

SCOTTISH WILDCATS IN THE CAIRNGORMS



"Over only a few days, you'll get a real sense of the beauty and vast space where the Wildcats live. From ancient Caledonian Pine Forest, to the marshes of Badenoch, a variety of wildlife can be seen." Ailie Brown

Dates Sat 27 Sep - Wed 1 Oct 2025

Price £1175

Deposit £235 Single Supp £160

Leaders Ailie Brown and one from our team

Weather The weather can vary enormously. Snow can occur in the mountains at any season with sunny warm weather also possible. During a typical week in autumn we would expect to experience mixed sun and showers with temperatures in the range 8-18°C. You may want to bring sunscreen

Walking Most walks are 1-2 miles on wide sandy tracks, although there is the possibility of a forest walk of up to 4 miles. Walking boots will be needed on the holiday and walking poles are helpful

Meals All included from lunch on Day 1 to a packed lunch on Day 5

Insects Biting midges are rare at this time of year

Accom Double, twin and single rooms all ensuite

Transport 8-seater minibuses. Pick up and drop off available from Aviemore station on days 1 and 5

Group 12

Just some of what we hope to see:

Golden Eagle	Crossbill
White-tailed Eagle	Pine Marten
Red Kite	Red Deer
Peregrine	European Beaver
Hen Harrier	Red Squirrel
Raven	Badger
Red Grouse	Mountain Hare
Crested Tit	Brown Hare
Dipper	Wild Goats

The season of golden colours and roaring stags - this is a wonderful time to explore Scottish Wildcat habitat and be in the Cairngorms National Park.

- A visit and guided tour to the Saving Wildcat project near Kincaig
- Exploration of Scottish Wildcat habitat in the Cairngorms
- An evening for Pine Marten and Badger in a comfortable hide
- Young Golden Eagles soaring above roaring Red Deer stags a possibility
- The premiere of the new Saving Wildcats film about returning wildcats to Scotland
- Comfortable Highland village hotel within walking distance of pine forest
- Expert guides who know the best places to visit for our wildlife specialities

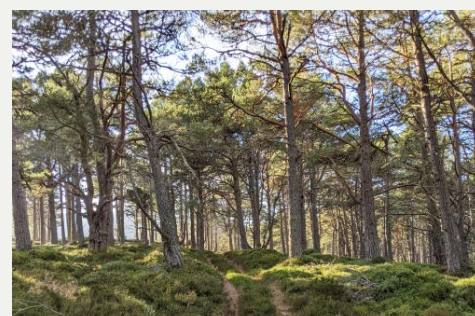
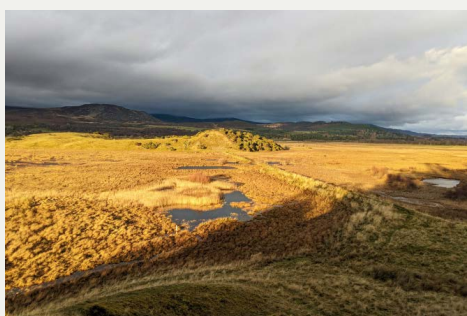
For those guests travelling by train or bus, your guides will collect you from Aviemore train station at 11:30, before meeting those guests who are driving to the Cairngorms. Guests will be able to leave vehicles in Aviemore before travelling for lunch in the foothills of the Cairngorm Mountains.

After lunch we shall have time to explore parts of the ancient pine forests and lochs that recently released Scottish Wildcats call home, before checking into our accommodation in Boat of Garten, with time to settle in before dinner.

