



*Charlie Young*

presents

# BASKING SHARK EXPEDITION SCOTLAND

24th July to 31st July 2021

#SALTWATERBRITAIN



BASKING SHARK  
SCOTLAND



Visit  
Scotland

*inspired*





# MEET CHARLIE YOUNG

MARINE SCIENTIST | CONSERVATIONIST | BRITISH WILDLIFE EXPERT

**Charlie is a marine scientist (MSc), wildlife presenter, and adventurer based in the UK.** Passionate about inspiring people to care for the ocean, Charlie uses her skills as a scientist and presenter to champion change for our big blue.

For the last three years, Charlie has travelled the world working at internationally recognised organisations, from Saudi Arabia to Australia, conducting, leading, and designing scientific research. Focussing her work on addressing human impacts in our oceans, Charlie has led a number of expeditions to remote corners of the globe to document how these once pristine habitats are being impacted by plastic pollution and climate change.

Returning to the UK in 2019, Charlie launched **Saltwater Britain**, a campaign to raise awareness for the treasure trove of life found beneath British waves. Embarking on this expedition, Charlie will take you to meet the largest shark found in UK waters and collect important data on their population.



# THE EXPEDITION

7 DAYS WITH OCEAN GIANTS

Scotland is home to the **largest aggregation of basking sharks in the world**. Nowhere else on the planet can you get so up close and personal with these gentle giants. Teaming up with Basking Shark Scotland, Charlie will be taking a small and intimate group on a **specialist trip to the remote Isle of Coll** to go in search of these majestic creatures.

Drawn to Scotland's waters because of its rich plankton blooms, the sharks spend the summer feasting at the sunbaked surface making the most of the all you can eat buffet. As the summer progresses, more and more sharks arrive, with the end of **July** being one of the peak times to see them. Guests visiting at this time are also in with a chance of seeing not only an abundance of sharks but **mating behaviour** and **breaching**. Previous guests have experienced phenomenal encounters, including **chains of multiple sharks** trailing one another at the surface as they feed.





# WHO IS THIS TRIP SUITABLE FOR?

People from all walks of life are encouraged to join, although it is required that you are an experienced snorkeler and strong swimmer. Conditions in Scotland can be rough and the water cold. The sharks are fast moving and we need to ensure that everyone getting in the water will be safe and can cope with what the ocean throws at them.

The minimum age on the trip will be 18 years old although mature teenagers will be considered.

This trip is ideal for filmmakers, photographers and ocean lovers who want to get up close and personal with these majestic creatures whilst contributing important data to inform the conservation of this species.





# DAY 1:

## ARRIVE ON THE ISLE OF COLL

Meeting the team at the ferry port in Oban, we will catch the ferry to the Isle of Coll, arriving around lunchtime on the 24th of July.

Upon arrival, we will make our way to the accommodation. Everyone will be given some time to settle in and get ready for the following day before heading to the local hotel for some drinks and a debrief. This will give everyone a chance to get to know one another and get excited for the coming days!

Coll is a picturesque island, with very few facilities. In total there are around 160 inhabitants and one small 'high street' with a shop and cafe that sell limited supplies. Its remote and wild nature all adds to the magic of the island and the local people are some of the friendliest you will meet!







# DAY 2 TO 7:

## SHARKS, SHARKS, SHARKS!

Over the following days our primary focus will be on these magnificent creatures. Heading out early each morning we will spend the day searching for fins protruding from the water. Often they will be found close to the island. Some years they have even been spotted swimming in the harbour! But on other days we may need to travel further out to sea to find them.

As soon as we see a fin, we'll don our masks and snorkels and dive in! People in the water will be limited to four at a time so that we don't overcrowd the sharks. To ensure the maximum amount of time for each person we will rotate groups regularly and work as a team to make sure everyone gets the best out of the experience!

We will be on the boat for approximately 8 hours a day - so bring your sea legs, plenty of snacks and layers to stay warm.





