

## **ARGATY WOODLAND HIDE VISITOR INFORMATION**

Thank you for booking the Argaty Woodland Hide. We hope you will enjoy your time with us. Below is a list of information you will need before visiting. We would be grateful if you would take the time to familiarise yourself with them prior to your visit.

### **WHAT WE OFFER**

- A brand-new purpose-built hide, specifically designed for photography, but also totally suitable for all nature lovers.
- An exclusive experience for a maximum of three people.
- A setting which will cater for a wide range of photographic skills and equipment.
- High level and ground level viewing hatches to allow photography from different angles.
- The opportunity to see red squirrels and other woodland creatures in their natural environment.
- A range of natural perches.
- A variety of woodland birds, including long tailed tits, jays, nuthatches and tree creepers.
- A selection of feed options to encourage the animals to use different props.

### **SESSION TIMINGS**

- Visitors should book the hide in advance.
- Full day sessions and half day sessions are available.
- A full day session runs from 9.30am until 4.30pm.
- Morning sessions run from 9.30am until 1pm, afternoon sessions from 1pm until 4.30pm.
- Visitors are asked to arrive 30 minutes prior to the start of their session

### **JOINING INSTRUCTIONS AND IMPORTANT INFORMATION**

- Visitors are asked to arrive at the Argaty Red Kite Centre half an hour prior to the session. A ranger will meet you there and guide you to the hide.
- Access to the hide is a 400m walk from your car across grass parkland.
- Lifts to and from the site can be provided, but visitors should be prepared to walk unless prior arrangements have been made. Should you need a lift, please let us know before your visit.
- We regret that, due to the location of the hide, the site is unsuitable for wheelchairs.
- There are no toilets at the site, but full facilities are provided at the Argaty Red Kite Visitor centre.
- While we endeavour to attract a wide range of wildlife to the hide, with wild animals, nothing is guaranteed. Their behaviour will vary depending upon weather conditions, time of year etc.
- It is expressly forbidden to use any sort of cooking equipment or naked flames in the hide or anywhere on Argaty. Any form of fire will not be tolerated.
- To keep the hide area tidy we would ask all visitors to take any rubbish home with them.
- At the start of your session, the ranger will top up feeders, set up perches and bait them. There will be enough food to last half a day so there should be no need to leave the hide.
- If you have booked for a whole day session, you may need to re-bait the perches midway through the day. Please follow the written instructions in the hide for this.
- Once they have put the food out the ranger will leave you in the hide until the end of the session.

- Should you require the ranger's assistance, you will find emergency telephone numbers on the walls of the hide.
- During your session, please try to stay as quiet as possible so as not to disturb the wildlife.
- Please put your phone on silent at the start of the session.
- Smoking/vaping is not permitted anywhere within the woodland area. Should you need to leave the hide for either purpose, please do not go through the feeding area. Instead, walk straight ahead from the back of the hide and out to the field.
- Please remember that certain birds such as jays are very shy and will not come in to feed if there is too much disturbance in the feeding area.
- Please note that CCTV/trail cameras may be used in the woodland area for wildlife monitoring purposes. These are for use by staff members only and should not be touched by visitors.
- Please also bear in mind that the above rules are for the benefit of the wildlife here, and are designed to give you the best visit possible. If visitors are found to be in serious breach of the rules they may be asked to leave the hide/banned from further visits.

### **WHAT TO BRING**

- Warm, waterproof clothing. While the hide is of good quality and in a sheltered location, we recommend full waterproofs, hats, jackets etc.
- While camouflaged clothing is not essential, dark clothing is recommended to help you blend in with your surroundings.
- Please wear sensible footwear, walking boots or wellies are ideal.
- A photography bean bag is recommended if you have one. You will not need a tri-pod. The hide has shelves beneath the windows for you to rest your camera on.
- On full frame bodied cameras, we recommend a 300mm or 400mm lens. On crop sensors a 70-200mm or 70-300mm zoom is ideal.
- A thermos of hot drink is recommended on cooler days.
- A packed lunch. There is no food provision for human visitors at Argaty.

### **PRICES**

\*\*\*Special introductory launch offer – valid until 10th June 2018\*\*\*

Half day session: £50

Full day session: £100

From 11th June 2018

Half day session £80

Full day session £150

\*N.B. The above costs are for hire of the whole hide. You can hire it for yourself, or should you wish, split the cost with friends.

\* Photography workshops are available. Please ask us if you'd like to know details.

In line with our ongoing commitment to conservation, we will make a donation from every booking to the charity Saving Scotland's Red Squirrels.

## **PAYMENT**

Payment will be taken at the time of booking.

## **CANCELLATIONS/POSTPONEMENTS**

- Cancellations will be accepted up to 14 days prior to the booking date.
- After that period, a refund will only be offered if we manage to book the hide out to another customer/group.
- If extenuating circumstances have forced you to cancel your visit, please do contact us and we will endeavour to find a suitable compromise.
- Please note, Argaty Red Kites will retain £5 of your booking fee to cover the administrative costs of administering a refund.
- Argaty Red Kites reserves the right to amend your booking due to adverse weather conditions or other unforeseen circumstances.

Thank you so much for taking the time to read this. We hope that you enjoy your visit.