

HEALTHIER OCEAN. STRONGER PLANET.

Conferencing, Meetings, Events and Hire

Make a splash at SAMS. Your events can make a GLOBAL difference – all profits from venue hire and conferencing at SAMS go straight back into our pioneering environmental research to create a healthier ocean for a stronger planet.



A venue with the ocean at its heart

The Scottish Association for Marine Science (SAMS) is an ocean research charity. All profits from conferencing, meetings, events and hires go straight back into delivering pioneering environmental research to ensure healthier and more sustainable oceans.



By choosing SAMS for your next event, you will be making the incredible decision to help the future of our planet.

Our enviable west coast location creates the perfect backdrop for any event. From intimate to extravagant, SAMS' range of spaces will suit any private party, business or community meeting, or conference, and our experienced events team will guide you through from planning through to delivery.

Enhance your event with a special sprinkling of SAMS' science, including exclusive behind-the-scenes tours, unique team building activities or a talk with one of our expert scientists.

Contact Helen on events@sams.ac.uk for more information or call **01631 559 246**.





Your impact: helping us protect humankind's greatest asset

Climate change, pollution and overexploitation mean the ocean and the benefits it provides us are now seriously under threat.

The ocean is the LARGEST and most IMPORTANT ecosystem on our planet. From absorbing CO₂ emissions, providing renewable energy options and offering abundant sources of food, to supporting sustainable livelihoods for millions of people and being home to 80% of all life on Earth.

Ocean degradation is happening at unprecedented speed, and as a consequence, our planet is facing challenges on an unimaginable scale. Marine science will not only secure the ocean's immediate health but will also unlock its potential to provide us with future environmental stability.

By creating a healthier stronger ocean, we can tackle some of the most URGENT issues facing the world RIGHT NOW.

Sustainability:

safeguarding our ocean, for people, for planet

SAMS is committed to continually improving its own environmental performance and we have set ourselves a target of achieving net zero carbon emissions by 2040. We hope our sustainability initiatives give you confidence you're selecting a green partner for your events.

SUPPORTING YOUR EVENT TO BE GREENER

We can help you in so many ways to have a greener and more sustainable event (extra charges may apply):

- Arranging activities to connect your delegates to nature and our coastal spaces
- EV charging points on site, which can be reserved for your use
- Organising collective transportation from Oban for your delegates
- Sourcing local and useful freebies and goodies
- Offering vegan or vegetarian-only menus for your catering
- Providing erasable whiteboards to minimise the use of paper

ZERO WASTE STANCE

All our waste is sent for recycling, and we're phasing out single-use plastics wherever possible. We encourage the use of refillable bottles, so you'll find handy drinking water dispensers located around our site. We'll work with you to ensure we cater for appropriate attendee numbers to minimise food waste from the outset; but if there is food left over, and you're happy for us to do so, we'll donate it to our students.

ETHICAL COMMITMENTS

Where we can't buy local, we stock only consumables from companies with strong sustainability and ethical commitments, which support a stronger planet, and a better and fairer supply chain. We prioritise those with Fairtrade, Ethical Tea Partnership, Rainforest Alliance or RSPO accreditations.

REDUCING ENERGY CONSUMPTION

SAMS is committed to reducing its energy consumption across all areas of the charity. We are carrying out a phased upgrade of our lighting, and installing a state-of-the-art Building Energy Management System (utilising the latest technology to control and monitor heating, ventilation and related systems for maximum energy efficiencies). Snazzy!

SUPPORTING COMMUNITY WEALTH IN OUR LOCALITY

We're in one of the most beautiful, but also one of the most isolated areas of the UK. Where possible, we buy local so we can ensure the whole town benefits and we keep the rural economy flowing. Our catering is sourced from local small businesses, and our recommendations for accommodation, goodies, and things to do will always be for local independent traders.



Partner with purpose

Supporting SAMS is the perfect way to show your commitment to sustainability, environmental responsibility and pioneering science, all while connecting your employees to the incredible wonder of the ocean



Brand activation & location filming opportunities

SAMS is nestled right on the coastline at Dunstaffnage, with glorious far-reaching views over to the Highlands and Islands. Our stunning campus includes laboratories, robotics workshops, beaches and jetties, and we also have access to marine experts, scientists and a range of ocean-going vessels.

