

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 NHS 24: 111

In an emergency call 999 and ask for Coastguard. Local residents based at the pier buildings and/or local businesses can also reach out to First Aiders. AEDs are available locally across the Small Isles

We advise bringing a first-aid kit and mobile phone.

Phone signal/internet can be intermittent or unavailable.

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

Small Isles Snorkel Trail

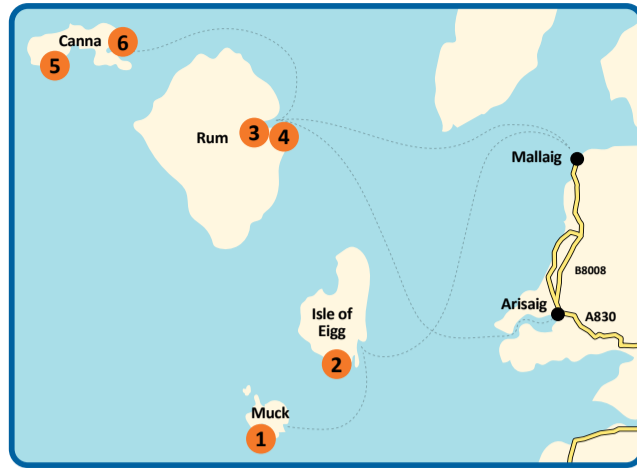
E livingseas@scottishwildlifetrust.org.uk

W scottishwildlifetrust.org.uk/snorkel-trails

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

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- 1 Muck, Gallanach Bay
- 2 Eigg, Galmisdale Bay
- 3 Rum, The Old Pier
- 4 Rum, Port na Caranean
- 5 Canna, Tarbert Bay
- 6 Canna, Coroghan Bay

Eigg:

The Isle of Eigg Guiding Co.

Guided snorkel tours and paddleboard hire
eiggguiding.org

Eigg Adventures

Bike, e-bike and sit on kayak hire
eiggadventures.co.uk



Canna:

The National Trust for Scotland

Offer guided Ranger walks
f [CannaNTS](https://www.facebook.com/CannaNTS)

Muck:

f **The Green Shed, Isle of Muck**
Locally-made crafts and produce

Rum:

Visit **Drift** for local crafts

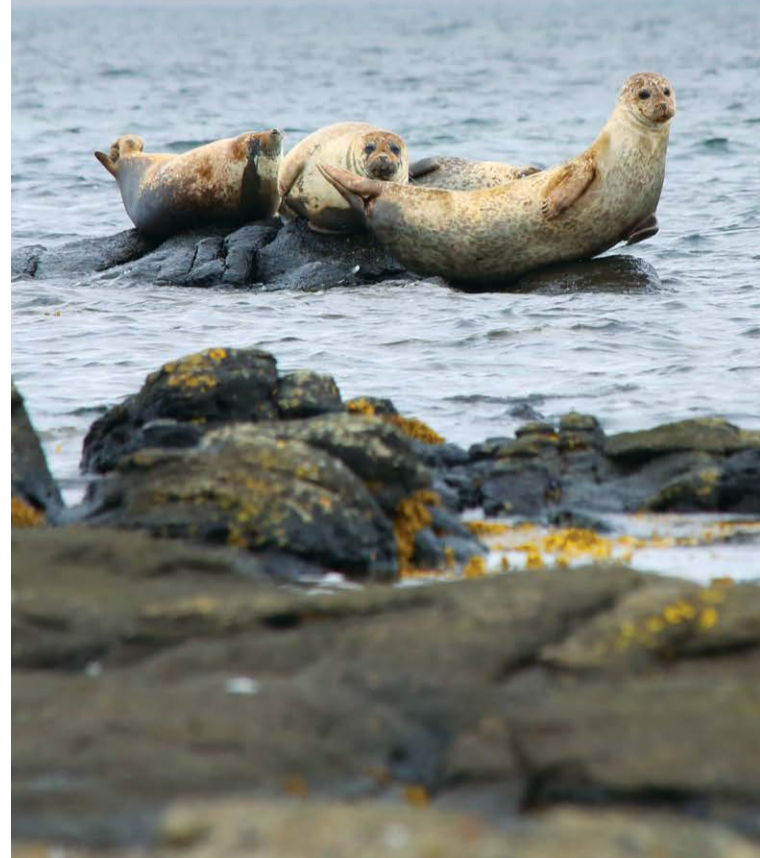


scottishwildlifetrust.org.uk

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Dive in to Scotland's Living Seas!



