

WIGHTLINK

FREE GUIDE

Wightlife

ISSUE 2: 2024

TM

DAYS OUT
STEP INTO
SPRING

PLACES TO STAY
CHURCHES
& CHAPELS

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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Firstly thanks so much for voting for us! Wightlink has been named the best UK ferry company in the 2023 British Travel Awards seeing off all other ferry operators, domestic and international, using UK ports. It's the most meaningful award to win because the decision is made solely on customer votes, so thank you again if you voted for us.



We know that the ferry crossing is an important part of your holiday and our crews are ready and looking forward to taking you to and from the Isle of Wight in comfort on our fleet of car ferries and FastCat foot passenger catamarans. We're sure you're going to have an amazing time on the Island.

Spring is here and summer is on its way and we hope the weather is kind so you can get out and about and enjoy everything the beautiful Isle of Wight has to offer.

This edition of Wightlife magazine has plenty of inspiration for things to do and places to see. There are fantastic attractions all over the Island, together with the widest

choice of cafés, pubs and restaurants. The calendar is jam-packed with exciting events from the Ventnor Fringe and Round-the-Island yacht race to the world-renowned Isle of Wight Festival. Did you know it's 175 years since the novelist Charles Dickens spent the summer here and 25 years since the Island's Walking Festival was founded?

We also have an update on sustainability at Wightlink, how we've installed Biohuts under Ryde Pier and the recent conference we hosted about moving from traditional fuels to more environmentally friendly options.

If you're feeling peckish, you'll find Wightlink's cafés on board ships and in our ports offer a wide range of locally produced food and beverages. We also stock essential travel extras such as sunglasses and phone cables so if you have forgotten anything we may have it – just ask. If the sun's out, why not take your teas and coffees along to our outside decks, enjoy those Solent views and get a breath of fresh air.

I look forward to welcoming you onboard.

Keith Chenfield

Chief Executive

WIGHTLINK

They say that 'west is best' when it comes to sunsets – settle down on the shingle at Totland and see for yourself!

EDITOR
Jo Butt

SENIOR DESIGNER
Jo Butt

DESIGNERS
Dillon Earley and Tom Squirrel

ADVERTISING SALES
David Brooks

DISTRIBUTION MANAGER
Brian Curd

FINANCE MANAGER
Karen Barnes

PRODUCTION
Karen Barnes and Lisa Thurbon

PRINT
Precision Colour Printing

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

PHOTOGRAPHY
Tim Addison, Maria Bell, Chris Boyce,
James Bridle, Jeremy Cangialosi, Megan
Clarke at Isle Click Photography, Ian
Dickens, Dimbola Museum and Galleries,
Dogstival, Phil Farmer, Isle of Wight
Festival: Callum Baker, Mark Holloway
and Dylan Roberts, Gianpaolo Mario
Photography, Holly Jolliffe, Robbie Khan,
National Trust Images/Steve Thearle, Luke
Nesbitt, Charlie Price, Rob Schaverien,
Neil Southwell, Jason Swain, Sykes Holiday
Cottages, The Charles Dickens Museum,
TheNewForest, Visit Isle of Wight, Sam
Warren (TheCamOfSam), Julian Winslow
and Paul Wyeth.

COVER SHOT
Red Squirrel by Stuart Shore



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

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the Inn for all...

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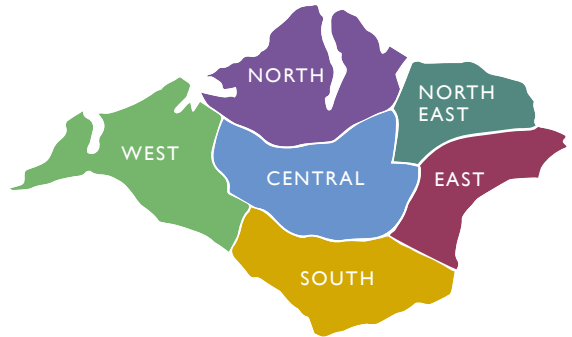
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72 EAST

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

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Discover what's going on in the next few months at the cities and towns near to our ferry ports.

