Seabird Center**, **Bass Island** and the city of **Edinburgh**.

We hope you'll join us on this unforgettable tour, through some of the most enchanting countryside in the world, filled with stunning castles, beautiful lochs, and the rich and unique culture that can only be found in Scotland.

● One-night EXTENSION TRIP: Scottish Seabird Center & Edinburgh!



Steve Robertson and Ivan Phillipsen
Co-owners and Lead Guides at Wild Latitudes

info@wildlatitudes.com 503-714-3504

TRIP DETAILS

Start Date: June 1, 2026

Duration of Tour: 11 days

Number of participants: Max of 12

Fee for Main Tour: \$5,295 per person

Fee for Extension: \$575 per person

Deposit: \$2,600 (+\$500 for extension)

Single Supplement: \$1,395 (+\$125 for extension)

Trip Leader: Steve Robertson

Activity Level: Moderate

Included:

- Double-occupancy lodging
- Ground transportation
- Breakfasts and lunches
- Excursions and park fees
- Guiding services

Not Included:

- Airfare to/from Scotland at trip beginning/end
- Dinners
- Optional Activities
- Alcoholic beverages
- Personal items
- Optional gratuities for guides

SCOTLAND

June 1 - 11, 2026



ITINERARY

Tentative and subject to change depending on weather, road, or other conditions.

Day 1 - June 1 - Arrive in Inverness

Group arrives in Inverness and is met at the airport by Steve Robertson of Wild Latitudes and Niall Keogh, our local guide. After a warm Scottish welcome and brief introductions, we load up the vans and travel to **The Grant Arms Hotel** located in **Granttown**, along the River Spey. After time to settle in and refresh, we'll regroup and go for a little birding walk in a nearby forest. We'll gather for a trip briefing and to list the birds we've seen. We plan to retire early this evening to help ensure everyone gets a good night's rest.

The Grant Arms Hotel is also home to The **Bird Watching & Wildlife Club (BWWC)** of Scotland. The BWWC has its own unique facility within the hotel called the Club Room, which consists of a Wildlife Information Center, a bookshop, a natural history library, and a 100-seat lecture theatre named the 'Osprey Suite', where nature-based films and evening talks from are presented. Tour participants are encouraged to utilize these facilities during our stay.

Lodging: [Grant Arms Hotel](#)

To register for this tour, email or call: steve@wildlatitudes.com, 503-714-3504

SCOTLAND

June 1 - 11, 2026

Day 2 - June 2 - Cairngorms National Park

After a delicious Scottish breakfast at the hotel, we're off to explore the **Cairngorms National Park**. Covering an area of 3,800 km² and containing 4 of Scotland's 5 highest mountains, the Cairngorms is Britain's largest national park. Within the park there are 52 summits over 900 meters in height. The montane zone supports a unique variety of vegetation, insects, birds & mammals, and the Cairngorms contain the largest area of arctic mountain landscape in the British Isles. Remarkably, the park is home to 25% of the UK's threatened animal and plant species. Today we will explore the park, scanning the surrounding land for **Ptarmigan**, **Snow Bunting**, **Golden Eagle**, **Osprey**, **Crested Tit**, and possibly even the largest grouse in the world, the **Capercaillie**. We will also be on the look for other non-avian species as well, including the **Pine Marten**, **Red Squirrel**, **Badger** and the playful **Otter**. We plan to arrive back at the Hotel in time for folks to freshen up before we meet to go over our species list and have dinner.

