

heatherlea

birding and wildlife news

April 2014 *Holiday edition*

Heatherlea announces 2015 holiday dates

with more choice and top value for you, our valued customer

From Sea Eagle on Skye to Prairie Falcon in Arizona, we are busy at Heatherlea preparing great holidays for you in 2015. This Newsletter gives you first notice of our plans, and we will add more detail regularly on our website.

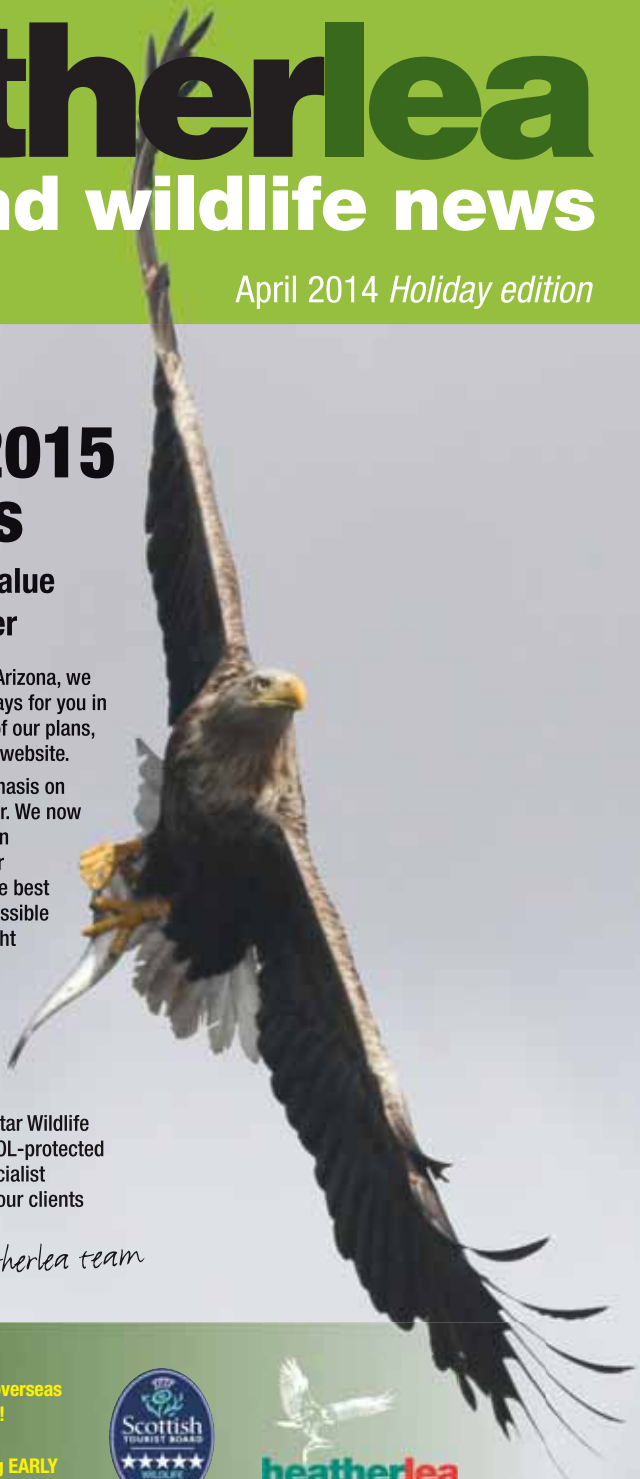
Last year we began to place even more emphasis on personal service for you, our valued customer. We now have a maximum of seven clients per guide in Scotland, both here at Mountview and further afield on the remote islands. This gives us the best opportunity to make sure you get the best possible wildlife sightings. Overseas, our new Pre-flight Service includes free pre-flight airport hotels and lounges, all organised by Heatherlea to make your holiday easier and save you money. With a maximum of 12 clients overseas on most trips, the emphasis again is on personal service.

We offer the standards you deserve, with 5-star Wildlife Experience accreditation in Scotland, and ATOL-protected holidays overseas. Heatherlea is a small specialist company run BY birders FOR birders, where our clients really do come first. Come and see!

Kevin, Caryl and the Heatherlea team

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SCOTLAND IN 2014 – LATE



Heatherlea is THE place for top quality birding holidays in Scotland. Stay in our own three star Small Hotel, and enjoy first-rate birding with Scotland's best guiding team. We think you will see far more with a Heatherlea Guide than under your own steam, and you can relax and enjoy yourself, as we do all the planning. There is no single supplement, and we offer a courtesy transfer to Aviemore transport links. Our fully inclusive guided holidays concentrate on the real experience, and once your deposit is paid, we guarantee not to cancel your holiday or increase the price.

Scottish holidays based at Mountview Hotel, Nethy Bridge.

HOLIDAY	PRICE (no single supp)	HOLIDAY	PRICE (no single supp)
HIGH SEASON ACROSS THE HIGHLANDS Jun 7 Glorious Handa Island is a great day out, and we stay west to see White-tailed Eagle the following day.	£1095	EAGLES, DIVERS AND DOTTEREL Jul 12, Jul 19 The best British birding in July? Both eagles on Mull, Dotterel, Ptarmigan and divers inland – great birding!	£1095
HIGHLANDS AND ORKNEY Jun 14 Orkney in summer, where breeding Short-eared Owl, Hen Harrier and Black-tailed Godwit are found.	£1195	THE TOP 30 IN SUMMER Jul 26, Aug 2 Ever popular, featuring the birds and mammals of a Highland summer. Crammed with birds and other wildlife!	£1195
NEW! BIRDS OF STRATHSPEY IN SUMMER Jun 21, Jun 24, Jun 28, Jul 1 Fully-inclusive 4-night short breaks, ideal for busy birders. Three full days birding on each holiday. Includes mountain visit for Ptarmigan and Dotterel	£520	HIGH SUMMER WILDLIFE BY LAND AND SEA Aug 9, Aug 16 Birds and sealife, boat trips for dolphins and whales, plus all the speciality birds.	£1095
HIGHLAND WILDLIFE Jun 28, Jul 5 Birds, mammals, insects and flora on this unique holiday aimed at the natural history all-rounder.	£1095	SPECIALS AND MIGRATION, FEATURING THE BURMA BANK Aug 23, Aug 30 Sabine's, Sooties and much more on 'the Burma Bank', Scotland's newest birding hotspot!	£1145



AVAILABILITY

MIGRATION AND SCOTTISH SPECIALS Sept 6, Sept 13 Migration in full swing, with seabirds from our ferry to the Outer Hebs, and specialities inland.	£1095	LATE AUTUMN IN THE HIGHLANDS Oct 25, Nov 1 Autumn in northern Scotland is a wonderful birding time!	£1095
THE OUTER LIMITS ADVENTURE Sept 20, Sept 27, Oct 4 With two nights on the Outer Hebrides, this exceptional trip takes you to the 'outer limits' of Scottish birding.	£1195	BIRDS OF STRATHSPEY IN AUTUMN Nov 8, Nov 11, Nov 15, Nov 18 Fully-inclusive 4-night short breaks, ideal for busy birders. Three full days birding on each holiday. Targets Capercaillie, Black Grouse, Golden Eagle and more.	£520
THE TOP 20 IN AUTUMN Oct 11, Oct 18 An extraordinary holiday for those who love mammals and birds.	£1095	Hogmanay Birding Festival Mon 29 Dec 2014 – Sat 3 Jan 2015 Hogmanay and wonderful Scottish birding.	£1095

Scottish Island Adventures

Birding and wildlife holidays on the Scottish islands.

