PAUL ALISTAIR COLLINS PHOTOGRAPHY

WILDLIFE PHOTOGRAPHY TOURS

Exclusive Access | Intimate Encounters | Deep Immersion

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WELCOME

Over the past few years, I've developed a collection of wildlife tours focussing on three core values – **exclusive access** to remarkable locations; **intimate encounters** with our target species, in a variety of lighting and weather conditions, so you can build a rich and varied portfolio; and **deep immersion** in one place and culture to allow you to truly develop your photographic vision at leisure.

Groups are rarely more than five people to ensure the best guide-to-client ratio and 1-on-1 tuition. Help and advice will be given on camera settings in a way that is easy to understand. You will also learn about creative techniques, lighting and important field craft for approaching animals responsibly.

So whether you are looking for a daytrip close to home with puffins and gannets on the Yorkshire coast, long to see Arctic foxes in Svalbard, or want to hone your action photography skills with eagles in Spain, I tailor my tours to suit you and your level of experience.

ABOUT PAUL

I am a professional photographer and cameraman based in London. Specialising in wildlife and low-light photography, my work has featured in global press such as the Guardian, Daily Mail, The Times, Scotsman and National Geographic Italia.

My photos have won prizes in major competitions including British Wildlife Photography Awards, Scottish Nature Photography Awards, Bird Photographer of the Year, and Mammal Photographer of the Year.

I also work as a producer-director and cameraman on documentaries for the BBC, ITV, Netflix, Channel 4, Discovery, and Smithsonian Channel.

Wildlife Photographer, Guide & TV Producer

BESPOKE TOURS

Travelling in a small group allows you to meet like-minded wildlife enthusiasts and photographers. However, you may prefer a private experience to get the most out of the photographic potential of each location visited at your own pace.

All tours featured in this brochure can be adapted for a private experience if you prefer to travel independently or with friends and family.

Please contact me to arrange a tailor-made private itinerary that suits your requirements – you choose the location, the species and the dates, and I take care of the rest. I am also constantly on the lookout for new and exciting destinations, so do get in touch if your dream photo destination is not featured.

LECTURES

I offer a range of talks about my photography and current tours to photo societies, nature-watching groups and universities across the UK.

Talks can last anywhere from 20 to 90 minutes, covering a range of photography skills, creative approaches, animal behaviour, and colourful stories from the field.

Please get in touch via my website to arrange a talk either in person or virtually; or subscribe to my newsletter for upcoming tours and lecture dates.

WILD MADRID

Location: Madrid, Spain
Departures: Jan/Feb/Mar/May
Duration: 5 days

RAPTORS OF THE PYRENEES

Location: Lleida, Spain
Departures: Jan/Feb/Mar
Duration: 5 days

LAND OF THE LYNX

Location: Andujar, Spain
Departures: Feb
Duration: 6 days

WILD ESTONIA

Location: Estonia
Departures: All year
Duration: 5 days

RAINFOREST ANIMALS

Location: Panama
Departures: May/Sep/Nov
Duration: 8 days

ABRUZZO ADVENTURE

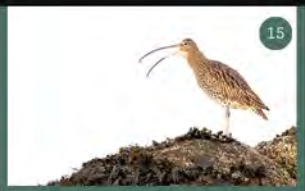
Location: Abruzzo N.P., Italy
Departures: May/Jun/Sep
Duration: 6 days

