

WIGHTLINK

FREE GUIDE

Wightlife

ISSUE 1: 2024

TM

PLACES TO STAY
OFF GRID
GETAWAYS

ROMANTIC
DAYS OUT
I LOVE
WIGHT

LOCAL GUIDE
WHAT'S ON
AND WHERE
TO GO

Wightlink's essential guide to the Isle of Wight

accommodation | attractions | activities | food & drink | map | what's on | wightlink.co.uk

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Welcome to 2024 on the Isle of Wight

Before too long, we'll start to notice that winter is on its way out and spring won't be too far behind. The days will begin to lengthen, Easter will be on the horizon and we can look forward to getting out and about again, making memories with friends and family.



I'll tell you a secret. Even though it's officially still winter, I think this is one of the best times of the year to take a short break on the Isle of Wight. It's rarely very cold, thanks to the Island's wonderful micro-climate, and you're likely to have many of the beautiful beaches, coastal walks and stunning countryside all to yourself. Wrap up warm and get out into nature, if you're bringing your dog with you, they'll enjoy the Island just as much as you.

Many fantastic attractions stay open all year round if you want to get to know more about our lovely Island and there'll be no shortage of places to eat if you fancy a snack, a drink or something more substantial. Have a look through this magazine and you're bound to find plenty of places to choose from.

Why not treat yourself right now if you're feeling peckish and you're at one of Wightlink's ports or onboard a car ferry? We are proud to sell local products, such as coffee made with beans from Island Roasted in Newport and milk from Briddlesford Farm Dairy. We have sandwiches and cakes from Grace's Bakery in Ryde and you can stock up on tasty treats from the Garlic Farm, among many other local suppliers. I know you'll get a warm welcome from our partners if you drop in to see them during your break.

Meanwhile, settle back into your comfortable seat and enjoy your Solent crossing. There's always something happening on the water, and you'll have the best view from Wightlink's fleet.

If you're tempted to come back later in the year, now is the time to book, especially if you're thinking of travelling during the school holidays when we get busier. If you opt for standard tickets, you're always free to amend your booking with no fees, should your plans change.

I look forward to welcoming you onboard, it's our pleasure to take you across the Solent.

Keith Chenfield

Chief Executive

WIGHTLINK

Take a walk along the edge of the water at Appley Beach.

EDITOR

Jo Butt

SENIOR DESIGNER

Jo Butt

DESIGNERS

Dillon Earley and Tom Squirrell

ADVERTISING SALES

David Brooks

DISTRIBUTION MANAGER

Brian Curd

FINANCE MANAGER

Karen Barnes

PRODUCTION

Karen Barnes, Tom Spence
and Lisa Thurbon

PRINT

Precision Colour Printing

CONTRIBUTORS

Tim Addison, Go New Forest,
David Howells (Visit Portsmouth),
Louise Lea, James Rayner
and Solent.

PHOTOGRAPHY

Tim Addison, Jon Banfield, Maria Bell,
Chris Boyce, James Bridle, Jeremy
Cangialosi, Nick Chappell, Pete Elliott
Photography, Jody Hope, Isle of Wight
Festival, Gianpaolo Mario Photography,
Holly Jolliffe, Robbie Khan, National
Trust Images/Paul Harris, National Trust
Images/John Millar, Ash Nesbitt, Luke
Nesbitt, Charlie Price, Natalie Silvester,
Neil Southwell, Tom Squires (Procam
Films), Jason Swain, Visit Isle of Wight,
Visit the New Forest, Sam Warren
TheCamOfSam) and Julian Winslow.

COVER SHOT

Scratchells Bay by Alfie in the Air



SOLENT

35 Orchard Street, Newport,
Isle of Wight, PO30 1JZ
01983 556844 | info@solent.co
solent.co/wightlife

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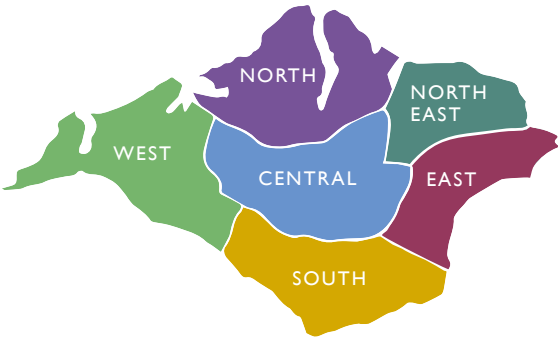


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GUIDES START
ON PAGE 46



ATTRACTIONS
ACCOMMODATION
FOOD & DRINK

The Guide

The who, the what, the where on the Isle of Wight...



British Travel Awards

We're Britain's best ferry operator – as voted by you!

Thank you to everyone who voted for us in the British Travel Awards 2023 – we're incredibly proud to have won gold in the Best Ferry Operator for Routes from/to UK Ports category!

The British Travel Awards is one of the biggest UK awards organisations that invites votes from customers. Over 1.5 million votes were cast across a huge range of categories, including cruise, air travel, hotels, destination travel companies and many more. We took home the gong this year after picking up silver in the same category in 2022.

A big congratulations to our peers at Brittany Ferries and P&O Ferries, who picked up silver and bronze, respectively.

And a huge well done to our dedicated colleagues, working tirelessly 364 days a year to deliver an award-winning service.

REFIT SEASON

Two of Wightlink's more unusual 'vessels' went to drydock over the winter, having many years of seaweed scraped off the bottom.

The Hulk Moorings are made up of two support barges and sit in the middle of the entrance to Portsmouth Harbour, adjacent to Wightlink's fuel tanker barge. They are used to supply all of our ferries and FastCats with marine gas oil (diesel).

Wightlink's Hulk Moorings were probably named after an earlier Hulk that was brought into the harbour in 1904 and moored off Gosport. It stored Welsh coal used by the Royal Navy ships at the nearby Dockyard and operators used four large cranes on top of it to refuel the tugs and battleships. After 60 years of service – including two world wars, coal was replaced by diesel and the original Hulk was eventually towed away in 1964 to a breaker's yard.



Kids go free during the school holidays

Travelling with little ones? You can take the kids to the Island or mainland for free during the school holidays with Wightlink.

Under 5s always travel free with us, but when the schools break up you can take up to two children (aged 5–15) for free with every paying adult or senior foot passenger day return.

Make the most of this deal throughout 2024. The offer covers the Easter, summer and Christmas holidays as well as the February, May and October half terms.

To book online visit wightlink.co.uk/kgf



LIFE RINGS

Lions and lemurs at the Isle of Wight's Wildheart Animal Sanctuary have been thrown a playtime 'lifeline' by Wightlink, after we donated old life rings for the animals to enjoy.

The life-saving devices were previously on board the Lymington to Yarmouth ferry Wight Sun but have now been retired from service and replaced with new ones.

Having previously donated old mooring lines to the Sandown attraction, we were keen to up-cycle the life rings, diverting them from landfill. They make perfect swings for the lemurs and ideal scratching and chewing toys for the lions.

Wightlink is a proud supporter of the Wildheart Animal Sanctuary. In recent years the company has provided crossings for rescued animals including tigers, pigs, owls, a cockatoo, porcupines, Rankins Dragons and a giant rabbit.





Win a four-night stay with Seaview Holidays and Wightlink worth over £950

Enter our competition and you could win a four-night Island getaway with Seaview Holidays for four people – worth over £750 – with ferry travel included!

We are giving away a four-night retreat at Seaview Holidays, a hidden gem nestled within the prestigious sailing haven of Seaview, Isle of Wight, plus £200 of Wightlink ferry travel to get you there. With three convenient departure ports, Wightlink is your link to the Island.

Immerse yourself in the tranquillity of Seaview Holidays, a family-owned oasis that has been a beloved retreat since the 1960s. With a reputation for creating unforgettable memories year after year – this is now your chance to win!

During your stay, you'll reside in your own beautiful cottage by the enchanting Hersey Nature Reserve, just moments away from the renowned Seaview beaches. It's a slice of paradise waiting just for you.

But that's not all – you'll have the freedom to craft your own adventure. Explore scenic local bike trails, conquer the coastal waters with thrilling paddle-boarding adventures, experience the magic of horseback riding along sun-kissed shores, or simply savour the blissful pace of Island life on your own terms.

Seaview Holidays is your gateway to the perfect Island escape, where every moment is a chance to make memories that will last a lifetime. Don't miss your opportunity to join us in paradise!

For your chance to win, visit wight.link/seaviewholidays and use the form to enter by 31 March 2024.

This prize draw is open for entries from 1 January 2024. Entries must be received by 23:59 on 31 March 2024. Entrants must be 18+. Cannot be transferred, refunded or exchanged for cash/vouchers. Stay valid between 1 April 2024 and 31 October 2024. The 'Giveaway' includes a four-night stay at Seaview Holidays in a Premier Two-Bedroom Cottage, subject to availability. Excludes UK bank holidays, UK school holidays (except October half term). Non-transferable, non-refundable. Standard Seaview Holidays Limited terms and conditions apply. For full terms and conditions visit wight.link/seaviewholidays.



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I Love Wight

With the scent of roses in the air (and Cupid limbering up for his annual round of love-fuelled archery), we've assembled a handpicked selection of romantic things to do on the Isle of Wight this Valentine's Day. From windswept beach walks to intimate dining spots, there's truly something for everyone, whether you're spending the big day with your friends, your family or your one true love.



Appley Tower is an enchanting seaside folly straight out of a fairytale.

To get things started, we couldn't think of a much cosier spot to begin the day than at the Chocolate Apothecary on Ryde Esplanade. Glistening inside with patterned tiles, this former Victorian fishmonger's shop is now an elegant emporium of cocoa, with owner Susan Van Praagh turning fair trade Tanzanian and Javan chocolate into a tasteful array of tempting delights. Try their rich, dark chilli hot chocolate for starters, followed by a fruity florentine or a slice of oven-fresh brownie. On your way out, perhaps pick up a box of handmade chocolates as well (to share with someone special or to leave on a certain doorstep), with options including spiced chai, salted caramel, strawberry champagne and espresso.



Don't forget to pick up a box for someone special at Chocolate Apothecary.

Just a short stroll eastwards, you'll come across the enchanting Appley Tower – a picturesque seaside folly, ideal for re-enacting a Romeo and Juliet moment from the legendary landmark's steps. If however, you're looking to pick up some tools and create something unique with your significant other then head inland to Arreton Barns. Here you'll find the workshop of Thomas P Cochran, a family-run silversmith business, first established in Mauritius and specialising in stunning marine-inspired jewellery. Ring-making workshops are held by their son (also called Thomas) who will show you how to twist and hammer a one-of-a-kind piece – which may well come in handy if a wedding or engagement is on the cards soon.



Book workshop at Thomas P Cochran and create your own unique piece.

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Relax in the outdoor thermal pool at Lakeside Park.

As lunchtime approaches, we'd suggest reserving a table in the snug wood-clad interior of Smoking Lobster in Cowes. Set up by brother and sister GC and Cinz, the restaurant specialises in modern Pan-Asian cuisine (drawing on elements from the pair's Chinese ancestry) and provides the perfect setting for first dates as well as family get-togethers. Menu options include a miso black cod with apple, kohlrabi and wasabi tartare, the shio koji chicken skewers with peanut satay espuma or the Chinese turnip cake with sweet and sour asparagus, kimchi and a tempura quail egg. To fill those glasses, maybe try a snifter of super smooth sake rice wine or ask Cinz for her personal recommendations when it comes to Japanese whiskies.



The food at Smoking Lobster is a feast for the eyes as well as the tastebuds.

Perhaps you're taking a break from dating this Valentine's Day, in which case, round up your friends and check yourselves in for an afternoon of well-deserved pampering at Lakeside Park. Set beside the tranquil tidal waters of Wootton Creek, this hotel and spa comes complete with a 10-metre indoor pool (with added hydro jets), a sauna, steam room and jacuzzi too.



Show yourself some love with a pampering treatment.

You can also sign yourself up for some feel-good treatments such as the refreshing lime and ginger cleansing scrub or the nourishing frangipani body wrap (where you'll be rolled up in a warm, aromatic cocoon). If at the end of the day, you just can't pull yourself away from all that pampering, then maybe book yourself into one of the Lakeside's 42 tasteful en suite bedrooms. That way, you can do it all again in the morning!

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The Boathouse interior oozes elegance with a touch of nautical charm.

If, on the other hand, you're spending the day as a family, then you could always spread the love with a trip south to the Isle of Wight Donkey Sanctuary, just outside Wroxall. Set up in 1991, over one hundred donkeys and ponies now call this place home, each and every one having been rescued or re-homed – some from as far away as France. Adults and older children can take part in a 15-minute donkey grooming session (which apparently always comes with lots of cuddles) or maybe the two-hour-long donkey experience where they can really get to know donkeys such as Archie, Coffee and Wilfie, helping to feed them, brush them and keep their stable nice and shipshape too.

As evening falls, you can't go wrong with a romantic walk along the rocky shore at Seaview. Once you reach the Puckpool end, why not round things off with a special meal in the snug, nautical interior of The Boathouse? Here, chefs Joel and Massimo use their gastronomic know-how (and a fair few locally sourced ingredients) to create a range of appetising options, including the prosciutto-wrapped monkfish tail with passata and dill chateau potatoes. Diners could also plump for the twelve-hour braised beef with Emmental cheese, or even the wild mushroom pappardelle, served with truffle and a scattering of pickled walnuts. Whatever you opt for, The Boathouse's atmospheric interior and views across the water to the twinkling lights of Portsmouth should certainly make it a meal to remember.



Grooming comes with extra cuddles at the Isle of Wight Donkey Sanctuary.



Book a table for two and make it a meal to remember with mouthwatering food, tasty tipples and a cosy atmosphere at The Boathouse.

For more ideas on things to do and places to eat, turn to pages 46–71 or visit wightlink.co.uk/explorer

James Rayner



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*Based on 2-nights in Luxury accommodation at The Bay Colwell Holiday Resort in November, price correct at time of print.

You can't leave the Island without...

#1 A BIT OF BIRDWATCHING

The waters around the Island are a popular stop-off for wading birds and ducks at this time of year. Head to a nature reserve, such as Newtown or Brading Marshes or get your binoculars out onboard to see what you can spot.



#2 GOING DINOSAUR HUNTING

With the stormier weather that the winter brings, you're likely to spot more fossils while walking along beaches such as Brook (stay clear of the cliff bases though).



#4 STEPPING BACK IN TIME

Visit one of the many historical wonders the Island has to offer. Explore King Charles I's former prison at Carisbrooke Castle, marvel at the mosaics at Brading Roman Villa or discover the Isle of Wight's prehistoric past at Dinosaur Isle's multi-sensory museum.

#3 FEELING ROMANTIC

With the Isle of Wight inspiring poets such as Keats and Tennyson, what could be more romantic than a windswept stroll this Valentine's Day or cosying up in a café with your beloved? Fall in love with the Island on pages 10–14.



#5 GOING OFF GRID

If you've made a New Year's resolution to be more eco-friendly, why not start by planning a sustainable stay? The Island has a myriad of accommodation options that allow you to get off-grid in a way that suits you – discover our top picks on pages 38–42.





#6 MAKING TIME FOR MUM

Whether it's a locally-made gift, afternoon tea at one of the Island's cafés and restaurants or even a pottery workshop together, say 'thank you' to the special lady in your life this Mother's Day on Sunday 10 March.

#7 EXPLORING THE GREAT INDOORS

You might think the Island's attractions shut up shop during the colder months, but there's still plenty to do. Escape the wind and rain and have a great day 'in' rather than out. You'll find our all-weather favourites that are open all year on pages 32–36.



#8 SEEING A SHOW

Shanklin Theatre has a diverse selection of performances coming up this season, from theatre, musicals and theme nights to comedians, tribute acts and even soldiers, as well as big names such as David Suchet and Al Murray. You'll find our What's On Guide on pages 76–80.

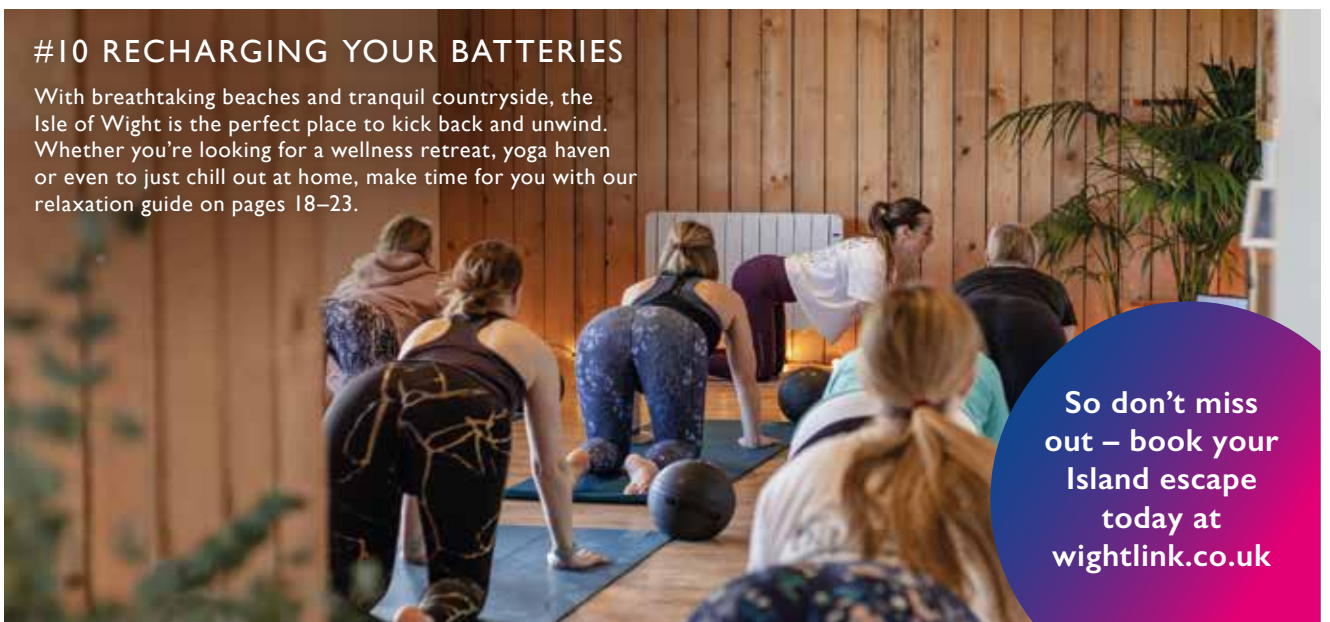
#9 PLANNING YOUR NEXT VISIT

The summer ahead looks set to be a bumper season for events, with everything from country shows, comedy and concerts, to fun runs, motorsport and yachting. There really is something for everyone! Plan your next Island escape with our What's On Guide on pages 76–80.



