Tailor-made holidays and expert-led small group tours
Our brand new Seasonal Brochure is packed full of ideas for your wildlife holidays for 2020 and beyond. It features 15 new small group and tailor-made holidays, including a new Festival of Cats trip to Botswana, and a special holiday to the Galápagos Islands with zoologist and broadcaster Mark Carwardine.

Elsewhere in Africa we look for rare mammals in South Africa and join broadcaster and naturalist Mike Dilger in Madagascar, while our new safari to Tanzania combines the Serengeti’s ‘Great Migration’ with a chance to encounter Gombe Stream National Park’s famous chimpanzees. In Asia there’s a new trip to Nepal’s lowland (terai), we search for the elusive snow leopard and rarely seen Pallas’s cat on a new holiday to Mongolia, and in India we look for rare mammals of the north-west. We have new photography trips to Brazil and Colombia, while closer to home, we go in search of Iberian lynx in the Spanish sierras.

You can meet our expert team at our Discover Wildlife evenings and other upcoming events, browse our holiday planners in this brochure, and you’re always welcome to visit our expert team at our Hampshire office!

Chris Breen, Founder

All holiday prices in this brochure are based on two people sharing a room (or cabin), and include flights from the UK, accommodation and transfers (except where specified). Prices are correct at time of going to print. For full details contact our expert wildlife team.
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Our Holidays

Whilst our roots are in creating tailor-made wildlife holidays, our collection of expert-led small group tours continues to expand and we have developed many exciting new trips, some of which are featured in this brochure. We have also introduced new destinations and new talented photographers to our ever-expanding portfolio of wildlife photography trips.

If you prefer to travel independently, many of our group tours can be adapted to be taken on a private basis. Alternatively, we can design a tailor-made holiday to meet your exact requirements – you may want to see a certain species, visit particular locations or need to travel at a certain time of year. To guide you through the options, we provide ‘trip ideas’, put together by our expert team which give you an idea of the possibilities and prices. Contact us today to create your perfect wildlife holiday.

Opening Hours

We are open from 9am to 6pm Monday to Friday, and also on Saturdays from 9am to 1pm in January, February and March.
Wildlife Worldwide Manager, Dan Free, travelled to the Serengeti in the summer, keen to experience one of the planet’s most spectacular natural spectacles – the Great Migration – first hand. With a private vehicle and guide, he was able to escape the crowds and enjoy some remarkable sightings.

**NEW Serengeti Migration Special**
Enjoy the flexibility of a private guide and vehicle as you explore the central and north Serengeti in search of lion, leopard, cheetah and with luck, witness the magnificent spectacle of a river crossing.

Trip idea, Jul-Oct
10 days, from £4,995

**Spirit of the North**
Experience the major wildlife highlights and contrasting locations of northern Tanzania on this classic private safari, combining Lake Manyara, the Serengeti, Ngorongoro Crater, and Tarangire National Park.

Trip idea, Jan-Dec
10 days, from £4,995
There can be few words more evocative to the wildlife enthusiast than ‘Serengeti’, a word synonymous with Africa’s Great Plains, and it was to these fabled lands that my wife and I travelled in late July, hoping to witness one of the planet’s most magnificent natural spectacles – the ‘Great Migration’.

We decided to concentrate our efforts entirely on the Serengeti – with three nights in the centre of the region followed by four nights up north near the Mara River to catch the best of the action.

Having visited Botswana and Zambia in recent years, it was with some trepidation that we travelled to Tanzania – knowing full well that we would be visiting some of the busiest areas in the Serengeti and in the first week of the school holidays. However, we needn’t have worried. Over the course of our week-long stay we were fortunate enough to enjoy some incredible sightings. Based at two excellent seasonal camps we were assigned our own vehicle and guide for the duration of our stay and this was crucial to the success of the trip as it allowed us to choose our daily programme, deciding when and where we would go. We effectively took control of the drives and made a conscious decision not to use the radio, backing ourselves and our guide to find the wildlife.

Where sightings were well known, it could become busy with other vehicles, but what quickly became apparent was that the vast majority would only stay for 5-10 minutes, before moving on to the next sighting. For those visitors patient enough to wait around, you could very often end up being the only vehicle and with a little luck, quickly reap the rewards. We had one such experience with two magnificent male lions that went on to successfully catch a springbok in the middle of the day. Only two hours prior they had been centre stage to nearly a dozen vehicles, and yet here we were observing the entire hunt from start to finish and in complete solitude.

It was the first of many fabulous lion sightings, with cubs, lionesses and large males all providing hours of entertainment, but it was the wildebeest migration that we were most keen to see and this meant travelling north to the Mara River. In late July, a large proportion of the Serengeti’s 1.5 million wildebeest have already crossed the river and migrated north into the Masai Mara, but when we arrived there were still tens of thousands to the south and we were able to witness several river crossings.

Such crossings are far from guaranteed, are likely to require a good deal of patience and to be in the company of numerous other vehicles; however, when they occur, it is an intensely brutal spectacle, with hundreds and thousands of wildebeest throwing themselves into the river. In their desperation to get across, they risk injuring themselves, getting swept away in the current or being taken by crocodiles. It’s one of the most traumatic, though fascinating, events I’ve ever seen and not for the faint-hearted.

When viewed alongside the region’s remarkable big cats and in some of Africa’s most breathtaking scenery, it made for a fantastic trip and we particularly loved the freedom of a private vehicle and guide. Our Serengeti Migration Special and Spirit of the North tailor-made trip ideas give you just this, allowing you to get away from the crowds and test your own skills in the field.
Wildlife Travel Consultant Helen Cox visited Tanzania’s Gombe Stream National Park earlier this year, in search of its world-famous groups of wild chimpanzees. Our new trip to the park focuses on observing these remarkable primates, alongside time in the Serengeti to witness the wildebeest migration.

Beside Lake Tanganyika’s tranquil, clear waters rise the verdant forested mountains of Gombe Stream National Park, made famous by Jane Goodall’s pioneering work on its population of chimpanzees in the 1960s.

My guide, Sixtus, was a very smiley, instantly likeable man with extensive knowledge of the park and its wildlife, having spent the last two decades here. Together with a park ranger, we entered a tract of beautiful forest – comprising impossibly tall trees, twisted vines and patches of dappled sunshine – and made our way along the Kakombe Valley. Twenty minutes into our walk, I froze. There in front of us, casually walking on all fours and surveying the trees with such a wise look that it was hard not to wonder what he was thinking, was a chimpanzee. This was Samson, a 23-year-old male.

My first sighting of a Gombe chimp was exciting enough, but more soon followed – the ‘G-family’, my guide explained. Gremlin with her son Gimli, daughter Gaia and twins Golden and Glitter. Her four-year-old son Grendel, Glitter’s baby daughter Gombe, and Golden’s little son Gabo were with them too: curious and playful with over-sized ears and fluffy white bunny-like tail tufts, the infants are a delight to observe.

There were 16 chimps in all, of various ages, eating, grooming and playing, with mothers patiently yet firmly disciplining their adventurous offspring. This wonderful experience was made even better by the presence of my guide who knew the animals individually and was clearly very fond of them. I could see why.

When our time with the chimps was coming to an end, it seemed as if they had decided otherwise. We walked up the valley to a waterfall but the chimpanzees decided to go that way too, carrying their babies piggy-back. As I gave way to them on the path, they looked at me as they passed – a connection I will never forget.

On our way back to the ranger’s station we enjoyed seeing other primates such as olive baboons, and red-tailed, blue and vervet monkeys. Reluctantly, however, it was time to leave Gombe.

I am still incredulous about my emotive experiences with the chimpanzees. If you have the opportunity to go, I implore you to do so!

NEW Migration & Chimps

This new tailor-made tour combines four nights in the Serengeti with three nights in Gombe Stream National Park. This exciting itinerary allows you to experience both the spectacle of the wildebeest migration and intimate encounters with the chimpanzees of Gombe.

Trip idea, Jul-Oct
10 days, from £6,995
WE CREATE OUTSTANDING WILDLIFE HOLIDAYS
Our website features over 100 small group and tailor-made holidays to Africa
Having led our unrivalled Best of Botswana holiday in August, naturalist and tour leader Nick Acheson is still brimming with excitement about the wildlife he encountered – including warring lion prides, herds of elephants and leopard – between the incomparable Okavango Delta and Chobe National Park.

There was a moment, in Botswana in August, when my group felt they had stepped into a child’s storybook Africa. Reaching an open plain, suddenly we were beset by animals. To our left a line of impala grazed, and with them, for safety, a single male wildebeest. Ahead of us stood Burchell’s zebras, shimmering silver as they do once the heat of the day melts their stripes together. At the edge of the trees vervet monkeys bickered and played. As if this scene were not already iconically African, next two giraffes swayed by, blotched necks dipping as they went. Then a wave rippled, muscle by muscle, beast by beast, across the plain, as a male lion, gold-maned and handsome, stepped into view.

Leaving the lion, we drove to a nearby wetland, visibly expanding as the waters of the Angolan uplands made their sluggish way across the plain. Here there were elephants, a female herd with young. As we took our coffee in the shade, the matriarch made a dummy charge, flapping her enormous ears in feigned rage, just to let us know whose wetland this was. But it was not hers alone. In a cordon of scrub to the left there were greater kudu, long-legged and lovely, and beyond the elephants, broad-backed waterbuck. Suddenly, behind us, red-billed spurfowl coughed in alarm and from a forest island walked a leopard, weaving like a swimming snake through the leopard-length grass. You could not script such a morning, but it happened.

This was just one of ten such days between the Okavango and Chobe on our Best of Botswana tour. Days on which a mother leopard and her four-month-old cub played for an hour in the amber evening light just metres from us. Days on which two prides of lions held each other at bay, neither daring to take the fresh-killed buffalo in our track. Days on which cheetah brothers slipped through the generous light of dawn, waving their improbable tails as they scent-marked every termite mound and tree. Nights on which we lay in our comfortable camp beds listening to the eerie whoop of spotted hyenas and the laughter of pearl-spotted owlets.

The charm of this tour only begins with its abundant wildlife. Between safaris through Moremi, Savuti and Khwai, there are amazing meals. Each day it seems more improbable that such flavours can be conjured over a flickering fire fed with elephant-felled mopane logs. Each morning we are woken by the slosh of hot water being delivered, and news of lions heard roaring in the night. And all day we bask in the company of our incomparable driver-guides, raised in the delta and reading its moods as a mother reads her infant’s face.

To crown it all, the sunsets. One evening, elephants dust-bathing by the river toss silt over their backs, setting it aflame in the rays of the dying sun. On another, giraffes lope by the sun’s ruby face as it touches the horizon, a scene so utterly African it seems a cliché. To see the heart of savannah Africa, and lose your own heart to it … there is no finer tour than Best of Botswana!
“We have done many safaris in Africa and nature holidays throughout the world, and this was up there with the best. Our guide was an excellent companion and his knowledge of the bush was second-to-none. We ended up with fantastic sightings of 42 species of mammal, including leopard, lion, cheetah, elephant, wild dog and even pangolin.”

Paul C, Best of Botswana, June 2019
In 2021 we’ll be taking over the fantastic Sable Alley Lodge situated within Khwai Private Reserve in Botswana’s Okavango Delta for a new Festival of Cats holiday. Here’s a taste of what you can expect on this celebration of felines and other wildlife in one of the world’s greatest safari destinations …
For many years, our mobile camping safaris in Botswana have seen group after group return, raving about the incomparable wildlife of the Okavango Delta and Chobe National Park, and the superb sightings of big (and smaller) cats they’ve had there. However, for some time, we’ve been planning another option – for those who’d like a touch more luxury and to be based in a single location. We’ve also been wanting to focus on cats for one of our highly popular Festivals of Wildlife. So, we’re delighted to announce that we’ve found just such a lodge and will be offering a brand new Festival of Cats holiday to the Okavango Delta.