These great holidays take you to far flung Scottish outposts at the right time to connect with the best birding. All dates in June and July are nearly full, with only seven clients per leader, so please call our office to check availability. North Ron and Coll and Tiree are exciting rarity-oriented trips, Islay and Jura and Solway Firth are relaxed bird-filled holidays conducted at a gentle pace. We always work hard to bring you everything the destination has to offer, especially great birding!



ORKNEY ISLAND EXPLORER Leader: Phil Knott	Sat 7 June – Sat 14 June	Price £1645pp ssupp £140
SHETLAND ISLAND EXPLORER Leader: Phil Knott	Sat 15 June – Sat 22 June	Price £1595pp ssupp £140
SHETLAND and ORKNEY Leader: Dave Pullan	Sat 21 June – Sun 29 June	Price £1795pp ssupp £200
UNEXPLORED OUTER HEBRIDES Leader: Ian Ford	Sat 5 July – Fri 11 July	Price £1595pp ssupp £120
NORTH RONALDSAY and mainland ORKNEY Leader: Toby Green	Sat 13 Sept – Fri 19 Sept	Price £1045pp ssupp £120
COLL and TIREE Leader: Toby Green	Sun 19 Oct – Sat 25 Oct	Price £1395pp ssupp £120
ISLAY and JURA Leader: Phil Knott	Sat 25 Oct – Wed 29 Oct	Price £895pp ssupp £80
SOLWAY FIRTH Leader: Ian Ford	Sat 15 Nov – Wed 19 Nov	Price £745pp ssupp £80

2014 OVERSEAS

'The Heatherlea Way' gives our overseas holidays a reputation for being 'less-intensive', in the company of capable Leaders who really look after you. All itineraries are planned carefully so you enjoy memorable wildlife experiences, during relaxed, informal days that are great fun, with a maximum of 12 clients and two leaders on the majority of trips. We choose comfortable, welcoming accommodation, reflecting our need to be close to wildlife, aim to provide good quality rooms and meals, and seek to include a real flavour of the country we are visiting. We take regular comfort breaks and sensible midday breaks when in very hot places.



Our unique 'Pre-flight Service' gives you more benefits, including **FREE** pre-flight hotel and entry to a comfortable airport lounge (terms and conditions apply). More details in this newsletter and on our website. A big thank you to all of you who have chosen to travel with us!

TURKEY Tues 29 April – Fri 9 May Leader Cristian Jensen	Price: £2345pp ssupp £190pp	ANDALUCIA and N. MOROCCO Tues Sep 16 – Tues Sep 23 Leader Josele Saiz	Price: £1545pp ssupp £140pp
ESTONIA Sun 4 May – Sun 11 May Leader Uku Paal	Price £1645pp ssupp £130pp	ECUADOR Sun Sep 21 – Sat Oct 4 Leader Dave Pullan	Price: £3495pp ssupp £395pp
HUNGARY IN SPRING Sat 10 May – Sat 17 May Leader Ian Ford	Price: £1495pp ssupp £120pp	HUNGARY IN AUTUMN Fri Sep 26 – Fri Oct 3 Leader Gerard Gorman	Price: £1395pp ssupp £130pp
SPAIN - PYRENEES to EBRO DELTA Fri 20 June – Mon 30 June Leader Cristian Jensen	Price: £1745pp ssupp £165pp	PANAMA Mon Nov 3 – Mon Nov 17 Leader Paco Madrigal	Price: £3995pp ssupp £610pp
YELLOWSTONE & GRAND TETON Mon July 21 – Sun Aug 3 Leader Ian Ford	Price: £3995pp ssupp £695pp	GAMBIA Sun Nov 8 – Sat Nov 15 Leader Ian Ford	Price: £1645pp ssupp £150pp
ICELAND Thur July 24 – Thur July 31 Leader Andy Jones	Price: £2595pp ssupp £250pp	FLORIDA Wed Nov 19 – Sat Nov 29 Leader Peter Cosgrove	Price: £2595pp ssupp £375pp
AZORES Sat Aug 23 – Sat Aug 30 Leader Andy Jones	Price: £2495pp ssupp £250pp	GOA Sun Nov 22 – Sat Dec 7 Leader Toby Green	Price: £2495pp ssupp £360pp
BRAZIL PANTANAL Thur Sept 11 – Sat Sept 20 Leader Chris Townend	Price: £4495pp ssupp £295pp	NEW! ICELAND birds and borealis Thurs Dec 4 – Mon 8 Dec Leader Andy Jones	Guide Price: £1495pp ssupp £125

SEEN IT CHEAPER? PLEASE TELL US!

We try to give excellent value on all our holidays, and invest in many things to offer you our best service. Among our extra-value features we offer a telephone and email service outside normal office hours, and have a substantial team in our 'Back Office', who organise all your pre-flight and other travel needs without charging an admin fee. We hold a full ATOL Licence and full Tour Operator Insurance for your protection.

Our holidays often include things which others might invite you to pay yourself, for instance international Departure Taxes and tips to hotels. We are very keen to offer competitive prices to match our service, so if you have seen any holiday in these pages substantially cheaper elsewhere, please let us know, and we will take a closer look. We are always looking to improve!

NEW! Heatherlea Pre-flight Service



**WITH HEATHERLEA, YOU'RE A VIP!
ENJOY A PRE-FLIGHT AIRPORT
HOTEL and LOUNGE - FREE!**

FREE!

Many of us enjoy birding and wildlife holidays overseas, and the Heatherlea Pre-flight Service offers everything you need, so let us take the strain!

Heatherlea overseas holidays include a **FREE** pre-flight airport hotel and lounge where flights are part of your package. To benefit, choose us for

your next overseas wildlife holiday! Our friendly, knowledgeable team will advise you and organise all details to your requirements, so please call Melanie, Emma, Amanda, Isabel, Kevin or Phil.

HERE'S HOW IT WORKS!