#10 RECHARGING YOUR BATTERIES

With breathtaking beaches and tranquil countryside, the Isle of Wight is the perfect place to kick back and unwind. Whether you're looking for a wellness retreat, yoga haven or even to just chill out at home, make time for you with our relaxation guide on pages 18–23.



So don't miss out – book your Island escape today at wightlink.co.uk

Relax and recharge

With fresh winds whipping through your hair, miles of rolling countryside to get lost in and a hundred and one tranquil spots to meditate in, the Isle of Wight is the perfect destination for a bit of R&R. Not only that, we're also home to a wealth of wellbeing experts and practitioners offering everything from yoga retreats and luxury aromatherapy products to bamboo massages and self-care candles. So, shake off those post-Christmas blues, take a deep breath and we'll begin.

BALANCE + GLO

If the idea of a wellness retreat set amongst the lush green countryside of West Wight gets your chakras in alignment, then take a look at Balance + Glo. Set up by yoga teacher Jenny and fitness coach Evelyn, they aim to empower you on your wellbeing journey, supported by a team that now includes nutritionists, pilates instructors and mindfulness coaches too. Upcoming events include a wellness weekend at East Afton Farmhouse (with optional sea dips and coastal walks on offer) as well as two Sweat + Stretch events held at the Isle of Wight Pilates Studio. Combining fitness, flow yoga and feel-good tunes, post-session you'll hydrate with fresh juices and refuel with healthy snacks – the perfect way to reset your body and mind.



Balance + Glo's spring retreat with Tapnell Farm takes place at East Afton Farmhouse and promises a weekend of wellness, fitness and relaxation.

For those a bit more short on time, unroll that yoga mat at one of Jenny's Wednesday morning vinyasa classes (held in the coastal town of Yarmouth) or even join in one of the Balance + Glo online sessions, lasting from between five and sixty minutes, you can choose from breath work, meditation, yoga or strength training.



Balance + Glo founders fitness coach Evelyn and yoga teacher Jenny.

DUXMORE BOTANICS

Perhaps you prefer your self-care to be of the more aromatic variety, in which case, you won't want to miss the feel-good fragranced skincare created by Duxmore Botanics. Based on a farm, amongst the chalk downland that runs through the heart of the Island, Charlotte Legge uses her aromatherapy and cosmetic scientist skills to create a therapeutic collection of ethically sourced products.



Duxmore Botanics products are expertly blended by aromatherapist and cosmetic scientist Charlotte Legge.

There's the mandarin and eucalyptus body scrub for example (for those looking for an uplifting start to the day) or the indulgent face and body oil (packed full of calming essential oils to soothe body and mind). We'd also recommend the dreamy grapefruit and juniper botanical body bar that comforts and nourishes the skin, as well as the arnica-infused massage balm for its silky smoothness and restorative properties. Available for online order, why not have some delivered to your doorstep at home, ready to continue the feel-good feeling once the holiday has come to a close?

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NETTLECOMBE FARM

Moving south, the snug, award-winning holiday cottages at Nettlecombe Farm are another great choice for rejuvenating getaways. Located half a mile from the sleepy village of Whitwell, the Morris family have been welcoming visitors here for the past forty years, and are only too happy to introduce guests to their geese, goats and pigs, as well as recommend all manner of trails, stretching across the stunning local landscape.

Not only can you enjoy woodland walks and a spot of animal therapy, but wellbeing workshops and classes take place in the farm's very own heated studio. Personal trainer Andy is on hand for conditioning workout sessions, whilst you can book relaxing evening and weekend appointments with holistic therapist Danielle for a Swedish massage, bamboo massage or even a session of Hopi ear candling.



Yoga classes take place in Nettlecombe Farm's very own heated studio.

MINDFULLY LIT

For inner peace at the strike of a match, get yourself some self-care candles from the ladies behind Mindfully Lit. Established by Ukrainian refugees Olga and Yuliya, each locally-poured candle comes with a meditation or workbook to maximise the wellness experience, whilst donating a portion of their profits to Ukrainian charities too.



The Mindfully Lit 'Joy' candle carries a positive mantra and has a beautiful scent.

Add the sculptural 'Graceful Goddess' candle to your basket if you're looking to invite more self-love into your life. This unscented, all-natural, soy wax candle comes with self-love affirmation cards and a self-love journal, nudging you in the right direction to unlock your true potential. Alternatively, try the coconut wax 'Joy' candle, with an eco-friendly wick and a cleansing, refreshing aroma of pine, orange and lemon.

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The Isle of Wight Pilates studio is a bright and lofty space where Emma Wharton teaches Reformer Pilates.

EXCLUSIVE OFFER FOR READERS

Start your wellness journey with complementary access to the Mindfully Lit guided meditations and wellness e-book. Simply scan the QR code and enter the password: **wellnessjourney**



ISLE OF WIGHT PILATES

If the sliding carriage of a Reformer Pilates machine is calling your name, then head up the stairs behind Smoking Lobster in Cowes, where you'll discover the new home of Isle of Wight Pilates. Opened in September 2023, this bright and lofty studio space, overlooking the yacht haven, is the first location on the Island offering tension-relieving Pilates classes that use the specially designed Reformer machine. This sliding piece of kit, with stretchy cords to attach to your arms or legs, is intended to make workouts more intense and dynamic and can also help you overcome injury too – as founder Emma Wharton found out.

Previously a professional dancer in the TV and musical theatre industry, a neck injury put a halt to her workout plans, until a friend recommended Reformer Pilates, which helped her safely build core strength and feel more confident to exercise again. Since then she's become a certified instructor, holding classes in Ibiza, Mallorca and Australia. Visitors to the Cowes studio can start off with entry-level sessions if they fancy, or if you're not quite ready to hop onto the machine just yet, mat-based sessions are also on offer.

CAROL MACARTNEY YOGA

Finally, for an eco-friendly escape with wellness top of the agenda, sign yourself up for a weekend retreat with senior yoga teacher Carol Macartney, taking place this March. The venue is Tiny Homes Holidays – a low-impact retreat of off-grid cabins set amongst tranquil countryside near Newport. Upon arrival, guests can take part in a weekend of all things yoga, from meditation and asana to sound baths, mantra dance and transformational breathwork.



Carol Macartney is a passionate instructor with over thirty years of teaching experience.

Leading the programme is Carol Macartney, a passionate instructor with over thirty years of teaching experience (earning her the title of 'yoga royalty' amongst local wellness aficionados). If you can't make it for her retreat in March, fear not, as Carol also offers monthly workshops, one-to-one sessions and even bespoke yoga development courses if you want to take it to the next level.

Book your next break away to the Isle of Wight with Wightlink, but before you do, check out some of our special offers at wight.link.co.uk/offers

James Rayner

Creating calm

Five ways to relax and recharge at home

January can signify new beginnings, and an opportunity to get back into healthy habits following the festive season. Duxmore Botanics are on hand to help you find the little moments of self-care in the everyday. Here are their tips to start the year well:

AROMATHERAPY

Essential oils are a powerful tool to help boost your mood, aid a good night's sleep or encourage feelings of calm. Need a boost? Opt for energising and uplifting oils, such as Grapefruit or Mandarin. Need sleep? The go-to is Lavender. Need to calm a busy mind, or ease feelings of anxiety? Frankincense and Petitgrain have a grounding effect. Need to focus, or struggling with brain fog? Blends including Rosemary can help. New to aromatherapy? Try adding a few drops to your bath, or aroma diffuser.

EXFOLIATE

2-3 times a week, give yourself a top-to-toe body scrub. Not only will this give your body a little circulatory boost, leaving you feeling revived, but it will also help to slough away the dull-looking cells from winter, leaving your skin looking brighter and renewed.

MOISTURISE

Whether you prefer to use a traditional body moisturiser or massage balm, try incorporating massage strokes during application. Using upwards sweeping motions is a quick way to leave your skin looking radiant and healthy.

FACIAL OILS

Make the most of the dark evenings and create a mini-spa at home. Incorporating a fragranced facial oil into your routine will not only nourish and balance your skin, but the fragrance blend will help transport you to a moment of calm.

SOAK THE DAY AWAY

A long soak in Pink Himalayan Bath Salts will help to cleanse the day's stresses away. This powerhouse contains 84 trace minerals and when dissolved in a hot bath, helps to relieve tension and tired, aching muscles.

For more wellbeing tips and the Duxmore Botanics range, visit duxmorebotanics.co.uk



Charlotte Legge, founder of Duxmore Botanics





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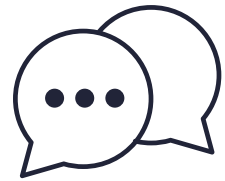
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THE BARNWELL



Embracing the very best features of traditional park home design, our Barnwell model combines traditional charm with generous room proportions and ample storage. The larger of its two double-bedrooms comes with en-suite and walk-in wardrobe, whilst large bay windows flood the living areas with natural light.

THE OVERSTONE



The Overstone is a luxurious home which offers contemporary open-plan living with beautiful homely comforts, all at an affordable price. Inspired by industrial urban design, gold highlights sit alongside warm wood tones to complement the spacious layout. And with large windows providing light and bright living space, it's perfect for those who like bringing a little bit of the outdoors in.

GLENDALE (UNDER OFFER)



The Glendale has a beautiful new kitchen layout with a range cooker and redesigned kitchen island. Plush new dining chairs and matching bar stools sit alongside the new painted lounge and dining furniture. As ever the range of different layouts gives so many options to customise your home and make it heavenly.

VISIT OUR WEBSITE NOW!

WWW.ROYALWIGHTESTATE.COM

A room with a view

The Isle of Wight is justifiably famous for its stunning coastline. Accommodation with a good view of the sea is always highly prized and often described as 'unique'. That can be an overused word, but as places to stay go, the Needles Lighthouse surely qualifies?

The Needles rock formation is the Isle of Wight's most famous landmark and marks the most westerly part of the chalk ridge that runs across the Island. The jagged white rocks soar up to 120m above the sea. It's made even more recognisable by the presence of a lighthouse right on its tip. It was built by Trinity House – the organisation that maintains all the lighthouses in England and Wales to this day – in 1858 to replace a lighthouse that had been built much higher on the clifftop around 80 years earlier. Whereas the old light was susceptible to being obscured by sea mists and fog, the new lighthouse was to be built at sea level. Its main function is to guide shipping into and out of the western approaches to the Solent. The lighthouse is 33m tall and is constructed of granite block walls that are a meter wide. Since becoming automated the lighthouse is monitored and controlled from Trinity House's Planning Centre in Harwich, Essex.



The Needles Lighthouse is arguably the Isle of Wight's most iconic landmark.

Early in 2023 Trinity House commissioned a full upgrade for the famous Needles lighthouse. This was to include new cables, a new fog hazard signal and the light itself being converted to LED. The work was to be undertaken over several months by crews of three men each calling the lighthouse their 'home from home' for two weeks at a time. Most of this work from March to August went largely unnoticed, until September 2023 when one of the crew, Nick Chappell, shared a few photos to a local Facebook page. They caused a minor sensation.



Nick captured some rare photos of daily life and some unique views.

Nick has worked for Trinity House for over 37 years and has visited the Island many times during his career. "I'd seen a Facebook page about the Island and thought I'd say hello. The response was so positive and almost overwhelming. At one point a video of mine had over 14,000 views and so many comments and questions that we couldn't keep up with replying." Islanders certainly took Nick and his fellow crew to their hearts, requesting more photographs and asking hundreds of questions about their work and daily life at the lighthouse. As a keen photographer, Nick was happy to oblige and provided many photographs and videos, with the Isle of Wight often providing a stunning backdrop. Over their two-week stay, the state of the weather and the supply of cake were updated almost daily, leading to some very funny messages.



BRADING ROMAN VILLA

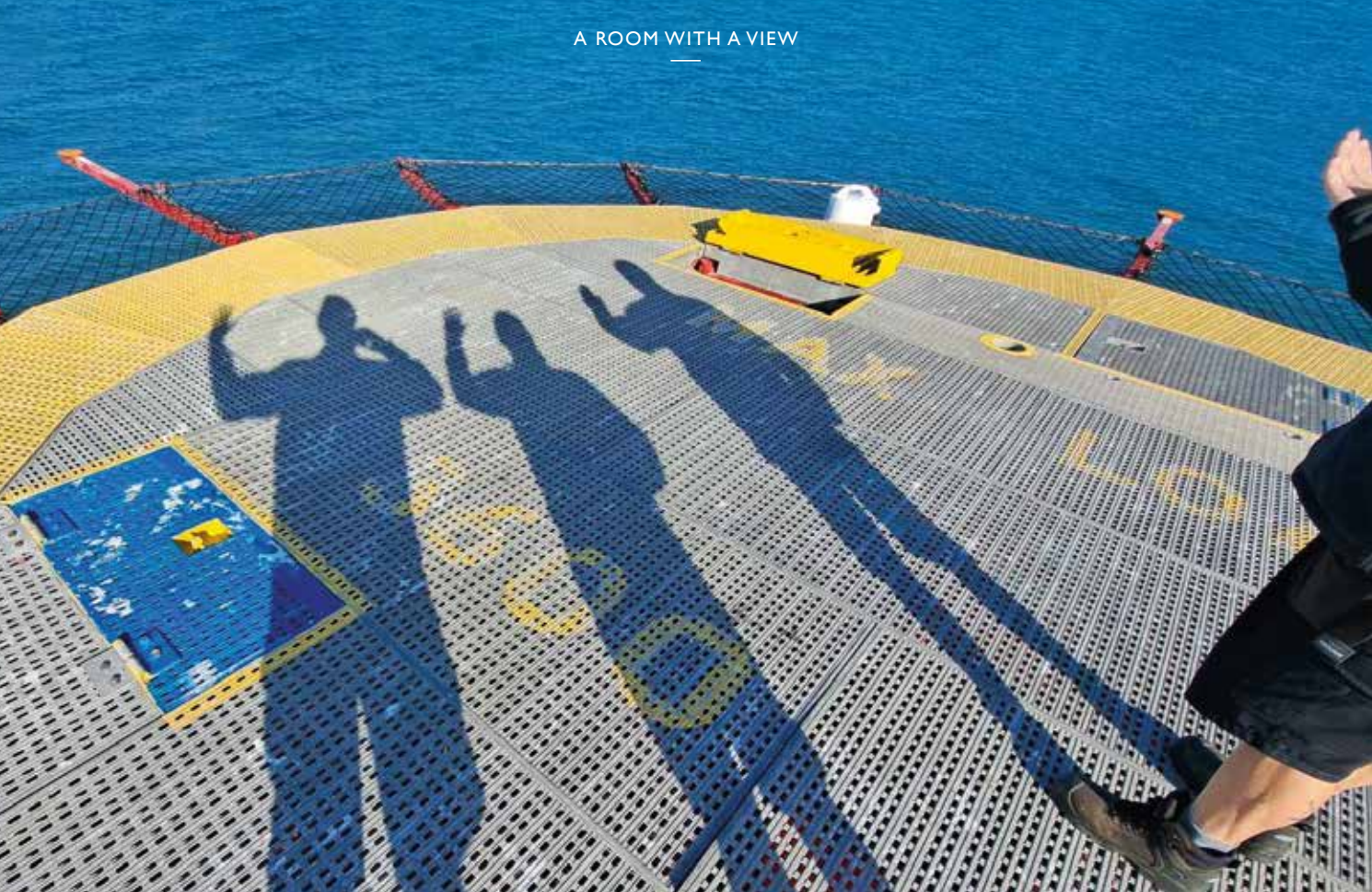
The Romans were famous for their mosaics and our museum has some of the best in Great Britain! This winter let us take you on a discovery of Roman life on the Isle of Wight over 1800 years ago.



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www.bradingleromanvilla.org.uk



A Trinity House crew team photo from the helipad.

Their Facebook fans were keen to know what it was like to stay at the famous lighthouse and were treated to some delightful glimpses 'behind the scenes'. Up until 1994 the lighthouse was permanently manned and operated by lighthouse keepers. Traditionally lighthouses have three keepers who were normally on duty for a month at a time, before going on leave for a month and being replaced by another crew of three.

Although the Needles lighthouse is no longer manned all the time, crew from Trinity House normally stay there at least twice a year. Every six months a crew will undertake what is called 'preventative maintenance', a full review of the facility and its equipment with a report of what might need repair or replacement. Six months later another crew will arrive for 'corrective maintenance', which is dealing with the issues previously identified. In between times the accommodation is checked and cleaned quarterly by an attendant based in Lympington so the lighthouse is always ready and prepared.



Despite a number of wonderful suggestions from Facebook users as to what this delivery contains, they are, in fact, fresh water supplies which arrive in 400 litre bags.

The lighthouse is fitted with a cosy kitchen and sleeping accommodation for five persons at a time. Each of the bunks is curved in shape to fit the wall of the building. One of the most popular pictures shared by Nick was taken from the bedroom window. It looked directly back over the iconic chalk rocks that form the Needles.



Left: This model of The Needles is a scarily accurate representation of the real thing!
Right: Built in 1858, the lighthouse is a towering 31 metres high.



