

Be a responsible snorkeller

Before you go

Check the conditions: be aware of tides, water temperatures, currents and weather forecasts before you leave.

Take a friend: never snorkel alone and always tell people where you are going.

Know who to contact: find out where the nearest medical and/or coastguard facility is and note down who to contact in an emergency.

At the beach

Know your surroundings: check what the weather and tides are doing, and identify a landmark for reference.

Use the right equipment: only use good quality and well-fitting equipment – mask, snorkel and fins.

Wear the right protection: a wetsuit will keep you warm and protect you against jellyfish stings. If it's sunny, remember to cream up!

In the water

Follow the Snorkeller's Code:

Do not remove seaweed or animals from rocks or from their homes.

Take care not to kick sealife with fins or stand on delicate animals.

Observe animals where they live and don't take anything away with you.

WARNING:

Do not snorkel in rough weather
Do not touch jellyfish and other wildlife
Never snorkel alone

Emergency Services:
999
Stornoway Coastguard:
01851 702013

North Harris
Medical Practice:
01859 502421
(Tarbert)

North Harris Snorkel Trail

Isle of Harris, Outer Hebrides
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- 1 Hushinish

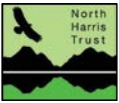
2 Seilamol Bay

3 Àird Asaig
- 4 Carragraich Bay

5 Port Rhenigidale

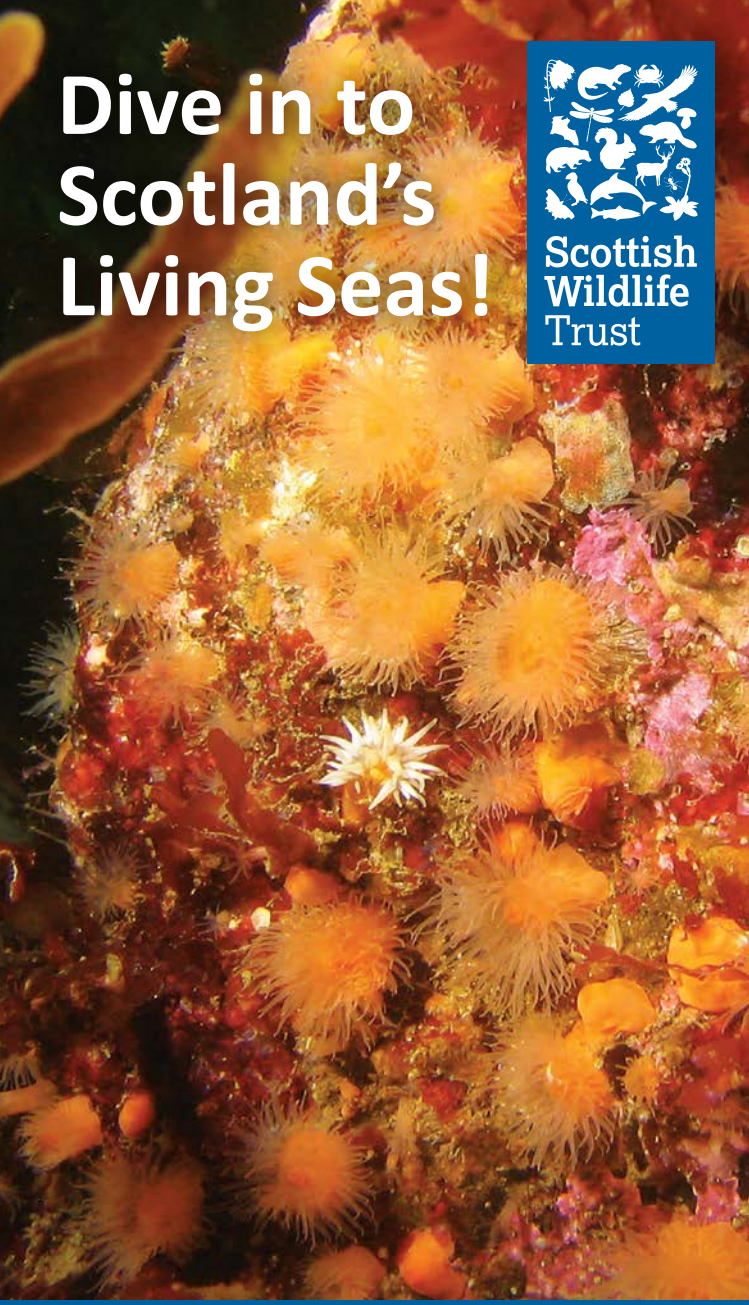
6 Loch Mhàraig

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Dive in to Scotland's Living Seas!

For further information, visit:
scottishwildlifetrust.org.uk/
snorkeltrail

Snorkel Trail
North Harris

In association with the North Harris Trust

Life under the waves

The waters around the Isle of Harris off Scotland's west coast are home to a rich marine environment. There are no guarantees as to what you might see on your snorkel trail (that's part of the fun!), but here are some common species to keep an eye out for:

Fish

LESSER-SPOTTED DOGFISH

BALLAN WRASSE

SANDEELS

POLLACK

Jellyfish

WARNING: PAINFUL STING
LION'S MANE

MOON

BARREL

STALKED

Crustaceans

SHORE CRAB

VELVET SWIMMING CRAB

HERMIT CRAB

EDIBLE CRAB

Starfish and urchins

COMMON STARFISH

BRITTLESTAR

SUNSTAR

COMMON URCHIN

Snails

TOPSHELL

DOGWHELK

PERIWINKLE

LIMPET

Plants and algae

KELP

MAERL

EELGRASS

BLADDERWRACK

Other invertebrates

SNAKELOCKS ANEMONE

CUTTLEFISH

BREADCRUMB SPONGE

BEADLET ANEMONE

Also look out for...