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OUR DESTINATION
GUIDES START
ON PAGE 58



ATTRACTIONS
ACCOMMODATION
FOOD & DRINK

The Guide

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



Double awards success

Wightlink has won two awards recognising its commitment to offering ethical and environmentally friendly choices to its customers.

We're proud to have been named Best Ferry Operator for Vegan Food in PETA's Travel Awards, which celebrate travel companies that are meeting the increasing demand for vegan and animal-friendly travel.

In addition, The Green Parent magazine has named us as a Highly Commended Travel Brand in its sustainability awards which recognise outstanding accommodation providers, festivals and travel companies.

Wightlink Commercial Director Phil Delaney says: "Sustainability and customer service are among our key values and we are pleased our initiatives have been recognised in these national awards."

WIGHTLINK WELCOMES HOME THE MERMAID ATLANTIC ROWERS

Transatlantic rowers Xavier Baker, Paul Berry and Chris Mannion are now back home on the Isle of Wight, after an overnight flight to Gatwick Airport and a Wightlink FastCat from Portsmouth to Ryde Pier.

The three friends rowed 3,000 miles in 43 days from La Gomera in the Canary Islands to Antigua in the Caribbean and raised over £17,000 for ocean conservation charities. Wightlink Captain Mark O'Ferrall welcomed them to the Bridge for their first glimpse of the Isle of Wight.

Wightlink Commercial Director Phil Delaney says: "As one of Mermaid Atlantic's sponsors, we've been following their progress online and were delighted when the guys completed their epic challenge. It's been wonderful to welcome them onboard for the final leg of their journey."



CHANGING PLACES TOILET FACILITIES

Across our ports and ferries, we have a range of facilities designed to make your journey more comfortable.

If you have limited mobility and can't use standard accessible toilets, we have Changing Places toilets at our Portsmouth Gunwharf and Ryde Pier Head ports. The toilets are much larger than a standard room and come equipped with:

- Changing bench
- Peninsular toilet
- Hoist
- Height-adjustable washbasin
- Grab rails
- Accessible shower

For further details about our accessible travel facilities and customer assistance, visit wightlink.accessible



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, with the offer covering the Easter, summer and Christmas holidays as well as the May and October half terms.

For full details and to book online visit wightlink.co.uk/kgf



Win an Island escape with Away Resorts and Wightlink worth over £700

Enter our competition and you could win a four-night stay at an Away Resorts Isle of Wight location of your choice, worth up to £500.

With four locations to choose from, across the beautiful Isle of Wight, we're sure they've got something to fit your holiday needs and allow you to explore. Plus, we're including £200 of Wightlink ferry travel to get you there – with three convenient departure ports, Wightlink is your link to the Island.

Offering a range of accommodation to choose from; classic caravans, luxury lodges – some with hot tubs – and all dog-friendly if you can't bear to leave your furry friend behind.

- The Bay Colwell, Totland Bay
- The Lakes Rookley, Ventnor
- Whitecliff Bay, Bembridge
- St Helens, Ryde

Take advantage of the facilities on resort, before heading out to explore the beautiful beaches, local attractions and tourist hotspots.

#ExploreAway

For your chance to win, visit wightlink.com/away and use the form to enter by 30 June 2024.

This prize draw is open for entries from 1 April 2024. Entries must be received by 23:59 on 30 June 2024. Entrants must be over the age of 18. Cannot be transferred or exchanged for cash/vouchers. Maximum prize value of stay at Away Resorts is £500. Prize must be booked by an adult, over the age of 18. Off-peak periods only. Travel, meals and additional activities are not included. Maximum six people. Guest passes for facilities and entertainment will be included for each member of the booking. Pet-friendly and hot tub options are available upon request. If the holiday is cancelled less than two weeks prior to the arrival date, then it will not be rescheduled, and the prize will be lost. Prize valid at Isle of Wight locations only; The Bay Colwell, St Helens, The Lakes Rookley or Whitecliff Bay. Subject to availability. Prize must be booked and taken before 31 July 2025. For full terms and conditions visit wightlink.com/away.