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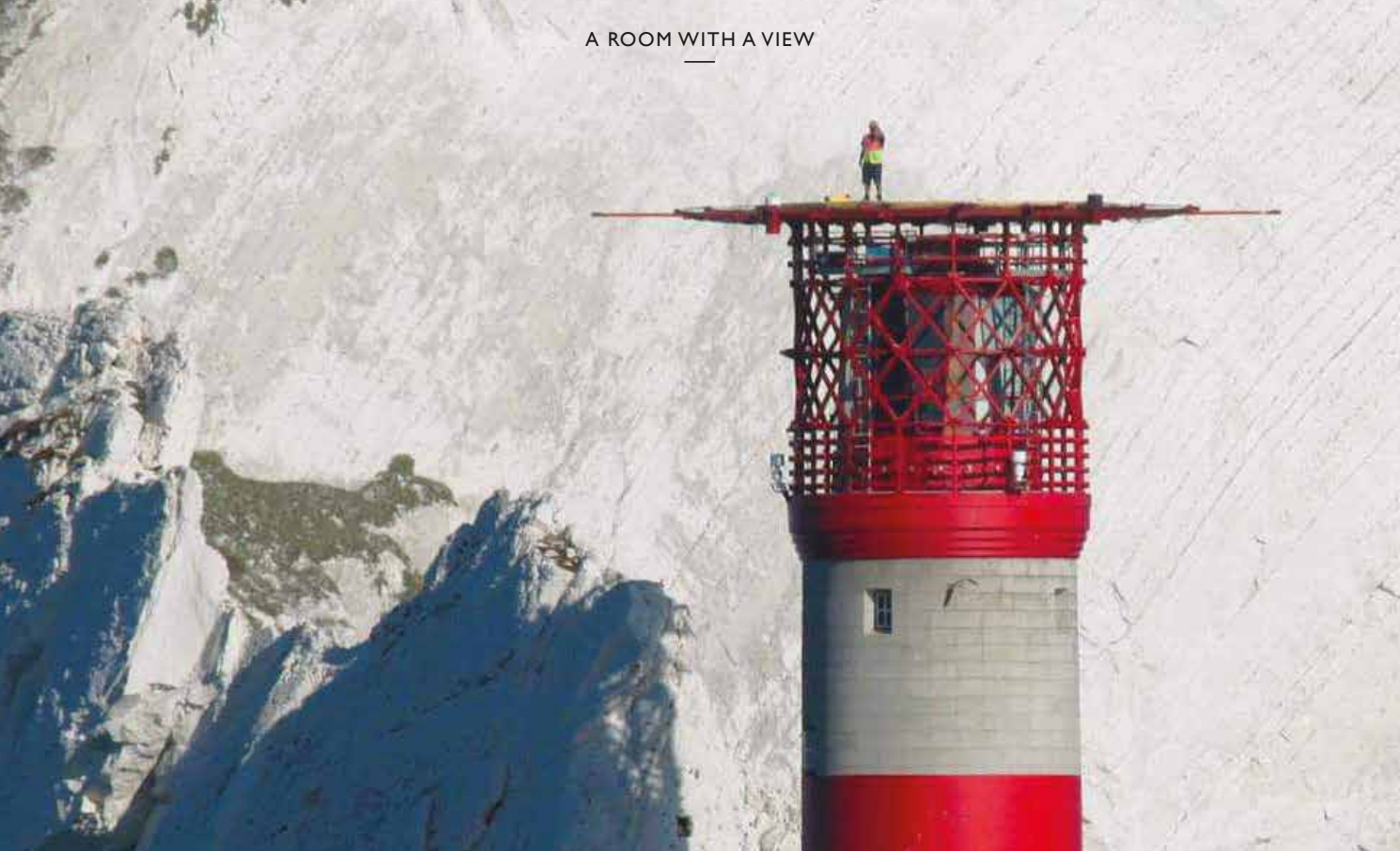
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Nick was sent this photo of himself standing on top the lighthouse from a passenger on the 'Waverley' as it passed.

In 1987 a helipad was added to the top of the lighthouse to make it easier to deliver supplies, as well as getting personnel on and off. Like the headline acts for the Isle of Wight Festival in June, this is how Nick and his crew usually arrive on and leave the Island. In fact, Nick's job specifically involves the safe movement of equipment and supplies by helicopter. He is responsible for under-slinging the loads taken by helicopter. This included all the kit required to upgrade the lighthouse, along with other cargo. "I shared one photo of me on the helipad with several large bags. There were a lot of wonderful suggestions as to what they might contain, although no one guessed correctly. It was actually just our fresh water supplies which arrive in 400 litre bags."

Nick recalled one of the highlights of his last visit was watching the 'Waverley' pass by. This venerable paddle-steamer spends some time in the Solent every year and is always popular for day trips, especially out around the Needles. "I was working up on top wearing high-vis and waved at the crowd on the packed deck as it passed by the lighthouse. I was then amazed to be sent a photograph of me standing on top of the lighthouse by a passenger on the 'Waverley'. That made my day."

Now that it has been fully upgraded, the lighthouse can continue to do its vital job. Thanks to Nick and his colleagues Lee and Selwyn for their hard work and also for allowing us to share their time at the Needles.



All the kit required to upgrade the lighthouse has to be delivered by helicopter – along with the crew and other cargo!

Although the Needles Lighthouse is only available to Trinity House crew, you can enjoy a similarly spectacular view from the National Trust's cosy string of cottages on the clifftop grassland on the headland. Once home to the local band of coastguards, each light and airy cottage is named after a famous shipwreck and offers uninterrupted views of the sea, the sunset and the night sky. Alternatively, the three recently refurbished keepers' cottages located at the base of St. Catherine's Lighthouse allow you to bed down within sight and sound of the English Channel.

For more places to stay, see our Off Grid Getaways feature on pages 38–42 or visit wightlink.co.uk/explorer.

Tim Addison



Left: Nick's job specifically involves under-slinging the loads taken by helicopter.
Right: The team managed to capture some stunning photos of The Needles.

Whaaaat??

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Open all... year!

You could be forgiven for thinking that the Island shuts up shop out of season, but you couldn't be more wrong. In between the gusty winds and intermittent showers, you can keep yourself busy with everything from one-off theatre shows to up-and-coming local music, as well as engaging museums and animal-themed attractions. So, don that mackintosh, fill that thermos with tea and get exploring!

DIMBOLA MUSEUM AND GALLERIES

To kick things off, head to Freshwater Bay and step in through the door of Dimbola – a top-notch museum and gallery, set at the bottom of Tennyson Down. Once the home of pioneering Victorian photographer Julia Margaret Cameron, the tastefully restored building (featuring William Morris wallpaper) now displays some of her most captivating portraits – which over the years featured such famous faces as Charles Darwin and Alfred Tennyson.

The state-of-the-art Primate Rescue Centre at the Wildheart Animal Sanctuary houses the critically endangered ring-tailed lemurs.

Alongside a recreation of Julia's 19th-century bedroom, there are also temporary photographic exhibitions to see, as well as a permanent fixture focusing on the 1970 Isle of Wight Festival, where 600,000 people came to see Jimi Hendrix give his last major performance. Once you've filled up on culture, head downstairs to the Dimbola Tearoom where you can sip Sri Lankan tea and tuck into an assortment of homemade cakes.



Dimbola Museum and Galleries was once home to Julia Margaret Cameron,

SNACKS AND LADDERS BOARD GAME CAFÉ

If you're feeling like luck is on your side, then roll over to Newport next, where award-winning board game café Snacks and Ladders awaits. Located amongst the proudly independent shops of St James' Street, you'll discover a curated collection of over 850 games inside, from nostalgic classics like Scrabble and Monopoly to more modern (and niche) options such as Jungle Dominoes and Muffin Time. Feline fans won't be disappointed either, with a number of cat-themed games lining the shelves too – anyone for a round of Cat Lady or Cat Bingo?



You'll be spoilt for choice for a game to play at Snacks and Ladders.

Games aside, it wouldn't be a café without food and drink; and thankfully Snacks and Ladders offers a full restaurant menu as well as barista coffee, house cocktails and luxury milkshakes too. Choices on their most recent menu have included a melted cheese dipping board, spiced cauliflower bao buns and Isle of Wight beef burgers, served in a pretzel bun.



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Take time out at Dimbola Museum and Galleries and enjoy the delicious home-made cakes or afternoon tea.

SHANKLIN THEATRE

Originally pencilled in for demolition in 2008, Shanklin Theatre is now a thriving community-run venue, with an impressive line-up of events, well worth sinking into their soft and cushiony seats for. Something of a local landmark, it was first built back in 1879 as the town's Literary Institute and is thankfully protected from any future wrecking balls by a recent Grade II listing. Supported by an army of 150 volunteers, the theatre has recently hosted events by comedians Phil Wang and Sarah Millican as well as talks by explorer Sir Ranulph Fiennes and cycling legend Sir Bradley Wiggins.

For those visiting this February, you're certainly spoilt for choice, with performances scheduled by the Ukrainian National Opera and Andrew Lloyd Webber's *The Phantom of the Opera*, plus there's an evening with star of stage and screen Sir David Suchet (best known for his TV role as Belgian detective Poirot). Before the curtain goes up, don't forget to stock up on sweets from the theatre's historic wooden box office and take a peek at the nearby Map Room, used as a local command and control centre during the Second World War.

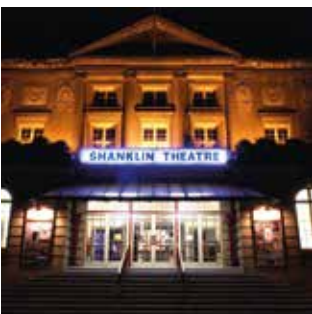
WILDHEART ANIMAL SANCTUARY

Shifting northwards a tad, behind the sturdy Victorian walls of what was once Sandown Fort, you'll find the Wildheart Animal Sanctuary – home to some of the world's most threatened creatures. From wallabies and raccoons to marmosets and lynxes, there are certainly plenty of fur-covered friends to get to know, whilst daily reptile encounters, big cat talks and meerkat experiences will help you understand some of the threats and pressures facing these species in the wild.



Among the fur-covered friends at the Wildheart Animal Sanctuary you'll find four tigers.

On your tour around the sanctuary, don't miss the state-of-the-art Primate Rescue Centre too. Looking like a bamboo version of the Eden Project, the two giant domes, planted with trees, house the critically endangered ring-tailed lemurs – including Tsingy, who receives a birthday card each year from famous fan Dame Judy Dench. An ambitious construction, the domes are the first of their kind in Europe and the only bamboo home for any animal in Britain.



Left: Shanklin Theatre hosts an impressive line-up of events. Right: Be prepared to get up close and personal as bands, such as The Zoots often infiltrate the audience.



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SCAN ME



The Garlic Farm Restaurant is a cosy space serving a delicious garlic-based menu – including their famous Garlic Mezze platter.

STRINGS BAR & VENUE

For music aficionados (and those looking to do something a bit different with their evenings) follow the faint sound of drumming to Strings Bar & Venue, in Newport's Bowling Green Lane. Founded by a group of musicians back in 2017, the 300-capacity venue has secured its place as the Island's premier live music location and has supported a whole host of up-and-coming local talent, such as Plastic Mermaids, Lauran Hibberd and the now legendary group Wet Leg.

If you're about in January, you could get yourself a ticket for Are You Experienced? – an authentic (and apparently explosive) Jimi Hendrix tribute act, now in their 25th year of performing. Meanwhile, in February, acts include rock band The Blockheads (whose former frontman was the late Ian Dury), Walsall-born blues musician John J. Presley and Plymouth-based folk rock and gypsy jazz band Mad Dog Mcrea.

THE GARLIC FARM

Finally, come rain or shine, you can't go wrong with a trip to The Garlic Farm. For over sixty years the Boswell family have been cultivating garlic in the village of Newchurch (ever since Granny Norah planted her very first cloves) and from February onwards, visitors can see the green shoots of the new year's crop, already starting to sprout.



The Boswell family have been growing garlic for over 60 years. The Garlic Farm shop offers a wide range of varieties as well as a diverse selection of products to enjoy at home.

Start off with a farm walk (wellies may well be needed) to see how their sustainable practices recently helped secure The Garlic Farm with B Corp status, before heading to the cosy restaurant where you can try their produce cooked up in dishes such as the watercress and roasted garlic gnocchi. There's also a well-stocked shop on standby, where you can test out black garlic beer or even garlic-infused ice cream.

For more ideas on places to visit, turn to pages 46–71 or visit wightlink.co.uk/explorer

James Rayner



Strings has gained a reputation among aficionados as the Island's premier live music venue.

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Off grid getaways

For digital detoxes and off-grid getaways, the Isle of Wight has more enticing options than you can shake a battery-powered head torch at. Plus, from hand-crafted cabins to historic hillside cottages, we'll show you that a tech-free escape needn't mean doing without those reassuring home comforts.

TINY HOMES HOLIDAYS

First things first, turn those phone notifications to mute and make your way to the woody fringes of Parkhurst Forest, where you'll find Tiny Homes Holidays. Set in a natural grassy meadow, these six individual architect-designed homes are intended to be as low-impact and off-grid as possible – whilst still offering one or two little luxuries.



Cosy cabin 'Kindred' is ideally placed to make the most of the sun in Tiny Homes Holidays's natural grassy meadow.

If you like the idea of watching the sun rise over the fields through the triangular window of your cosy cabin bedroom, then book yourself into 'Kindred'. This two-storey wooden home comes with a handy ladder, leading you from the bedroom mezzanine down to the welcome cakes and locally sourced breakfast basket waiting in the living area below. Once you're ready to venture out into nature, find a route that'll take you deep into the depths of Parkhurst Forest (where royals once hunted and wild deer roamed free) before heading back for a quick dip in the on-site wood-fired hot tub.

tinyhomesholidays.com



Tiny Homes Holidays' 'Kindred' is small but perfectly formed.

LONGSTONE COTTAGE

Maybe you prefer your off-grid accommodation to be made from bricks and mortar, in which case, take a look at Longstone Cottage. Managed by the National Trust, this Edwardian gamekeeper's home is set halfway up Mottistone Down. Named after a rare Neolithic monument which sits nearby, this charming red-brick hideaway offers cosy interiors (lit by solar-powered lighting) and magnificent views across the rolling hills... just don't expect a dishwasher, TV or Wi-Fi.



Longstone Cottage offers unrivalled views of its namesake landmark.
Photo: National Trust Images/Paul Harris.

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Spend the night under canvas in one of Sibbecks Farm's superior safari tents.

Aside from visiting the impressive ancient Longstone (said to be 6,000 years old), guests can also hike over to Brighstone to take in the thatched stone cottages and sip froth-topped beers at The Three Bishops pub. Or, for those feeling a tad more adventurous, make your way down to Brook or Compton for a quick surf on the choppy winter waves of The Channel. Back at Longstone Cottage though, there's a log burner to warm you up again, as well as plenty of cushy armchairs to read in and throws to wrap around your shoulders as you stargaze from the windows.

nationaltrust.org.uk/holidays

Whether you plump for Meadow Escape (set in its very own acre of tufty grassland) or Stream Escape (sitting alongside a gently babbling brook) you can be sure of a revitalising back-to-nature escape, complete with visiting red squirrels and a resident barn owl. The site also has its own ducks and chickens too – the latter providing eggs for a fresh, zero-food-miles breakfast. Thrusting those wellies on and setting out to explore the local area, guests can discover the mini waterfall at Bierley, the 14th-century lighthouse on St. Catherine's Down and the distinctive village of Niton – home to an artisan pottery studio and just a touch of smuggling folklore.

sibbecksfarm.co.uk



Camp Wight's geodesic domes are nestled in West Wight woodland.

SIBBECKS FARM

From late March onwards, you could also set satnav coordinates for Sibbecks Farm (or even use a map and compass if you're starting the digital detox en route). At this family-run glamping site, close to the ancient village of Whitwell, you can spend the night under canvas in one of their superior safari tents – whilst still enjoying the perks of hot water, electric blankets and a fully equipped kitchen.



Left: glamping at it's best – the tents at Sibbecks Farm both have hot water and a fully equipped kitchen. Right: Stargazers' Retreat is located on the Island's most southerly tip.

CAMP WIGHT

If you feel like taking your off-grid experience to the max, then Camp Wight should be right up your street. Here, you can spend the night in a two-man hammock tent, strung between trees and raised above the ground. Set amongst historic West Wight woodland, with just composting toilets, solar showers and a fire pit as your facilities, it's certainly for the braver souls amongst us. That said, those looking for a cosier experience can opt for the nearby Geodesic Domes instead, with a log burner and USB charging points on standby.



THE VETERAN HOTEL

Here at The Veteran we have set out to provide support and assistance to the local community and their families with specific support for our countries veterans.

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www.ctbuildingsurveys.com | 07928 325971 | clive@ctbuildingsurveys.com





Enjoy a bath with a difference in an alfresco tub at Stargazers' Retreat – there's also a circular shower inside for the chillier days!

Set on a family farm, just two miles from Yarmouth ferry port, Camp Wight also offers well-being sessions in amongst the woodland from skilled local specialists, including eco-therapy, yoga flow and even a spot of sound-bathing (which uses healing Tibetan singing bowls). If, however, your version of healing involves long walks in the countryside, you'll be pleased to know that local bridle paths lead out onto the Tennyson Trail, which climbs along the Highdown Cliffs towards Alum Bay and the Needles.

campwight.co.uk



Left: with bunk beds and USB charging points, Camp Wight's Geodesic Domes will keep the younger ones happy. Right: Tiny Homes' 'Kindred' cabin has a mezzanine bedroom.

STARGAZERS' RETREAT

Last but not least, for those looking to ease themselves gently into the world of off-grid getaways, try Stargazers' Retreat from Unique Hideaways. Incredibly cosy and tastefully decorated, this handmade Central-Asian-style yurt comes with everything you need for a restful stay, from toasty central heating and plenty of plug sockets to a well-equipped kitchen and compact circular shower room. Wi-Fi is available (if you feel the need to check your

emails just the once) and al fresco bathtubs can be found in the garden – ideal for a nippy dip whilst listening to the birdsong.

Located amongst tranquil countryside on the Island's most southerly tip, with unbeatable views of Reeth Bay and the shimmering seas beyond, you'd be hard-pushed to find a better location for switching off and engaging in a spot of mindfulness or meditation. That said, once you've had your fill of peace and quiet, the vibrant town of Ventnor (with its unique shops and varied eateries) is just a clifftop trek away.

uniquehideaways.com



Stargazers' Retreat is a luxurious handmade Central-Asian-style yurt.

