

Scotland

Isle of Islay

| | |
|------|---|
| 2019 | Thursday 31st October - Tuesday 5th November (6 days) Single-centre, small group tour with Colin Bushell |
| 2020 | Thursday 29th October - Tuesday 3rd November (6 days) Single-centre, small group tour with Brian Small |



Autumn on Islay brings Barnacle Geese galore... plus chances of something rarer, such as this pint-sized Cackling Goose © Colin Bushell

Join us in Scotland this autumn for a delightful **birdwatching tour to Islay**. A late October visit to this wild and wonderful Hebridean island finds evocative flocks of Barnacle and Greenland White-fronted Geese present in their thousands - and a chance of something rare in amongst them... Plus the prospect of Golden and possibly White-tailed Eagles, Great Northern, Black-throated and Red-throated Divers, Rock Dove, Raven, Chough and Twite. Throughout our birding tour to Islay we shall be based in comfort at the island's top-rated *Machrie Hotel*.

Highlights

- Never-to-be-forgotten birding and wildlife experiences amidst serene Scottish landscapes
- Hordes of Barnacle Geese, plus Greylag and Greenland White-fronted Geese, too
- The unforgettable sight and sound of dusk at a major goose roosting site
- With them come occasional rarities such as Cackling Goose or Snow Goose
- A plethora of auks, divers, grebes and seaduck to watch for off the coast and in sheltered bays
- Whooper Swan, Rock Dove, Raven, Chough and autumnal flurries of buff-faced Twite
- Seeking Golden Eagles over remote cliffs, Red Deer on the moors and Otters around the coast
- Accommodation at the island's top-rated *Machrie Hotel*
- Small party size - maximum of 7 participants
- Single-centre holiday led by Limosa's own expert guides

What's Included?

- Limosa Tour Leader
- Ferry crossings from Kennacraig to Port Askaig (Islay), returning Port Ellen (Islay) to Kennacraig
- 5 nights accommodation on Islay, staying at the comfortable Machrie Hotel
- All main meals included - full Scottish breakfasts and dinners at the hotel, packed lunches in the field
- Minibus transport
- All excursions, entry fees, tour based tips and taxes



A Golden Eagle surveys its territory © Colin Bushell, Limosa

Outline Itinerary

Day 1

We meet at Kennacraig ferry terminal around midday and catch the early afternoon ferry to Islay (Port Askaig). Seawatching from the deck of the ferry can be rewarding! Once ashore, we transfer across the island to our hotel, birding as we go. Night Machrie Hotel, Port Ellen

Days 2-5

Birdwatching on Islay, enjoying the thousands of wintering geese and the best of the island's rich and varied wildlife. Four further nights at the Machrie Hotel, Port Ellen

Day 6

We catch the morning ferry from Port Ellen back to Kennacraig on the mainland, where our tour concludes... but not before enjoying some more good seawatching from the ferry!

Tour Overview

Lying at the southwestern end of the Hebrides, off the rugged west coast of Scotland - yet closer to Ireland than to Glasgow - Islay's wild, open moorland and hills, remote beaches and cliffs, mixed woodlands, sea lochs and tidal flats are home to a wonderful variety of birds. More than 100 different species may be present on the island in any given season - including a number that are scarce or difficult to see elsewhere in Britain. But a late autumn visit has the added drama of evocative flocks of soldier-smart Barnacle Geese and orange-billed Greenland White-fronted Geese, which arrive in their thousands to spend the winter here.

Steeped in Norse and Celtic history - not to mention the aroma from its homely peat fires and eight island distilleries - this beautiful and enchanting Hebridean island also enjoys a surprisingly mild climate, even in winter. Add a five-night stay at the excellent and recently renovated Machrie Hotel - close to the coast in the picturesque south of the island - and our

tour Islay, the 'Queen of the Hebrides', has all the right ingredients for the perfect out-of-season birdwatching break.

