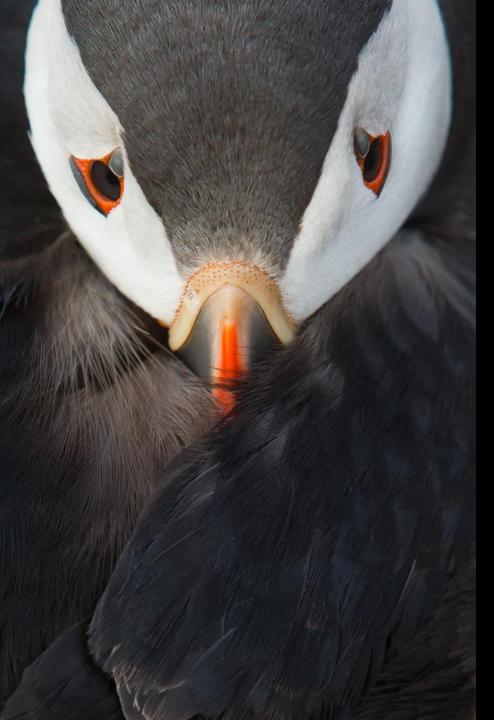


# PUFFINS OF SKOMER: OVERNIGHT WORKSHOP



JOIN AWARD-WINNING SEABIRD PHOTOGRAPHER & AUTHOR OF PUFFINS: LIFE ON THE ATLANTIC EDGE KEVIN MORGANS, ALONG WITH LOCAL PEMBROKESHIRE PHOTOGRAPHER AND EXPERIENCED SKOMER GUIDE RACHEL MULLETT. TO ENJOY THE MAGIC OF AN OVERNIGHT STAY ON PEMBROKESHIRE'S SEABIRD OASIS, SKOMER ISLAND.

Skomer Island is a retreat from the hustle and bustle of everyday life. A small oasis situated just off the beautiful Pembrokeshire coastline. Once on the island, our main focus will be one of the UK's most loved seabirds, known for their brightly coloured bills, comical waddle, and inquisitive nature; the Atlantic Puffin. But Skomer offers so much more than just puffins. Each spring, the island becomes a bustling seabird metropolis, home to countless breeding birds, such as guillemots, razorbills, kittiwakes, and chough, to name a few. and, if we are lucky, we may encounter any breeding short-eared owls.

The Atlantic Puffin population on Skomer has increased by a massive 240% over the last ten years and is now home to a whopping 42,513 puffins to be exact. This is in stark contrast to other puffin numbers across the UK, especially in the north, which continue to fall. This makes Skomer Island of critical importance to the future of the Atlantic Puffin, not only in the UK but worldwide,

Puffins are one of, if not the world's most photogenic seabirds. Inquisitive in their nature, they are always a joy to spend time with. Skomer is a perfect place to build a portfolio of images showcasing these endearing birds. Spending two/three nights on the island allows us to be on hand to experience many different situations with the birds and weather. Perhaps the most appealing aspect of staying on the island overnight is that it allows us to avoid the day visitors, and as the sun sets and rises each day, we can enjoy the island in complete solitude.

As well as seeing puffins, there will also be a chance to witness the phenomenon of Manx Shearwaters. Skomer is home to about half of the world's population of Manx shearwaters (roughly 350,000 pairs) and watching them return to their burrows under a shroud of darkness is a magical experience that can only be experienced by staying overnight on the island.

# ★ DAY ONE: MEET AT WEST HOOK FARM, FERRY TO SKOMER, FIRST DAY ON THE ISLAND

We will meet at West Hook Farm (SA62 3BJ). Your bags will be ferried to the jetty ready for our crossing to Skomer Island. Following disembarkation, we will be met by the island visitor officer, who will give us a short briefing about the island and its wildlife. We will then make our way to the accommodation, where our baggage will arrive shortly after. The warden will brief us, and we will show you your rooms. Then it's time for a quick tea, coffee, and snack, followed by a tour of the island, showing you the best spots for photography. Later that day, we will return for a hot meal, followed by our final session of the day. As the evening draws in, the magic really begins. The day vistors have long gone, and we have the island to ourselves. The warm evening light can be beautiful on the island, as it sets over the horizon. You can spend as much (or as little) time as you like photographing the birds. We will be on hand to advise on technique and help whenever needed.

At the end of the day, under a shroud of darkness, we will head out and witness the amazing spectacle as Manx Shearwaters return to their burrows.

#### ★ DAY TWO: A FULL DAY OF PHOTOGRAPHY ON THE ISLAND

Day 2 will begin with an early photo session at sunrise, as the puffins awaken ready for another day at the colony (this is an option; you may want to rest after a late night watching the manx shearwaters). We will have the island to ourselves for this session before the day visitors arrive. Then back to the accommodation for breakfast, a perfect way to start a day on the island. Following this, the day is yours. We can continue to photograph throughout the day, or simply relax and enjoy your island. We will always be on hand to offer any photographic help if required. Later in the day we will follow a similar routine, with a hot meal followed by an evening shoot at the colony.

If you missed the shearwaters the previous night, we can try again, or whether you just want an early night and relax, the option is yours.

\*\*Three Night Workshops will include an extra full day on the island\*\*

# ★ DAY THREE: AN EARLY MORNING SESSION FOLLOWED BY A FERRY BACK TO THE MAINLAND.

Day 3 is our last day of the adventure. There is time for another morning session for whoever would like to join us. After this final session, it is time to pack our bags, have breakfast, and get ready for our departure back to the mainland. Once back on the mainland, we will ferry your bags back to the farm and sadly say our goodbyes.