For more ideas on places to stay, turn to pages 46–71 or visit wightlink.co.uk/explorer

James Rayner

Your own slice of Island life

Set amongst the rolling countryside and with stunning panoramic views, The Orchards is a special place to make memories, kick back and relax

Whether you choose to stay in one of the well-appointed caravans, spacious Orchard House or bring your own caravan, motorhome or tent, there is everything on the park that you'll need for a perfect holiday.

There are indoor and outdoor swimming pools to enjoy, an indoor poolside coffee shop and children's play area, as well as a state of the art large amenity block with underfloor heating, laundrette, showers, toilets and food prep area for touring visitors.

We have a selection of brand new holiday homes for sale on our exclusive new "Meadow" development. Open all year for holiday use. Nestled in 15 acres of peaceful countryside you can enjoy your own slice of Island life at The Orchards!

WE'RE DOG FRIENDLY TOO!

HOLIDAY HOME OWNERSHIP



TOURING PITCHES

GREAT FACILITIES



HOLIDAY CARAVANS



01983 531331 | orchardsholidaypark.co.uk

The Orchards Holiday Park, Newbridge, Yarmouth, Isle of Wight, PO41 0TS



Green News

Ryde Pier provides new homes for marine creatures

Marine scientists from the University of Portsmouth have been swimming underneath Wightlink's historic Ryde Pier to fix new habitats to boost biodiversity on the 200-year-old structure.

The 'Biohuts' are large cages containing oyster shells and hessian rope. They will stay there for two years to encourage marine wildlife to move in. Similar projects elsewhere in the Solent have seen several species of fish and even endangered European eels in and around them.

For more information on our Green Solent Project visit wightlink.co.uk/environment



Looking to the future

We're always looking at innovative ways to power our ships, ports and buildings – and our customers' vehicles, too. So, we invite you to take a peek into the future with some of the initiatives we're working on.

The installation of rooftop solar panels at our Gunwharf, Fishbourne and Lymington ports is well underway. The renewable energy generated will be used to power our port buildings and offices.

We are also trialling solar panels on our Wight Class ships between Lymington and Yarmouth. Wight Light is leading the way with this research. The data is extremely encouraging so far and, if successful, we'll be looking to roll out panels to all ships on that route.

With an increasing number of customers – and people living near our ports – switching to electric vehicles, we plan to increase the number of rapid charging hubs at Portsmouth, Fishbourne and Lymington.

We've also identified ways to improve our 'fuel husbandry' – meaning the procedures of caring for our fuel and its systems – to ensure our engines are getting the cleanest possible energy source. Fuel additives and advanced filtration will boost efficiency and decrease consumption of this resource, improving their environmental performance.

We've introduced food recycling on our Portsmouth to Fishbourne route, collecting waste food and coffee grounds from our cafés onboard and at our ports. Our contractors are using the food for anaerobic digestion – which generates renewable energy – and processing it into compost, which can be used for landscaping, agriculture and at garden centres.

We will be trialling solar panels on our Lymington to Yarmouth route.

Inspirational Islanders: Chani Kind, Regional Representative, Surfers Against Sewage

A keen swimmer and kayaker, Chani has been passionate about blue spaces from an early age. After studying for a degree in Marine Geography and a period working for the Environment Agency, she joined Surfers Against Sewage as their Regional Representative in 2022. Her role involves connecting with local communities and organisations on the Isle of Wight to provide a voice in campaigning for cleaner waters, protecting and enhancing our coastline for generations to come.

"I moved to the Island in 2014 to raise my family with access to the vast amount of variety of blue and green spaces here, which I feel are vital for our physical and mental health. People here are rightfully proud of their unique areas like Fishbourne, Gurnard and Bembridge and there is a real feeling of community.

My favourite Island place is the coastal path, whether taken in sections or completed as the main purpose of the holiday. It gives views and access to all of our stunning coastline.

I love spending time at Appley Beach. In summer at spring low tide you can walk out (though be aware the tide does come in quick, always put your safety first) to the far sand bars that make it seem like you're on a tropical island. Between the rivulets of sand, you can spot fish, crabs, seagrass and lugworms. In winter with a good pair of binoculars, you can witness (from a safe distance) a beautiful variety of seabirds too.

To choose just one Isle of Wight event as a favourite is so hard! What I love about the Island is it seems every weekend there are small-scale events from beach cleans to rockpool walks, guided fossil trails, cold water swimming groups and accessible surfing to get involved with. All are run by passionate people who want to share their love for our environment.

To find out amenities, tide times and local water information – including bathing water safety – use the free SAS Safer Seas and River Service app

If I only had an hour, I would walk through our oldest attraction, Shanklin Chine, to see its beautiful waterfall and smell the almost tropical scent of the plants. I would then wander down to Hope Beach and have a swim, letting the power of the sea benefit my mental health and bring me back into the moment."

For more information about Surfers Against Sewage's mission, visit sas.org.uk. You'll find another Inspirational Islander on page 70.




the Isle of Wight Doughnut

Handmade by Grace's Bakery

Warmly spiced and rolled in sugar using a traditional Isle of Wight recipe from 1845

Find us in Ryde, Newport, Shanklin and Yarmouth! gracesbakery.uk

As seen on Channel 4's "Best of Britain by the Sea"



Island destinations

LISTINGS KEY

-  B&B / Guesthouse
-  Café / Tea room
-  Camping available
-  Dog friendly
-  Fine dining
-  Caravan site
-  Hotel
-  Pub / Bar
-  Rainy day activity
-  Restaurant
-  Self-catering
-  Shop
-  WiFi



ISLE OF WIGHT MERMAID BOTTLE LIGHTS

Beautiful Isle of Wight Gin bottles cleaned and crafted into stunning table lights



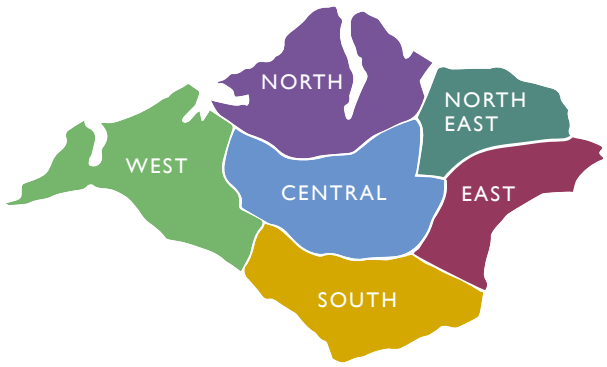
Great gifts at any time of the year

1x Bottle Light £10 2x Bottle Lights £18

Postage is £5.50 and is available to all of the UK.
FREE delivery to your accommodation on the Isle of Wight.

For all enquiries please call or text 07885 720503
or email mermaidlightsiw@gmail.com

Let us take you on a journey through the Island's towns and villages, as our destination guides paint a picture of the Isle of Wight, ready for you to explore. Broken down into North, North East, East, South, West and Central, it is full of things to see and do...



This handy guide will become your companion for your holiday. Enjoy!



A sign that spring is on the way, dainty snowdrops poke their heads up at Cranmore.

50 NORTH

Including Cowes, East Cowes and Northwood, looking out towards the busy shipping lanes of the Solent.

52 NORTH EAST

Coastal villages from Fishbourne and Wootton, around to Ryde, Seaview and St Helens.

56 EAST

The beautiful beaches of Sandown Bay from Shanklin through to Bembridge and including the town of Brading.

60 SOUTH

'Back of the Wight' following the rugged southern coastline from Luccombe and Bonchurch to Ventnor and Niton.

62 WEST

The western peninsular running from Brighstone via The Needles to Yarmouth and Newtown Creek.

66 CENTRAL


Covering Newport and the surrounding villages of Carisbrooke, Calbourne, Arreton, Godshill and Rookley.

DINOSAUR ISLE

WORLD RENOWNED FOSSIL COLLECTION

Culver Parade, Sandown, Isle of Wight, PO36 8QA
(01983) 404344 www.dinosaurisle.com



 **dinosaurisle**

- Working laboratory
- Interactive displays
- Extensive gift shop
- Family tickets available
- All weather attraction open all year

DINOZOO DEAL

get a 10% discount off your admission to our neighbours the **Wildheart Animal Sanctuary** if visiting on the same day terms and conditions apply

September to June, open Tuesday to Saturday, 10am to 4pm

July to August, open daily 9.30am to 5pm

Last admission one hour before close

For further information visit our website or call 01983 404344

INTERACTIVE MUSEUM



50-4711811 8725 SC



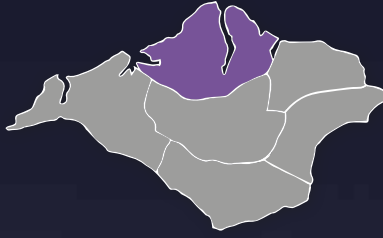


ATTRACTIONS

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. Amazon World Zoo Park p37 | 14. Osborne p84 (back page) |
| 2. Brading Roman Villa p27 | 15. Shanklin Theatre p76 |
| 3. Briddlesford Farm p39 | 16. Strings Bar & Venue p68 |
| 4. Carisbrooke Castle p84 (back page) | 17. Tapnell Farm p13 |
| 5. Dinosaur Isle p47 | 18. The Garlic Farm p68 |
| 6. Gunwharf Quays p83 | 19. The Jewellery Cabin p69 |
| 7. Isle of Wight Distillery p73 | 20. The Needles Old Battery p29 |
| 8. Isle of Wight Pearl p63 | 21. The Old Smithy p33 |
| 9. Isle of Wight Pottery p61 | 22. Thomas P Cochran p67 |
| 10. Monkey Haven p19 | 23. Ventnor Botanic Garden p9 |
| 11. Mottistone Gardens p29 | 24. Wight Military & Heritage Museum p51 |
| 12. Newtown National Nature Reserve p29 | 25. Wildheart Animal Sanctuary p31 |
| 13. Oasis p2–3 | |



North



Known as the sailing mecca of the world, Cowes is home to the famous regatta at the beginning of August, but come the winter months it still has a lot to offer 'off-peak' visitors.

The main high street is lined with bespoke, bijou shops alongside nationally known brands. Once you've shopped until you're ready to drop, pop into one of the many cafés, restaurants or pubs and enjoy a warming cup of locally roasted coffee or a pint from an Island brewer alongside a dish created using some of the best Island produce.

A wander along the Esplanade towards the neighbouring village of Gurnard is rewarded with amazing views across the Solent and on clear days, is quite possibly the best place on the Island to watch the sunset.

*"It is impossible to imagine
a prettier spot"*

—
Queen Victoria

On the other side of Cowes, across the River Medina and a short trip on board the floating bridge, you will find yourself in East Cowes. Take in a piece of English royal history with a visit to Osborne – the palatial holiday home of Queen Victoria, her beloved Prince Albert and her family. Take in the gilded decor before wandering through the pretty walled gardens down to the Queen's private beach.

Discover more things to do at wightlink.co.uk/explorer



The pretty beach huts at Gurnard are especially stunning at sunset.



ATTRACTIONS



Osborne



Once Queen Victoria's seaside holiday home, the house was designed by her beloved husband, Prince Albert. There is so much to see, from the royal rooms, to the magnificent walled garden, extensive grounds and beach where the royal children once played. Book online now and save.

York Avenue, East Cowes,
PO32 6JT
03703 331181
english-heritage.org.uk

Wight Military & Heritage Museum



Come and enjoy the military exhibits in the museum halls. Relax in Churchills, licensed in-house tea room (gluten free options available) decorated with memorabilia and enjoy a coffee and a selection of light snacks. Phone for details of vehicle rides.

490 Newport Road, Cowes,
PO31 8QU
01983 305555
wmahm.org.uk



FOOD & DRINK


Churchills



Enjoy a light lunch, snacks, cakes or a cream tea at Churchills, the in-house tea room at the Wight Military and Heritage Museum. Entry to the museum is not necessary to enjoy the atmosphere at Churchills.





490 Newport Road, Cowes,
PO31 8QU
01983 305555
wmahm.org.uk

NUMBER 1 BUS PASSES RIGHT OUTSIDE THE DOOR



W.M.A.H.M

WIGHT MILITARY AND HERITAGE MUSEUM

The Wight Military and Heritage Museum welcomes you to enjoy the wide range of exhibits on display from the Crimean War to the Falklands conflict, including our 1940s street scene and many military vehicles. Have your photograph taken in a tank or try your skill in our air rifle range.

Churchills our Licensed Tea Room is open daily where you can enjoy light refreshments or one of our delicious homemade meals and a selection of hot and cold drinks. Wednesday is mid-week roast dinner day.


Open Monday to Saturday all year. Check us out on wmahm.org.uk, follow us on Facebook or call 01983 305555 for more details

W.M.A.H.M, Northwood Camp,
490 Newport Road, Cowes, PO31 8QU
wmahm.org.uk | 01983 305555
enquiries@wmahm.org.uk









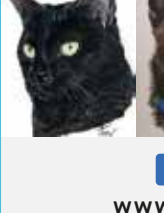
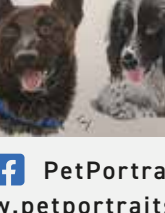


Registered charity 1159529




Wrap up warm and explore the house and grounds at Osborne.

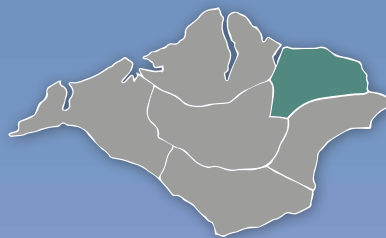


**EXCLUSIVE 15% DISCOUNT
ACROSS SIZES 'C' AND 'D'
WHEN QUOTING 'WIGHTLIFE'
AT THE BOOKING STAGE.**

 **PetPortraitsbyTanya**
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contact@petportraitsbytanya.co.uk

North East



When arriving to the Island onboard our FastCat or our Portsmouth car ferry you will disembark on this side of the Island.

Just a few minutes from our Fishbourne port is Quarr Abbey, a working Benedictine Monastery. Explore the woodland walk around the abbey, visit the on-site chapel and stock up on local produce – much of the farm shop is stocked with items grown or produced by the Monks themselves.

Ryde is where you find our FastCat port and passengers will travel down the UK's oldest pleasure pier. Ryde Pier, originally built in 1814, has recently undergone an extensive renovation, including adding a separate walkway for pedestrians to safely walk along the pier.

The miles of sandy beach are dog friendly at this time of year and there are plenty of cafés and eateries to pop into and warm up on your bracing, wintery walk.

*“There was a Young Lady of Ryde,
Whose shoe-strings were seldom untied.
She purchased some clogs,
And some small spotted dogs,
And frequently walked about Ryde.”*

—
Edward Lear

Carry on round to the quaint fishing village of Seaview, it may be quieter at this time of year but many locals can be found hunkering down and warming up in the beachside restaurants.

If you're looking to sample some of the best in Island produce, the Isle of Wight's only distillery, owned by the world-famous Mermaid Gin, is located in Pondwell and offers a perfect taste of the Wight.

Discover more things to do at wightlink.co.uk/explorer



Seaview Bay's shoreline is perfect for rockpooling or a stroll along the sand.



ATTRACTIONS

Oasis



Looking for different, unique and exciting home gifts and furniture? Shop Oasis! This large shopping emporium has carefully chosen items from around the world, combining quality and design at direct 'import prices'. With a myriad of rooms and walkways to explore all on one level, you will be surprised with the selection of products beautifully displayed that have been chosen and designed for customers. There's also a coffee shop and large free car park.

Carpenters Road, Brading,
PO36 0QA
01983 613760
oasis-iow.co.uk



SHOPPING

Bellissima IOW



An independent unique and quirky ladies boutique set in the heart of Ryde. Official stockist of Joe Browns, Collectif and many other brands. Also selling party wear, casuals, footwear, bags and accessories. A delightful friendly shop!

65 Union Street, Ryde,
PO33 2LG
01983 717004
bellissimaiw.co.uk



Delysia Farm Shop



Tucked away in Brading (right next door to Oasis) Delysia Farm Shop is a gift to the eyes as much as the belly. Freshly laid eggs, freshly picked fruit and vegetables with crab and lobster caught from Bembridge Ledge.

Carpenters Road, Brading,
PO36 0QA
07830 520345



The Goose



The Isle of Wight's bookshop on the green, The Goose, has been based in St Helens for over 35 years, selling second hand and antiquarian books to locals and holiday-makers alike. The shop is a real hidden gem, stocking rare hard-to-find titles and treasured classics, alongside a wide selection of interesting and readable books for both adults and children.

Newlands House, Lower Green
Road, St Helens, PO33 ITS
01983 874063
thegoosebooks.com



The Stitching Elmers



This lovely family-run, fabric, quilting, patchwork and haberdashery store is one of the largest on the Island. Selling a wide range of top branded fabrics from Lewis & Irene, Makower, Riley Blake and Liberty to name just a few, as well as patchwork kits, wool, knitting and crochet supplies. Regular classes and workshops available. A warm welcome is guaranteed!

73 / 74 High Street, Ryde,
PO33 2SU
01983 716380
the-stitching-elmrs.
business.site



YOUR COASTAL RETREAT



Nestled in sailing village of Seaview on the picturesque Isle of Wight, The Seaview Hotel & Restaurant offers a getaway that transcends time.

Our privileged location provides immediate access to the breathtaking Seagrove Bay and Priory Bay. Embrace the serene rhythm of the tides and the soothing sounds of the sea during your stay.



- BAR • DOG FRIENDLY
- 2 AA ROSETTE & MICHELIN BIB RESTAURANT
- OPEN TO NON-RESIDENTS
- WEDDINGS • FUNCTIONS

6 consecutive years

5 years running



'A class act'
- THE TIMES

HIGH STREET | SEAVIEW | ISLE OF WIGHT | PO34 5EX
01983 612711 | SEAVIEWHOTEL.CO.UK



For more inspiration visit
wightlink.co.uk/explorer

The Isle of Wight's bookshop on The Green.

Here for the love of reading for over 35 years.