Spectacular flocks of Barnacle and Greenland White-fronted Geese are of course the main draw here in late autumn. But there are Golden Eagles in the hills, Rock Doves and buff-faced Twite feeding on littoral meadows, Great Northern Divers offshore and flotillas of Scaup and other seaduck on the sea lochs and coastal bays. Britain's most northerly populations of Chough are found on Islay (and the nearby island of Colonsay), in winter forming mobile sociable groups that float joyfully on the breeze like windswept black bags. Though numbers have declined in recent decades, we should find this characterful red-billed corvid probing its favoured clifftop sward and coastal machair.

Late October is arguably the best time to visit Islay for the spectacle of goose-watching. The largest flocks will be of noisy Barnacle Geese, with lesser numbers of Greenland White-fronted Geese - their bellies daubed with thick black brushstrokes - all recently arrived from their

breeding grounds in Greenland, far to the north. The magnificent sight and sound of Islay's geese as they arc into roost against the low setting sun is an experience never to be forgotten!

Careful searching is also likely to produce small numbers of pale-bellied Brent Geese, along with 'bad-tempered' Greylags, usually a few Pink-footed Geese and perhaps a wild Canada Goose, too. But the real prize for time spent sifting through Islay's wintering flocks of geese may well be finding one of the rarer species - such as a Snow Goose or the diminutive Cackling Goose - that link up with the migrating Barnacles from Greenland and turn up on the island most years.

As well as enjoying Islay's rich birdlife against the scenic backdrop of some splendid Scottish landscapes, there are mammals here, too. Red, Roe and Fallow Deer roam the island's hills and woods, with Common and Grey Seals to watch for around the coast - Otters too, if we are lucky!

Guide Colin Bushell has spent time surveying wildlife on Islay in recent years and has an excellent knowledge of the island and its birds.



Around 5000 Greenland White-fronted Geese arrive on Islay in October to spend the winter months there © Colin Bushell, Limosa

Daily Itinerary

Tour Notes

Our tour starts and finishes at Kennacraig Ferry Port on the Kintyre peninsula (Argyll), on the west coast of Scotland. *1

If you are travelling any distance you might like to spend the night before the tour at a hotel or B&B in the Kennacraig / Tarbert area. The West Loch Hotel at Kennacraig, for instance, is located just 3km from the ferry terminal - see: <http://www.westlochhotel.com/>

Free car parking is available at the Kennacraig ferry port (approx. 150 spaces) while you're away on Islay with us. For details, please see: <https://www.calmac.co.uk/article/1934/Kennacraig>

*1 If you prefer not to travel on the ferry from Kennacraig with the group, it is also possible to get to Islay **by air** (though you will need to book your own flights). *Please see page 8 for details.*



Rock Dove family © Brian Small, Limosa

Day 1

FERRY CROSSING FROM KENNACRAIG-ISLAY, TRANSFER TO MACHRIE HOTEL

We gather at the Kennacraig ferry port at noon today ahead of the two-hour ferry crossing to Port Askaig, on the isle of Islay. Once onboard the ferry we will find a good spot on deck from which to watch for birds as we sail out of Loch Tarbert and head west to Port Askaig. [Lunch is available to purchase from the well-stocked cafeteria onboard the CalMac ferry, for those that want.]

From the ferry decks we should soon spot our first Eiders and gulls. The sheltered waters of Loch Tarbert provide a safe haven for wintering seabirds and we have good chances to see all three divers - Red-throated, Black-throated and Great Northern - along with Slavonian Grebe and Black Guillemot. Farther out, we are likely to add Gannet, Fulmar, Kittiwake and auks.

Our approach to Port Askaig lies between the 'chalk and cheese' islands of Jura and Islay, and from the ferry we will get our first views of our destination's more gentle, varied and rolling landscape.