PELICANS OF KERKINI

Location: Thessaloniki, Greece
Departures: Jan/Feb
Duration: 5 days

ARCTIC ADVENTURE

Location: Svalbard, Arctic Circle
Departures: Jun/Jul
Duration: 7 days



SCOTTISH SHORES

Location: Edinburgh, UK
Departures: Nov/Dec/Jan
Duration: 1 day

SEALS OF NORFOLK

Location: Norfolk, UK
Departures: Nov/Dec
Duration: 4 days

WILD JAPAN

Location: Nagano, Japan
Departures: Apr/May/Sep/Oct
Duration: 7+ days

MACRO PHOTOGRAPHY

Location: Winchester, UK
Departures: Jul/Aug
Duration: 1 day

URBAN WILDLIFE

Location: London, UK
Departures: All year
Duration: Half day

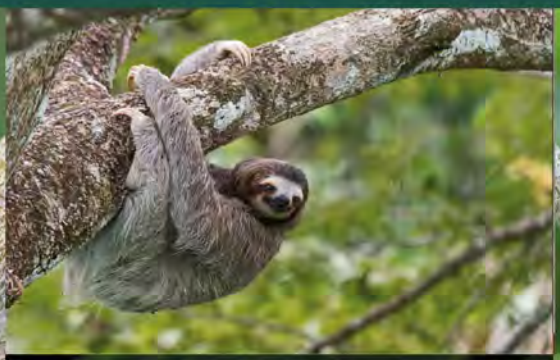
WILD JAPAN

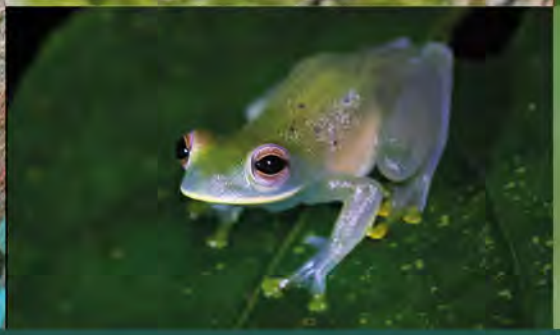
Capture Japan's wild heart – from monkeys in hot springs to flying squirrels, sacred shrines, and cherry blossoms.

Nagano, Japan | **Apr/May/Sept/Oct** | **7+ days** | **8 places**

Discover the breathtaking beauty and rich culture of the Japanese Alps on this new photography tour. Stay in a 17th-century Edo farmhouse nestled in a valley, which transforms into a riot of colour in spring and autumn. We'll seek out the rare Japanese serow antelope on Mount Asama, monkeys relaxing in thermal springs, watch giant flying squirrels glide at dusk, and explore Karuizawa, a prime spot for flycatchers, copper pheasants and black bears. We'll walk the historic Nakasendo Trail, once used by samurai, visit serene shrines and cascading waterfalls, and capture a side of Japan that few travellers experience.

- **Stay in a 17th century Edo farmhouse in the Japanese Alps**, and experience local life and cuisine
- **Japanese Macaques** bathing in hot springs
- **Observe Japan's rarest creatures** – such as Asiatic Black Bear, Serow, Flying Squirrel and Copper Pheasant
- **Step foot in remarkable landscapes,** at peak time for cherry blossom or autumn colour
- **Walk along the historic Nakasendo Trail,** once used by samurai and ninja
- **Visit remote shrines and temples** that are off the tourist trail





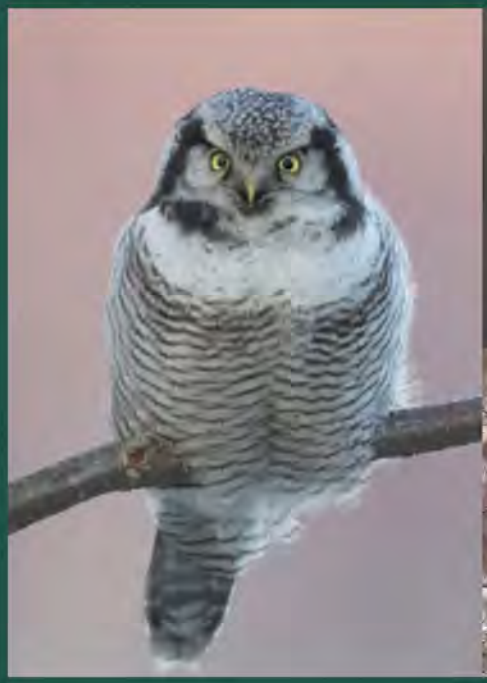
RAINFOREST ANIMALS OF PANAMA

Photograph a dazzling variety of hummingbirds, toucans, monkeys and more at the world class Canopy Tower

Panama | **May/Sep/Nov** | **8 days** | **6 places**

Birdcalls awaken you. Inches from your bedroom window, the cloud forest canopy is riotous with early morning birdlife. Hummingbirds and tanagers flit among flowers, toucans flap back and forth, and monkeys clamber through the trees. Canopy Tower offers one of the best wildlife photography opportunities that Central America has to offer – with animals at eye level, this is a prime spot for experiencing the rainforest at every level. An impressive renovated radar tower located in the Soberania National Park, a spectacular 970+ species of bird have been recorded at this site, not to mention the incredible variety of other animals to be seen such as sloths, howler monkeys and glass frogs – all which we'll aim to photograph!