THE  GOOSE

NEWLANDS HOUSE, LOWER GREEN ROAD
ST HELENS, RYDE, ISLE OF WIGHT, PO33 1TS

thegoosebooks.com | [@thegoosebooks](https://www.instagram.com/thegoosebooks) | +44(0)1983 874063



Say hello to the resident swans at Ryde canoe lake!



ACCOMMODATION

Old Mill Holiday Park



Offering a mix of holiday caravans and cabins, which are generously spaced and built with comfort and practicality in mind, the Old Mill Holiday Park is perfect for those looking to experience a relaxing holiday with natural surroundings right on the door step. With panoramic views of Bembridge Harbour and the sea, the location is ideal for walking, cycling, sea fishing, wind surfing, horse riding, golf and bird watching with a RSPB nature reserve right around the corner.

Mill Road, St Helens, PO33 1UE
01983 872507
oldmill.co.uk

St Helens Coastal Resort



Escape to the beautiful St Helens Coastal Resort. Just a short walk from a sandy beach, this secluded retreat offers luxury lodge and caravan accommodation in a tranquil setting. When the sun shines, you won't be able to resist a dip in the inviting outdoor swimming pool!

Field Lane, St Helens,
PO33 1UX
03301 274616
awayresorts.co.uk

The Boathouse



The Boathouse prides itself on offering quality dining in a pub environment. Recently inspected by the AA it is recognised as one of the top UK bed and breakfast establishments and also features as a Late Rooms 'B&B Gem'.

Springvale Road, Seaview,
PO34 5AW
01983 810616
theboathouseiow.co.uk

The Fishbourne



Choose from five en suite rooms, each room tastefully furnished to provide for a relaxing break. With its wonderful sea views and idyllic setting, you will want to come back time and time again.

Fishbourne Lane, Fishbourne,
PO33 4EU
01983 882823
thefishbourne.co.uk

The Seaview Hotel



This famous hotel has 25 rooms, including dog-friendly accommodation. Located in the sailing village of Seaview, it's renowned for good food and the restaurant has been awarded a Michelin Bib Gourmand for five years running, and two AA rosettes. Car park with Tesla and electric vehicle chargers.

High Street, Seaview,
PO34 5EX
01983 612711
seaviewhotel.co.uk

OFFICIAL STOCKIST OF

Joe Browns
Est. 1998

Bellissima

65 UNION STREET, RYDE
ISLE OF WIGHT, PO33 2LG
TEL: 01983 717004
bellissimaiw.co.uk

[f BellissimaIsleOfWight](https://www.facebook.com/BellissimaIsleOfWight)
[i bellissimaisleofwight](https://www.instagram.com/bellissimaisleofwight)

For more inspiration visit
wightlink.co.uk/explorer



FOOD & DRINK

Grace's Bakery



Situated on Ryde High Street, the flagship store is within walking distance of the seafront. Choose a freshly made sandwich before a stroll down to the beach, or take a seat in the cosy tea room and have a cup of tea.

178 High Street, Ryde,
PO33 2HW
01983 566868
gracesbakery.co.uk

Oasis Coffee Shop



Enjoy refreshments in the friendly coffee shop which adjoins Oasis. Serving quality coffees and speciality teas, cakes, pastries and so much more. Delicious homemade food using only the freshest and finest ingredients. Large free car park.

Carpenters Road, Brading,
PO36 0QA
01983 613760
oasis-iow.co.uk



The Boathouse



The Boathouse prides itself on offering quality dining in a pub environment, matched with superb ales and an extensive wine selection. With a reputation for using local produce, especially fish. Winners of the 2019 'Good Pub Guide Dining Pub of the Year' for the Isle of Wight. AA Dining Awards 2011 to 2021.

Springvale Road, Seaview,
PO34 5AW
01983 810616
theboathouseiow.co.uk



The Fishbourne



The Fishbourne is situated just along from the Wightlink car ferry port in Fishbourne. Priding itself on offering quality dining in a pub environment, matched with superb ales and an extensive wine selection. AA Dining Awards 2011 to 2021.

Fishbourne Lane, Fishbourne,
PO33 4EU
01983 882823
thefishbourne.co.uk

The Mermaid Bar



Located in the pretty village of Pondwell, just outside Ryde. Discover the pub and visitor centre. View the stills in action and taste the Island-inspired spirits. Visit website for seasonal opening hours.

Pondwell Hill, Ryde, PO33 1PX
01983 613653
isleofwightdistillery.com



The Seaview Hotel



Good food coupled with relaxed informal dining is at the heart of The Seaview Hotel. The food on offer is as local as possible. The style is modern British with a regional Isle of Wight twist, the restaurant has been awarded a Michelin Bib Gourmand for five years running, along with two AA Rosettes for eight consecutive years.

High Street, Seaview,
PO34 5EX
01983 612711
seaviewhotel.co.uk

The Veteran



Located on Ryde Esplanade, The Veteran provides support and assistance to the local community and their families, with a specific focus on armed forces veterans and service personnel. Serving a wide range of beers, wines and spirits in a warm and welcoming atmosphere.

15 Esplanade, Ryde, PO33 2DZ
01983 611313
theveteranryde.co.uk



"As fresh as you like it"

Tucked away in Brading (right next door to Oasis) Delysia Farm is a gift to the eyes as much as the belly. Produce at Delysia Farm is arguably as fresh as you can get, with owner John Day; catching, growing, smoking and preparing the vast majority himself.



- Freshly laid duck, goose & chicken eggs
- Freshly picked fruit and vegetables
- Crab & lobster caught from Bembridge Ledge
- Onsite smoker smoking pheasant, partridge, trout and salmon when in season

For all your local produce come and see us on the Carpenters Road, Brading.
Tel: 07830 520345

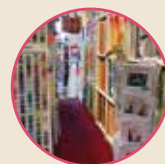
THE STITCHING ELMERS

The Island patchwork shop
With a range of Patchwork fabrics,
Haberdashery, Wool,
Patchwork patterns and Kits

Regular workshops
Run by a friendly family

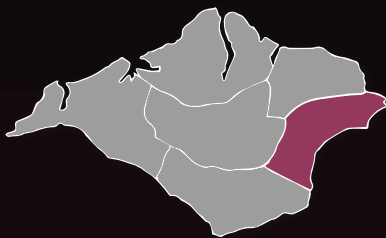
You will find us at
73/74 upper High St, Ryde, PO33 2SU

Opening hours 9am to 4pm Mon to Sat



thestitchingelmers | thestitchingelmers
01983 716380 | thestitchingelmers@gmail.com

East



If quintessential, postcard seaside holidays are your memories of the Isle of Wight, then you probably visited the towns of Shanklin and Sandown. Famed for their arcades, they are a hub of activity all year round but especially in the colder months thanks to there being plenty to do to keep the whole family occupied.

Shanklin is split into a lower and upper level. Up top, you will find chocolate box-style thatched buildings and cosy olde-worlde pubs alongside a plethora of shops from national brands to independently run stores. Make your way down to the Esplanade and discover a collection of wonderful pubs to enjoy a bite to eat, as well as Shanklin Arcade, complete with a new 18-hole, indoor crazy golf course, traditional 2p machines and everyone's favourite 'grab a teddy' games.

From Shanklin, you can see the iconic Sandown Pier; when you step inside you're transported back to the holidays of yesteryear. Traditional family fun and wafts of candyfloss are what to be expected.

"She thinks of nothing but the Isle of Wight, and she calls it The Island, as if there were no other island in the world"

—
Jane Austen, *Mansfield Park*

Try your hand at go-karting or dino crazy golf at Sandham Gardens, just a few minutes' walk along the seafront. Then let us hear you 'ROAR!' as you enter the Wildheart Animal Sanctuary, home to a whole menagerie of animals, including tigers, lions, meerkats and lemurs.

Just a ten-minute drive away is Bembridge. Home to one of the Isle of Wight's RNLI stations it also has a selection of wonderfully quaint houseboats, one of which has been converted into a floating café.

Discover more things to do at wightlink.co.uk/explorer



Admire the stars from the Shanklin to Sandown coastal path
— picturesque even after dark.



ATTRACTIONS

Brading Roman Villa



One of the finest Roman sites in the UK. The award-winning visitor centre and museum offers a unique insight into Roman life in Britain. From beautifully preserved mosaic floors, to an extensive collection of Roman archaeology. Visit the on-site licensed café and shop.

Morton Old Road, Brading,
PO36 0PH
01983 406223
bradingromanvilla.org.uk



Dinosaur Isle



In a spectacular, pterosaur-shaped building just over the sea wall, this is Britain's first purpose-built dinosaur attraction. It's a unique destination, where you walk back through the Ice Age and ancient oceans to 126 million years ago. Phone or check website for opening times.

Culver Parade, Sandown,
PO36 8QA
01983 404344
dinosaurisle.com

Shanklin Theatre



Shanklin Theatre is open all year round offering great entertainment from top household names in popular music such as Russell Watson and Collabro. Together with comedians including Al Murray, Jimmy Carr and Julian Clary.

Prospect Road, Shanklin,
PO37 6AJ
01983 868000
shanklintheatre.com



The Wildheart Animal Sanctuary



The Wildheart Animal Sanctuary is opposite the glorious sandy beach in Sandown Bay. The sanctuary delivers an inspirational experience and the friendly atmosphere is perfect for getting to know the rescued tigers, lions, lynx, lemurs, meerkats, monkeys and many other species. New Primate Rescue Centre now open! Enjoy the daily talks or simply roam the grounds yourself. With kids' play areas and the spacious Wildheart Café.

Yaverland Road, Sandown,
PO36 8QB
01983 403883
wildheartanimalsanctuary.org



SHOPPING

It's About Thyme



Butchery, deli and greengrocers offering dry aged and local meats, fish, worldwide groceries, local bread and produce. Large selection of cheeses and cured meats, plus a deli counter full of home-made salads, as well as pastries, cakes and Italian coffee. Now delivering nationwide.

22 Regent Street, Shanklin,
PO37 7AA
01983 864245
itsaboutthyme.co.uk

The Rock Shop



Specialists in rock sweets, chocolates, handmade fudge, biscuits, sticks of rock and all types of sweets. No holiday is complete without a visit to The Rock Shop. Kids young and old will enjoy a visit to the Island's largest, oldest and best loved sweet shop.

91-93 High Street, Shanklin
Old Village, PO37 6NR
01983 862950
therockshopio.co.uk



Butcher Deli Greengrocer Fish Coffee



Your High Street Farm Shop
Now Delivering Nationwide.

22 Regent Street Shanklin PO377AA
01983 864245

itsaboutthyme.co.uk

Blueberrys Café



Relax and enjoy a wide variety of great food and drink at the award winning Blueberrys Café (fully licensed) with some of the most stunning views on the Island.

Offering breakfasts, light snacks, lunches, delicious homemade specials, sweet treats and our fabulous cakes featuring unique flavours.

Dog friendly, wheelchair accessible and steps leading down to the beach 50 yards away. Please look on our website or social media pages for more information.



45 Littlestairs Rd, Shanklin PO37 6HS (adjacent to Winchester House car park)
blueberryscafeio.co.uk | 01983 866378
Facebook BlueberrysCafe | Twitter @BlueberrysCafe | Instagram blueberrys_cafe



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THE SEASCAPE

3 BEDROOM COASTAL APARTMENT
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www.theseascape.co.uk



ACCOMMODATION

Vectis Holiday Homes



Stylish and high quality apartments. The Seascape is a premium three bedroom apartment, with a landscaped garden and hot tub overlooking the glorious Luccombe coastline. There are also smart one and two bedroom apartments at Dove Court in historic Shanklin.

**Seascape, Luccombe Road,
Shanklin, PO37 6RR**
07775 764246
vectisholidayhomes.co.uk



Whitecliff Bay Holiday Park



Perfectly situated by its own stunning secluded beach, Whitecliff Bay makes for the ideal holiday base to explore the Island. This park offers superb family facilities including indoor and outdoor swimming pools. Choose from a range of self-catering options from classic caravans to their exclusive luxury accommodation, there's something for everyone to enjoy.

**Hillway Road, Bembridge,
PO35 5PL**
03301 274616
awayresorts.co.uk



FOOD & DRINK



Blueberrys Café



Relax and savour some of the most spectacular views on the Isle of Wight. Fully licensed and extremely dog-friendly, serving delicious home-cooked food and cakes. Located on the cliff path between Sandown and Shanklin. Visit Facebook, Instagram or Twitter/X for more information.

**45 Littlestairs Road, Shanklin,
PO37 6HS**
01983 866378
blueberryscafeiw.co.uk

Cookhouse + Pub Sandown Cliffs



For quality pub grub at great-value prices, look no further than the stylish Sandown Cliffs Cookhouse + Pub. Located right next to Sandown Beach, the cosy Isle of Wight restaurant is ideal whether you're fuelling up for the day with one of the famous breakfasts, tucking into a tasty lunch or wrapping up days out with a hearty dinner.

**1-9 Esplanade, Sandown,
PO36 8LA**
01983 219039
cookhouseandpub.co.uk



The Rock Shop
More than just rock!

*10% off with this
voucher when
you spend
over £10 in-store!*

**Pick 'n' Mix · Sugar-Free · Fudge
Chocolate · Liquorice · Preserves
Toffee · American · Gifts**

*Open 7 days a week
Celebrating 75 years of expertise in producing some
of the most delicious and creative confectionery*

**91-93 High Street, Shanklin, PO37 6NR
1 High Street, Sandown, PO36 8LX
01983 862950 www.therockshopiw.co.uk**



Stop and feed the ducks alongside Dinosaur Isle's unique pterosaur-shaped building.



Spectacular skies at Bembridge's iconic lifeboat station.

Grace's Bakery



Grace's is the perfect place to call into after a day at the beach or exploring the Old Village. Choose a freshly made sandwich or from the huge range of cakes on offer.

20A Regent Street, Shanklin,
PO37 7AA
01983 865353

gracesbakery.co.uk

It's About Thyme



Deli foods and fabulous Bristot coffee to eat in or takeaway. Also serving hearty home-made salads, sausage rolls and quiches, plus Wilkinsons of Sandown pork pies, pasties and scotch eggs. Wide range of freshly made baguettes, antipasti, locally or home-made cakes, Italian cannoli and much more.

22 Regent Street, Shanklin,
PO37 7AA
01983 864245

itsaboutthyme.co.uk

The Best Dressed Crab



Situated in Bembridge, preparing the most delicious crab and lobster direct from the fishing boat. Enjoy dressed crab, tubs of crab, whole crabs and lobsters, prepared lobsters, giant crab claws and spider crab claws. Come and eat in this lovely floating café and enjoy the fantastic views of Bembridge Harbour.

Embankment Road, Bembridge,
PO35 5NS
01983 874758
thebestdressedcrabintown.co.uk

The Forum Café



The Romans were renowned for their love of fine food and feasting so there is nowhere more perfect to eat. The Forum Café is privy to some stunning panoramic views over Sandown Bay serving up a great range of lunches, snacks, cakes and drinks. Entry to the café is free.

Brading Roman Villa, Morton
Old Road, Brading, PO36 0EN
01983 406223
bradingromanvilla.org.uk



The Harbour View



The Harbour View is a beachside café with stunning views of Bembridge Harbour, serving breakfast and lunch as well as a great selection of chef's daily specials. The café is also fully licensed, so pop along and enjoy some great food and drink while watching the boats sail on by.

Embankment Road, Bembridge,
PO35 5NR
01983 872742



Fisherman's Wharf, Embankment Road, Bembridge, PO35 5NS



'The Island's only floating seafood café and shop'



Enjoy lunches with the freshest finest seafood straight from the boat.

Try our speciality seafood platter for two. Fully licensed.

Please note: we will be closed during January.



Visit us at: www.thebestdressedcrabintown.co.uk

01983 872742

Fully Licensed



Harbour View Café
CAFÉ & BISTRO

Breakfast & Lunch
Available from 9AM-5PM
Daily specials & kids menu



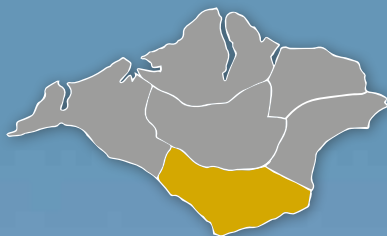
Look out for our new winter menu on our facebook page
Closed in January



The Harbour View Cafe, Bembridge IOW

Embankment Rd, Bembridge Harbour, PO35 5NR

South



Said to be one of the warmest places in the UK, the south side of the Island, Ventnor in particular, benefits from a unique microclimate thanks to the shelter it receives from the surrounding cliffs.

Ventnor has a distinctly artsy vibe and is home to a Fringe Festival come summer, but in the winter that fun, fresh feeling is still present in the quirky shops, cool bars and modern dining venues that line the streets and down to the Esplanade.

If you're looking for a bracing walk, trek past the iconic Spyglass pub through to Steephill Cove. It's an Island gem at any time of the year where one of the cafés serves up an Island favourite, crab pasties.

"This island is a little paradise"

—
Karl Marx

The Isle of Wight's most southerly village, Niton, is home to one of the Island's two working lighthouses. It was built in response to the ship, The Clarendon, hitting the rocks around the southern tip of the Island in 1836. Steeped in history, it's also home to a ghost tale or two. For a small village, there are plenty of places to eat including an AA Rosette award-winning pub, The White Lion, at the heart of the village.

Discover more things to do at wightlink.co.uk/explorer



St Catherine's Down is one of the highest parts of the Isle of Wight and offers panoramic views of the Island.



ATTRACTIONS

Isle of Wight Pottery



A wonderful way for family and friends to spend quality time together whilst learning how to make beautiful items from clay. Scarlett and Sara have over 13 years experience working with master potter Neil Tregear in his busy studio. They specialise in teaching a wide variety of techniques in a friendly and welcoming environment. The classes offer something for all ages and are the perfect creative outlet.

High Street, Niton,
PO38 2AZ
07588 361181
isleofwightpottery.com

Ventnor Botanic Garden



Explore 22 acres of sub-tropical gardens, with over 6,000 species of rare and exotic plants, shrubs and champion trees. Visit the Heritage Centre, plus enjoy delicious cuisine. Look out for kids' activities, hidden gardens and tours of the secret tunnel.

