



# MERRIST WOOD COLLEGE PROJECT INFORMATION PACK



## Scotland Southern Highlands Wildlife Expedition



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# TRIP OVERVIEW



## Merrist Wood College – Booking Reference 4816

### Travel Dates:

23<sup>rd</sup> February – 27<sup>th</sup> February 2026

### Train Journey:

23<sup>rd</sup> February 2026 – London Kings Cross – Edinburgh (Waverley) – Dunblane arriving 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2026\*

27<sup>th</sup> February 2026 – Dunblane – Edinburgh (Waverley) – London Kings Cross arriving 27<sup>th</sup> February 2026\*

\*Rail fare NOT included

### Project:

The Scotland Southern Highlands Wildlife Expedition



# ABOUT THE PROJECT

Our conservation work  
in more detail



# ABOUT THE PROJECT



## Southern Highlands of Scotland

St. Fillans, along with Comrie, Crieff, Agarty Farm Estate and surrounding areas are where your conservation, wildlife and expedition activities will take place. This and the greater area are best described as the Southern Highlands of Scotland.

St. Fillans is on the eastern boundary of the Loch Lomond & Trossachs National Park. It sits on Loch Earn, where you'll be staying; the freshwater banks of the loch boast beautiful and picturesque views up to the heights of the Southern Highland mountains.

Global Adventure Projects has partnered with Aquila Wildlife & Nature CIC, a local independent company from St. Fillans. They want to share their knowledge and enthusiasm with others who visit the area. The overall vision is to show the wonder of nature and the beauty of a range of habitats to create lasting memories.