- **Exclusive access** to the lodges' world class observation decks, bird-feeding stations and walking trails
- **Push your photo skills** with flight, portrait and close-up photography in different conditions
- **Photograph a dazzling variety of animals**, from toucans and hummingbirds to sloths and tree-frogs
- **Plentiful creative photography opportunities** at eye-level, from up above, and at bird-feeder set-ups
- **Plentiful 1-on-1 photo tuition** with award-winning guides



WILD ESTONIA

Photograph bears, elk, owls, woodpeckers and more at our brand new state-of-the-art hide complex!

Estonia | **Year Round** | **5 days** | **8 places**

Welcome to Estonia – one of Europe's hidden gems for wildlife enthusiasts and photographers alike. Estonia is one of Europe's least densely populated countries, and an up-and-coming destination for nature photography. With over 50% of the landscape covered in taiga forest, there is room for lynx, brown bear, elk, and grey wolf to thrive in greater numbers than elsewhere in Europe. During our stay, we'll be based at Wildlife Dreams' brand new state-of-the-art hides for mammals, plus woodpeckers, owls and eagles. You can try out each hide as many times as you like and photograph its animals at your own pace in complete comfort.

- **Stay at one of Europe's premiere wildlife photography facilities** – with exclusive use of hides day and night!
- **Around-the-clock access to hides,** plus on-site swimming pool, sauna, restaurant and cafe
- **Photograph Estonia's iconic wildlife –** including bears, wolves, elk, sea eagles, owls and woodpeckers
- **Master camera techniques** under expert tuition at your own pace
- **Take a photography boat** for water-level shots of the rare steller's eider, ringed seal and cranes
- **Plentiful 1-on-1 photo tuition** with an award-winning guide, plus photography seminars to attend

PELICANS OF KERKINI

Photograph the charismatic Dalmatian Pelican in Greece this winter

Thessaloniki, Greece | **Jan/Feb** | **5 days** | **4 places**

During this tour, we will focus on photographing the charismatic Dalmatian Pelicans that spend the winter on Lake Kerkini. Over 5 days, you'll be able to build a stunning and varied portfolio, with the help of experienced photo guides and local fishermen who have developed an intimate relationship with the pelicans over many years. Exclusive daily boat trips and shoreline feed sessions – at sunrise and sunset, in mist and snow – offer unparalleled opportunities for close-up portrait, flight, and behavioural shots of these rare birds. Winter is prime time to visit Kerkini, with over 100 Pelicans on the lake. So free up those memory cards – you'll need the space!

- **5 private boat trips and shoreline feeds** with Dalmatian and Great White Pelicans
- **Photo opportunities with other local wildlife** including Golden Jackals, Wild Cats and Greater Spotted Eagles
- **Visit to a major wetland** near Thessaloniki for Flamingos, Pygmy Cormorants, Kingfishers, and much more
- **Local guides** with intimate knowledge of the area, and excellent guide-to-client ratio with 1-on-1 tuition
- **Single supplement en-suite rooms** in a comfortable guesthouse by the lake
- **Editing sessions** each evening to review images

ABRUZZO ADVENTURE

Bears, wolves, chamois and butterflies await you in this picturesque 5-day Italian nature stay

Abruzzo NP, Italy | **May/Jul/Sep** | **6 days** | **5 places**

With rolling green hills and medieval villages, crystal-clear rivers and lush beech woodlands, the Abruzzo National Park in central Italy offers you the chance to observe its most iconic animals in spectacular surroundings. Summer is prime time for seeing the rare Marsican Bears as they come to the town's orchards to feed, whilst in autumn, wolf cubs are on the hunt for red deer weakened by the rutting season. Combined with traditional cuisine and culture, this wildlife holiday offers a well-rounded Italian experience.