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at
Sandham Gardens
Sandown Bay

Step into spring



Spring is a magical time for the Isle of Wight. The varied flora covering the Island's rolling green hills erupts into blossom, while the sounds of songbirds begin to fill the air. It feels like the Island's awakening after a long winter slumber. As idyllic as this sounds, unfortunately, the typical unpredictability of British weather can often put a bit of a dampener on things.

Meet the resident donkeys who draw up water in the well-house at Carisbrooke Castle.

GET IN THE EASTER SPIRIT

'Tis the season for egg hunts and duck races, and luckily the Island has plenty of options available to get you into the Easter spirit. For those looking for something traditional, The Great Railway Easter Hunt at Isle of Wight Steam Railway offers families the chance to search for giant eggs that are hidden around the entire attraction, solving clues to get your coveted chocolate prize.



Enjoy the Island's countryside and steam through spring on a vintage locomotive at the Isle of Wight Steam Railway.

The hunts take place daily from 29 March–12 April, alongside falconry displays and a bonnet-making competition on Easter Sunday! While you're there, be sure to catch a ride on the majestic 19th-century steam train, and experience outstanding views across the Island's picturesque countryside.

For something a little more unconventional, head on down to Tapnell Farm for Alice's Easter Wonderland. This special event promises to transport guests to Lewis Carroll's weird and wonderful world, with activities ranging from potion-making with Alice to exploring the twists and turns of the Mad Hatter's Maze. The event runs from Tuesday to Thursday, 2–4 and 9–11 April, and will take place no matter the weather. If you get peckish, The Cow restaurant is located onsite, serving up home-cooked, award-winning burgers.



Explore the twists and turns of the Mad Hatter's Maze at Tapnell Farm Park.



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Dive into the weird and wonderful world of Lewis Carroll at Alice's Eater Wonderland at Tapnell Farm Park.

Be sure to also check out the Sandown Esplanade's Easter Firework Eggstravaganza on Sunday 30 March at 19:30 to end your Easter weekend with a bang!

STEP BACK IN TIME

Spring is the perfect time to explore the Island's rich history and heritage, with many attractions hosting special events during the Easter holiday. Carisbrooke Castle, sitting high and proud in the heart of the Isle of Wight, allows holidaymakers to walk in the footsteps of King Charles I, and climb its imposing walls to experience breathtaking panoramic views. You can also meet the castle's resident donkeys, who have been drawing up water in the well-house for hundreds of years. Demonstrations in the well-house take place throughout the day.



What will you find on the Easter Adventure Quest at Carisbrooke Castle?

Fancy feeling like royalty for a day? At Osborne you have the chance to take an intimate look into the life of Queen Victoria, who resided here for much of her life. Explore the labyrinth of sumptuous rooms of the grand house, and take a wander around the colourful flower-filled gardens, just like Her Majesty would all those years ago. There's plenty to keep the kids entertained here this spring too – take part in The Giant Brick Build Session, where children over the age of four can get creative by helping to build a LEGO® sculpture of Queen Victoria herself, guided by expert brick artists.



Get hands on at The Giant Brick Build at Osborne.

From 23 March until 14 April, both Carisbrooke Castle and Osborne House will offer kids the chance to embark on an Easter Adventure Quest, with an egg-citing hunt around the grounds, whilst uncovering fascinating history in the process. A tasty chocolatey treat awaits those who manage to finish their quest!

Osborne

Victoria and Albert's palace by the sea



Spectacular gardens
and elegant parkland

Royal children's playhouse
and Victoria's private beach

Lavish royal
rooms



Book online save 15%



Learn about the native home of the five species of lemur – including these Black & White Ruffed Lemurs – at the Wildheart Animal Sanctuary's Easter Madagascar Madness event.

ANIMAL ADVENTURES

Looking to make furry or four-legged friends? You're in luck, as there are plenty of animal-themed attractions dotted around. One of these is the Isle of Wight Donkey Sanctuary, located in Wroxall. Open seven days a week from 10:00, the sanctuary allows visitors to enjoy walks around the paddocks, pet the donkeys and tuck into a picnic on one of the numerous benches in their wildlife meadow. Entry is completely free, but donations are welcome to keep the donkeys healthy and happy.

