

Choose WisE-ly

Enjoy our wildlife using WiSE accredited operators trained in how best to view birds, seals and other marine life whilst minimising disturbance to them. Details correct as of June 2020.

St Agnes Boating

 stagnesboating.co.uk  **01720 422704**

St Agnes Watersports

 agneswatersports.co.uk  **01720 423207**

The Sailing Centre

 sailingscilly.com  **01720 422060**

Isles of Scilly Boat Hire

 islesofscillyboathire.com  **01720 422702**

Scilly Seal Snorkelling

 scillysealsnorkelling.com  **01720 422848**

Isles of Scilly Wildlife Trust

 ios-wildlifetrust.org.uk  **01720 422153**

St Mary's Harbour Team

 stmarys-harbour.co.uk
 **01720 422768**  **07789 273626**
Out of hours

St Mary's Boatmen's Association (SMBA)

 scillyboating.co.uk  **01720 423999**

WiSE training is Skipper specific so please refer to SMBA website for most up to date information, including any changes in vessels.

Joe Pender - Sapphire

 scillypelagics.com  **07776 204631**

Joe Badcock - Guiding Star

Mark Bromham - Golden Spray


Andy Howells - Osprey

Phone A Friend

British Divers Marine Life Rescue (BDMLR)

BDMLR is an internationally recognised voluntary marine animal rescue organisation dedicated to the rescue and wellbeing of all marine animals in distress around the UK.

 bdmlr.org.uk

 **01825 765546** **07787 433412**
Mon-Fri 9am-5pm Out of office hours
and Bank Holidays

Cornwall Wildlife Trust (CWT)

Marine Strandings Network

CWT Marine Strandings Network is the licensed recorder for all marine strandings in Cornwall and has been working to record and monitor dead marine wildlife strandings for over 25 years. You can also use this number to report disturbance to marine life.

 **0345 2012626**

Scilly Socials



IslesOfScillyWildlifeTrust



@ScillyWildlife



@ScillyWildlife

Funded by:

ISLES OF SCILLY
Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty

Isles of Scilly Wildlife Trust registered charity number 1097807
ios-wildlifetrust.org.uk & scillyaonb.org.uk

With thanks to Natalie Rance, Rich Nicholls and Barefoot Photographer for the images used throughout.

Wildlife Watching

Your guide to enjoying our wonderful wildlife...



The Isles of Scilly are an **Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty**, a protected environment supporting globally important species and a unique heritage.



Funded by:

ISLES OF SCILLY
Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty



@ScillyAONB

More than 50% of the islands are looked after by the **Isles of Scilly Wildlife Trust** (Charity Number: 1097807)

Out and About

Whilst out and about on our beautiful islands there are some very simple ways you can help keep both you and our wildlife safe and happy:

- ◇ Always keep your distance - try using binoculars or a camera for that close-up view, but make sure the flash is off;
- ◇ Stay concealed from view - dark or camouflaged clothing is great for this, or try out one of our bird hides at Lower or Higher Moors;
- ◇ Follow designated paths - we cut them especially to avoid trampling nests and burrows;
- ◇ Keep quiet and whisper to avoid spooking wildlife - it'll make sure they don't get stressed and you get the best view;
- ◇ Don't intentionally break up or put up flocks of birds as this can cause startled young to launch earlier than they are ready or for startled adults to leave nests vulnerable to predators;
- ◇ Please keep dogs under control as they can scare nesting birds and resting seals.

Top Tip #1

Avoid encroaching any closer than 50m to birdlife...if the birds are breeding (Feb-Aug) you should maintain a distance of 200m...



Top Tip #2

Signs that birds are not happy:

- ◇ Bobbing heads;
- ◇ Head craning or turning;
- ◇ Flapping wings;
- ◇ Launching from ledges!

If you notice any of these signs, move away slowly and quietly.



Rockpools and the Seashore ★

- 1 If you put crabs or fish in a bucket, only keep them for a short amount of time before they get too warm...and make sure they don't eat each other;
- 2 Always replace rocks where you found them - they are someone's home;
- 3 Take photos home, not animals;
- 4 Show respect for seashore creatures - handle them as little as possible;
- 5 Take litter home with you, recycle what you can and put the rest in the bin;
- 6 Always put rockpool creatures back where you found them. Never pull plants or animals off the rocks that like to be stuck there.



Portuguese Man O' War





Seal-y Great Sightings

Here are our flippin' great tips for getting those special sightings without causing seals stress!

From land or on the water:

- ◇ Keep a distance of at least 50m - if seals look at you, you are too close;
- ◇ Stay low and downwind;
- ◇ If you see a lone seal pup don't approach them as Mum is most likely fishing and you will scare her away and pup will be abandoned permanently - if you are concerned call **BDMLR on 01825 765546**.

In the water:

- ◇ Let seals approach you - don't follow or chase them;
- ◇ Seals will explore you with their fore flippers, whiskers and mouths...as such wearing a wetsuit is essential - seal fur can cause irritation;
- ◇ With large males that come really close, it may help to avoid eye contact by lowering your head and keeping still - this tells him you know he's the boss;
- ◇ Never feed seals as they are highly intelligent and fast learning, so that even one feed can develop habituated behaviour for life and decrease their natural fear of humans, putting them at risk of injury or death.

Time to Back Away!

If you notice any of these signs of disturbance it's time to back away slowly and quietly:

- ◇ Heads up and appearing agitated;
- ◇ Moving towards the water;
- ◇ Pushing, nudging or swatting with foreflippers;
- ◇ Vocalisations.

Startled seals may injure themselves, rip claws and cause fatal injury to both mother and pup when scrambling across rocks, so we want to avoid causing this at all costs! Juveniles are more likely to be most skittish and easily scared in the spring.

Watersports

- 1 Maintain a low paddle angle where possible, using a slow, steady and predictable rhythm as you paddle past marine animals, keeping any noise and sudden movements to a minimum;
- 2 Avoid steering directly towards or following marine animals that appear alongside your vessel;
- 3 Keep at least 50m away from wildlife on cliffs and rocks and slow to a speed that reduces noise;
- 4 If observing animals keep your distance and spend no more than 15 minutes observing quietly...be sure to leave immediately if you notice any signs of distress.



For wildlife over 100m away in the water, stay on course at a steady speed, but be prepared to slow down and allow it to move out of the vessel path. If wildlife is less than 100m away in the water, stay on course and slow down, but be prepared to stop to avoid collision.

Motorised Boating

- 1 Keep your distance and allow animals an escape route;
- 2 Move slowly with no wake on a predictable course, keeping craft-side on;
Observe wildlife quietly for no more than 15 minutes
- 3 and leave immediately if you notice any signs of distress;
- 4 If seals look at you, you are too close;
If marine animals choose to approach your vessel or bowride, maintain a steady speed and course - don't follow animals that appear alongside your vessel.
- 5



- ◇ Boats should be operated at the lowest possible engine speed keeping noise to a minimum;
- ◇ Slow down to 6 knots or less at least 300m from the animal and no closer than 100m;
- ◇ Refrain from calling other vessels to join you - if more than two vessels are present please do not approach;
- ◇ Never feed wildlife - it increases the risk of them being injured when approaching people and vessels in search of food; eg. entanglement in fishing gear and hooks.

If you're lucky you might see...



Atlantic grey seal



Common dolphin



Manx shearwater