As with our other popular ‘Festival’ holidays, we will be taking over the entire lodge and offering daily wildlife excursions, talks and guidance from Wildlife Worldwide’s Founder, Chris Breen, as well as photographic tuition and workshops from award-winning wildlife photographer Nick Garbutt. What makes the Khwai Private Reserve exceptional is having 200,000 hectares of mopane forest, grassland and marsh to explore at our leisure, from the comfort of an outstanding lodge. Being a concession – where the local community has signed an agreement with the government to protect landscape and wildlife – we have much greater freedom than in neighbouring national parks. We can roam widely, venturing off road and at night. Under cover of darkness, Khwai’s dusty pans are busy with the bright, bouncing eyes of spring hares, while porcupines snuffle through the grass. Khwai Private Reserve is home to numerous lion prides, with females and their cubs weaving along the water’s edge after waterbuck and impala. Khwai’s elephants are famously huge, the great tusked bulls swaying to the river each evening to drink; its wild dogs are readily seen, particularly during an extended stay.

This stylish lodge has private hides at waterholes too. Thus we have the privilege of sitting still as the wildlife comes to us. We can witness leopards stalking warthogs, their lithe bodies pressed to the earth, so stealthy they seem to gain ground without moving at all. We can watch as muscular honey badgers blunder through the undergrowth, as steenbok tiptoe tentatively to drink, waving their huge ears and blinking their enormous eyes. We can chuckle at the grunting of contented hippos, jostling for space, and see the African fish eagle tumble from its lakeside perch and, with a deft flick of its talons, scoop a fish from the water’s surface.

So please do join us for a celebration of felines on our Festival of Cats holiday in Botswana in 2021. It promises to be an extraordinary spell of wildlife watching in a truly exceptional location.

NEW Botswana – Festival of Cats
Go in search of Africa’s big cats from the comfort of the exquisite Sable Alley Lodge in Botswana’s 200,000-hectare Khwai Private Reserve, in the company of Wildlife Worldwide’s Founder, Chris Breen, and award-winning photographer Nick Garbutt.

Group, 19 May 2021
10 days, from £6,995

sales@wildlifeworldwide.com | 01962 302055 | www.wildlifeworldwide.com
Author Simon Barnes reflects on his recent visit to Kafue National Park, the setting for our exciting new small group safari to Zambia’s ‘wild west’. With very few visitors, varied habitats, and stunning vistas, Kafue is untamed Africa at its best… and you might just have it to yourselves!

Are you a wide, wild, wet river sort of a person – the sort of person who loves to sit in a boat between two distant shores lined with river-loving trees and peopled with river-loving beasts? Does such a landscape fill your soul? It did mine.

Or are you a big-sky, open plains sort of person – the sort of person who loves to be able to see forever, the antelopes stretching out to infinity and the clouds filling almost all the available space in your vision? Perhaps that’s the kind of landscape that fills your soul. It sure did mine.

But then souls are capacious organs, infinitely receptive when it comes to the sort of places you will remember forever. And you can find these two contrasting beauties in the same week – on the same day if you don’t mind caning it a little – in Kafue National Park in Zambia.

The river came first – and literally, no shred of an exaggeration, within a minute of getting on the boat I was looking at a gorgeous female leopard. She was lying beneath one of those riverside trees and looking back at me with mild interest. It was like being on leopard television.

A little later an African finfoot appeared. This is a truly funky bird, not closely related to any other group. They are notoriously elusive, but this one was more or less flaunting. Once or twice I lost it – all but the huge orange feet, apparently clambering about on the river-side roots by themselves, the rest of the bird invisible against the backdrop.

Kafue is perhaps the world’s best place for antelopes. Antelopes have a thrilling ability to diverge and adapt for subtly different habitats; and this park is full of subtly different habitats. There are 20 different antelope species here; I counted 14 species in a week, especially the gorgeous sable, males with horns that almost make a full semi-circle.

But it was the red lechwe – red lechwe in thousands – that dominated once I had left the river and went up onto the Busanga Plain: a place where you can – and often do – see a lion come from a mile off. In this open place hiding is not easy. The lions know that; so do the lechwe.

One morning I spent three hours with a group of lions. I can still hear the huge sound of their lapping, as they took turns for a post-breakfast drink in a stream a couple of feet from the vehicle. Later on, a young male – his mane just beginning to sprout – lay down in the shade of the vehicle and playfully nibbled the tyres. Keep still, just keep still: these lions are completely relaxed about vehicles and don’t associate them with elevenses.

And then back to camp, back to the endless fascination of this endless plain, with the lechwe making the crowd scenes and a lone male lion, fully adult and sumptuously maned, crossing the plain to seek the shade of one of the tree islands that relieve the openness.

Two impossible landscapes, both filled with impossible creatures. Both are equally capable of filling your soul. Which is the better experience? Only one answer to that: both.

NEW Classic Kafue Safari

Explore the varied and untamed habitats of Kafue National Park on this dedicated small group safari in search of spectacular wildlife and pristine wilderness.

Group: 15 & 23 Oct 2020
11 days, from £5,595
Zambia’s Wild West: Kafue & Liuwa Plain

The west of Zambia is seldom visited by even the most seasoned safari travellers. This is Zambia at its most untamed, undisturbed and unspoiled. Join us on this exceptional small group tour as we search for the very best wildlife that the country’s Wild West has to offer.

Group, 22 Nov 2020
11 days, from £5,995
Private tour: £6,595

sales@wildlifeworldwide.com  |  01962 302055  |  www.wildlifeworldwide.com
Captivated by the scenery and wildlife of the delightful Mana Pools and Hwange National Parks, Wildlife Travel Consultant Sarah Malcolm recounts her recent trip there and explains why Zimbabwe makes a fantastic safari destination.

Gwara renzou is the local name for the Milky Way – it means Elephant Pathway. Our guide, Cloud, translated the constellations of the fathomless African night sky, whilst we sat around our campfire in Mana Pools. Cracks of discontent came from an immolated acacia log, thrown on the fire, sending embers into the darkness, as we listened to the background soundtrack of quarrelling hippo in the adjacent Zambezi River. Cloud quietened from his narrative, his attention drawn to a soft rustling below, as a small herd of elephant stepped out into the clearing to join us. The Elephant Pathway lit the way for its terrestrial counterpart below, as the breeding herd wandered, unperturbed, through camp.

The rains render Mana Pools an inaccessible wilderness for a portion of each year. The park reopens in April amidst a carpet of vegetation, with wildflowers being diligently attended to by a colourful spectrum of butterflies. This enchanting forest of mahogany, acacia, baobab, wild fig and ebony is interspersed with grassland and ‘pools’. Mana translates as ‘four’ in Shona, the local language, and so Mana Pools National Park is named after its four largest permanent bodies of water, remnants from the historic path of the Zambezi as it etched its course through the land.

This sanctuary of natural beauty is home to a wealth of wildlife and can be explored on foot, granting you audience with the complex relationships and interactions within a pack of ‘painted’ dog, whilst you crouch nearby. Bush breakfast awaits you around the corner, in the same way that your sunset gin and tonic awaits when you land your canoe on the sandbank, having drifted down the Zambezi River, past wading elephant and goliath heron.

In Hwange, you will discover a new set of natural histories. The national park is a land of elephants, which descend upon the park’s numerous waterholes to quench their thirst. From the deck of your lodge it is feasible to decipher every wrinkle in the matriarch’s etched hide as she towers near you. As you sip your cold beer, you must pinch yourself whilst you listen, as she decants pints of water from trunk to mouth, drinking you under the decking.

When the coveted water is not being guarded by giants, it is shared amongst a myriad of wildlife, from rare sable and roan antelope to cheetah and leopard. Although the landscape is both sculpted and dominated by elephants, your naturalist guide will explain many other intricate behaviours of wildlife within Hwange’s biodiverse landscape, from the bee-eaters and rollers that decorate the sky, to the social structure and characters of Cecil the lion’s progeny.

Between exploring the concession in the morning and afternoon, you return to the lodge to relax in the company of bee-eaters which adorn the guide ropes of your Serengeti-style tent. After dark, listen through the canvas to the continued happenings of the wild.

Zimbabwe offers an authentic safari experience with unparalleled guiding, immersing you in nature and allowing you to experience remarkable wildlife encounters in an exclusive and unforgettable way.
Wild Zimbabwe

Enjoy game drives, walks and canoe safaris in Zimbabwe’s premier wildlife and wilderness locations. Explore the rivers and floodplains of Mana Pools, admire the sunsets and the seclusion of Lake Kariba and witness the wildlife of Hwange National Park – home to huge numbers of elephants.

Trip idea, Apr-Nov
12 days, from £5,895
Having lived and worked as a guide for many years in South Africa, Wildlife Consultant Helen Bryon marvels at the superb wildlife and sheer enormity of the Tswalu Kalahari Reserve as she checks out our new luxury small group holiday to the region.
I was holding my breath and grinning so hard that I was sure it would pick up on my presence. A cloud of red dust was being created by thick, long, yellowing nails ... tools of the trade when foraging for termites is your profession. Its thick tail and powerful hind legs gave it stability as ant-eating chats patiently waited for their share of the feast. Crouched on my haunches, it was so close I could see individual eyelashes and scars on its skin. It turned away from us, its kangaroo ears glowing in the late afternoon sun and Rudy, my guide, silently beckoned that I follow. The best part of an hour later, we returned to our vehicle having walked the Kalahari dunes with one of the most sought-after creatures in Africa, an aardvark.

Lost in a reverie of thoughts as we drove back to the lodge, we suddenly came to a halt. ‘Aardwolf!’ It took a moment for my brain to register. Aardwolf? Are you serious? Really? Aardwolf? In four years of guiding, I’d never seen an aardwolf, but sure enough, there to my left and not 10 metres away, was an aardwolf. It meandered back and forth, oblivious to our spotlight, before scuttling off into the approaching night. Needless to say all senses were back on full alert. Whatever next? Brown hyena? Caracal? Pangolin?

It may be hard to believe, but all of these species are a distinct possibility in this part of South Africa’s Northern Cape, and sightings of pangolin are particularly good in the winter months (June and July), when they are often found foraging for ants and termites in daylight hours. However, it’s not just about luck. A private guide, tracker and vehicle are standard here, and there are no set safari times – just head off into rolling red dunes as far as the eye can see, and state your preference for how and when you wish to explore them.

But let’s not ignore the predators. We were blessed with cheetah, lion and wild dogs. Not just any dogs, but hunting wild dogs. Dogs that took down a warthog as we watched, awe struck, on foot, just metres away (undoubtedly the best wild dog sighting of my life). There’s also a wonderful supporting cast of bat-eared fox, meerkats and majestic sable, roan and oryx. Crimson-breasted shrikes add a splash of colour, owls are plentiful and sociable weaver nests dot the landscape, seemingly defying gravity.

And what about space? There’s masses of it. Just two luxurious camps share 114,000 hectares – nearly twice the size of Sabi Sands (another of South Africa’s iconic private reserves). No area is off limits and you generally won’t see another vehicle when on safari. In short, after years of living and guiding in South Africa, not to mention numerous holidays there, I’ve never experienced magic like this. This reserve is in a league of its own – it’s the largest private reserve in the country. Welcome to Tswalu Kalahari Reserve. A reserve like no other!

Why not join me in June 2021 on our new small group holiday, South Africa’s Rare Mammals in Style, when we will have exclusive use of Tswalu’s most intimate lodge, Tarkuni, for an extended stay of seven nights. I’m already counting down the sleeps!
As a naturalist of some 40 years standing, and with long stints under my belt working across South America, East Africa and South-east Asia, in addition to 12 years as The One Show’s wild man, there are two biological terms that have me salivating more than any others … ‘endemism’ and ‘biodiversity’.

Perhaps nowhere else on the planet are these tantalising terms better typified than on the magnificent island of Madagascar. Cast adrift initially from Gondwanaland, before teaming up with, then separating from the Indian subcontinent some 88 million years ago, the wildlife has evolved in such splendid isolation that ‘unique’ seems to under-sell the many natural wonders calling this island nation home. In fact, so different is this island from the rest of the world that it is frequently referred to as the eighth continent, and so I’m thrilled to join up with Wildlife Worldwide on this trip of a lifetime as we get eye to eye with aye-ayes, listen to lemurs and venerate vangas.

