



8TH INTERNATIONAL MARINE CONSERVATION CONGRESS

Field Trip Flyer
17 November 2026

Register by
1 September through
IMCC8 booking site

For any enquiries regarding accessibility or travel arrangements, please contact the team at events@maraconsultants.co.uk or imccteam@conbio.org.



Discover Scotland Beyond the Conference Hall

We are delighted to offer IMCC8 delegates the opportunity to experience Scotland's magnificent coastal heritage and marine wildlife through two curated field excursions.

These trips offer a wonderful chance to network with fellow delegates, engage with local conservation experts, and explore the iconic Lothian and Firth of Forth coastlines.



In the following pages, you will find detailed information on the two official field trips offered by the conference. To book your place on either excursion, please visit:
conbio.org/mini-sites/imcc8/registration/

Please note that delegates may register for **only one** of the two official field trips as the excursions take place simultaneously. Tickets are non transferable by IMCC for both the trips

If neither of these options suits your schedule, we have also included a curated list of alternative tours and local activities at the end of this brochure that you can book independently during your stay in Edinburgh.

Warm wishes,
The IMCC8 organising committee

IMCC8 Field Trip options (17 November 2026)

Option 1: Scottish Seabird Centre & North Berwick Coastal Walk

A day of marine conservation, shorebird watching, and coastal ecology in a picturesque seaside town.

Option 2: Maid of the Forth Seal Pup Special Boat Tour

A winter boat cruise to view newborn grey seal pups around Inchkeith Island.



Scottish Seabird Centre & North Berwick Coastal Walk

Discover Scotland's marine conservation in action at the award-winning **Scottish Seabird Centre**. Located right on the beach in North Berwick, this visit includes:

- **Expert Talk & Q&A:** Hear directly from local conservation staff about ongoing marine and seabird protection projects.
- **Interactive Discovery Centre:** Watch live cameras covering local islands, including live views of grey seal pups.
- **Buffet Lunch:** Included at the centre, with tea and coffee upon arrival.
- **Guided Coastal Ecology Walk:** An optional guided shore walk exploring local coastal wildlife and abundant shorebirds (binoculars provided; weather dependent).
- **Free Time in North Berwick:** Enjoy the flexibility to explore the charming town at your leisure before taking a return train back to Edinburgh.

Key Information

- **Meeting Point:** Scottish Seabird Centre, North Berwick (Escorted travel option from Edinburgh available via train, meeting at Waverley Railway Station where a member of the local conference team will be available to assist with tickets).
- **Duration:** Full-day excursion (Hosted visit: 10:45–13:45). Flexible return trains run frequently throughout the afternoon and evening and take approx. 30 mins.
- **Price: £60 per person** (Includes expert talk, Discovery Centre entry, buffet lunch and guided walk). Please note travel is not included, please purchase your train ticket at the station (approximately £9 return).
- **Accessibility:** Wheelchair accessible centre. Beach wheelchairs may be pre-arranged for the coastal walk.
- **Cancellation:** In the unlikely event that this trip is cancelled by IMCC8, delegates will receive a refund. For any other reason tickets are non-refundable.

For further information please see: <https://www.seabird.org/>
Detailed travel information will be provided to registered participants.





'Maid of the Forth' Seal Pup Special Boat Tour

Hop aboard the 20-metre Maid of the Forth for an unforgettable 3-hour winter cruise down the Firth of Forth.

- **Grey Seal Pups:** Around 500 grey seal pups are born on Inchkeith Island every year. View these adorable arrivals from a respectful distance onboard.
- **Live Wildlife Commentary:** Features a blend of recorded history and live expert commentary as you reach the seal viewing area.
- **Iconic Coastline Views:** Fantastic views of the Fife and Edinburgh coastlines, passing close by historic 'Battleship Island' (Inchmickery).
- **Onboard Amenities:** Enclosed heated lower deck, open upper deck for viewing, fully licensed snack bar with hot drinks/snacks, and onboard restrooms. Binoculars are available to hire.

Key Information

- **Meeting Point:** Hawes Pier, South Queensferry (Escorted travel option from Edinburgh available via train, meeting at Edinburgh Waverley Railway Station).
- **Duration:** 3-hour cruise (12:00-15:00).
- **Price:** **£50 per person**, note travel and food are not included in this price. Please purchase your train ticket at the station (approximately £6 return). We recommend delegates to either bring your own lunch or enjoy a lunch at South Queensferry after the tour.
- **Weather Policy:** This excursion is **weather dependent**. In the event of cancellation due to adverse weather conditions, full refunds will be issued. For any other reason, tickets are non-refundable and non-transferable once purchased (unless the delegate arranges a transfer themselves).



Find out more:

<https://www.maidoftheforth.co.uk/seal-pup-special>

Detailed travel information will be provided to registered participants.





Explore Edinburgh at Your Own Pace



If you wish to explore the city independently or extend your stay, Edinburgh offers a fantastic array of historic, cultural, and nature-based activities. Below are some top recommendations located close to the EICC:

- **National Museum of Scotland** (Chambers Street)
 - Highlights: Discover Scottish history, natural wonders, world cultures, and famous objects such as Dolly the Sheep and the 12th-century Lewis Chessmen.
 - Timing & Cost: Free entry. Open daily 10:00–17:00. (20-min walk or short bus ride from EICC).
- **Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh** (Inverleith Row / Arboretum Place)
 - Highlights: Over 70 acres of breathtaking landscape and panoramic views of the Edinburgh skyline. Features the Rock Garden, Arboretum, and Scottish Native Plants Collection.
 - Timing & Cost: Free entry. Open daily 10:00–17:00. (Direct bus routes from city centre).
- **Edinburgh Castle** (Royal Mile / Castle Rock)
 - Highlights: Perched atop an extinct volcano, Scotland's iconic fortress houses the Crown Jewels, St. Margaret's Chapel, and stunning city views.
 - Timing & Cost: Tickets must be booked online in advance (~£23.50). Open daily 09:30–17:00. (20-min walk from EICC).



City Tours & Special Activities

- **Hop-On Hop-Off Open-Top Bus Tours**
 - Highlights: A flexible way to see Edinburgh's major landmarks (including the Old Town, New Town, and Royal Mile) with live or audio commentary. Tickets are typically valid for 24 hours, letting you hop off at top sights whenever you like.
 - Timing & Cost: ~£18–£22 per adult ticket. Buses depart frequently throughout the day from Waverley Bridge / St Andrew Square.
- **Edinburgh Historic & Ghost Walking Tours**
 - Highlights: Explore the cobblestone streets and underground vaults of the Old Town with guided walking tours covering history, ghost folklore, and literary heritage (available in multiple languages).
 - Timing & Cost: ~£15–£25 per person. Tours typically run for 1 to 2 hours with frequent departures from the Royal Mile throughout the day and evening.
- **Edinburgh Zoo (RZSS)**
 - Highlights: Located a short bus ride from Haymarket, featuring wildlife conservation talks, diverse animal habitats, and outdoor grounds.
 - ~£26–£30 per adult (discounts available for online advance bookings). Open daily from 10:00 to 16:00 (November winter hours; last entry at 15:00). Allow 2–3 hours for a visit.

Need More Inspiration?

Check [EICC Delegate Discounts](#) for additional venue discounts and city guide recommendations provided in partnership with the EICC!

Book your spot by:
1 September 2026



*Marine Science for the
Planet and its Peoples*