We can provide a wonderful and unique setting for commercial filming and photography and have the space to accommodate crews of all sizes. What's even better is that our fees go straight back into the charity to support pioneering education and research.

Contact Helen on events@sams.ac.uk for any bespoke enquiries and we'd be delighted to help.

Corporate membership & sponsorship

With three levels of annual membership, all named after beloved vessels from SAMS history, this is an inclusive and straightforward way of supporting environmental action. Access a wide range of exciting benefits, for your brand and for your team, and enjoy one of the most unique CSR packages available in the UK.

Or why not explore a bespoke sponsorship relationship, perhaps supporting a specific area of work such as a capital project or education programme, with an associated tailored package of benefits which could include naming rights, employee volunteering or PR opportunities.

Contact Julie on fundraising@sams.ac.uk to discuss your needs and requirements.



A welcoming coastal haven...

...and a flexible dynamic event space

We have packages and options to suit all budgets, as well as room hire-only rates. We also welcome bespoke catering, formal dining, drinks reception and self-catering enquiries, and will help you find the best option for your event.

STANDARD DAY DELEGATE PACKAGE

- Dedicated Event Manager
- Room hire access between 8.30am - 6.00pm
- Specific room facilities [see room overviews]
- In-house technical support
- Arrival tea, coffee and biscuits
- On-table vegetarian sweeties
- Standard buffet lunch
- Chilled Water Dispensers
- Free Wi-Fi
- Free car parking

From £15pp, plus selected room hire charge
All prices quoted subject to standard VAT

ADD A SPRINKLE OF SCIENCE

- A half hour talk from a resident scientist
- A tour of SAMS' facilities
- Lunchtime beach walk and talk
- A boat trip to the SAMS seaweed farm for up to 10 people
- SAMS branded water bottles, soaps, or pin badges
- Use of flip charts, pads and pens

Additional charges apply. Only available if booked in advance. Subject to availability. Separate T&Cs may apply for activities such as the boat tour.

