

North-East Atlantic (English Channel & Bay of Biscay) Wildlife Officer Placements

Course Description and Person Specification

Title: Wildlife Officer Placement x 3

Location: On board the Brittany Ferries' Cap Finistère vessel, sailing from Portsmouth (UK) to Santander/Bilbao (Spain)

Term: 4 week training placement, consisting of 12 return North- East Atlantic sailings.

Hours: Working hours are variable and will include some early mornings and late evenings and during weekends with the appropriate number of breaks included.

Cost: £695

About ORCA: ORCA is a pioneering marine conservation charity dedicated to forging links between people and the sea. ORCA is committed to the study of cetaceans (whales, dolphins and porpoises) and promoting their conservation through enthusing, inspiring and educating others.

About the Wildlife Officer Placement Programme: ORCA's unique Wildlife Officer Education Programme carries out vital research and monitoring in the understudied offshore marine environment and promotes wildlife watching and conservation through educational activities on board passenger ferries in the North East Atlantic. The programme is well established in the Bay of Biscay, running for over 10 years on board the Brittany Ferries' Cap Finistère and Pont Aven.

This is a fantastic opportunity for passionate, outgoing individuals to train under the supervision of our Bay of Biscay Wildlife Officers on board the Brittany Ferries' Cap Finistère Passenger Cruise Ferry travelling between Portsmouth (UK) – Santander/Bilbao (Spain) for a four week placement in 2019.

What you will get out of it:

- ✓ Large ship based Wildlife Guiding experience
- ✓ Hands on environmental education training (both formal and informal)
- ✓ Marine mammal identification and offshore survey experience
- ✓ Customer service skills development
- ✓ Experience living and working as a member of the crew on a commercial offshore vessel
- ✓ Opportunity to see whales, dolphins and porpoises, seabirds and a wealth of other marine wildlife. The Bay of Biscay is one of the best places in the world for whale and dolphin species diversity
- ✓ Vital workplace experience for a career in marine conservation/education

Programme Dates:

Applicants can join the on board team for a single 4 week placement during the research season; multiple/successive placements are not possible on this programme.

Placements are confirmed for the following dates in 2019:

- 19th June – 17th July 2019
- 17th July – 14th August 2019
- 14th August – 11th September 2019

Each placement will consist of 12 return Bay of Biscay sailings in which you will **live and work on board** Brittany Ferries Cap Finistère alongside ORCA's Wildlife Officers and members of the Brittany Ferries crew. Wildlife Officer Placements will complete the ORCA Wildlife Guide Training Programme and work alongside staff to deliver our unique Wildlife Education Officer Programme (WOEP) in the North East Atlantic.

Accommodation and living expenses:

This is a summer residential training placement; full board (all accommodation in a shared crew cabin with the Wildlife Officer and food costs), uniform and equipment is provided. Please make sure you bring suitable attire for working outdoors and at sea. You'll simply need to arrange your own travel to and from Portsmouth International Port.

Please note that due to cabin availability you will be sharing a cabin with the North East Atlantic Wildlife Officer for the duration of the placement. Therefore, unfortunately we can only accept female applicants for the 2019 placements.

Please note that you will be on board as the only Wildlife Officer Placement, accompanied by the Senior Wildlife Officers, who are on board individually for 2 weeks at a time.

Wildlife Officer Placement Roles and Responsibilities:

Whilst you are on board the Brittany Ferries' Cap Finistère you are representing ORCA and Brittany Ferries at all times.

- ✓ Carry out morning and evening deck watches with passengers; spotting and identifying North-East Atlantic wildlife for people of all ages
- ✓ Carry out daily offshore marine mammal surveys; collecting and recording effort and sightings data
- ✓ Assist the Wildlife Officer in providing a variety of both formal and informal education activities for passengers of all ages
- ✓ Deliver daily presentations and evening lectures about marine wildlife and the threats they face
- ✓ Assist with administration tasks including recording talk numbers, donations, sales and memberships
- ✓ Provide a high quality customer experience for all passengers engaging with the programme
- ✓ Take photographs and assist with writing the weekly blog
- ✓ Develop new wildlife education projects to be implemented on board

Person Specification: The most important requirement for trainees is a positive outlook, lots of energy and a big smile!

- ✓ Friendly, confident open communication style
- ✓ Keenness to learn new skills



- ✓ Previous customer service experience
- ✓ Passionate about marine conservation
- ✓ Good level of fitness with the ability to spend extended time on boats in sometimes rough seas

Please note a valid passport is required for this post.

For more information, you can read the previous Wildlife Officer blogs here: <https://orcaweb.org.uk/get-involved/become-an-orca-wildlife-officer/wildlife-officer-blog/category/brittany-ferries-cap-finistere-wildlife-officers>

Application Process: For more information please visit our website <https://orcaweb.org.uk/get-involved/become-an-orca-wildlife-officer> or contact ORCA on info@orcaweb.org.uk or 02392 832565 to discuss the placement.

To apply, please complete the **application form** (which can be found at: <https://orcaweb.org.uk/get-involved/vacancies>), along with your **C.V.** to info@orcaweb.org.uk with 'Wildlife Officer Placement 2019' as the email subject.

The closing date is **midnight on Sunday 24th March 2019**. Interviews are scheduled to take place the week commencing 1st April 2019.

ORCA would like to thank Brittany Ferries for their generous support. For more information about Brittany Ferries please visit their website: <http://www.brittany-ferries.co.uk/>