Undercliff Drive, Ventnor,
PO38 1UL
01983 855397
botanic.co.uk



SHOPPING

Honeybourne Jewellery



Established for over 20 years, Honeybourne Jewellery is a fully stocked boutique with three in-house designers creating jewellery pieces on the premises. They handcraft their unique, jewellery under head jeweller Sophie Honeybourne (MA RCA). Working in silver, gold, vitreous enamels, diamonds and semi precious stones to create your bespoke piece of jewellery.

3 Church Street, Ventnor,
PO38 1SW
01983 854618
honeybournejewellery.com

For more inspiration visit
wightlink.co.uk/explorer

Mermaid Lights



Beautiful Italian Murano glass Isle of Wight Mermaid Gin bottles cleaned and crafted into stunning table lights. The perfect present for anytime of the year. The bottle lights come in three colours – original turquoise, coral pink and ice white. Each have a wonderful relaxing, warm glow to light up any room. Postage available to all of the UK or delivery to your accommodation on the Isle of Wight.

07885 720503



FOOD & DRINK

edulis Restaurant



edulis means edible in Latin. The relaxing space boasts huge picture windows that bring the lovely surroundings of the Mediterranean garden and fountain court inside. The chefs work their magic creating ultra-fresh cuisine sourced locally and picked fresh from the garden.

Ventnor Botanic Garden,
Undercliff Drive, Ventnor,
PO38 1UL
01983 855397
botanic.co.uk

The Plantation Room Café



Open daily from 10:00. Located on the top level of the Garden, this cosy café has a sheltered outdoor terrace which overlooks the historical Palm Garden. With free parking, the café provides a wonderful retreat for customers looking for a hot drink and catch up with friends.

Ventnor Botanic Garden,
Undercliff Drive, Ventnor,
PO38 1UL
01983 855397
botanic.co.uk



HONEYBOURNE JEWELLERY

Bespoke jewellery handmade on the premises
3 Church St, Ventnor, IOW. PO38 1SW. 01983 854618

www.honeybournejewellery.com



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www.isleofwightpottery.com

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wightlink.co.uk/business

WIGHTLINK
ISLE OF WIGHT FERRIES

West

The saying ‘west is best’ is true for many things including sunsets and the most perfect countryside and seascape vistas.

Our prettiest ferry crossing lies in the west Wight, thanks partly to the drive through the New Forest and the journey along the Lymington estuary – which is complete with mudflats and salt marshes dotted with many species of water birds. Wightlink’s ferry docks in the historic market town of Yarmouth. This quaint town is a hub of activity and a draw for foodies and boutique shoppers alike with its excellent restaurants and pubs alongside the cobbled streets lined with independent shops.

The rugged coastline along the iconic Military Road is home to some of the best fossil-hunting beaches in the UK. With around 20 species of dinosaurs discovered to have lived on the Island, Brook Beach is a must for any budding or established palaeontologist as at this time of year, with the rougher seas, you have a good chance of discovering a fossil or two. Plus the Iguanodon foot casts along the mud flats are a fascinating find.

*“...come to the Isle of Wight: Where,
far from the noise and smoke of town
I watch the twilight falling brown
All round a careless-order’d garden
Close to the ridge of a noble down”*

—
Alfred, Lord Tennyson

Further along the road towards Freshwater is Farringford, the former home of Alfred, Lord Tennyson, Poet Laureate. If you’re feeling energetic the steep walk up Tennyson Down to the monument is rewarded by panoramic views across the Channel and over the iconic Needles. The white chalk stacks, with the red and white lighthouse adorn many holiday postcards and The Needles Landmark Attraction promises a day full of family fun all year round.

Discover more things to do at wightlink.co.uk/explorer



Tread the boards at Yarmouth's Grade II listed pier.



ATTRACTIONS

Isle of Wight Pearl



The Brighstone venue is home to a vast collection of beautiful pearl jewellery, a popular indoor and outdoor café with spectacular cliff-top views over the English Channel, pearl master class and family fun Pick-a-Pearl experience for a day like no other. Plus, don't miss the new Island Deli at The Pearl Café – championing small-scale local producers, it's the perfect spot to enjoy great quality Island delicacies.

**Chilton Chine, Military Road,
Brighstone, PO30 4DD**
01983 740352
iowpearl.com

Mottistone Gardens



A magical garden with colourful herbaceous borders, shrub-filled terraces and views to the sea. Families can explore the garden and the Wild Woods, where children can build dens and have fun climbing the trees. Lovely tea garden, ideal for lunch or a cream tea. Several manor rooms open, including a second-hand book shop. Large wider estate for country walks. Gardens open daily from 2 March. See online for opening times at nationaltrust.org.uk/mottistone-gardens-and-estate

**Mottistone, Nr Brighstone,
PO30 4ED**
01983 741302
nationaltrust.org.uk/isleofwight



Newtown National Nature Reserve

Natural harbour, creeks and woodlands home to native and visiting birds and wildlife. Bird hides and visitor point. The Old Town Hall is evidence of Newtown's former importance. For opening times for the Old Town Hall and to download walks, visit nationaltrust.org.uk/newtown-national-nature-reserve-and-old-town-hall

**Newtown, Near Shalfleet,
PO30 4PA**
01983 531622
nationaltrust.org.uk/isleofwight



Tapnell Farm Park



Set in beautiful countryside, surrounded by amazing views of the Island and Solent, Tapnell Farm Park is one of the Island's biggest all-weather, fun-filled family attractions. There's so much to see and do including pedal go-karts, jumping pillows, sledge slides, footy shoot-out, soft play area and daily animal activities, plus monthly events.

**Tapnell Farm, Newport Road,
Yarmouth, PO41 0YJ**
01983 758722
tapnellfarm.com/play



Grab the binoculars and see what you can spot from one of the bird hides at Newtown.



ISLE OF WIGHT PEARL

10%

OFF JEWELLERY

* Discount valid instore until 31/3/24. One voucher per transaction. Not redeemable with any other offer.

01983 740352 | iowpearl.com



Yarmouth Shop

January to March we have limited opening hours, check our website /google for details.

Shop online
xvstripes.com

ESTD 1984 THE WATERFRONT

A warm welcome awaits you at The Waterfront Totland Bay, Isle of Wight, come and see some of the finest sunsets in the whole of Europe in our picturesque setting with stunning views over the Western Solent and the Dorset Jurassic coastline where the Solent meets the English Channel or to the east overlooking Hurst Castle.

Situated in the next Bay round from the infamous Needles Rock and Lighthouse you can taste our mouth-watering Mediterranean and traditional English cuisine freshly cooked by our chefs using fresh and locally sourced produce where possible.

Chill out and enjoy a drink in our beer garden overlooking the sea (weather permitting).

We welcome dogs in our dog friendly bar area where your dog can enjoy a treat from our 'doggy biscuit tin'.

We are in the CAMRA good beer guide for the third year running recognising our commitment to award winning local ales and those from a wide spectrum of other real ale suppliers.

The Waterfront Bar and Restaurant
The Beach, Madeira Road, Totland Bay, PO39 OBQ
01983 756969 | eatbythesea.com

The Needles Old Battery



A spectacular clifftop fort overlooking the Needles. The attractions include two original guns situated on the parade ground and dramatic views of the sea and the Needles Lighthouse. The tea room tops it off with hot and cold drinks, ice creams, snacks and cakes and is open each weekend from 6 January and every day 12–16 February 11:00–15:00. Whole site opens daily from 2 March. Walk, cycle or take the bus to the battery – car parking at Needles Landmark Attraction. See online for full site opening times. nationaltrust.org.uk/the-needles-old-battery-and-new-battery

West High Down, Alum Bay, PO39 0JH
01983 754772

nationaltrust.org.uk/isleofwight



SHOPPING

XVstripes



Inspired by a love of coastal living and the ocean, XVstripes captures the essence of laidback luxe for your bedroom and home. The collection includes bedding, cushions and throws all made from eco-friendly sustainable or recycled fabrics, as well as candles and gifts.

1 Wheatsheaf Lane, Yarmouth, PO41 0PF
07802 647377
xvstripes.com

Yarmouth Gallery



A stylish contemporary art gallery just a short stroll from the harbour in Yarmouth high street. Showing a rolling exhibition of British craft with an emphasis on work by Island makers, alongside paintings and prints by resident artist Anne Toms. Relaxed and welcoming, there is a great little card shop.

Forresters Hall, High Street, Yarmouth, PO41 0PL
01983 761424
yarmouthgallery.com



ACCOMMODATION

The Bay Colwell



Stunning hot tub cottages and laidback beach houses are waiting for you and the family too at The Bay Colwell. Just a stroll away from the sandy shores of Colwell Bay, this sunny resort features an indoor heated swimming pool, licensed coffee house and children's soft play area.

Fort Warden Road, Freshwater, Totland Bay, PO39 0DA
03301 274616
awayresorts.co.uk

The Orchards Holiday Park



Set amongst rolling countryside and with stunning panoramic views, The Orchards is a special place to make memories, kick back and relax or explore. Choose from a holiday caravan, touring and camping pitches or self-catering accommodation. There are two swimming pools to enjoy and a poolside coffee shop – as well as holiday homes for sale so you can enjoy your own slice of Island life!

The Orchards, Main Road, Newbridge, Yarmouth, PO41 0TS
01983 531331
orchardsholidaypark.co.uk

Tom's Eco Lodge & Farm Accommodation



Tom's Eco Lodge is one of the Island's best known glamping experiences, with accommodation offered in a variety of quirky lodgings including safari tents, eco pods, wood cabins, modlogs and new Geodesic Domes. Guests can enjoy the beautiful rural setting with space to roam and the most stunning sea views and sunsets!

Tapnell Farm, Newport Road, Yarmouth, PO41 0YJ
01983 758729
tapnellfarm.com/stay



Central



Steeped in history and heritage, the central villages and towns of the Island all have a unique and interesting story to tell.

At the heart, is the county town of Newport. A traditional market town centred around two squares with St Thomas Church at the centre. Also known as the Minster, it is the final resting place of Princess Elizabeth, daughter of King Charles I. Within the church, a monument to the princess, commissioned by Queen Victoria, is carved in white marble.

Carisbrooke, on the outskirts of Newport, is famed for its castle which was most notably the prison of King Charles I during the Civil War.

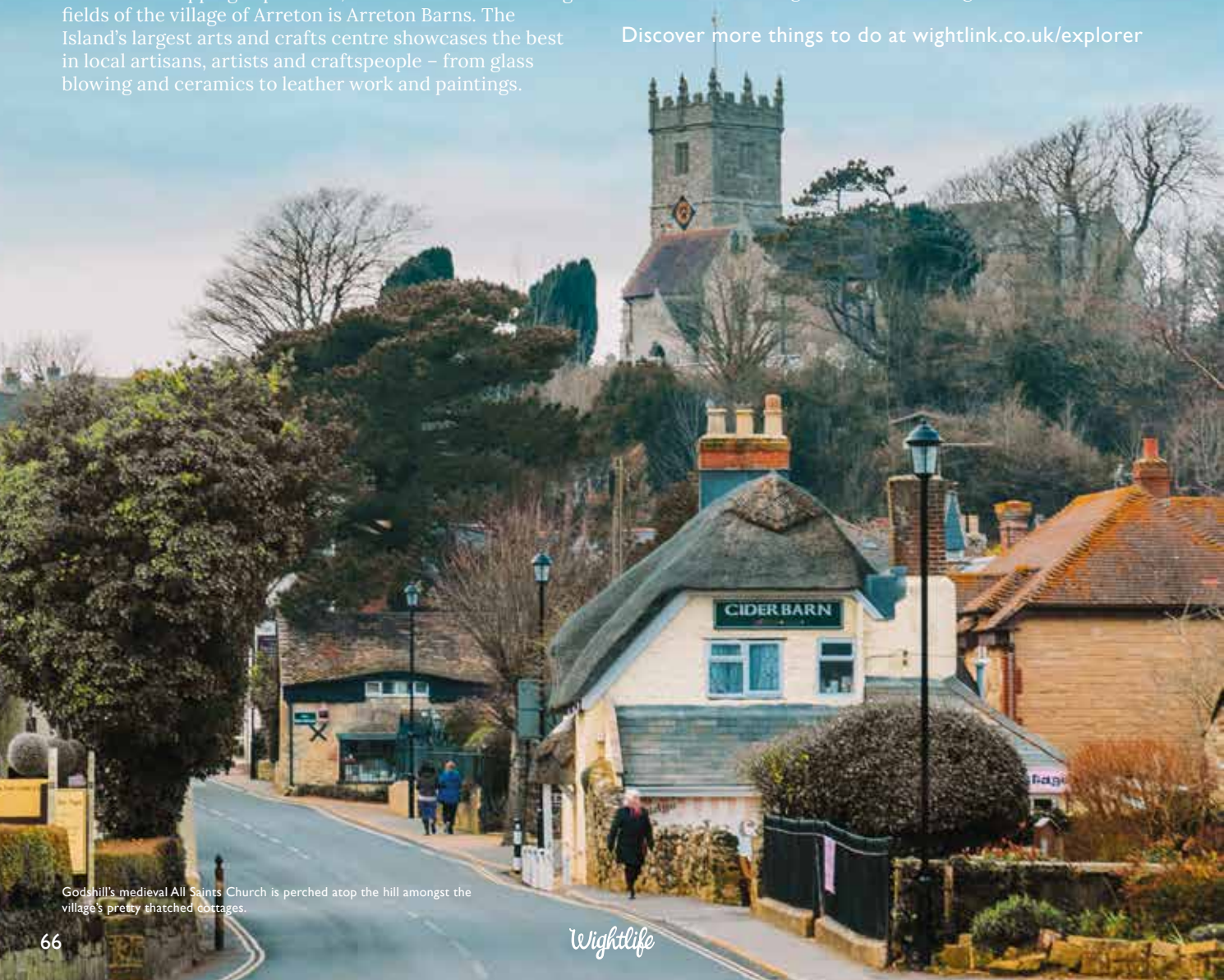
For a local shopping experience, nestled within the rolling fields of the village of Arreton is Arreton Barns. The Island's largest arts and crafts centre showcases the best in local artisans, artists and craftspeople – from glass blowing and ceramics to leather work and paintings.

*"I think it is the prettiest place
I ever saw in my life."*

—
Charles Dickens

A short drive from Newport and you'll think you've stepped into the cover of a chocolate box. Godshill is complete with thatched cottage-style buildings, quirky, independent shops, tearooms and a couple of pubs. It was also the original home of the Isle of Wight Festival back in 1968. Wander around The Model Village, the 1/10th scale 'Island in miniature' depicting Godshill and other Island landmarks including Shanklin Old Village and the Chine.

Discover more things to do at wightlink.co.uk/explorer



Godshill's medieval All Saints Church is perched atop the hill amongst the village's pretty thatched cottages.

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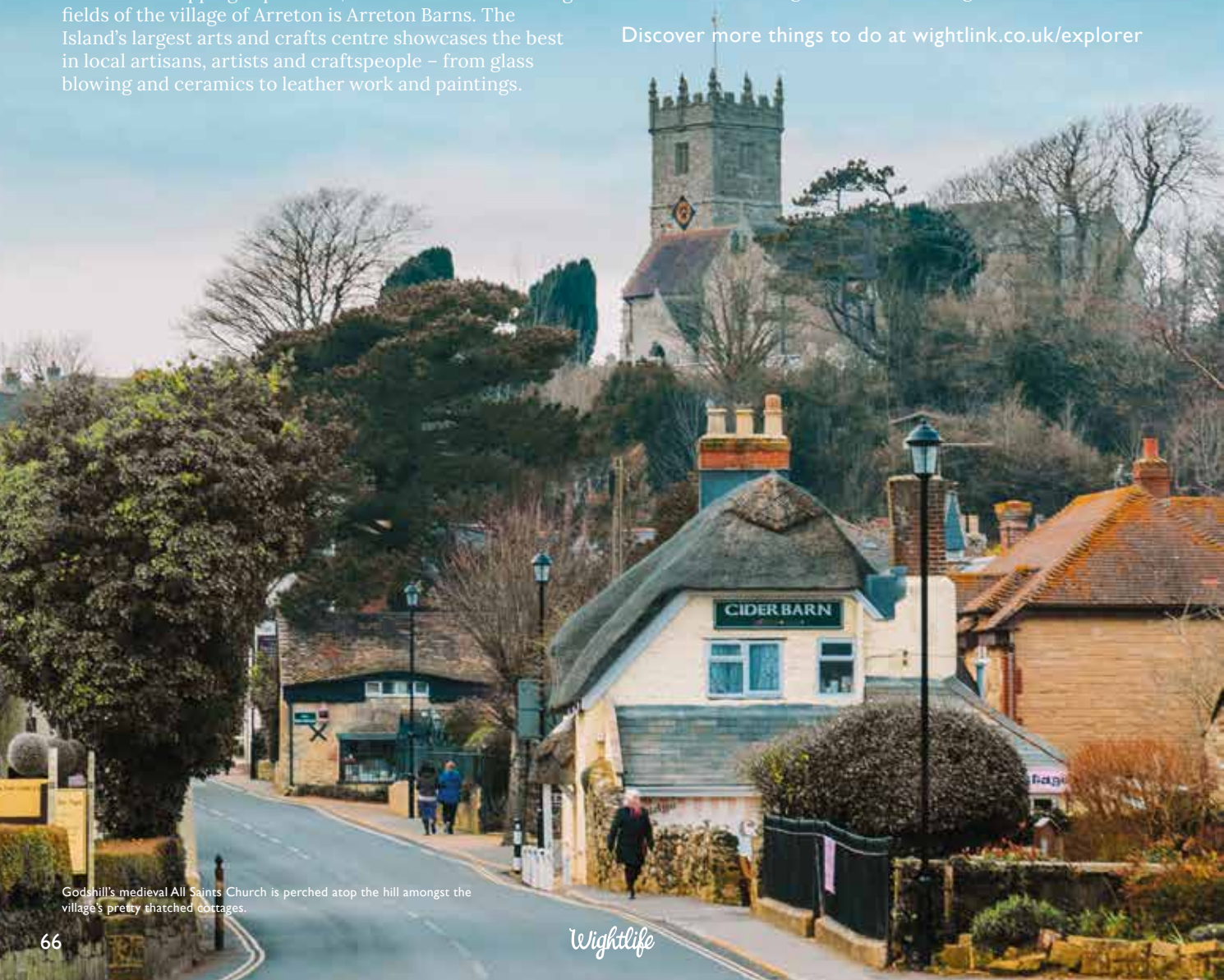
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Discover more things to do at wightlink.co.uk/explorer



Godshill's medieval All Saints Church is perched atop the hill amongst the village's pretty thatched cottages.