Agarty Red Kites

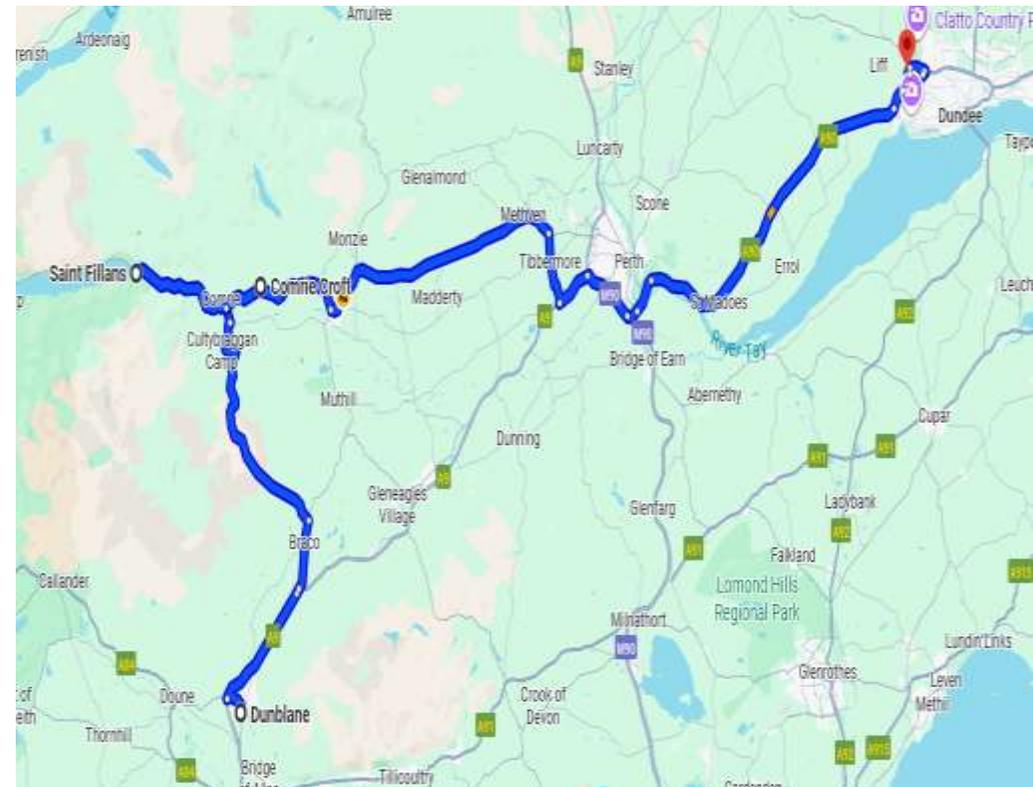


# LOCATION



## Southern Highlands of Scotland and Loch Earn

- **Loch Earn and St Fillans** is on the Eastern point of Loch Earn and Trossachs National Park.
- **Comrie, Crieff and Comrie Croft** for fantastic hiking, including a red squirrel trail
- **Argaty Farm Estate** has a spectacular set-up for viewing Red Kites and has recently translocated beaver populations onto their ground
- **Camperdown Wildlife Centre** is part of the RZSS partnered programme for conservation of the Scottish Wildcat
- **Hogscroft Hedgehog Rescue** a hedgehog rescue and rehabilitation centre run by volunteers



# PROJECT DETAILS



## Your Conservation Programme

- Camera trapping and tracking techniques for small mammals
- Owl spotting
- Animal behaviour research and data recording
- Learn techniques for monitoring elusive species
- Lectures on human – animal conflicts
- Wildcat breeding programme
- Wildlife hike along an old railway line
- Wild animal rehabilitation
- Learn about rewilding and repopulating mammals in the Scottish Highlands
- Conservation and management of the red squirrel population
- Monitor feeding activity and behaviour of red kites from an animal hide
- Animal management for endangered animals within a wildlife park

# ABOUT YOUR PROJECT



## Itinerary

- **Day 1 – Monday 23rd February** – Depart from London Kings Cross at 08:30 hrs. Arriving Dunblane train station at approximately 14:05 hrs. Coach transfer to St. Fillans. Arrive at Four Seasons hotel mid afternoon. with welcome talk and introduction to the week ahead. Local walk late afternoon to take in the area, habitats, history and management. Dinner and free time.
- **Day 2 – Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> February** – Morning at Camperdown Wildlife Centre to visit the wildcat breeding programme and hear from the on-site experts; packed lunch at park (if dry); afternoon tour of Hogscroft Hedgehog Rescue Centre; pre-dinner presentation on reintroduction programmes in Scotland. After dinner set up wildlife camera traps around hotel grounds
- **Day 3 – Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> February** – After breakfast review camera trap footage. Visit to Argaty Red Kites to see a working farm that is rewilding and managing a visitor attraction and is home to a family of beavers; packed lunch in visitor centre with a talk on human-wildlife conflict and the beaver family that were relocated to Argaty in 2021. Viewing the feeding kites in the hide. After dinner walk around the hotel environs looking and listening for owls using thermal aids with talk enroute.



# ABOUT YOUR PROJECT



## Itinerary

- **Day 4 – Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> February** – After breakfast walk to Comrie along the old railway line and look for signs of species using the line, also look for raptor species along the mountain ridge – discussion on life cycles, ecology and behaviour en route. Packed lunch in Comrie then walk to Comrie Community Woodland. Learn about the woodland project so far and try out some species ID and recording apps. Transport back to St. Fillans for dinner. After dinner, take part in some fun learning activities based on the events of the week. Say goodbye to the Aquila team.
- **Day 5 – Friday 27<sup>th</sup> February** – After breakfast visit Comrie Croft to learn about a sustainable business and how to integrate activities with nature. Assist with removing tree shelters from young trees.
- Lunch at the café (own expense) before the coach transfer.
- Depart Comrie Croft at 13:30 for Dunblane train station for the train home, train departs at 14:30 and arrives at Kings Cross at 20:11.

