

Caldey Island: Risk Assessment Advice

Boats

Boats are passenger-carrying motor launches with seating for 40 to 60 people.

All boats are licensed by the Maritime and Coastguard Agency.

Sufficient lifejackets and life rafts are carried to support all passengers on board for emergency use.

Boats undergo stringent tests for seaworthiness and passenger safety and are fully insured, including public liability.

All skippers are tested and licensed by the Maritime and Coastguard Agency.

Boarding Boats

Boats to the island are accessed from either of two locations, depending on the state of the tide:

At high tide boats leave from the stone steps at Tenby Harbour. Boarding assistance is available from the boat crew.

At low tide boats leave from a mobile jetty on Tenby Castle Beach. This involves walking up to 100 metres across soft sand. The mobile jetty has a railed walkway leading to a boarding platform. Boarding assistance is available from the boat crew.

Boat Journey

During the boat journey passengers are asked to remain seated, keep children under control and follow any instructions given by the skipper or crew.

In the unlikely event of breakdown or emergency immediate assistance would be available from other boats in the fleet. All boats carry ship-to-shore radio, flares and all statutory safety and first-aid equipment.

Landing on Caldey

The landing stage and Caldey Island are fully covered by public liability insurance. Boats land at the concrete landing slip at Caldey Priory Bay. This can accommodate embarkation at all except very low tides. In this case passengers are transferred to a specially adapted landing craft. In either case boarding assistance is available from the vessel's crew.

The Island Environment

The only accessible bathing beach is Priory Bay. The bay has a gentle slope and no undercurrent in calm weather. Subject to normal precautions and proper supervision of children, it is safe for bathing when sea conditions are calm.

Much of the island is accessed by wide concrete paths. These paths are shared by the occasional slow-moving vehicle, but pedestrians have right of way. Roads, paths and steps may become slippery in wet or autumnal conditions.

The village pond is fenced, but contains deep water. The woodland path marked "Nature Trail" passes a water-holding dam which contains deep water. There is also a pond adjacent to the Old Priory. Children should be supervised in these areas.

The way-marked woodland paths present no unusual hazards, subject to normal precautions relating to uneven ground, overhanging branches, brambles etc. Children should be supervised to ensure that they keep to the designated paths and avoid becoming lost.

The way-marked "Cliff Path" has sections adjacent to sheer cliffs, which are not fenced. The approach to this area, behind and to the right of the Lighthouse, is clearly marked with a sign "Warning: Dangerous Cliffs". In these areas it is essential to take great care and ensure that children and young people are kept under very close supervision.

Main Safety Points

Steep steps at Tenby Harbour boarding point – Descend with care.

Stepping into and out of boats and landing craft – Always allow crew to assist.

On the boat – Remain seated, keep children under control and pay attention to any instructions given by skipper or crew.

On the beach – Have respect for the sea and take care in rocky areas etc.

On the main island paths – Be aware of occasional vehicles and possible slippery conditions.

Be aware of possible water hazards such as ponds.

On the woodland paths - Stick to the marked paths, be aware of possible natural hazards and keep children within sight.

On the cliff path - Do not allow children to run or play games. Keep well away from the cliff edge. Closely supervise children and young people. Remember: Cliffs can kill.

Please note: This information is for guidance only. It is offered in good faith but may not cover every eventuality or possible hazard and in no way implies any liability or obligation on the part of Caldey Island or its agents.