PRE-FLIGHT HOTEL

Heatherlea select your hotel from our approved shortlist. Each offers a good standard of accommodation, with evening meals usually available, and readily available car parking and transfers. If your Heatherlea Guide is staying in the same hotel, he may be able to join you for an informal chat the night before travel. If you don't want a pre-flight hotel, tell us when you book, and we will make a price deduction from your holiday invoice.

PRE-FLIGHT AIRPORT LOUNGE

We want you to start your holiday early, and unwind before you fly. A busy airport terminal is hardly the ideal place to relax! By the time you've bought food, drinks, newspapers and a magazine to pass the time, terminals can prove expensive too. Why not prefer the comfort and choice of an airport lounge, where you can relax and spread out for up to three hours before your flight?

Each of our lounges is a secluded getaway from the crowded terminal, and will save you money compared to prices outside. Most offer unlimited free drinks and snacks, magazines and newspapers, broadband, TV and comfortable seating in quiet surroundings. Your Heatherlea guide will join you for an optional pre-flight chat after everyone has checked-in, and you can get to know fellow travellers or just sink into a comfortable armchair. If you've never used an airport lounge before, you don't know what you're missing – the only concern is you might get too comfortable and forget to catch your flight!

MORE PRE-FLIGHT SERVICES

Should you wish anything else as part of your Heatherlea Pre-flight Service, we will be very pleased to help you. Our prices are very competitive, and we hope to save you both time and money! Ask us about;



AIRPORT PARKING

Driving to the airport? We offer secure, good value airport parking services, valet parking and 'meet and greet' parking.



REGIONAL DEPARTURES/CONNECTIONS

Prefer to fly from your local airport? We are happy to tailor flight options to your requirements.



FLIGHT UPGRADES

Fancy some extra legroom or a reclining seat? Heatherlea offer Premium Economy and Business Class service.



TAILOR MADE EXTENSIONS

We arrange travel services before or after your wildlife holiday. It's quicker and easier than doing it yourself, and you will benefit from ATOL protection too.



HOTEL "CABINS" INSIDE THE TERMINAL

Small rooms with everything at your finger tips and maximum convenience for your flight.

QUALITY ASSURANCE – WHY CHOOSE HEATHERLEA?

Heatherlea have been organising birding holidays for over 23 years, and have a highly experienced and capable team. All elements of our package holidays are sold under our ATOL licence (ATOL 6113), and our business partners include British Airways, Delta Airlines, Premier Inn and Hilton Hotels. Our specialist knowledge will help you get exactly the right services, at the best price. We offer all your airport needs with just one call, so to save time and money choose Heatherlea, your complete holiday provider.

2015 Overseas with Heatherlea -

We are delighted to announce our 2015 programme, offering established favourites and many exciting new destinations. Full details including prices will be released on our website over the next few weeks, although many holidays are already confirmed and now booking. Please see our website for the latest on each destination, download an Extra Pack online or request updates which we will send you. Many holidays fill quickly, so please take a look as soon as possible. Don't forget your Pre-flight hotel and airport lounge are included in the holiday price. We look forward to your company!



EUROPE 2015

M  Manchester departure available

SPAIN - Birding and Lynx Thurs Jan 6 – Thurs Jan 13

Leader Cristian Jensen. Max 7 clients.

If you want to see Iberian Lynx, don't leave it much longer. The animals are sadly declining rapidly due to the lack of rabbits, their staple food, in central Spain. We have an excellent record, and with extra private estate access in 2015, you have every chance. This holiday also includes the fabulous birding spectacle of Coto Donana, as well as Andujar – you will see many birds including Spanish Imperial Eagle, Black Vulture, Marbled Teal, White-headed Duck and Azure-winged Magpie. A special trip.

HOLLAND and FLANDERS by train Eurostar to Brussels then great winter birding Sat 7 Feb – Sat 14 Feb

Leader Josef Leestmans.

A unique holiday led by Flanders native Josef, who knows the area inside out. Waterbirds and migrating geese abound, with every chance of rarities. Marsh Harrier, Bittern and Bearded Tit are just some of the other key birds in the marshlands. A second focus is on woodlands, with Black and Middle-spotted Woodpecker, Great Grey Shrike, Woodlark and more. We take Eurostar via Brussels, so if you want to avoid flying, this is a great overseas choice.

**NEW! ICELAND - Birds and Borealis
exclusive small group just 3 – 5 clients.
2014 new date Thurs Dec 4 – Mon Dec 8
2015 new date Thurs Feb 19 – Mon Feb 23**
Leader Andy Jones.

Aurora borealis and birding in the northern winter. Gyrfalcon, Harlequin, Barrow's Goldeneye, White-tailed Eagle, Ptarmigan in winter-white plumage, Glaucous and Iceland Gulls and more provide the birding highlights. The natural wonders of Iceland are just as important, and glaciers, volcanoes, huge waterfalls and geysers are part of the experience.

NEW! ICELAND - Orcas and Auroras exclusive small group just 3 – 5 clients. Sat March 21 – Thurs Mar 26

Leader Trausti Gunnarsson

A great short break searching for birds and whales. Gyrfalcon, Harlequin, Barrow's Goldeneye, White-tailed Eagle, Ptarmigan in winter-white plumage, Glaucous and Iceland Gulls and more provide the birding highlights. We learn about Iceland's volcanic geology, and make a special journey to the Snæfellsnes peninsula, which in recent years has seen magnificent Orcas coming close inshore. We'll look from the land, and, if weather permits, take a boat trip to see them close up.

CAMARGUE Wonderful European winter birding – by Eurostar! Wed March 25 – Wed April 1

Leader Chris Townend.

Another option for those who don't want to travel by air, with birds as diverse as Bonelli's and Great Spotted Eagle, Little Bustard and Pin-tailed Sandgrouse, Bluethroat, Wallcreeper, Alpine Accentor and flocks of Greater Flamingo. Watch out for Wild Boar, Coypu, and the famous white Camargue Horses. Early migration should produce a big bird list on a trip with interest everywhere.

SPAIN in early spring Wed 25 – Sun 29 March

Leader Santi Villa

This short break allows us to enjoy some spectacular birding reasonably close to Madrid, making it convenient for the busy birder who wants an exciting few days plus a little warmth in early spring! Spanish Imperial and Bonelli's Eagle, both bustards, both sandgrouse, Common Crane, Black Vulture, Lesser Kestrel and many Spanish specialities make for a rewarding few days, and we use good hotels and enjoy 'tapas-raciones' style lunches and local wine too.

- a world of choice!

ITALY – PO DELTA and VENICE

Sat April 4 – Sat April 11

Leader Kevin Shaw

A great birding short break with the option of continuing to Venice. Birds include Pygmy Cormorant and a host of other waterbirds, with breeding Slender-billed Gull a recent addition on a lovely boat trip. Migration can be fascinating, and our hotel is very comfortable with fantastic food. In Venice, Kevin will help you get the best from the city, and your waterbus pass (included) gives access to all its special places. Another very stylish and comfortable hotel, and the chance to experience breathtaking concerts, galleries, and ice-cream all await!