HARBOUR PORPOISE

SEALS (COMMON AND GREY)

WHITE-TAILED EAGLE

MINKE WHALE

BASKING SHARK

MERMAID'S PURSE (SHARK OR RAY EGG CASE)

Remember the three Ts:
No touching, taking or teasing of marine animals, plants or shells.

What did you see on your snorkel?
Send us your pictures on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.

1



Hushinish

P MAP: OS Explorer 456, NA991120
NEAREST VILLAGE: Ardhasaig (14 miles)

A stunning beach with small rocky reefs providing habitat for fish, crabs and urchins. In between the reefs, large shoals of sandeels can be seen. Across the machair off the slipway, urchins and large pollack live among the kelp beds, but deep water and currents make this an advanced area. Both sites are best snorkelled at low tide.

3



Àird Asaig

P MAP: OS Explorer 456, NB127033
NEAREST VILLAGE: Ardhasaig (0.2 miles)

A sandy seabed fringed with different species of algae providing a great opportunity to see crabs and starfish, including sunstars. This sheltered spot is good for beginners but don't go out too far. A more advanced option is situated off to the left of the headland where there are fantastic kelp beds and shoals of pollack and coalfish.

5



Port Rhenigidale

P MAP: OS Explorer 456, NB228017
NEAREST VILLAGE: Tarbert (12 miles)

A small inlet with beautiful views across to Skye. Beneath the waves, clear water and rich marine life awaits, with plenty of different fish and crustaceans to see. The inner bay is well sheltered from westerly winds and great for beginners. Heading further out along the west side of the bay is a good option for more advanced snorkellers.

2



Seilamol Bay

P MAP: OS Explorer 456, NB067067
NEAREST VILLAGE: Ardhasaig (9 miles)

A sheltered bay with multiple marine habitats including seagrass meadows and kelp beds. Many species of fish frequent this bay including colourful wrasse, and crabs and urchins are common amongst the algae. Walk down from the road across ancient peat banks and shielings. Good at all states of tide but best at low.

4



Carragraich Bay

P MAP: OS Explorer 455, NG195985
NEAREST VILLAGE: Tarbert (3 miles)

With kelp covered reefs, sandy patches and cliff faces all within a relatively small area, this is a great place to explore. Colourful algae encrust the rock faces, whilst the fronds of kelp provide shelter for urchins, crabs, fish and the occasional lobster. Beginners should stay to the right of the bay. Please park respectfully.

6



Loch Mhàraig

P MAP: OS Explorer 456, NB196059
NEAREST VILLAGE: Tarbert (8 miles)

Loch Mhàraig is a sheltered sea loch providing a different marine habitat to Harris's other snorkel trail sites. Many different species of algae can be seen here, as well as crabs, anemones, fish and shellfish. Parking on the old slipway is advised.

The Isle of Harris

North Harris is a spectacular area of land located in the centre of a long chain of islands called the Western Isles, which lie off the north-west coast of Scotland.

The community-owned estate comprises 25,900 hectares of croft land, common grazings and open hill ground including An Cliseam, the highest peak in the Western Isles with some of the most remote and rugged terrain in Scotland. The combined estate is bounded on three sides by the sea: East and West Loch Tarbert to the south, Caolas an Scarp and Loch Resort to the west, and the long arm of Loch Seaforth to the east. The northern boundary follows a meandering line tracking the Lewis/Harris border from Bogha Glas, on the edge of Loch Seaforth, to Loch Resort in the west.

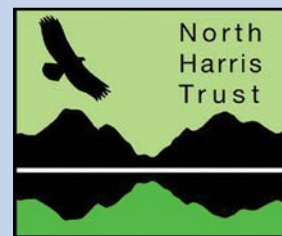


The landscape features a unique combination of sandy beaches, mountains, rugged coastlines and numerous freshwater lochans. The area is also a fantastic place for watching wildlife and boasts a rich cultural history. Tarbert is the largest settlement in North Harris with excellent facilities for a small place including restaurants, hotels, shops, guest houses and a tourist information centre.

With around 1,000 inhabitants, North Harris is sparsely populated. Approximately half the population live in Tarbert, a further 250 people are on the Island of Scalpay and the remainder live in smaller crofting townships scattered along the coastline.

The North Harris Trust

The area of North Harris makes up one of the largest community-owned estates in Scotland.



The North Harris Trust, which manages the land on behalf of the community, is open to all residents and is run by a board of locally-elected

volunteer directors. The Trust aims to increase employment opportunities, address local housing needs, and protect and enhance North Harris's wonderful cultural and natural heritage.

Get in touch with the North Harris Trust

north-harris.org

Tigh an Urrais, Tarbert, Isle of Harris HS3 3DB
 T 01859 502222 E info@north-harris.org

Snorkelling can be dangerous and these self-guided trails are used entirely at your own risk. It is your responsibility to check the conditions present on the day and assess whether it is safe to snorkel.

Key



Wild Camping



Toilets



Café



Parking



Shop



Beginner



Advanced

The information contained within this leaflet was correct at the time of publishing (January 2022). For further details, please visit scottishwildlifetrust.org.uk/snorkeltrail