

Islay Jura & Colonsay **“Geese, Eagles & Otters”**

October 18-23

The habitat? The most southerly of the Inner Hebrides. Sea-lochs, intertidal mudflats & saltmarsh, rugged summits, low moorland and flooded fields all combine to make Islay one of the most beautiful of all the Scottish islands – Queen of the isles! Adjacent lies wilder Jura and its famous “Paps” with beautiful Colonsay visible to the north.

The wildlife? Timed for the spectacular arrival of thousands of Barnacle & Greenland White-fronted Geese, an amazing site as 20,000 geese take to flight at dusk over the marshes. Golden Eagles soar over the summits, Otters play with their cubs along the rocky foreshore and Red-billed Choughs scavenge the fields. From the shores of Loch Indaal Great Northern Divers, Greater Scaup & Whooper Swans are regularly sighted, whilst a short ferry journey over to neighbouring Jura holds herds of roaming Red Deer, Hen Harrier & Merlin. Then beautiful Colonsay, with Peregrines, Golden Eagles and the lovely 30-acre House Garden. Wildlife & Whisky galore!

The itinerary? Plenty of time to cover all the major birding spots on Islay including Loch Indaal, Loch Gruinart with the RSPB Reserve, Machair Bay & The Rhinns of Islay. Super day’s excursions by ferry to both nearby Jura and further afield to Colonsay.

Accommodation? 5 nights at the elegant *Port Charlotte Hotel*, beautifully situated on the shores of Loch Indaal, with antique furnished rooms and excellent local produce freshly prepared in elegant but informal surroundings.

Cost: £895 [165 s/s]

Deposit: £200

B/L due: Aug. 18

Included in the cost: 5 nights dinner, bed & breakfast as described above, return ferry to Jura & Colonsay, all transportation and full guidance throughout.

Not included in the cost: Return journey from Glasgow Airport to Islay inc. ferry [approx. £87], travel insurance, lunches, drinks, gratuities & items of a personal nature.