# SO MUCH MORE THAN SHARKS

Although the primary focus will be on sharks, we will have the opportunity to see other exciting marine life such as whales, dolphins, porpoises, seals, seabirds and even otters which have often been spotted by guests playing along the shore at dawn and dusk.







# A CHANCE TO EXPLORE

In-between wildlife spotting we will get a chance to explore other islands and snorkel spots shrouded in myth and mystery. This includes snorkelling Fingal's cave (pictured below) and the lush kelp forests at the northern tip of the island.





# A TYPICAL DAY

## MORNING

**7:00am:** Rise and shine

**7:30am:** Breakfast

**8:30am:** Meet at boat

**8:45am:** Ropes up

**Out to sea we go!**

**Snorkel with sharks for the morning.**

**10:30am:** Coffee and cake

## AFTERNOON

**1:00pm:** Lunch on boat

**Group decision for more sharks or something else.**

**3:00pm:** Coffee and cake

**5:00pm:** Back to base

## EVENING

**7:00pm:** Dinner

**7:30pm:** Talk/workshop

**8:00pm:** Drinks & debrief

**Bedtime anytime you like.**

Dream of sharks...

### **Workshop topics will included:**

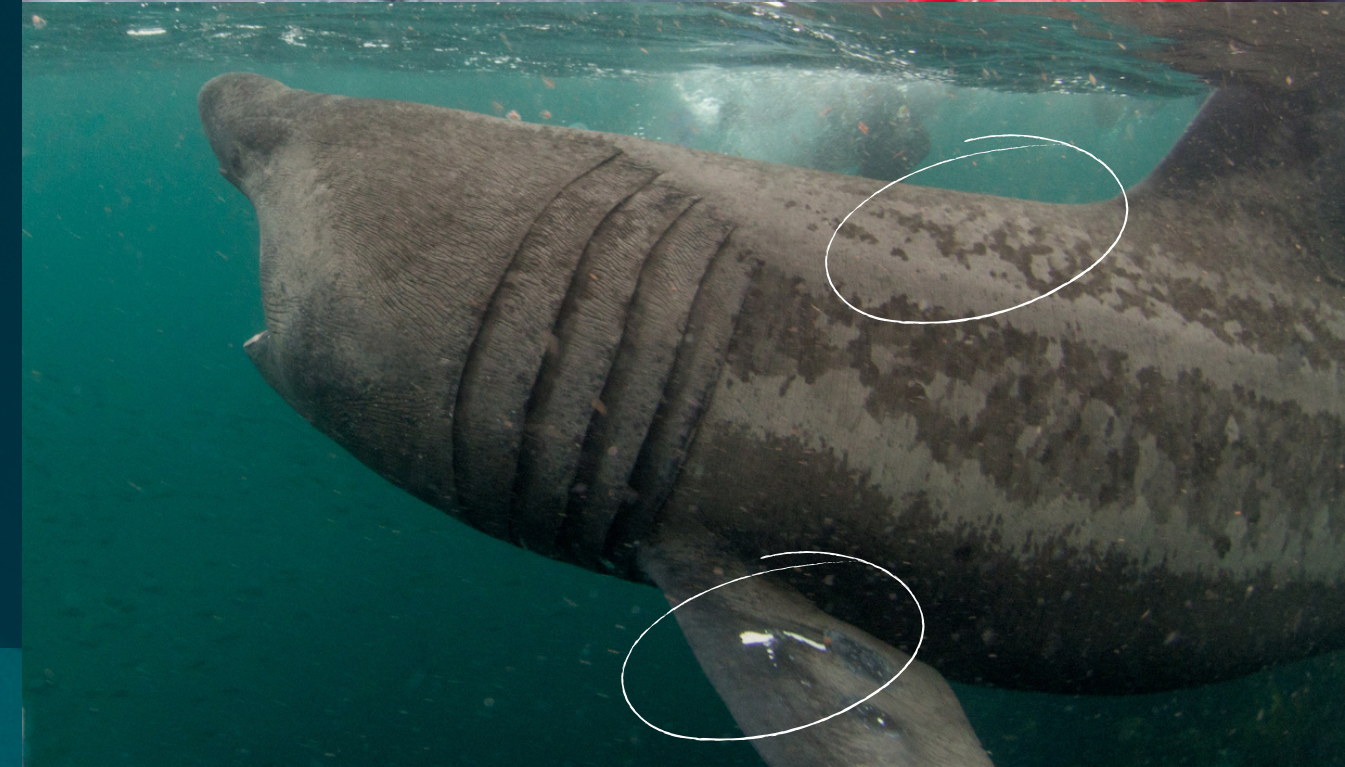
- Basking Shark Ecology and Biology
- Plastic Pollution
- Photography & Photo ID
- Creative Comms & Social Media





