Take responsibility for your own actions

Weather systems can change rapidly and can be severe, even in summer. Plan ahead and be properly equipped.

Gale force winds are experienced for 20% of the year. Low temperatures and cloud can prevail for days, even in the warmest months. Ensure that you have appropriate wind- and waterproof clothing and stout footwear for slippery vegetated slopes. If travelling outwith Village Bay carry, and be able to use, a map, compass and whistle, and please leave a route card with the Ranger. If you have arranged to remain on the islands overnight you should have adequate provisions for several days in case you are stranded owing to weather conditions.

St Kilda has high cliffs and slippery slopes and is remote from rescue services and medical care. Be self-reliant and take care.

After rain or heavy mists, grassy slopes can be very slippery – be aware of your surroundings. Waterproof trousers can greatly accelerate a fall! Wind gusting at cliff tops and skua attacks can catch you unawares. There is no mobile phone reception on the islands and the coastguard helicopter is based remotely. Know your own abilities and seek guidance from people who know the landscape.

Life on the edge

- St Kilda is one of only 24 global locations awarded World Heritage Status for both natural and cultural heritage
- The world’s largest colony of northern gannets nest here
- St Kilda has one of Europe’s most significant seabird colonies, and Britain’s largest colony of northern fulmar
- It is the most complete and intact cultural landscape of its type in Europe
- Conachair is the highest sea cliff in Britain at 1400 feet (430m)
- Gale force winds can be experienced over 70 days a year
- Rainfall, although only twice that of Edinburgh, is spread throughout the year – wet summers!
- Wild Soay sheep are the focus of one of the world’s longest-running mammal research programmes
- Over 1400 stone-built cleits (food and fuel stores) are scattered throughout the islands
- Two island endemics survive – the St Kilda mouse and wren – both larger than their mainland relations

Further information can be obtained by checking our websites:

- www.kilda.org.uk
- www.nls.org.uk
- www.hiort.org.uk (Gaelic site)
- www.nls-seabirds.org.uk

Contact

NTS Western Isles Manager
Balnain House
40 Huntly Street
Inverness, IV3 5HR
Tel: 0844 493 2237
email: information@nts.org.uk

Please contact the Inverness office in the first instance, as phone and postal communications are difficult from St Kilda.

Further information

Further information can be obtained by checking our websites:
Leave everything as you find it.

Taking anything (flowers, stones or even wool) can have an impact. Everything on St Kilda serves a purpose – even things that may seem insignificant. Sheep horn and bones are a rich supply of calcium for mice and other small animals, wool can be used as nesting material, and stones may be providing shelter or even be undiscovered cultural artefacts. If every visitor took just one small thing the whole would be greatly diminished.

Make sure walls and buildings are left as they are – they can be easily damaged by climbing or by just moving a stone.

Much of the cultural heritage of St Kilda is protected (Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979) as it is of international importance. All buildings, features and artefacts should be left as they are – disturbance or removal is illegal.