

Sulby Claddagh Overnight Camping - Frequently Asked Questions

In 2020, as part of our efforts to improve the camping experience and comply with legislation and model standards at the Sulby Claddagh, we introduced some changes in including limiting the number of spaces and the introduction of an onsite warden. We hope the following will answer some of your questions.

1. Do I have a right to camp on the Sulby Claddagh – it's common land?

A. No; there are rights of common for the daytime use of the site, but no right to overnight camp.

Sulby Claddagh is land to which there are 'rights of common', the Claddaghs are the only place on the Island to have rights of common, all others were extinguished in the 1860s. There are two identifiable rights over the Claddagh, the first is the right to graze cattle and livestock, as would've been done for hundreds of years when much of Sulby was farmland or grazing land, the second right is right of access, predominantly for recreational purposes such as walking, cycling and picnicking etc... Camping is therefore only permitted by DEFA under certain circumstances such as with a permit.

Any persons using the Sulby Claddagh, in exercise of common rights, does so at their own risk. You should make sure that you are aware of the risks of the environment around you whilst you are on the Sulby Claddaghs, including those on land and nearby water sources. You should also ensure that you are in compliance with the byelaws at all times when on the Sulby Claddaghs. The Department does not accept any liability for loss or damage caused to persons or property whilst using the site.

2. Why is there a need for a camping permit system at Sulby Claddagh?

A. To better enable control of overnight camping and manage liability for the site.

3. Is there a charge for a Sulby Claddagh camping permit?

A. Yes. Please see website for current prices. <https://www.gov.im/camping>.

4. When can I apply for a camping permit?

A. Camping permits in 2023 will be available from mid-April. You should apply for a permit in advance of your visit, as permits are not issued on site. See Q5 on how to apply for a permit.

5. Where can I obtain a camping permit?

A. To obtain a permit please refer to the information online at <https://www.gov.im/camping>. Alternatively, email your name, postcode, indicate what type of moveable dwelling (caravan, motorhome, tent etc...) you will be using and any identification or vehicle registration number to permit.sulby@gmail.com.

6. I had a permit in 2022, do I need to re-submit my documents?

A. You will need to complete a 2023 application. You will also need your new permit and number when booking your camping pitch.

7. How long does a permit last?

A. During 2023 a revised permits system has been introduced which is structured differently from previous years. Please refer to the information online at <https://www.gov.im/camping>.

8. Do age restrictions apply to applicants for permits?

A. Yes. A permit may only be obtained by a responsible adult, 18 years or over. Under 18s may use the site with adult supervision.

9. What does a 'seasonal' camping permit allow?

A. The permit allows the holder to pitch a single moveable dwelling (e.g. tent, campervan, caravan, trailer tent) staying for up to a maximum of 14 consecutive nights at a time, as stated in the Sulby Claddagh Byelaws.

Unfortunately, to ensure compliance with new requirements, no pup tents are permitted to accompany another moveable dwelling on the same pitch.

10. Does having a camping permit reserve a pitch at Sulby Claddagh?

A. No. Following receipt of your permit you will need to book your camping pitch: Please refer to information in Q5 above or at <http://www.gov.im/camping> on how to reserve a camping pitch.

11. Does each person need a permit?

A. No – the permit covers the moveable dwelling only.

12. Can I give my permit to a friend to use?

A. No. The camping permit is non-transferable.

13. Do I need to have my permit and booking reference with me when camping on the Claddagh?

A. Yes. Your permit and booking reference must be available for inspection or clearly displayed when camping overnight on the Claddagh.

14. How many overnight camping pitches will be available?

A. In compliance with the Model Standards for Camping Sites and Sulby Claddagh Byelaws there will be 25 pitches available. This rises to 65 during TT / MGP periods.

15. Why do I need to book a camping pitch?

A. As there are a restricted number of pitches available, and to avoid disappointment, you will need to book a pitch prior to your arrival. Please refer to information at <http://www.gov.im/camping> on how to reserve a camping pitch. You will require your valid camping permit for presentation to the 'Campsite Warden' on arrival.

16. How many camping units are allowed per pitch?

A. To adhere to safe distances between units and in compliance with Fire Safety Guidance, Model Standards for Campsites and Sulby Claddagh Byelaws, only one moveable dwelling is permitted per pitch.

17. What happens if I do not attend and I do not cancel my booking?

A. As there are limited pitches, please make every effort to inform the Campsite Warden if you are arriving late or need to cancel.

18. Do I need a camping permit to enjoy daytime recreation on the Claddagh?

A. Sulby Claddagh is a general recreation site that is enjoyed by many visitors throughout the day. All visitors are required to comply with the Sulby Claddagh Byelaws. No permit is required if you do not intend camping overnight.

19. Does the camping permit system apply to visitors to the Island?

A. Yes. Camping permits are required by all visitors camping overnight at the Claddagh.

20. Does the permit system replace the Sulby Claddagh Byelaws?

A. No. All Sulby Claddagh Byelaws still apply.

21. Is there a Warden or Campsite attendant?

A. To ensure everyone has a safe and enjoyable stay and to comply with model camping standards and relevant legislation there will be a warden available; located on site or reached by phone.

22. What do I do on arrival?

A. Ensure you have your 'camping permit' and pitch booking confirmation and report to the onsite Warden, who will welcome you and direct you to your pitch.

23. Is there a check-in and out time?

A. Yes, there will be a checking in and out time;

- Check-in no earlier than 12 noon and check-out no later than 10am on the day of your departure.

24. Who is responsible for checking the permits?

A. Any responsible official nominated by the Department, third party contractor, police officers, etc...

25. Can I leave my camping unit unoccupied overnight?

A. No, all camping units must be occupied – your camping permit may be revoked if you leave your unit unoccupied overnight.

26. Can I light a fire or have a barbecue?

A. Lighting or keeping a fire burning is prohibited on the Sulby Claddagh. Open fires, including fire pits and chimineas are not permitted.

It is permitted to use a charcoal barbecue, hydrocarbon liquid or gas in a cooking appliance provided this does not create burning, scorching or damage to the ground, picnic tables, surrounding area or any flora.

27. If I buy a permit but do not use the Claddagh for camping during the 2023 season, can I get a refund?

A. All permits are non-refundable.

28. What toilet facilities will be available on the site?

A. The built toilet facilities will be closed and unavailable for use during 2023. However, suitable temporary toilets will be provided throughout the season.

29. Will camping be allowed in 2024?

A. Whether camping will resume in 2024 will be determined nearer the time and following a wider consultation on the future use of the site. Further details of the forthcoming consultation can be found on the [Consultation hub](#)

30. What other campsites can I camp at?

A. Please refer to <https://www.visitisleofman.com/stay/camping-and-glamping/camping>

31. How do I pay for my camping permit?

A. In 2023 a permit invoice will be issued via PayPal to you once your application and details have been submitted. Please follow the instruction on the invoice on how to pay for your permit; this can be done via PayPal using Debit or Credit Cards.