# THE SCIENCE

Alongside having a great time, we will also be collecting important data on the basking shark population and the extent of **microplastic pollution** in this area. Charlie will teach you how to use **photo ID** software and your photos will go towards building a better understanding of the local population in the Hebrides. Microplastic surface trawls will also be completed throughout the trip and samples analysed back on land in the evening workshop.







# OUR EXPEDITION BOAT

Say hello to our fiery vessel for the week - **Cearban - Gaelic for basking shark!** With lots of deck space and an awing for sheltering from the weather, this highly manoeuvrable boat is perfect for searching for sharks. Kit can be housed for the duration of the trip on the boat meaning guests don't have to lug kit backwards and forwards every day.



# ACCOMMODATION OPTIONS

We have two options for accommodation. The first is a cosy and quiet self-catered cottage. The other is a fantastic guesthouse with breakfast included!





## OPTION 1:

### Suil Na Mara

Coll Island, Isle of Coll

4.5 ★★★★★

# SUIL NA MARA – SELF CATERING

Suil Na Mara is a deceptively spacious, four bedroomed cottage style home on the edge of the village of Arinagaur with off road parking, a large garden area with railed decking and beautiful sea views.



## OPTION 1:



Wood burner



Wifi



Parking



Washing machine



Shared bathrooms (x2)



Bring own towel and sheets

# FACILITIES – SELF CATERING

This lovely cottage is roughly a ten minute walk from the port (but only 2 mins away from the bar) and is equipped with all the facilities you could need for your stay. Pillows and duvets are provided but guests need to bring their own towels and sheets. However, these can be rented locally if needed.





## OPTION 2:



# TIGH NA MARA – GUEST HOUSE

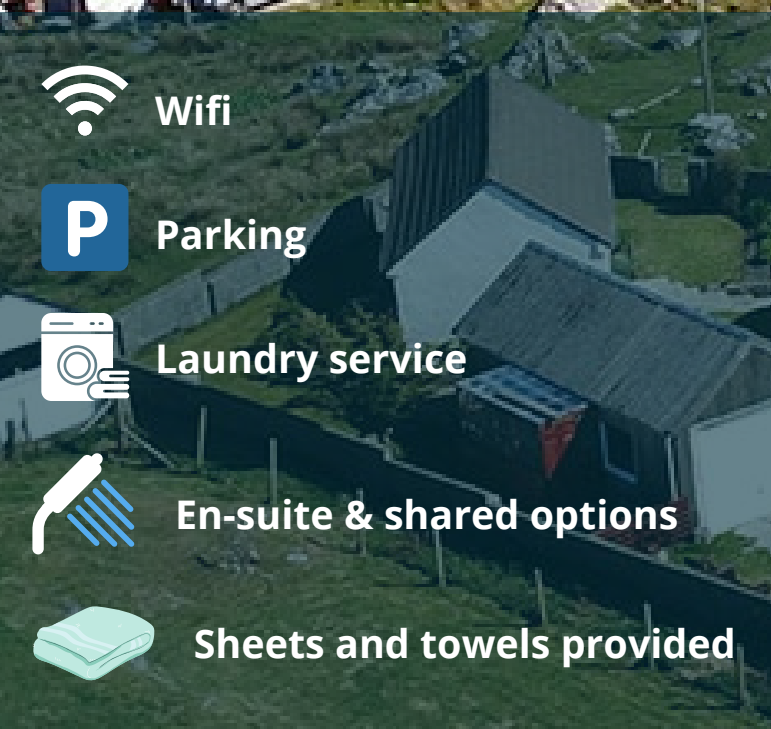
Tigh na Mara is a family run guesthouse on the Isle of Coll. With stunning uninterrupted sea views from the lounge and most of the bedrooms, guests are often treated to fantastic sunsets and otters feeding along the shore whilst having their breakfast.