Lodging: [Grant Arms Hotel](#)



Atlantic Puffins



Great Spotted Woodpecker



Capercaillie

To register for this tour, email or call: steve@wildlatitudes.com, 503-714-3504

SCOTLAND

June 1 - 11, 2026

Day 3 - June 3 - Explore/Bird Local Forests and Wetlands

After breakfast, we'll head south for a full day of birding the forests and wetlands in this beautiful region of Scotland. Our first stop will be to bird the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) **Loch Garten Osprey Center**, in hopes of spotting this bird so familiar to us, yet rare in Great Britain. Then we'll explore the **Abernethy Forest Reserve**, one of the largest remnants of **Caledonian Pine Forest** in Scotland. This was the first site to which Ospreys returned to breed in Scotland. This reserve has a Variety of habitats, including pine forest, forest bog, and heather moorlands, it is here that we find many of the pinewood specialties such as the **Crested Tit** and highly sought-after **Capercaillie**... and we'll keep our ears open for Scotland's only possible endemic, the **Scottish Crossbill**. We'll also visit the **Insh Marshes**, a RSPB site that's a good spot for a number of water birds. We get back to the hotel with time to refresh before meeting in the evening and having dinner together at the hotel.

Lodging: [Grant Arms Hotel](#)

Day 4 - June 4 - Travel North through the Black Isle & the Flow Lands

Today we'll load up the vans after breakfast and begin our journey to the far north-western region of Scotland. En route, we'll cross over the Beaulieu Firth and bird the



To register for this tour, email or call: steve@wildlatitudes.com, 503-714-3504



region known as **The Black Isle**, visiting Chanonry Point and Udale Bay along the way, wonderful spots for shore and seabirds. We may see **Bottlenose Dolphins** as well while birding the coast. As we veer west, we travel through **The Flow Lands**, an area of over 10,000 hectares of deep blanket bog. This unique rolling landscape of bog-land is studded with thousands of small ponds and is home to a wide range of birds such as **Merlin, Hen Harrier, Greenshank**, as well as many other shorebirds. We plan to arrive at our next lodging well before dark to give folks time to refresh before we meet to go over our bird list and dine at our charming hotel, The Eddrachilles.

Lodging: [The Eddrachilles](#)

Day 5 - June 5 - Bird Handa Island

Today is a special day indeed. After breakfast, we'll travel the short distance to Tarbet, where we board a boat to make the short crossing of Chapel Bay, where in only ~10 minutes, we find ourselves on the beach of **Handa Island**, home to some of the largest colonies of nesting seabirds in all of Scotland. On this small but ecologically vital island, literally thousands of **Atlantic Puffins, Razorbills** and **Guillemots** all vie for a place to nest on its steep cliffs, competing too with the **Great Skua**. And compete they must, for here on Handa is the largest known nesting colony in the world of this mighty and voracious seabird. We will have packed our lunch to allow us to spend as much of the day birding the island as possible... strolling its beaches and grassy slopes, getting our fill of seabirds for the day, and hopefully spotting a few marine mammals as well; **Minke Whales, Bottlenose Dolphins, Grey Seals**, and even the occasional **Orca** can often be seen from the cliffs of Handa.

After our time on Handa Island, we'll return to our lodge and offer an optional evening outing before we meet to review our bird list and have dinner.

Lodging: [The Eddrachilles](#)

SCOTLAND

June 1 - 11, 2026

Urquhart Castle



Northern Lapwing



To register for this tour, email or call: steve@wildlatitudes.com, 503-714-3504

SCOTLAND

June 1 - 11, 2026

Day 6 - June 6 - Travel the West Coast Road, Dinner in Inverness

Today we head back south, so we'll load up the vans after breakfast and travel towards Inverness along the magnificent West Coast Road, famous for its stunning scenery. We'll do a bit of birding en route and no-doubt stop for lunch at a quint Scottish Pub along the way, arriving at our next accommodation by late afternoon. Our plan is to gather after we check in for our bird list, then drive to Inverness for dinner. This afternoon/evening, everyone will have a bit of time to explore this vibrant city with its classic mix of old and new, and then get to dine where you like. We'll gather at a predetermined point to return to our hotel and call it a night.