- **High chance of endangered Marsican Bear and Apennine Wolf** during dawn and dusk watches
- **Photograph Chamois at sunset** on the mountain slopes
- **Rutting red deer** along the crystal Sangro River (autumn only)
- **Visits to beech forests and mountains for birds** such as Hoopoe, Rock Partridge and White-Backed Woodpecker
- **Butterfly photography** with up to 30 species thriving in the meadows around town (summer only)
- **Expert Italian/English speaking guides** with up-to-date knowledge on where to spot our main targets
- **Enjoy traditional cuisine and cultural explorations** whilst staying in a medieval hilltop village

LAND OF THE LYNX

Photograph the world's rarest cat, the Iberian Lynx, and other wildlife in Andalucia this winter

Andujar, Spain	Feb	6 days	7 places

This tour takes us into the wild heart of Andalusia in search of the iconic Iberian Lynx – the rarest cat in the world. We have located a family of lynx that reliably hunts in the area, so we will time our sessions with when the kittens are most active, offering us opportunities to photograph games and behavioural displays. We will search for them among Mediterranean scrubland and ancient Dehesa oak forest, where they hunt for rabbits. This land is home not only to lynxes but also fallow deer, boar, eagles and even otters. Impressive rock formations offer resting places for the lynx during the day, so we will be in position at dawn to watch the families awake and observe the most intimate moments of their lives unfold that few people get to witness.

- **High chance of close encounters** with rare Iberian Lynx families and kittens
- **Develop a rich portfolio of images** showing animal portraits and seldom seen behaviour
- **Master camera skills and advanced creative techniques**, as well as how to anticipate animal behaviour
- **Plentiful 1-on-1 photo tuition** with award-winning guides
- **Learn fieldcraft,** including how to track elusive wildlife with thermal cameras and camera traps

WILD MADRID

A private sanctuary for Spain's rarest birds – just a stone's throw from the capital

Madrid, Spain | **Jan/Feb/Mar/May** | **5 days** | **5 places**

For this tour, we have access to a private 8,000-hectare estate on the outskirts of Madrid, home to Spain's rarest wildlife. With the highest density of Spanish Imperial Eagles found anywhere in the country, my winter tour focusses on capturing these majestic raptors from a network of expertly positioned hides. In spring, the estate comes alive with migratory birds, offering stunning opportunities to photograph Golden Orioles, Bee-eaters, and Shrikes in vibrant natural settings. As the only company outside Spain granted access, this unique location - featuring ancient holm oak woodlands and prime photographic conditions - promises unforgettable experiences.

- **4 nights' single supplement stay** in a charming medieval town near Madrid
- **Exclusive access and permits to the estate** and its extensive network of ground and water-level hides
- **Over 20 photo hides** for rare Spanish Imperial Eagle, Eagle Owl, Mediterranean birds, Red Deer, and more
- **Expert guiding and 1-on-1 tuition** from award-winning photographer and local guides
- **Photography excursions** for Ibex and nesting White Storks in the nearby mountains
- **Nocturnal photography of Genets** using artificial lighting setup

RAPTORS OF THE PYRENEES

Photograph eagles, hawks, vultures and owls in the wild heart of Catalonia this winter

Lleida, Spain | **Jan/Feb/Mar** | **5 days** | **5 places**

The cry of an eagle and the whoosh of wings as it lands feet away from you! This new photography tour targets the spectacular raptors that can be found in the mountains and plains of Catalonia – from the regal Bearded Vulture which scavenges on bones, to precision hunters such as the Goshawk and Bonelli's Eagle. Immersing ourselves in the wild heart of southern Spain, our hide sessions will take advantage of every minute of light to capture feeding, fighting and courtship behaviours. Some hides allow remote wide-angle setups, offering a uniquely intimate perspective into the spectacular events of these birds' lives.

