

Hebridean  
Whale &  
Dolphin  
Trust

## UNIQUE SUMMER EXPERIENCE:

# Hebridean Whale & Dolphin Trust Outreach Volunteer

**START DATE:** 1<sup>ST</sup> JUNE 2024

**END DATE:** 27<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2024

**WHERE:** TOBERMORY, ISLE OF MULL, SCOTLAND

**COMMITMENT:** 30 HOURS PER WEEK

The Hebridean Whale and Dolphin Trust has been leading the way for the conservation of cetaceans in the Hebrides for 30 years. As the trusted voice and primary source of information in the region, HWDT research has critically advanced the understanding of Scotland's whales, dolphins and porpoises whilst working directly with communities to encourage the stewardship of our rich seas.

As a volunteer at the [Hebridean Whale Centre](#) in Tobermory you will play a vital role in the conservation and engagement activities of HWDT. You will benefit from personalised training, and will develop your skills in public engagement, science communication and fieldwork. Through this placement you will gain wildlife guiding experience, build your skills in event organisation, planning and delivery, and carry out data collection for HWDT's biological monitoring programmes, [Whale Track](#) and our acclaimed Marine Mammal Monitoring programme on board *Silurian*.

You will be supporting the delivery of the public engagement programme, working with members of the HWDT team to deliver meaningful engagement and inspirational activities to connect people with the spectacular marine heritage of the west coast of Scotland. You will inspire and inform visitors and the local community, champion participation in citizen science, and carry out fieldwork to monitor marine life.

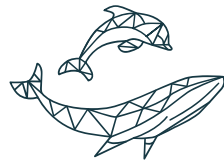
You will join one of our [Research Expedition](#) surveys on board our research vessel *Silurian* as fourth crew to assist the Science Officer. Sailing the west coast of Scotland, you will monitor marine mammals and the health of our seas, while ensuring the expedition runs smoothly and the participants have a positive and memorable experience.

**Living and working on the Isle of Mull, as part of HWDT's small and friendly team, makes this a fantastic opportunity for a once in a lifetime experience, while playing an active role in marine conservation.**

## ROLE DESCRIPTION:

Your main area of work will be in and around the Hebridean Whale Centre in Tobermory based on a 26 hour working week.

- Provide expert wildlife guiding and informal interpretation to visitors about Hebridean marine wildlife, environment and heritage – both in our visitor centre and out at local sites on the [Hebridean Whale Trail](#), through our activity programme of guided walks, headland watches, workshops, talks and games.
- Carry out dedicated land-based cetacean surveys using Whale Track and encourage visitors to participate in whale watching and biological recording activities.
- Run activities to encourage stewardship of our seas including beach cleans and kid's clubs.
- Positively represent HWDT in person and through digital media, written articles and social media.
- Provide excellent customer service and a warm welcome in the Hebridean Whale Centre



- Participation in a marine mammal research expedition survey on board Silurian.

#### WHAT YOU WILL GAIN:

- Personalised training for all aspects of your role.
- Training and ongoing support through regular progress meetings, professional development monitoring and post-placement advice and support.
- Experience in public engagement, wildlife guiding and science communication.
- Training and experience carrying out field-based data collection from land and sea.
- Vital experience for careers in marine conservation and nature tourism.

At HWDT we appreciate the time and commitment our volunteers give to us so if you have a particular area of interest we will try and accommodate that, where possible, alongside the placement.

#### ESSENTIAL CRITERIA:

- Friendly, open communication style with people of all ages.
- Previous customer service experience.
- Self-motivated, in possession of high levels of initiative, and keen to learn new skills.
- Passionate about marine conservation and cetaceans.
- Able to live and work in a remote location as part of a small team.

#### DESIRABLE CRITERIA:

- UK driver's license and access to a car.
- Knowledge of Scottish cetaceans.
- Knowledge of the local area.
- Previous experience carrying out field-based data collection.

#### PLACEMENT DATES:

**1<sup>ST</sup> JUNE UNTIL 27<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2024**

*The successful candidates will work 30 hours a week, including weekends and occasional evenings. Ideally you will be able to commit to the full placement length, however, there is a small amount of flexibility regarding end dates.*

#### INTERESTED?

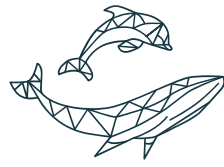
##### TO APPLY:

Please email a current C.V. and covering letter outlining why you are applying for the opportunity to [siobhan.moran@hwdt.org](mailto:siobhan.moran@hwdt.org). Please send as PDFs with your name in the file name. For more information, please contact Siobhan on the above email.

#### APPLICATION DEADLINE:

**12 NOON WEDNESDAY 28<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2024**

Shortlisted candidates will be invited interview via Zoom on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> March 2024. Please include in your application your availability for interview.



### **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:**

This summer placement offers a chance to get involved in the inner workings of a marine conservation charity with active citizen science programmes, and the opportunity to observe and assist on a marine mammal research expedition. You will gain experience in delivering talks and hosting engagement events both from the visitor centre in Tobermory and from Hebridean Whale Trail sites around Mull. You will build confidence in communicating with a wide range of age groups and visitor demographics. You will also have the opportunity to develop your own talks or organise engagement events/activities. Additional experiences, tailored to the individual based on personal interest and availability, can be incorporated into the programme on request.

**Accommodation and living expenses are not provided during the placement.** Accommodation is available privately within Tobermory and we will support you in securing this. We will put you in touch with people who rent out spare rooms in their homes, and signpost local social media groups for finding accommodation and seasonal work.

Any reasonable travel expenses incurred during delivery of HWDT activities will be reimbursed.

### **WHAT YOU SHOULD BE AWARE OF:**

Tobermory is the largest town on the Isle of Mull in the Inner Hebrides. Mull is a remote island and only accessible by ferry links from the Scottish mainland, and is surrounded by beautiful natural landscapes, vast skies and a variety of wildlife. The waters around our island are frequently visited by species such as minke whales, bottlenose dolphins, harbour porpoises and a wide range of other marine life.

Tobermory has a good range of facilities including a co-op, pharmacy, doctor's surgery, dentist, pubs, gift shops, and cafes. There are also small music venues and a theatre. More amenities such as high street chains, supermarkets, train station etc. can be found in Oban; a 40-minute drive and a 45-minute ferry journey away.

A diverse range of activities are available during the season such as water sports, team sports, running and fitness clubs, dance classes, craft workshops plus music and book festivals and a car rally. There is also our only Munro, Benn More, to climb and outlying islands such as Staffa, Ulva and iconic Iona to visit.

Volunteers who have completed this placement go on to work in visitor engagement, wildlife conservation, further study, and staff roles at HWDT. To find out what some of our previous participants thought of similar placements go to:

[Our 2023 Volunteer Team](#)

[Vaughan's Tales From Silurian](#)

[Jess - Outreach Volunteer 2022](#)

[Bella & Celia - Outreach Volunteers 2021](#)