Once ashore on Islay, we'll climb aboard our minibus and head west to Bridgend, before swinging south and continuing on to our hotel near Port Ellen - a journey of just under 20 miles. We should soon begin to see our first geese, with Greylags in the fields and gaggles of Barnacles showing up as we drive. After passing through the woodlands at Bridgend, we'll make a stop beside the shores of Loch Indaal - the island's top birdwatching spot. There's always lots to see here, with Whooper Swan, Goldeneye, Rock Pipit, Turnstone and an array of other shorebirds possible.

Late afternoon arrival at the recently renovated, well appointed and comfortable *Machrie Hotel*, which will be our base for all five nights on the island. *Night at the Machrie Hotel, Port Ellen*

Days 2 - 5

BIRDWATCHING ON ISLAY

In birding circles, Islay is most famous for its wintering wild geese - especially its Barnacle Geese. The drama of watching them as they head out from or back into roost is one of the natural world's most stirring spectacles - and something not to be missed! As many as 45,000 Barnacle Geese wheel into Islay from Greenland during October, while numbers of the declining and altogether much scarcer Greenland White-fronted Goose pick up more steadily to reach upwards of 5,000 birds by the month's end. We will spend time watching and enjoying these spectacular concentrations of geese over the coming days.

The goose flocks are highly mobile and as we travel the island to find where they are feeding each day, we are likely to encounter Greylags and Pink-feet mingling with the Barnacles and Greenland White-fronted Geese. With luck and careful scanning through the grazing flocks, we may chance upon something rarer: perhaps a wild Canada Goose, Snow Goose or a diminutive Cackling Goose.

Situated at the heart of the island, the sheltered waters of two opposing sea lochs - Gruinart and Indaal - provide safe roost sites for the famous flocks of geese. Both areas also have extensive intertidal flats that are attractive to a plethora of other waterbirds, wildfowl and waders. Grey Heron, Cormorant, Shag, Scaup, Long-tailed Duck, Goldeneye, Red-breasted Merganser, Eider and Common Scoter are regularly present in late

autumn, along with shorebirds such as Oystercatcher, Knot, Dunlin, Curlew, Bar-tailed Godwit and Ringed, Grey and Golden Plovers.

We will explore the roads that skirt around the lochshores and island's coasts, stopping every now and then to scan the bays and quaysides for divers, grebes, swans and other waterfowl, as well as Purple Sandpiper and Black Guillemot. With any luck, we might also come across the odd 'white-winged' Glaucous or Iceland Gull.

We are sure to encounter Islay's many birds of prey on our travels, too. Perhaps a ghostly Hen Harrier coasting low over the fields; a stooping Peregrine causing panic amongst the flocks of feeding shorebirds on Loch Indaal; a dashing Merlin over the moors; or the sight of a majestic Golden Eagle soaring over one of the island's more remote seacliffs. Common Buzzards are the most numerous bird of prey on the island, and there are Kestrels and Sparrowhawks, Barn Owls and Short-eared Owls, too. We'll also be keeping our eyes peeled for the immense White-tailed Eagle, the UK's largest bird of prey, which has begun to breed locally in recent years!

To the west, the Rhinns is a wild expanse of grass and heather planted with pine. Golden Eagle and Common Buzzard are resident here, and we might spot a white-bibbed Dipper on a fast-flowing stream.

The low-lying Ardnave Peninsula extends northwards from the Rhinns and is a good area to try for Chough, Twite and Snow Bunting at this season, while fertile Ardnave Loch is one of the best wetlands on the island for wildfowl - notably Whooper Swans, which pause to rest and refuel here in late October on their journey south from Iceland. We have also seen Otter here...



Chough probing © Brian Small, Limosa

North of our base, and to the east of Ardnave, Loch Gruinart is an important RSPB reserve famed for its concentrations of Greenland White-fronted and Barnacle Geese. The reserve really comes into its own from late October, when the geese bring with them arrivals of Wigeon, Teal, Pintail and Shoveler, as well as Curlew, Lapwing and Golden Plover. A few Black-tailed Godwits and Greenshank might still be about too, either here or out in the bay, and the whole area is attractive to birds of prey.

