

An opportunity to help us, and for you to enjoy Skomer Island

A week of volunteering on Skomer will enable you to help the work of the Wildlife Trust of South and West Wales.



You will gain experience of working outdoors and working in a team, and you will meet new people and have fun!

The work varies throughout the year. On days that the island is open you will mainly be helping overnight and day visitors on and off the island and looking after the visitor facilities.

You will need to be happy talking to members of the public, have a cheerful and customer friendly approach to sometimes difficult situations.

When the island is closed to visitors you will be helping out on the reserve. This may include maintenance of buildings and control of vegetation.

You will also be involved in monitoring and recording of the island's wildlife by carrying out counts and watches both on land and at sea. You will leave around midday on the Saturday – this allows time for the new assistant wardens to bed in and get to know the ropes. If the weather is closing in however you may be asked to leave on the 10am boat or even a day earlier.

Voluntary Assistant Wardens

The Island is open to visitors from 1 April to 31 October but Voluntary Assistant Wardens are required from the middle of March to the middle of October.

We take up to six Voluntary Assistant Wardens each week (Saturday to Saturday), to help with managing day visitors, assisting with overnight guests and their accommodation, conservation work including monitoring and surveys, and building maintenance.

The minimum age is 16 years. You will need to be able to walk several miles each day and to carry luggage up a steep, long, flight of steps several times a day. You need to enjoy working outside in all weather conditions including strong sunshine, heavy rain and strong winds.



Island Bookings
Welsh Wildlife Centre
Cilgerran
Cardigan
Pembrokeshire
SA43 2TB
Tel 01239 621600/621212
Email islands@welshwildlife.org
Website www.welshwildlife.org

The Wildlife Trust
of South and
West Wales
Ymddiriedolaeth
Natur de a
Gorllewin Cymru



South and West Wales
De a Gorllewin Cymru



Protecting **Wildlife** for the Future

Volunteering on Skomer Island

www.welshwildlife.org Registered Charity No: 1091562

Accommodation

The accommodation consists of three twin bedded rooms. There is a shared and fully equipped kitchen (but no microwave). You need to bring food for the week, along with extra food should you be delayed leaving the island.

There are shared shower room and toilet facilities. There is solar powered electricity for lighting and solar hot water but this, along with the water supply, is limited.

Duvets and pillows are provided so you need to bring a sheet and pillowcase and either a duvet cover or sleeping bag. A hot water bottle in colder months may be useful as there is no heating in the buildings.

There is a garden and barbecue area for the warmer evenings.

Please note there are no laundry or clothes drying facilities.



For more information about what is happening on Skomer and to get in touch with other volunteers via the Facebook pages, please visit our blog:

skomerisland.blogspot.com

To apply for a place as a Voluntary Assistant Warden

The cost of booking a week as a Voluntary Assistant Warden on Skomer Island is £35. There is free boat passage to and from the island and free landing on the island for all volunteers.



The Trust is going to operate a more formal recruitment and selection process for the Skomer volunteering opportunities. We have been heavily over-subscribed in recent years and so the decision has been made to allocate spaces on the strengths of people's applications rather than on a first come first served basis, as this will allow the Trust to manage the island most effectively for the benefit of both wildlife and visitors.

As well as people's practical and conservation skills we will also take into account knowledge of the island and, where multiple applications are equal in merit, membership of the Trust will continue to provide priority to places. Applicants can indicate their preferred weeks and can volunteer from one to three weeks.

For application dates please see our website www.welshwildlife.org

Cancellation

If you wish to cancel after this point, then the fee, less a £15 administration charge, will be refunded providing your written or emailed cancellation reaches the Island Booking Office at Cilgerran 28 days before the start of your volunteering week.

Further Information

You will be sent further information approximately 12 weeks before going to Skomer which will include what you will need to take with you, how to get to Martin's Haven for your boat, contact details, and some information about local accommodation, shops and advice about car parking. Please be aware there is not a lot of public transport in this part of Wales.

Bursary Scheme

A number of free places will be funded through the Skalmey Bursary for students, unemployed and those on low incomes. Applications will be accepted from individuals only.

You should apply as normal, but attach a letter to the booking form explaining your reasons for applying for a bursary place, ensuring the form and letter is sent to us within 10 days of your telephone booking.

In addition:

Unemployed and low income applicants must provide proof of their status with their letter and booking form.

Student applicants should send us separately, but by 1 December, a letter from their course tutor giving the name of their college or university, the title of their course and the start and finish dates.

We shall inform the successful applicants in the first week of January. If you have been unsuccessful, you will be offered the week at the normal cost of £35, if you do not want to accept this, your week will be offered to someone else