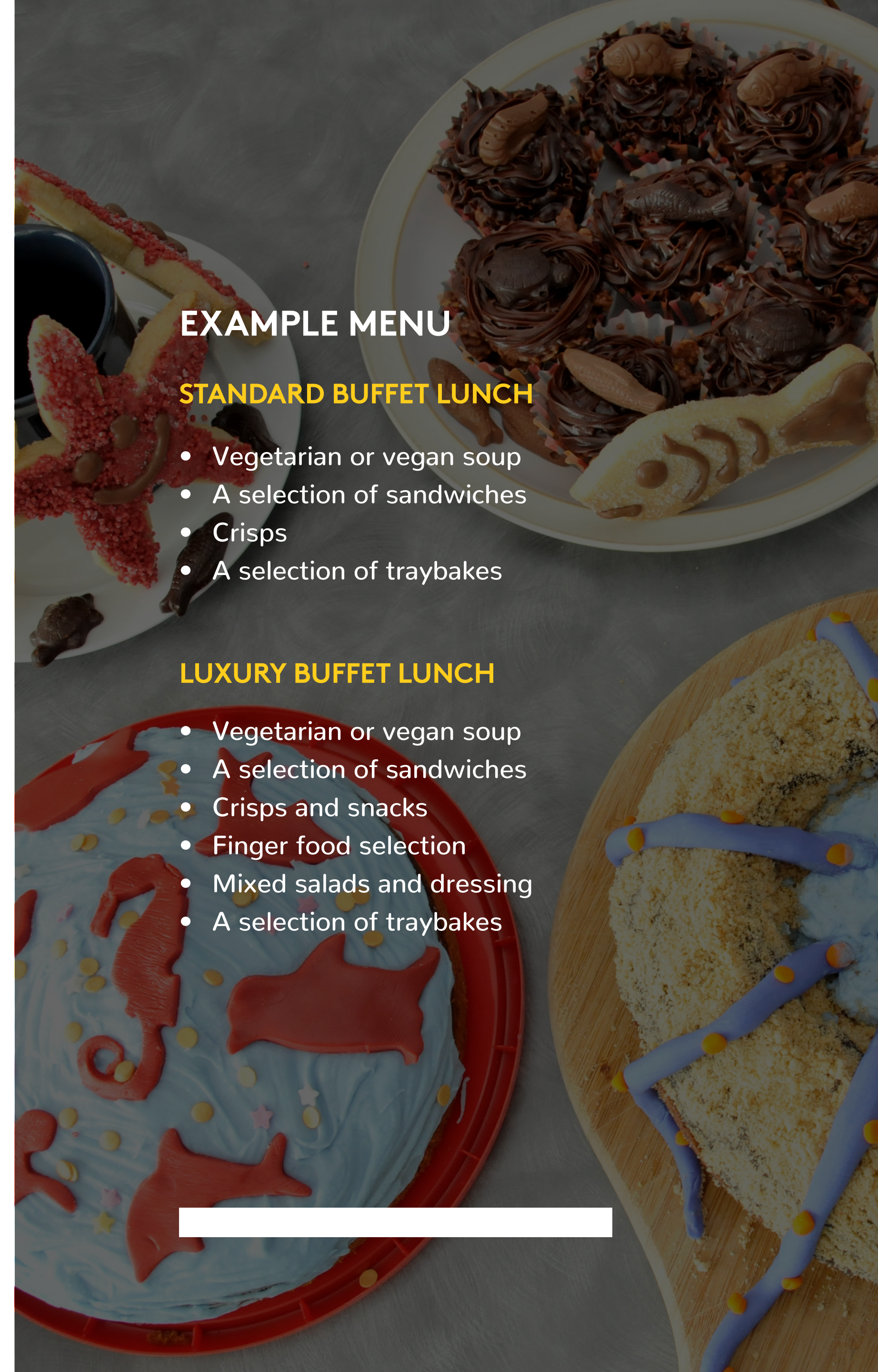
EXAMPLE MENU

STANDARD BUFFET LUNCH

- Vegetarian or vegan soup
- A selection of sandwiches
- Crisps
- A selection of traybakes

LUXURY BUFFET LUNCH

- Vegetarian or vegan soup
- A selection of sandwiches
- Crisps and snacks
- Finger food selection
- Mixed salads and dressing
- A selection of traybakes



ROOM HIRE FROM:

Full day £450, Half day £250 (excluding VAT)

William Speirs Bruce Lecture Theatre

Named after the British naturalist, polar scientist and oceanographer who led the first and only Scottish National Antarctic Expedition, the WSB boasts a full AV and sound system offering, making it ideal for presentations, training, conferences, virtual seminars and outside broadcasts.

A STATE-OF-THE-ART PRESENTING SPACE

- | | | | |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------|-------------|-----|
| • Stage area | • Air conditioned | • Lecture | 100 |
| • Digital projector & sound | • 3 Phase power | • Boardroom | 20 |
| • Fixed podium with screen | • Wi-Fi access | • Dining* | 40 |
| • Intelligent lighting | • Large projector screen | • Standing | 120 |

*Subject to additional charges



ROOM HIRE FROM:
Full day £375, Half day £250 (excluding VAT)

The Robertson Suite

Named after David Robertson (1806–1896), the Scottish geologist known as ‘The Cumbrae Naturalist’, who persuaded the business community in Glasgow to commit to a permanent marine research station at Millport. The Robertson Suite is bathed in natural light, with expansive coastal views, and is the ideal location for large meetings, networking events or training.

AN AIRY AND WELCOMING SPACE FOR ANY OCCASION

- | | | | |
|----------------------|---------------------------|-------------|-----|
| • 80” digital screen | • Wi-Fi access | • Lecture | 100 |
| • Kitchen facility | • Power points throughout | • Boardroom | 20 |
| • Natural daylight | • Sea view | • Dining* | 48 |
| • Fixed white boards | • Water cooler | • Standing | 120 |

*Subject to additional charges



ROOM HIRE FROM:

Full day £375, Half day £250 (excluding VAT)

The Barnes Suite

Margaret and Harold Barnes worked at the marine research stations at both Millport and here in Oban and enjoyed a lasting partnership in both life and science, becoming recognised as the world’s authorities on barnacle biology. The light and bright Barnes Suite is the perfect space for smaller networking functions or meetings and can be separated for breakout purposes.

AN INTIMATE YET FLEXIBLE SPACE FOR SMALLER FUNCTIONS

- | | | | |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------|-------------|----|
| • Ground floor access | • Natural daylight | • Lecture | 40 |
| • 65” digital screens | • Privacy blinds | • Boardroom | 16 |
| • Mobile 78" digital screen | • Wi-Fi access | • Dining | 16 |
| • Flexible layout | • Power points throughout | • Standing | 60 |





Beyond the Conference Room

Take your team, students, or delegates beyond the expected. Dive into real-world science with hands-on learning, expert-led sessions, and unforgettable field experiences.

