

Additional information for volunteers on Isle of Eigg

Location

The Isle of Eigg is part of the Small Isles & lies to the south of Skye & 12 miles offshore from the mainland. Approximately 8 km (5 miles) in length & 6 km (3.75 miles) at its widest point the island contains a wide variety of habitats ranging from open moorland to woodland & scrub. Further information on the island can be found on the Eigg website at www.isleofeigg.net.

Voluntary Scheme

The Scottish Wildlife Trust has run a volunteers programme on Eigg since 2002. Volunteers are required to assist the seasonal ranger in a wide variety of tasks. Work includes species monitoring & protection, conservation management & assisting with visitor related projects. There is a lot of walking involved in this post so you need to be physically fit! You will be walking/cycling every day to get to places and then doing physical work or walking for surveys, so you will be very active.

Travel

During the summer months Eigg is serviced by two ferry companies; Caledonian MacBrayne (www.calmac.co.uk tel. 01687 310240) who sail from Mallaig & the smaller MS 'Sheerwater' (www.arisaig.co.uk tel. 01687 450224) which sails from Arisaig. There is a calmac ferry once every day, except a wednesday. Summer ferry timetable has just been published, with some changes, please check for upto date sailings.

Both Mallaig & Arisaig have rail connections from Glasgow & Fort William & are approximately one hours journey from Fort William by road. Rail information is available at www.scotrail.co.uk & tel. 03457 484 950. Train is the scenic west highland line, takes 5 hours but well worth it! There are 3 trains a day from glasgow queen st. Travel up the day before and stay the night at The Mission Bunkhouse or several b and Bs in Mallaig/ Arisaig.

Accommodation

Volunteers are housed at the Daycare Centre, a semi-detached house situated at the north of the island approximately 3.5 miles from the pier.

Facilities at the house include bathroom & toilet, a social cooking space, washing machine, fridge, electric kettle, four burner gas cooker and cooking utensils & crockery. The house has a Wi-Fi connection but there is no mobile phone signal in the northern half of the island & connection is only possible south of the school (in the middle of the island). Volunteers provide their own food, do their own cooking and must be prepared to keep the place tidy!

The house has three bedrooms with each containing a bunk bed & a single bed. Sometimes there are Eigg Trust volunteers as well as SWT ones, although there is currently no formal Eigg volunteer scheme. We will organise transport to and from the house on your arrival and departure, but other times you make your own way about. There are a couple of bikes to use, which need looking after! The Trust will provide the household with cleaning supplies and toilet roll.

Island Facilities

Almost all Eigg's facilities are situated around the pier & include a reasonably well stocked shop which sells all the usual food items though specialist requirements may need to be brought from the mainland. There is also a cafe/bar which serves food, beverages & drinks & a craft shop. Cash withdrawals are possible at the shop and post office where a Pay Point accepts most bank cards.

In the summer, there are various events on at the community hall including ceilidhs, concerts, talks etc so bring a bit of cash for them.

A doctor visits the island only once per week from Skye, weather permitting. However any medications required should be brought from the mainland.

Bring

- Sleeping bag/duvet, bottom sheet, pillow case & towel
- Waterproof trousers and jacket
- Walking boots, spare shoes and socks as often get wet feet
- Old clothes for working in - long trousers and long sleeve tops for midge/tick protection
- Torch (no streetlights!)
- Midge hood & repellent
- Suntan lotion and sunhat
- Binoculars
- Notebook for writing down wildlife notes every day
- water bottle and packed lunch box
- face mask and hand gel for covid precautions
- Comfortable day rucksack for everyday use doing surveys and walks
- Your own toiletries and any medication.

Please do **not** bring hairdryers, curling tongs etc as they use a lot of electricity and each household has a limited amount from our Eigg Electric supply.