Explore the seashore with the Marine Conservation Society

Stretching around 16,000km, the coastline around the British Isles is a huge playground for everyone to enjoy. Follow the MCS Seashore Code and enjoy the coast, without harm to yourself or wildlife.


Seashore illustration: Claire Hammond (clairieham@hotmail.com) www.claire-hammond.co.uk

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Seashore Safari Guide
Seashore Code

Protecting our seas, shores and wildlife
Our seas and shores are home to amazing wildlife, vital fish stocks, and give enjoyment for everyone. But too many fish are being taken out, too much rubbish is going in and too little has been done to protect our seas around the UK.
MCS works tirelessly for healthier seas and abundant wildlife – and you can help us achieve our vision of seas fit for life.

Beachwatch
Regular beach cleans that help us identify where rubbish comes from and how to stop it.

Sea Champions
A network of active volunteers who champion the seas on behalf of MCS.

Marine life sighting schemes
If you’re lucky enough to see basking sharks, turtles or pufferfish, use our online marine wildlife sighting surveys to report them to MCS. If you dive, you can take part in underwater Seasearch surveys.

Good Fish Guide
Contact us for a pocket Good Fish Guide, or download our smartphone app to help you choose sustainable seafood: visit www.goodfishguide.org

Join us
As a charity we rely on donations and subscriptions to carry out our vital work. By becoming a member you will be supporting the UK’s leading marine conservation charity – visit www.mcsuk.org/join to find out how.

I see seashells on the seashore

Do you know your barnacles from your limpets or your hornwrack from your bladderwrack?

Can you spot a sanderling, starfish or sea potato without a second glance?

Well, if you like scouring the shoreline for bits of driftwood and shells or have ever wondereed at the natural treasures the tide brings in but aren’t sure what everything is then the MCS Seashore Safari Guide will reveal some of the secrets of the strandline.

The strandline - the top bit of the beach where man-made and natural objects washed up on the waves are left as the tide recedes - is a place of wonder and fascination.

Take the MCS Seashore Safari Guide with you every time you head to the beach and see how many seashore treasures you can find.

Keep it tidy
Take your rubbish home - don't bury it or burn it.

Poop scoop your dog's waste then bin it responsibly.

Watch with care
Watch quietly from a distance, especially near birds and seals with pups.

Control your dog and keep it on a lead near birds and seals.

Mind your step
Keep to established paths and dune boardwalks.

If you dig holes in the beach, please fill them up again.

Don't climb up or go near the top or bottom of a cliff.

Check tide times to avoid being cut off.

Keep away from soft sand and mud, and beware of slippery rocks.

Keep it tidy

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You can delve deeper into the world of fascinating facts and intriguing information about the creatures of the shore and all the work we do at www.mcsuk.org
**Seashore Safari Guide**

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**Painted Top Shell**
A tall shell with stripes of purple and white in a striking conical shape. The body of the “head” is also colourfully flecked with purple, red and brown.

**Moon Jellyfish**
Favourite of leatherback turtles. Sensitive skin. Jellyfish are the favourite of leatherback turtles. Mostly harmless, though may sting if handled.

**Common Limpet**
A snail with a horned shell. It grazes on algae while the tide is in and returns to the same spot, called a home scar, when the tide retreats.

**Slipper Limpet**
Accidently introduced to England from North America and now found in huge numbers. It has no predators in Europe.

**Cockle**
Cockles help predators such as many anemones and eels. By extending their leg outside the shell, they can jump around 10cm.

**Razorshell**
Shaped like an old-fashioned cut throat razor, these animals live buried up in the sand.

**Edible Crab**
Velasco known for its blanched white and its blood red eyes and aggressive demeanor have given the common name “Devil Crab”.

**Common Shore Crab**
A common rock pool or shallow water species. Males have a triangular shape on their stomachs — females are semi-circular shape.

**Sandhopper**
This shrimp-like creature lives amongst seaweeds on the beach, they are found hopping around when the tide is out.

**Common Blenny**
These fish can change colour to blend in with their surroundings. They have sharp teeth for snapping barnacles off rocks.

**Rock Goby**
Gobies are often confused with blennies and have two distinctly separate fins on the body. Blennies only have one back (dorsal) fin.

**Common Starfish**
The familiar five arms and usually orange-yellow are unmistakable. They move with their tube feet and eat with their stomachs inside out.

**Brittle Star**
These guys have a central disk and long slender arms which they can self-amputate if being attacked and then regenerate once the wound heals.

**Kelp Holdfast**
Remains of a colony of hundreds of tiny animals called Bryozoa, or ‘moss animals’. It has distinctive lemon-like smell when fresh.

**Pink Sea Fan Skeleton**
Egg cases of dogfish, skates and rays, which attach to seaweed with entwining tendrils and often wash up once the animals have hatched.

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**Common Limpet**
A snail with a homing instinct! It can jump around 10cm.

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