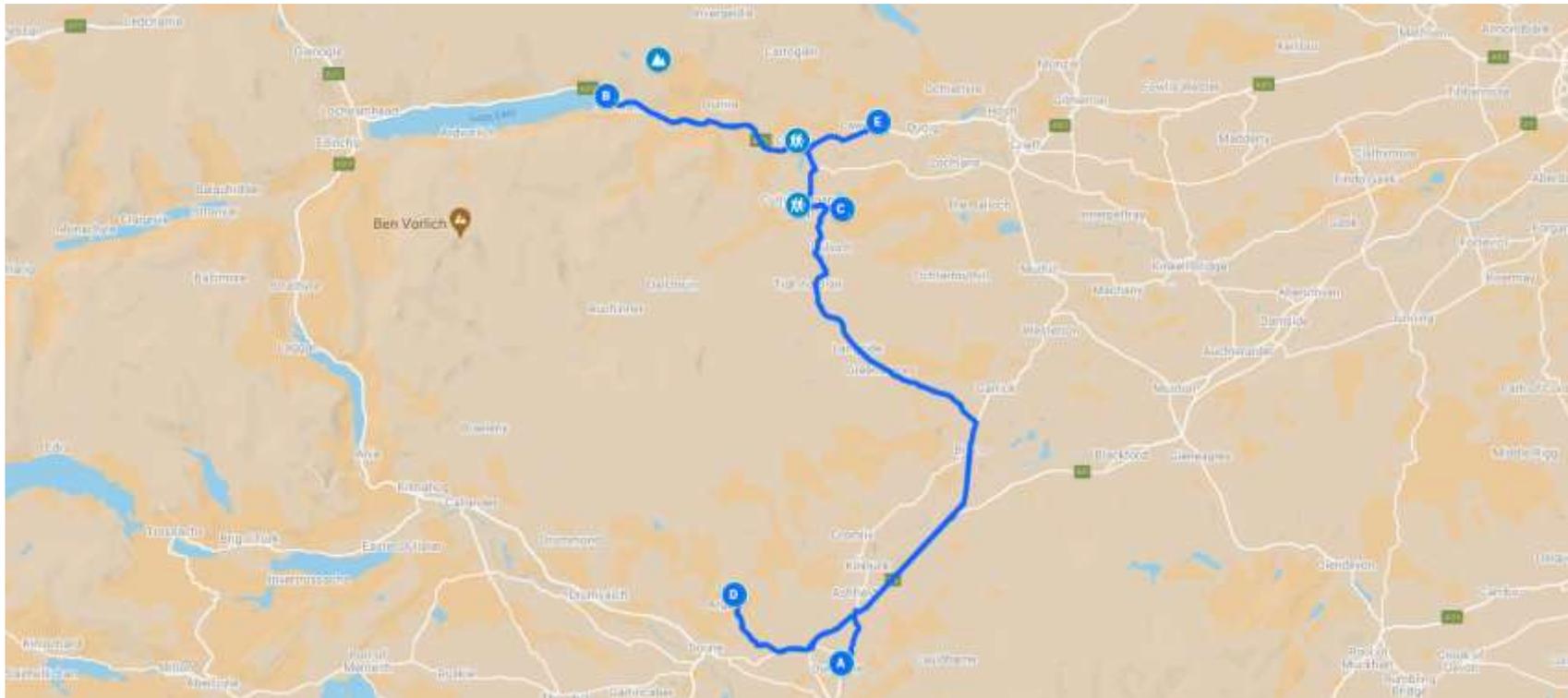


# YOUR PROJECT



## Itinerary Map

Dunblane Train Station (A) -> The Four Seasons Hotel (B) -> Wildlife Centre (C)  
-> (B) -> Argaty Red Kites (D) -> (B) -> Group Hike to  (See Walking Map) ->  
(B) -> Comrie Croft (E) -> (B) -> (A)



