

Nature Connection with Fergus Beeley

Hotel Tresanton, St Mawes 15-17 March / 19-21 April

WEDNESDAY

Check-in for dinner with Fergus.

2000 Dinner

THURSDAY

0900-1000 Introduction

Introducing Fergus and his extraordinary background of making award winning wildlife films. Various clips of film will be shown to highlight how a better connection with nature involves tuning all the senses into the present. Moving quietly is necessary, with the stealth of a ghost – or even better – stopping and melting into the leaves at the base of a tree to sit, wait and watch the world of nature come alive.

1000-1300 Walk

Fergus will guide the group from Tresanton past the Castle on the coastal path to St Just, about 2 miles away. Regular stops will be made along the path in the wild flower meadows above the shoreline. These are rich in native flora, butterflies and insects. Visits will also be made down to the shore, where anemones, kelps, and colourful rock pools can be visited at low tide. There are also Little Stints, Curlews, Oyster Catchers and in March and April, many migrant waders returning from Africa. Arriving in the Bay at St Just, a special visit will be made to the recently re-introduced (but very healthy population) of Cirl Buntings which now thrive here.

A visit will be made to the church and graveyard at St Just. There are more species of lichen on the stones here than anywhere else Fergus has ever been in Britain. Descending back along the coastal path, greater emphasis will be made on stopping, watching and listening. The secret of great nature watching is not to rush, but attend all senses to the surroundings. In this way, so much more will be seen.

1300-1400 Lunch

1400-1800 Walk

After lunch, cars will be taken from Tresanton round to St Anthony's Lighthouse. Swarovski binoculars will be issued for people to look out from the Bird Hide in the fortress which overlooks a Peregrine Falcon's eyrie. They will be sitting on eggs through March and raising chicks through April. Fergus will then guide the group east along the cliffs, spotting Ravens, Stonechats and numerous seabirds nesting on the cliffs. This is one of the most beautiful stretches of Cornish coast. Bottlenose dolphins, Common and Atlantic Grey seals can commonly be seen in the sea below.

1900-2100 Dinner

2100-2200 Film Screening

The screening of a 50 minute wildlife documentary produced and presented by Fergus Beeley for BBC Natural World. After the film, Fergus will offer a revealing insight in to how the film was made.

FRIDAY AM

0600-0700 Dawn Walk

An early start to walk past the castle to the west and onto the slopes of grassland and woodland to listen to the dawn chorus. By mid-March migrants like Whitethroats will have returned from Africa. Fergus will guide the audience through the range of birds that are vocalizing.

0700-0930 Breakfast

0930-1100 Walk

After breakfast Fergus will guide clients to the Ferry over to Place Manor. From here, it is about a mile's walk to St Anthony's Lighthouse. A picnic lunch will be provided. People can decide to return on whichever ferry they may decide.

Hotel Endsleigh, Dartmoor 17-19 March / 21-23 April

FRIDAY PM

Check-in for dinner with Fergus.

2000 Dinner

SATURDAY

0900-1000 Introduction

Introducing Fergus and his extraordinary background of making award winning wildlife films. Various clips of film will be shown to highlight how a better connection with nature involves tuning all the senses into the present. Moving quietly is necessary, with the stealth of a ghost – or even better – stopping and melting into the leaves at the base of a tree to sit, wait and watch the world of nature come alive.

1000-1230 Walk

Traversing the brook to its source in the outcrops of rock amidst the tumbling ancient woodland, Fergus will guide the group through the wonders of nature at Endsleigh. Descending to the lake, we stop and listen for the Kingfisher that frequents this magical place, stalking minnows from its perch in the weeping willow. Fergus will then lead the group up the river into the woodland path that runs alongside it, walking quietly and looking and listening at all times. It maybe the numerous otters that live here will make an appearance.

1230-1400 Lunch

1400-1600 Walk

Descending back down to the river Tamar after lunch, Fergus will now lead the group downstream. The wooded valley sides steepen. Dippers frequent this stretch of water. Roe deer and Muntjac are frequently seen scampering secretly between the trees on the right bank.

1600-1700 Tea

1700-1800 Film Screening

The screening of a 50 minute wildlife documentary produced and presented by Fergus Beeley for BBC Natural World. After the film, Fergus will offer a revealing insight in to how the film was made.

1900-2100 Dinner

2100-2200 Night Walk

The after dinner 'Bat Experience' will make this a night to remember. Equipped with torches and guided by Fergus, a slow walk along the drive with a 'bat detector' will reveal the clicks and squeaks of the numerous species of bats at Endsleigh. Fergus will reveal the incredible habits and haunting calls of Tawny Owls and Little Owls high in the trees above.

SUNDAY

0600-0700 Dawn Walk

An early start to catch the full orchestra of Endsleigh's dawn chorus of birds. The valley amplifies the sound into a quite theatrical masterpiece and leaves the listener entranced by the clarity and power of the experience. Fergus will guide the audience through the range of birds that are vocalizing.

0700-0930 Breakfast

0930-1100 Walk

A climb up the bank behind Endsleigh to sit quietly to watch birds, look for stoats (that are known to den here) and conclude the day with our newly discovered special connection with nature.