ATTRactions

Amazon World Zoo Park



Home to the Island's largest collection of exotic animals, including; mammals, birds, fish, reptiles, insects, fauna and flora. This multi-award-winning zoo offers you more than just animals, it includes a large Jurassic playground, museum, dino dig and the Island's largest indoor soft play area. A great day out rain or shine, the café and snack shack have ample seating, and a large gift, souvenir shop to buy some memories.

Watery Lane, Nr Arreton,
PO36 0LX
01983 867122
amazonworld.co.uk



Carisbrooke Castle



Steeped in history, once the prison of Charles I and the official residence of the Island's Governor, now a fascinating historical attraction. Experience vast panoramic Island views from the castle's high walls, and meet the charming resident donkeys. Book online now and save.

Castle Hill, Newport,
PO30 1XY
01983 522107
english-heritage.org.uk



The River Medina rises at St Catherine's Down near Chale and flows northwards through the county town of Newport.



Monkey Haven – The Leaf Foundation



Swing on by to the award-winning primate rescue centre making animals happy – and people happy! Meet rescued gibbons, monkeys, meerkats, birds of prey and reptiles. Lots of fun for everyone, including wonderful keeper talks, a fun free App, children's trail, tea room, gift shop and free return within a week. Open from 9 February onwards. See website for opening hours.

Five Acres Farm, Staplers
Road, Newport, PO30 2NB
01983 530885
monkeyhaven.org

Strings Bar & Venue



Strings is the Island's premier live venue and has quickly become an integral part of the UK's music touring schedule. Founded and run by musicians for music lovers, the 300-capacity venue hosts a wide variety of high-profile acts from legendary artists of yesteryear to current trending and touring bands, as well as emerging local talent, comedians and DJs.

9 Bowling Green Lane,
Newport, PO30 1RR
01983 537378
stringsbarandvenue.com



THOMAS & COCHRAN



*Inspired by the ocean...
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Handmade silver and gold jewellery with collections for men and women.

Solid sterling silver jewellery handmade on the Isle of Wight. Gifts for everyone.

Come and visit us in our workshop and see how we create our unique pieces.



TOM'S JEWELLERY WORKSHOP

Day courses in jewellery making now available. Group or individual bookings.



To book visit tomsjewelleryworkshop.com

Arreton Barns Craft Village, Isle of Wight, PO30 3AA
thomaspcochrane.com | 01983 685578

[f thomaspcochrane](https://www.facebook.com/thomaspcochrane) | [@thomaspcochrane](https://www.instagram.com/thomaspcochrane)


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casual wear. Sizes from
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01983 522255**




Strings
BAR & VENUE

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WWW.STRINGSBARANDVENUE.COM

The Garlic Farm



Get the full garlic experience at this unique, idyllic farm set in beautiful Newchurch. Free entry and parking. The farm shop overflows with garlic of all varieties, along with mayonnaises, chutneys, beer, vodka and even garlic ice cream! Discover everything you want to know about garlic, enjoy free tastings and great food in the restaurant.

**Mersley Lane, Newchurch,
PO36 0NR
01983 865378
thegarlicfarm.co.uk**

The Jewellery Cabin



This beautiful teaching studio offers a variety of courses from beginner days to masterclasses. The well-equipped workshop is also available for private parties, so whether you're looking to celebrate a special occasion or spend some time with loved ones, they can teach groups of up to 8 people. Enjoy a day out with a difference – whether you're a total beginner or hoping to further your skills, the friendly tutors will make sure you leave with a creation you can be proud of.

**3A Sheat Manor Farm,
Gatcombe, PO30 3HP
07934 502985
thejewellerycabin.com**



The Old Smithy



Boasting a variety of well-stocked gift shops, including fashion brands and home interiors. Browse in the Old Forge and cottage, stroll through the landscaped garden with pixie and fairy grottos. Then relax and enjoy lunch and cakes in the coffee shop.

**High Street, Godshell,
PO38 3HZ
01983 840364
theoldsmithy.com**



SHOPPING

Briddlesford Farm Shop



Visiting the Briddlesford Farm Shop is like stepping straight into the Island's very own larder. Stocking products from over 50 local producers as well as the full range of the farm's own products, including milk from the award-winning Guernsey herd, luxurious clotted cream and butter, a range of farmhouse cheeses and Briddlesford veal. There's also Bluebells Café, the heritage centre, milk processing factory and cheese room.

**Briddlesford Road, Wootton,
PO33 4RY
01983 884650
briddlesford.co.uk**



Fields Menswear



Fields work closely with key menswear suppliers to bring you a selection of well designed clothes for all age groups and sizes. Offering a broad range of styles and fits in both formal and casual wear in sizes from small to 5XL.

**108 St James' Square,
Newport, PO30 1UR
01983 522255**

Thomas P Cochran



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07860 367271
thomaspcochran.com**

**For more inspiration visit
wightlink.co.uk/explorer**



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01983 821908
visualimpact.co.uk



ACCOMMODATION

The Lakes Rookley



Stay in a stunning cottage, lakehouse or caravan holiday home – some even have hot tubs for something extra special. Set in leafy parkland with swimming pools, bar and eatery, plus activities for the whole family to enjoy, it's the perfect base to explore. Plus, half the Island's beaches are within 20 minutes drive.

Main Road, Rookley, PO38 3LU
03301 274616
awayresorts.co.uk



FOOD & DRINK

Beefeater Medina Quay



The Beefeater Medina Quay is a family friendly restaurant that specialises in top quality steak, traditional pub grub and imaginative twists on classic dishes. Enjoy delicious breakfasts, lunches and dinners with scenic views of the River Medina. There is a spacious dining area with booths, a riverside beer garden and a relaxed bar area.

Seaclose, Fairlee Road,
Newport, PO30 2DN
01983 825082
beefeater.co.uk



Bluebells Café at Briddlesford Farm



Serving breakfast, light lunches, daily specials and delicious home-made cakes, the Bluebells Café menu is focused on quality fresh seasonal food from the Island's farmers and growers, expertly prepared by the team of talented chefs. Briddlesford rose veal and dairy products feature in a number of signature dishes, including the home-made pies, burgers and 'Briddlesford mess' dessert.

Briddlesford Road, Wootton,
PO33 4RY
01983 882885
briddlesford.co.uk

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www.visualimpact.co.uk



Inspirational Islanders: Carol Flux

Project Manager, Natural Enterprise



Following a career in travel and tourism, Carol studied for an Open University Degree in Environmental Studies before joining Natural Enterprise just over 20 years ago. She provides a vital role to the charity, which has a number of projects benefitting the rural economy and environment, including managing over 30 countryside sites, green spaces and nature reserves on the Isle of Wight.

"I was born and bred on the Isle of Wight so it's in my blood. I like to be near the sea, and listen out to the foghorns on a foggy night. Work-wise, I am lucky to spend a lot of time on the Island's rivers and streams, many of which are hidden gems.

The Isle of Wight has so many special places, it's really tricky to pick just one! The Blacksmiths between Carisbrooke and Calbourne has lovely food, great service and brilliant views over Parkhurst Forest and Newtown Estuary. Go at sunset.

My favourite beach on the Island is Ryde Sands. It's a Site of Special Scientific Interest and there is always something to see. When the tide goes out you can see for miles. I love it when the Sanderlings are visiting.

Shide Chalk Pit is my favourite place to go for a walk. It's just 5 minutes from the centre of Newport, but very peaceful.

Every October the Isle of Wight Literary Festival hosts a diverse range of writers and presenters. Covering everything from crime fiction, history, travel, gardening, medicine and technology, it's a real must-visit.

This is going to sound creepy, but if you only had an hour on the Island, I'd recommend a visit to Mount Joy Cemetery in Carisbrooke. It's super in summer – full of wildflowers and with spectacular views to Newport and the Medina Estuary."

For more information visit naturalenterprise.co.uk. You'll find another Inspirational Islander on page 45.

Grace's Bakery



With two shops situated in the heart of Newport, Grace's is perfect for taking the weight off your feet during a hard day's shopping. Choose a freshly made sandwich or from the huge range of cakes on offer.

114a Pyle Street, Newport,
PO30 1XA
01983 525636

102 High Street, Newport,
PO30 1TJ
01983 717878

gracesbakery.co.uk

Snacks & Ladders Board Game Café



Snacks & Ladders is a little oasis where you can escape the real world and lose yourself in the world of games. Along with the huge menu of 850+ games, there is a full restaurant menu, as well as barista coffees, house cocktails and luxury milkshakes. Enjoy a snack bowl to graze while you play or a panini, pizza or burger. Booking advisable.

70 Upper St James Street,
Newport, PO30 1LQ
01983 716710
snacksandladders.co.uk



The Garlic Farm Restaurant



At The Garlic Farm Restaurant you can sample the best garlicky food in beautiful farm surroundings with friendly service, fully licensed bar and excellent views across the valley. Open daily for breakfast and lunch, the menu and special board make the most of locally sourced Island ingredients wherever possible. Free entry and parking.

Mersley Farm, Mersley Lane,
Newchurch, PO36 0NR
01983 865378
thegarlicfarm.co.uk



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Booking not essential, but you can book here if you want to!

Portsmouth

Beat blues with a trip to Portsmouth this winter – where you can enjoy romantic days out, year-round attractions and plenty of top events.

Relax and recharge with a walk along Southsea Seafront – where there are regular stopping points for a coffee and sweet treat (or something stronger). You may also be among the first to view the 'theatre of the sea', as a new viewing point near Southsea Castle is opened as part of the ongoing coastal defence project.

Coincide your trip with Valentine's Day for a romantic getaway. Portsmouth is home to a host of top restaurants where you can enjoy food from all over the world, why not finish up your evening by taking in a show – including the Spinnaker Tower's famed comedy nights. There are shows on 14 and 16 February but get in quick if you want to book as they often sell out.

Whatever time of year you visit there's sure to be plenty to do. All the city's top attractions are open year-round, including Portsmouth Historic Dockyard – where an Ultimate Explorer gives you entry to all the museums and attractions for a whole year. Alternatively, bag a bargain at Gunwharf Quays, where all the top brands offer up to 60% off RRP (and not forgetting the waterfront dining to round off your visit).

On top of the all-year-round activities we have a host of top events, so check out the listings on visitportsmouth.co.uk to see what's on for your next trip.

A highlight for the coming months include Portsmouth BookFest, where top authors host workshops and talks to celebrate the city's rich literary history.

There will also be a huge array of events for kids taking place during February half term, whilst the theatres and venues welcome big hitters including Romesh Ranganathan, Professor Brian Cox, Diversity, Tony Hadley, Michael Ball and a whole load more.

For more ideas on things to do and events, take a look at visitportsmouth.co.uk and wightlink.co.uk/explorer

David Howells



There are a whole host of events and plenty of places to explore in Portsmouth in 2024.

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DIVE IN



Lymington & the New Forest

There's nothing better to blast away the winter blues than planning your next trip to the magical New Forest.

Just 40 minutes by ferry from Wightlink's Yarmouth port, this unique corner of the country is teeming with world-class hotels, attractions and more than 190,000 acres for you to explore – just like the area's famous ponies!

Surprise your loved one with a romantic Valentine's trip to stay or dine at one of the New Forest's top-notch hotels; from the legendary Pig at Brockenhurst, hip and happening Lime Wood, or the 5* magnificence of the Chewton Glen.

Why not treat the kids to an unforgettable day out at one of the amazing year-round attractions? From the thrill rides and Peppa Pig World at Paulton's Park, to Beaulieu's National Motor Museum and Palace House or the tree-top adventures of New Forest Activities or Avon Tyrrell, there really is something for everyone.

Unmissable diary dates include Dogstival on 1-2 June at Burley Park and the spectacular New Forest Show, from 30 July-1 August at Brockenhurst.

Then there's the Lymington Seafood Festival from 12-14 July and the inaugural New Forest Food Festival at Hinton Admiral on 17-18 August.

If more leisurely rides and walks are on your agenda, check out the New Forest's newest routes and pathways at thenewforest.co.uk/things-to-do, which are easy to follow and interactive, with step-by-step directions, links to more information and the ability to export to Google Maps.

There are 40 great routes, grouped into pub walks, dog walks, historic walks and accessible walks – so no one has to miss out on the fun.



Your four-legged friend will have fun at Dogstival – it's THE festival for dogs and dog lovers.

Cyclists will delight in the car-free bike trails – there are more than 100 miles of them!

For more details on what to do in the New Forest visit thenewforest.co.uk and wightlink.co.uk/explorer

Go New Forest



Take time out and beat the winter blues with a trip to the New Forest.

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What's on...

The Island's events calendar is bursting at the seams and there's always so much to see and do, you will be spoilt for choice. Here is our pick of what not to miss in 2024...

The Big Bouncy Barn at Tapnell Farm Park.

JANUARY

Alternative Burns Night

19 January, Dairyman's Daughter (IW)

Enjoy a dram of whisky alongside traditional haggis, neeps and tatties. There will be a reading of Robert Burns' 'Address to a Haggis' before an evening of live music. Scottish themed dress welcomed.

dairymansdaughter.co.uk



Wizardry Weekend

27-28 January, Tapnell Farm Park (IW)

Where the magic never stops... Head along to Tapnell and join the wizards, witches and farmyard fairies with concoctions of enchanting masterclasses, live shows and mystical activities from the spellbooks!

tapnellfarm.com



Isle of Wight Symphony Orchestra: Finn Mannion, Cello

20 January, Medina Theatre (IW)

Young cellist Finn Mannion joins the IWSO to perform Tchaikovsky's *Variations on a Rococo Theme*. Opening with *Prince Igor Overture* by Alexander Borodin, the performance will also include *Symphony No. 1 in D Minor* by Sergei Rachmaninov and *A Somerset Rhapsody* by composer Gustav Holst.

THIS EVENT IS PROUDLY SPONSORED BY WIGHTLINK

iwso.co.uk



FEBRUARY

Love Week

10-25 February, Monkey Haven (IW)

Swing on by to Monkey Haven – and fall in love with the rescued monkeys, owls, meerkats and other exotic creatures. The Gold award-winning sanctuary, just outside Newport, is hosting Love Week during half term. There will be rescue stories to warm your heart, plus the daily keeper talks will focus on love in its many forms – romances, bromances and there's even a monkey who's found happiness with his squeaky toy pig!

monkeyhaven.org



A Night of a Thousand Freddies

10 February, Shanklin Theatre (IW)

Back by popular demand, experience a truly memorable re-enactment of Queen live on stage. Featuring full staging, lighting, backdrops and pyrotechnics, this special extended set from renowned tribute act, The Bohemians, combines the showmanship, musicianship, costumes and majestic magnificence of Queen. Get ready to rock in the aisles!

shanklintheatre.com



February Half Term at the Sanctuary!

10-18 February, Wildheart Animal Sanctuary (IW)

Time to shake off some of the winter blues and leap into February Half Term at the Sanctuary where they will be celebrating 'Leap Year Lynx'. Delve into all things Lynx, learn about this incredibly amazing cat, their special snow paws and why they are so endangered. Take part in the Lynx activity trail and learn how you can help save the species.

wildheartanimalsanctuary.org



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The Bouncy Barn

10–17 February
(selected dates),
Tapnell Farm Park (IW)



Bounce your way out of Winter and put a Spring in your step! This high energy event is for all ages, with a HUGE range of inflatable activities – from slides to castles to TOTAL WIPEOUT, there will be hilarious challenges to keep the small (and big) kids entertained this half term!

tapnellfarm.com

Isle of Wight Story Festival

15–17 February,
Quay Arts (IW)



A magic mix of storytelling, performance, puppeteers, workshops, competitions, comedy nights and debates. Offering both free and ticketed events featuring a number of popular children's authors, there really is something for youngsters of all ages!

iwstoryfestival.com

MARCH

Easter Wonderland

28 March–13 April (selected dates), Tapnell Farm Park (IW)



Be transported this Easter break into a realm of enchantment and wonder! Expect quirky characters, farmyard tales and flamboyant activities to celebrate Tapnell in the Spring!

tapnellfarm.com



Easter Madagascar Madness at the Sanctuary

29 March–14 April, Wildheart Animal Sanctuary (IW)



Swing into Easter at the Wildheart Animal Sanctuary for some egg-strordinary Madagascar Madness! Bring your little cubs – there will be tons of Easter surprises for the whole family to enjoy.

wildheartanimalsanctuary.org

March of the MODS

30 March, Ryde (IW)



Head to Ryde seafront as the March of the MODS rolls into town. With a whole host of live bands and DJ's playing the best Mod, Ska and Northern Soul Classics, it promises to be a night to remember. Dress to impress and support the Teenage Cancer Trust.

visualimpact.co.uk

The Great Railway Easter Hunt

29 March–12 April, Isle of Wight Steam Railway (IW)



The railway chicks have gone quackers at Havenstreet this Easter! Follow the clues as you explore the attraction. Can you find them all and claim your chocolatey prize? Join the Easter Bonnet Parade at 13:15 each day, with your hats prepared at home in advance. Haven Falconry will also be doing daily flying demonstrations.

iwsteamrailway.co.uk



Jack Up the 60s with The Zoots

30 March, Shanklin Theatre (IW)



Owing to very popular demand, Jack Up Events are bringing back the good times with a very special 'Jack Up The 60s' evening at Shanklin Theatre. Multi-talented five-piece band The Zoots will bring the unforgettable sounds of the iconic decade to life, taking audiences on both a visual and musical journey. This is THE 60s show that's been wowing audiences around the world!

shanklintheatre.com



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For more events visit wightlink.co.uk/explorer

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY



Sandown Sprint

20–21 April,
Sandown (IW)



Isle of Wight Walking Festival

11–19 May,
Various locations (IW)



Isle of Wight Festival

20–23 June,
Seaclose Park (IW)



Ventnor Fringe Festival

19–28 July,
Ventnor (IW)



Island Steam Fair

23–26 August,
Isle of Wight Steam Railway (IW)

Please note: all event details were correct at time of going to press but may be subject to change. Please check online and book in advance where possible.

