

CALF OF MAN VISITOR INFORMATION

The Calf of Man Island is accessed by small boat operators running return trips from Port St Mary and Port Erin. Sailings are subject to suitable weather conditions, tide and the availability of the boatmen and all journeys must be booked in advance with the boatmen.

Located amidst spectacular scenery half a mile off the southern tip of the Isle of Man, the Calf of Man is a small island extending to approximately 600 acres. In the ownership of the Manx Museum & National Trust (MMNT), its primary purpose is as a Bird Observatory and Nature Reserve, with Wardens resident on the Island from spring to late autumn. The traditional style 1870's farmhouse incorporating the Observatory is the only habitable property on the Island and pre-booked hostel standard accommodation is available for up to eight overnight guests.

This island is an ideal place to study many aspects of bird life with around 33 species breeding annually and it is located on one of western Britain's major migration routes. Breeding seabirds include Manx Shearwater, Kittiwake, Razorbill and Shag. Other species normally observed on the island include Peregrine, Hen Harrier, Chough and Raven.

A project to assist the recovery of the resident Manx Shearwater population on the Calf of Man through the eradication of the "longtail" or brown rat population continues. A combination of baiting tubes and traps may be found across the Island and these must not be tampered with. Please refer to the separate public notice regarding the arrangements in place to prevent re-infestation and visitors are kindly requested to closely observe these requirements.

The Calf has an interesting history and evidence of the once thriving community includes the two lighthouses built in 1818, a recently decommissioned modern lighthouse building built in 1968, a mill and a smithy. Signs of earlier habitation of the island range from prehistoric worked flints and early Christian graves, through to defences dating from 1651-1713 such as the gun emplacement on the Burroo.

THE CALF OF MAN CODE

The island is a Nature Reserve and visitors are asked to observe the Calf of Man Code in order to protect its special wildlife and habitats.

- There must be no interference with the Calf's wildlife
- Vessels must not be left unattended at any of the harbours at any time to ensure that the Calf visitor/supply boats have access to the harbours at all times
- No climbing/climbing equipment
- No dogs – except Assistance Dogs by prior arrangement
- No camping, lighting of fires, barbecues or use of naked flame stoves
- No fishing from 1st April to 31st July
- No litter
- No metal detecting or digging

To help protect wildlife and for your own safety, please keep to the footpaths. There are areas with restricted access at different times of the year. Please consult local notices or seek guidance from the wardens. In order to maintain access for the wardens' supply boat, please do not leave boats unattended in the harbours. MMNT expects the behaviour of visiting parties to be of a high standard. In the event of misbehaviour by any group, individual, or lack of adequate control by the adult in charge of children, the Wardens have the authority to terminate the visit and ask the individual/group to leave the island at their own expense.

MMNT operates a no smoking policy at all Manx National Heritage attractions and properties.



FACILITIES ON THE CALF OF MAN

The Estate Warden and Ornithological Warden are resident in the Observatory.

Self-Catering accommodation is available for up to 8 visitors and is sold on a room basis per night as follows:

- Shearwater Room: 2 bunk beds (4 visitors) – front facing. Cost per night £70.00
- Chough Room: 1 bunk bed (2 visitors) – front facing. Cost per night £40.00
- Fulmar Room: 2 single beds (2 visitors) – rear facing. Cost per night £40.00

Please note: A minimum charge for two nights stay applies to all bookings

All visitors are reminded that the Calf of Man is a working bird observatory. Our wardens work long hours and can often be up early or work through the night. Please respect their working hours and rest time by avoiding unnecessary disturbance, noise or behaviour which impacts on the wardens or other guests.

There are kitchen facilities, a dining / common room. The kitchen contains cutlery, pans, microwave, fridge and a gas cooker. Heating is by a wood burning stove in the common room. Electrical power to the Observatory is supplied by a generator which is run by the Wardens for a limited time in the evenings and allows electrical appliances to be operated / charged, although guests should not bring electric kettles or other appliances with similar high power requirements.