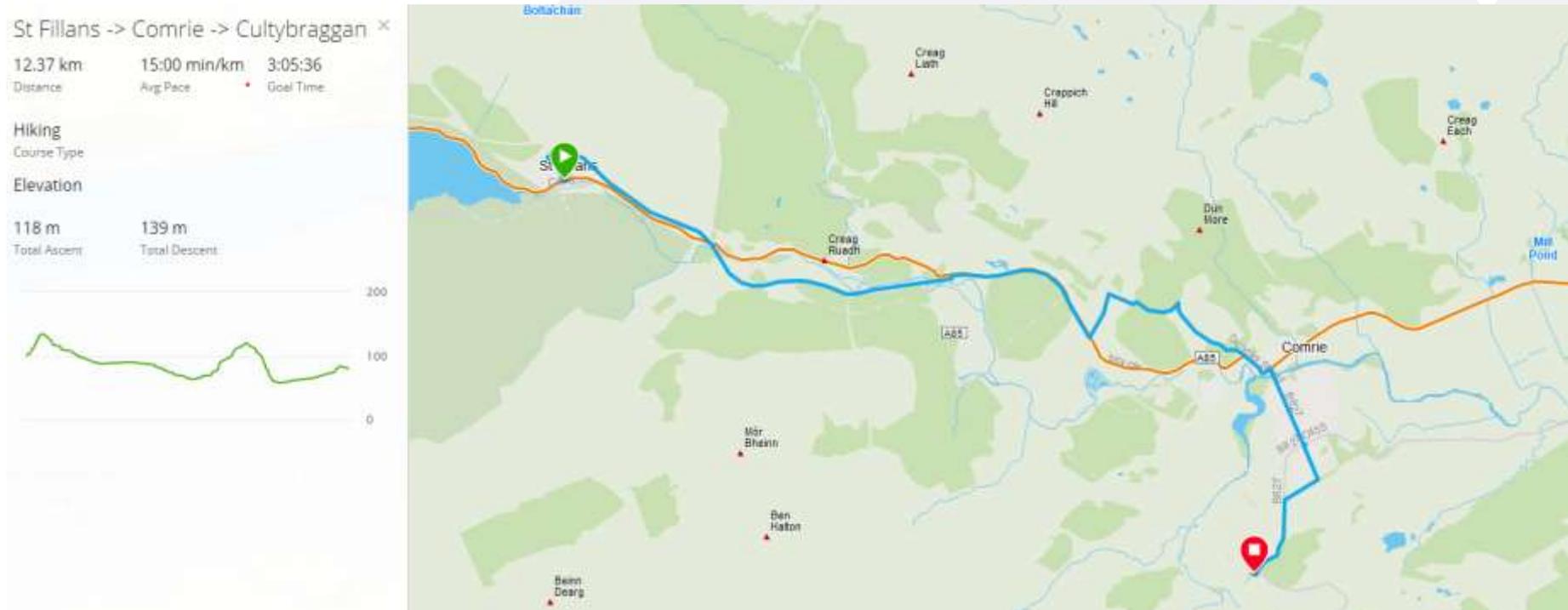
# YOUR PROJECT



## Walking Map

Walking the old railway line:

St Fillans -> Comrie -> Cultybraggan -> Transport back to accommodation





# ACCOMMODATION & LIFESTYLE

Details on accommodation  
and meals



# ACCOMMODATION & LIFESTYLE



## St. Fillans and The Four Seasons Hotel

You will be accommodated in comfortable rooms or chalets which can accommodate 2 – 4 people with ensuite bathrooms

The hotel is located at the edge of Loch Earn with stunning views over the Loch and the hills beyond



# ACCOMMODATION & LIFESTYLE



## Food at the Project

Three meals a day will be provided. Breakfast and dinner will be provided at the hotel; a daily packed lunch (except Friday) will be provided for you to take on your activity.

## Dietary Requirements

Provision can be made for Vegetarian & Vegan diets and for those who have a medical condition such as Coeliac disease that requires a Gluten Free Diet and for those with severe allergies to dairy, eggs or nuts.





# USEFUL INFORMATION

What's Included and  
recommended kit list



# WHAT'S INCLUDED



## What is Included?

- Transfers to/from project from Dunblane
- Accommodation
- Three meals per day (except Friday)
- Coach transport for activities where applicable
- All activities as part of the project
- 24/7 support

## NOT Included

- Return train journey to/from Dunblane\*
- Personal Travel Insurance \*
- Meals on travel days – before arriving & after departing from project and lunch on Friday
- Any activities not specified as part of the project

\* We recommend that you take out personal travel insurance as soon as your booking is confirmed.

## Suggested kit list

- Long-sleeve shirts/T shirts
- Trousers
- Hiking Boots/comfortable walking shoes – must be worn in
- Waterproof jacket – essential
- Waterproof trousers – essential
- Sweatshirt/Fleece (Winter months pack plenty)
- Thermals
- Padded parka jacket/windbreaker – warm
- Daypack rucksack
- Walking socks
- Hat for sun protection
- Warm Hat (all year)
- Gloves for warmth (all year)
- Changes of casual clothes for evenings
- Underwear

- Comfortable shoes to wear for evenings
- Toiletries
- Personal medical items
- Tick / insect repellent
- Swimwear – you may want a dip in the loch!
- Torch or head torch

### Other useful items:

- Binoculars
- Water bottle
- Camera
- Spare batteries
- Sunglasses
- Sunscreen
- Bag for any wet clothes on journey home



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