

Client Wild Scotland
Document October School Holidays
Date 25 September 2008

Looking for something different to do with the kids this October school holidays? Then why not check out the range of outdoor pursuits, day trips, special events and boat rides Wild Scotland, the Scottish Wildlife Tourism Association, has to offer.

1. HOLIDAYS

FINGAL CRUISING

The Slipway, Corpach, Fort William, PH33 7NN
01397 772167
www.fingal-cruising.co.uk

Multi Activity Cruise in the Great Glen, Highlands of Scotland. Cycling, canoeing, sailing, walking and windsurfing instruction and equipment included, along with fantastic food and accommodation in twin ensuite cabins.

Dates: Saturday 11 October to Friday 17 October 2008

Price: Was £555, now £530

2. OUTDOOR PURSUITS

ISLE OF MULL WILDLIFE EXPEDITIONS

Ulva Ferry, Isle of Mull, Scotland, PA73 6LY
01688 500 121
www.torrbuan.com

Wildlife expeditions by vehicle to see otters, golden eagles, white tailed sea eagles and lots, lots more....the best eco day out in Britain!

Times: Tours operate from 1000 – 1700 hours

Prices: £37.50 adults, £34.50 children (including all refreshments and lunch)

BOOTS N PADDLES

Various locations
0845 612 5567
www.boots-n-paddles.co.uk

- Spooky Weaseling at Duntelchaig, near Inverness

Wriggle, scramble and squirm through a maze of tunnels, voids and tight spaces under a jumble of vast boulders that have lain undisturbed since the ice age. Who knows how many ancient Scots have sought refuge in this natural dark shelter by the historic fort that gives the area its name?

Don't worry, this is not caving and there is always an easy escape route! The only spirits you'll

encounter will be those of the other adventurers as they explore these natural chambers.

Dates available: 15, 22 and 28 October

Times: 1000 - 1200 hours

Prices: Adults £35, under 16s £25

- Rock Climbing at Duntelchaig, near Inverness

Raise your spirits naturally and experience climbing a natural crag in a wild area. Come along to a climbing session and learn a bit more about balance and adapting to the unspoilt environment. Give your whole body a work out, sessions adapted for your ability.

Dates available: 15, 22 and 28 October

Times: 1300 – 1500 hours

Prices: Adults £40, under 16s £30

- Gorge Walking at Achlean, near Glenfeshie

This is no ordinary gorge walk. It is guaranteed to raise the spirits. Make your way up a clear highland stream. An easy, but wet walk to start. Then scrambling and climbing, you'll pick your way up the unspoilt water course. Plunging into deep pools, and then returning by slipping down natural slides. Less adventurous members of the group can bail out at any time and simply follow the bank - wicked fun!

Dates available: Every Thursday in October

Time: 1400 -1600 hours

Cost: Adults £35, under 16s £25.

N.B. This is booked through Rothiemurchus Tel: 01479 812245 www.rothiemurchus.net

Boots N Paddles will provide all the necessary gear for their activities and all activities must be booked in advance.

3. DAY/EVENING TRIPS

CREAM O'GALLOWAY

Rainton, Gatehouse of Fleet, Castle Douglas, DG7 2DR
01557 814 040
www.creamogalloway.co.uk

Explore the organic farm, visit the milking parlour and meeting the friendly dairy herd. ½ mile walk finishing up with an ice cream of your choice.

Times: 1445 daily

Ice Cream Experience - Taste 11 yummy ice cream flavours & see the factory where it's made.

Times: 1130 & 1330 hours daily.

Prices: Basic entry to adventure playground: £2 adults, £4 children. Entry plus Ice Cream Experience or Farm Tour, £7 per person.

PHILIPHAUGH SALMON VIEWING CENTRE

Philiphaugh Estate Office, Selkirk, TD7 5LX
01750 21766
www.salmonviewingcentre.com

October sees wild salmon jumping at a cauld (weir) as they migrate up the river Ettrick. The salmon viewing centre features include a computer game, brass rubbings and river tunnel. Underwater cameras show live pictures on a large plasma screen. Audio tour can be hired at the Waterwheel restaurant. Ideal for all ages and especially children.

Times: Philiphaugh Salmon Viewing Centre open all day, 7 days per week.
Waterwheel restaurant open 1000 am to 1600 (11.00 to 1600 Sundays, closed Mondays)

Prices: Viewing centre is free

SPEYSIDE WILDLIFE

Garden Office, Inverdrueie House, Inverdrueie, Aviemore, PH22 1QH
01479 812 498
www.speysidewildlife.co.uk

Look for pine martens and badgers from our comfortable hide on Rothiemurchus, in the heart of the Cairngorms National Park. Our guide will keep you informed and enthused throughout the evening. Perfect for all levels of interest and suitable for children 8 years plus.

Times: 3 hours from 1900 hours

Prices: £20.00 per adult (discounted price if booked online £18.00)
£10.00 per child 8-14 yrs (discounted price if booked online £9.00)
Exclusive use £180 per evening (discounted if booked online £160)

Book online or contact the office direct as pre booking is essential. Limited availability for a maximum of 12 people.

4. EVENTS

ARGATY RED KITE PROJECT

Lerrock's Farm, Doune, FK16 6EJ
01786 841 373
www.argatyredkites.co.uk

- 18 October 2008: Red Kite Tracking

Many of this year's red kite chicks have again been fitted with radio transmitters by RSPB Scotland staff and members of the CSRSG. Join expert wildlife tracker Kevin Duffy on a moderate walk and tune into kites for the day using radio-tracking devices to discover young kites in Central Scotland. Robust footwear recommended.

