

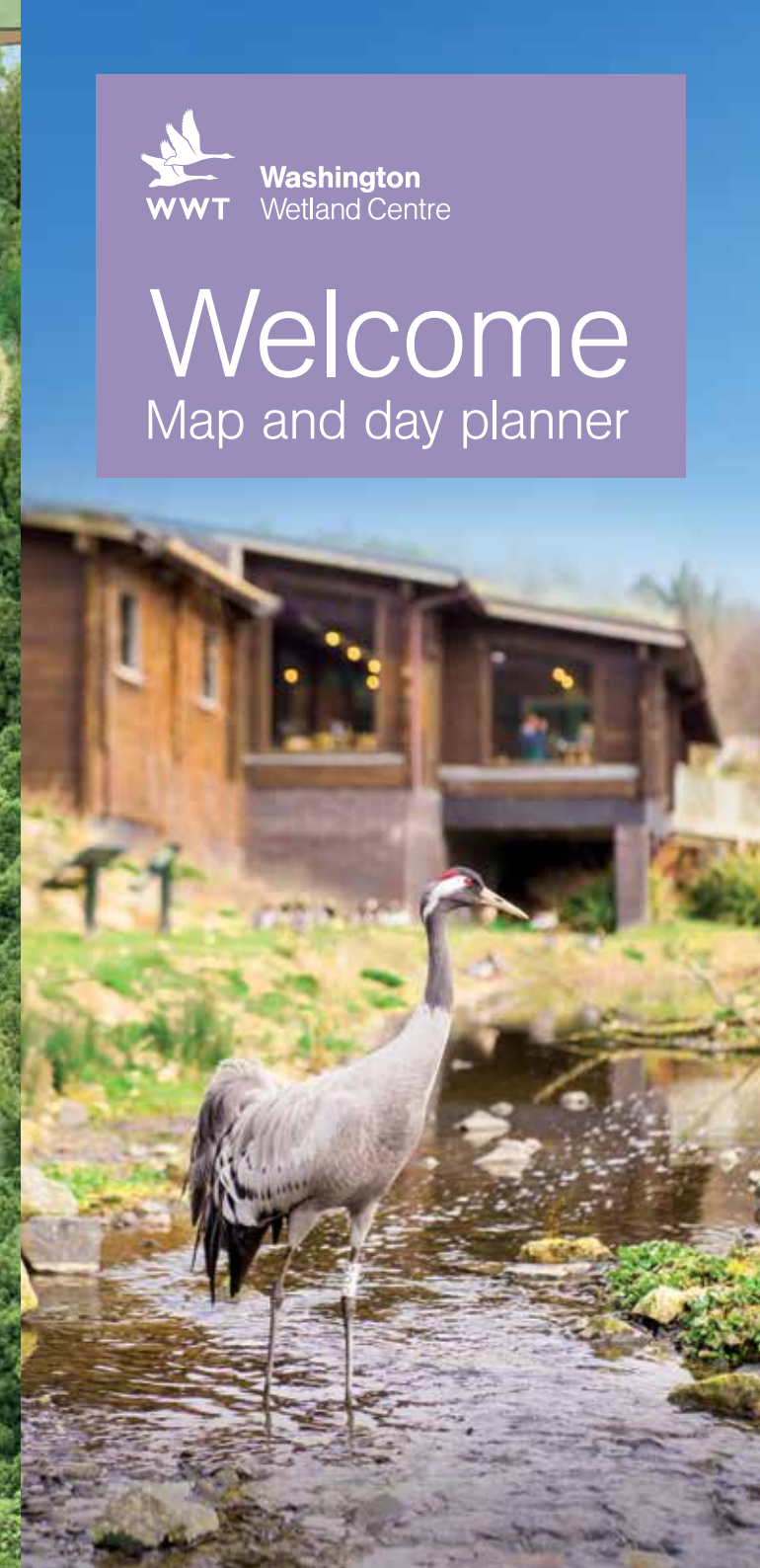
Welcome

Map and day planner



- | | | | | | |
|--|------------------|--|------------------------------|--|--------------------|
| | Toilets | | Restaurant | | Wildlife viewpoint |
| | Hand washing | | Picnic area | | Viewpoint |
| | First aid | | Play area | | Bike park |
| | Disabled toilets | | Gift shop | | Bird feeders |
| | Baby changing | | Restricted wheelchair access | | Steep path |

Please wash your hands as all animals can carry diseases



Don't miss...