I would describe myself first and foremost as a birder; however, I’m also well aware that for many planning a foray to Madagascar, ‘fur’ may well figure higher than ‘feathers’, as lemur-listing becomes the order of the trip. While nothing short of upping sticks and moving to the island would provide the opportunity to see most of the 100 remaining species of this ancient lineage, we’ll certainly hope to track down at least 20, including many of the most celebrated species and members from all five extant families.

Ranging in size from the small but perfectly formed mouse lemurs to the bellicose indris, we’ll travel to some of the island’s most iconic sites while searching out this enchanting and enigmatic group. But as we take in everything from Ranomafana’s magnificent rainforest in the east to the seasonal dry forests of Ifaty to the west, it will soon become apparent that this island apart also has an incredible cast of supporting characters. If herpetology titillates your taste buds then the tropical forest we’ll visit at Analamazaotra holds both the world’s largest and smallest chameleons, as well as the devilishly named satanic leaf-tailed gecko and that flagship species of conservation efforts, the golden mantella frog. Many will, of course, be tempted primarily by the supreme array of birds, with the seasonal forests of the arid south-west offering the possibility of getting to grips with everything from the long-tailed ground roller to the bizarre sub-desert mesite – in between being spellbound by the acrobatic dancing of Verreaux’s sifakas, that is!

Naturalists worth their salt should also be careful not to exhibit too much ‘vertebrate chauvinism’ and this is especially pertinent in Madagascar, where the diversity of animals without backbones is off the Richter scale. With the vast majority of invertebrates confined to the island, a close encounter with the frankly preposterous giraffe-necked weevil or stunning comet moth will only serve to remind you that creatures with six legs can be every bit as charismatic as those with two or four.

And while immersing yourself in the stunning, rare and wonderfully strange wildlife, it would be a shame to miss out on Madagascar’s multi-cultural melting pot, where the wonderfully welcoming Malagasy live alongside diaspora from around the world. And finally as we bump along the famously pot-holed roads from one sanctuary to the next, please do bear in mind that a visit to this country will not always be a stroll in the park … but ‘easy’ is both overrated and ultimately less rewarding.

**NEW Madagascar with Mike Dilger**

Madagascar has been captivating wildlife enthusiasts for decades with its extraordinary endemism. Join Mike Dilger on this exclusive small group holiday to discover the island’s wonderful wealth of wildlife.

*Group, 26 Oct 2020*

*16 days, from £4,995*
Wildlife Travel Consultant Helen Bryon visited Kanha National Park in central India in search of tigers, sloth bears and a colourful cast of real ‘Jungle Book’ characters. Here she describes the thrill of seeing her first wild tiger …

Look for the bare necessities, the simple bare necessities, forget about your worries and your strife. Yeah man! Crikey I was happy! Baloo does that to me. He’s always done that to me. And here I was, driving through the Kanha forests that inspired Kipling’s most endearing character from Jungle Book, grinning in the knowledge that I could bump into the real Baloo at any time. All thoughts of Baloo instantly vanished as we turned off the engine and immediately heard langurs alarm-calling close by. Sitting a little straighter and turning my head towards the call, I tried to tune in, straining my eyes and ears. The sound of a greater racket-tailed drongo resonated above us. Be quiet! Silence. We waited. Our desire to will the appearance of Shere Khan overpowering … but today was not the day. We’d been close. But anticipation is part of the attraction.

A muntjac leapt out in front of us, as the towering trees gave way to meadow. As the light began to fade, we stopped by a lake teeming with birdlife. We sat with bird books and bins in hand as a herd of barasingha came to drink. A sudden commotion broke the serenity as two golden jackals charged into the water, holding onto the rump of a youngster. The hairs on the back of my neck were standing up. Then a barely discernible exhalation. Or was it? We looked at each other, smiles wide, adrenaline flowing and then … YES! Out she stepped. My word, she was mammoth. She stopped and glanced back over her shoulder before spraying and moving on. We jumped up and down with glee. Our first tiger! But there was more. A smaller whiskered head poked gingerly out of the green, the contrasting colours, orange, black and white utterly captivating. Gathering confidence, it jumped out, following Mum, as another appeared in a glade to our right. What a day!

A wonderful calm descended as I tried to process this realisation of a dream, and other sightings came to the fore. The pea fowls in chase, the rose-ringed parakeet trying to please its mate, the ghost trees, the staggering number of owls and kingfishers, and the common Jezebels adorning leaves like living Christmas baubles.

Moving on to Bandhavgarh, one of the strongest memories evoked comes as a result of the mighty downpour we’d had on our penultimate night. Waking up the next morning to a thick fog, we entered the wonderfully atmospheric park able to see only a few metres ahead. Thirty minutes with two rival Rhesus macaque troops and one jungle cat later, and a magnificent beast emerged from the mist and stood contemplating us for perhaps a minute. Antlers held high and velvet almost shining, he walked on, disappearing in front of our eyes. A chital stag. The ultimate deer. Regal. Majestic. Timeless.
Tigers in Luxury
This trip visits three of India’s top tiger watching reserves: Panna, Bandhavgarh and Kanha. These prolific parks and tiger reserves boast superb accommodation as well as wildlife.
Trip idea, Oct-Apr
12 days, from £6,595

Ultimate Tiger Safari
This two-centre small group holiday focuses on India’s most iconic mammal, the magnificent Bengal tiger, combining four nights in both Bandhavgarh and Kanha National Parks.
Group, 18 Feb & 4 Mar 2021
12 days, from £3,295

“India is wonderful. Indian safaris, something else. We’re talking the whole package. Naturalists that are second-to-none alongside incredible hospitality, delicious food and Kingfisher beer. Be patient. India will deliver.”
Helen B

sales@wildlifeworldwide.com | 01962 302055 | www.wildlifeworldwide.com
Having spent almost four years in India, Wildlife Consultant and Tour Leader Nick Acheson is convinced that there’s nowhere finer on the subcontinent for wild mammals than Gujarat and Rajasthan. In this article, he introduces our new tour which goes in search of rare mammals in India’s north-west.

As the day’s fierce light surrenders to the kindly glow of sunset, the golden grassland seems to ripple all around. Blackbuck, India’s iconic antelope, are drifting in their thousands on the plain. Close by, a pair of huge ears appears from a dusty burrow. Another pair joins them, and another. Striped hyena pups, denned all day and keen now to get out and smell the world. These stunning animals – all white-gold and charcoal streaks – are happily still common here in the wild grassland of Gujarat.

The vast salt pans, semi-deserts and grasslands of Gujarat and its neighbour Rajasthan are home to some of India’s most enigmatic mammals. Velavadar, where huge herds of blackbuck roam, supports the Indian wolf, a unique and leggy subspecies, seen more easily here than anywhere else. To the west, the salty desert of the Little Rann of Kutch is the last home of the powerful, dust-coloured khur, South Asia’s endemic subspecies of Asiatic wild ass. Look closely and you may see more big ears poking from desert dens in the Little Rann. Striped hyena? Yes, they are here, and Indian foxes too, but – most charming of all – this is also the home of the desert fox, an animal whose pups, poking their ears and noses from the dirt, are so Disney cute that they seem hardly to be real.

East of here, in Rajasthan, many animals flourish because it is the nature, the deeply-held conviction of traditional communities to protect them. At Jawai, people show a fierce pride in the leopards which inhabit the mighty rocks around their village, so much so that these leopards – uniquely – emerge from their caves in daylight, showing their dappled cubs the world in which one day they too will hunt chinkara. Following Jawai’s smaller prey – mice, bulbuls, locusts – are jungle cats and rusty-spotted cats. This last is the world’s tiniest cat, round-eyes belying a bold nature and needle teeth. At Khichan, nearby, gentle-hearted Jains have fed winter flocks of demoiselle cranes for decades. As the flocks swelled at their giant bird table, so too did their generosity. Now hundreds of tons of grain attract hundreds of noisy cranes all winter long.

Another desert dweller is found in the dunes and pans, the wild vastness of Desert National Park. This is the desert wildcat. Boldly dotted black, and defiant-eyed, with a hint of lynx’s tufts at the tips of its ears, this is the least known of the north-west’s predators. Strangely for a cat, it too lives in burrows, appearing in the dusk to hunt for mice and gerbils in the desert sand.

North-west India is a land where, even in a country of a billion human mouths, the wild and people coexist. Our exciting new North-west India’s Rare Mammals small group holiday visits these semi-desert states of Gujarat and Rajasthan in comfort, offering a real chance to see all of the remarkable mammals mentioned here. Led by Ashwin HP, who has filmed for National Geographic in the north-west, and visiting Velavadar, the Little Rann of Kutch, Jawai, Khichan and Desert National Park, our new holiday offers an unrivalled introduction to the fauna of Gujarat and Rajasthan.

NEW North-west India’s Rare Mammals

Many of India’s most-sought mammals inhabit the country’s north-west. The region is home to rusty-spotted cat, desert wildcat, leopard, desert and Indian foxes, striped hyena and Indian wolf, plus herbivores including blackbuck and Asiatic wild ass. This exceptional tour goes in search of them all.

Group, 21 Nov 2020 & 13 Nov 2021
13 days, from £4,495
Small Cats of North-west India

India is the world’s finest country for cats. Many of its most-sought small cats inhabit the dry grassland and semi-desert of Rajasthan and Gujarat. With a private guide and vehicle, this innovative trip goes in search of caracal, desert wildcat, jungle cat, rusty-spotted cat, leopard and a host of other mammals.

Trip idea, Oct-May
14 days, from £6,695
Wildlife Travel Consultant Sarah Malcolm introduces an exciting new tailor-made trip to Nepal’s lowland ‘terai’ and India, which goes in search of the region’s rich diversity of wildlife, as well as offering an exclusive and unspoilt wilderness experience.

Elephant grass is the tallest grass species in the world. We peered through the blades to see the dimpled grey armour of the Indian one-horned rhino which we had quietly approached on foot. Pausing from his methodical grazing along the river, he raised his head to inspect his new visitors, revealing a singular horn. On guided walks into Nepal’s national parks, it is possible to follow the tunnel-like paths established by these grazers, as we were doing. Smaller and more shy than their African cousin, but equally enchanting, this species can be found right across Nepal’s unique lowland habitat, known as the ‘terai’.

Terai translates as ‘lowland’ or ‘foothill’, and it is found in the region which lies beneath the Himalayas. An ecosystem rich in biodiversity and characterised by tall grasslands, clay-rich swamps, sal forests and scrub savannah, this unspoilt area supports rare species including Bengal tiger, Gangetic river dolphin, fishing cat and gharial.

Our new trip focusing on this region begins in northern India at Jaagir Lodge, an elegant family-owned lodge offering luxury amidst nature. With expert naturalist guides, you can explore the forest reserves of Dudhwa, Katarniaghat, Kishanpur and Pilibhit, which provide a network of pristine habitats for a wealth of wildlife. Shards of morning light punctuate the sal forest, as the bark of a chital deer pierces the quiet dawn air: it’s an atmospheric, ethereal setting and home to the mighty Bengal tiger. Although tigers are more elusive here than in India’s flagship tiger parks, a sighting of this king of cats is rewarding in proportion to its rarity.

Following the lowlands east, you cross the border to reach Nepal’s largest national park, Bardia. Along the banks of the Karnali, Rapti and Narayani Rivers, gharial bask, their elongated snouts brimming with sharp teeth used for catching fish. Navigating these river systems, you can hope to see the endangered freshwater Gangetic river dolphin. On nature walks you will search for some of the area’s 400 plus bird species, including Bengal and lesser florican and sarus crane.

Your discovery of the terai’s wildlife continues from your idyllic lodge, nestled on the edge of Chitwan National Park. The best known of Nepal’s national parks, Chitwan is a thriving reserve, roamed by sloth bear, leopard and wild Asian elephant. It can be accessed in restored open-top Landrovers, on walking safaris and along the river in hand-carved boats.

As inhabitants of a very well discovered world in the West, we can find ourselves longing for areas of unspoilt remoteness and wilderness. The terai offers you this – increasingly hard to find – unbeaten track to explore: a path literally established by the wildlife rather than throngs of tourists.