### **★** TOUR DATES

May 2024 - Dates To Be Confirmed October June 2024 - Dates To Be Confirmed October July 2024 - Dates To Be Confirmed October

### **★** PRICE

Two Night Workshop - £750

**Three Night Workshop - £999** 

### ★ DEPOSIT

Confirmation of your place can only be guaranteed on receipt of £300 per person deposit. The balance is then due no later than 14 weeks prior to departure

### ★ GROUP SIZE

Maximum 6 Participants

### ★ FITNESS LEVEL

A reasonable level of fitness is required; there are steep steps to climb and transfer our luggage up on landing. Paths can be rough and undulating, with a few inclines and an average of 5/7 miles walked daily



## ★ MEETING POINT

# West Hook Farm Camping

Marloes Pembrokeshire SA62 3BJ Telephone: 01646 636424

Please ring the farm to book parking ahead of the tour

### **★** ACCOMMODATION

The accommodation is a converted farmhouse, which is basic but comfortable. Electricity and hot water is generated by the sun.

Pillows and duvets are provided, but please bring your own sleeping gear, such as a sleeping bag, duvet cover & pillow case and towels.

## ★ KIT LIST

Guests are now restricted to three small bags weighing max 15kg each. Bags over 10k must be labelled as heavy.

If you need any advice please get in touch.

# **★** PRICE INCLUDES

- Return ferry to and from the mainland,
- Two/Three nights accommodation on the island
- All meals
- Island Landing Fee
- Baggage transfers

# **★** PRICE EXCLUDES

- Accommodation night before departure
- Car park fees, West Hook Farm
- Snacks & Alcohol
- Personal/Travel Insurance



# ★ THE GUIDES

#### ★ KEVIN MORGANS

Kevin is a multi-award-winning wildlife photographer, tour leader, and photographic guide. His work with Atlantic puffins recently won the prestigious portfolio prize in Bird Photographer of the Year, along with the publication of his book, Puffins: Life On The Atlantic Edge. Kevin has a passion for photographing UK wildlife. He is an experienced guide who has been running 1-1 and group workshops for many years, using this experience to pass on his knowledge of the natural world and how best to capture it.

#### ★ RACHEL MULLETT

Rachel, a local Pembrokeshire photographer, holds a Commercial Licence from the SWWWT to take photography groups to Skomer Island and has run day landing workshops there for the last two years along with taking overnight photography groups to the Skomer Island. She has run a very successful photographic souvenir business in Pembrokeshire for the last ten years.



# WHY JOIN ONE OF OUR PHOTOGRAPHIC WORKSHOPS?

#### **★** ALL PHOTOGRAPHERS ARE WELCOME

Photographers of all levels are welcome. Whether you are new to the world of wildlife photography or an experienced pro looking to expand your portfolio. We are both full-time wildlife photographers with years of experience working with Atlantic Puffins, providing photographic tuition.

#### **★** CREATIVE PHOTOGRAPHY

We are not the type of photographers that will just get you a standard shot. If you look over our portfolios. They are stacked with different and unique shots, creatively using light. Our main focus will be to do the same for you, putting you in the same positions constantly, taking into consideration the light direction and backgrounds.

#### ★ DAILY WORKSHOPS AND IMAGE REVIEWS

At the end of each day, or during down time we will be on hand to discuss post-processing and photographic techniques or review your images so far. The goal of the tour is to create a stunning and varied portfolio of work you can be proud of.

"The Skomer Island photography workshop was a perfect blend of learning, photography, natural beauty, and camaraderie. Rachel and Kevin's hospitality, combined with their extensive knowledge and the sheer beauty of Skomer Island, made this experience truly magical.

I wholeheartedly recommend this workshop to anyone passionate about photography and nature. I assure you, you will return with not just beautiful photographs but memories that will last a lifetime"

**ROSE – OVERNIGHT SKOMER WORKSHOP** 

"I waited 3 years to stay on Skomer and Kevin and Rachel's knowledge of the island, puffin behavior, and photography techniques made it worth the wait. It is a magical place and with their help, I got some amazing photos. I plan to go again next year!

I cannot say enough about how much I enjoyed the experience. Thank you Rachel and Kevin"

**ZOE – OVERNIGHT SKOMER WORKSHOP** 

"Just spent a wonderful two days on Skomer, photographing puffins and other birds with Pembrokeshire Moments. Rachel and Kevin are a great team. They are both accomplished photographers who are happy to share their knowledge and help you to get the best out of your time on the island.

They will do their utmost to get you in the right position at the right time and advise you on the best way to get them. Highly recommended!"

**RACHEL – OVERNIGHT SKOMER WORKSHOP** 

"A wonderful 2 night overnight stay on Skomer - thank you both so much for taking us to the best spots at the best times - for the chat, lovely food, non intrusive guidance and for sorting out my back button focus mystery!!!"

**KAY – OVERNIGHT SKOMER WORKSHOP** 

"An absolutely amazing trip. Both Rachel and Kevin were brilliant! \*\*\*\*\*

JULIE – OVERNIGHT SKOMER WORKSHOP

# **ANY QUESTIONS? PLEASE GET IN TOUCH**

Email - kevinmorgans@outlook.com Email - info@pembrokeshiremoments.co.uk