Whether you're hosting a workshop, conducting experiments or running field-based study, we can provide the ideal environment to support your work.

Industry & Education Workshops

Our teaching laboratories have been educating marine scientists for over 15 years. Labs and lecture rooms are equipped with state of the art LCD screens and interactive whiteboards to facilitate learning delivery. Hire a lecture room along with a laboratory to consolidate the learning experience and embed traditional classroom education with a practical session in the lab. Contact us to find out how we can help you meet your workforce development needs.

Team Building

What about an away-day with a difference? Or level up your conference with an activity afternoon to remember. We're perfectly placed for outdoor activities if that's your thing, or engage with our scientists in an interactive lab session if it's not. Use our meeting rooms as a base and we'll work with you to build a programme that'll be talked about for years to come.

Field Courses & Supported Learning

Our unique location at the mouth of Loch Etive provides unparalleled resources for environmental science study. Talk to us about how we can provide the resources you need to fulfil your scientific objectives, and how our experts can help collect and analyse your data. Fully equipped SAMS labs, lecture rooms and research vessel can be hired individually as required, and add value to your learning by booking in a SAMS lecturer to present a one-hour seminar.

Our field course resources can be modified for non-academic individuals, whether you're passionate about the ocean and its complexity, or a curious mind looking for insight to a new field, we can design itineraries for small groups of like-minded individuals.

In our labs...

- Fume Cupboards
- Compound & Dissection Microscopes (with camera attachments)
- Spectrophotometer
- pH meter
- Drying ovens
- Ripple tank

In our lecture rooms...

- Projector
- Sympodium
- VC capabilities
- Smart board
- LCD screen

On and around our site...

- Rocky shore coastal ecology
- Brackish water tidal inlet
- Geological SSSI
- Glacial fjord
- Gulf of Corryvreckan Whirlpool
- Seaweed Farm
- Aquaculture operations

A vibrant coastal town with rich heritage



How to get to us

SAMS is located in the village of Dunbeg on the A85, less than 3 miles from Oban, and has free parking on site. Citylink and Ember buses connect Oban to Glasgow and Edinburgh, with a bus stop at Dunbeg Road End - a 15 minute walk from SAMS. If you're travelling by train along the breathtaking West Highland Line, there are several local taxi operators that collect from Oban Railway Station. We always encourage emission free travel, and SAMS is an easy 30 minute cycle via the Ganavan-Dunbeg cycle path, or approximately 1 hour walk.

Where to stay

From boutique guest houses and 5* hotels to self-catering, cottages, Oban has accommodation for every budget. As an attractive tourist town and gateway to the Isles, rooms get booked up quickly so enquire directly with your preferred option well in advance. Independent B&Bs / hotels. Local knowledge never goes amiss so if your accommodation search becomes overwhelming – contact us and we can point you in the right direction.

A bottle of Oban Single Malt Scotch Whisky stands behind a glass filled with whisky, ice cubes, a red cherry, and an orange slice. The glass has a textured, diamond-patterned rim. The bottle label clearly shows 'OBAN SINGLE MALT SCOTCH WHISKY' and 'ESTD 1794'.

What to do

A small selection of what our amazing location has to offer...

McCaig's Tower

This prominent tower is one of Oban's best-known features. Commissioned by wealthy banker John Stuart McCaig the tower was erected between 1897 and McCaig's death in 1902. The unfinished empty shell dominates the skyline, and is now a public garden with magnificent far-reaching views to the islands of Kerrera, Lismore and Mull – well worth the 144 steps of Jacob's Ladder!

Dunollie Castle

The ancestral home of the MacDougall clan, there has been evidence of human settlement in Dunollie for over 8000 years! The castle ruins date from 15th Century and it was abandoned in 1746 when Dunollie House (now a museum) was built. Enjoy daily activities throughout the year.

Wildlife tours

Oban's sheltered location on the west coast attracts a diverse wildlife population and there are several companies offering excursions, walks and tours. Book directly with the operators and start ticking off your UK wildlife bucket-list – keep your eyes peeled for pine marten, deer and white-tailed eagles!

