

STUDENT EXPEDITION 1

Assessment task 1. Portfolio

Research

First of all, I needed to investigate the work of Sol De la Quadra-Salcedo as a photographer and also do research on her actual Project "Wild Experience". She has a very interesting website where she explains her philosophy and the whole process that people go through while living the experience with her. I have the feeling that she is more than a photography teacher. Sol's purpose is to raise awareness amongst the public about the delicate situation the world is currently going through, with subjects like: Deforestation, Pollution of the atmosphere and oceans, Extinction of species...etc.

She wants people to admire the beauty of Mother Earth by living in the wild within a protected area for a certain time, making them feel and understand that we are all part of nature, through meditation and connection with the surroundings. The message she wants to spread with her work is that our role is to respect natural habitats of species and protect our biodiversity. Being photography an expression of that experience she also teaches her students how to share their content around social media in a way that inspires the public to be more conscious and to make a change.

<http://soldelaquadrasalcedo.com/aprendiendo-a-hacer-fotos-con-el-corazon/>

<http://omn-experience.com/guia-interactiva-mncn-madrid>

Knowing in more depth the work of Sol De la Quadra-Salcedo I have a better idea of how to shoot the video in order to give justice to the whole point of "Wild Experience", and how to promote it in the right way.

Skomer Island:

I Also had to do research on the place where I'm going to be filming the video for Sol. Skomer Island in Pembrokeshire, Wales. Sol's job is to photograph the wildlife and the environment, To be able to film that I need to know:

- Species in the Island
- Season
- Weather
- Transport to get there
- The amount of people going to the island a day.
- History of the island
- Paths around the island

Well known for its Puffins, yet there is so much more to the bird paradise including Manx Shearwaters, Dolphins, Harbour Porpoises, Atlantic Grey Seal, Razorbills, Gannets, Fulmars and the unique Skomer Vole. The island is surrounded by some of the richest waters for wildlife off the British Isles from delightfully coloured sea slugs to magnificent cetaceans. During spring the island is covered in a display of beautiful bluebells so vast that the whole island appears blue!

Boats depart for Skomer: Tuesday to Sunday at 10am, 11am and 12 noon. Return trips run from 3pm and are allocated according to your outward journey. Boat times are subject to change and additional crossings may be scheduled during peak periods. No sailings on a Monday except Whitsun Bank Holiday Monday (Tues-Sun times apply). The numbers of visitors to the island is carefully managed to prevent erosion and to control the impact of people on the wildlife. Landing tickets are strictly limited to a maximum of 250 per day.

<https://www.welshwildlife.org/skomer-skokholm/skomer/>

<https://www.welshwildlife.org/skomer-day-trip/>

	Landing Fee	Boat fare
Members	* FREE	£11
Adults (16 and upwards)	£11	£11
Children (1 and over & Under 16)	£5	£7
Children (Under 1)	Free	Free

Skomer is a wild island with no cafe facilities at present; however water can be bought on the island.

We advise all visitors to wear suitable clothing and footwear and to come prepared for unpredictable weather conditions.

As there are limited facilities on the island you will need to bring your own picnic and drink, there are facilities available in the village of Marloes and last minute snacks can be purchased at Lockley Lodge Visitor Centre.

Unfortunately, dogs are not allowed on the island due to the vulnerable nature of this precious sea bird colony. To check if the boats are running please call 01646 636800. The island has 87 steep steps to climb from where the boat lands, a certain level of fitness is required to access the island.

Skomer Island, lying less than a mile off the beautiful Pembrokeshire coast, is a world renowned wildlife paradise. The exposed headlands, towering offshore rocks, and sheltered inlets of this fascinating island are home to a incredible variety of wildlife, both above and below the surface.

Skomer is the largest of Pembrokeshire's islands at around 730 acres. It is owned by NRW (Natural Resources Wales), and managed by The Wildlife Trust of South & West Wales.

The island was formed approximately 12,000 years ago when sea levels rose and it became separated from the mainland. It sits, effectively cut off from the rest of Pembrokeshire by Jack Sound, a narrow stretch of water, renowned for its strong tidal currents. The island's isolation means that there are no ground predators present on the island. For this reason Skomer has become one of the world's most important habitats for burrow nesting seabirds.

Wildlife on Skomer

Skomer is most famous for its **Puffins**. Together with neighboring Skokholm Island it forms the largest breeding Puffin colony in Southern Britain.

But the Puffins account for just a small portion of the wildlife who call this island their home.

With an estimated population of up to 165,000 pairs, Skomer is home to the largest and most important breeding colony of **Manx Shearwater** in the world! Between the Puffins, Shearwaters and Rabbits there are very few spots on the island which have not been burrowed. As such, beneath the visible surface, many parts of the island are a honeycomb of intricate tunnels and burrows. Designated paths are set out for visitors to avoid damaging any of this delicate habitat.

Also present in their thousands are the **Razorbills** and **Guillemots** who line the cliff tops and ledges around the island. In addition to this the ever present members of the gull family; **Kittiwakes**, Lesser Black-backed Gulls, Herring Gulls and the **Greater Black-backed Gull**.

Larger seabirds such as **Fulmars** and **Gannets** can usually be found gliding and fishing around the island. Shags and Cormorants take up position on the surrounding rocks to dry out their wings in between fishing.

Asides from the seabirds, there are large numbers of migratory birds who use Skomer as a stop-over, such as Wheatears, Swallows, and Sedge Warblers to name but a few.

The island is also home to a number of resident birds of prey, with **Peregrine Falcons**, **Buzzards**, and **Short-eared Owls** being regular sightings.

Mammals

The main mammals on Skomer are Rabbits, and the **Skomer Vole**, a subspecies of the Bank Vole which is unique to Skomer. Rabbits were introduced in the 13th Century by the Normans, at the time they were a valuable source of food and fur. They were also the major export to the local markets on the mainland. Now there are thousands of rabbits, they are the main grazing animal, maintaining the short vegetation and plant diversity.

The island's main predators are the Greater Black-backed Gulls and birds of prey. They feast on small rabbits, voles, puffins, and manx shearwater.

Sea Life

Skomer has been designated as a Site of Special Scientific Interest, and it is the first and only Marine Nature Reserve in Wales. The surrounding waters are rich in marine life, with a huge population of **Atlantic Grey Seals**, as well as **Porpoise**, **Dolphins**, and even Whales. Seals can be seen hauled out on the rocks, basking in the sun all year round. It's Autumn and Spring when they can be seen in the biggest numbers. It is not uncommon to see hundreds of seals laid out on the beach in Skomer's North Haven. Porpoise and Dolphins can regularly be seen in the tidal races around the island.

As the island is so exposed, there are no trees, although willow, bramble and blackthorn scrub survive in the valleys. However, in spring the island is carpeted with Bluebells and Pink Campion, a truly magnificent sight to behold.

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Skomer>

https://www.tripadvisor.com/Attraction_Review-g673877-d503039-Reviews-Skomer_Island-Skomer_Island_Pembrokeshire_Wales.html

