

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

Tweeddale
Medical Practice:
01397 709800
(Fort William)

Lochaber Snorkel Trail

E livingseas@scottishwildlifetrust.org.uk
W scottishwildlifetrust.org.uk/snorkel-trails
f scottishwildlifetrust
@ScotWildlife
@scottishwildlifetrust



- 1 Camusdarach Beach
- 2 Prince's Cairn
- 3 Ardnastang
- 4 Lochaline
- 5 Loch Linnhe Picnic Area
- 6 Bishop's Bay

The Lochaber Snorkel Trail joins a growing list of snorkel trails in Scotland launched as part of the Scottish Wildlife Trust's Living Seas programme, supported by the Esmée Fairbairn Foundation.



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

scottishwildlifetrust.org.uk
Harbourside House 110 Commercial Street Edinburgh EH6 6NF
T 0131 312 7765 E enquiries@scottishwildlifetrust.org.uk

The Scottish Wildlife Trust is a company limited by guarantee, registered in Scotland (no. SC040247). It is also a Scottish registered charity (no. SC005792). Cover image © Graham Saunders, NatureScot. Some of the images in this leaflet are courtesy of Scottish Natural Heritage and Marine Scotland. Contains OS data © Crown Copyright and database right 2021. Esri, Maxar, Earthstar Geographics, CNES/Airbus DS, USDA FSA, USGS, Getmapping, Aerogrid, IGN, IGP, and the GIS User Community.

Snorkel Trail

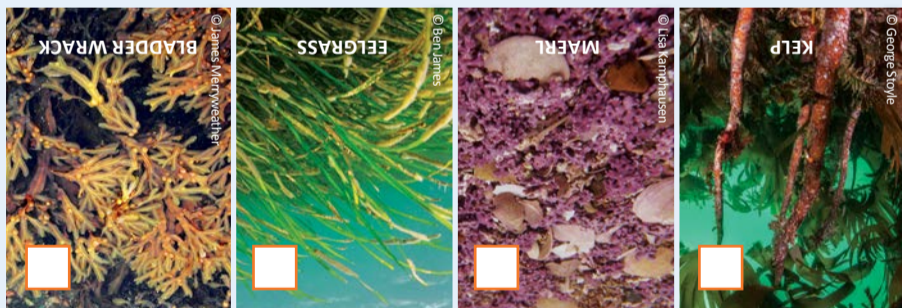
Lochaber

In association with the University of the Highlands and Islands

Send us your pictures on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.

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

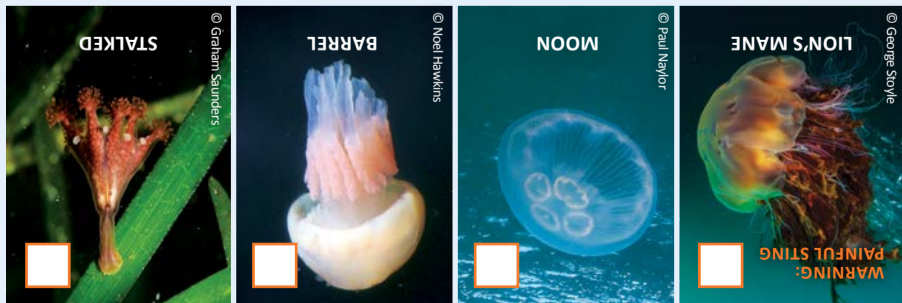
- Also look out for...
- HARBOUR PORPOISE
 - WHITE-TAILED EAGLE
 - BASKING SHARK
 - SEALS (HARBOUR AND GREY)
 - MINKIE WHALE
 - MERMAID'S PURSE (SHARK OR RAY EGG CASE)



