

## Tour 2: Wildlife Eco Safari

Discover some of Britain's coastal treasures – learn of rare native plants and species in their natural environment and visit one of Europe's most important gull sanctuaries.

### *Where You Visit*

#### Sandscale Haws Nature Reserve



Coastlines can come and go with the changes in tides and winds. The National Trust nature reserve at Sandscale Haws is a growing landscape; sand is deposited on the shore and is blown into a broad range of spectacular dunes. Behind these yellow dunes are slacks or marshy hollows. The mix of wildlife habitats is unique. Flowers abound, including specialities like the dune pansy, sea holly and sea bindweed and in the spring pools of water in the slacks are the breeding sites for natterjack toads and great crested newts. In summer the slacks dry out and there are drifts of marsh orchids and clouds of blue butterflies.

#### South Walney Nature Reserve

South Walney Nature Reserve is situated on the south end of Walney Island, on land granted by King Stephen to the Abbot. It contains the largest, mixed ground nesting of herring and lesser black-back gulls in Europe and the most southerly eider duck breeding colony in Britain. The area has considerable ecological interest arising from the many habitats present, including mudflats, pebble ridges, salt marshes, sand dune, rough pasture, freshwater and brackish pools. It contains an excellent range of both the common and rare flowers of the coast.



*Photo Opportunities*

Views across the Duddon Estuary to Black Coombe and Lake District Hills. Piel Island and its ruined castle. Walney Lighthouse which was the last manned lighthouse in England.



*Level Of Activity*

Moderate strenuous activity including walking intermediate to long distances over uneven terrain. Those with physical limitations should take this into consideration.