Reforestation initiatives – such as the Terai Arc Landscape which connects parks across the terai (in India and Nepal) – focus on both facilitating the movement of wildlife between isolated populations and restoring key habitat. Whilst travelling through this ecosystem, you will be directly supporting this landscape-based conservation model.
NEW Nepal & India: Untamed Terai

Travel through the relatively undiscovered ‘terai’ ecosystem of the Indian subcontinent that lies south of the Himalayan foothills. Visiting both India and Nepal, you will explore reserves rich in wildlife including Asian elephant, one-horned rhino, sloth bear, leopard, tiger and exceptional birdlife.

Trip idea, Nov-Jun
16 days, from £5,495
Tour Leader Nick Acheson describes a journey through montane forests and across the Tibetan Plateau on our bird and mammal focused holiday to China’s Sichuan province, home to a host of charismatic wildlife including golden snub-nosed monkey, red panda, Pallas’s cat, Tibetan fox, Lady Amherst’s pheasant and the exquisite firethroat.

**China Sensational Sichuan**

Sichuan’s Sensational Mammals & Birds

Exploring the beautiful province of Sichuan, our 16-day itinerary provides opportunities to see some of China’s most desired wildlife. Sichuan is one of the few places on Earth where red panda, Pallas’s cat, Tibetan fox and many other charismatic mammals can be sought and seen. The province is also home to a plethora of birds including blue-eared and Lady Amherst’s pheasants and the exquisite firethroat.

Group, 27 Mar & 30 Oct 2021

16 days, from £4,895

Private trip: from £5,995
I have sat now for half an hour, trying to describe a male Lady Amherst's pheasant stepping from roadside vegetation onto a grassy verge in Labahe. It is futile. A male Lady Amherst's pheasant is too startlingly beautiful, too iconically Sichuanese to describe. Each platinum white feather on the bird's ruff is exquisitely edged black, as is each feather on his emerald breast and upper back. His impossibly long, double-barred tail quivers as he walks. From its base red plumes fall, like narrow tongues of flame, a colour picked up in his coif. He is too dazzling for words.

This pheasant is not the only clichéd image of wild China to be seen this morning in Labahe. A short distance further, a red panda peers in its quizzical way from a leafless tree. It too almost defies description. The charm of a red panda’s face is in its darker mask, curving down from the eyes and framing a white muzzle; in the snowy spots above its beady eyes too and in its cheeks. This is a face at once delightful and unmistakably Sichuanese.

The cast of charismatic animals found in Labahe is huge. These forests are home to the grumpy-faced Tibetan macaque – old before its years – and the weirdly beautiful golden snub-nosed monkey, its tartarine cowl broken by a rubbery, innocent face of the palest blue. By night our torches fall on the intricate stripes of hog badger faces and the dappled flanks of leopard cats, while complex-toothed flying squirrels – their name alone enchanting – glide silent overhead. This is also, it merits saying, among the best places in the world to look for giant panda, though seeing one would require a lifetime’s luck.

There is greatly more to Sichuan, however, than the wildlife of its montane forests. Above the treeline on Balang Shan blue sheep tiptoe across the scree, and beyond even them Tibetan snowcock scratch at the dust. Higher still – borne by the heavens – a cloud of red-billed chough billows round a peak, and a lammergeier slices past.

At Ruergai, on the edge of the Tibetan Plateau, pikas scurry everywhere. They are the drivers of this landscape. These little lagomorphs do not hibernate: instead they harvest herbs and grasses all summer long, storing them for winter as hay. They crop the grass, aerate and fertilise the soil and – swarming in their thousands – they feed the plateau’s predators. This is the realm of upland buzzard, Tibetan fox, Pallas’s cat and Chinese mountain cat, even the shaggy-coated Tibetan wolf.

The final stop on our Sichuan’s Sensational Mammals & Birds holiday is Tangjiahe. Like Labahe, this is montane forest, peopled by takin – Asia’s strange, bulky goat-like ungulate – masked palm civet, Reeves’s muntjac and Asiatic black bear; but here, when a pheasant steps into the misty light, quivering an impossible tail, it is golden. And golden pheasant – all egg-yolk gold, black-barred orange, deep red, emerald and sapphire – is quite as hard to put into words as Lady Amherst’s. Sichuan, home of all these creatures, will not be described. It is a place which must be experienced, savoured, lived. To live it yourself, join us on Sichuan’s Sensational Mammals & Birds.

To book our Sichuan’s Sensational Mammals & Birds small group holiday or for further information about our tailor-made trips to China please contact our expert team.

sales@wildlifeworldwide.com | 01962 302055 | www.wildlifeworldwide.com
Wildlife Consultant Nick Acheson describes the highlights of our new holiday to Mongolia. Staying in comfortable ‘ger’ camps, we explore vast landscapes in search of central Asia’s two most desirable cat species, the snow leopard and rarely seen Pallas’s cat.

Mongolia, sparsely inhabited by people everywhere outside Ulaanbaatar, is among Asia’s last realms of real wilderness. The steppes of the centre and east teem with Mongolian gazelles, long-tailed susliks, Brandt’s voles and tarbagan marmots. The stony plains and mountain valleys of the west are busy with the scurrying feet of Pallas’s pikas, tolai hares and silver mountain voles, and the clipping hooves of Asiatic ibex crossing desolate slopes. Where such populations of wild mammals still occur, inevitably there are predators too.

Wolves hunt the length and breadth of Mongolia, though always they are hard to see. So too do foxes: red fox throughout and the delicate corsac fox largely in the grassy steppes. Across the country, small rodents are harried by wolverine, stoat, weasels (least, mountain and Siberian) and martens (beech and sable); in grassland by the steppe polecat too; and, in the desert, by the exquisite marbled polecat. Plus, of course, there are cats. In the southern deserts and the northern taiga Eurasian lynx and wildcat may be found.

But two cats are synonymous with this great country. Standing as symbols for its rugged western mountains and the shimmering grassland of its eastern steppe, they are the snow leopard and Pallas’s cat. Found across 12 countries in central and south Asia, snow leopards are the epitome of wild. Rarely seen, they inhabit the continent’s bleakest mountains, preying on its nimblest montane ungulates. Pallas’s cat is also an animal of rugged wilderness, but its short legs and flat, scowling face are adaptations for a life spent hunting pikas and susliks in their dusty colonies among the grass.

Following years of research across the country, our Mongolian colleagues have identified sites where snow leopard and Pallas’s cat can be seen, from the comfort of charming traditional ger (yurt) camps. Our snow leopard camp is in Mongolia’s far west, in a valley of the Altai Mountains where golden eagles and lammergeiers are always overhead and the whistles of Pallas’s pikas always to be heard. On the stony plain below our campsite, goitred gazelles drift over dunes and saiga antelope scurry in their funny clockwork way. This is also home to Mongolian ground jays and Pallas’s sandgrouse, while shade falls on the desert from the great wings of cinereous vultures.

In the centre north of Mongolia, not far from Ulaanbaatar but well off the beaten track, we now have a second camp, around which the fierce stare of Pallas’s cat may be seen. The cats are accompanied here by Mongolian gazelles, Siberian roe deer, muscular argali sheep, and by hordes of tarbagan marmots and long-tailed susliks. The sky above is graced by steppe eagle, saker and upland buzzard and in autumn by the rattling call of migrant demoiselle cranes.

At both camps, the gers we use are rented from local herding families, who thus earn from the continued survival of the cats and other wildlife, a conservation model to which we are deeply committed. With sightings of snow leopard and Pallas’s cat highly likely, from comfortable and well provisioned camps (neither at high altitude), there has never been a better way to see these two iconic cats of Asia’s mountains and steppes.
NEW Cats of Mountain & Steppe

Explore the vast steppes and spectacular mountains of Mongolia in search of central Asia’s most iconic cat species, the elusive snow leopard and the rarely seen Pallas’s cat.

Group, 13 Aug 2021
14 days, from £6,995
Guyana
A Pristine Wilderness

Guyana is one of Travel Consultant Chris Smith’s favourite wildlife destinations. If you’re looking for a place where nature has been left to its own devices: swathes of untouched rainforest, secluded jungle streams and grassland, with a myriad of wildlife treasures, why not join our new small group holiday to Guyana?

Peering out of our ever-reliable Grand Cessna Caravan, it was hard to take in the sheer scale of the breathtaking scenery below us. ‘It looks like a huge field of giant broccoli doesn’t it?’ Despite the innocence and simplicity of this remark from one of my travelling companions, it was (as surprising as this might sound) an incredibly accurate description of the remarkable landscape that we could see from the windows of our light aircraft.

We were flying over Guyana’s great expanse of unbroken and undisturbed tropical rainforest. It was an air transfer that was supposed to be just a simple means of getting from A to B, but which was becoming a truly humbling experience, as I realised how few places there are in the world where you can see rainforest in such a pristine, primeval state … just as nature intended.

This is the thing with Guyana; it offers a completely immersive experience unlike any other destination I have visited. In this stunning country, even the simplest of things, be it a transfer or a sighting, can become an endearing and enduring memory that is likely to stay with you for the rest of your life.

Guyana’s pristine wilderness is home to a myriad of wildlife treasures. Guianan cock-of-the-rock, three-toed sloth, blue-and-yellow macaw, white-throated toucan, red howler monkey and many other intriguing and captivating species can bring about endless delightful encounters as you explore the country’s secluded jungle streams and swathes of exquisite rainforest. Delve further into the interior of this astonishing and startling country and you reach great savannahs, veined by waterways that throng with activity in a fairytale-like region known as the Rupununi. And, like a fairytale, the Rupununi is indeed a ‘land of giants’. Giant anteater, black caiman and giant river otter are some of the largest animals in South America, and yet only a handful of people know that you can find them all here, in Guyana’s glorious grasslands and rivers.

Countries like Guyana are conspicuous by their rarity – how many other nations are there in the world where the habitats are so pristine and unspoilt? Furthermore, the wildlife sightings here are just as rewarding when compared to those that you can have in Guyana’s neighbours. If anything, observing giant anteater or giant river otter with no one else around is the type of wildlife encounter that all wildlife lovers strive for, and something that Guyana specialises in.

In addition to its extraordinary wildlife, nowhere else on Earth can offer such an authentic wilderness experience as Guyana; it is, quite simply, unparalleled. Nature has been left to its own devices and allowed to follow its own course. When nature is allowed to do this, the results are quite simply overwhelming. It’s safe to say that it was an absolute privilege to spend time in Guyana.

We are excited to launch a new small group trip that takes in the finest wildlife locations that Guyana has to offer and our carefully designed itinerary will allow you to truly appreciate this remarkable wilderness.
“There can be few places in the world that offer such a pristine wilderness experience, without having to share it with others. That is the standout beauty of Guyana … along with Kaieteur Falls of course! Superb birdlife, the novelty of river travel and the anticipation of jaguars, giant river otters and giant anteaters all combine to make this an off-the-beaten-track destination not to be missed.”

Helen B, Wildlife Travel Consultant
Galápagos Islands
Exclusive Charter with Mark Carwardine

We are delighted to announce our new 11-night exclusive charter voyage aboard the Beluga MV around the Galápagos archipelago, in the company of renowned zoologist and broadcaster Mark Carwardine and a team of naturalists.

In September 1835, a young Charles Darwin, travelling aboard the HMS Beagle, arrived in the Galápagos Islands and set about collecting and observing a range of specimens that were later to play an instrumental role in formulating his Theory of Evolution, changing our understanding of life on Earth forever.

For many, this reason alone is enough to warrant a visit to this remarkable archipelago, but when considered alongside the unique wildlife experiences to be seen on land and in the water around these remote islands, a visit should be on the bucket list of every wildlife enthusiast.

With this in mind we are delighted to offer a new 11-night voyage to the Galápagos with zoologist and broadcaster Mark Carwardine. Travelling aboard the exclusively chartered 16-berth MV Beluga, we have designed a comprehensive itinerary that will allow participants to experience the region’s famed wildlife first hand, gaining a fascinating insight into the ecology and history of the respective islands.

