Wembury in South Devon is a magnet for wildlife – its rocky cliffs are home to nesting seabirds and the rocky shore, slate reefs and massive wave-cut platforms provide one of the United Kingdom’s best spots for marine life. Wembury and the surrounding coastline form a Marine Conservation Area (MCA), a Special Area of Conservation (SAC), a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and form part of the South Devon Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB). These go some way to shielding it from human pressures.

Managed by Devon Wildlife Trust, Wembury Marine Centre is the ideal place to learn about the surrounding marine environment and its wildlife through regular rockpool and snorkel safaris, school visits and other marine-themed events. The Centre also explains the part you can play in protecting your local marine environment, following The Wildlife Trusts’ Living Seas strategy.

Visit www.wemburymarinecentre.org or email info@wemburymarinecentre.org to find out more about our Living Seas work and for details of our events or school bookings.

Follow us on social media

This guide was produced thanks to support and funding from the National Lottery Community Fund.
Guide to Common seaweeds

- Coral Weed: Corallina officinalis
- Gutweed: Ulva intestinalis
- Sea lettuce: Ulva lactuca
- Bladder wrack: Fucus vesiculosus
- Channelled wrack: Pelvetia canaliculata
- Spiral wrack: Fucus spiralis
- Pepper dulse: Osmundea pinnatifida
- Egg wrack: Ascophyllum nodosum
- Dulse: Palmaria palmata
- Sugar kelp: Saccharina latissima
- Wireweed: Sargassum muticum; a non-native species
- Oarweed: Laminaria digitata
- Irish moss: Chondrus crispus
- Polysiphonia lanosa: (found on Egg wrack)
- Egg wrack: Ascophyllum nodosum
- Serrated wrack: Fucus serratus
- Laver: Porphyra umbilicalis
- Sea lettuce: Ulva lactuca
- Bladder wrack: Fucus vesiculosus
- Cladophora rupestris
- Gutweed: Ulva intestinalis
- Sugar kelp: Saccharina latissima
- Wireweed: Sargassum muticum; a non-native species

Guide to Rocky shore animals

- Beadlet anemone: Actinia equina
- Beadlet anemone (tentacles retracted): Actinia equina
- Strawberry anemone: Actinia fragacea
- Snakelocks anemone: Anemonia viridis
- Dog whelk: Nucella lapillus
- Flat periwinkle: Littorina obtusata
- Purple/Flat top shell: Steromphala umbilicalis
- Painted top shell: Calliostoma zygochum
- Shore crab: Carcinus maenas
- Velvet swimming crab: Necora puber
- Edible crab: Cancer pagurus
- Hermit crab: Pagurus bernhardus
- Shanny: Lipophrys pholis
- Rock gob: Gobius paganellus
- Common brittlestar: Ophiothrix fragilis
- Common limpet: Patella vulgata
- Common prawn: Palaemon serratus
- Green leaf worm: Eulalia viridis
- Common hermit crab - photo: Alex Mustard/2020Vision; Volcano barnacle - photo: Keith Hiscock; all other photos Paul Naylor, www.marinephoto.co.uk, and Ben Candlin.