EXTREMADURA

Birds of prey, bustards, sandgrouse and brilliant birding

Sun 19 April – Sun 26 April

Leader Cristian Jensen.

Another classic destination, filled with birds. Five eagles, three vultures, both storks, both bustards, two sandgrouse species, Eagle Owl, Bee-eater, Roller, Collared Pratincole, Hoopoe, Black-winged Kite and many other Spanish specialties. Comfortable rural accommodation and rugged scenery all around on a beautiful trip to central Spain.

NEW! CYPRUS

Sat April 4 – Sat April 11

Leader Toby Green

Resident specialties and early spring migration on this new holiday devised and led by Heatherlea favourite Toby Green. Features eastern European birds not available on any of our other Mediterranean holidays.

CROATIA

Tues April 14 – Tues April 21

Leader Toby Green

Fast becoming a real favourite with Heatherlea clients, Croatia has great birding which is easily accessible. Dalmatian Pelican, Pygmy Cormorant, Rock Partridge, Rock Nuthatch, Scops Owl, Wryneck, Savi's Warbler and Ferruginous Duck are just a few of the birds. Stunning scenery and a relatively unexplored and unspoilt part of Europe make for something different, and we sample local Croat and Dalmatian cuisine (a blend of Italian and Balkan) plus local wines.

LESVOS

Eastern Mediterranean specialties and migrants
Sat 18 April – Sat 25 April

Leader Ian Ford

A classic trip with many special birds, including Cretzchmar's and Cinereous Bunting, Kruper's Nuthatch and many colourful and uncommon migrants. The scene changes daily, and we are adept at judging the weather to be in the right place for 'falls'. We also enjoy lunches at tavernas, an experience not to be missed! Great local produce, exciting birding and lots of fun. One of our favourites.

SKYROS

Exciting birding on an unspoilt Greek island.

Sat 25 April – Sat 2 May

Leader Phil Knott.

'Lesvos without the crowds!' This unspoilt island is a new birding destination which includes several experiences not found on nearby Lesvos, including a daytime cruise to see shearwaters, and breeding Eleanora's Falcon. Taverna meals and a relaxed itinerary with time to explore or just keep on birding in a delightful quiet location.

TURKEY

Fri May 1 – Tues May 12

Leader Cristian Jensen

A cornucopia of eastern birds, just a few of which are Northern Bald Ibis, Spur-winged Plover, White-throated Robin, Crimson-winged Finch, Blue-cheeked Bee-eater, Iraq Babbler, Kurdish Wheatear, Graceful Prinia, Dead Sea Sparrow, and of course an expedition to find Caspian Snowcock. All the European herons, four shrikes, Snowfinch, Desert Finch and many more, birding is very rewarding.

ESTONIA

Birding the specialties of north-eastern Europe
Sat 2 May – Sat 9 May

Leader Dave Pullan.

Owls and woodpeckers, Nutcracker, Lesser and Greater Spotted Eagle, lekking Great Snipe, Citrine Wagtail, Red-breasted Flycatcher, Capercaillie, Hazel and Black Grouse, Montagu's Harrier and many terns and other seabirds. We stay in three locations giving us the best chances of difficult specialties, and our contacts on the ground will be key to finding many of these.

MALLORCA **Lovely Mediterranean Birding in spring****Sat 2 May – Sat 9 May**

Leader Kevin Shaw

A relaxed itinerary, staying in a small family hotel in the right place for exciting daily migration. The experienced birder might want to catch up with Moustached and Marmora's Warbler, and the newcomer to European birding will be delighted by Golden Oriole, Hoopoe, Bee-eater, Roller, Wryneck and more. Many raptors include Short-toed Eagle, Egyptian Vulture, Booted Eagle, Eleanora's Falcon and Red-footed Falcon.

HUNGARY in Spring**Forest specialities and the Hortobagy National Park****Sat 9 May – Sat 16 May**

Leader Ian Ford

The classic two-centre Hungarian holiday, with the famous Hortobagy and the forests and flood-plains of the northern hills. Nine Woodpeckers, Tengmalm's and Ural Owl, Great Bustard, River, Booted and Marsh Warbler, Common Crane and white-spotted race of Bluethroat. Full of key European birds.

SPAIN – from PYRENEES to EBRO DELTA**Our tremendous birding tour from mountain top to the marshes of the Ebro delta.****Sat June 13 – Tues June 23**

Leader Cristian Jensen

Three fabulous centres from the high Pyrenees (Lammergeier, Wallcreeper), through the steppes (bustards and sandgrouse) to the coast at the Ebro delta (a myriad of waterbirds), this is one of our most popular and rewarding European trips. A 'grand tour' of eastern Spanish habitats and key avian delights.

SPITSBERGEN**Polar Bear, Walrus, birding and an unforgettable Arctic expedition.**

Dates tba

We again offer a tremendous cruise based in the northern archipelago of Svalbard, to see the spectacular wildlife of an Arctic summer. Heatherlea can reserve cabins at a very attractive price, and pass these savings to you. Don't book without comparing our prices, usually available in June.

FAROE ISLANDS**Mon July 6 – Mon July 13**

Leader Andy Jones

A birding trip with a difference in this remote northern outpost. We visit a Storm Petrel colony, see breeding Great Northern Diver, and enjoy the teeming auk cliffs where the birds capitalise on a particularly rich marine environment. We visit a number of islands to give you a thorough and unforgettable experience in a delightful and entrancing location.

ICELAND in summer**Bird, cetaceans and geology – 'Complete Iceland'.****Thurs July 23 – Thurs July 30**

Leader Andy Jones

A complete tour of Iceland in summer. Birdlife includes Gyrfalcon, Barrow's Goldeneye, Harlequin, Brunnich's Guillemot and more, including Black-tailed Godwit and Red-necked Phalarope in breeding colours. We enjoy three birding/cetacean boat trips, and don't forget the breathtaking geology, with volcanos, geysers, waterfalls, glaciers and stunning scenery.

AZORES**Sat Aug 22 – Sat Aug 29**

Leader Andy Jones

One of the world's leading whale and dolphin watching locations, and with rewarding birding featuring Cory's Shearwater, Roseate Tern and of course Azores Bullfinch, this is a non-intensive wildlife experience as we stay on three attractive and unspoilt Atlantic islands. We take two whale-watching trips, explore hot springs and fumaroles, and learn about the geology of this enthralling place.