Having evolved largely in the absence of humans, many of the creatures that reside in the Galápagos show little or no fear of visitors and can be observed at close quarters, allowing for some superb photographic opportunities. This applies not only on land, but also in the sea where it is possible to swim with Galápagos sea lions, penguins and green turtles. With luck there may also be the chance to observe marine iguanas grazing underwater on algae, a mind-boggling spectacle that both intrigues and fascinates in equal measure. On land these ancient-looking creatures appear awkward and clumsy, but on taking to the water they move with surprising grace.

Stepping ashore we find an environment dominated by reptiles, one of the world’s few ecosystems in which they are the top natural herbivores. The equatorial setting of the islands ensures that they receive sufficient heat to function and their drought-resistance capabilities allow them to survive extended periods without rain – attributes that facilitated their initial trans-ocean crossings from the mainland. Today there are no fewer than 21 species, ranging from the enormous 270kg giant tortoise to the diminutive lava lizards, geckos and three species of snake. Metre-long yellow-tinged land iguanas are conspicuous throughout the islands and once warmed, can move with surprising speed, defending territories ferociously in the breeding season.

While doe-eyed Galápagos fur seals lazing on white sandy beaches will undoubtedly win the ‘cute’ vote, it’s the incredible birdlife of the Galápagos that is likely to take centre stage. Travelling in late May/early June, we can expect to encounter displaying blue-footed and masked boobies, magnificent frigatebirds and waved albatross, and on the shores of Isabela and Fernandina, the endemic Galápagos flightless cormorant. At sea elegant red-billed tropicbirds, lava gulls and brown noddies keep company with our vessel, while great blue herons, yellow-crowned night herons and lava heron patrol the rocky shorelines.

Despite their comparatively drab appearance, it is the 13 species of sparrow-like Darwin’s finches, that are perhaps the most fascinating from an evolutionary perspective, each species having evolved from a common ancestor to occupy a different ecological niche, reflected in the incredible range of bills on display.

In short, this is a place which every naturalist must visit, to have their understanding of the natural world remoulded, to walk in the footsteps of (and with) the pondering mind of Darwin, and to witness one of the wild world’s true wonders.
NEW Galápagos Exclusive with Mark Carwardine

Join conservationist and broadcaster Mark Carwardine on this exclusive trip to the Galápagos Islands, including an 11-night voyage onboard the intimate 16-berth MV Beluga, visiting both the western and eastern islands of the archipelago.

Group, 19 May & 2 Jun 2022
14 days, from £10,995
Our inaugural Festival of Bears tour ran in 2015 and the ‘Festival format’ was a huge success so we’re delighted, by popular demand, to once again be offering the holiday in 2021. We’ll be based for five nights at Knight Inlet Lodge, tucked away in a cove amidst one of British Columbia’s most beautiful fjords, and only accessible by floatplane from Vancouver Island. It is in the heart of the Great Bear Rainforest, a vast area of spruce and fir forest where mist hangs eerily over inlets at dawn, bald eagles yell from dead trees and harlequin ducks scuttle over inky water in a whirr of wings. But the main draw for us, is that the Great Bear Rainforest (as its name suggests) supports one of the world’s last sustainable populations of brown and black bears – and the bear viewing and bear photography opportunities here are fantastic.

In September vast numbers of adult Pacific salmon head for the rivers in which they were spawned, to breed and then die. To sit on one of the bear-viewing platforms and see fish flow in their hundreds under you, each bound for a rill it has not visited in years, is an extraordinary sight. Add grizzly bears to the scene, eager to take advantage of this seasonal glut of food, and you have one of nature’s most exciting spectacles. We’ll make daily excursions to watch for bears (and other wildlife) from viewing platforms - and, with luck, enjoy close views of the iconic sight of grizzly bears fishing for salmon in the rivers. Our lodge is located on an ‘elbow’ of Glendale Cove and, in October, humpbacks and orca are present (both resident ‘fish-catching specialists’ and transients). Pacific white-sided dolphins are found in the nearby waters of Johnson Strait, and we’ll spend time looking for cetaceans, including bubble-net feeding humpback whales, and seabirds.

For this special trip we’ll be taking over the whole of Knight Inlet Lodge, which is spacious, comfortable, fantastically located and the food is delicious. Our Festival programme includes daily wildlife excursions, as well as talks and guidance from our expert team. Broadcaster, wildlife photographer and zoologist Mark Carwardine will give evening presentations about the local wildlife as well as photographic tuition and workshops, while local naturalists will also be on hand.

The standout highlight of the trip though, is a chance to spend uninterrupted time in the Great Bear Rainforest – it feels ancient and extraordinary, a place where time stands still and wildlife reigns. Apart from grizzly (and black) bears, this is the home of beaver, bald eagle and a fabulous array of marine mammals. But this is a Festival of Bears, and we never lose sight of our main object - within an hour of arriving at Knight Inlet Lodge you should be watching grizzlies, so please do come and join the feast!
Festival of Bears

In 2021 our popular Festival of Bears returns to one of our favourite locations for bear watching – Knight Inlet in Glendale Cove, western Canada. Renowned conservationist Mark Carwardine and Wildlife Worldwide Founder, Chris Breen, accompany a special visit to the Great Bear Rainforest to see grizzlies at prime time.

Group, 30 Sep 2021
9 days, from £7,495
4-day whale watching pre-tour extension, from £1,495
4-day Spirit Bear post-tour extension, from £4,495

“It was exactly as advertised – BEARS and so much more. We loved the experience of flying by floatplane to Knight Inlet Lodge, which was a fantastic place to stay. The accommodation was superb and the food was top class. The activities on offer were numerous and very well done.”

Chris D, Festival of Bears, October 2018
This summer, Wildlife Travel Consultant Emma Healey joined our voyage to Wrangel Island, which boasts the highest density of denning polar bears in the world, and sightings of this icon of the Arctic certainly ‘came thick and fast’, along with a supporting cast of bowhead whales, dolphins, snowy owls, Arctic foxes and more.

If you long for ‘remote’, Wrangel Island fits the bill. Just 150km long and situated in the Arctic Ocean between two seas, the East Siberian and the Chukchi, Wrangel Island is not only a long way from anywhere, but has a couple of unusual claims to fame. It has the world’s largest density of denning polar bears (which has earned it the nickname ‘polar bear maternity ward’), and it is known to be the last place on Earth where woolly mammoths roamed. Only accessible to visitors for a few weeks during the brief Arctic summer, the island is uninhabited apart from its rangers, and only a handful of people are lucky enough to visit each year. So when offered the chance to join our voyage to Wrangel Island this summer, I started packing my bags!

Polar bears are the biggest draw to the island. Our first sighting was during a Zodiac cruise to see kittiwakes, glaucous gulls, and horned and crested puffins nesting on cliffs. A call on the radio announced: ‘We have a PB on the beach’, and our ears pricked up. It was a young bear, curled up and resting on the shoreline. I’ve wanted to see one for so long, seeing it in the flesh took my breath away. After that, the polar bear sightings came thick and fast. The next day, a distant bear with two young cubs by her side was seen on the pack-ice. They approached our ship, walking, jumping and swimming across the icy landscape, eventually striding past the bow of the ship, close enough to be in its shadow. They sniffed the air and looked us straight in the eye before continuing their hunt. An indescribable experience. We saw at least 50 bears during our trip – and a staggering 16 before breakfast on one day!

There’s more to this Arctic wilderness than polar bears though. The island and its surrounding ice-floes are home to a wealth of wildlife. At sea, kittiwakes hover above the vessel or use the handrails on deck to warm themselves in the sun; short-tailed shearwaters, guillemots, skuas and auklets disperse from the path of the ship; walruses lounge on the ice, basking in the sun; pods of energetic dolphins ride our bow-wave or forage in the water around us. And whales – grey and humpbacks – are here, as well as a true specialist of the far north, the bowhead. On one occasion, a 200-year-old bowhead whale swam up from under the bow of the boat right next to us, surprising everyone. It slowly revealed itself, then disappeared back under the water. Extraordinary!

Wrangel Island itself has a sweeping rocky landscape of hills and valleys peppered with grasses and wildflowers, as well as marshy areas with endless tufts of Arctic cotton. The valleys of the interior provide shelter for residents such as musk ox, Arctic fox and snowy owls, while lemmings, ground squirrels and pikas make their homes amongst the rocks and scree. Long-tailed and pomarine skuas, and grey and Pacific golden plovers fly across the tundra guarding their nests; in the marshes, sandpipers and phalaropes wade through small ponds foraging. We saw snowy owl on a hillside and colonies of snow geese, while snow buntings whistle as they forage on the edge of towns.

For sure, Wrangel Island is remote. But you won’t be there alone. If visiting a true wilderness region, bursting at the seams with incredible wildlife, is your thing, I can’t recommend it enough.

Wrangel Island with Mark Carwardine

This expedition voyage visits remote Wrangel Island on the ‘roof of the world’, with renowned zoologist and author Mark Carwardine, and landscape photographer Joe Cornish plus other wildlife experts, to enjoy a multitude of encounters with polar bears and other iconic Arctic birds and wildlife.

Group, 18 Jul 2020
18 days, from £13,395
Join one of our Around Spitsbergen voyages which go in search of seabird colonies, and mammals such as Arctic fox, walrus, seals and polar bear amongst some of the most beautiful scenery on Earth. Visit the 14th of July Glacier, vast auk colonies, look for Beluga whales in ice-floes and much more …

Spitsbergen is the largest island in the Svalbard Archipelago and only a few hours’ flight from the UK, yet this is an extraordinary land of dramatic mountains, tundra, glaciers and icebergs. Our 10-day and 12-day Around Spitsbergen voyages aim to circumnavigate Spitsbergen itself, and also visit some of the archipelago’s smaller islands, if ice conditions permit. Distances are relatively short between sites of interest in the archipelago, so there will be plenty of opportunities to explore in Zodiacs, or make landings.

The wildlife watching around Spitsbergen is exceptional: the impressive Monaco Glacier is a favourite feeding spot for thousands of kittiwakes; opportunist Arctic foxes patrol cliffs for young birds falling from nesting ledges; bearded seals cruise scenic fjords; little auk colonies 200,000-strong compete for space on sea cliffs; walrus wallow in lagoons. Beluga whales can be seen in ice-floes, and there’s always the possibility of the ultimate Arctic encounter – the mighty polar bear.

Our Around Spitsbergen cruises all follow a similar itinerary and operate between May and September each year, aboard a variety of carefully selected ships. Highlights include cruising along the sculpted face of the 14th July Glacier in Zodiacs; looking for polar bears on Phippsøya Island, one of the most northerly islands in the Svalbard Archipelago, and seeing herds of wallowing walrus around Moffen island. In Ny Ålesund, the world’s most northerly settlement, there’s a chance to view artefacts belonging to famous Arctic explorers including Amundsen, and there’s a breeding ground for barnacle goose, pink-footed goose and Arctic tern near the village.

We offer a variety of voyages to the Svalbard Archipelago, including one focusing on north Spitsbergen and a special Festival of Wildlife (see opposite). For further information about all of our Spitsbergen expedition voyages, including Around Spitsbergen detailed above, visit our website or contact our expert team.
Our ship slips quietly through the sea. We are heading north from Spitsbergen towards one of the smaller islands of the Svalbard Archipelago – the only land between our ship and the North Pole. It’s midsummer in the High Arctic, and the sky is a washed-out blue, the colour of faded jeans. So far, I’ve seen puffins flying fast and low across the water; chunks of ice the size of a small house calve from glaciers; and blue whales – their breath visible as it condenses in near-freezing air, just 15 metres from our ship … but no polar bears. Not yet.

Slowly, the tiny island we’re heading for begins to take shape, its two distant peaks looming ever larger until we pass right between them and drop anchor in a protected cove. All I can hear is the sound of breaking waves and bird calls ringing around the mountains. I head out on deck and see ivory gulls, one of the Arctic’s most endangered species. The gulls’ pure white adult plumage is perfectly adapted to blend in with snow and ice. Spitsbergen is one of the species’ last strongholds, but much is still unknown about their full range.