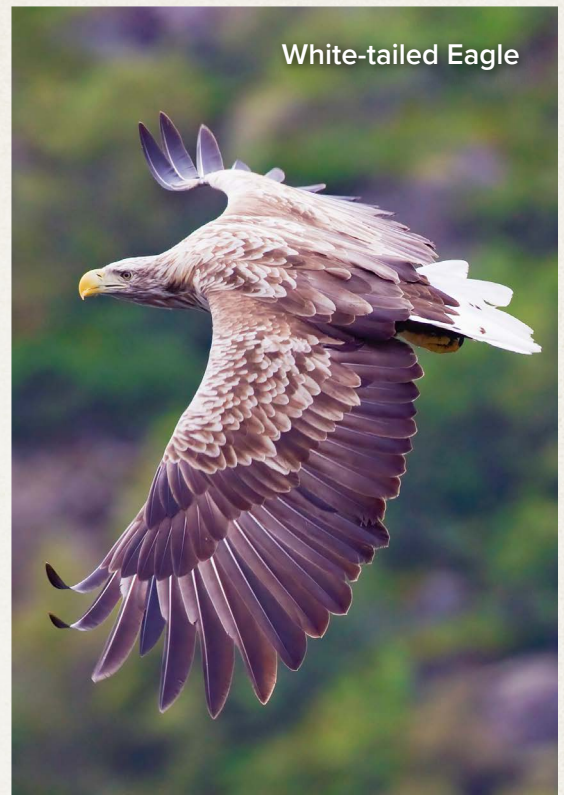
Lodging: [North Kessock Hotel](#)

Day 7 - June 7 - Castles, Loch Ness, On to Skye

After another fantastic Scottish breakfast, we'll continue our journey south, traveling along the western bank of **Loch Ness**. Whether you're a believer in Nessie or not, seeing this iconic lake of cryptozoologic lore is a truly memorable experience, if not for the monster, but its absolute beauty. We'll make a stop in **Drumnadrochit**, where we'll visit the **Loch Ness Center** to learn about the Loch and the theories on its' monster, then visit the picturesque **Urquhart Castle** on the shores of the loch. After lunch, we head due west, stopping at yet another castle, one made famous in the movie Highlander, the



Hedgehog



White-tailed Eagle

Eilean Donan Castle. This stunning castle is complete with a moat, and is considered by many to be one of the most impressive castles in all of Scotland. Finally we cross the “new” bridge to the Isle of Skye, and on to Sconser Lodge, our home for the next two days. Built in 1871 as a hunting lodge for the MacDonald Clan, this absolutely charming lodge is just the right size for our group, and we will have the entire lodge booked for us. As always, we plan to arrive well before dark, hopefully with enough time for a bit of evening birding before we meet to review our list and have dinner.

Lodging: [Sconser Lodge](#)

Day 8 - June 8 - Birding the Isle of Skye

Today is all about the **Isle of Skye** and seeing all we can on this most scenic island of the Inner Hebrides. The beautiful **Cuillin Hills**, the dramatic geological features named **The Quiraing** and **The Old Man of Storr** and a host of other secret places like the **Fairy Pools** are all here on Skye, waiting to be discovered by us.

The Isle of Skye is a well-known birding destination, and is considered one of the best places in the world to see both the **Golden Eagle** and the **White-tailed Eagle**, though we'll need to get off the beaten path for the former, and keep our eyes peeled over the sea for the latter. Other superb birds that can be found on Skye include the Hen Harrier, **Short-eared Owl**, **Merlin**, **Whinchat**, **Stonechat**, **Wheatear**, **Skylark** and with luck, even the **Red Grouse**, **Woodcock** and **Snipe**. **Willow Warblers** are also common across the island, and Skye has a number of rare breeding birds too, including the **Red-throated** and **Black-throated Divers** (i.e. loons).

We will also take time-out to explore the island's biggest (though still tiny) village, **Portree**, as it has many **local craft shops** and pubs all nestled in a lovely little seaside cove. We'll be sure to fill the day with as much of the above as possible before heading back to the Lodge for dinner.

Lodging: [Sconser Lodge](#)

Our Commitment to Conservation

On every Wild Latitudes tour, we aim to make a positive conservation impact wherever we travel. We utilize the services of local guides and, when possible, stay in environmentally-sensitive, locally-owned lodges. Through our partnership with the Rainforest Trust, a portion of all international tour fees goes to purchasing rainforest acreage, for its protection in perpetuity. On every trip, we also make a contribution to a local conservation effort that works to protect a native species or ecosystem.

