



Ymddiriedolaeth Natur
De a Gorllewin Cymru
Wildlife Trust of
South & West Wales

Skomer Island Overnight Information 2024

Everything you need to know
before your Skomer adventure



Welcome to Skomer Island

Thank you for booking your overnight stay on Skomer Island - we are excited to welcome you to our island home! It is vital that you read all of the information over the next few pages - given how unique the island is, there are perhaps some unexpected points.

Only got 2 minutes? - Check out Page 3 - At A Glance

Page 4 - Essential Packing and Jobs To Do

Page 5 - Getting Here

Page 6 - Essential Biosecurity Information

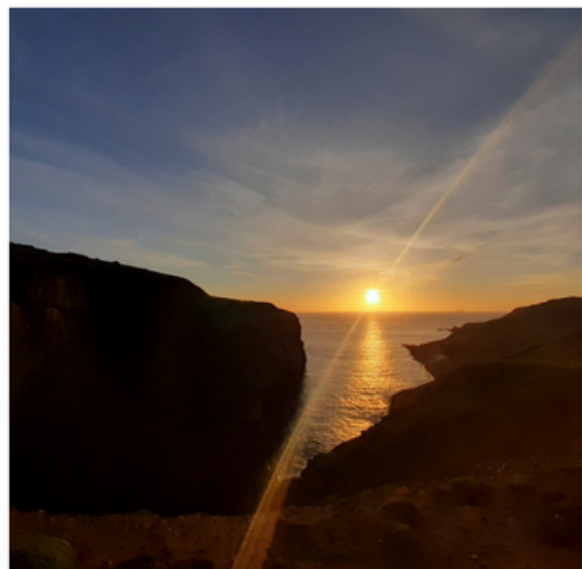
Page 8 - Your Journey To Skomer

Page 11 - Your Accommodation

Page 16 - Useful Contacts



First glimpse of Skomer from the boat!

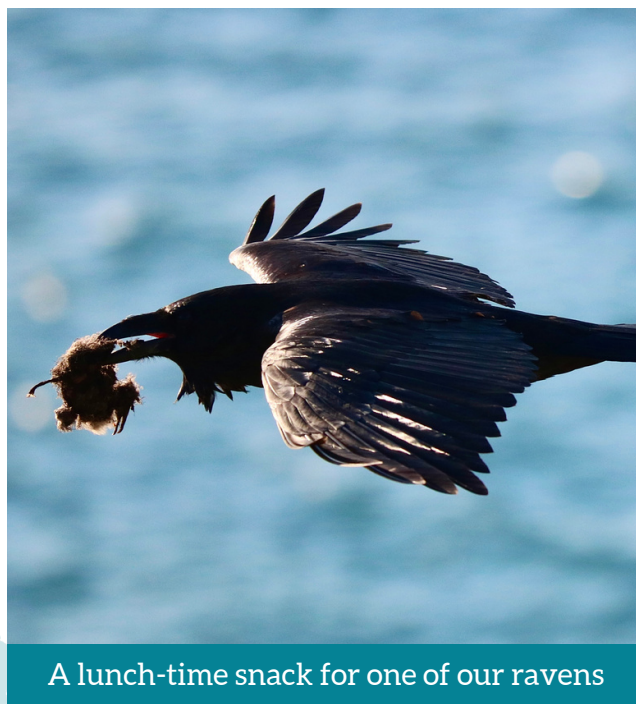


Watching the sunset over the Celtic Deep.



At A Glance...

- **Bring** - Bed sheet and pillowcase and *either* sleeping bag or duvet cover (no shop on Skomer). Bring a bin bag for rubbish.
- **Boat** - The boat is always £20 adults and £15 under 12s total (price includes both ways) - please bring cash
- **Biosecurity** - Pack belongings in sealed bags/bags
- **Call the Visitor Officer** (07530 796150) - the day before you are due to arrive to confirm the boat time - please call between 12pm and 5pm
- **Book your car** - Book in at West Hook Farm (01646 636424)
- **Pack light** - 15kg bag weight limit



A lunch-time snack for one of our ravens

Overnight Stay Checklist

To pack:

- Food and medication** for the duration of your stay. Please note there is **NO SHOP on Skomer**
- Bedding per person** (bed sheet and pillowcase and either sleeping bag or duvet cover)
- Towel and toiletries (including soap)
- Suitable clothing for **all** weathers (including **waterproofs** and **warm layers**)
- Indoor shoes / slippers**
- Cash** to pay the boatman (£20 adults, £15 under 12s - price includes both ways)
- A **bin bag** to bring your rubbish back to the mainland
- Binoculars** (we can hire you some if needed)
- Red light torch** (for looking at Manx Shearwaters)

To do:

- Arrange **car parking** for your stay
- Call the Visitor Officer** on **07530 796150** the day before you are due to arrive to check boat crossing time. Call between **12pm and 5pm** (we haven't confirmed with the boat before then)
- Pack** your belongings into **sealed bags / boxes**, as per our **biosecurity** instructions

Getting Here

By Car

Please follow Satnav directions to West Hook Farm or SA62 3BJ

From Haverfordwest, follow Dale Road (B4327) for just over 10 miles, before following signs on to Gay Lane in Marloes (20mph). Stay on the main road through the village and continue west for 1.5 miles. Please be aware that this road is windy and uses passing places. West Hook Farm (where we recommend you park - please see page 8) is on the right after 1.5 miles (look for the puffin gate posts). To take your belongings to the jetty, stay on the road (it becomes narrow and steep towards the beach so go as far as you feel comfortable).

By Public Transport

The nearest train stations are Milford Haven and Haverfordwest. [Fflecsi Buses](#) run from both towns. Taxis will cost you around £25-£30 for the 11 mile trips. You can find a list of taxi companies here: [Taxi Companies](#).

Coming From Further Afield?

There are good car rental and train connections from Cardiff Airport.



Packing and Biosecurity

Skomer is of international importance due to its populations of breeding seabirds. The absence of rats, mink, stoats and other ground predators allows ground-nesting birds like Manx Shearwaters and Atlantic Puffins to thrive.



One of our elusive Manx Shearwaters



An ever-posing Atlantic Puffin

If **rats** were introduced to the island, even accidentally, they would **decimate our seabird populations**. This has happened on islands around the world.

Packing and Biosecurity

The measures we take to protect seabirds:

1. All luggage must be closed - **unsealed luggage, including open bags and carrier bags will not be permitted to land.** The pictures below will help you.
2. Pack all luggage yourself in a rodent-free environment and please ensure no rodent has accessed to your luggage before boarding.
3. Do not leave your luggage unattended in Martin's Haven to ensure rodents cannot enter your bags.

Thank you in advance for your help!



Your journey to Skomer

Before
your
stay

Parking

We would recommend booking your car into West Hook Farm (01646 636424 | SA62 3BJ).



We advise dropping your bags down at the beach before parking at West Hook - you are welcome to drive as far down the road as you feel comfortable (turning round is a little tight) Remember, your bags must be attended at all times for biosecurity purposes.

Call the Visitor Officer

We ask that you call our Visitor Officer on 07530 796150, between 12pm and 5pm to confirm that your boat is running and the time of your departure. Please note **boats will only run in favourable weather conditions** - we have to take the boatmen call on this.

1 day
before
your
stay



Your journey to Skomer

On the
day of
your
stay

Crossing to Skomer via boat

Your boat will usually depart from Martin's Haven at 9am. Please remember your cash to pay the boatman.

You will need to be ready on the jetty (to the left along the steps, as you head down the beach), with all of your sealed bags, 15 minutes before departure. Please note, there will be no staff to assist with your bags on this side of the crossing or on your return.

Your return journey to the mainland will usually leave Skomer around 9.30am.

Arriving on Skomer



Forming a chain to move luggage



The official welcoming committee

Your journey to Skomer

Upon arrival, we need to transport your belongings up the 87 island steps to our Dumper Truck.

In 2024, we're asking everyone to bring bags under 15kg as we've seen a big increase in recent years. If your bag is oversized, it will be left at the bottom for you to unpack to a suitable weight. We are legally bound to protect our staff, volunteers and visitors from injury and oversized bags can cause problems. Please note that where we have too many bags for the dumper, some may need to be carried - we always prefer several small bags to one large one!



Packing the dumper for transport



Our hostel accommodation

Up at the Farm, we unload your bags and get you settled in to the Hostel. Once this is done, the island is yours to explore!



