

Shorewatch Residential Volunteer & Guide - WDC Scottish Dolphin Centre, Spey Bay

Get the experience and get ahead in conservation with a volunteer programme that works!

Are you passionate about the environment? Or want to inspire and educate all ages? Or looking to gain valuable experience to work in education and conservation?

At Whale and Dolphin Conservation (WDC) our vision is of a world where every whale and dolphin is safe and free. We are looking for a dedicated Shorewatch Residential Volunteer & Guide to join our team at WDC's Scottish Dolphin Centre (Moray, North East Scotland), to help deliver WDC's 4 main goals; end captivity, stop whaling, create healthy seas, prevent deaths in nets. The visitor Centre and volunteer accommodation is based in a beautiful location adjacent to a reserve at the mouth of the river Spey where it meets the North Sea. The largest bottlenose dolphins in the world can be seen feeding regularly along with ospreys, seals, the occasional otter and a huge variety of other wildlife.

WDC Shorewatch is the charity's citizen science programme and involves a network of trained volunteers monitoring the presence and absence of whales and dolphins at selected sites around the Scottish coastline; in order to raise awareness and capture vital data crucial to the long term future of these amazing creatures. Your time will be divided between working 'front of house' in the Centre's shop and exhibition area, engaging with and guiding visitors and working closely with the SDC Policy Officer delivering the Shorewatch Programme.

Aim:

- Deliver a fun and high quality visitor experience through events and interpretation at WDC's Scottish Dolphin Centre to help raise awareness of the work of WDC.
- To support the Policy Officer in promoting and developing the Shorewatch community outreach programme.
- To support the Policy Officer in developing volunteer opportunities and support for Shorewatch volunteers.

Role Includes:

- Delivering environmental interpretation - inspiring people to take an interest and care for the environment through land-based dolphin watching, tours (of the historic Tugnet icehouse), talks and guided wildlife walks
- Managing 'front of house' of the visitor Centre including; welcoming visitors, customer service (in the Centre's eco-friendly gift shop), re-stocking the shop, cashing up at the beginning and end of each shift (3-4 days per week)
- Assisting the Policy Officer with the development of the WDC Shorewatch Programme. Carrying out shore-based dolphin, whale and porpoise observations from various locations around Scotland, visiting partner organisations and cultivating relationships at these sites (1-2 days per week)
- Citizen Science - research in the form of hourly 10 minute land-based cetacean watches (data is collected from Spey Bay as part of the WDC Shorewatch programme).
- Supporting recruitment and training of Shorewatch volunteers
- Digital Marketing – managing social media as a tool to engage Shorewatch volunteers, creating physical and digital marketing resources i.e. flyers, posters, social media posts on FB, Twitter & Instagram
- Managing data collection and input from shore-based sites.
- Support the organisation and delivery of community events to promote WDC in Scotland.
- Administration duties
- Assisting with the development, organisation and delivery of community talks.

The residential role provides the following:

- Free onsite accommodation in an area of outstanding natural beauty
- £30 weekly food budget per person (covering food only not toiletries or alcohol)
- Extensive training which includes:
 - *First Aid*
 - *Reserve training on the Scottish Wildlife Trust Nature Reserve*
 - *Interpretive Guiding Techniques*
 - *Marine Mammal Medic training (with BDMLR)*
 - *WDC Education & Shorewatch policy training*
 - *Health & Safety*
 - *Child Protection*
- Regular progress meetings and feed-back sessions
- Advice & guidance on writing application forms and 'how to present' (towards the end of your placement)
- Mileage expenses

Essential skills, experience and qualities:

- Excellent command of the English language (both written and spoken)
- Excellent communication & organisation skills
- Must enjoy working with children of all ages
- Creative approach to work
- Able to work as part of a team
- Enthusiasm for the marine environment and terrestrial wildlife
- Self-motivated with the ability to work unsupervised
- Flexibility in the workplace
- Highly motivated and eager to learn
- Good problem solver with a 'can do' attitude
- A full driving licence and your own transport

You will gain skills & experience in:

- Events organisation & marketing (digital & physical)
- Effective communication & public speaking
- Project management & presentation skills
- Developing interpretive resources and leading activities for the general public
- Interpretive guiding - delivering interpretive workshops, talks and a variety of activities to a wide ranging audience
- Land based cetacean monitoring
- Running a visitor Centre
- Volunteer supervision/training
- Assisting in delivering educational activities
- An increased knowledge of cetaceans & Scottish wildlife
- Monitoring Health and Safety

Volunteers play a vital role in the work we do at the WDC, you will be expected to cover all areas of work and in return you will receive experience in many different aspects of conservation work.

The majority of this role involves community outreach, interpretation and engaging with visitors, if you are looking for field experience this is not the opportunity for you.

Opportunities run:

- Tuesday 10th March – Saturday 31st October 2020
- Volunteering 5 days a week, including weekends.
- Must be committed for 8 months in order to gain the full range of experience and to make a worthwhile contribution to our work.

Application packs can be downloaded at <http://uk.whales.org/jobs>

Contact Lisa Farley for more details: 01343 820339

Please note that we are unable to accept CVs as an application, further details about the Centre can be found at <https://dolphincentre.whales.org> please return applications to: volunteers.scotland@whales.org

Closing date: 5pm Friday 17th January 2020 - interviews will be held via Skype on the 29th, 30th & 31st January 2020

Check us out online:

whales.org

dolphincentre.whales.org

www.facebook.com/scottishdolphincentre

www.twitter.com/dolphinsighting