



**BORDERS,  
EDINBURGH  
& FIFE**

# A Stone's Throw from Edinburgh: Puffins, Gannets and Salmon

Courtesy of Martin Webb



Courtesy of Philiphaugh

## Day 1

There's plenty of wildlife and nature to see in the heart of Edinburgh. Take a short walk up the Water of Leith for a chance to see dippers or climb up Arthur's Seat if you have time. Then head out on the A68 towards Melrose and Selkirk. Philiphaugh Estate just outside Selkirk is an excellent wildlife spot, particularly for spotting salmon. There's a visitor centre and restaurant and you may spot otters, red squirrels, roe deer, badgers, foxes, hares and a whole host of native birds.

## Day 2

From Selkirk, head east across country to St Abbs Head National Nature Reserve. Run by the National Trust for Scotland, the reserve is home to thousands of guillemots, kittiwakes, razorbills, shags, fulmars, puffins and herring gulls during the summer (April to August). One of the best ways to experience the magnificent Berwickshire coast is on a landrover safari. Join Clifftop Discovery and explore the coast, including the geological site of Hutton's classic 'unconformity' at Siccar Point.

## Day 3

Follow the coastal road north from St Abbs, stopping at the lovely dunes of Dunbar on the way. Further on from Dunbar is the pretty town of North Berwick which is home to the Scottish Seabird Centre. Open all year, this award-winning visitor centre, cafe and shop explores the wildlife-rich islands of the Firth of Forth. One of the main attractions is the Bass Rock which during the summer is home to over 80,000 pairs of North Atlantic gannets. That's almost 10% of the world population on one rock! You can get a closer look at the islands by joining Seafari Adventures boat trips from the Seabird Centre.

## Day 4

Today, head across to the Firth of Forth and explore the Kingdom of Fife. Take the Isle of May ferry (check website as sailing times vary) from Anstruther and visit the magnificent Isle of May. This National Nature Reserve is home to tens of thousands of seabirds during the summer, including puffins, razorbills, terns and shags. It's also a popular pupping spot for grey seals in the autumn.

## Day 5

Heading back to Edinburgh, stop at the picturesque village of Elie and walk out to Kincaig Head. This is a wonderful site for wildflowers such as sea campion and rockrose on the basalt cliffs. If you're feeling more adventurous, have a go at the 'Elie Chain Walk'. Head back to Edinburgh over the Forth Bridge.

### WILDLIFE HIGHLIGHTS

|                       | JAN | FEB | MAR | APR | MAY | JUN | JUL | AUG | SEPT | OCT | NOV | DEC |
|-----------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|------|-----|-----|-----|
| 1 <b>Salmon</b>       | ✓   | ✓   | ✓   | ✓   | ✓   | ✓   | ✓   | ✓   | ✓    | ✓   | ✓   | ✓   |
| 2 <b>Otter</b>        | ✓   | ✓   | ✓   | ✓   | ✓   | ✓   | ✓   | ✓   | ✓    | ✓   | ✓   | ✓   |
| 3 <b>Red squirrel</b> | ✓   | ✓   | ✓   | ✓   | ✓   | ✓   | ✓   | ✓   | ✓    | ✓   | ✓   | ✓   |
| 4 <b>Kittiwake</b>    |     |     | ✓   | ✓   | ✓   | ✓   | ✓   | ✓   |      |     |     |     |
| 5 <b>Gannet</b>       | ✓   | ✓   | ✓   | ✓   | ✓   | ✓   | ✓   | ✓   |      |     |     |     |
| 6 <b>Fulmar</b>       | ✓   | ✓   | ✓   | ✓   | ✓   | ✓   | ✓   | ✓   |      | ✓   | ✓   | ✓   |
| 7 <b>Puffin</b>       |     |     | ✓   | ✓   | ✓   | ✓   | ✓   | ✓   |      |     |     |     |
| 8 <b>Razorbill</b>    |     |     | ✓   | ✓   | ✓   | ✓   | ✓   | ✓   |      |     |     |     |
| 9 <b>Grey seal</b>    | ✓   | ✓   | ✓   | ✓   | ✓   | ✓   | ✓   | ✓   | ✓    | ✓   | ✓   | ✓   |
| 10 <b>Dipper</b>      | ✓   | ✓   | ✓   | ✓   | ✓   | ✓   | ✓   | ✓   | ✓    | ✓   | ✓   | ✓   |



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| ROUTE STATISTICS  |                   |
|-------------------|-------------------|
| Length            | 5 days / 4 nights |
| Mode of transport | Car               |
| Start/finish      | Edinburgh         |

**1 ANSTRUTHER PLEASURE CRUISES**  
Wildlife watching boat trip to the Isle of May National Nature Reserve in the Firth of Forth.  
**Tel: 01333 310054**  
**www.isleofmayferry.com**

**3 PHILIPHAUGH SALMON VIEWING CENTRE**  
Visitor centre and nature trails near Selkirk.  
**Tel: 01750 21766**  
**www.salmonviewingcentre.com**

**5 SCOTTISH SEABIRD CENTRE**  
Visitor centre about the wildlife of the Bass Rock and the islands of the Firth of Forth.  
**Tel: 01620 890202**  
**www.seabird.org**

**2 CLIFFTOP DISCOVERY**  
Guided off-road safari tours exploring the beautiful Berwickshire coast.  
**Tel: 01890 771838**  
**www.clifftopdiscovery.co.uk**

**4 PRESS MAINS COTTAGES**  
Self-catering accommodation. Perfect for wildlife enthusiasts.  
**Tel: 01890 771310**  
**www.watchbadgers.co.uk**

**6 SEAFARI ADVENTURES (FORTH)**  
Wildlife watching boat trips to the Isle of May and other islands in the Firth of Forth.  
**Tel: 0131 3314857**  
**www.seafari.co.uk**