

## SANDWICH BAY BIRD OBSERVATORY HOLIDAYS



# SPRING ON THE ISLES OF SCILLY – BIRDS AND FLOWERS

**APRIL 26TH – MAY 5<sup>TH</sup> 2018**

### Chilled - out birding on The Fortunate Isles

Your chance to visit the most beautiful islands in Britain, full of exotic sub-tropical vegetation, and to see some of its' exciting birds, including the chance of real rarities.

Our fourth visit, following the successful trips of 2015 and 2016 and the planned trip for October 2017

**UP TO 8 PLACES STILL AVAILABLE – SEE DETAILS INSIDE**

**Fourth  
Observatory trip  
to The Scillies**

**Fine hotel  
accommodation,  
overlooking the  
sea**

**Expert guide, with  
detailed  
knowledge of the  
islands**

**Rare birds almost  
guaranteed!**

**Great all-round  
value!**

**£1250 pp. in double occupancy**

**£1355 in single occupancy.**

**Includes: 7 nights half board;**

**all travel;**

**buffet lunch on arrival;**

**gratuities etc.**

# THE ISLES OF SCILLY, APRIL 26<sup>TH</sup>- MAY 5<sup>TH</sup> 2018

## OUTLINE OF THE TOUR

Following the recent successful trips for Observatory members to the almost legendary birding hot-spot of The Scilly Isles, I am now forward planning for our fourth consecutive trip in April - May 2018.

This is the first time that we will be going in the Spring, however, so we expect to have a very different experience to the previous trips, which have all been in October. In April-May we will be enjoying the breeding birds of the islands, including visits to sea-bird colonies for such species as **Manx Shearwater**, **Puffin** and **Storm Petrel**. Other seabirds are also present such as **Guillemot**, **Fulmar** and **Kittiwake**. May is also the time when **rare 'overshooting' summer migrants** from southern Europe regularly arrive on the islands. Recent years have seen such species as **Woodchat Shrike**, **Bee-eater**, **Honey Buzzard**, **Golden Oriole** and **Subalpine Warbler**. This is also the peak month for the **wonderful plant life** of the islands with many exotic and rare species out in bloom.

As before, the plan is to travel by luxury coach from the Observatory overnight on Thursday April 26th to Penzance, in time for the two-and-a-half-hour ferry crossing to the Scillies on 'The Scillonian' on the 27th. There is a good chance of **seabirds** on the crossing – **Gannets**, **skuas**, **terns** and possible **shearwaters**. Arriving at Hugh Town on the main island of St. Mary's, we will transfer to our hotel, Tregarthen's, which overlooks the harbour and has fabulous sea-views towards the off-islands of Tresco and Bryher.

During the week we will explore most of the islands and their different habitats, marvelling at the sub-tropical vegetation which is such a feature of the Scillies; the pure white beaches; granite cliffs and the turquoise seas. The weather on The Scillies is always mild, but it can be wet and windy at times, too. There is no strenuous walking involved but you will need to be reasonably fit and active to tackle some of the coastal walks. The trip would also be suitable for non-birding spouses, partners or friends.

The Scillies have regularly featured in wildlife, historical and other television programmes in recent years. Non-birding highlights include the world-famous Tresco Abbey Gardens and there is much of historical interest to look out for, from Bronze Age burial sites to Second World War fortifications.

We will leave the Scillies on Friday May 4th, travelling back overnight by coach and arriving at the Observatory on the morning of Saturday May 5th.

## ACCOMMODATION

We will be staying on a half-board basis at the *Tregarthen's Hotel* which overlooks the harbour in Hugh Town, the main town of The Scillies. This will give us easy access to the shops, banks, cafes and

restaurants in Hugh Town itself, while also being very close for boarding the launches which will take us to the 'off-islands'.

## **ROOM AVAILABILITY**

I have about 15 Observatory members already signed-up for this trip, (all of whom have been with me to The Scillies before). I have another few rooms provisionally booked with the hotel, so could take **up to 4 people in single occupancy or 8 people sharing. First come, first served!**

## **PROVISIONAL COSTS.**

**These prices are at group-discounted rates for a group of 20 travellers;**

**£1355 per person** for persons in single occupancy

**£1250 per person** for persons sharing a twin or double-bedded room

*Please note:*

- 1. These prices are based on 2016 / 2017 rates and **may well go up**, depending on any increases in transport or hotel costs.*
- 2. A donation to Sandwich Bay Bird Observatory is built in to all SBBO Holiday prices.*
- 3. As is usual practice for group travel for 20 people or more, the hotel does not charge for accommodation for the tour leader. This does not, of course, affect the group discounted rate that you will benefit from for the ferry and your hotel accommodation.*

## **The cost would cover:**

High quality overnight coach travel from the Observatory to Penzance in Cornwall and return; your ferry trip on 'The Scillonian' and return; buffet lunch at the hotel on arrival; half-board accommodation for 7 nights at the Tregarthen's Hotel; the cost of *three trips* to any of the four main 'off-islands' and gratuities to staff at the Hotel and the coach drivers.

## **It would NOT include:**

Any other boat-trips you choose to make to the 'off-islands'; admittance to Tresco Abbey Gardens or other sites; alcoholic or other drinks at the Hotel or the cost of your lunch-time meals. (There are many nice eating-places to choose from on most of the islands or you can buy food from the shops in Hugh Town).

**Interested?**

If you are **definitely interested** in joining this trip, I need to know **as soon as possible** and will require **a £200 deposit.**

Please **send an e-mail to me** at the e-mail address below.

I need to know the following at this stage:

- Your name(s), address and telephone numbers
- Whether you would be travelling as a single person or as a couple.
- If travelling as a single, then I also need to know whether you would be prepared to share a room.

Ken Chapman

September 26<sup>th</sup> 2017

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