We spot the distinctive blubbery outline of walruses on the shoreline and set off in Zodiacs to take a closer look. Approaching as quietly as possible, we are close enough to make out details on their bodies with the naked eye. Excited about our morning’s Arctic wildlife viewing, we return to the ship. However, as soon as we step back onboard there is a message, the news we’ve all been waiting for, given on the ship’s tannoy – ‘Polar bear spotted onshore!’

We pull our warm clothes on again and climb back into the Zodiacs. There’s an air of hushed excitement in the group as we approach the shore, quietly and carefully. Then I get my first glimpse – a large female. I’ve seen bears in the wild before but I’m struck by the size of this, my first polar bear, as she feeds on a walrus carcass. After eating her fill, she makes herself comfortable on the beach and lies down, surveying her surroundings.

Crouching down in the Zodiacs, we drift past the bear several times. Each pass brings us a tiny bit closer, and by the time we make our final pass we’re within 15 metres of her. This was why I had come to Spitsbergen – for the chance of seeing a polar bear in her own realm. I’m excited, impressed, humbled … the memory of that huge white form etched indelibly in my mind.
From the vast wildlife populations of the sub-Antarctic to the magnificent scenery of the Antarctic Peninsula, this voyage offers arguably the ultimate Antarctic experience. Huge penguin rookeries, bow-riding dolphins, albatrosses, fur seals and whales await those who voyage here, along with some of the world’s most breathtaking scenery.

Sailing from Ushuaia in Argentina, this 17 to 20-day expedition offers the most comprehensive Antarctic wildlife voyage, combining visits to the best sub-Antarctic and Antarctic wildlife hotspots with a chance to see some of the region’s most impressive scenery. Optional adventures such as camping and kayaking are also available on selected ship departures.

You will receive a warm welcome from the residents of the Falkland Islands, where you explore some of the privately owned outlying islands, home to great concentrations of wildlife. Flightless steamer ducks, Magellanic and gentoo penguins are just some of the highlights on Carcass Island, while nearby West Point boasts fantastic rockhopper penguin colonies. Peale’s and Commerson’s dolphins are often seen along the coast, or riding the bow wave alongside your vessel.

Next you enjoy two days of pelagic whale and birdwatching – perhaps with the odd wandering albatross wheeling overhead for company – and cross the Antarctic Convergence before arriving at the remote, rugged and hauntingly beautiful island of South Georgia. This sub-Antarctic island has astonishing concentrations of wildlife as well as awe-inspiring scenery ranging from impressive mountains and mighty glaciers, to deep fjords and low-lying grassland. Renowned as a superb destination for birders, many species breed here including wandering albatross, southern giant petrel, and Antarctic fur seal; and hiking glaciated terrain to hilltops will give you magnificent views of king penguin rookeries. The island also played a significant role in Ernest Shackleton’s epic journey after the sinking of his ship, the Endurance, and you will visit his grave at Grytviken, a once-active whaling station.

Your exploration of the Peninsula will include visits to penguin rookeries, research stations and encounters with marine mammals and iceberg-filled channels. Sightings and encounters vary from trip to trip and, although it is impossible to specify exactly what you’ll see, we are confident you will not be disappointed.

Great Antarctic Voyage

This ultimate Antarctic experience combines the phenomenal wildlife of the sub-Antarctic Islands of the Falklands and South Georgia, with the pristine beauty of the Antarctic Peninsula. Explore dramatic wilderness areas and visit huge penguin colonies, all amongst hauntingly beautiful polar scenery.

Group, Nov-Mar
17 to 20 days, from £11,675 (excludes flights)
**Classic Antarctica**

South Shetland Islands & Antarctic Peninsula

An incredible voyage visiting prime wildlife sites along the Antarctic Peninsula and in the nearby South Shetland Islands. Our 10-day and 11-day Classic Antarctica itineraries offer a perfect introduction to the Antarctic and a host of its wildlife including elephant seals, huge penguin rookeries and seals.

The Antarctic Peninsula is the most accessible part of the great White Continent, with some of the best scenery and wildlife. All our Classic Antarctica voyages include as much wildlife watching as possible, while allowing you plenty of time to enjoy the region’s breathtaking scenery of ice-choked waterways, glaciers, blue-streaked icebergs and rugged mountains along the way. There are more whales and dolphins here than anywhere else on Earth. You may be accompanied by a school of porpoising hourglass dolphins, follow a pod of orca as they hunt amongst ice-floes, or spot the powdery white blow of a humpback whale in front of an iceberg.

Your journey begins and ends in the southernmost town in the world, Ushuaia, in Tierra del Fuego. You then travel across the infamous Drake Passage, accompanied by albatrosses and other seabirds, watching for whales and dolphins en route. Your first stop will be the South Shetland Islands, where you visit enormous penguin rookeries, land on beaches ruled by Antarctic fur seals, and observe wallowing elephant seals. A highlight of your visit will be sailing into the flooded volcanic caldera of Deception Island, and perhaps even taking a dip in its warm thermal waters. Your onboard expedition team will attempt an average of two landings each day (weather conditions permitting).

You then move on to the Antarctic Peninsula itself, where you will have plenty of time to experience the special magic of this awe-inspiring wilderness. You visit enormous rookeries of gentoo, chinstrap and Adélie penguins, and see Antarctic cormorants, kelp gulls and Cape petrels, snowy sheathbill and many other birds. You are also likely to see Weddell, crab eater and leopard seals, while orca, humpback and minke whales are often encountered at close range.

Depending on ice and weather conditions, the voyage will include visits to: Paradise Harbour (filled with a dazzling number of icebergs); the Neumayer and Lemaire Channels (extraordinarily beautiful waterways choked with ice between towering rock faces and spectacular glaciers); Port Lockroy (with thriving colonies of penguins); and Peterman Island (with Adélie and gentoo penguins, skuas and Antarctic cormorants).

Finally, you will head back north across the Drake Passage before rounding Cape Horn and making your way back to Ushuaia.

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**Classic Antarctica**

This voyage offers a perfect introduction to the Antarctic, visiting prime wildlife sites along the Peninsula and in the nearby South Shetland Islands. Encounter huge rookeries of gentoo, chinstrap and Adélie penguins, beaches adorned with wallowing elephant seals, plus whales and dolphins along the way.

Group, Nov-Mar

10 or 11 days, from £6,775 (excludes flights)

sales@wildlifeworldwide.com | 01962 302055 | www.wildlifeworldwide.com
Our range of dedicated wildlife photography tours and workshops grows year on year and we are delighted to work with numerous talented photographers. Be sure to order our photography brochure to discover our full range of tours.

At Wildlife Worldwide, we offer over 35 dedicated small group Photography Tours and Workshops to suit all abilities. Our collection of holidays has been designed to offer the perfect combination of outstanding wildlife viewing, exceptional photography opportunities and expert tuition. All of our holidays are led by expert photographers, most of whom have won awards and have a wealth of technical skills and field experience.

On all our Photography Tours, you will have plenty of opportunity to develop your technical skills through a series of informal workshops ‘in the field’. Suitable for all levels, from basic to advanced, the workshops cover a variety of photographic techniques and skills relevant to the subject matter and/or particular habitat. Our expert photographic leaders will offer as much one-to-one time and tuition as is feasible, and the pace of the trips is such that there is ample time to get the most from the photographic potential of each location.

Our Top Picks for 2020/21

**Finland: Brown Bear Photography with Tom Mason**
Join wildlife photographer Tom Mason in Finland’s taiga forest. Use specialist hides for brown bear and wolverine, taking advantage of the best light during the long summer evenings.
Group, 1 Jun 2020
6 days, from £2,195

**Ethiopia: A Unique Wonder with Ben Cherry**
Join environmental photojournalist and conservationist Ben Cherry on a trip through Ethiopia and discover an entirely different take on African wildlife photography.
Group, 18 Nov 2020
15 days, from £5,495

**Japan’s Winter Wildlife with Bret Charman**
This dedicated photography tour reveals Japan’s unique and renowned wildlife – Steller’s sea eagles, Japanese cranes, Blakiston’s fish owl, and Japanese macaques.
Group, 27 Jan 2021 & 17 Feb 2022
11 days, from £5,695

**Austria: Close-Up on Alpine Nature with Nick Garbutt & Alex Hyde**
Visit the Austrian Tyrol in June for a spectacular show of wildflowers and an array of butterflies and other insects. This is the perfect time for wildlife and macro photography.
Group, 12 Jun 2021
8 days, from £2,295
To view our full range of Photography Tours, you can order our Photography Brochure on our website or call the team on 01962 302055.
In common with so many, my introduction to Komodo came courtesy of David Attenborough. Zoo Quest for a Dragon was first broadcast in 1956 and it took Sir David and the film crew some four months to reach the Indonesian island from the UK. Today, the journey is easily manageable in less than three days.

Seeing Komodo dragons, the world’s largest lizard, has been on my bucket list for some time and during a recent tour this ambition was finally fulfilled. On our first morning, local ranger guides took us at first light on a walk along a dry riverbed, and then onto a hillside covered in parched grassland and dense bushes. The first dragon took everyone by surprise: it rounded a corner, walking towards us and we almost walked into it. It was huge, easily three metres or more in length. We were forced to promptly scurry backwards to give it space. The swaggering, sinuous left-and-then-right gait made its movement deceptively cumbersome, but we were all well aware of its capabilities and potential impressive turn of speed. As it advanced, its long forked tongue flicked in and out repeatedly, constantly ‘tasting’ and assessing its surroundings.

The dragon moved off the path and began to climb the hillside towards slopes which were warming up quickly in the sun. Then another large dragon appeared from further up-slope and lumbered across a patch of open savannah. I felt as though I was looking through a window onto a prehistoric scene with the voice of Dickie Attenborough this time in my ears, saying: ‘Welcome to Jurassic Park’.

Staying aboard a very comfortable schooner (known locally as a phinisi) proved to be the ideal way to visit the area, allowing us the flexibility to visit different sites on both Komodo and the neighbouring island of Rinca, to maximise our encounters with dragons. There were also plenty of opportunities to snorkel around coral reefs and even swim with manta rays.

Lying due north of Komodo is the island of Sulawesi, which is also part of the vast Indonesian archipelago. This is arguably the world’s most biologically complex island and provides a perfect complementary destination to Komodo. Resembling a squiggly character from a mysterious oriental script in shape, what we now call Sulawesi was once four separate islands with disparate origins, hence the island’s fauna and flora comprises a mélange of species with affinities from South-east Asia, Australasia and the Pacific region: there are monkeys and marsupials sharing the same space.

In Tangkoko National Park on the far north-eastern arm of Sulawesi, live crested black macaques, infamous for their inquisitive disposition and taking ‘selfies’. At first light they can often be found combing the black lava-sand beach. On the recent tour we were surrounded by a troop of 50 or more individuals on a couple of occasions and were able to just sit amongst them as they foraged, groomed and played with one another, all of which provided wonderful intimate opportunities for photography. In addition, Tangkoko is also an excellent place to see and photograph spectral tarsiers.

If you would like to join Nick on our next photography tour combining Komodo and Sulawesi, contact our expert team on 01962 302055.
Primates & Komodo Dragons with Nick Garbutt

Explore the islands of Indonesia with acclaimed wildlife photographer Nick Garbutt in search of some of Asia’s most unique and iconic wildlife.

Group, 7 Sep 2022
15 days, from £7,495

images by Nick Garbutt

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Brazil’s vast Pantanal wetland covers an area the size of England and Scotland combined. It’s only possible to access a small part of it, and from the minute you join the main entry route – the 147-kilometre-long dirt track known as the Transpanteneira – you get a taste of the teeming mass of wildlife that lives here. On either side of the road are fields, riverbeds and marshes full of herons, ibises, hawks, parakeets and macaws – just a few of the 650 or so bird species recorded here. Among the host of exciting mammals that call this wetland home is South America’s apex predator, the jaguar – and, with roughly one per 15 square kilometres, it’s definitely not somewhere to pop out for a morning run!