You don't need to let bad weather stop you either. Amazon World is an all-weather all-season exotic animal haven for all ages. Walk through jungle rainforests with rare colourful birds flying overhead, and crocodiles quietly watching you from their pond. From here, you'll

encounter a variety of different rooms and enclosures, housing over 200 species, from Red Pandas to Ringtail Lemurs! There is also a large soft-play area for your own little monkeys to swing around in as you kick back with a coffee in Adventurers Cafe.



With its Monkey Madness soft-play area and exotic animals, Amazon World is fun for all the family, whatever the weather – and is now a registered charity!



Take a walk around the paddock and meet the characters at the Isle of Wight Donkey Sanctuary – they love a good nose-scratch!

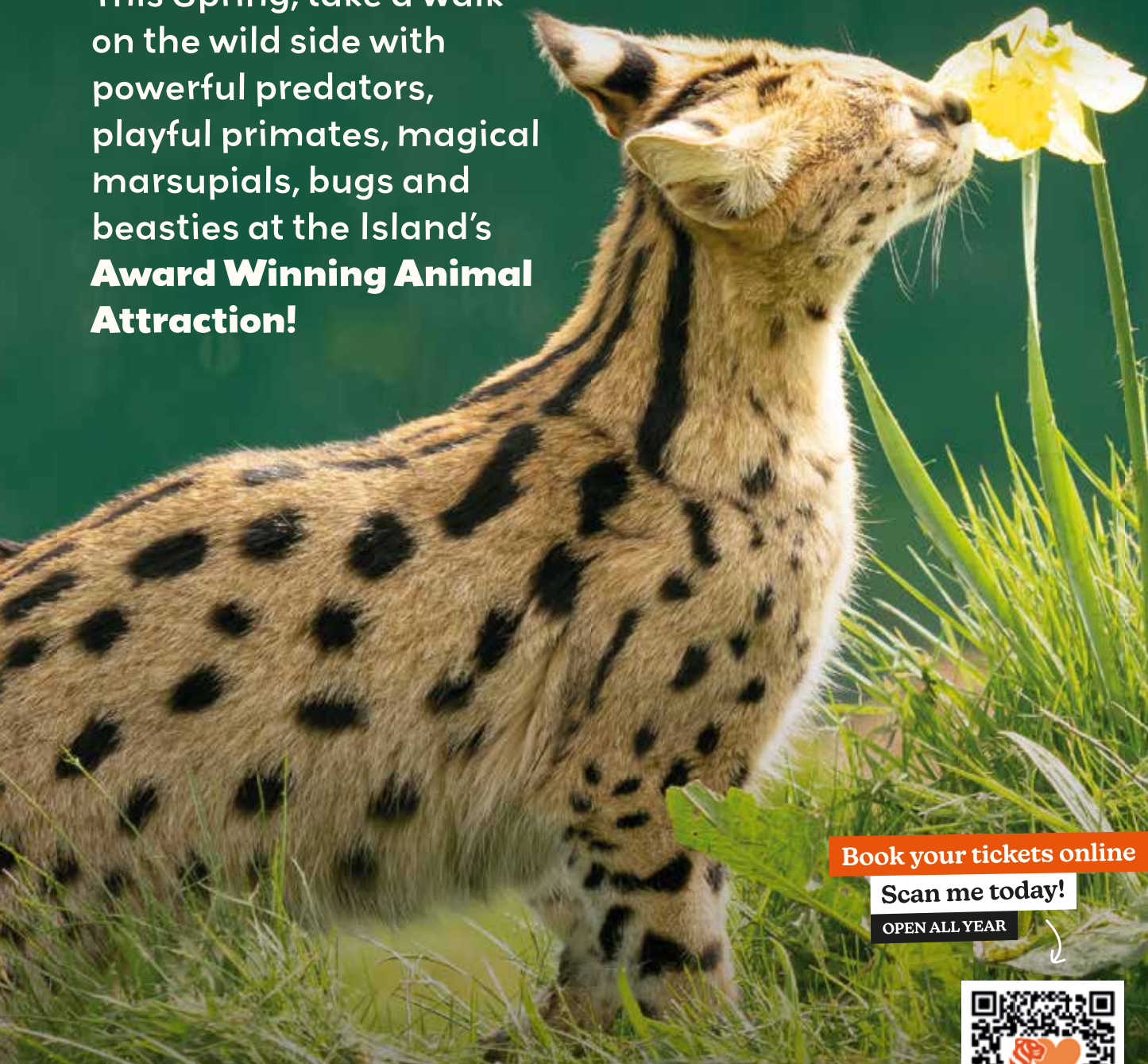
If you're a fan of big cats, the Wildheart Animal Sanctuary in Sandown should be at the top of your list. Here you can come face to face with Lions, Tigers, Serval and much more. If you're around for the Easter holiday, be sure to check out their Easter Madagascar Madness event which takes place from 29 March–14 April and promises to be 'egg-straordinary' fun for your little cubs!