- **4 nights' single supplement stay** in an enchanting medieval fortress town in the Pyrenees
- **Photograph up to 8 raptor, 3 vulture and 3 owl species** in mountain, steppe, lake and farmland habitat
- **Learn skills for capturing dynamic photos of birds** in flight, feeding, hunting, bathing and fighting
- **Remotely-triggered wide-angle photography** with eagles and owls (guidance provided!)
- **Private access to multiple photography hides** at ground and water level
- **Expert guidance and 1-on-1 tuition** in photography techniques, wide-angle setups, and editing

ARCTIC ADVENTURE

Wander among Arctic Foxes, Walruses and Whales on this 6-night nature photo holiday to Svalbard

Svalbard, Arctic Circle | **Jun/Jul** | **7 days** | **5 places**

Lying halfway between Norway and the North Pole, Svalbard is a wild land of glaciers and tundra, making it an irresistible destination for the artist or traveller inspired by nature. Unlike larger commercial tours, we will base ourselves for 5 full days in one location, the charming town of Longyearbyen, to make the most of its unique landscapes and help you take stunning images of walruses, whales, seabirds and resident foxes. Activities are tailored to whatever animals are active at the time of day, as well as to weather/light conditions. Each day, we will discuss options on how best to maximise your creative and wildlife viewing opportunities.

- **Stay in a traditional cabin (single-supplement)**, with friendly huskies and Common Eiders as our neighbours
- **Boat-trips and landings to a Walrus colony**, with chance of Beluga, Blue Whale, Bearded Seal and Polar Bear
- **Repeat close encounters with Arctic Foxes** that hunt around town and in the neighbouring valley
- **Water-level photography** of Red-Throated Diver, King Eider, Phalarope and Long-Tailed Duck courtships
- **Visits to nesting seabird cliff colonies** of Little Auk, Brunnich's Guillemot and Blue Fulmar
- **Experience Arctic culture, cuisine and tradition** in a historic coalmining town

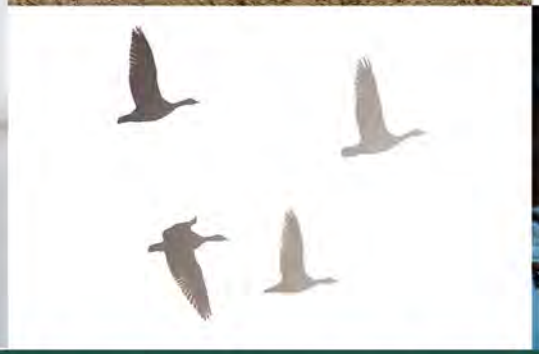
SEALS OF NORFOLK

A full photographic immersion at the UK's largest Grey Seal colony

Norfolk, UK | **Nov/Dec** | **4 days** | **5 places**

For this winter workshop, we'll stay in a beachfront cottage with access to the UK's largest Grey Seal colony, during the height of the pupping season! Shooting from dawn to dusk under my guidance, you'll learn how to capture stunning images of seals in a variety of wintry conditions, among the sand-dunes and crashing waves. We should observe seals giving birth, tender interactions between mothers and pups, and battles between bull seals for dominance. With so much going on around us, we will spend time exploring many creative options with our cameras, from backlighting and experimenting with shutter speeds, to high-key black and white imagery. This trip targets one species to push your photography to the next level.

- **Dawn to dusk photography** to ensure the best opportunities with our seal subjects
- **Unlock your creative potential** through repeat visits to the seal colony
- **1-on-1 photo tuition** to encourage your photographic vision
- **Learn to read and predict animal behaviour** to perfect your action photography
- **Editing sessions** to review images and discuss creative possibilities



SCOTTISH SHORES

Photograph the spectacle of 20,000 Pink-Footed Geese and more this winter off the east coast of Scotland

Edinburgh, UK | **Nov/Dec/Jan** | **1 day** | **5 places**

We will spend the first part of the day at North Berwick beach, photographing a variety of shorebirds feeding along the shoreline, against the dramatic backgrop of Bass Rock. At this time of year, the morning light often gives rich golden hues, allowing opportunities to capture striking bird portraits and behaviours with a range of approachable bird species such as Purple Sandpiper, Sanderling, Black-Tailed Godwit. Ringed PLover, and Redshank. We will then head to Aberlady Bay, a protected reserve where we will look for Short-Eared Owls hunting over the sand dunes and winter thrushes feasting on sea buckthorn. At sunset, we will be in position for the spectacular dusk flight of 20,000 Pink-Footed Geese returning to roost over the Firth of Forth.