The rolling birch and hazel woodlands in the southeast of the island offer a contrast to Islay's wilder north and west. Along with some areas of attractive Victorian broadleaved plantation woodlands around Bridgend, at the centre of the island, in late autumn they provide a home to a range of resident birds and winter visitors alike. Woodcock, Dipper, Redwing, Fieldfare, Coal and Long-tailed Tits, Treecreeper, Goldcrest, Grey Wagtail, Bullfinch, Brambling, Goldfinch and Siskin are among many species to look for here.

Our hotel is not only regarded as the best on the island, but its location is also ideal for birding, overlooking both the mouth of Loch Indaal and being within a short drive of the dramatic Mull of Oa. Nowadays managed as a 2000-hectare RSPB reserve and working farm, the Oa's wild moors and towering seacliffs provide a year-round home to Golden Eagle, Peregrine, Rock Dove, Raven and Chough, while in autumn and winter the specially planted arable fields attract Linnets and significant numbers of chattering Twite. Weather permitting, we'll walk out across the reserve to the clifftop American Monument, a striking landmark on the Oa that's a memorial to the lives of sailors who perished in shipwrecks off Islay during the First World War.

There is so much wildlife to find and enjoy on Islay that our time on the island will seem pass all too quickly! *Four further nights Machrie Hotel, Port Ellen*

Day 6

FAREWELL TO ISLAY & FERRY FROM PORT ELLEN TO KENNACRAIG

Having enjoyed our final full Scottish breakfast at the hotel this morning, we load up the minibus and drive the short distance to Port Ellen this time, where we catch the morning ferry back to Kennacraig.

The return ferry crossing offers another great opportunity to watch for seabirds, divers and duck and is a fitting way to round off our late autumn visit to the beautiful isle of Islay.

Our tour concludes with arrival back at Kennacraig on the Scottish mainland at around noon today, and farewells ahead of our journeys home.

Trip Information

Group Size Max of 7 participants & 1 leader

What To Expect Led by Limosa's friendly, expert guides, our UK holidays are suitable for birdwatchers of all levels of ability, interest and experience. Just bring your bins and enthusiasm for birds - we'll do the rest!

Islay is a surprisingly big island, with a coastline that runs for almost 140 miles, so there's lots to see. As we travel the island in search of the places where the birds are feeding that day, it is not uncommon to suddenly chance upon a goose flock - sometimes at close quarters. While these birds will often allow close approach in the vehicle, they can be easily spooked if people get out so we will spend some time watching them from the minibus. On other occasions, the feeding flocks will allow us to get out and 'scope them quite unconcernedly from the roadside.

There are also plenty of bays, lochs, woods and wild open country for us to check. So we'll be stopping frequently to scan for wildfowl, waders, birds of prey and other of Islay's varied wildlife - usually without having to walk very far.

Please note that our itinerary focuses on Islay's birds and wildlife, and there are no planned excursions to any of the island's eight working whisky distilleries. However, we shall be passing by most of them on our travels should you wish to arrange a private tour (*not included in our tour price*) and opt out of the planned group activity that day.

Birds 80-100 species

Mammals 5-10 species

Accommodation 5 nights accommodation on Islay, based at the very comfortable *Machrie Hotel* (near Port Ellen), which opened in 2018 after a complete renovation. All rooms en suite.

Our tour price is based on the hotel's '*Classic Rooms*', offering views of the beautiful Islay countryside. Should you wish to upgrade to a higher standard of room (*subject to availability at time of booking*) please call the Limosa office for current upgrade prices.

Meals All main meals are included in the tour price, commencing with dinner on arrival at the hotel on the evening of Day 1 and concluding with breakfast on Day 6. Full Scottish breakfasts and delicious three-course dinners will be taken at the hotel. Lunches will be picnics in the field.