The Observatory water supply is derived from a combination of rainwater harvesting and ground water sources and goes through a filtration process. Water for drinking should be boiled before use. The water supply is limited and visitors are requested to use the water very sparingly as it can run dry. As examples, when on the island you will be requested to avoid leaving taps running, washing up excessively or taking a shower. This is only done to reduce water consumption.

Visitors are responsible for providing sleeping bags, towels, etc. and cooking their own food. A torch, spare batteries and a box of matches are essential pieces of equipment needed by anyone staying in the Observatory. The Observatory has a mobile phone for use by the Wardens and for emergencies only. Visitors may wish to bring their own mobile phones with chargers but should note that coverage within the island is variable. Visitors from outside the Isle of Man may wish to check that their account allows international “roaming”.

Visitors are responsible for removing all of their own waste from the Calf of Man at the end of their stay. The only waste that may be left on the Calf of Man is paper/card and vegetable material.

Travel to and from the Calf of Man can be unpredictable and during prolonged bad weather the Calf may be inaccessible by boat for several days.

Visitors to the islet should have extra food available to anticipate these circumstances and should plan ahead for the potential of delayed departure. To allow for the possibility of delayed departure from the Calf, you are advised to bring a mobile phone, particularly if you need to contact anyone expecting your return.

Weather and tides permitting and subject to pre-booking. There are four operators from whom details of charges and crossings can be obtained. The vessels are not operated by MMNT and the details are provided to assist visitors to make contact with the boat operators and to arrange a booking:



BOAT OPERATORS AND JOURNEY

Juan & Steven Clague
Flat 2, 1 High Street
Port St Mary IM9 5DP
Tel: 07624 490615
Vessel: "Scaayl"

Phil Roriston
E: bluerib@manx.net
Port St Mary
Tel: 07624 466522 (Phil)
Tel: 07624 490488
(Caroline)
Vessel: 'Vagabond'

Chris Burton
E: shonaboattrips@manx.net
Port Erin
Tel: Chris 07624 322765
Tel: Jason 07624 480682
Vessel: 'Shona Elizabeth'

Mike Keggen
Shore Road
Port St Mary, IM9 5DX
Tel: 07624 493824
Tel: 07624 209807
Vessel: 'Kirree Varrey'

It is recommended that visitors wear a life jacket on their journey to and from the Calf. When making your booking please ask your boat operator to advise you of their emergency procedures including the provision and use of life jackets and/or life raft. In the event that the boat operator does not provide life jackets you may wish to bring your own.

The boats will run weather, tide and demand permitting. The timing of departures and collections will be governed by the tide. The boat operators will only operate the vessels when conditions are suitable and due to changing weather conditions it may be necessary for the boatman to cancel a trip at very short notice. Booking does not guarantee that a crossing can be made.

Depending on the vessel, the journey time from Port St Mary and Port Erin to the Calf of Man ranges from 15 to 40 minutes.

If for any reason you are unable to make your trip or if the size of your party changes, we ask that you please notify the boatman and the Calf Wardens as soon as possible.

BOOKING ARRANGEMENTS

The Calf of Man Accommodation is available from May 2019 to September 2019. Bookings are on a per room basis only and no concessions are available for single room occupancy.

Once an accommodation booking has been confirmed, visitors are advised to make early arrangements direct with a boatman for transport over to the Island.

Persons under the age of 16 cannot be accepted at the Observatory unless accompanied by an adult who is responsible for them; control of children whilst on the Calf of Man is essential. The number of children staying at the Observatory is limited but requests for educational group bookings will be considered on application. Such applications need to be made early.

Refunds for the cost of your accommodation are available in the following circumstances:

- Calf boat trip cancellation due to adverse weather;
- Accommodation closures due to water shortages;
- Closure of public access to the Calf of Man e.g.: foot & mouth or other land access restrictions.

If you wish to obtain an accommodation refund for any of these reasons please contact Accommodation Booking Office at MMNT Telephone (01624 648015) within 14 days of the cancellation.

To the fullest extent permitted by law the Manx Museum & National Trust does not assume or accept responsibility or liability for any loss or damage resulting from your visit to the Calf of Man. Nothing in this disclaimer shall limit the liability of MMNT to you for death or personal injury resulting from the negligence of MMNT.

Updated 22/03/2019