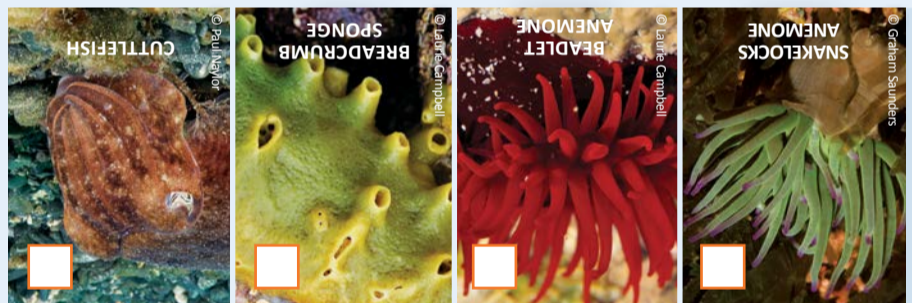
Plants and algae



Starfish and urchins



Jellyfish



Other invertebrates



Snails



Crustaceans



Fish

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

Life under the waves



1



Camusdarach Beach

P MAP: Landranger 40, NM661918
NEAREST VILLAGE: Mallaig

A This beautiful white sand beach provides stunning views of the Cuillins on Skye, as well as several other islands. The short walk from the car park brings you to the north end of the bay, and beginners can easily learn directly off the beach. More experienced snorkellers can explore the rocky outcrops where juvenile fish and crabs take shelter amongst the kelp.

2



Loch Nan Uamh – Prince's Cairn

P MAP: Landranger 40, NM719844
NEAREST VILLAGE: Arisaig

Said to be the site where Bonnie Prince Charlie left Scotland, this advanced site involves a slight scramble through trees and bushes to the shore. Here, the rocky kelp grounds are home to many species of fish and shellfish, and seals watch from the nearby island. Parking is in a shoreside layby just to the west of the site on the main road to Mallaig.

3



Ardnastang

P MAP: Landranger 40, NM799611
NEAREST VILLAGE: Sunart

C Beginner snorkellers can take to the water straight off the beach, whilst the rocky headland to the south east is suitable for those with more experience. The beach itself hosts a number of species – if you dig into the sand and gravel you may well unearth a number of critters such as lugworms and small crabs.

4



Lochaline

P MAP: Landranger 49, NM675443
NEAREST VILLAGE: Lochaline

C A quiet beach offering a beginner area just off the sand. More advanced snorkellers can follow the edge of the rocky reef, which is submerged at high water and exposed at low water, to explore the seaweed habitat where a host of other species can be found. Parking is in an off-road gravel car park and there is a nearby café at the ferry terminal.

5



Loch Linnhe Picnic Area

P MAP: Landranger 41, NN039657
NEAREST VILLAGE: Corran

A Around seven miles south of Fort William, this picnic area parking and picnic benches. The beach to the south side is suitable for beginners and the headland area to the west will allow advanced snorkellers to explore the deeper habitat and environment. A great place for families and groups.

6



Bishop's Bay

P MAP: Landranger 41, NN056600
NEAREST VILLAGE: Ballachulish

Just north of Ballachulish Bridge, park near the old jetty and walk through the woods to a great beach inside of moorings where you can explore the beach and headland. Avoid any boats that are approaching or leaving moorings and enjoy this sheltered bay with its multitude of life.

About Lochaber

Lochaber incorporates several regions, each with its own unique and beautiful character.

This mountainous and coastal area offers residents and visitors a huge variety of activities and cultural experiences, which has led to it being dubbed 'the Outdoor Capital of the UK'. From dramatic volcanic landscapes and white sandy beaches to colourful coastal villages, small islands and turquoise seas, it is one of the finest locations for marine and coastal tourism in Scotland.

The biodiversity in Lochaber's coastal waters is internationally recognised, nationally protected and locally loved. In 2019, the first ever Mission Blue Hope Spot in mainland UK was declared along Scotland's Argyll coast and islands.



The University of the Highlands and Islands

The University of the Highlands and Islands (UHI) is a distinctive partnership of independent colleges and research institutions and boasts centres of excellence and world-class thinking that are pushing the boundaries of academic and applied knowledge in many areas.

The Lochaber Snorkel Trail has been developed in partnership with the School of Adventure Studies and the Centre for Recreation and Tourism Research at West Highland College UHI. It has been part-funded by CAPITEN (Atlantic Cluster for Technological and Economic Innovation in the Nautical Sector) which is a European collaborative project that brings together 16 partners from Scotland, Ireland, France, Portugal and Spain.

CAPITEN is co-financed by the INTERREG Atlantic Area regional development programme and Highlands and Islands Enterprise.



Key

- A** Wild Camping
- T** Toilets
- H** Hospitality
- P** Parking
- S** Shop

- B** Beginner
- A** Advanced

The information contained within this leaflet was correct at the time of publishing (March 2021). For further details, please visit scottishwildlifetrust.org.uk/snorkeltrail

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.