Walking The nature of watching wildlife on Islay is that much of the island's birdlife is best observed from the roadside. Where walking is required, these are mainly short and easy, on mostly level ground. If the weather permits, we plan one or two longer walks, the furthest being at the Oa RSPB reserve, an undulating walk of approx. 3 miles in total, out across the moors (wet in places) to the seacliffs. Wellies or sturdy waterproof walking shoes or boots are essential.

Weather Islay's climate is relatively mild year round, but it is highly changeable with spells of sunshine, rain and windy weather (typically from the SW when we visit) possible at any season - and often all three within a matter of just a few hours! During late October and early November, temperatures on Islay are typically in the range of 7-11C [44-52F]. The ferry crossing to and from the island is relatively sheltered, but on windy days it can be cold seawatching on deck. Be sure bring layers of warm and weatherproof clothing.

At the time of our visit in late October, the sun rises on Islay at around 7.30am and sets again just before 5.00pm.

Ground Transport By minibus.

Boat Trips The cost of the ferry crossings – outbound from Kennacraig to Port Askaig (Islay) and returning Port Ellen (Islay) to Kennacraig – are **included** in our tour cost. The ferries are operated by *CalMac* and each is scheduled to take just under two hours. The crossing between the Scottish mainland and Islay is relatively sheltered, but it can be choppy at times out in open water and it can also feel cold on deck in windy weather. Wear warm and waterproof clothing (including a warm hat and gloves) to protect against the windchill and any seaspray. The ferries generally provide a stable crossing but participants particularly prone to seasickness might wish to take suitable precautions.

How To Get There

Participants should aim to arrive at Kennacraig ferry port by noon, in good time to meet with our tour guide and be ticketed and ready to board the ferry at 12.30 hrs. The boat departs at 13.00 hrs (1.00pm) sharp – and the next sailing is not until 6.00pm!

If you are travelling any distance, therefore, you might like to spend the night before our tour at a hotel or B&B in the Kennacraig / Tarbert area. The West Loch Hotel at Kennacraig for instance, is located just 3km from the ferry terminal – see: <http://www.westlochhotel.com/>

If travelling to Kennacraig by public transport there is a 3.5 hr **bus service** from Glasgow that connects with the ferry. It is also possible to **fly** to Islay from Glasgow. Presently, there are two

flights a day in autumn. **To book your flights, visit the HIA (Highlands & Islands Airports) website:** <https://www.hial.co.uk/islay-airport/destinations/book-islay-flights/>

Our hotel is located within 2.5 miles (5 mins by taxi) of the island's airstrip, so it's easy to get to and meet up with the group there.

Tour Cost

2019 (6 days):

£1495 (includes return ferry crossing from Kennacraig) ^{*1}

Deposit: £300

Single Supp: £315

2020 (6 days):

£1545 (includes return ferry crossing from Kennacraig) ^{*1}

Deposit: £300

Single Supp: £325

Cost includes

- Limosa Tour Leader
- 5 nights hotel accommodation on Islay
- Return ferry crossings – Kennacraig/Islay
- All main meals (from dinner on Day 1 through to breakfast on Day 6)
- Minibus transport
- All excursions, tour based tips and taxes
- Limosa checklist of birds

Cost excludes

Insurance, lunch on the ferry Day 1 (*if required*), drinks & other items of a personal nature.

^{*1} If booking your own flights to Islay rather than taking the ferry from Kennacraig with the group, **let us know at time of booking and deduct £25 (per person) from the Tour Cost.**

About Your Guides

Colin Bushell A birder since his teens, Colin lives in Easington in East Yorkshire, where he works as both a professional bird tour guide and freelance ornithologist for ecology consultancies. His first forays into overseas birding were to Majorca, Austria, Greece and Morocco – before the lure of the tropics became irresistible. After exploring Africa and the Far East, Colin immersed himself in South American birding, becoming a frequent visitor there (particularly to Peru and Brazil) and amassing a wealth of experience leading bird tours to the 'Bird Continent' over the last twenty or more years. He joined the Limosa team in 2015 and was an instant hit with participants on our trips to Spain, and Hungary & Slovakia, quickly following those up with tours to Costa Rica, Brazil, Taiwan and Thailand. With a keen interest in migration, Colin has led tours across Europe and the Middle East, Africa, Asia and Central and South America. He has spent many hours working in the Hebrides – including on Islay – surveying the islands' birds and wildlife. Our 2019 tour will be his 5th visit to Islay.