**5.0** Excellent  
191 reviews

●●●●● Location  
●●●●● Cleanliness  
●●●●● Service  
●●●●● Value



## OPTION 2:



# FACILITIES

Here's a link to their [breakfast menu](#) which has options for all, including vegans!

Situated just a stone throw away from the port, you really could just roll out of bed and onto the boat. But not only is this guesthouse conveniently placed, it also offers a mouth watering breakfast for all staying guests. Other services provided include:

- Laundry
- Dinner and packed lunches/flasks
- Booking and reservations at the local hotel for dinner or drinks





# THE ISLE OF COLL

The Isle of Coll is a small Hebridean island, very much off the beaten track, with many beaches to explore. Sitting some six miles west of Mull, far out in the Atlantic, the Hebridean island is the place to get away from it all. There are many opportunities to explore; take a walk on the sandy beaches, discover a wealth of wildlife and marvel at the night sky.







# ISLAND FACILITIES

There are very few facilities on the island which all adds to the adventure. The **Coll Hotel** has a **restaurant** and **bar** for both guests and non-guests, and there are **two small shops** where you can buy limited food and supplies. **There are no supermarkets or commercial retail stores**, so it's best to pick up what you need in Oban before you come! There is also a very **small cafe** on the main 'high street' for coffees, ice creams and snacks.



# STILL NEED CONVINCING?

Then watch this!





# BOOK YOUR PLACE

**A deposit of £350 will be due upfront**, followed by the remainder of the trip price, which will be due 90 days before the trip departs. However, please do get in contact if this will not be possible and you would like to discuss a payment plan.

Over the next few weeks we will send out the pre-departure pack, which will include packing lists, arrival information, how to safely swim with Basking Sharks and a host of other information about what to prepare for before we leave.

**If you have any questions about the trip please email [info@inspiredventures.co.uk](mailto:info@inspiredventures.co.uk).**

All deposits will be **fully refundable** in the case of cancellation due to COVID. We are monitoring the situation, however, by the time the expedition runs, all restrictions should be lifted.

**Kit including wet suit and camera hire can be arranged in due course.**

		FULL 1 WEEK SATURDAY TO SATURDAY
Self Catering	TWIN ROOM (SHARING)	£1395pp <a href="#">BOOK NOW</a>
Guesthouse	TWIN ROOM (SHARING) BREAKFAST INCLUDED	£1595pp <a href="#">BOOK NOW</a>
	DOUBLE ROOM (2 PEOPLE BOOKING TOGETHER) BREAKFAST INCLUDED	£1595pp <a href="#">BOOK NOW</a>



# ABOUT *inspired*

**Inspired is the nexus between lifestyle travel and social and environmental impact.**

We curate epic travel experiences for passionate and inspirational people to host their community in some of the most incredible locations in the world, to raise awareness and exposure for organisations on the front line of some of the world's most pressing issues.

These experiences often lead to stunning, story-led video and photography that inspires a wide network of socially and environmentally conscious audiences.

**We look forward to hosting you in Scotland in July!**

*Matt Fenton*

CEO, Inspired Ventures