

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 the rock 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 enter the water during or 1-2 days after heavy rainfall, as water pollution may occur

Do not touch jellyfish and other wildlife
Never snorkel alone

Emergency Services:
999

Lorn Medical Centre:
01631 563175

NHS 24:
111

Lochgilthead Medical Centre:
01546 462001

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

North Argyll Snorkel Trail

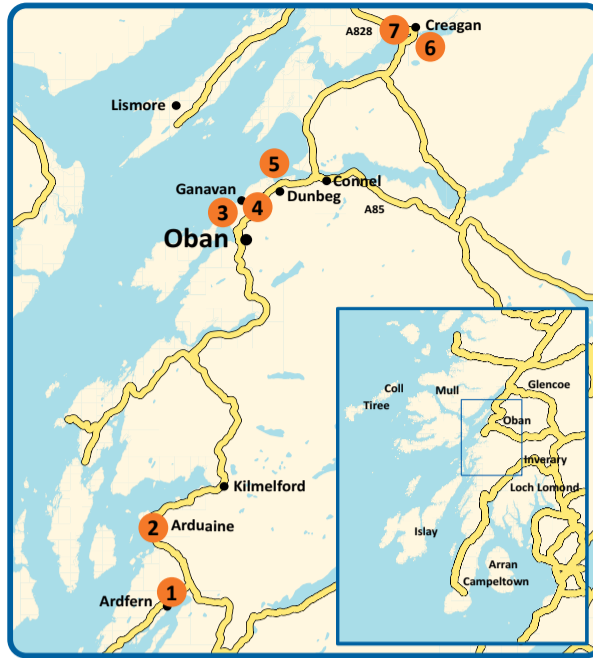
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f [facebook.com/LivingSeasScotland](https://www.facebook.com/LivingSeasScotland)

t @ScottishSeas

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Seawilding

UK's first community-led native oyster and seagrass restoration project. Get involved in local ocean recovery efforts and snorkel for citizen science!
seawilding.org

Adventure Oban

A community-led charity supporting outdoor access. Borrow wetsuits and other outdoor equipment from the Adventure Library and tap into this amazing outdoor community!
adventureoban.org



scottishwildlifetrust.org.uk

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Dive in to Scotland's Living Seas!



Snorkel Trail North Argyll

In association with WILD ABOUT ARGYLL

Life under the waves

North Argyll is home to a thriving marine environment. There are no guarantees as to what you might see whilst snorkelling (that's part of the fun!), but here are some common species to keep an eye out for:

Fish	 BUTTERFISH	 GREATER PIPE FISH	 LONG-SPINED SEA SCORPION	 COMMON BLENNY	Jellyfish	 LION'S MANE	 MOON	 BARREL	 COMB				
	Crustaceans	 SHORE CRAB	 VELVET SWIMMING CRAB	 BROWN CRAB		 HERMIT CRAB	Starfish and Urchins	 COMMON STARFISH	 BRITTLESTAR	 SUNSTAR	 COMMON URCHIN		
		Molluscs	 BLUE MUSSEL	 QUEEN SCALLOP		 NATIVE OYSTER		 LIMPET	Plants and Algae	 KELP	 BLADDER WRACK	 SEAGRASS	 CHANNEL WRACK
			Other Invertebrates	 STRAWBERRY ANEMONE		 SERPULID WORM		 SNAKELOCKS ANEMONE		 BEADLET ANEMONE	Also look out for...	EURASIAN OTTER	HARBOUR PORPOISE
GREY AND HARBOUR SEAL				OYSTERCATCHER									
SERPULID WORM REEFS	CORMORANT												

1



Village Bay, Loch Craignish

- P** MAP: OS Explorer 361, NM813050
- NEAREST VILLAGE:** Ardfern
- C** Part of Seawilding's seagrass and native oyster restoration work, providing safe nursery habitats that sequester carbon. Enter the water directly opposite the Village Hall. A great site for beginners, with lots to see in the seagrass bed close to shore. Craignish Village Hall allows visitor parking for snorkellers; avoid busy times by checking their website.

2



Arduaine Jetty and Asknish Bay

- P** MAP: OS Explorer 361, NM801099 / NM796102
- NEAREST VILLAGE:** Kilmelford
- C** A wide bay with views of Shuna and Luig. An accessible path leads from the hotel to a boathouse; enter water here or at the shore/steps of Arduaine jetty. Be aware of boat traffic and take care on wet steps. Loch Melfort offers parking, local produce and stunning views. 40 minute bus from Oban, 50 minute bus from Lochgilphead.

3



Ganavan Sands

- P** MAP: OS Explorer 361, NM861326
- NEAREST TOWN:** Oban
- C** A beautiful, popular bay, easily accessible by ramp. Search for well-camouflaged species amongst rocky outcrops and explore lush seagrass meadows to experience their amazing biodiversity. 10 minute cycle/bus journey from Oban (buses run regularly on weekdays). Public toilets with accessible access are on site. Car parking charges may apply.

