



Welcome to Wild Scotland E-News

The summer holidays are upon us and with it comes even more opportunities to enjoy the flora and fauna across Scotland. With a great selection of outdoor activities available and some money-saving special offers too, [Wild Scotland](#) can help you make the most of your summer.

Contents:

- Wildlife Activity in July & August
- Winner Announced in Wildlife Photography Competition
- Wildlife Watch Scotland: the New Wild Scotland Blog
- Born to be Wild: a selection of activities for the kids to enjoy this summer
- The Highland Tiger Campaign to Save the Scottish Wildcat
- Wild Scotland Support Terry Nutkins and WSPA in Anti-Whaling Campaign
- Special Offers for Summer
- New Members Join Wild Scotland

WILDLIFE ACTIVITY IN JULY & AUGUST...

As minke whales and dolphins move closer to the shore to feed, now is a great time to take one of the many [wildlife watching boat trips](#) operated by Wild Scotland members around the coast. This is the best time of year for whales, dolphins and seabirds so get spotting. If it's puffins you're after then you'll need to be quick as they head out to sea from mid August.

Lighter nights mean that it can be easier to spot some of our more elusive animals. Pine martens are active feeding young, young badgers are emerging from their setts and our birds of prey are busy feeding their chicks. Visit the many accredited viewing sites to get the best views without disturbing the animals.

WINNER CHOSEN IN WILDLIFE PHOTOGRAPHY COMPETITION

Entries to the Wild Scotland's photography competition continue to be of the highest quality. The winning entry, described by judge Pete Cairns as simply 'superb', is a stunning shot of a male red grouse in a low gliding flight across the Lammermuir Hills in Lothian.

Ron McCombe of Berwickshire, who took the top shot, wins the chance to be skipper for a day with [Ardnamurchan Charters](#) new self-drive boats. Ron will be able to explore the magical Loch Sunart and experience the abundant wildlife of the loch from the water and will no doubt be in photographer's heaven! Well done Ron and we hope you enjoy your prize.

Our thanks go to all the entrants with special congratulations to Derek McGinn of Inverness and Paul Cook of Glasgow, whose images of a dunlin singing and a barn owl were excellent runners up in the competition.

The closing date for the next Wild Scotland photography competition will be Spring 2010, so you've the whole summer to get snapping. More details to follow or keep an eye on the website www.wild-scotland.co.uk. To see the winning photos, [click here](#).

WILDLIFE WATCH SCOTLAND: NEW WILD SCOTLAND BLOG

You can keep up to date with the latest wildlife news and add your own sightings at our new blog **Wildlife Watch Scotland**. Since its launch in Spring, Wild Scotland members have been posting their wildlife sightings giving us a good overview of what's about wildlife-wise across Scotland.

For example, read the wildlife highlights from Stephen Reddick of Highland and Wildlife and Birdwatch Safaris in Cairngorms National Park which include watching his local osprey fishing and delivering his catch to the female and chicks at the nest. Also find out how filming went at Wild Rose Escapes, near Ullapool when the BBC followed a family during their tailor made wildlife holiday for the CBBC programme 'Gimme a Break'.

To keep up to date with the latest wildlife news and sightings from the people who are out in the wilds or at sea watching wildlife everyday, log onto

www.wildlifewatchscotland.blogspot.com.

BORN TO BE WILD

Imagine the excitement of catching the first glimpse of an eagle you have been tracking by satellite? Or hopping aboard a floating classroom to delve deep into the marine wildlife that roams Scotland's coasts?

Spending time in the wild allows young people to develop a deeper sense of understanding for the world around them and how to safeguard biodiversity now and in the future. And at Wild Scotland we're keen to encourage everyone to go wild in Scotland. Here are some activities our members are offering that are aimed at educating our future decision makers about the ecology and conservation of wildlife in Scotland.

Hebridean Whale and Dolphin Trust (HWDT), Isle of Mull - outdoor learning opportunities on the beach and at their visitor centre in Tobermory and their floating classroom, research vessel, Silurian. More info, **[click here](#)**.

Salmon Viewing Centre at Philiphaugh Estate, near Selkirk - have developed special schools packs about Scotland's salmon, as well as web-based curriculum. With fully restored working waterwheel, children can look at green energy sources. Underwater and nest box cameras allow children to study life both above and below water level. More info, **[click here](#)**.

Whale and Dolphin Conservation Society (WDCS) Wildlife Centre, Spey Bay - provide a range of activities for schools and groups, such as 'Be a Dolphin Scientist', 'Dolphin Diploma', 'River Rambles', 'What Makes a Beach?' and environmental art. Organised events at the centre encourage visitors and families to get actively involved. More info, **[click here](#)**.