I was here to research our new 12-day small group photo safari. My first stop was at ‘Jaguar Lake’, a small isolated body of water south of the Piquirí River away from the main tourist area… and packed with wildlife. Having seen an anaconda and giant river otters en route, we were then greeted by a pair of king vultures. We saw a fantastic array of birds including vultures, roseate spoonbills, hawks, parakeets, toucans and sunbitterns. Along with Brazilian tapirs – which were the most common visitors to the lake, using it like a spa – mammals here included marsh and brocket deer, giant anteater, coati and ocelot. I spent two days, from sunrise to sunset, sitting on a platform in the lake in silent anticipation. My patience was rewarded – highlights included a giant anteater walking past, caiman crunching catfish a couple of metres away and, best of all, a stunning maned wolf walking on elegant, stilted legs over to the lake to drink. Incredible!

Next we took a boat to SouthWild Jaguar Retreat in the heart of the ‘Jaguar Zone’, where our quest to see jaguars began in earnest. Thanks to the local fisherman, these naturally elusive cats have become habituated to humans, and make fairly regular appearances along the local rivers and channels. Our luck was in – the first individual we saw was sitting under a tree as we turned into the Cuiabá River.

The following morning, we spotted a jaguar lying on the bank, not far from our lodge. Ours was the only boat (one of the benefits of staying at Jaguar Retreat); we anchored up and sat silently with her. She was definitely aware of us, but very relaxed and, after a few minutes, two tiny cubs poked their heads out from the tree a few metres from her. We were the first to see and photograph the cubs, so were able to name them. What an honour! In total, over four days, we saw ten individual jaguars.

Although jaguars are the obvious draw, there is so much else to see in the Pantanal. Giant river otters bob in and out of the water; capybaras sit along the riverbanks munching on grass; huge jabiru storks stand on riverside ‘beaches’, shaking the flies off before awkwardly launching themselves into the air; caiman duck in and out of the water and, everywhere, there are birds! One sunset, we sped along the river as the fireflies started to appear. Soon we were surrounded by a myriad sparkling green lights – it was a truly magical sight!

If you would like to join Emma in 2021 for our new Pantanal Photo Safari visiting the north Pantanal contact our expert team by calling 01962 302055 or by email.
NEW North Pantanal Photo Safari

Join wildlife photographer Emma Healey as she returns to the Pantanal in search of its most famous residents, including jaguars, giant river otters and Brazilian tapirs, alongside a wealth of incredible birds. In addition to extended time on the river, we’ll visit a remote lake where it’s possible to capture a unique range of images as a fascinating array of mammals come to drink in the heat of the day.

Group, 6 Oct 2021
12 days, from £5,995

Images by Emma Healey
As proud sponsors of a category in the Bird Photographer of the Year competition, we’re delighted to bring you a new and exciting bird photography tour to Colombia – the country with more birds than any other on the planet. It promises to be an incredible journey through spectacular scenery (we cover all three of Colombia’s Andean mountain ranges), celebrating some of the most jaw-dropping species anywhere in the world, all in the company of one of our wildlife photographers – Bret Charman.

The tour starts on the forested slopes of Colombia’s western Andes where we’ll spend three nights in a wonderfully located guesthouse, surrounded by moss-festooned cloud forest. It’s the perfect spot for photography (and we’ll have it all to ourselves), with hummingbird and tanager feeders attracting a dazzling array of species including the endemic multicoloured tanager – a star attraction of the area. Other highlights include golden-headed quetzal, booted racket-tail, and golden-naped tanager, while surrounding locations might produce toucan barbet, lyre-tailed nightjar, and velvet-purple coronet, to mention just a few.

Moving on to our next location we’ll make a stop at a known haunt for the spectacularly beautiful ruby-topaz hummingbird – a hummer that’s sure to get pulses racing. The cloud forested reserve of Rio Blanco will be our next base and offers wonderful opportunities for such beauties as white-capped tanager, pearled tree-runner, black-billed mountain-toucan and masked saltator. Here we’ll also have the opportunity to photograph up to five different species of skulking antpittas, including the endemic brown-banded and the striking chestnut-crowned varieties, while further hummingbird photography is possible with species such as long-tailed sylph, bronzy Inca and tourmaline sunangel – all regulars around the lodge gardens.

Our next lodge is a beautiful highland retreat, nestled in otherworldly páramo habitat with naturally occurring thermal hot springs – the perfect antidote to a long day of photography. Hummingbird highlights might include the endemic buffy helmetcrest, rainbow-bearded thorntail, golden-breasted pufflegs and mountain velvet-breast. We’ll also be on the look-out for several impressive raptors such as black-chested buzzard-eagle and Andean condor, as well as some of the most breathtaking mountain tanagers in existence, including scarlet-bellied, buff-breasted, lacrimose and hooded varieties. The scenery is amongst the most beautiful in all Colombia, so don’t forget to pack a wide-angle lens.

Having enjoyed the thermal hot springs and stunning high-altitude birds of Colombia’s central Andes, we’ll move on to the quaint colonial town of Jardin. Here we have fabulous opportunities to take intimate shots of Andean cock-of-the-rock, while in a scenic reserve above town we’ll also try our luck for the rare yellow-eared parrot, as well other tantalising species including purplish-mantled tanager, tanager finch and chestnut-crested cottinga. The tour concludes in Colombia’s eastern Andean range where several endemic species await, such as Bogotá rail and silvery-throated spinetail. Hummers will once again be in abundance (surely you can’t have enough hummingbirds on a photography tour and, in total, we’re likely to photograph 30-40 species) with such stunners as blue-throated starfrontlet, sword-billed hummingbird and black-tailed trainbearer all possible. We plan to end the tour as it started, by photographing one of Colombia’s unique avian highlights – the endemic and breathtakingly beautiful green-bearded helmetcrest – a rare and truly emblematic high-altitude hummingbird species. With limited places we expect this tour to be popular, so do get in touch if you’re keen to join us on this celebration of South American bird photography.

Colombia
Bird Photography South American Style!

With more bird species than any other country, Colombia is a birder’s and photographer’s dream destination and we’re delighted to combine these twin passions in a new small group tour led by award-winning photographer Bret Charman.
NEW Colombia Bird Photography with Bret Charman

Join wildlife photographer Bret Charman on this pioneering new trip to photograph some of Colombia’s most spectacular birdlife, from an incredible range of hummingbirds and helmetcrests, to Andean cock-of-the-rock and numerous tanagers, such as the beautiful golden-hooded and multicoloured tanagers.

Group, 3 Sep 2020
16 days, £5,495
What’s your top wildlife experience?
I was lucky enough to go on our Wrangel Island voyage this year and one of the most incredible moments for me was watching a mother polar bear and her cub on the pack-ice, passing the ship through the beautiful sunrise mist. The light was exquisite, the sea perfectly still and you could hear the splashes as the bears came closer until they were right in the shadow of the boat, within metres of us. It was only as I started to feel light-headed, I realised I was holding my breath.

How did you get into wildlife photography?
I’ve always loved animals and nature and am lucky enough to have travelled to some fantastic places. I loved using my Mum’s camera when I was growing up, so she bought me my own … and I was hooked. I’m always looking for shots that capture an animal’s expression and/or behaviour. When you achieve that, along with perfect light, it’s an indescribable feeling.

Hottest place to visit in 2020 for keen photographers?
I would say Borneo or Costa Rica. Both are beautiful rainforest locations teeming with wildlife of all shapes and sizes. You can practise different techniques with birds and mammals, as well as macro photography with the frogs, snakes and insects, and come away with some great shots.

What got you into this job?
I was working in charity marketing, but on the look-out for something combining my three greatest passions – wildlife, travel and photography. I went along to one of the company’s Discover Wildlife events and met some of the team, and that sealed the deal.

What’s your best shot & how did you get it?
I went to Borneo and was so hoping to come away with a good orangutan image, but rainforest photography is always tricky. Walking through the forest close to Sepilok, I heard a rustle in the trees. My pulse quickened and I grabbed my camera. Within a couple of seconds, I was face to face with a young orangutan. It stopped in its tracks for a second. I quickly grabbed two frames before it carried on, passing next to me only a few centimetres away.

Which wildlife place has most surprised you?
It has to be Brazil. From the moment our truck got onto the Transpantaneira, I fell in love with the Pantanal. The variety of wildlife, the tantalising possibility of seeing a jaguar, giant anteater or giant river otter at any time, while surrounded by capybaras, toco toucans, herons, ibis and other colourful birds is mesmerising.

Where next?
First up, I’m delighted to be leading two of our Skomer trips next summer. Skomer is incredible for refining your photography skills and I look forward to returning. I also love primates, so I’m really keen to go and explore more of Indonesia and Malaysia – to see more orangutans as well as some of the rarer species.
Below is a selection of our small group photography holidays for 2020. To view our complete selection please visit our website, or contact our expert team to order our dedicated Photography Tours brochure.

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<td>Ethiopia – A Unique Wonder</td>
<td>7 Feb 2020 (full)</td>
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<td>Japan</td>
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All holiday prices in this brochure are based on two people sharing, including flights from the UK (except where specified*), accommodation, transfers and the services of an expert leader/photographer. Prices correct at the time of print. For full details call our expert Wildlife Worldwide team.
Wildlife Photography

Competition Winners 2019

We are excited to reveal the winning images for the Wildlife Worldwide Photography Competition 2019. We had over 400 entries and the quality, once again, was remarkable. We had three different categories to choose from, which included Wildlife Portraits, Animal Action and the Wildlife Portfolio. It was a tough process narrowing down the entries into a shortlist and picking the winners for each category and then the overall winner.

We are delighted to announce the winner is Peter Whitehead and his stunning photograph of a bison in Yellowstone National Park, in the USA.

Overall Winner & Wildlife Portraits Winner – Peter Whitehead

This stunning image definitely meets the criteria as a wildlife portrait, but it was the quality of the image that shone through. The striking tones and contrast of the bison against its snowy realm, combined with the wonderful depth of field was what made the image stand out from the other contenders. Photographing a dark subject in such surroundings is no easy task. Peter wins a £500 voucher from Vanguard and a place on our three-day Skomer’s Perfect Puffins Photography Tour.

Our Sponsors

A huge thank you must go to all of our sponsors: Vanguard, Opticron and Rohan. Without their support we wouldn’t have been able to provide such a wonderful array of prizes to our deserved winners.

Please visit www.wildlifeworldwidephotographycompetition.com/winners2019 to see all the winning images.
Our panel of judges was blown away by not only the quality, but also the number of entries in our Wildlife Portfolio category. The judges finally settled on Andy’s stunning collection of images from Brazil. The portfolio perfectly captured a number of species in this stunning destination. You can see the full portfolio on the competition website. Andy wins a Rohan ‘shopping experience’ worth £500.

This was the category that had our judges going backwards and forwards for many hours. In the end they chose this fabulous image of a grizzly bear, at the famous Brooks Falls in Alaska. It was the timing of the shot, and hitting the brief perfectly, that clinched the win for Nick and his prize is an Opticon voucher worth £500.
Due to its location and geology, the Dordogne combines Atlantic, Continental and Mediterranean habitats and their species. The farming practices in the Dordogne are less intensive, and therefore more in harmony with wildlife, than in many parts of western Europe and include plenty of rough ground. With numerous rivers, streams and ponds (often with undisturbed banks), hot summers and short winters, the climate and landscape is somewhat reminiscent of southern England.

In early spring we search for some special birds: most notably wallcreeper on the cliffs and chateaux of the Vézère and Dordogne Valleys. We’ve never failed to find this sought-after species on these holidays, and we have seen up to three in one day. Black woodpecker, Alpine accentor, eagle owl and black-winged kite add to the bird interest. To increase birding variety still further, we now fly in to Bordeaux, which allows us to visit the famous Le Teich coastal wetland reserve in Arcachon Bay and Bruges Marsh near the River Garonne in Bordeaux. Spoonbills and white storks are a couple of the attractions here.