SCOTLAND

June 1 - 11, 2026

Day 9 - June 9 - Bird our way to Stirling

Today is mainly a travel day, but we'll explore and bird more of Skye after breakfast, seeing as much of the island as possible before heading to the mainland. We'll then travel south-eastward, birding a bit as we go, with our goal to reach the small hamlet of **Stirling** with enough time to explore the area. Stirling is known as the location of the **Battle of Bannockburn**, where Robert the Bruce soundly defeated the English Army of Edward II in the year 1314, winning Scotland's freedom from English rule, at least for the time-being. Yet Stirling is perhaps best known for its strategically placed castle, historically serving to protect the local populace, and by de-facto, all regions north known as the Highlands. This castle still stands today, enchanting virtually all who visit. It's easy to spend a morning or even a full day wandering the castle's vast grounds, rooms & corridors. Today we'll likely have just enough time to see the Bannockburn site, saving the castle for tomorrow. We'll dine at the hotel after adding any birds of the day to our lists.

Lodging: [Stirling Highland Hotel](#)

Day 10 - June 10 - Stirling Castle & the Wallace Monument

After breakfast at the hotel, we'll spend the morning exploring the stunning **Stirling Castle**. This massive structure tells many stories, and everyone will have free time to wander the castle as they like, following whatever interests you most. We'll gather again for lunch at **The Portcullis**, an historic little pub located at the base of the castle, after which we head out to visit the **Wallace Monument**, an amazing tribute to the man who fought so hard for Scotland's freedom. We'll return to our hotel in time to meet for happy hour and to review our bird list one last time before heading to a local restaurant for dinner.

Lodging: [Stirling Highland Hotel](#)

Day 11 - June 11 - Homeward Bound or on the Extension

Today after breakfast we head to the Edinburgh Airport, where we say our farewells to those not participating on the extension; those can either catch a morning flight back to the States or extend their travel in Edinburgh or beyond...

ONE-NIGHT EXTENSION

Scottish Seabird Center & Edinburgh

We are offering this one-night extension to give everyone the chance to experience two more wonderful Scottish attractions not on the main itinerary: The renowned **Scottish Seabird Center** and the magical city of **Edinburgh**. See description and details below

June 11 - Seabird Center, Bass Island, Edinburgh

After stopping at the airport to drop off departing participants (if necessary), we'll head straight for the **Scottish Seabird Center** (seabird.org) where we'll tour the center's many exhibits, see "Nest Cams", learn about the center's work in avian conservation, then board a private **Zodiac Boat** to view the incredible nesting seabird colonies on nearby **Bass Island**. This little island serves an unbelievable number of sea birds, and offers an unforgettable experience as the boat gets us close enough to the colonies to see the birds very clearly, yet not so close as to disturb them.

After an exhilarating morning of Sea-birding, we head in **Edinburgh** to give everyone a free afternoon/early evening to explore this enchanting city, known world-over for its rich culture and stunning beauty. **Edinburgh Castle**, the **Wool Mills**, **Arthur's Seat**, the **Scott Monument**, the **Royal Mile**, the **World's End Pub**... it's all there, with bagpipes often playing in the background, and much of it can be seen in an afternoon. After an amazing, action-packed day, we'll gather at a restaurant (to be determined) for our last dinner together in the land of the Scots.

Lodging: [Norton House Hotel](#)

June 12 - Homeward Bound or Extend Your Travel

Today after breakfast we head to the Edinburgh Airport, where we say our farewells; folks either catch a morning flight back to the States or extend their travel in Edinburgh or other destinations...



Edinburgh Castle

YOUR GUIDE

STEVE ROBERTSON

A true lover of the natural world, Steve Robertson has been a student of nature his entire life. First, as a little boy, who caught every creature he could for the mini zoo he kept in the garage, then later as an adult, leading scientific research expeditions into some of the most remote regions of the world, searching for rare species in such places as Tasmania, Madagascar, and the upper Amazon Basin.

