

A silhouette of a red squirrel standing on a dark, weathered log. The squirrel is facing right, with its long tail curved upwards and backwards. The background is a warm, golden-orange glow, suggesting a sunset or sunrise, with some blurred foliage in the foreground.

Autumnal Red Squirrel Special 2

Photographic tour with tour leader Ellie Rothnie

15th - 19th October 2026

Trip Overview

Group size:

The trip accommodates a maximum of 3 guests.

Cost: £1,595, Deposit: £225.

Cost includes:

Hides, accommodation, local transport and all meals.

Cost excludes:

Travel to the Cairngorms, sundry items and supplementary alcohol.

Accommodation:

Accommodation is at a clean and comfortable hotel in Aviemore with an excellent Scottish Breakfast before we head out each morning too! Rooms are based on single occupancy.

Level of Fitness:

It is a short walk to the squirrel hide which may be tricky if there's been a lot of recent rain and does involve uneven terrain.

LEVEL 1-2



Trip Overview

A Red Squirrel is perched on a weathered tree stump in a forest. The squirrel is facing right, looking slightly away from the camera. Its fur is a rich reddish-brown, and its belly is a lighter, creamy white. The background is a soft, out-of-focus forest scene with warm, golden light filtering through the trees, suggesting a late afternoon or early morning setting. The overall mood is serene and natural.

The Scottish Highlands is the home to many wonderful subjects but without a doubt one of the most beautiful subjects to be found here is the Red Squirrel. We have been working with Red Squirrels for many years at this location and during this extended break, we will have exclusive use of a fantastic site to allow us to capture this iconic mammal, producing a stunning and varied portfolio. The site offers different set-ups from simple portraits to capturing the acrobatic ability of this charming mammal as it leaps through the air, to incorporating the forest environment with wide angle shots to show the stunning forests. The Red Squirrel is one of the most iconic mammals to be found in the UK and we feel that spending this amount of time with them will produce a fantastic portfolio of this charming little mammal. All in all, a jam-packed short break to capture an array of images of our native Red.

Itinerary

Day 1: Travel up to our comfortable B&B in Aviemore in time to meet up for dinner and a chance to talk through the photography opportunities and approaches for the next few days.

Days 2 – 4: The basic pattern of each day will be similar in that we will be heading to and based at a comfortable and spacious hide location which attracts a healthy number of extremely photogenic red squirrels. This approach will allow us to work on an array of different image styles so that we can accumulate a varied portfolio. The site allows us to work on jumping, portrait as well as environmental images in a forest setting that will be at its autumnal best in terms of colour, so this really is a great time of year and chance to achieve this goal.

Day 5: After a final hearty Scottish breakfast, it will be time to begin our journeys home.



Things to bring

Our accommodation is clean and comfortable with all bedding and towels provided. Please let us know if you have any special dietary requirements. In terms of clothing, you'll obviously need some warm and weatherproof clothing. The vast majority of your time will involve spending time in an open-sided hide, and it can feel cold. In addition, the weather can be changeable at this time of the year. The following items are very much recommended - a good pair of strong waterproof walking boots and good waterproof over-trousers. For the top half it's very much a question of having several layers available – like a t-shirt, thin jumper, fleece and then a waterproof coat at hand. You will also need to make sure you have a particularly good weatherproof outer layer to your clothing setup for the walk to the hide. Also, it might be worth considering bringing a thermos flask for tea and coffee which you can fill up at the B&B before we leave in the mornings.



Camera equipment

In terms of camera gear, I would recommend a telephoto lens in the range of 300mm-500mm, and a converter if you have one which provides additional flexibility. A mid-range zoom like a 70-200mm is also ideal for squirrel-in-habitat shots, and you may also like to bring a wide angle in the range of 24-70mm as there is a tree next to the hide which is a favourite sitting spot for the squirrels. There are bean bags in the hide and also sturdy plates which will take your gimbal or mono ball head.



Useful Contact Information

My contact number for the build up to and for the duration of the trip is:

Ellie: +44 (0)7879 480143



Please don't hesitate to contact me even if you think it is a minor question, I am here to help.



Address

4 Deer Park Drive, Newport, Shropshire TF10 7HB

Tel: 01952 411436

Email: mark@natures-images.co.uk

Web: www.natures-images.co.uk

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