

# 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

Belfast Coastguard:  
02891 463 933

Arran Medical  
Group:  
01770 600 546

# Isle of Arran Snorkel Trail

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- 1 Clauchlands Farm
- 2 Lamlash
- 3 Whiting Bay
- 4 Kildonan
- 5 Imachar
- 6 Lochranza

The Isle of Arran 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](http://scottishwildlifetrust.org.uk/snorkeltrail)



[scottishwildlifetrust.org.uk](http://scottishwildlifetrust.org.uk)

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# Dive in to Scotland's Living Seas!



## Snorkel Trail Isle of Arran

In association with **COAST**

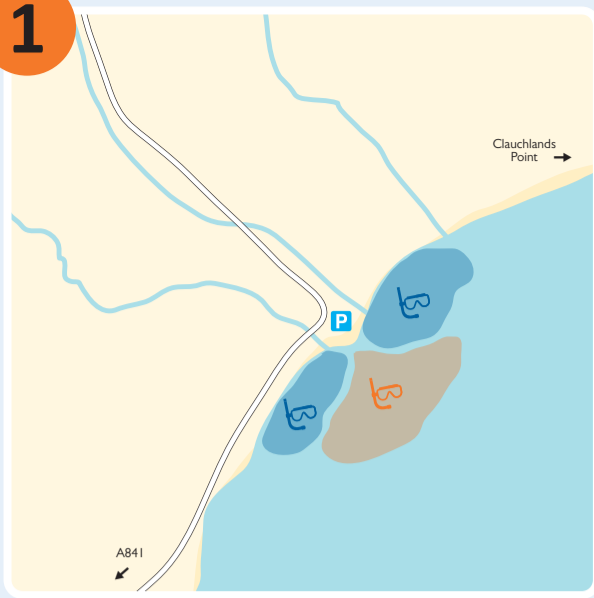
# Life under the waves

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:

Fish	 BALLAN WRASSE	 COMMON BLENNY	 TWO-SPOT GOBY	 JUVENILE COD	Jellyfish	 LION'S MANE	 MOON	 BARREL	 COMB				
	Crustaceans	 SHORE CRAB	 HARBOUR CRAB	 VELVET SWIMMING CRAB		 HERMIT CRAB	Starfish and urchins	 COMMON STARFISH	 SUNSTAR	 COMMON (EDIBLE) URCHIN	 SPINY STARFISH		
		Snails	 DOGWHELK	 LIMPET		 PERIWINKLE		 TOPSHELL	Plants and algae	 KELP	 SEAGRASS	 BLADDER WRACK	 MAERL
			Other invertebrates	 PEACOCK WORM		 BEADLET ANEMONE		 SNAKELOCKS ANEMONE		 BURROWING ANEMONE	Also look out for...	SEALS	CUCKOO WRASSE
OTTER				15 SPINE STICKLEBACK	SMALL-SPOTTED CAT SHARK								

What did you see on your snorkel?  
Send us your pictures on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.

1



### Clauchlands Farm

**P** MAP: OS Explorer 361, NS048326  
**NEAREST VILLAGE:** Lamlash (1.2 miles)

This site, which is within the No Take Zone, offers the opportunity to see a marine habitat where no fishing has taken place since 2008. Look for juvenile fish and a wide variety of crabs and starfish amongst the seaweed. You may also find some patches of seagrass to explore by swimming along for a short while with the coast on your right-hand side.

2



### Lamlash

**P** MAP: OS Explorer 361, NS030314  
**NEAREST VILLAGE:** Lamlash (0 miles)

The beach below the Drift Inn offers carefully-footed access to this excellent site, where a myriad of marine life lives. More advanced snorkelers can head slightly further out towards the buoys to try and find small patches of seagrass. There is a working pier near this site, so keep a safe distance from the jetty and be careful of boat traffic.

3



### Whiting Bay

**P** MAP: OS Explorer 361, NS045261  
**NEAREST VILLAGE:** Whiting Bay (0 miles)

The old jetty at Whiting Bay offers an ideal place for snorkelling; with easy access across a sandy beach there is lots to see making it a fantastic place for beginners and younger snorkellers. For the more experienced, head further out on a low tide towards the mooring buoys to find amazing seagrass habitat. Take care walking on the jetty at low tide as it can be very slippery.

4



### Kildonan

**P** MAP: OS Explorer 361, NS021209  
**NEAREST VILLAGE:** Kildonan (0 miles)

This sheltered beach at the southern end of Arran is easily accessed from in front of the village hall. The geology offers impressive rocky outcrops, providing great habitat for fish and crustaceans. Seabirds, seals and otters are all commonly seen here. The small beach at the front of the hall is great for beginners, whilst the rocky outcrops provide a chance for those more experienced to explore.

5



### Imachar

**P** MAP: OS Explorer 361, NR865401  
**NEAREST VILLAGE:** Pinmill (2.6 miles)

This rocky outcrop is surrounded by beautifully clear waters, providing an excellent opportunity to see a variety of fish, crabs, starfish and many other species. Entry is safest directly off the pebble beach either side of the outcrop. Snorkelling this site an hour either side of high tide is recommended, and advanced snorkellers may benefit from taking a torch to explore between the rocks.

6



### Lochranza

**P** MAP: OS Explorer 361, NR925509  
**NEAREST VILLAGE:** Lochranza (0 miles)

To the west of the ferry pier, this sheltered beach offers an easily accessible site to snorkel whilst waiting for the ferry. Crabs, juvenile fish, starfish and a variety of sea snails can often be found hiding amongst the seaweed. Please ensure you stay close to the coast and remain well away from the working ferry pier.

## The Community of Arran Seabed Trust

COAST is a community-led organisation, founded in 1995, that works tirelessly to protect and restore a diverse, abundant and beautiful marine environment for everyone in Arran, the Clyde and Scotland.

Nestled between the Mull of Kintyre on the west and Ayrshire on the east, you'll find "Scotland in miniature"; the Isle of Arran. Arran residents have long been impassioned about their coastal waters and the need to protect them. In 2008, Arran's community were proud to establish the Lamlash Bay No Take Zone, a 2.67km<sup>2</sup> area where any extraction of marine life is prohibited – the first area of its kind in Scotland. In 2016, the much larger (280km<sup>2</sup>) South Arran Marine Protected Area was created to protect sensitive seabed habitats.

Due to these protected areas, marine life in Arran's seas is abundant and varied. From large marine mammals – such as seals, otters and porpoise – to the tiny thumbnail-sized sea slugs, there's something to appeal to all interests.



In 2018, COAST opened their Discovery Centre on the shores of Lamlash Bay, a fantastic place to visit to learn more about the marine conservation efforts on the island. Even better, from here you can sign up for one of COAST's seasonal snorkel taster sessions.\* Find your fins and get comfortable snorkelling in our seas under the careful guidance of qualified snorkel instructors, before heading off on a snorkel adventure of your own as you explore further sites around the island.



Registered Charity in Scotland SCO42088

\*for available dates and full T&Cs, please visit COAST's website

Get in touch!

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[arran.coast](https://www.facebook.com/arran.coast) [ArranCoast](https://www.instagram.com/ArranCoast)

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**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



Wild camping



Toilets



Café



Parking



Shop



Beginner



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](http://scottishwildlifetrust.org.uk/snorkeltrail)