Distillery & Brewery tours

Oban's Distillery is older than Oban itself! Limited in size by the town that sprung up around it, just seven people make every drop of Oban's 14-year-old classic malt. Book a tour or a tasting experience and discover the distillery's remarkable story.

Boat trips & outdoor adventures

Argyll's spectacular land and seascapes offer the perfect environment for outdoor activities; from a peaceful paddle to Kerrera to a day's hike up one of the 20 Munros in the local area - Oban's friendly local outdoor specialists can recommend activities to suit your interests and capability. We'd be delighted to put you in touch with the right people – let us know how we can help.

Ocean Explorer Centre

Be amazed and inspired by the science behind our oceans



Why not plan a visit to our on-site tourist attraction as part of your event itinerary. As a great lunchtime activity, or simply to break up a lengthy meeting, stretching your legs in the Ocean Explorer Centre provides the perfect introduction to the incredible marine science happening right now at SAMS. With hands-on interactive exhibits, fascinating films, and friendly expertise on hand, there is something to inspire everyone!

Learn about Arctic science, explore ocean currents, identify microscopic organisms living in our waters, and see real life marine robotics on a free self-guided visit or speak to our events team about booking a more tailored tour or workshops for your group. The Ocean Explorer Centre can also be hired for evening functions, if you're on the lookout for a truly unique, fun and immersive venue.

SAMS Enterprise

Enabling productive and healthy oceans

SAMS Enterprise provides specialist marine consultancy and survey services, underpinned by the world leading science of its parent organisation, the Scottish Association for Marine Science (SAMS).



We work to enable clients to understand and mitigate the risks involved in industry interaction with the oceans and coastlines; to maximise productivity whilst enhancing sustainability; and ensuring environmental responsibility.

As a respected and independent third-party, providing reliable and robust environmental assessments that industry can trust, SAMS Enterprise provides consultancy and research to many of the UK's key government agencies including JNCC, Marine Scotland, NatureScot, Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA), the Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science (Cefas) and the Food Standards Agency (FSA).

Visit www.sams-enterprise.com to find out more about the services we can offer your business, or reach out to the team directly on info@sams-enterprise.com.

The Seaweed Academy

Supporting expansion and skills development for the seaweed aquaculture industry

The Seaweed Academy is the UK's only dedicated seaweed industry facility offering a complete package of training, education, and business development – a one-stop-shop for supporting expansion and skills development for the seaweed aquaculture industry.



Seaweed ACADEMY

Providing a truly innovative and holistic service to the sector, the Seaweed Academy offers:

- Developments and assistance in the field of social and commercial licensing
- Support in establishing a commercial business
- Guidance and training in technical abilities

From 1-day courses to week-long intensive training, and with options to create bespoke courses to meet the needs of your business, the Seaweed Academy provides the skills toolkit to support individuals and businesses to enter into the exciting and emerging market of UK seaweed.

Visit www.seaweedacademy.co.uk to find out more and book onto a course. For tailored needs contact the team on seaweed@sams-enterprise.com

Scientific Robotics Academy

Fostering Scotland's position as a pioneering force in scientific robotics

The multi-disciplinary team delivers CPD-recognised training and transformative consultancy to a range of stakeholders, specialising in the capability and use of innovative technology, including aerial, sea-surface, and underwater platforms for environmental applications.



SCIENTIFIC Robotics ACADEMY

Exclusive insights, tools and techniques from our experts can help you:

- Stay ahead of emerging technological trends
- Reduce operational costs
- Streamline environmental monitoring processes
- Foster collaboration and innovation partnerships
- Adapt and future-proof your monitoring strategy

We offer business upskilling, advanced academic training, and school STEM learning and our on-site facilities and the surrounding landscape provides an ideal base for platform testing and deployment. Part-funded by the UK Government, we deliver structured training courses as well as bespoke courses, with a focus on deep learning and high impact to achieve your desired outcomes.

Visit www.sams.ac.uk/robotics/academy to find out more and book onto a course. For tailored needs contact the team on ScientificRoboticsAcademy@sams.ac.uk

THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING SAMS!

For 150 years, we've dedicated ourselves to building a foundation of marine knowledge, enabling us now to tackle head-on some of the most complex and important challenges humankind has ever faced.

Additional income from conferencing boosts our resource and capacity, enabling our researchers and scientists to do even more but critically, even faster; unlocking the incredible power of the seas and enabling us to protect our ocean, for people, and for planet.

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