Snorkel Trail

Small Isles

In association with Small Isles Community Council

Life under the waves

The Small Isles are 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:

The Small Isles are on the Hebridean Whale Trail, get involved: whaletrail.org/explore

Fish	 POLLACK	 PLAICE	 MACKEREL	 WORM PIPEFISH	Jellyfish	 LION'S MANE	 MOON	 BARREL	 COMB				
	Crustaceans	 COMMON LOBSTER	 VELVET SWIMMING CRAB	 LONG LEGGED SPIDER CRAB		 HERMIT CRAB	Starfish and Urchins	 COMMON STARFISH	 COMMON URCHIN	 SPINY STARFISH	 SUN STAR		
		Molluscs	 DOG WHELK	 RAZOR CLAM		 PERIWINKLE		 LIMPET	Plants and Algae	 KELP	 PINK ENCRUSTING ALGAE	 SEAGRASS	 MERMAID'S HAIR/GUTWEED
			Other Invertebrates	 SNAKELOCKS ANEMONE		 CUP CORAL		 SEA SLUG <i>Eubranchius farrani</i>		 BEADLET ANEMONE	Also look out for...	GREY AND HARBOUR SEALS	OYSTERCATCHER
COMMON DOLPHINS				LUGWORMS									
SHORE ROCKLINGS	PORTUGUESE MAN O' WAR												

1



Muck, Gallanach Bay

MAP: NM407802

From Port Mor walk 30 mins north, past the Tearoom (take-outs and wi-fi available) and Community Hall (offering public toilets, shower and wi-fi) to this stunning, sheltered bay. The sandy shore offers a gradual entry. Snorkel around the Isle of Coralag to discover kelp forests teeming with life. Tidal action is stronger on the west side and the east side is home to a seal colony. Be vigilant of boat activity and buoy ropes. Wild camping welcome.

2



Eigg, Galmisdale Bay

MAP: NM484843

An easy 15-minute walk away from the pier offers two sandy beaches to swim from - the west beach gives you easy access into shallow, sheltered water whilst the east beach has a rocky shoreline and kelp beds to explore. Between these beaches is the rocky outcrop Green Island - from April-August birds nest here so please do not step onto the island. Be aware of tidal channels at the bay entrance and Castle Island, and boat traffic around the pier.

3



Rum, The Old Pier and Port na Caranean

MAP: NM406991 & NM422988

The Old Pier is a historic, family-friendly site. This sandy, sheltered beach is an easy 10 minute walk from the ferry terminal, follow signs for Rum Bunkhouse and turn right at the bottom of the hill. Best accessed mid-tide, there are plenty of rocks to find sea life and kelp beds to navigate. Toilets and showers are nearby. To explore a remote hideaway on the south shore of Loch Scresort, find Port na Caranean by following the path to the otter hide, then onwards for another 15 minutes (~40-minutes walk total from the ferry terminal). This path is narrow, uneven and not suitable for small children. The small sandy beach is accessed at low-tide only. Enjoy clear blue water with a range of stunning seaweeds, you might see an otter or seal too. Nearest facilities, including general store and craft shop, are in Kinloch village (~15-minute walk from ferry terminal).

5



Canna, Tarbert Bay

MAP: NG240054

Journey west from the pier (cycle ~15 minutes, walk ~40 minutes), along Tarbert Road. To access the beach use the route marked in this map, crossing a line of rocks to reach the sands which slope gradually into the sea. Explore the stunning seaweed bed and skerries. Closest toilets are at Canna Campsite. The grassy area is a good wild camping spot. Snorkelling best experienced here on a mid-to-high tide.

6



Canna, Coroghan Bay

MAP: NG278054

Just a 10-minute walk east from the pier. Follow a short track off the main road, turn right and through the gate, crossing a line of rocks to get onto the beach. Head east towards Coroghan Stack, the beach slopes gradually into the water. Swim between the stack and the isle to discover the pink cove, full of pink encrusting algae. More experienced snorkellers can swim around the island into deeper waters. Cafe and community shop are nearby on the main road.

Small Isles

Become captivated by Canna, enchanted by Eigg, marvelled by Muck and revitalised by Rum - welcome to the Small Isles...

Whether igniting your adventurous spirit or seeking a tranquil retreat, make memories to last a lifetime exploring this stunning archipelago of islands in the Inner Hebrides. The Small Isles consists of four islands - Canna, Eigg, Muck and Rum, which lie just south of the Isle of Skye between the west coast Scottish mainland and the Western Isles.

The Small Isles are connected in many ways, through the surrounding marine habitats, spectacular geological features, renewable energy power systems and resilient communities. However each island has its own character, from being unique Hebridean havens for wildlife to the home of rich cultural heritages connected with the sea.



The Small Isles Community Council represents the island group in matters which affect all islands collectively, and is part of the Highland Council. However, each island is owned and managed differently with its own residents or community association. The Scottish Wildlife Trust is a partner of the Isle of Eigg Heritage Trust, with responsibilities for wildlife conservation policies.

Please be responsible

Follow the Outdoor Access and Marine Wildlife Watching codes to avoid disturbing livestock and wildlife (e.g. ground-nesting birds and seals).

Find out more about the Small Isles:

visitsmallisles.com

theisleofcanna.com isleofeigg.org
isleofmuck.com isleofrum.com

Or contact:

Canna: theisleofcanna@gmail.com

Eigg: isleofeigg.org/contact

Muck: info@isleofmuck.com

T 01687 462362

Rum: info@isleofrum.com

NatureScot T 0131 314 4181

The Small Isles can be reached by boat from Arisaig (Arisaig Marine, arisaig.co.uk) or Mallaig (CalMac, calmac.co.uk). Visitors cannot take cars onto the islands however bicycles are encouraged.

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

Accessible toilet

Cafe

Shop

Camping

Showers

Beginner

Advanced

The information contained within this leaflet was correct at the time of publishing (August 2024). For further details, please visit scottishwildlifetrust.org.uk/snorkeltrail