- **Fun, relaxed and creative learning** with a variety of approachable subjects
- **Master camera basics** as well as compositional tricks
- **1-on-1 photo tuition** with an award-winning guide
- **Learn to understand animal behaviour** and lighting/weather conditions to get great shots
- **Photo feedback** after the session

MACRO PHOTOGRAPHY

Master close-up photography with bountiful butterflies, dragonflies and orchids on Winchester's chalk downlands

Winchester, UK | **Jul/Aug** | **1 day** | **3 places**

Macro photography provides a fascinating insight into the world of insects and flowers. Ideal for beginners of photography, this workshop will focus on a few chalkhill and meadow sites around Winchester for a colourful variety of flowers and butterflies – with many species on the wing such as the Chalkhill Blue, Common Blue and rarer Adonis, Brown Argus, Essex Skipper, Brimstone, Peacock, and day-flying moths such as Six-Spot Burnet and Cinnabar. We'll make the most of the summer sun, playing with lighting conditions, colour and texture to create compelling portraits of our miniature subjects. We'll also explore the nearby RIver Itchen for Beautiful Demoiselle, Golden-Ringed Dragonfly and Bee Orchid.

- **Learn the art of close-up photography,** with tips on composition, camera settings and creative techniques
- **Create photographs that look like paintings** by exploring colour and contrast, texture and variations of light
- **Learn creative camera techniques** such as double exposure, high key imagery and focus stacking
- **1-on-1 photo tuition** to encourage your photographic vision
- **Photo feedback** after the session

URBAN WILDLIFE

Photograph parakeets, grey herons and other iconic urban wildlife in the heart of London

London, UK | **All Year** | **Half-day** | **5 places**

During this 3 hour workshop in London, you'll have the opportunity to photograph many species of bird at close range in a fun and creative setting. The day will begin with a brief introduction on wildlife and flora we should find and tips on photographing birds in pose and flight. We will then head into Regents Park to photograph iconic city species such as friendly Grey Herons, courting Great-Crested Grebes, elegant Mandarin ducks, tree-dwelling Egyptian Geese and goslings, and Ring-Necked Parakeet flocks. Bird activity is highest in the morning when the lakes are often shrouded in wonderful mists, allowing possibilities for beautiful images. We may even see the Tawny or Little Owls which roost in the park's oak trees, or a Kingfisher on the Serpentine.

- **Fun, relaxed and creative learning** with a variety of approachable subjects – no need for long lenses
- **Master camera basics** as well as compositional tricks
- **1-on-1 photo tuition** with an award-winning guide
- **Learn to understand animal behaviour** and lighting/weather conditions to get great shots
- **Photo feedback** after the session

https://www.paulalistaircollins.co.uk/uk-tours-urban-wildlife

GUEST TESTIMONIALS

Here's what customers have said about their tour experiences

"We've been on many of Paul's tours and we've always been impressed with how he can pull great photo opportunities out of unexpected situations." **Martyna and Kat**

"This has by far been one of the best experiences of my life. Paul's photo tour opened my eyes to a whole new way of seeing and has given me so much joy for our natural world. I will be back." **Victoria**

"Many techniques we'd never tried before, and we've come away with more ideas than we've gained from 30 years of attending workshops." **Sue & Paul**

"Paul's knowledge and experience was invaluable. He took our group to amazing locations, offering creative and practical shooting advice on how to achieve stand-out images. A wonderful trip – I'll be back!" – **Emily**

"Of all the workshops I've attended in the past, Paul's was definitely the best. He knows how to make it fun and interesting by trying different techniques and ideas whatever the situation." **Chris**

"This workshop fitted exactly was I was looking for. The whole experience was magical. I've learned new tricks. Wildlife photography was something I'd never tried before, but Paul made it accessible and gave me the push to keep going with it." – **Djamel**

PAUL ALISTAIR COLLINS
PHOTOGRAPHY

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Paul Alistair Collins Photography