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## A TWO-DAY MARINE MONITORING EXPEDITION OFF THE WEST COAST OF SCOTLAND

### COMPETITION FAQS

#### How do I get to the Isle of Mull?

There are a number of driving routes you can take to get to the Isle of Mull. Find out more at: <http://www.tobermory.co.uk/information/travel-2/driving/>

There is a train station at Oban which connects with the ferry to Mull. You can plan your rail journey at: [www.scotrail.co.uk](http://www.scotrail.co.uk)

Caledonian MacBrayne operates three ferry routes to Mull: Oban to Craignure, Lochaline to Fishnish and Kilchoan on the Ardnamurchan Peninsula. It's best to pre-book in busy periods: <http://www.calmac.co.uk/>

There is a regular bus service from Craignure ferry terminal which will take you to Tobermory. Please check times before you travel: <http://www.westcoastmotors.co.uk/fares-tickets/?id=52>

#### What time do I need to arrive in Tobermory?

The trip is likely to depart at 9.30am on 3 August 2017, so prize winners are free to organise accommodation in Tobermory or Oban the night before (at your own expense). A list of hotels will be provided. HWDT will confirm the full itinerary once the competition winners have been announced.

#### What food and drink will be provided on the boat?

Food is important onboard *Silurian* as it maintains energy levels and can keep sea sickness at bay. All meals (breakfast, second breakfast, lunch, afternoon tea and dinner), snacks and drinks will be provided for the duration of the research trip. Specific dietary requirements can be catered for if required, but please let us know ahead of the trip.

#### What are the sleeping arrangements on the boat?

*Silurian* has 10 berths, with six berths for the prize winners in three cabins. Two of the cabins have bunk beds and the other has a twin berth, which will be separated into two by a divider. Cabins will be shared by people of the same gender. Some bunks are short and close to the ceiling.

There is very limited storage space, so bags and equipment will be kept on your bunks during the day. For this reason, please pack as little as possible.

Full bedding (sheet, pillow, pillowcase, duvet and duvet case) is provided, but please bring your own towel.



President: His Royal Highness,  
The Prince of Wales KG, KT, GCB, OM  
Chief Executive: Tanya Steele

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## **What bathroom facilities are on the boat?**

*Silurian* contains two heads (bathrooms) with showers, flush toilets (hand-pumped), and hand basins. The front head will be shared among the prize winners, and you will be responsible for keeping it clean and tidy during the expedition.

There is hot and cold water available, but hot water is limited. Showers are restricted onboard, and volunteers should use as little water as possible at all times.

## **Do I need to be physically fit for this trip?**

During the trip, prize winners will be expected to assist with visual observations for marine mammals – this includes standing for periods of one hour at the mast, scanning the waters for movement. You will need to have reasonable balance and decent eyesight to undertake this activity.

You should be able to comfortably traverse narrow passages and steep stairs on the boat. And you must be able to remain balanced and agile to cope with the constantly varying motions of the boat, the need to lean over for clipping and unclipping yourself to safety harnesses, and for bracing against waves. You may have the opportunity to climb the crow's nest and partake in rope hauling and hydrophone deployment – but this is not compulsory.

There are some areas on the boat where wheelchair access would be difficult, but HWDT will seek to accommodate requests for special assistance where possible.

All prize winners will be required to complete a medical questionnaire before the trip.

## **Can I bring my electrical appliances?**

There is reliable electricity onboard *Silurian*. You may bring small electrical equipment, such as a digital camera, but be sure to bring a spare memory card, spare battery and battery charger. You should not bring a laptop, hairdryer or hair straighteners with you. Electricity may be restricted to times when the engine and/or generator are running – research equipment has first priority.

## **Will mobile phones work on the boat?**

The phone signal will be very limited during the trip. Internet access will be available in Tobermory Bay at the start and end of the trip, but there will be no Internet available for prize winners during the research trip. In the event of an emergency, the engagement officer can connect to the Internet in locations with sufficient mobile phone coverage. Other emergency communications equipment is available (including the vessel's own mobile phone, depending on coverage), VHF radio and satellite phone).

## **What should I wear for the trip?**

The climate in the Scottish Hebrides is temperate, and the weather can be VERY changeable. The islands enjoy long hours of sunshine in the summer months, but storms and heavy rain can occur at ANY time of year. At sea it will feel much colder than it feels on land, and wind caused by the vessel's speed will always be present. This wind-chill factor will drastically reduce the air temperature.



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Outdoor clothing suitable for offshore sailing (jacket and trousers) is provided onboard, and these items are both windproof and waterproof. It is highly recommended that prize winners use these provided garments rather than using their own, which may not be appropriate for offshore sea conditions.

Creating warmth through layering is the best method of maintaining your core body temperature. Combining thermal layers with lightweight and mid-weight layers, both top and bottom, will keep you warm throughout the long survey days. It's best to bring warm clothes, hats, gloves and sturdy shoes, but a full kit list will be provided prior to the trip.

### **What happens if there is bad weather?**

We are fortunate in the Scottish Hebrides to have a network of channels, bays and sea lochs which allow for shelter from winds and high seas. From Tobermory, there are a couple of different routes we can take and a variety of overnight anchorages which will allow us to escape the worst of any foul weather. The direction of travel of *Silurian* and the selection of anchorage will be at the skipper's discretion.