



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.

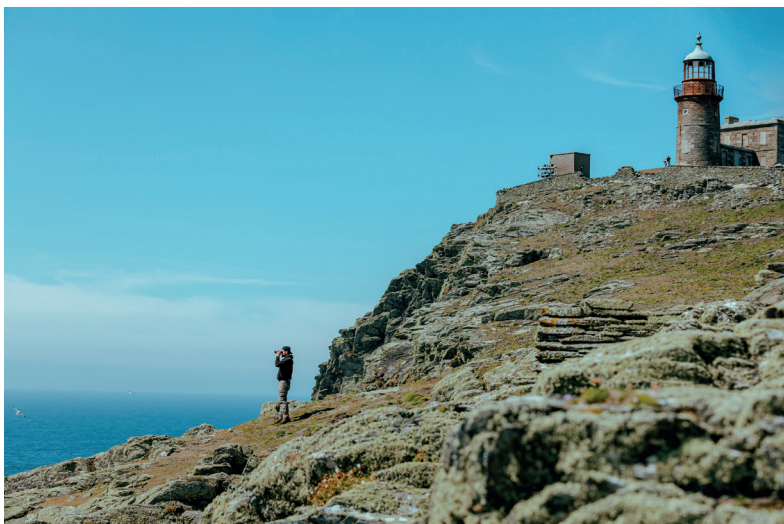
Located amidst spectacular scenery half a mile off the southern tip of the Isle of Man, the Calf of Man is a small island extending to approximately 600 acres. In the ownership of the Manx Museum & National Trust (MMNT), the Calf is first and foremost a Bird Observatory and Nature Reserve, with Wardens 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 during the summer season.

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.

To assist the recovery of the resident Manx Shearwater population on the Calf of Man, a project continues to control the "longtail" or brown rat population. 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 previous 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.

- Keep to the main tracks from 1st March to 31st August
- 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
- Padlocked buildings including those at the lighthouses, Jane's House, store buildings and the Observatory buildings complex are not available for public access.

To prevent disturbance of the burrow, ground and cliff-nesting bird populations and for your own safety, please keep to the main footpaths. There are areas with restricted access at different times of the year. Please consult local notices or seek guidance from the wardens. 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 wardens 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**
- **Chough Room: 1 bunk bed (2 visitors) - front facing**
- **Fulmar Room: 2 single beds (2 visitors) - rear facing**

Beds are supplied with mattress protectors, bottom sheets, pillows and pillow cases.

Please note that minimum stays are two nights arriving on Monday or Wednesday, or three nights arriving Friday. Both check in and check out days are only permitted on a Monday, Wednesday and Friday.

All visitors are reminded that the Calf of Man is a working bird observatory and the wardens are resident in the 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 with 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. It is recommended that water for drinking should be boiled before use.

The water supply is very limited and visitors are requested to use the water very sparingly to ensure that the Observatory can continue to operate over the summer period. During dry periods, you may be required to take a quantity of drinking water to supplement the restricted supply.

To conserve water at the Observatory, you will be asked to avoid leaving taps running or washing up excessively. Due to the restricted water supply, showers are only available for wardens.

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.

Visitors are responsible for removing all of their own waste from the Calf of Man at the end of their stay.

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, guests may wish to bring their own mobile phones with chargers. Mobile coverage within the island is variable and you may have to find a signal beyond the Observatory. Visitors from outside the Isle of Man may wish to check that their account allows for roaming.

Weather and tides permitting and subject to pre-booking. There are two 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

PORT ST MARY OPERATORS

Steven Clague

Creg Y Leech
Lime Street
Port St Mary
IM9 5EF
07624 490615
Vessel: 'Scraayl'

Tom Keggen

Shore Road
Port St Mary
IM9 5DX
07624 209807
Boattripsiom@gmail.com
Vessel: 'Kiree Varrey'

PORT ERIN OPERATOR (Does not service overnight visitors)

Jason Fleming

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

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.

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 is up 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 normally available on a seasonal basis from June to early September. Bookings are made via Island Escapes on a per room basis only and no concessions are available for single room occupancy. Please note that accommodation bookings are not transferable and booking conditions are per Island Escapes Terms and Conditions.

<https://www.islandescapes.im/property/563693>

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.

Please contact the wardens by email calfstatewarden@mwt.im or WhatsApp message on 07624 467564 24 hours prior to departure to advise of timing of arrival and the boatman that you will be arriving with to enable the wardens to collect your luggage. Due to variable mobile phone signal on the Calf of Man, wardens may be unable to answer your call.

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. COVID 19, foot & mouth or other land access restrictions.**

To the fullest extent permitted by law the Manx Museum & National Trust (MMNT) 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.

