



Scottish Wildlife & Nature  
Tourism Operators Association

# 'Wildlife: A Tourist Guide's View' An Introduction to Scottish Terrestrial Mammals

26th—27th May 2010

Kindrogan Field Centre, nr Pitlochry, Perth

## Introduction

Scotland has highly varied flora and fauna, from the high tops to the seabed. Perhaps of most interest and appeal to visitors to Scotland are our mammals and this course aims to introduce the key terrestrial mammal species in Scotland. You will become more familiar with these species and their ecological role and function. You will also learn the fundamental tools for mammal identification, the watching codes and the various guidebooks and techniques for guiding groups and interpreting field signs.



## Aims of the Course

- To raise awareness about the key Scottish mammals and their behaviour;
- To improve and refresh field techniques for mammals identification and their habitats for guides;
- To understand legal status of protected species with regard to their conservation;
- To highlight key issues relating to Scottish mammals, tourism and management.

## Key Objectives of the Course

- Observation of animals in the field
- Interpretation of field signs
- Key habitats/species
- Ecology and behaviour of species
- Interpreting wildlife for visitors (watching guidelines, interpretation skills)
- Best practice for wildlife watching

## Who Is the Course Aimed At?

- Professional wildlife guides, rangers and other nature guides wishing to increase their identification and field skills and knowledge
- Statutory and Conservation organisations
- Local naturalist societies
- Those involved in nature education

Maximum number of participants is 12 participants. A minimum of 9 participants are required for the course to proceed.

## Course Fees: £250 + VAT per person

This includes one night accommodation at Kindrogan Field Centre, full board and tuition.

**NB: 10% Discount for Wild Scotland Members**

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### More Information

#### The Venue: Kindrogan Field Centre, Perthshire

Located 10 miles east along the A924 from Pitlochry in Perthshire, the centre is managed by the Field Studies Council (FSC) in partnership with the Scottish Field Studies Association (SFSA). Set in wooded grounds on the banks of the River Ardle, the Centre's facilities, accommodation and surroundings make it an ideal venue for a course of this kind.

#### The Trainer: Adrian Davis, Wildoutdoors

Adrian Davis is the director of Wildoutdoors Ltd, a wildlife guide and ecologist with a specialism in animal behaviour, who has an extensive knowledge of Scottish wildlife. Adrian previously worked as a biological supervisor for the Scottish Wildlife Trust, an area officer for Scottish Natural Heritage and as a self-employed ecological consultant. Mammal surveys and assessments of badgers, otters, bats, wildcats and red deer are part of his portfolio but his special interest is wildcats, and he has recently undertaken the Scottish Wildcat Survey.

#### The Organisers: Wild Scotland

Wild Scotland is the Scottish Wildlife Tourism Association. Established in 2004 by wildlife tourism operators, the organisation aims to promote Scotland as a wildlife-watching destination as well as promote and encourage best practice and responsible wildlife watching by both operators and the general public.

### Course Outline

#### DAY 1:

##### Morning - classroom based

Understanding Scottish mammals  
Ecological requirements – natural heritage zones

Key species and their habitat requirements

- Red squirrels
- Red deer
- Otters
- Pine marten
- Wildcats
- Badgers
- Other mammals (bats/voles/mice)

For each species:

- Life Cycle
- Identification
- Behavioural Ecology
- Habitat

Conservation Status and other issues  
Watching wildlife – best practice guidelines and other issues  
Safe watching: disturbance (legal issues)

##### Afternoon - field excursion

Search for field signs and tracks  
Survey techniques and interpretation

#### DAY 2:

##### Workshop and Field Day

Key species, field signs and characters

- Red squirrels
- Red deer
- Otters
- Pine marten
- Badgers
- Wildcats

Day in the field looking for red squirrels, pine martens and otters.

Incidental observation and awareness for other species.

Late afternoon – summing up and close





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### Booking Terms and Conditions

#### Payment

A deposit of £50 per person is required to confirm a course booking. The deposit paid in respect of each course is accepted as a first instalment of the charge and is not refundable.

If a booking cannot be accepted, notification and refund of any deposit will be sent as soon as possible.

Payment can be made by BACS or by cheque payable to 'Wild Scotland'. Credit card payments are not possible.

The course fee must be paid, in full, no later than 14 working days prior to the start of the course. Wild Scotland reserves the right to re-allocate the course place to another delegate if fees are not paid on time.

#### Acceptance of Bookings

Wild Scotland reserves the right to refuse to accept any booking without stating a reason.

#### Cancellation by Participant

If it is necessary for you to cancel your booking, please inform Wild Scotland in writing as soon as possible. Cancellation is effective from the date your letter is received at the Wild Scotland office.

The deposit is automatically forfeited if the booking is cancelled by the customer for any reason.

If a booking is cancelled within the 14 days or if the participant fails to attend the course, the full course fee must be paid immediately.

#### Change or Cancellation by Wild Scotland

The course programme is subject to amendments and Wild Scotland reserves the right to alter the course content if necessary.

Wild Scotland does not anticipate cancelling courses, however reserves the right to do so if numbers booked do not meet the minimum level or under exceptional circumstances. Should this occur, participants will be notified as soon as possible and will be refunded any course fees already paid.

#### Special Diets

Kindrogan Field Centre can provide vegetarian options on request. Please indicate on your booking form if you have vegetarian or other special dietary .

#### Clothing

There will be elements of the course that will be outdoors, although strenuous exercise is not anticipated. Participants should therefore be prepared for this and bring suitable footwear and clothing.