NEW! PICOS MOUNTAINS – Birds and Bears**Sun Aug 23 – Sun Aug 30**

Leader Cristian Jensen

This holiday targets some of Spain's most sought after montane and forest birds, combined with excellent chances to see Cantabrian Brown Bear. Birding includes Wallcreeper, Snowfinch, Egyptian Vulture and Black Woodpecker, as we stay in quiet hotels with a rural flavour.

ANDALUCIA**Tue Sept 15 – Tues Sept 22**

Leader Josele Saiz

Classic autumn migration at the southern edge of Spain. Raptors should number in excess of fifteen species, plus both storks and many migrant passerines. Spanish specialities include White-headed Duck and Marbled Teal, and we also experience migration directly as we cross to Tangier in Morocco on a day trip.

HUNGARY IN AUTUMN**Sun Sept 27 – Sun Oct 4**

Leader Ian Ford

Spectacular Common Crane migration, with upwards of 40,000 birds, plus autumn birding in two centres, with our targets including Great Bustard, Saker Falcon, White-backed Woodpecker, Dotterel, White-tailed and Eastern Imperial Eagle. Winter visitors include Rough-legged Buzzard and Great Grey Shrike.

coming soon **FUERTEVENTURA**• **Northern GREECE** • **BULGARIA in Autumn**• **ESTONIA in Autumn** More European holidays coming soon – please contact us for details or watch our website!

AMERICAS 2015

COSTA RICA

Land of the Quetzal

Sat Jan 17 – Sat Feb 1

Leader Paco Madrigal

Our classic tour, filled with birds and other wildlife at a relaxed pace. We visit spectacular and unforgettable places including Arenal Volcano and Tortuguero, where brackish mangrove swamp reaches to within 200 metres of crashing Caribbean waves. Excellent accommodation and meals, great guiding from Paco, and wonderful wildlife. Already filling.

NEW! ARIZONA and GRAND CANYON

Sat April 11 – Sat April 25

Leaders Dave Pullan and Peter Cosgrove

This is a two week trip to one of America's top birding destinations featuring stunning cacti desert and 'sky-island' mountain landscapes, with a diversity of fabulous birds to match. From desert and Mexican specialities, to gorgeous and gaudy breeding plumaged American wood warblers heading northwards into the mountains, this is a trip every birder should do at least once. Migration will be in full swing as we visit some of the most beautiful places in North America. We end our trip at the wonderful Grand Canyon.

TRINIDAD, TOBAGO and ST LUCIA **A unique tour featuring classic Trini plus endemic birds in St Lucia and Tobago**

Mon April 27 – Sat May 9

Leader Mike Coleman plus experienced local guides.

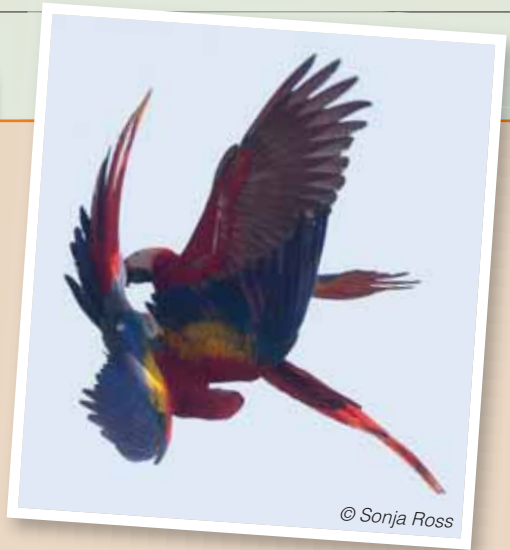
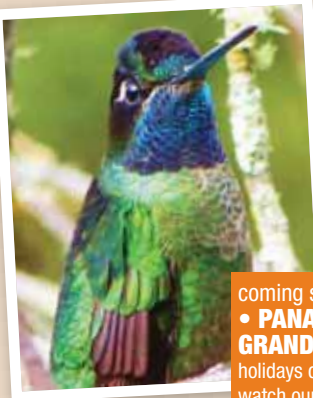
Rapidly becoming a firm favourite, this trip is a marvellous Caribbean birding experience on three fabulous islands. St Lucia has several endemics and many birds not found on the more southerly islands. In Trinidad we stay at Asa Wright, home of the Oilbird, and we visit Little Tobago to see boobies, frigatebirds and tropicbirds.

NOVA SCOTIA

Sat Aug 15 – Sat Aug 22

Leader Dave Pullan

We return in 2015 to this excellent location in eastern Canada to catch the constantly changing autumn migration of warblers, hummingbirds and other passerines, taking four whale cruises to see several key cetaceans including Northern Right Whale. Enjoy pelagic birding whilst on the water, and back on land catch up with resident birds including Bald Eagle.



NEW! MEXICO

Mon Nov 16 – Fri Nov 27

Leader Cristian Jensen


Enjoy winter sunshine while birding around Mexico's Yucatan peninsula on this brand new, leisurely-paced tour. We visit varied habitats against a background of world-famous Mayan archaeological sites. Endemics include Yucatan Bobwhite, Yucatan Wren and Mexican Sheartail, our tour coincides with the migration of North American warblers, shorebirds and passage birds, we enjoy a boat-trip into the bird-rich lagoons, tasty Mexican food, well-located hotels and breathtaking scenery.

FLORIDA

An intro to American birding in the 'Sunshine State'
Wed 18 – Sat 28 Nov

Leader Peter Cosgrove

A tour with a huge range of species and a great range of habitats, at just the right time of year. We visit Ding Darling National Wildlife Refuge, Big Cypress Reserve, Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary, the Loop Road, the Tamiami Trail, and most famously of all, the Everglades. Land specialities include Wild Turkey, Scrub Jay and Red-cockaded and Red-headed Woodpeckers. There are masses of waterbirds in the shallow, rich wetlands, and we also look for endangered West Indian Manatee.

coming soon **CUBA • BRAZIL Regua**
• PANAMA  **• YELLOWSTONE and**
GRAND TETONS • ECUADOR More Americas
holidays coming soon – please contact us for details or
watch our website!

REST OF THE WORLD 2015

GAMBIA

African rainforest birding and migration
Mon Jan 12 – Mon Jan 19

Leader Ian Ford

A superb option for British birders, offering the nearest rainforest jungle to the UK, easy access from the UK and great birding in coastal locations close to our base near the airport. The weather is largely dry and sunny in January, and birding is very rewarding, as we visit key sites including the excellent Marissa Rivercamp.

NEPAL

Birds, mammals and culture –
especially designed for the first-time visitor.
Fri Feb 27 – Wed Mar 11

Leader Mike Coleman plus experienced local guide(s).