Brian Small Brian was a teacher for 12 years and lives in Suffolk. In 2013, he switched to full time employment with Limosa, guiding our tours and working as Operations and Media Manager in the Limosa office. Brian has travelled around the globe and is the inspiration behind a growing number of Limosa tours, including those to Malaysia, Argentina, Brazil, Switzerland, Italy, Georgia and New Mexico. He regularly leads our guided BirdWalks in Norfolk and Suffolk, too. Well known as a bird artist his current projects include work on a major new guide to birds in southern Brazil. In his spare time at home, he concentrates on working his local patch on the

Suffolk coast, searching especially for migrants and gulls. Brimming with infectious enthusiasm, Brian has been guiding tours for Limosa since 2002 and has excellent experience of tour leading across Europe, Asia, Africa and North and South America. He has travelled and birded extensively throughout the British Isles.

Financial Security

Limosa Holidays is a fully bonded Tour Operator and a member of AITO, the Association of Independent Tour Operators. We hold an ATOL (Air Tour Operators Licence) granted by the CAA, providing for your protection in the event of Limosa Holidays' insolvency. Our ATOL licence number is ATOL 2950.

For tours not including the cost of a flight from the UK or for holidays booked by you as 'Land Only', all payments made to us are fully bonded through the Association of Bonded Travel Organisers Trust Limited (ABTOT). Our ABTOT membership number is 5230. For details please see our brochure or website:

<http://www.limosaholidays.co.uk/financial-protection>

Limosa Loyalty Discount

We are proud of the number of loyal customers who travel regularly with us. As our way of saying 'thank you', we offer a **Frequent Travel Discount**. Under the FTD scheme, everyone who takes four trips with us is entitled to claim a 5% discount on their 5th trip.

***FTD Conditions:** This offer applies to the basic tour cost only and excludes certain commission-based trips, extra costs such as additional flights or accommodation, private extensions and cancellations. • Discounts cannot be given in*

lieu of tour deposits or off the cost of single room supplements. • Please note discount must be requested at time of booking!

How To Book

Check availability on our website or with our office. We are happy to hold Provisional Reservations for up to 7 days. After this, we do require a Booking Form and deposit to confirm your place on tour. Any unconfirmed space will be released.

Book Online, by Phone or by Post

You can book and pay the deposit simply and securely **Online** via our website, using the **'Book This Tour'** button on the relevant tour page or the **Booking** tab at the top of the page.

Telephone bookings must be confirmed in writing by completion of a Booking Form (there's one tucked inside every brochure or as a PDF download from our website), which can be mailed to us in the time honoured way.

Please be sure to read our Booking Conditions and General Information prior to booking.

These can be found in full in the footer on every page on our website (or available from our office on request); also in an abridged form at the back of our brochure.

When to Book

Early booking is advised since flights and accommodation are much more easily secured well in advance. To encourage early booking, we are pleased to offer an **Early Bird Discount** - see our current brochure or website for details.

All our tours are limited to small group sizes. So they can fill up quickly - sometimes even before

our new brochure comes out! Single rooms in particular can often be in short supply and among the first to go, so do try to plan well ahead if you definitely require one of these.

Last-minute Bookings: We inevitably receive a few unexpected cancellations over the course of a season so it is always worth enquiring about vacancies on any tour - even at short notice!

Payments

Deposit: The amount of **booking deposit per person** is shown alongside every tour. We accept deposit payments by **electronic bank transfer** (please ask for our bank details), **UK debit card** and **cheque** (made payable to *Limosa Holidays* and drawn on a UK bank in GB Pounds Sterling).

