

# Join us today!

You can help support our vital work managing Handa Island.

- Free entry to all our Visitor Centres and reserves
- Subscription to our *Scottish Wildlife* magazine
- Free copy of our *Exploring Reserves* guide
- Invitation to exclusive talks and events

Visit [scottishwildlifetrust.org.uk](http://scottishwildlifetrust.org.uk) for more information or call 0131 312 7765

## You might also like to visit ...



### Loch of the Lowes Visitor Centre

Each spring, ospreys arrive here from west Africa. The observation hide offers stunning views of the ospreys rearing their chicks. Interactive displays in the Centre tell the story of Lowes and its wildlife – otters, red squirrels and much more.

A Dunkeld PH8 0HH T 01350 727 337 E [lochofthelowes@swt.org.uk](mailto:lochofthelowes@swt.org.uk)



### Ben Mor Coigach Wildlife Reserve

Ben Mor Coigach dominates the landscape north of Ullapool. Our largest reserve covers 6,000 hectares and is managed as a crofted estate. Coigach is a wild place; from its summit, spectacular views of the north west coast are laid out before you.

A Highlands IV26 2YJ T 0131 312 7765 E [enquiries@swt.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@swt.org.uk)



### Rahoy Hills Wildlife Reserve

The Rahoy Hills encompass a diverse range of habitats from windswept grasslands, mires and heaths to cliffs, lochans and oak woodlands. The cliffs support tall-herb and arctic-alpine plants. If you are lucky, you will be able to see golden and sea eagles.

A Highlands PA34 5XE T 0131 312 7765 E [enquiries@swt.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@swt.org.uk)

For information on places to see near you, visit our website:

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

Please help Handa Island by making a donation today. Text "HAND45 £5" to 70070 to donate now. All texts are free and 100% of your donation goes to helping protect and preserve this magnificent island.

## Health & safety

Please read the following information carefully before setting out.

- In the event of any problems, please phone the ranger on 07920 468 572.
- Please keep to the footpath for your safety and for the benefit of the nesting birds.
- The boardwalk and grass path can become slippery when wet. Take care!
- Stay away from the edge due to crumbling cliffs, slippery grass and high winds.
- The last return ferry leaves at 4.45pm. Judge your time carefully to ensure you don't rush.
- Wilfully or recklessly disturbing wildlife is a criminal offence and we will report all incidents to the police.

## Wildlife sightings

Please report all wildlife sightings on your return to the visitor shelter. You can also send pictures and sightings to the ranger by e-mailing [handaranger@swt.org.uk](mailto:handaranger@swt.org.uk)



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

Harbourside House 110 Commercial Street Edinburgh EH6 6NF  
T 0131 312 7765 F 0131 312 8705 E [enquiries@swt.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@swt.org.uk)

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## Sutherland's spectacular seabirds!



# Handa Island

Wildlife Reserve

# Handa Island

## Wildlife Reserve

### Visitor information

**PUFFINS** are best seen around the Great Stack from May to July. Over 200 pairs nest on Handa.

**GUILLEMOTS, FULMARS, RAZORBILLS AND KITTIWAKES** reside here in their thousands, making the cliffs of Handa one of the most important colonies in the UK and Europe.

**DOLPHINS, WHALES AND BASKING SHARKS** are often seen off the coast.

**TORRIDONIAN SANDSTONE** is the bedrock of the island and is over 1,000 million years old!

**HANDA** is owned by the Scourie Estate and managed in partnership with the Scottish Wildlife Trust.

# Welcome to Handa Island

**1** You are now in the historic village, last inhabited in 1847. Following the potato famine all of the remaining 64 residents were moved across the Atlantic to Nova Scotia.

**2** Keep an eye out for the inquisitive red grouse, bullying bonxies (great skuas) and thieving Arctic skuas that nest here. Please keep to the path and, if the skuas swoop towards you, hold up your hand and move on quickly to keep disturbance to a minimum. Look out for flowers such as heath-spotted orchids and lousewort in the heath.

**3** At Puffin Bay, see the fulmars enjoying the wind, with puffins often seen on the grassy banks and seals swimming in the water. Looking to the east, there are lots of great skuas that gather to bathe and drink on Swaabie Loch. Please do not approach the loch.

**4** The Great Stack is a huge tower of Torridonian sandstone set apart from the main island. It holds an incredible density of seabirds. The Stack is nearly impossible to climb from the bottom. More people have stood on the moon than have reached the top of it!

**5** Poll Ghluip is the name of this spectacular collapsed sea cave. Please stay away from the edge as there is an overhang all the way around. Moving on, keep an eye out to sea, where whales, dolphins and porpoises are often seen. Please allow at least 90 minutes of quick walking to return to the landing beach.

**!** Please stay on the path or boardwalk at all times for your own safety and to avoid disturbing wildlife. As you approach the northern cliffs **take great care**. See overleaf for more detailed health and safety information.

**6** Dropping down to Boulder Bay, you can often see eider ducks and oystercatchers. Seals regularly "bottle" here, sticking their noses out of the water while they rest. This is the best place on the island to see an otter, so sit quietly for a while and look carefully.