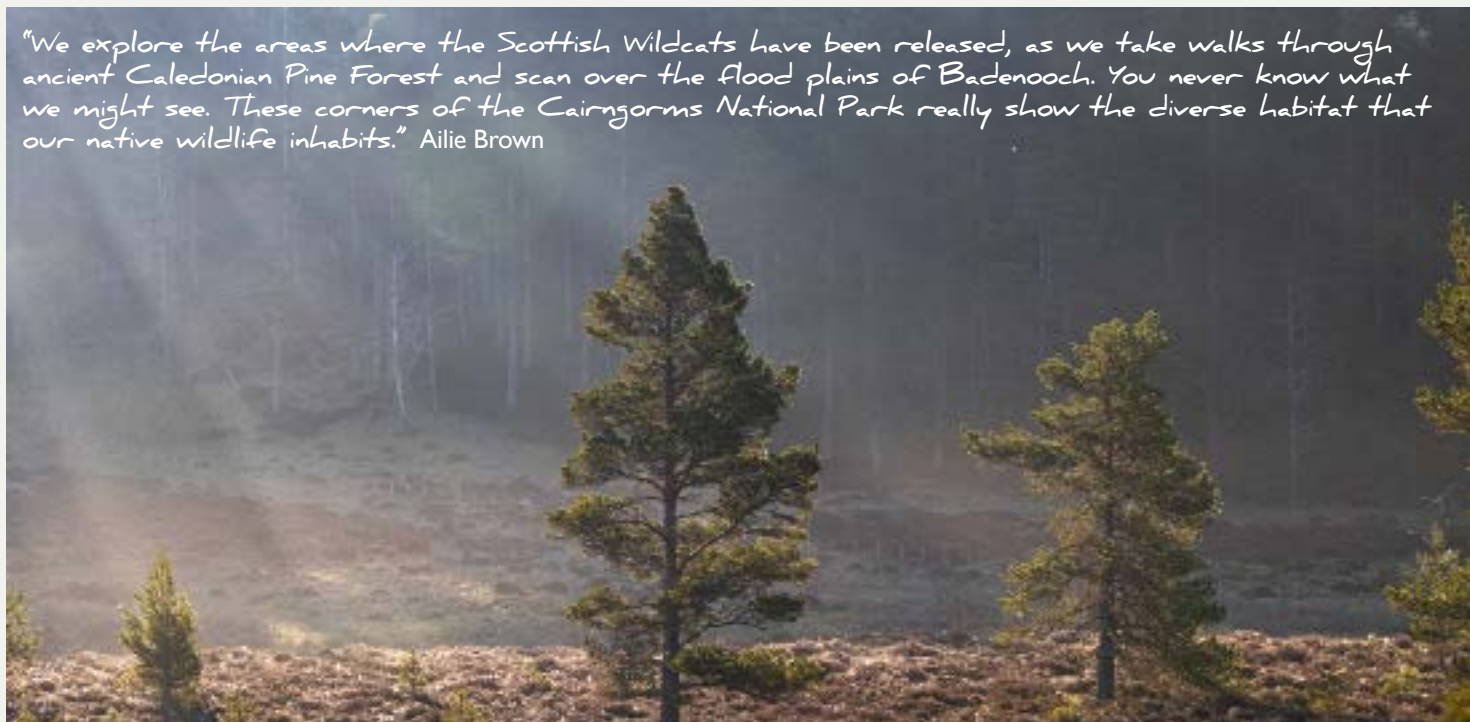
2-4 Your guides will collect you after breakfast each morning to explore the Cairngorms National Park and we shall be joined by Louise Hughes, the Saving Wildcats Field Operations Manager during days 2 and 3.

We'll make sure we target the Scottish wildlife specialities and leave more than enough room to drink in the scenery, learn about how this special habitat is looked after and marvel at the landscape. We shall visit the ancient Caledonian Pine Forest for Crested Tit, crossbills and other woodland birds. Mammals may include Red Squirrel, Red and Roe Deer and Beaver. Our days will include a degree of walking on good tracks and trails through the forest.

On one evening after dinner, we'll look for Pine Marten and Badger at our local Evening Mammal Hide. One of the released Scottish Wildcats also frequents the hide and surrounding area. Located near Aviemore, our large and comfortable hide offers the opportunity to see these elusive animals at close quarters as dusk falls around



"We explore the areas where the Scottish Wildcats have been released, as we take walks through ancient Caledonian Pine Forest and scan over the flood plains of Badenoch. You never know what we might see. These corners of the Cairngorms National Park really show the diverse habitat that our native wildlife inhabits." Ailie Brown



us. If the weather is settled there may also be an opportunity for star gazing before returning to your accommodation.

We shall visit local glens for Golden Eagle, White-tailed Eagle, Peregrine, Hen Harrier, Red Deer, Mountain Hare and Wild Goats. We'll travel through spectacular scenery into the heart of the mountains and then take a low-level walk further into the glen on good gravel tracks. A broad range of wildlife, including the eagles, can be found all year and the Red Deer rut takes place from late September through October. After an early dinner, there will be a chance to join a guide for a Beaver walk in the local area, where we might spot these elusive creatures.

We'll spend a full day at the Highland Wildlife Park where we shall meet some of the Saving Wildcats team and learn more about the wildcat conservation project and release, along with the invertebrates programme, before time to explore the Highland Wildlife Park.

On our final night, we shall eat dinner locally in Aviemore, before spending the evening at a special film screening on the return of Scottish Wildcats to the Cairngorms.

5 We'll have time for a final walk in the local woodlands before departing late morning.

This itinerary is based on there being 12 guests. All itineraries will consider weather conditions

and priority of species to be looked for.

Capercaillie Policy

Capercaillie can be found in the forests of the Cairngorms National Park, but they are a declining species that are easily disturbed. We minimise any disturbance at crucial times to help protect the birds, by adhering to the following policies:

We won't take guests to look specifically for Capercaillie before 9.00am during the lekking period (1 March - 31 May). When going into Capercaillie habitat, we always stay on marked tracks and paths and never go looking off these.

When there is an alpha male (also known as a 'rogue' bird) in the area we won't go to see this bird. They are part of the lek, so we would be 'knowingly' disturbing them. We suggest looking for Capercaillie through the autumn and winter months, when the birds can be easier to find. We won't be disturbing them then and young birds will have fledged and dispersed into the forests.



Outline Itinerary

- Day 1** Meet in Aviemore late morning before lunch in Glenmore and exploration of the surrounding area
4 nights at The Boat Country Inn, Boat of Garten
- Days 2-4** Guided wildlife and birdwatching within Scottish Wildcat habitat, including a visit to the Saving Wildcats project and evening film screening. An evening visit to our mammal hide for Badger and Pine Marten
- Day 5** After breakfast and an optional walk we say our farewells

Images: Saving Wildcats/RZSS: Scottish Wildcat
Ailie Brown: Insh Marshes, Pine Woods;
Jane Hope: Pine Wood, Crested Tit, Red Grouse;
Mark Denman: Red Deer stags