He is the Co-owner of Wild Latitudes. With degrees in Wildlife Biology, advanced biology & education, Steve has worked in the field of Environmental Education for over 30 years. From 1998 to 2017, he served as the Education Director for the Audubon Society of Portland, creating a number of innovative programs including International Ecotours, a program that has won hundreds of accolades from around the country. During his time with Audubon, Steve personally designed and led ecotours to over 20 countries, spanning six continents.



IMPORTANT INFORMATION

THE PACE AND STYLE OF OUR TOURS

The primary goal of our trips is to experience and learn about the natural world, especially the region's birds and other wildlife, and of course, to have fun! As birding is often a primary focus of our tours, and birds are active in the morning, we will sometimes have early morning outings before breakfast. That said, our style of birding may not be ideal for hard-core "listers." We prefer to spend time observing the species we encounter, and learn a bit about their natural history, rather than rushing through the field to add the maximum number of species to our bird list. We also make diversions for interesting, non-avian wildlife, plants, geological wonders, and cultural activities. The pace of most of our trips is moderate, and we encourage anyone in good health to attend and enjoy the experience. Please contact us about if you need specific information on the types of physical activities on a tour and their physical requirements.

We strive to immerse participants in the local culture and to that end, wherever possible, we stay in locally owned and operated hotels that are designed and run in an environmentally sustainable way. Though some accommodations may be more basic than others, all are safe, clean and comfortable. We also utilize the services of local guides, visit local markets, and other culturally significant sites.

TOUR DATE AND TRIP LEADER CHANGES

Leaders and schedules are determined up to a year in advance of our tours. In the event that we have a change in a tour's dates or leaders, we reserve the right to do so, and will strive to inform participants as early in the process as possible. Additional leaders may be added to tours according to the group size, and will be specified in the tour itinerary. We also reserve the right to cancel any trip for which there are insufficient reservations.

HOW TO REGISTER FOR THE TOUR

When you're ready to sign up for the tour, please let us know by doing one of the following:

- Send us an email at info@wildlatitudes.com
- Call us at 503-714-3504

Then we'll send you the link to our online registration form. You can choose to pay your deposit by credit card or check. See 'Deposit Policy' below.

DEPOSIT POLICY

A deposit is due at the time of registration. ***A deposit is the only thing that guarantees your place on the trip.*** Registration can be made over the phone with a credit card: 503-714-3504. *Note:* there is an additional 3.0% fee for credit card payments. This is only what we are charged by the credit card company.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Checks are happily accepted and should be made out to *Wild Latitudes LLC*. Include the tour name on the memo line of the check and send to:

Wild Latitudes, PO Box 25115, Portland, OR 97298.

PAYMENT POLICY

Full payment is required **90 days** prior to the tour departure date for international tours or any tour involving flights; and **30 days** prior to the tour departure date for local (i.e. in the Portland, Oregon area), van-based tours.

CANCELLATION POLICY

In the event a participant needs to cancel a reservation for any tour, the following policies will apply:

- **90 days** or more prior to tour departure date, the deposit will be refunded, minus an administrative fee of \$100.
- **Less than 90 days but more than 60 days** prior to tour departure date, all payments refunded, minus 50% of deposit.
- **Less than 60 days** prior to tour departure date, no refunds will be given.

We *strongly* recommend that you purchase trip cancellation insurance to protect yourself from unforeseen circumstances.

If for any reason Wild Latitudes cancels a tour prior to the start of the tour, full refunds—minus the cost of any internal/in-country airline tickets purchased and/or any non-refundable deposits or expenses already made by Wild Latitudes—will be given to all participants. In the event that the tour is canceled while underway due to unforeseeable events such as but not limited to natural disaster, military activities, social uprising, or other extremely dangerous conditions not within the control of Wild Latitudes, no refund will be issued.
