

# Guided Wildlife Watching in the Shropshire Hills

**Trip style:**

**Destination:**  Shropshire Hills

**Trip code:** CHS04-WGW05



## HOLIDAY OVERVIEW

Step into the Shropshire Hills and discover its incredible wildlife with the help of an expert naturalist. Join a group of fellow nature enthusiasts and visit some of the region's best wildlife watching spots. Explore a wealth of landscapes and learn about the different species that make their home there. Listen for the calls and tapping of woodpeckers, red kites and red grouse and let the expertise of our naturalist leader showcase Shropshire's diverse array of wildlife at its very best.

## WHAT YOU'LL LOVE

- Daily guided visits to the area's best wildlife watching areas
- Guidance from an expert naturalist leader
- Visits to Carding Mill Valley, the Stiperstones Nature Reserve, and Wenlock Edge
- Chances to spot Shropshire's wealth of wildlife
- Relaxing at our country house in Church Stretton

## WHAT'S INCLUDED

- Comfortable en-suite accommodation in our country house
- Expert naturalist leader
- All transport throughout the itinerary
- Cream tea on arrival day
- Cooked or continental breakfast every morning
- Daily packed lunches
- Three-course evening meals, plus tea & coffee
- Easy-to-follow routes, maps, and information available in our Discovery Point if you want to explore independently.

## TRIP SUITABILITY

### Trip suitability

Though these holidays don't cover great distances on foot, they are still active. You'll be hopping on and off the coach and should expect to spend the majority of the day on your feet. Walking to the wildlife watching sites may take you across country tracks or footpaths and, at times, off the beaten track so be sure to bring sturdy shoes.

You should be able to manage stiles and slopes, some may feature in the itinerary.

## ITINERARY

### **Day 1:** Arrival Day

Check-in at the hotel is available from 16:00. If you are a member you can arrive at the house from 14:00 in 2026. Enjoy a complimentary cream tea at 16:30 and meet other guests. After dinner this evening, your expert naturalist will introduce themselves and the itinerary. They'll give an introductory talk on the local area's wildlife and what you're likely to see during your holiday.

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### **Day 2:** Carding Mill Valley

We'll begin exploring what's directly on our doorstep this morning, with a visit to Rectory Wood. The variety of habitats and vegetation here attracts a range of wildlife, from the tiny pseudoscorpion (average size is 4mm), to larger birds of prey. We'll then visit the Carding Mill Valley. Birdlife including Red Grouse and Red Kite, as well as insects are just a few of the species we might spot today.

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### **Day 3:** Clunton Coppice

Today we head into woodland cover where we'll search for amphibians and migratory birds such as the gorgeous sounding Wood Warbler. Later, we'll make the short journey to Bury Ditches where amongst other limestone species, we'll look for the gentle wood white butterfly (May-August). Plant and animal species we'll be looking out for today include Pied Flycatchers, Woodpecker, ferns, mosses, gentle wood white butterfly and fungi.

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### **Day 4:** Wenlock Edge

Wenlock Edge is a limestone landscape that stretches to the north-east of Church Stretton. On our final day, we'll stop at several sites along its length looking for limestone rarities and woodland birds. We'll end the day in Much Wenlock.

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### **Day 5:** Departure Day

Enjoy a leisurely breakfast before making your way home.

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## Longmynd Hotel

For rural calm in the Shropshire Hills National Landscape, the location of this characterful country house is hard to top. Set in a wooded hillside just a short stroll from the market town of Church Stretton (nicknamed Little Switzerland for its picturesque landscape), you'll be within walking or driving distance of the Stiperstones, Caer Caradoc, Ironbridge Valley of Invention, and the historic towns of Ludlow and Shrewsbury. And then, of course, there's the Long Mynd itself – an area of registered common land that has been cared for by a group of farmers (the self-named commoners) who have grazed sheep and ponies here for generations.

### **A warm welcome**

We want you to feel comfortable from the moment you arrive. You'll find a welcome pack in your room with guest registration forms, menus, order forms for dinners and picnic lunches, the Wi-Fi password, and the front door code. Our houses are locked at night, so we recommend noting the Duty Manager's number on arrival in case of an emergency (or getting locked out).

### **Evening entertainment**

While evening entertainment varies from house to house, HF Holidays Inter-House Quiz night held after dinner on Wednesdays is a weekly staple. Your HF Holidays leader may be around for tips on guided and self-guided walking routes as well as visit-worthy local attractions.

### **Walks talks**

Our HF Holidays walk leaders host guided walking information briefings before dinner on guided walking holiday arrival days. This is followed by a group Walks Talk for information on the following day's guided walks (held before dinner every evening). Self-guided walking guests are, of course, welcome.

### **The walking day**

Prior to setting off on guided walks, your HF Holidays Leader will run you through a short safety briefing. There's also an up-to-date weather forecast on display at the house to ensure you have appropriate clothing and footwear. If you choose to do your own walks or are on a self-guided walking holiday, we ask that you please complete an Independent Walker Card each day. These can be found near the Discovery Point in the house.