Times: 1300 – 1430. Visit to hide afterwards optional

Prices: £4 Adults, £2 children, £10 family (FREE afternoon visit to hide included in the price). Children's prices are for 6-16 year olds (under 6's free). Family prices are for 2 adults and up to 3 children.

- 26 October 2008: Bird Feeder Making

Join us for activities and make some bird feeders to take home with you. This event is part of RSPB Feed the Birds weekend and provides a great opportunity to step up your feeding to help garden birds through the cold months ahead. Advice will be given on cheap ways to feed the birds in your garden using kitchen scraps, and enjoy the opportunity to learn how to identify the birds visiting your garden. Why not follow this activity with a visit to the hide afterwards to watch the kites being fed?

Times: 1245 – 1330 hours

Prices: £1.00 per feeder. Visit to hide afterwards optional, at an additional cost (Adult £4, child 6-16 year olds £2, under 6s free and family £10).

5. BOAT TRIPS

SEA LIFE SURVEYS

Ledaig, Tobermory Isle of Mull

01688 400 275

www.sealifesurveys.com

Join Sea Life Surveys on board Sula Beag - a large, comfortable and all weather motor vessel – for various different cruises ranging from 4hr wildlife/whale and dolphin watch adventures to half hour seal cruises. Enjoy views of 'Balamory' from a boat, and look for some of the houses from the popular children's series.

All trips depart from the new and interactive visitor centre at Tobermory Harbour.

Times: 0800 to 1700, 7 days/week

Prices: 4hr cruise is £45 for adults, £35 for children and £144 for family ticket. Half hour cruise is £12 for adults, £6 children.

SEAFARI ADVENTURES (FORTH)

Hawes Pier, South Queensferry and Scottish Seabird Centre, The Harbour, North Berwick

0131 331 5000/01620 890 202

www.seafari.co.uk

From North Berwick - 1hr Seafari Adventures daily RIB trips out to the world famous Bass Rock, with over 100,000 gannets. See young gannets learning to fly and dive for food plus seals and occasional sightings of dolphins or porpoises. Full waterproof suits and lifejackets supplied, expert commentary from qualified crew.

From Newhaven Harbour (Between Leith and Granton) - 1hr Seafari trips out and around the islands of the Inner Forth, Inchmickery, Inchcolm and depending on weather, Inchkeith. Grey seal pups mostly arrive in Late October so it possible to spot an early arrival. Guillemots, Shags and eider duck sightings are normal plus the chance of sighting a dolphin or porpoise.

Times: Sailing times change due to tides so please ring to find out.

Prices: All trips adult £20, child £17.

SEAFARI ADVENTURES (OBAN)

Easdale Oban, Argyll, PA34 4RF
www.seafari.co.uk

Corryvreckan Wildlife Tours operate daily. Porpoise seals, otter, eagles and watch the spectacular Red Deer rut from close quarters as the deer do not see us as a threat. Subject to tides, we will also offer Whirlpool Specials to see the Corryvreckan Whirlpool (world's third largest) in full flow.

Times: Ticket Office is open 0800 – 1730 hours daily

Prices: Adult £33, children under 16 £25. Family discount tickets available.

BELLA JANE BOAT TRIPS AND AQUAXPLORE

The Jetty, Elgol Isle of Skye, IV49 8BJ
0800 731 3089 or 01471 866 244
bellajane.co.uk / aquaxplore.co.uk

Exhilarating wildlife and sightseeing tours for all ages to explore the remote Small Isles and Loch Coruisk on the Isle of Skye. See the seals, golden & sea eagles, porpoise, dolphins, seabirds, and the rutting red deer on the Isle of Rum! Tours from one to four hours and include full commentary.

Times: AquaXplore boat runs on demand and must be pre-booked. Bella Jane runs every day at 1045, 1215 and 1400.

Prices: AquaXplore return ticket costs £20 for adults, £15 for children. Bella Jane costs £14 for adults, £8 for children.

SEAPROBE ATLANTIS GLASS BOTTOM BOAT TRIPS

Kyle of Lochalsh
01471 822 716
www.seaprobeatlantis.com

Explore the underwater world and see seals, otters and sea birds at Kyle of Lochalsh. Sail under the Skye bridge, visit a WWII shipwreck and a Salmon farm and of course discover the amazing underwater kelp forests - on board the 'Seaprobe Atlantis', Scotland's only Semi-Submersible Glass Bottom Boat. Trips are suitable for all ages.

Times: 0930 – 1630

Prices: Family Ticket (2 adults, 2 children) 1hr trip - £36, 1.25 hr trip - £41, 2 hr trip - £64

For further Wild Scotland events taking place over the October school holidays and beyond, visit www.wild-scotland.co.uk.

Ends

For more information contact: Emma McDonald :: Hot Tin Roof :: 0131 225 7880 :: emma@hottinroof.co.uk

NOTES FOR EDITORS

About Wild Scotland

Wild Scotland is the sole association for wildlife tourism in Scotland, formed in 2003 by concerned Scottish wildlife and nature tourism operators. It currently comprises 80 members from across Scotland.

Wild Scotland's aim is to establish Scotland as Europe's number one wildlife watching destination, by promoting and protecting Scotland's nature and wildlife through the sustainable access provided by its members.

Wild Scotland is passionate about Scotland's natural heritage and works to encourage the responsible development and promotion of wildlife tourism in Scotland in sustainable ways.

Wild Scotland members offer some of the most varied wildlife experiences in Europe and work together to develop Scotland's tourism product, promoting key messages of sustainability, biodiversity and access for all.

www.wild-scotland.co.uk