A carefully planned and relaxed itinerary, covering Nepal's birds, mammals, landscape and lifestyle. Royal Chitwan and Koshi Tappu are our key sites, and with time birding in Kathmandu and Mt Phulchowki, we expect a big list. We seek Indian Rhinoceros on elephant back, and hope to repeat 2014's sighting of Bengal Tiger. An optional extension to fly round Mt Everest and visit a sacred Hindu temple and a 5th century Buddhist 'stupa' is highly recommended.

INDIA

Fri March 6 – Wed March 18

Leader Dave Pullan

A northern tour focused on birding and mammals. Bengal Tiger, Asiatic Lion, Blackbuck and Indian Rhino will be our main mammal targets, and birding should be exceptional. More details coming soon!

MOROCCO

A big birdlist with a real flavour of North Africa!
Sun 22 March – Wed 1 April

Leader Cristian Jensen

An eleven day delight, covering the birds of desert, mountain, coast and wetland, plus the spectacle of spring migration. We expect a mouth-watering birdlist with a real flavour of north Africa. A key highlight is our time in the amazing Sahara Desert, and we include an optional visit to Marrakech city. Comfortable en-suite accommodation throughout.

NEW! North MOROCCO

Sat Oct 3 – Fri Oct 9

Leader Josele Saiz

A new short tour during autumn migration to the internationally recognised area of Merja Zerga, where Marsh Owl is an important target. We visit watch points to see soaring vultures, kites, eagles and storks heading south from Europe. Black-crowned Tchagra, Great-spotted Cuckoo, Red-necked Nightjar and Little Bustard are also found here.



NEW! ETHIOPIA**Sat Nov 7 – Tues Nov 17**

Leader Josele Saiz

The best birding areas, endemic species and good hotels on this carefully designed new itinerary for Heatherlea clients. More detail coming soon!

GAMBIA**Mon Nov 9 – Mon Nov 16**

Leader Ian Ford

November is a good time to visit Gambia, winter visitors have arrived, the weather is warm, and we will again enjoy a simple and straight-forward introduction to African birding, which promises to be exceptional. We will see Red-billed and Grey Hornbills, Senegal Coucal, Long-tailed Sunbird, Hooded Vulture and many more. As usual, we shall be keeping an eye on the general wildlife of the area including Nile Monitor Lizard, and monkeys such as Green Vervet and Red Colobus.

GOA**Sat Nov 21 – Sun Dec 6**

Leader Toby Green

Goa is one of the easiest and most accessible Indian birding destinations, extremely rich for birding, with many key habitats concentrated in a fairly small and workable area. We visit mountain jungle on the edge of the Western Ghats, mangrove swamp, and estuaries, beaches, wet swamps and paddyfields. We stay in three centres including five nights at the excellent Matkan Backwoods Camp, plus time at the coast and in the interior. The tour is at a relaxed pace, allowing a leisurely but detailed investigation of all the best places.

**SENEGAL****Mon Dec 7 – Mon Dec 18**

Leader Cristian Jensen

Some of the best birdwatching in West Africa awaits on this new and unique holiday especially designed for Heatherlea. We visit the southern limit of the huge Sahel plains and the north of the western tropical forest, including the Gambia River, and birdwatch along beaches, rivers, wetlands, rice fields, riverine tropical forests, and savanna. Species include Arabian Bustard, Finfoot and Pink-backed Pelicans among other waterbirds, a splendid variety of raptors and owls, complemented by an incredible number of typical African beauties, such as Red-throated, Little and Carmine Bee-Eater, with several species of rollers and woodpeckers. One of the highlights is spectacular Egyptian Plover, which we will hopefully see at close quarters. You will also enjoy a unique insight into fascinating local culture, deeply influenced by the Gambia River. There are four boat excursions, in the Djoudj, Wassadow and in the Salum Delta. A great introduction to African birdlife or the next step after visiting Gambia, Senegal is a 'must do' destination!

More overseas holidays coming soon – please contact us for details or watch our website!

NEW! 2015 Mainland Scotland

Full Week holidays based at Mountview Hotel

Heatherlea offer a massive choice in Scotland. We know the wildlife very well, and from our HQ in Nethy Bridge we have a huge choice of exciting itineraries changing with the seasons, with departures every week until late November to suit your diary. Most of these holidays have been firm favourites for many years.

EARLY BIRDER PRICES – SAVE UP TO £200pp!

To encourage you to make an early choice, this Newsletter offers our very best prices*. Our Early Birder discount gives great value, and prices will be held until 31 August 2014, strictly subject to availability. Once your deposit is paid, we guarantee not to surcharge or to cancel your holiday. We think this is a strong promise in an uncertain world, so be a Heatherlea EARLY BIRDER and reserve your place with confidence! All 'Been Before' discounts are included in these very low net prices.

** we may occasionally offer competitions with holiday prizes, if you win one of these for a week where you are already booked, the competition prize will supercede the booked holiday and we will credit the difference.*



New Year Birdlist Booster Jan 3, Jan 10, Jan 17, Jan 24

You don't need to be a 'lister' to enjoy this cracking start to the new year! Priorities are Capercaillie, Crested Tit, Ptarmigan and Scottish (Parrot) Crossbill, Black and Red Grouse, Golden Eagle and a host of northern winter visitors. We spend a lot of time at the coast, for King Eider, Surf Scoter and other rarities. Target around 120 species.

Price £895.

EARLY BIRDER SPECIAL PRICE £845 - save £50. No single supplement. Great value for a full week!

Birds of Strathspey in winter Sat Jan 31, Tues Feb 3, Sat Feb 7, Tues Feb 10

Short breaks for busy birders! Three great birding days local to Mountview Hotel, with Capercaillie, Blackcock, Golden Eagle, Scottish (Parrot) Crossbill and Crested Tit on the agenda, plus exceptional winter seawatching.

Price £545. EARLY BIRDER SPECIAL PRICE £495 - save £50. No single supplement.

Early Season Scottish Birding Feb 14, Feb 21, Feb 28

Wild landscapes and solitude (you won't see many other birders!) are combined with exceptional birding on this unique holiday, incorporating the very best Scottish winter birding. Features an exciting two days in Caithness and Sutherland, the far north of Great Britain.

Price £1095, EARLY BIRDER SPECIAL PRICE £895 - save £200. No single supplement.

Top 20 birds and mammals in spring - Mar 7, Mar 14

Both eagles, Otter and Pine Marten on the west coast, where early dusk means we watch wildlife at times convenient to ourselves. Ptarmigan, Capercaillie, Black Grouse, Dolphins, Red Squirrel, Mountain Hare, the list is long!

Price £1095, EARLY BIRDER SPECIAL PRICE £895 - save £200. No single supplement.

Highlands and Mull Mar 21, Mar 28

Early spring in the Highlands is a great time for the 'specials'. This is one of our most popular holidays, including an overnight on Mull. A truly cost-effective way to see most of Scotland's special birds in one holiday. Winter and early spring migrants ensure a big birdlist.