Your Accommodation

You will be staying in a converted old farm building nestled in the very heart of the island. Although basic, the Hostel has everything you will need for the duration of your stay.



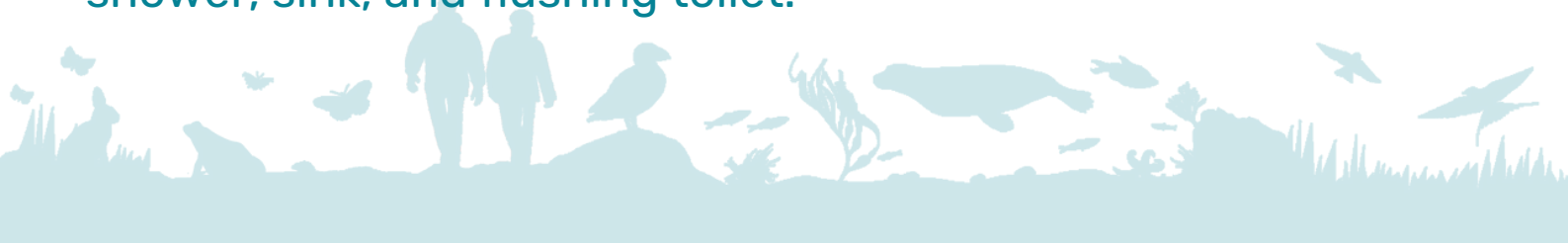
Spring sunset over the Farm - your home for the duration of your stay!

Kitchen

The shared kitchen has two gas ovens (complete with nine hobs, two grills, and three main ovens), a large fridge, and two sinks (with drinking water). In various cupboards you'll find all crockery, cutlery, pots and pans. Remember, you will need to bring enough food for the duration of your stay.

Bathrooms

There are two shared bathrooms in the Hostel - complete with shower, sink, and flushing toilet.



Your Accommodation

Lounge

Our spacious lounge doubles up as a dining room. Here you'll also find a comfortable sofa, and a log burner* - perfect to curl up in front of on a chilly evening!



Plenty of room for everyone at dinner



Meet the residents!

Bedrooms

All beds are single beds (though some are bunk beds) and you will need to remember your bedding. Please note there is no heating on Skomer, so we would recommend bringing a hot water bottle and extra layers in the colder months (blankets are provided).

*Anyone wishing to use the log burner will need to bring their own wood. We ask you purchase hotties or blazers, as they come in sealed packaging and are therefore less of a biosecurity risk.



An Off Grid Island

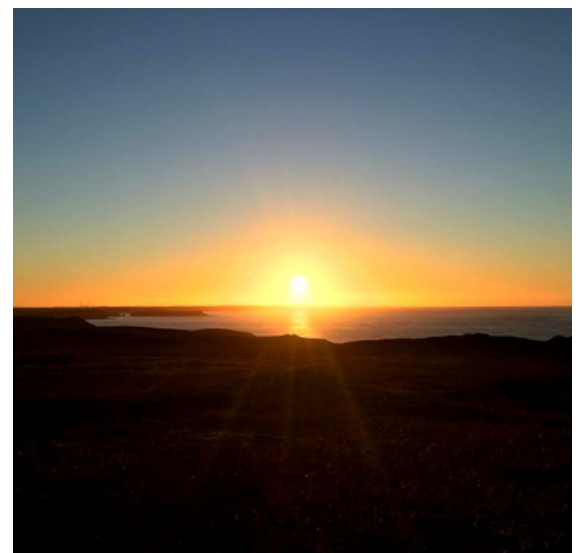
We are completely off grid here on the island - our electricity is generated by solar panels, water comes from the well, and gas is bought onto the island in cannisters.

What does this mean for you?

- There are only eight plug sockets in the Hostel. These can only be used for charging phones/laptops/cameras
- No high energy appliances (i.e. kettles, microwaves, hair dryers, etc.) or extension cables
- Please limit your water usage - there may be times when showers are closed due to drought. Water is heated using solar and a gas boiler which means that hot water may not be available 24/7
- Please only use the cleaning products provided - we have a septic tank which can be easily damaged by harsh chemicals



Blooming bluebells



Sunrise from the Trig Point



See you soon!