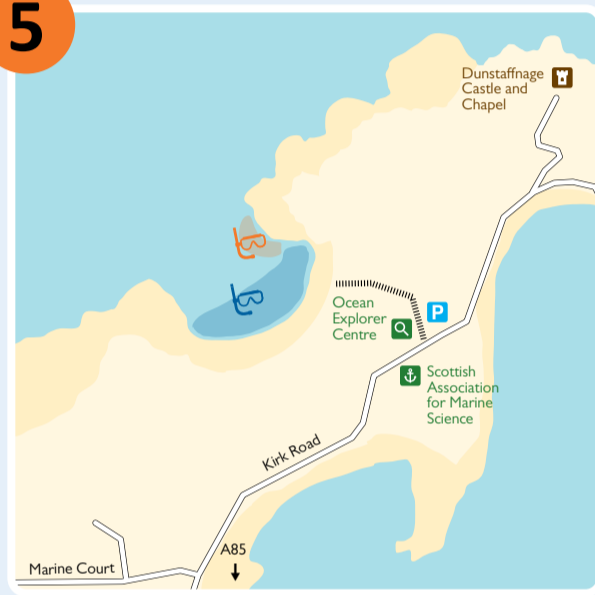
4



Wee Ganavan (Camas Bàn)

- P** MAP: OS Explorer 361, NM853320
- NEAREST TOWN:** Oban
- C** At high tide look for crabs, butterfish and common blenny emerging from seaweed. At low tide look for juvenile wrasse, gobies and scorpionfish amongst kelp. Be aware there is an overflow pipe that feeds into the bay after heavy rain. On street parking, or park and walk from Ganavan Sands (15 mins). 10 minute cycle/25 minute walk from Oban. Regular buses to/from Oban on weekdays. Toilets at Ganavan Sands.

5



SAMS Beach (Camas Rubha na Liathaig)

- P** MAP: OS Explorer 361, NM879342
- NEAREST VILLAGE:** Dunbeg
- C** This scenic bay is sheltered by rock formations on either side and stunning kelp forests lie beneath. On weekdays, visit the Ocean Explorer Centre free of charge to dive deeper into marine science and to enjoy the Beach cafe. 30 minute cycle from Oban, or 10 minutes from Ganavan Sands using the new cycle path. Regular buses run from Oban to Dunbeg on weekdays.

6



Queenie Reef, Loch Creran

- P** MAP: OS Explorer 361, NM986439
- NEAREST VILLAGE:** Benderloch
- C** This sheltered bay is on the south shore of Loch Creran, 0.6 miles east of the A828 bridge. From the second layby east of the bridge, follow the paved path to the protruding headland. Steps lead to the shore, take care as these may be slippery. Look for brittlestars that cover the ground in a dense mat at certain times of year. Layby parking possible. 45 minute cycle from North Connel. The Creagan Inn is 1.7 miles away.

7



Creagan, Loch Creran

- P** MAP: OS Explorer 361, NM973445
- NEAREST VILLAGE:** Appin
- C** Loch Creran is one of only two known sites globally where serpulid worms form reefs, creating habitats for many other species. Here on the Loch's north shore, look for urchins, crabs and otters. 30 minute bus from Oban. 45 minute cycle from North Connel. Parking available at the Creagan Inn, which serves local produce in beautiful surroundings. Showers are available for a small charge.

Wild about Argyll

Argyll and the Isles – Scotland's Adventure Coast – is a stunning region characterised by forested peninsulas, sinuous sea lochs, beautiful coastlines and craggy islands.

Its marine environment is of international significance, comprising the first Mission Blue Hope Spot in Scotland and mainland UK.

The North Argyll Snorkel Trail encompasses the Sound of Jura, Firth of Lorne and Loch Linnhe. Here you will find incredible snorkelling opportunities, with some sites feeling like no one else has ever been there before you and others being real hubs of activity. Find out more about local marine life at the Ocean Explorer Centre in Oban, and be sure to get involved in the exciting community-led marine engagement and restoration projects in the area.



Argyll & The Isles Tourism Cooperative is the strategic destination management and marketing organisation (DMO) for the Argyll & Bute area. AITC working in partnership with NatureScot have developed the Above & Below trails which includes this North Argyll snorkelling trail.



Get in touch with Wild about Argyll
wildaboutargyll.co.uk/see-do/nature-and-wildlife/above-and-below
 E info@wildaboutargyll.co.uk
 f [wildaboutargyll](https://www.facebook.com/wildaboutargyll) t [@wildaboutargyll](https://twitter.com/wildaboutargyll)
 i [wildaboutargyll](https://www.instagram.com/wildaboutargyll)

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

- Toilets
- Café
- Steps
- Parking
- Bus Stop

- Beginner
- Advanced

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