Cream o'Galloway, near Dumfries - activities for nursery age to young college students, learning support groups and after school clubs. They offer tours relating to lots of subjects including organic farming, pond dipping & minibeasts, sustainable energy and ice cream making. More info, **[click here](#)**.

SCOTTISH WILDCATS NEED OUR HELP!

The Scottish Wildcat is in trouble and needs our help to save it from extinction. Threatened by hybridisation with domestic cats, some experts believe there could be as few as 400 pure-bred wildcats left in Scotland, making this iconic feline even rarer than the Bengal tiger.

Wild Scotland is supporting the recently launched **Highland Tiger** campaign which aims to raise awareness of the wildcat to help safeguard its future in Scotland. With funds raised, wildcat educational materials will be produced for local children. These packs will help children learn more about our only native feline and the pressures it faces. Without a better general understanding in Scotland, conservation efforts will struggle.

To promote the campaign, sets of 5 Highland Tiger postcards have been produced and are available free of charge. The packs encourage people to visit the Highland Tiger website **www.highlandtiger.co.uk** where they can donate to the project.

To receive your free Scottish wildcat postcard set, email your contact details to **info@wild-scotland.co.uk**. To donate directly to the project or for more information about the initiative, visit **www.highlandtiger.co.uk**.

WE SAY 'WATCH WHALES DON'T HUNT THEM'!

Wild Scotland is working with the **World Society for the Protection of Animals (WSPA)** to support their anti-whaling campaign. We are helping the international charity by highlighting the many positives of ethical whale watching over commercial whaling. WSPA are lobbying the International Whaling Committee (IWC) to put an end to whaling and Wild Scotland, as an industry group, is supporting them.

In Scotland, research carried out in 2001 revealed that whale-watching was valued at nearly £8 million per year and since then the number of wildlife tourism boat operators has doubled so the true value of the industry is now significant.

However, the minke whales that live and breed in Scottish waters, and which many people come to see, are threatened by the annual Norwegian whale hunt. The hunt takes place every year in April and in 2009, Norway was awarded a whaling quota of 885 minke whales. They have killed over 150 whales so far this year.

A figurehead for the cause is beloved Animal Magic and Really Wild Show presenter, Terry Nutkins. Terry recently took to the seas with Wild Scotland in search of minke whales on a whale-watching cruise operated by Wild Scotland member, **Sea Life Surveys** on the Isle of Mull.

Caroline Warburton, manager of Wild Scotland said: “Responsible whale watching provides a real alternative to whaling and that’s why we support WSPA when they call on the IWC for an end to whaling.”

For more information on the WSPA campaign **click here**.

SPECIAL OFFERS FOR SUMMER

Here are some great offers available from Wild Scotland members over the next few months.

Wild At Heart Eco-Holidays

Save £100 per adult on the Nature Experience holiday (July 11th-18th) and £75 per adult on the Family Eco-Holiday (August 8th-15th). Also discount of £25 per child on both holidays. All inclusive holidays with accommodation, meals, activities and local transport included.

Island Cruising

20% Discount on Western Isles Sea-Kayaking Cruise with Island Cruising (18th to 14th July). Price: £625, down from £780. Includes full board, meals, bedding and towels, etc.

Discover Mull

Receive one free 'Discover Mull' Wildlife Tour, worth £35, when you book self-catering accommodation at The Shielling for 2 people between weeks beginning 11th July 2009 to 22nd August 2009. Price: £250 per week (all inclusive). Tour must be taken during your stay.

For more information on Special Offers visit www.wild-scotland.co.uk.

SOME NEW MEMBERS...

Here are some of the wildlife-watching organisation that have joined Wild Scotland recently. Check out their websites:

Ardnamurchan Charters : wildlife watching boat trips and self-drive boat hire on Loch Sunart

Bird Watching and Wildlife Club: the first dedicated

Highlands Unbridled: wildlife-watching on horseback, based in Brora, Sutherland

The Old Inn: accommodation/wildlife-watching packages in beautiful village of Gairloch

Wild at Heart Eco-Holidays: eco-holidays in North East Scotland

Thank you for subscribing to our newsletter. We hope you have enjoyed our news and activities. More information can be found on our website www.wild-scotland.co.uk. Please contact us for more information on anything mentioned or if you'd like to learn more about our association and our members. Also if you're in Rutland at the end of August, then we'll see you at **The Bird Fair!**

Enjoy the summer!

From

Wild Scotland

ABOUT WILD SCOTLAND

Wild Scotland is the Scottish wildlife and nature tourism operators association. We believe that Scotland is Europe's no.1 wildlife-watching destination, for the exciting wildlife that we have, but also the many different ways you can enjoy it. For more information about what we do visit our website: www.wild-scotland.co.uk

Tel: 0845 226 0978

E-mail: info@wild-scotland.co.uk

To unsubscribe to this newsletter, simply reply with the word 'Unsubscribe'.