For more events see our What's On Guide on pages 98–104 and for ideas for days out, turn to pages 58–93 or visit wightlink.co.uk/explorer

Thomas Spence

Ready, Set, Spring!

This Spring, take a walk on the wild side with powerful predators, playful primates, magical marsupials, bugs and beasties at the Island's **Award Winning Animal Attraction!**



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CHAMPIONSHEEPS FARMATHLON!

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Each attraction has its own
opening times & admission rates

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You can't leave the Island without...

#1 PUTTING YOUR BEST FOOT FORWARD

Lace up your walking boots and discover the Island as the Isle of Wight Walking Festival celebrates 25 years. Taking place 11–19 May, with coastal and country routes to suit all abilities, there's no better way to see the Island. Find more walks on pages 24–28.

To save 20% on ferry travel to the Island for the Walking Festival, visit wightlink.co.uk/springwalk



#2 GOING ON AN EGG HUNT

Get in the Easter spirit and keep the little ones amused this Easter by going on an egg hunt. Whether you're looking for a traditional day out, a historical quest or even an animal adventure, you'll find ideas for 'eggs-traordinary' expeditions in our feature on pages 14–18.

#3 TASTING THE WIGHT

The weather not only makes Islanders happier, it does wonders for our food too – you can virtually taste the sunshine in the fruit and vegetables we grow, the drinks we brew and the meat we rear. Why not try for yourself and pick up a tasty treat in one of our retail outlets onboard or at ports?



#4 VISITING A VILLAGE

No trip to the Island is complete without visiting one of our picturesque villages. For thatched cottages straight off the front of a chocolate box visit Shanklin Old Village, Brighstone or Godshill. Bembridge claims to be the largest in England!

#5 CATCHING FESTIVAL FEVER

Always the first major music festival in the summer calendar, the Isle of Wight Festival returns on 20–23 June. Attracting the biggest names in rock and pop including The Prodigy, the Pet Shop Boys and Green Day this year, it's not to be missed!





#6 HITTING THE BEACH

57 miles of coastline means beaches for everything you could want. Sandy shores for all the family, bays perfect for watersports, dog-friendly coves and some of the most famous coloured sands in the country. Look out for our favourites in our Destination Guides on pages 58–93.

#7 GETTING ON YOUR BIKE

Spend some time in the saddle this spring and take part in the Randonnee. This free-to-enter event on 5 May follows the Round the Island cycle routes in a clockwise direction and is a great way to take in the Island's scenery.



#8 MAKING THE MOST OF THE MICROCLIMATE

Enjoying more hours of sunshine than the national average, the Isle of Wight benefits from a unique microclimate that is perfect for plants and makes for gorgeous gardens. Marvel at the Mediterranean planting at Mottistone Garden or sub-tropical Ventnor Botanic Garden.