Price £1095, EARLY BIRDER SPECIAL PRICE £995 - save £100. No single supplement.

Spring into Scotland Apr 4, Apr 11, Apr 18

Perhaps the ultimate spring wildlife experience in Scotland, including an overnight on the west coast and a day on Mull. All resident birds are displaying or breeding, winter birds are still here in good numbers, and summer visitors arrive daily. Ever popular!

**Price £1095, EARLY BIRDER SPECIAL
PRICE £995** - save £100. No single supp.

Highlands and Skye Apr 25, May 2

Two nights on Skye as we enjoy eagles, otter and a birding boat-trip amid spectacular scenery. All the birds of the mainland too, with many summer visitors arriving. An exciting way to include Skye in your Scottish birding experience!

**Price £1195, EARLY BIRDER SPECIAL
PRICE £1095** - save £100. No single supp.



Birding the Highlands in May May 9, May 16

A gently-paced holiday to see the Scottish specialities without too much travelling. We are based at Mountview Hotel for a full week, finding all the key breeding birds, and including a great boat trip to the auk/Gannet cliffs at Troup Head. Ideal for the 'first-time' birding visitor.

**Price £1095, EARLY BIRDER SPECIAL
PRICE £995** - save £100. No single supp.

High Season in the Highlands May 23, May 30, Jun 6

Glorious Harris Island makes a great day out, and we stay overnight on the west to see White-tailed Eagle the following day. With all the birds settled for the season this is classic birding at the height of the breeding season.

**Price £1095, EARLY BIRDER SPECIAL
PRICE £995** - save £100. No single supp.

Highlands and Orkney Jun 13

Leisurely birding on Orkney, where we include two overnights in 2015. Breeding Short-eared Owl, Hen Harrier and Black-tailed Godwit, plus auks, passerines and more. Back on the Scottish mainland, we seek eagles, woodland species and more seabirds on this great trip.

**Price £1195, EARLY BIRDER SPECIAL
PRICE £995** - save £200. No single supp.

Highland Wildlife Jun 27, Jul 4

A birding holiday which also includes mammals, insects and flora. A unique and highly rewarding holiday, perfect for the birder with an interest in just about everything else in nature. Features many species found only in the north of Scotland, and including a boat trip to Troup Head to see nesting Gannets and auks.

**Price £1095, EARLY BIRDER SPECIAL
PRICE £995** - save £100. No single supp.

NEW! Birds of Strathspey in summer Sat Jun 27, Tues Jun 30, Sat Jul 4, Tues Jul 7

Short breaks for busy birders. Three great birding days local to Mountview Hotel, with Ptarmigan, Dotterel, Golden Eagle, Scottish (Parrot) Crossbill and Crested Tit on the agenda, plus enjoyable summer seawatching.

**Price £545. EARLY BIRDER SPECIAL
PRICE £495** - save £50. No single supp.

Eagles, Divers and Dotterel Jul 11, Jul 18

The best British birding in July? Both eagles on Mull, Dotterel and Ptarmigan on the tops, divers in breeding plumage inland – great birding! One of our most popular trips.

**Price £1095, EARLY BIRDER SPECIAL
PRICE £995** - save £100. No single supp.

The Top 30 birds and mammals in summer Jul 25, Aug 1

Enjoy the spectacular birds and mammals of a Highland summer amid fabulous scenery. Minke Whale, Pine Marten and Otter add a strong mammal element to a great trip. Crammed with birds and other wildlife!

**Price £1195, EARLY BIRDER SPECIAL
PRICE £1045** - save £150. No single supp.

NEW! The 'Outer Limits' in Summer Jun 20

An exciting new itinerary taking in two nights on rugged Harris and Lewis in the Outer Hebrides, recently voted as the best island destination in Europe! We search for Eagles, Divers and Otters with a host of breeding seabirds and waders and the good chance of a far-flung rare bird or cetacean sighting!

**Price £1195, EARLY BIRDER SPECIAL
PRICE £1095** - save £100. No single supp.

NEW! ONE Heatherlea Guide per SEVEN clients!

In 2015 we have a maximum of seven clients per guide for these holidays. This means even more personal attention, and even more time to help you get the best possible sightings. We are a small company run BY birders FOR birders, where our clients really do come first. Come and see!



High Summer Wildlife by land and sea Aug 8, Aug 15

Birds and sealife during the height of summer, featuring boat trips east and west of northern Scotland for dolphins and whales, plus all the special birds. A thoroughly enjoyable if less intensive exploration of wildlife by land and sea.

**Price £1095, EARLY BIRDER SPECIAL
PRICE £995** - save £100. No single supplement.

Specials and migration featuring the Burma Bank Aug 22, Aug 29

Sabine's Gull (seen both trips in 2013), Sooty Shearwater and much more on 'the Burma Bank', Scotland's newest birding hotspot, now available with Heatherlea! Waders around the coast and specialities inland too.

**Price £1145, EARLY BIRDER SPECIAL
PRICE £995** - save £150. No single supplement.

Autumn Migration and Scottish Specials Sept 5, Sept 12

With migration in full swing this holiday can be very exciting; shearwaters, waders, skuas and petrels, plus of course our resident specialities including Caper, Blackcock, Crestie, Ptarmigan, both eagles and more. Includes a ferry trip to the Outer Hebrides - expect the unexpected!

**Price £1095, EARLY BIRDER SPECIAL
PRICE £995** - save £100. No single supplement.

The 'Outer Limits' Adventure Sept 19, Sept 26, Oct 3

Including two nights on the Outer Hebrides, this is an exceptional itinerary which takes you to the 'outer limits' of Scottish birding. American rarities are frequently seen on Lewis during this holiday. On other days we seek all the specialities of the Highlands.

**Price £1195, EARLY BIRDER SPECIAL
PRICE £995** - save £200. No single supplement.

The Top 20 birds and mammals in autumn Oct 10, Oct 17

A wonderful holiday for those who love mammals and birds. Golden and White-tailed Eagle, otters, pine marten and badgers from a warm hide are just some of the highlights. See reports on our website!

**Price £1095, EARLY BIRDER SPECIAL
PRICE £895** - save £200. No single supplement.

Late Autumn in the Highlands Oct 24, Oct 31

Autumn in northern Scotland is a wonderful birding time. We have Caper, Blackcock, Crested Tit, Scottish (Parrot) Crossbill and Golden Eagle inland, seaduck flocks are at maximum volume, and this is an excellent time for geese and rarities.

**Price £1095, EARLY BIRDER SPECIAL
PRICE £895** - save £200. No single supplement.

Birds of Strathspey in autumn Sat Nov 7, Tues Nov 10, Sat Nov 14, Tues Nov 17

Short breaks for busy birders. Three great birding days local to Mountview Hotel, with Capercaillie, Blackcock, Golden Eagle, Scottish (Parrot) Crossbill and Crested Tit on the agenda, plus exceptional autumn seawatching.