We look forward to meeting you very soon!

In the meantime, if you have any queries about your stay on Skomer please feel free to contact the Bookings Team at: islands@welshwildlife.org.

For more information about Skomer's incredible wildlife and rich history, please visit our website or social media pages:



Skomer Island



@skomer_island



skomer_island



The Skomer Island Blog



Diolch yn fawr!

Before you leave, please sign our Visitor Book - we'd love to read all about your stay!

If you have any feedback on your stay, please contact the Visitor Officer on skomer.vo@welshwildlife.org - knowing what worked for you and what didn't goes a long way to improving everyone's experience on Skomer.

Thank you again for supporting the Wildlife Trust of South and West Wales. We hope to see you again on our island home in the future.



A pair of razorbills among lichen



SKOMER AND SKOKHOLM USEFUL INFORMATION



WILDLIFE TRUST of SOUTH & WEST WALES

Islands Booking Office (Tondur, Bridgend) (Mon-Fri)

Email: islands@welshwildlife.org

Lockley Lodge, Martin's Haven (March-Sept)

(Lockley Lodge is our sales and information point for trips to Skomer & Skokholm)

SKOMER

Warden:

Leighton Newman

Assistant Warden:

Ceris Aston

Visitor Officer:

Rob Knott

07971 114302

07816 990371

07530 796150

SKOKHOLM

Joint Wardens:

Richard Brown & Giselle Eagle

07971 114303

CAR PARKING for overnight island residents

West Hook Farm Thomas Family www.westhookfarm-camping.co.uk

01646 636424

(Prices vary – cash or card payments, please book in advance)

West Hook Farm is open 8am-8pm for arrivals and departures, they will open earlier if the boat leaves early.

Overnight £12, Mon-Fri £30, Fri – Mon £24 Weekly £30 (2024). Pre-booking is essential.

Vehicles over 5.5m - £9 per day £45 per week

Note: Overnight parking is **NOT PERMITTED** in the National Trust car park.

Public Transport

Buses from Milford Haven and Haverfordwest -

<https://www.flecsi.wales/locations/pembrokeshire/>

Taxis in the local area –

<https://www.thomsonlocal.com/search/taxis/marloes-dyfed>

CAMPING/TOURERS in or near Marloes

✓ Foxdale Guest House & camp site

✓ West Hook Farm

✓ Slate Mill Lodge

✓ Lower Mullock Farm

✓ Little Haven Retreat

01646 636243

01646 636424

01646 636767

01646 636251

01437 781300

HOSTELS (www.yha.org.uk)

Broad Haven (meals provided)

0345 371 9008

TOURIST INFORMATION CENTRES

Haverfordwest 01437 775244

Milford Haven 01437 771888

St David's
Pembroke
01437 720392
01437 776454

LOCAL ACCOMMODATION

Marloes:

✓ Clockhouse

www.clockhousemarloes.co.uk

✓ Lobster Pot Inn

www.thelobsterpotmarloes.co.uk

Between Haverfordwest and Marloes:

✓ Slate Mill Lodge

www.slatemilllodge.com

01646 636233

01646 636767

Dale:

✓ Allenbrook

www.allenbrook-dale.co.uk

✓ Broadside

www.dalebandedb.co.uk

01646 636254

01646 636492

St Ishmaels:

✓ Monk Haven Manor

www.monkhaven.co.uk

Between Milford Haven and Haverfordwest

✓ Bower Farm

www.bowerfarm.co.uk

Holiday accommodation & local info:

✓ www.westwalesindex.co.uk

✓ www.marloes.org.uk

✓ www.visitwales.com
✓ www.visitpembrokeshire.com

01437 781554

FOOD SUPPLIES

Haverfordwest

Milford Haven

Spice Box, Tesco's, Morrison's, Lidl, Aldi

Tesco's, Co-op, Lidl



The Wildlife Trust of South & West Wales Charity No. 1091562

The Nature Centre

Fountain Road

Tondur

Bridgend

CF32 0EH

The Welsh Wildlife Centre

Cilgerran

Cardigan

Pembrokeshire

SA43 2TB

Tel: 01656 724100

Email: info@welshwildlife.org

Tel: 01239 621212/621600

Email: islands@welshwildlife.org