We also accept Visa and MasterCard credit cards for payment of Booking Deposits only.

Balance: Full payment of the **tour balance** is due not later than 12 weeks prior to departure (20 weeks in the case of certain tours such as cruises or those involving rail travel). We will send you an invoice before the balance is due.

We accept balance payments and any additional payments (e.g. interim flight deposits, flight upgrades, extra hotels etc) by **electronic bank transfer (BACS), UK debit card or cheque.**

Payment by overseas customers

These must be in GB Pounds Sterling and may be made by electronic transfer direct to our bank (please ask for our bank details).

We do **not** accept cheques on US Banks in US Dollars, or cheques in Euros or Eurocheques.

Credit cards - please note:

(i) We do NOT accept credit cards or overseas debit cards for balance payments (including any additional or interim payments) from customers living within the UK or European Economic Area (the EEA is the EU countries plus Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway).

(ii) For customers living in North America, Australia and all other areas outside of the UK and the European Economic Area we are able to accept payment by Visa and MasterCard credit cards or overseas debit card but with a charge of 2.5% of the transaction amount to help offset card company charges.

Late Booking Payments: In order for us to guarantee your airline seats, hotels etc., full payment is required at time of booking for all late bookings (*i.e. bookings made within 12 weeks of departure*).

Other Things You Need To Know**Travel Insurance**

Good travel insurance is **essential** before setting off on any overseas trip - and is to be much recommended for UK tours as well.

Your travel insurance should cover against cancellation, curtailment, missed departure, delay, personal accident, death, loss of baggage and valuables (see note below ref optics), personal liability and legal expenses.

We recommend that you obtain travel insurance as soon as possible after booking your holiday to ensure you are protected right from the word go in the event of unexpected

cancellation prior to departure due to accident or illness. You must inform your insurers of any pre-existing medical conditions (including those of persons not necessarily travelling but upon whom your holiday may depend) that may require treatment during a period of overseas travel or might cause you to cancel the trip.

Once you have arranged your insurance, please be sure to send us the following essential details: name and contact details of your insurance provider, your policy number, expiry date and your insurers 24hr Emergency Assistance number.

Important Things to Note about Insurance

- Travel Insurance does not normally provide sufficient cover for valuable optical equipment, which is often best protected under your own household insurance policy. If in doubt ask your insurers for advice prior to travel.

Arranging Your Insurance: due to UK Government legislation, under FSA (Financial Services Authority) regulations, we are not allowed to offer or recommend travel related insurance to customers. Premiums can vary widely according to your age, needs, health, choice of destination and other factors, while many people nowadays have Annual Travel Insurance cover. For these reasons, we leave you free to shop around and pick your own policy, one best suited to your own individual needs.

General Information**www.limosaholidays.co.uk**

Our website gives easy access to detailed tour itineraries (Tour Info Packs), trip reports, trip photos and the latest Limosa News.

Special Diets & Other Requests

We pass on all such requests to the airlines, hotels and other suppliers, and do our best to ensure (but of course cannot guarantee) that your needs will be met. Please be sure to tell us about these (in as much detail as possible) at the time of booking, to allow good time to make the necessary arrangements.

Smoking

Almost all of our clients prefer a smoke-free environment. For the enjoyment and comfort of all, we ask that smokers refrain from smoking in proximity to the group and respect our NO SMOKING policy in the vehicle, at meal times and when watching wildlife.

Any Questions?

If you have any questions at any time, you'll find our office staff friendly, efficient, approachable - and just a phone call away, eager to assist you in every way.

Our office is open 09.00-17.00 hrs Mon-Fri, and can also be reached by email. In the event we are unable to take your call, please leave a message on our answerphone (24 hrs) and our office will contact you as soon as we can.

***Thank you for your interest in our tours.
We do hope that you will be able to join us
- and we look forward to hearing from you
again!***

CK091019