Our May holiday is a general introduction to the flora and fauna of Dordogne. The mosaic of habitats here makes Dordogne an excellent place to discover a large array of wildflowers. Orchids are at their peak and we hope to find between 20 and 30 species, including tongue and woodcock. Also different spurges, squills, vetches and rockroses, to mention a few, are at their best. Birds are nesting and so we will keep a sharp eye and ear out for hoopoe, nightingale, Bonelli’s warbler and short-toed eagle. Butterflies are varied and there should be Cleopatra, swallowtails and a suite of small fritillaries. The tour also includes a prehistoric cave trip (in a small electric train), where hibernating bear pits pre-date the 15,000-year-old cave paintings and engravings. A boat trip in Bergerac should give us close-up views of nesting black kites to round off the trip.

In June the area enjoys its peak diversity of flora and fauna and we concentrate on these riches across a wide range of habitats. Since last year we have been fortunate to have Corine Oosterlee, a well known local botanist, as co-leader of our May and June holidays. Late orchids and the rich sub-Mediterranean stony limestone grasslands are perhaps most impressive but on the sandy ground, heath lobelia and Kerry lily are also special plants. Birds of high summer include golden oriole, honey buzzard and red-backed shrike. Butterflies are at their peak with species such as large chequered skipper and false ringlet flying over wet heath, and lesser purple emperor plus large graylings and fritillaries in the forests and meadows. Dragonflies and damselflies are plentiful with species including orange-spotted emerald, violet dropping and copper demoiselle.

The area has many other attractions in addition to its wildlife, including beautiful chateaux, pretty villages with markets, plus superb local gastronomy and wines. Less tangible is the serene tranquillity of the place. These ‘value-added’ aspects are very much a part of the holiday, as we immerse ourselves in the enticing aura of Dordogne.

**The Dordogne in Early Spring**

Join local expert David Simpson as we go in search of wallcreepers, Alpine accentor, five species of woodpecker and migrant common cranes.

*Group, 2 Mar 2020 & 26 Feb 2021*  
*5 days, from £1,245*
Spring Birds, Orchids & Prehistory in Wild Dordogne

Designed as a gentle introduction to the wildlife riches and prehistory of the Dordogne, this tour offers birds, orchids and prehistory in abundance.

Group, 9 May 2020 & 8 May 2021
8 days, from £1,675

Birds, Butterflies & Wildflowers of the Dordogne

June sees bird numbers peak and a wealth of butterflies, up to 120 species, take to the wing amidst stunning wildflower meadows, orchid-filled woodlands and water meadows.

Group, 13 Jun 2020 & 12 Jun 2021
8 days, from £1,675
As the world’s charismatic mammals become ever more accessible, as mammal-lovers chalk up encounters with snow leopard, red panda, Sunda clouded leopard and spectacled bear, there is still an uncrossed frontier in mammal watching: it is small mammals. Worldwide, our knowledge of mice, voles, shrews and bats is shockingly poor, so much so that cryptic species and new species are described all the time.

Even Europe – right on our doorstep – offers excellent small mammal watching, with many restricted or specialist species to be found. Teaming up with long-term monitoring projects for both terrestrial small mammals and bats – ensuring animals and their habitats are disturbed no more than is necessary for research – our new cutting edge Hungary’s Rare Mammals holiday visits two wonderful Hungarian protected areas and crosses the border to spend a day in neighbouring Slovakia. Our leader, Sandor Boldogh, is acknowledged as Hungary’s foremost authority on small mammals and has published widely on them. He is supported by rangers from the areas we visit, whose work involves monitoring bat roosts and populations of other mammals.

Our first site is the Zemplén Hills, a spur of the Carpathian Mountains in the far north of Hungary. This is the country’s most densely forested region and, in addition to outstanding birdlife, it is a superb site for mammals. In old churches and caves in this unspoiled landscape, important summer roosts are used by a remarkable range of bats. Visiting with routine surveys, we may see alcathoe, whiskered, Daubenton’s, pygmy and Nathusius’s pipistrelle, Leisler’s, parti-coloured, western barbastelle and Schreiber’s bent-winged bats. We can also observe licensed mist-netting, giving us a chance of meeting Bechstein’s, Mediterranean horseshoe, Brandt’s, pond, Natterer’s, serotine, greater and lesser mouse-eared and grey long-eared bats in the hand. When not watching small mammals here our gaze is drawn to the sky, to the great circling primaries of golden and eastern imperial eagles, or the gauzy wings of Berger’s clouded yellow.

We next move to Aggtelek National Park, an extraordinary protected area of limestone karst and stalactite caves, which adjoins Slovak Karst National Park in Slovakia. Here there are roosts of lesser, greater and Mediterranean horseshoe bats and Geoffroy’s bats which number in the thousands. We can mist-net here too, and observe live mammal-trapping routinely carried out by park rangers. The list of small mammals which may be caught is both thrilling and bewildering. There are six shrews here, including both lesser and bicoloured white-toothed shrews, which, though charming, are fierce predators of invertebrates. In the hand, the differences between species pairs such as wood mouse and yellow-necked mouse, herb (Ural) field mouse and striped field mouse may clearly be seen, and the – unmistakably endearing – harvest mouse is often caught too.

Add visits to boxes used by hazel, forest and edible dormice and you have an unrivalled overview of the small mammals of Hungary. Up to 20 bat species may be seen, plus a similar number of other small mammals. With great birding, and larger mammals including wild boar, European badger and red deer also on offer, Hungary’s Rare Mammals is the perfect tour for lovers of Europe’s wilderness and its less known inhabitants.
NEW Hungary’s Rare Mammals

Visiting two beautiful, biodiverse Hungarian protected areas, plus one in Slovakia, accompanied by park rangers with years of experience monitoring small mammals, this exceptional tour offers the chance to see up to 20 species of bat, and a number of rodents and shrews.

Group, 13 Sep 2020
8 days, from £1,895
For many the idea of observing remarkable wildlife and experiencing true wilderness seems always to involve travelling to the planet’s most distant corners. Yet, in reality, this doesn’t have to be the case and you needn’t rack up the air miles to have memorable wildlife encounters. Whilst much of Europe has seemingly been developed beyond recognition, there are pockets of remaining wilderness that serve as strongholds for the continent’s beautiful, yet increasingly threatened, wildlife. Nowhere is this more evident than in southern Spain in the mountain ranges of Andújar and Cazorla.

On our brand new Wild Spain small group holiday, we spend a whole week in this pristine environment enjoying the wealth of wildlife that it supports. Staying in a charming, traditional guesthouse that provides comfortable accommodation, authentic Andalusian character and delicious food, we set out to explore this wild region of Iberia.

The gently rolling hills of the Sierra de Andújar have some of the best-preserved swathes of natural Mediterranean forest and scrubland in Spain. Weathered oak trees and grassy glades dominate with rocky outcrops punctuating the vegetation, and it is in this expanse of relatively undisturbed habitat that we have the best opportunity for seeing Iberian lynx, the world’s rarest cat. Almost extinct at the turn of the century, dedicated conservation efforts have brought the population back up to nearly 500, and the lynx are now, once again, breeding in the wild. With the aid of our private vehicles, and guides who have more knowledge and experience of the area than anyone else, we venture to the best locations for spotting these elusive felines.

The defining feature of this region of Spain is the biodiversity of species that can be observed here. The locations for lynx are also reliable places for encountering red deer, otter, wild boar and fallow deer. To help us see more of the wonderful species found in this southern Spanish wilderness, we also spend time at Sierra de Cazorla which is a haven for some of Europe’s great raptors, including golden eagle, booted eagle, peregrine falcon, griffon vulture and the iconic lammergeier. This is in addition to a good range of mammals which includes mouflon, Iberian ibex, red squirrel and red fox.

Our departures for Wild Spain are currently scheduled for the winter months which are the optimum time for wildlife observation on these south Iberian sierras and, in particular, increases our chance of seeing Iberian lynx. So, if you’re looking for a week of rewarding relaxed-pace wildlife watching, in stunning scenery and comfortable accommodation, accompanied by highly knowledgeable guides (plus some good company and delicious food and drink), all closer to home than you might expect, then Wild Spain is the perfect trip for you.

NEW Wild Spain

From the comfort of a delightful guesthouse we explore the Sierras de Andújar and Cazorla in southern Spain, enjoying the incredible biodiversity and wealth of wildlife in one Europe’s last remaining pockets of wilderness.

Group, 14 Dec 2020 & 11 Jan 2021
8 days, from £1,995
Here we highlight our upcoming small group wildlife holidays in this calendar. For further information call our expert team, or visit our website.

To book any of the small group holidays above, or for further information, please call our expert team on 01962 302055.
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<thead>
<tr>
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Responsible Travel
Making a Positive Impact

Sustainability and responsible travel are at the forefront of everyone’s minds and present us with issues that cannot be ignored. Here we outline some of the initiatives we have been supporting to help minimise our impact and travel responsibly.

It is almost impossible to turn on the radio or watch TV without hearing sobering messages about our planet’s precarious state. And, the issues of climate change, energy consumption and sustainability are on everyone’s minds as we move into the third decade of the 21st century. The message is clear – what we do now to cease our constant consumption of the planet’s resources will have lasting effects for future generations. However, the solutions can seem daunting and, faced with a task of such magnitude and severity, it’s easy to feel powerless.

At Wildlife Worldwide, we have always aimed to make a positive impact in the regions we visit and to support ground-level initiatives that make a real difference to habitats, wildlife and local communities.

I became hooked on wildlife and wildlife travel after visiting Zambia for the first time in the early 1980s. That was a long time ago now – it was back when there were 75,800 lions in Africa (there are now only about 20,000), there were a million elephants (there are now only about 400,000). It was when there were naturally occurring black rhino in the Luangwa Valley, although sadly I never saw any.

A couple of years later I became a walking safari guide in the Luangwa and in the early part of the tourist season we would often hear gunfire from poachers, and even occasionally come across poachers, or see the evidence of their gruesome work on our walks. It was these early experiences in Zambia that first taught me that if the wildlife had a real value to the local people in terms of tourism it would stand a much better chance of survival into the future. It isn’t all bad of course, there are some good news stories out there!

I am passionately committed to conservation – the preservation of wild habitats, and both the wildlife and people that inhabit them. A simple but sad truth is that wherever you look in the world, without sensitively organised tourism, vast tracts of unspoiled habitat are likely to fall victim to unchecked exploitation.

Wildlife tourism – the way we do it at Wildlife Worldwide – can be a major tool in promoting conservation, generating long-term benefits for the environment and communities alike. As a company we are committed to making a positive impact on the countries we visit. We take great care to hand-pick responsible suppliers, and also to use lodges and accommodations that support local communities. We also give a charity donation on behalf of everyone who travels with us – we have long supported some brilliant charities, and are always on the lookout for others.

Because of my own longstanding links to Zambia, Conservation South Luangwa (CSL) has been a cause close to our hearts for many years. We recently supported the K9 (detection dog) unit – a vital part of their anti-poaching operations. Since the dog programme began, their searches (of over 8,000 vehicles) have led to the arrest of over 100 people as well as the confiscation of firearms, tusks, and nine pangolins.

In Tanzania, another project we are supporting – the Serengeti De-Snaring Programme – employs teams of ex-poachers that move through the park, removing snares and freeing trapped animals. Since the programme began two years ago they have freed over 280 live animals.

We are also currently working on an exciting new project with the World Land Trust in Africa – details will soon be announced on our website, so watch this space!

Brazil’s Pantanal has seen a huge increase in tourism in the last decade, and another place close to our hearts. Being able to see wildlife, including charismatic species such as jaguars and maned wolves, behaving naturally in their environment can hugely contribute to the conservation of these species. For that reason, we now support The Caiman Ecological Refuge’s Oncafari Project which works to conserve the Pantanal’s population of jaguars and other wildlife. And, donations are all the more important following the devastating fires which recently swept across the area causing huge damage.

To help support these brilliant charities we pledge regular donations to CSL and are pleased to send an initial donation of £5,000 to The Caiman Ecological Refuge’s Oncafari Project. To find out more about these charities and how our donations are being used, please sign up to our e-newsletter and follow us on social media for updates.

Most recently Mel Kinder from our Marketing Department completed a staggering five marathons over five days in Kenya and raised a healthy £4,000 for Save the Rhino Trust.

By travelling with Wildlife Worldwide, you will be making a positive contribution to the local wildlife and local communities.
We create outstanding

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