**Price £545, EARLY BIRDER SPECIAL
PRICE £495** - save £50. No single supplement.

NEW! Hogmanay Birding Festival Mon 29 Dec 2014 – Sat 3 Jan 2015

A short break to celebrate Scottish birding at Hogmanay. Fancy a treat this New Year? Finish your old birdlist with a flourish and make a great start to your new one.

**Price £1095, EARLY BIRDER SPECIAL
PRICE £995** - save £100. No single supplement.

Don't forget our great value promise:

Once you have paid your deposit (just £100), the price of your holiday is guaranteed, and we won't add a surcharge or cancel your holiday. Book with confidence!

2015 SCOTTISH ISLAND ADVENTURES

Birding and wildlife holidays around Scotland.

Fantastically popular with British birders, the Scottish islands always reward the traveller with wonderful scenery and a great sense of space. These holidays are carefully designed to take you to seldom-visited parts of our beautiful country at the right time for the best wildlife experience. All holidays are run at a leisurely pace, and with a maximum of just seven clients per guide, we know you will enjoy exceptional personal service from Heatherlea.

In 2015 we offer firm favourites plus several exciting new and totally unique holidays. There is a wide choice including a number of brand new trips, and many have been specifically designed by our enthusiastic and capable guides for your pleasure. Space is necessarily limited, and at the time of writing many holidays are already booking, so if you would like to join us, please don't delay!

Transfers from Nethy Bridge are included on most holidays, and you can stay an extra night, or join us at a convenient point closer to our destination.



NEW! HIGHLANDS and ISLANDS IN SPRING

A grand tour of the highlands and islands
Sat 18 April – Sat 25 April
Price £1495 Single supplement £160.

This tour takes you from Strathspey across to Skye, then south to Mull before returning to Aviemore for the final night. We will look for Capercaillie, Black Grouse, Crested Tit and Scottish Crossbill in Strathspey, seek out Ptarmigan en-route to Skye, then see White-tailed Eagle, Golden Eagle, Hen Harrier, Short-eared Owl and Otter here and on Mull. Migration should be well under way, so Whimbrel, Great Northern Diver, Slavonian Grebe and Twite will be just some of the avian treats in store.

OUTER HEBRIDES in Spring

Corncrake, eagles and migration on the Uists
Sat 9 May – Fri 15 May, Sat 16 May – Fri 22 May, Sat 23 May – Fri 29 May

Price £1195 Single supplement £140.

MULL, IONA and the Treshnish Isles

Eagles, Otter, seabirds and more
Wed 20 May – Sat 23 May

Price £825 Single supplement £75.

ISLANDS on the EDGE

from Coll and Tiree to the Uists
Mon 1 June – Mon 8 June, Mon 15 June – Mon 22 June

Price £1675 Single supplement £140.

SOUTHERN HEBRIDES

from Colonsay to Islay
Sun 31 May – Sat 6 June

Price £1645 Single supplement £160.

ORKNEY ISLAND EXPLORER

Sat 6 June – Sat 13 June

Price £1675 Single supplement £140.

SHETLAND ISLAND EXPLORER

Sun 14 June – Sun 21 June

Price £1645 Single supplement £160.

SHETLAND and ORKNEY

Sat 20 June – Sun 28 June

Price £1795 Single supplement £160.

INNER HEBRIDES

from Canna to Iona
Fri 26 June – Fri 3 July

Price £1595 Single supplement £160.

UNEXPLORED OUTER HEBRIDES

some of the world's finest islands
Sat 4 July – Fri 10 July

Price £1645 Single supplement £160.

ST KILDA and the HEBRIDES

Fri 10 July – Fri 17 July

Price £1995 Shared cabins. Ssupp £60 (land only).



NEW! HIGHLANDS and ISLANDS IN SUMMER

A grand tour of the highlands and islands
Sat 18 July – Sat 25 July

Price £1495 Single supplement £160.

This tour takes you from Strathspey across to Skye, then south to Mull, Iona and Lunga before returning to Aviemore on the final night. We will look for Osprey, Red and Black-Throated Diver, Red Grouse, Crested Tit and Scottish Crossbill in Strathspey, seek out Ptarmigan en-route to Skye, then see White-tailed Eagle, Golden Eagle, Hen Harrier, Short-eared Owl and Otter either here or on Mull. On Iona we may hear Corncrake, and on Lunga we will be very close-up to Puffins and other auks. A lovely holiday around the highlands and islands.



NEW! MULL, SKYE, EIGG and MUCK in high summer

A grand tour of some special Scottish islands.
Sat 8 August – Sat 15 August, Sat 15 August – Sat 22 August

Price £1495 Single supplement £160.

This tour begins in Strathspey, where we overnight on Saturday. On Sunday we head via Applecross to Skye, hoping to see Ptarmigan en-route. On Skye we look for Golden Eagle and Otter, also taking a boat trip to look for White-tailed Eagle. We then head south to Mallaig, and visit the islands of Eigg and Muck by ferry, watching for Basking Shark and Minke Whale, Manx Shearwater and perhaps a tiny stray Storm Petrel. Our third base is on Mull, where we again look for eagles and also Otter, taking time to visit Iona and its Abbey.

NORTH RONALDSAY and mainland ORKNEY

Sat 12 Sept – Fri 18 Sept

Price £1075 Single supplement £120.

SHETLAND for birders

Sat 26 Sept – Sat 3 Oct

Price £1125 Single supplement £140.

FAIR ISLE for birders

Sat 3 Oct – Fri 9 Oct

Price £1025 Single supplement £40 (very limited availability)

OUTER HEBRIDES for birders

Sat 10 Oct – Fri 16 Oct

Price £995 Single supplement £140.

COLL and TIREE for birders

Sun 18 Oct – Sat 24 Oct

Price £1395 Single supplement £120.

ISLAY and JURA

Sat 24 Oct – Wed 28 Oct

Price £895 Single supplement £60.

SOLWAY FIRTH

Sat 14 Nov – Wed 18 Nov

Price £745 Single supplement £80

For MORE DETAILS of all our holidays

- READ our colour brochure • VISIT our website www.heatherlea.co.uk
- TELEPHONE 01479 821248 to speak to Melanie, Kevin, Emma, Amanda or Isabel.



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birding and wildlife holidays

Picture Credits

Thanks to photographers whose images are used in this issue; David Ackfield, Andrew Fish, Jeff Fisher, Ian Ford, Toby Green, Cristian Jensen, Phil Knott, Neil McIntyre, Chrys Mellor, John Notman, Jonny Pott, Dave Pullan, Sonja Ross, Nigel Sprowell.