

# NATURE RETREAT WITH ED DREWITT



TUDOR FARMHOUSE HOTEL



# Welcome

On your first day you will arrive at the Tudor Farmhouse Hotel in the beautiful village of Clearwell nestled between the Forest of Dean and Wye Valley. You will be able to check into one of our twenty boutique bedrooms from 4pm. A group dinner will take place that evening, when you will meet your guide, Ed Drewitt.

# DAY TWO



Our nature retreat in the Forest of Dean will begin by heading into tranquil ancient woodland looking and listening for woodland and waterbirds. We hope to encounter small flocks of woodland birds that may include blue tit, great tit, long-tailed tit and others such as marsh tit, goldcrest, nuthatch and treecreeper. Ed will be helping you read the woodland environment looking for clues that wild boar and deer have been walking close by or nibbling on certain trees. On the water we will be spotting the richly exotic and elaborate coloured mandarin ducks amongst mallards, tufted ducks and perhaps goosanders. Watch out for kingfishers which fly past as a flash of blue or orange.

By November wintering birds such as redwings and bramblings from Scandinavia and local hawfinches will be wintering across the forest; we will drop into different spots where they might be. Crossbills are usually encountered flying overhead calling.

We will visit some of the forest's various naturalised ponds, now important places for wildlife although once built for the thriving industries that relied on water. After lunch we will seek out these watery and woodland locations, maximising our opportunities of seeing a range of wildlife, including perhaps grey wagtail and dipper. As dusk draws in roe, fallow and muntjac deer are all a possibility alongside the very shy and elusive wild boar and pine marten. We may even hear a tawny owl or see a wintering woodcock.

# DAY THREE



This morning we will head off to picturesque Symonds Yat Rock looking out across the Herefordshire countryside and where, from the viewpoint, buzzards, peregrines and ravens may be flying beneath us or overhead. We will take a short walk into nearby woodland where fungi as well as small woodland birds may be on show.

After lunch we will spend time at the Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust's Woorgreens nature reserve, which they manage as a heathland habitat for wildlife. The wide, open landscape is ideal for looking for flying birds of prey while amongst the gorse stonechats often pop up. In some autumns a great grey shrike or butcherbird arrives around now. Alder trees here can attract siskins and lesser redpolls while berry trees lure in redwings and fieldfares.

We may drop into other locations and viewpoints depending on the weather, time and recent wildlife sightings.



Photo Credits: Symonds Yat & Amethyst Deceiver - Ed Drewitt; Hawfinch - Andy Morffew; Kingfisher - Ian Preston; Stonechat - Jo Garbutt

# HELLO



**Ed is a naturalist, author, tour leader, birder, photographer, public speaker, bird ringer, zoologist, feather expert and peregrine researcher.**

Ed has an energetic passion for nature and enjoys communicating enthusiastically to a wide range of audiences. He specialises in exploring the outdoors and showing others wildlife both in the UK and abroad. During the past three years he has been taking people on wildlife safaris in the Forest of Dean to see wild boar, deer and birdlife. During the spring he takes people out to hear and learn birdsong and experience the dawn chorus. His career has been learning focused, working as learning officers for Bristol Zoo, the RSPB, Bristol Museum and the University of Bristol. He now works independently to develop and produce exciting enquiry-led learning resources for nature-related organisations on specific projects.

He has studied peregrine falcons for the past 24 years researching what they eat and where they disperse. He is currently studying for a PhD based on his Peregrine studies.