



BELLE ISLE SHOOT – KEY INFORMATION

THINGS YOU SHOULD KNOW BEFORE YOU ARRIVE

1. Shooting takes place either in and around Belle Isle Castle or over outlying bogs. Whilst most of the drives around Belle Isle Castle can be walked to, some drives, along with the outlying bogs, require a short journey via motor vehicle. Therefore we kindly ask guns, if possible, to bring their own vehicles, preferably 4 x 4s, however if this is not possible (if, for example, guns are flying into Northern Ireland or the Republic of Ireland and do not wish to hire a car) then the Estate can easily arrange transport. Please note, it is up to the guns to notify the Estate at the point of booking whether or not they will require airport transfers to and from Belle Isle Estate and, therefore, shoot transport.
2. Many of the drives, especially the snipe bogs, are only accessible by foot. Wild bird shooting takes place across a unique habitat which consists of terrain which is uneven and/or slippery under foot. It is therefore vital that all guns and accompanying guests are fit and able to walk modest distances across uneven terrain. The Shoot Captain must inform the Estate if there is a party member who may require assistance and the Shoot Manager will take reasonable steps to assist, however we would encourage the Shoot Captain to consider carefully whether or not it is appropriate for any particular individual over whom they have concerns to take part at all. A reasonable level of good health and fitness is expected and the Estate will not accept responsibility for any gun who is unable to take part on health grounds.
3. All guns must bring gun slips and cartridge bags or belts. If additional slips, gun bags or cartridge belts are required then please notify the Estate at least 2 weeks in advance of arrival as a limited number of each can be provided.
4. The Estate offers both woodcock and snipe shooting. Guns are asked to specify their preference at the point of booking, however the Estate reserves the right to focus on one species over another if it deems conditions favour one in particular but on every occasion will make every effort to offer shooting as per the gun's request.
5. All guns must bring their own firearms. In certain circumstances gun hire is available from the Estate but on a limited basis due to Northern Ireland firearms legislation. Gun hire will be charged at £50 per day. Guns hiring firearms may be asked to sign a Declaration of Fitness confirming they are legally allowed to have in their possession a firearm.
6. The Estate will provide all cartridges at additional charge and in compliance with all legislation pertaining to lead shot. If guns wish to bring their own ammunition then this is permitted but they must notify the Estate of their intention to do so. Advice on appropriate shot size etc is of course available.



7. A reasonable number of non-shooting guests are permitted to join the shooting party but only with the consent of the Shoot Manager and provided he is notified 2 weeks in advance of the shoot day of the total number of non-shooting guests. Total numbers may necessitate additional transportation which if the Estate is providing may give rise to an additional charge.
8. Catering can be provided during your stay and this will be arranged directly with our Accommodation Manager. Any special dietary requirements must be made known to the Accommodation Manager as well as requests for any particular items of food or drink. We will make every effort to accommodate your request.
9. Accommodation is provided via Belle Isle Castle, either in the Hamilton Wing or in the entire Castle. The Hamilton Wing offers one double bedroom with a dedicated bathroom, five ensuite double bedrooms, one ensuite twin and one twin with a dedicated bathroom, therefore eight bedrooms in total. Five further bedrooms are available at additional cost in the Abercorn Wing of Belle Isle Castle. All five bedrooms are ensuite and all are double bedrooms but one is easily convertible into a twin bedroom. The Accommodation Manager will liaise with you regarding your rooming arrangements.
10. Wellington boots are mandatory.
11. All guns who reside outside Northern Ireland who intend to bring their firearm(s) with them will require a Visitors Permit from the Police Service of Northern Ireland. Copies of the application form are available from the Shoot Manager on request or can be downloaded from our website. Please note if you reside outside Great Britain a different form will be required and you should contact the Shoot Manager directly. Such forms must be submitted ideally 8 weeks before the date of arrival.

If guns are arriving into the Republic of Ireland with their firearm(s) and therefore travelling to Northern Ireland they will require a Licence to Transit the State from the Department of Justice in Dublin. Copies of the application form are available from the Shoot Manager on request or can be downloaded from our website. Again it is recommended that such forms are submitted 8 weeks in advance of the date of arrival.



DURING THE SHOOT

- 12.** Guns are asked to be appropriately dressed and ready to depart at 10 am. If the snipe bogs are to be shot first, then an earlier departure time of 9.30 am may be required to take account of the short drive required. The Shoot Manager will inform you of this.

Lunch will take place either in a local pub or in Belle Isle Castle. A number of drives will then follow after lunch as weather and light permits.

- 13.** Wild bird shooting is challenging given the unpredictable nature of the flight of the bird. The Shoot Manager will notify all guns of the direction of the drive and particularly where the beaters will be throughout the duration of the drive. If guns are unsure, they must ask the Shoot Manager. Where woodland/forestry is being driven for woodcock under no circumstances can guns fire below the treeline into the woodland/forestry. In certain circumstances it may be safe to shoot behind the gun line but the Shoot Manager will make this known if this is the case.

- 14.** Pegs are not drawn and guns will be placed by the Shoot Manager. Every effort will be made to ensure all guns get an opportunity to shoot game but given the wild nature of the birds this is not always possible. However, if a particular gun or guns have experienced light shooting, the Shoot Manager will attempt to place them where he believes their chances could be enhanced.

- 15.** Once placed on the drive, guns must wait for the first whistle which will be blown by the Shoot Manager to indicate all guns are in position. A second whistle will be blown by the Head Beater which indicates the start of the drive and guns will therefore be live and free to safely shoot at that point. A third and final whistle will be blown which will indicate the end of the drive, at which point shotguns should be broken, cartridges removed and shotguns returned to their slips.

- 16.** Elevenses will be offered in the field consisting of either sloe gin or port.

- 17.** Woodcock and snipe are wild, migratory birds and the number of birds that can be found on a shoot day is dependent upon a wide variety of factors outside of the Estate's control. Therefore no guarantee whatsoever is given in regards to either the number of birds to be seen or shot, however the Shoot Manager and the team of beaters will make every effort to present as many birds as possible.

- 18.** Tipping is discretionary; however we recommend that a tip of between £20 and £40 per day to the keeper is made.

- 19.** All other terms and conditions contained with the accompanying shoot contract apply and remain unaltered by the contents of this information sheet.



I, _____, HEREBY CONFIRM THAT I HAVE READ AND UNDERSTOOD THIS KEY INFORMATION REGARDING THE BELLE ISLE ESTATE WOODCOCK AND SNIPE SHOOT.

SIGNED: _____

PRINT NAME: _____

DATE: _____