

LUNDY
ISLAND

Lundy Island Large Print Guide



HERITAGE
FUND

Heritage
Ability



Hello and welcome!

This booklet will provide information about Lundy Island for visitors who prefer to use Large Print.

This booklet should be handed out with an A3 map.

There are no dogs allowed on Lundy Island, except for Assistance Dogs.

Please return this guide and the separate map before you leave.

Thank you.

Introduction

Lundy lies off the coast of North Devon, where the Atlantic Ocean meets the Bristol Channel, with nothing between it and America.

It is a granite outcrop, three miles long and half a mile wide.

In the hubbub of the modern world it is a place apart, peaceful and unspoiled.

The particular character of Lundy derives from its varied terrain; on the west side, exposed to the Atlantic, there are high and rugged cliffs. On the east side, sheltered from the prevailing wind, the coastline is gentler with grassy slopes, trees and many types of wild flowers. This contrast explains the rich diversity of the island's animal and plant life.

The Marisco Tavern

The Marisco Tavern is Lundy Island's only pub and is all things to all people! It never shuts, although alcohol is only served during permitted hours, and is the only building on the Island to have lighting after the generators shut down for the night.

The building was originally the village stores, built during the 1860s when the granite quarries employed around three hundred men. After the demise of the quarries it continued in its current role as a shop and a pub - renamed the Marisco Tavern, in 1925.

In the early 1980s the Tavern was redeveloped, and extended, by the Landmark Trust. The bar moved into the former residence of the long-serving Island agent Felix Gade, who died in 1978.

The Tavern now provides a restaurant and social centre for Island staff and staying guests as well as catering for the large numbers of day-trippers arriving on the MS Oldenburg or visiting ships such as the paddle steamer Waverley.

Village

Within its one and a half square miles Lundy has no less than forty-one Scheduled Monuments as well as a clutch of Listed Buildings.

The buildings and monuments on Lundy considered of national importance are incredibly diverse including:

- the remains of bronze age settlements
 - early Christian grave markers
 - a medieval castle
 - a Georgian lighthouse
 - the Victorian church of St Helen
- and much more.

St Helen's Victorian Church

The current church of St Helen's dates from 1897, but the history of Christianity on the island dates back as early as the 6th century.

500s–800s

The burial ground near the Old Lighthouse is an important Christian site that contains four memorial stones dating from between the 5th and 8th centuries. It is thought that the contents of the grave were moved to Hartland in the 7th century, where the church is dedicated to Saint Helen.

1244

The first documentary record of a church on Lundy is in 1244 when the tithes for 'all skins of rabbits taken in the island' were payable to the church. It is possible that the church was built at the same time the island was being fortified by Henry III against the Mariscos.

1700s

The ruined chapel in the burial ground was probably built by Thomas Bushell, whilst he defended Lundy for the king during the Civil War. It has been a ruin since the 18th century.

1885

The Reverend Hudson Heaven inherited Lundy from his father in 1883 and in 1885 he built a small, pre-fabricated church near the site of Government House, but he still held the ambition to build a larger, permanent church.

1897

The Reverend Hudson fulfilled his ambition in 1897 when the present church of St Helen was consecrated. The population of the island at the time was around sixty and was often swelled by visiting seamen, which explains the size of the church. It is built using granite from the island and other materials brought in from Ilfracombe. Lundy became known as the 'Kingdom of Heaven'.

1962

In 1962 Saint Helen's was severely damaged in a gale which caused damage to the window above the altar and the roof. The arch was replaced by a concrete lintel, so the window is now rectangular in shape.

1994

The fittings for the eight church bells quickly corroded and the bells were taken down from the tower in the early 20th century. In 1994 they were restored and continue to attract many groups of visiting bell-ringers to Lundy. Two more bells were added in 2004.

2010s

The church continues to suffer from damage due to its exposed position. A steering group was formed to plan its restoration and use for educational and research purposes as well as worship. The parish of Lundy was created in December 2013.

Marisco Castle

Marisco Castle was built by King Henry the 3rd in about 1250 high up on the south-east point of Lundy Island. In the Civil War Lundy Island was held for the Royalists by Thomas Bushell, who later rebuilt the castle. By 1787 cottages had been built round the small courtyard inside the Keep and these have now been rebuilt for holiday rental.

The Old Lighthouse and Fog Gun Station

The old lighthouse was built in 1819. The 29 metre high tower was built of local granite blocks, which were mined and shaped on the

island, before being assembled on chapel hill and topped by a glazed lantern with a full-circle gallery.

The light of the old Lighthouse flashed too fast and from a distance no period of darkness was obvious - making it appear to be fixed. Like many lighthouses of the time, the tower was also often shrouded by fog, as it was built at the highest point of the island - the idea of building a lighthouse as high as possible quickly proved to be a mistake.

In 1861 a fog signal battery, was built a short way down a cliff, not far from the light - this consisted of:

- a cannon building**
- a gun platform**
- an ammunition hut and a house**

A canon was fired once every 10 minutes from the battery, to warn of fog, which was later replaced by the firing of gun cotton and explosive charges. The use of bells and whistles, which often proved to be inaudible over the sound of crashing waves were also tested at the fog battery.

In 1897, both the lighthouse and fog gun station were abandoned and were replaced with two lighthouses and two fog signals - one at each end of the 3 mile long island.

New Lighthouses

Lundy South Lighthouse was built by Trinity House in 1897 along with Lundy North Lighthouse. They were built when the old, often fog obscured lighthouse was discontinued. While Lundy South Lighthouse is a compact station with a white circular tower, Lundy North Lighthouse is set on a narrow plateau.

Wildlife

Lundy's position with the Atlantic Ocean to the west and the Bristol Channel to the east creates a unique combination of environments. Conditions have given rise to a selection of habitats that in turn support a variety of rare and spectacular wildlife.

The rugged cliffs of the west coast are carpeted with maritime grass species and are home to important seabird colonies including Puffins and Manx Shearwaters.

The relatively sheltered and calm east coast has wildflowers and provides sanctuary to migrating birds in the spring and autumn. The diversity of the wildlife above the waves is mirrored below the waves, with many rare species protected in both the reef and sandbank habitats.

These wonders can be explored during your stay through joining in with the Warden's guided walks, Rockpool Rambles, Snorkel Safaris and other events.

Please return this guide and the separate map before you leave.

Thank you for visiting Lundy Island.

Formatted by the Heritage Ability project, part of Living Options Devon, a registered charity (1102489) and company limited by guarantee (4925281).