Map and sightings boards – check out the latest wildlife highlights and visitor information before heading off to explore our grounds and reserve.

Eurasian cranes – unrivalled views of these magnificent birds, once extinct as a breeding species in the UK.

Close encounters – get nose-to-beak with rare and exotic waterbirds from across the world as they nibble corn from your outstretched hand (on sale at the admissions desk).

Hawthorn Wood feeding station – a magical spot, where colourful woodland birds flit and feed among shady tree branches. Bullfinch, nuthatch and great-spotted woodpecker are regulars.

Chilean flamingos – our flock of pink Chilean flamingos can be seen dancing dramatically in the summer and looking stunning against snowy backdrops in winter.

Wader Lake and the saline lagoon – home to a range of flora and fauna; see regionally-rare breeding avocets and lapwing, a large common tern colony, one of the UK's best heronries and elusive wild otter on the River Wear.

Dragonfly and amphibian ponds – buzzing with life in the warmer months and a great place to see nature up close.



Otter

Asian short-clawed otters – watch our cheeky, sociable otters as they play, swim and devour tasty fish.

The duckery – our specialist breeding nursery, where some of the most endangered waterbirds on the planet are hatched and raised.

Splashzone play area – let off steam in our water-themed play area (wellies recommended!).



Pond zone – enjoy interactive fun for all the family as you discover what lurks beneath a pond's surface.



Chilean flamingo



Saline lagoon

Tours and activities

Daily

Otter feeds – meet our gregarious Asian short-clawed otters at twice-daily talks in their specially designed enclosure.

Weekends

Guided walks, arts and crafts, special workshops – most Saturdays or Sundays there's something fun to take part in. Ask for details.

Holidays

During the school holidays, our enthusiastic learning team is on hand with activities for visitors of all ages to enjoy. Ask for details.

Seasonal

Discover more about our wonderful wetlands and wildlife with seasonal talks and tours, including duckling talks in spring, flamingo feeds in summer and themed guided walks all year round. Ask for details.



Great spotted woodpecker



Grey heron

Information



Walkabout Guide

To get the most from your visit, buy a Walkabout Guide for some suggested routes and more information on what you can see here. Available in the shop.



Fancy a cuppa or a browse in the shop?

Enjoy a selection of hot and cold snacks and meals or find that special gift in the shop, knowing that every penny you spend helps support WWT's vital wetland conservation work both here and around the world.



Binoculars

Binoculars can be hired from the admissions desk (refundable deposit required).

Accessibility

Our site has excellent access, with level tarmac paths in most areas, an accessible toilet in the visitor centre and electric scooters for hire free of charge (pre-booking is recommended). Please speak to a member of staff for information about any areas with limited access.



Photography

There are many amazing photo opportunities here and we're happy for you to take photos for personal use. For more information, please go to our website.

Opening times

Centre: 9.30am to 5.30pm summer/4.30pm winter
Last admission one hour before closing
Open 7 days a week except 25 December

Cafe: 10am to 5pm summer/4pm winter
Hot lunch is served 11.30am-2.30pm daily
(noon-2.30pm on Sundays).

In focus visits

Test, select and buy state-of-the-art binoculars and telescopes under field conditions with the help of the In focus experts once a month.

Visit www.at-infocus.co.uk or ask a member of staff for dates.

in focus
The Binocular and Telescope Specialists



Take care and help us protect the wildlife here


- Please stay on the paths where asked and be careful near water.
- Enjoy your close encounters with wildlife here but remember all animals can carry diseases. Washing your hands is a sensible way to protect yourself, especially before eating. 
- Birds have ears too – you'll see more around the site and in hides if you are quiet and approach slowly.
- Leaves, flowers and berries are vital for our wildlife so please don't pick them – some may be harmful to you.
- Our birds eat special food and a change in their diet can make them poorly. Please don't feed them anywhere other than the Close Encounters area, with the corn on sale at the admissions desk.




See you next time

For the latest news, events, wildlife sightings, photography workshops and other goings on, please visit www.wwt.org.uk/washington

Sign up for our e-newsletter at www.wwt.org.uk/signup

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 **Washington**
Wetland Centre

FSC
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