APRIL

Isle of Wight Spring Art & Garden Fair

6–7 April, Northwood House (IW)



The 2024 Spring Art & Garden Fair promises to be bigger and more popular than ever before. Combining plants, shrubs, garden machinery, tools and landscaping products with a fantastic Island artist showcase, this is an event not to be missed.

northwoodhouse.org

Spring Weekend Wellness Retreat

12–14 April, Yarmouth (IW)



Escape the demands of a busy life in the beautiful setting of East Afton Farmhouse for a weekend of wellness, fitness and relaxation hosted by Balance + Glo. You will be treated to daily yoga sessions, strength building fitness and coastal walks.

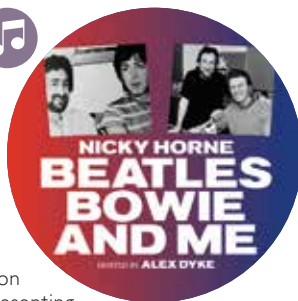
balanceandglo.com

Beatles, Bowie & Me – with Nicky Horne



18 April, Shanklin Theatre (IW)

Boom Radio's Nicky Horne shares rare recordings and amazing stories about his encounters with The Beatles and David Bowie live on stage at this 'audience with' event, hosted by broadcaster Alex Dyke. As one of the original line-up on London's Capital Radio, as well as presenting shows on BBC Radio 1 and Radio 2, Nicky has interviewed them all and has fascinating stories and a great archive.

shanklintheatre.com


Sandown Sprint

20–21 April, Sandown (IW)



The Isle of Wight Speed Trials Island Car Centre Sandown Sprint returns for 2024. Harking back to the days before national speed limits on UK roads, the event evokes a sense of nostalgia as vehicles compete once again on Culver Parade. One of the first events of its type to be held on public roads in England, this is a much-visit for any car and motorsports enthusiast and promises plenty of action!

isleofwightspeedtrials.co.uk

Real Ale Festival



4–6 May, Isle of Wight Steam Railway (IW)

Kick start your May Bank Holiday with a visit to the Steam Railway and the famous Real Ale Festival. Enjoy a pint of your favourite best brew, or maybe try something new. With beers sourced from brewers all over the country, including many brewed on the Isle of Wight – there are even a few ciders.

iwsteamrailway.co.uk

Isle of Wight Randonnee



5 May, Islandwide (IW)

Take to two wheels and cycle clockwise around the Isle of Wight with The Randonnee. Pick from the 100km or 55km routes, this day event remains completely free to enter. Witness the whole of the Island's stunning scenery and compete with 3,000 other Randonnee participants in this great event, first established in 1985.

cycleisland.co.uk


Isle of Wight Walking Festival



11–19 May, Various locations (IW)

Celebrating 25 years, the Spring Isle of Wight Walking Festival takes place in May, offering a sunny adventure through the Island's unique landscape. Walkers can expect routes through the countryside and along the coast, each vista as breath-taking as the next and home to thriving wildlife and colourful springtime flora and fauna. This will also include the popular 'Walk the Wight' fundraising event in support of local hospice, Mountbatten.

isleofwightwalkingfestival.co.uk

Wolverton Folk and Blues Festival



11 May, Wolverton Manor (IW)

A festival of folk and blues music in the scenic grounds of Wolverton Manor. Various Island food stalls, home-made bakes, ale, cider and beers are all part of the frivolities. Bring a blanket, relax and immerse yourself in the sounds.

facebook.com/WolvertonFolkandBlues


Walk the Wight 2024



12 May, Islandwide (IW)

Raising funds for Mountbatten, Walk the Wight boasts four routes – including the full 26.5 mile walk from Bembridge to The Needles – and free bus travel to and from every designated walk. All abilities catered for, and people of all ages welcomed. A fantastic way to experience the Isle of Wight's gorgeous landscape.

mountbatten.org.uk

Wellbeing Weekend



18–19 May, Ventnor Botanic Garden (IW)

Enjoy a special wellbeing weekend amongst the plants as part of Ventnor Botanic Garden. There's plenty to explore from yoga, to tai chi, breathwork and Qigong as well as song and dance classes plus workshops offering insights on wellbeing. With healing foods available too, it's a real feast for the senses!

botanic.co.uk

MAY

Spring Buggin'

3–6 May, Retro Staycations, Ryde (IW)



Following the success of 2023's event, this year there will be not one, but two Buggin' events! Spring Buggin' will kick-start the season in style with a camp out over the Early May Bank Holiday weekend, followed by Wight Buggin' in September. This family-friendly event will also have a licensed bar courtesy of Island Ales and several Island food traders on-site. All are welcome including non-VW camping.

retrostaycations.co.uk


Isle of Wight Symphony Orchestra: Dmytro Fonariuk, Clarinet

18 May, Medina Theatre (IW)

Ukrainian clarinetist, Dmytro Fonariuk, joins the IWSO for the first time to perform *Introduction, Theme and Variations* by composer Gioacchino Rossini and *Concertino in E Flat* by Carl Maria von Weber. The performance will also feature Alexander Borodin's *Symphony No.2* in B Minor and Anthony Hedges Scenes from the Humber.

THIS EVENT IS PROUDLY SPONSORED BY WIGHTLINK

iwso.co.uk



JULY



Sunset Sessions presents Judge Jules

5 July, Blackgang Chine (IW)

A pioneer of the club scene for over 30 years, Judge Jules will be bringing his unique mix of dance music to Blackgang Chine for an extraordinary adult-only clifftop party. With support from DJ Omar, not only will you experience the epic beats and drinks aplenty, but also a sizzling BBQ, so grab a burger or hotdog before the sun goes down on the cliff top and take in the breathtaking views.

blackgangchine.com

South Island Sevens



6–7 July, Ryde (IW)

South Island Sevens has grown, with nine entirely different events creating a sports festival like no other. Get set for sports such as; beach rugby, netball, stand up paddleboarding, kite sports and of course rugby sevens. Ticket numbers are limited, so book now to ensure you don't miss out.

southislandsevens.co.uk



JUNE

1960s Weekend



1–2 June, Isle of Wight
Steam Railway (IW)

The swinging 60s, the time of diversification, fun and of course the music and fashion. The era that saw Elvis, the Beatles and places like Carnaby Street cement their names in history. Dig out some beads, bubblesleaves and bell bottoms... it's a weekend that you won't want to miss.

iwsteamrailway.co.uk

Round the Island Race



15 June, Islandwide (IW)

Attracting over 1,400 boats and 15,000 individual sailors, this one day yacht race is one of the largest international races of its kind. See sailing teams from across the world negotiate the 50 nautical mile course around the Isle of Wight, starting off and ending in the renowned Royal Yacht Squadron line in Cowes.

roundtheisland.org.uk

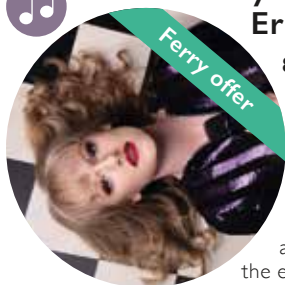


TaylorMania – A Taylor Swift Eras Tour Tribute Concert

8 June, Retro Staycations, Ryde (IW)

To coincide with her UK tour, Jack Up Events are staging an award-winning extravaganza to celebrate the iconic career of Taylor Swift. This incredible tribute concert will feature a full live band, stunning costume changes, and a mesmerizing production that captures the essence of Taylor Swift's various musical eras. It's an absolute must-see for all Swifties!

jackupevents.co.uk



Ferry offer



Isle of Wight Festival

20–23 June, Seaclose Park (IW)

Always the first major music festival in the summer calendar and with Suede, The Prodigy, the Pet Shop Boys and Green Day already confirmed for 2024, it's a fantastic experience for music lovers of all ages, including family-friendly areas and a huge range of accommodation options and VIP packages. Four days of great music, arts and culture that mark the start of the UK's festival season.

isleofwightfestival.com



Ferry offer



ABBA Chique Party Night

6 July, Retro Staycations, Ryde (IW)

Be transported back to the '70s and '80s with ABBA's greatest hits. Made up of a full five-piece, this dynamic act pride themselves on their authentic ABBA sound and look. Their solid gold performance will take place on Jack Up Event's silver bullet Airstream stage in a pretty meadow as an open-air concert. With a real ale bar courtesy of Island Ales and freshly cooked local produce prepared by local traders, it's the perfect way to party your way into summer!

jackupevents.co.uk



Ferry offer

Lymington Seafood Festival

12–14 July, Bath Road Park,
Lymington (Mainland)

A culinary celebration showcasing the best in the New Forest and south coast artisan food and drink. Sample local seafood and fish produce prepared by chefs in demonstration kitchens as they share their stunning techniques and recipes. Enjoy delicious craft beer, sparkling wines and boutique gin. Live bands provide the musical accompaniment to this unique food festival.

lymingtonseafestival.co.uk

Cowes Week



27 July–2 August,
Cowes (IW)

Playing a key role in the British sporting calendar and on the UK's longest running and successful events of its kind, Cowes Week now boasts up to 40 daily races for 1,000 boats and is one of the largest sailing regattas in the world. With 8,500 sailing competitors of all levels and a huge range of entertainment shoreside, there's plenty of atmosphere for spectators to enjoy.

cowesweek.co.uk





Royal Isle of Wight County Show



13–14 July, Isle of Wight County Showground (IW)

Celebrate the best of Island life at the Royal Isle of Wight County Show. See prize winning animals and livestock, sample delicious local produce, experience displays of show jumping, sheep shearing, tractor rides, clay pigeon shoots, 4x4 driving and arts and crafts. There'll be a chance to talk to the experts about their skills and gain their advice. Great outdoors fun for all the family.

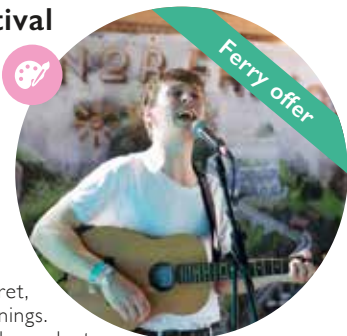
iwcountyshow.co.uk

Ventnor Fringe Festival

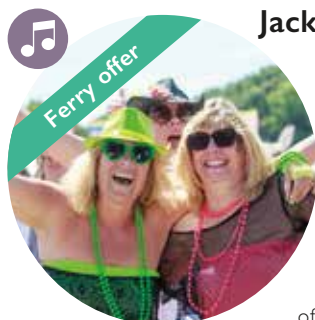
19–28 July, Ventnor (IW)

Ventnor Fringe brings together a rich, varied and eclectic blend of arts and culture. Launched back in 2010, the festival has developed into one of the Island's cultural highlights, presenting a programme of live acts and performances spanning theatre, comedy, cabaret, music and special one-off screenings. The festival remains proudly independent and accessible to all, with a vibrant programme of events this summer.

vfringe.co.uk



AUGUST



Jack Up the Summer Party

10–11 August, Retro Staycations, Ryde (IW)

The Jack Up Summer Party is a family-friendly celebration of popular music throughout the decades featuring a fantastic mix of some of the world's best tribute acts alongside performances from original artists. Get ready to sing and dance along to the greatest hits of the 60's, 70s, 80s and right through to the present day at the ultimate feel-good Summer party.

jackupevents.co.uk

Wight Proms

11–18 August, Northwood House (IW)

The massively popular annual festival celebrating classical music, musical theatre and live comedy returns to glorious Northwood House. Now in its seventh year, the festival extends over eight days, culminating in its spectacular Last Wight of the Proms' finale on Sunday evening.

wightproms.co.uk

Isle of Wight Garlic Festival

17–18 August, Fighting Cocks Crossroad (IW)

The famous Isle of Wight Garlic Festival is a celebration of wonderful local produce with live music, children's activities and lots of garlic! Playing host to star chefs, musicians, local charities and businesses and more from far and wide.

garlicfestival.co.uk



Victorious Festival

23–25 August, Southsea (Mainland)

Based on the coast in beautiful sunny Southsea, Victorious is a great family friendly music festival by the sea. Now well-established and always boasting a top line up of acts, this year will see Fatboy Slim, Snow Patrol, Biffy Clyro and the Island's very own Wet Leg taking to the stage as well as comedy headliners Russell Howard and Frankie Boyle. There's also food and drink and a whole host of stalls, all in a stunning setting by the Solent.

victoriousfestival.co.uk



Island Steam Fair

23–26 August, Isle of Wight Steam Railway (IW)



The Island Steam Fair is back for another action-packed year. Enjoy a vast collection of vintage transport, traditional fairground, live entertainment, plus majestic steam trains running along the line. Little ones will love playing traditional games such as coconut shys and hook the duck as well as a ride on the steam powered gallopers, perfect for big kids too. Hungry? Refuel at one of the onsite refreshment kiosks or cool down with an ice cream, plus there's even a real ale bar!

iwsteamrailway.co.uk

SEPTEMBER

The Great Wight Bite

7–8 September, Northwood House (IW)

Following the success of last year's inaugural event, The Great Wight Bite returns! The food and drink festival celebrates artisan and independent producers and welcomes leading chefs and restaurants in the demo kitchen. Crammed full of delicious food, drink and plenty of retail therapy all washed down with some great live music.

northwoodhouse.org



Isle of Wight Classic Motor Show

7–8 September, Newport Quay (Saturday) and Ryde Esplanade (Sunday) (IW)

The amazing Charity Classic Motor Show is back (formerly known as International Classic Car Extravaganza) and promises to be bigger than ever. This free-to-attend event is a must-visit for all petrol heads and history buffs, with the two-day charity event bringing together the best classic vehicles from all over the UK and Europe. You'll get to see an eclectic range of around 1,000 vintage, custom, retro and rare vehicles.

facebook.com/iowclassiccarshow

Travel information

Download the Wightlink app



Book and manage your trip

View your bookings and get your e-ticket for quick check-in. Amend or cancel your booking. Get directions to the port.



Check sailing status

Use our real time sailing status function to check that ferries are running on time. Check vessel positions on our live maps.



Check timetables

Check ferry times with our live timetable look-up.



Digital ticket passes

Season Ticket and Multilink Pass holders can view their pass, show the QR Code at check-in and keep track on how many trips they have remaining. You can now also top-up within the app.



MyLink

Show your MyLink loyalty card in the app.

Available from the Apple App Store and Google Play or download at wightlink.co.uk/app



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TIMETABLES
ON OUR APP



Contact us

Don't forget, booking and amendments are free to make yourself online.

If you need to speak to us on the phone about your vehicle or foot passenger booking, our Contact Centre team will be happy to help.

If you give us a call and need to make a booking or make amendments to your ticket, you'll be charged a booking fee.

**Visit wightlink.co.uk/contactus
or call the Contact Centre on
0333 999 7333**

Our lines are open Monday to Friday, 09:00–18:00 and Saturday and Sunday, 09:00–17:00.

During bank holidays, school holidays and festival periods, our Contact Centre can experience a high volume of calls.

Business customers

Visit our Business Hub at wightlink.co.uk/business where our dedicated and managed service will make sure your business needs are met.



Useful numbers

EMERGENCY SERVICES

For urgent police, ambulance, fire or coastguard services, call 999 or 112.

HEALTH SERVICES

For non-emergency medical matters, call NHS 111.

St Mary's Hospital
01983 822099
iow.nhs.uk

DENTAL TREATMENT

For emergency dental treatment, 08:30–21:30 call NHS 111

GETTING AROUND

Wightlink
0333 999 7333
wightlink.co.uk

Island Line
0345 600 0650
southwesternrailway.com

Travelling between Ryde Pier Head and Shanklin, calling at Brading, Sandown and Lake.

Southern Vectis
0330 0539 182
islandbuses.info

Routes designed to help visitors enjoy the Island.

LEISURE CENTRES

ILeisure
Medina, Newport
01983 823882

The Heights, Lake
01983 823881

Westridge, Ryde
01983 823883
ileisure.co.uk

West Wight Sports Centre
Freshwater
01983 752168
westwight.org.uk

BREAKDOWN COVER

Stag Lane Motors
01983 522443
staglane-motors.co.uk

Bartlett's Service Station
01983 865338
bartlettsservicestation.co.uk

James Garage Services
01983 521010
jamesgarageservices.co.uk

Visitor information Isle of Wight

Visitor Information Centres can be found in the following locations across the Island.

For more details and opening times please visit:
visitisleofwight.co.uk or
f/IWTravelAmbassadors

NORTH

Aqua Marine Gifts
49 High Street,
Cowes, PO31 7RR

East Cowes Community Library
York Avenue,
East Cowes, PO32 6RU

NORTH EAST

Bembridge Community Library
Church Road,
Bembridge, PO35 5NA

Isle of Wight Steam Railway
Havenstreet, PO33 4DS

Ryde Bus Station
Ryde Esplanade,
Ryde, PO33 2HE

EAST

Brading Railway Station
Station Road,
Brading, PO36 0DY

The Holiday Shop
37 High Street,
Sandown, PO36 8DE

Vernon Cottage
1 Eastcliff Road,
Shanklin, PO37 6AA

WEST

Brighstone Village Shop
Main Road,
Brighstone, PO30 4AH

Dimbola Museum & Galleries
Terrace Lane,
Freshwater Bay, PO40 9QE

Yarmouth Harbour Office
The Quay,
Yarmouth, PO41 0NT

CENTRAL

Godshill Village Store
High Street,
Godshill, PO38 3HH

Newport Bus Station
South Street,
Newport, PO30 1LL

As the sun begins to set on a cold and calm day, Freshwater Bay is a stunning sight.



Unforgettable *moments*

Treat yourself to some retail therapy at Gunwharf Quays, home to 90 brands offering discounts of up to 60% off RRP.



The perfect place to explore, shop and dine in this historic coastal city

gunwharf-quays.com

GUNWHARF QUAYS

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and elegant parkland

Royal children's playhouse
and Victoria's private beach

Lavish royal
rooms



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