



#thinkocean

Community Outreach Guide

Welcome

We are the Ocean Conservation Trust. A global charity that exists to protect and restore the Ocean. Our work – which began in 1998 – is centred around people and positive action through pro-Ocean behaviour and habitat restoration. We believe that when people feel an emotional connection with nature, they are more likely to protect and support its future. That is why our aim is to change behaviour by making the Ocean meaningful to as many people as possible.

The National Marine Aquarium (NMA), situated in the city of Plymouth, is the home of the Ocean Conservation Trust (OCT) and sits on the shores of the Plymouth Sound National Marine Park. It is the largest Aquarium in the UK, home to over 5,000 marine animals and is visited by around 300,000 people per year! It's also where much of our wonderful activities take place.

This OCT Community Outreach guide describes our Ocean-linked activities that are available to Community Groups that may not be able to get to our Aquarium.

We look forward to working with you soon!



What is a community group?

You are eligible for our Community group rate if you are one of the following:

- a Plymouth based registered charity
- a uniform group e.g. Scouts, guides, sea scouts etc,
- a community or local interest group registered to a PL1-PL12 postcode
- human health & mental and physical wellbeing organisation

All groups must be able to provide proof of registration on arrival.

Virtual Community Tours

We appreciate that coming to us is not always possible, so we are now offering Virtual Tours of the National Marine Aquarium. Meet some of our favourite Ocean creatures in a jam-packed hour of fun, or sit back and relax as we guide you through our therapeutic and inspirational exhibits. We can adapt this virtual tour to fit your groups needs and interests. These 1-hour virtual tours are £80 and are hosted by our amazing team of Ocean Discovery Rangers.



Virtual Reality

We believe that everyone should be given the chance to experience the wonders of the Ocean, no matter their age or where they live. Our programme has seen our dedicated team of Ocean Discovery Rangers working with people from all walks of life, giving them an immersive Ocean experience, with the help of innovative VR technology.

Residents in care homes, hospitals and sheltered accommodation across the country have benefited from this project and we are continuing to grow this offering to reach more people and on a national scale. Connectedness with nature is an important part of human life. Whether people are in a care home, hospital or nursery, they deserve the same chance to enjoy the Ocean as anyone else. These sessions are 1 hour long, and include travel within a 15 mile radius of Plymouth, for just £50.



Community Outreach

We appreciate that coming to the Aquarium is not always possible, which is why we also have an outreach programme, where we can come to you or take you on an adventure to the coast! Our outreach is available throughout the year, and includes:

Rockpool Safaris

Join our expert Ocean Discovery Rangers for our Rockpool Safaris along Plymouth's coastline. Discover more about the incredible creatures living in our rockpools!



Boat Trips

Join our Ocean Discovery Rangers to explore seagrass meadows, encounter marine life like Spider crabs and Starfish, and observe plankton up close. Discover the rich history and natural beauty of Plymouth's stunning harbour.

Beach Cleans and litter picks

Help keep our coastline beautiful by removing shoreline litter. Whether you're eco-conscious or just love the outdoors, your efforts will positively impact our local ecosystem!



Interactive Workshops

Dive into our interactive workshops for hands-on learning and fun! Explore marine science, wildlife, and conservation through engaging activities and expert guidance.

Snorkel Safaris

Join our BSAC Snorkel Instructors for a family-friendly adventure in the UK's first National Marine Park. Enjoy Snorkel Safaris, beginner sessions, and sensory experiences, exploring vibrant kelp forests and marine life.



These sessions must be pre-booked with one of our Community Engagement team at least 2 weeks before the date of the session.

Outreach Pricing

Boat Trip

£180 for up to 35 people (please note our boat trips are step access only, and therefore are not suitable for those who are wheelchair users).

Snorkel Safaris

£180 for up to 12 people. All users must be over 8 years old and have some water confidence

Workshops

£50 for an hour workshop for up to 25 people, with travel within a PL1-9 postcode. Additional travel expenses will be incurred for additional mileage

Rockpool Safaris

£60 for up to 30 people for an hour rockpool safari

Litter Picks

Free of charge if meeting at our nominated beach at Mount Batten.



How to book

please email our community team on community@oceanconservationtrust.org for information on how to book these tickets.

Testimonials

"We had an amazing time, using technology we had never seen before. Such a fun afternoon." - Emma

"A great experience to bring the sea to people who can no longer access it." - Sally