#9 SPYING UNIQUE ANIMALS

Will you spot a red squirrel in Alverstone, a seal in the Solent, a dolphin in Ventnor Bay or a Glanville Fritillary butterfly on the chalk downs at Compton? If you're an avid nature fan, spring and early summer are the perfect time to get out and explore.



#10 SPOTTING SOME SAILING ACTION

The Round the Island Race on 15 June is one of the largest yacht races of its kind in the world. With 1,200 boats and around 10,000 sailors taking part, it's a sight to be seen. Make sure you get yourself a good vantage point to watch the action!



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

Tracks through time

With the Isle of Wight Walking Festival celebrating its 25th year (and three of its co-ordinators nominated as Visit England tourism superstars) there's never been a better time to dust off those route maps and slip into those walking boots again. Plus, with over 500 miles of undulating paths across the Island, you won't be short of options either.

Founded in 1999, the Island's annual walking festival is said to be one of the biggest (and oldest) in the country. Since its first 5,000 attendees fished out their hiking sticks and set off on an initial programme of 39 walks all those years ago, the festival has evolved and expanded enormously, now including historic walking tours, accessible ambles and even hillside speed dating hikes.

Taking place at the same time is the annual Walk the Wight, which sees thousands of people trek from one side of the Island to the other, through ancient forests and over grassy downland, last year raising £460,000 for the Mountbatten hospice. So, with that, and the walking festival returning for its 25th year (from 11-19 May), we've decided to share a few of our favourite Isle of Wight routes, from gentle strolls to a few more strenuous options, to get you in the hiking spirit.



The Isle of Wight Walking Festival is a great way to explore the Island and offers some stunning views – like this one from St Catherine's Down over Blackgang.

ALONG THE RIVER YAR

For the twitchers amongst us, this West Wight route is just the thing. Start outside the quaint Red Lion pub in Freshwater (famous for its parmesan doughnuts with whipped marmite butter), before heading down the twisting road, over the old stone bridge and turning left onto the wide gravelled path.



Pause for a while to enjoy the view of Yarmouth's historic Georgian tide mill.

Once the train line to Yarmouth, walkers along this tranquil stretch of track might be lucky enough to catch glimpses of herons, oystercatchers and even wigeons from between the rustling bulrushes (and to better your chances, bring some binoculars too). After 30 minutes, you'll reach the historic Georgian tide mill, where you can branch off for a look around Yarmouth town, veer east for a beverage at Off the Rails or continue following the river, before crossing the modern Yar Bridge and heading back to Freshwater on the opposite bank.

FRESHWATER BAY TO THE NEEDLES

If you're looking for something more strenuous (with some literary links too), then set coordinates for Freshwater Bay. After stocking up on provisions at the Orchard Brothers shop (a characterful village retailer, serving locals since 1865), head south towards the sea, passing the thatched church of St. Agnes. Continuing along Gate Lane, until you've almost reached the shoreline, signs will point you right, towards the steep grassy paths leading up Tennyson Down.



The thatched church of St. Agnes at Freshwater Bay.



BRADING ROMAN VILLA

Come to the Villa...

Let us take you on a discovery of Roman life on the Isle of Wight over 1800 years ago.

The Romans were famous for their mosaics and our museum has some of the best in Great Britain!

There are family friendly activities, events, walks, a great cafe and free parking. All with amazing sea views.

For our events and opening hours please check our website...

www.bradingromanvilla.org.uk



Travel in the footsteps of Tennyson on the down that bears his namesake.

This chunky chalk hill takes its name from the famous Victorian poet Alfred, Lord Tennyson, who lived nearby at Farringford and often walked over these downs in his broad-brimmed black hat and cloak. Once you've caught your breath at the summit, alongside a granite cross to commemorate the great man, continue west amongst the gorse bushes and heather until you reach Alum Bay and the magnificent Needles rocks.

NEWPORT TO COWES

For a more family-friendly walk (or cycle), set off from the old brick warehouses down by the quay at Newport, heading past The Bargeman's Rest, round the corner and onto the cycle path. This three-and-a-half-mile route follows the woody western bank of the River Medina and offers optional stop-offs to see the 1860s timber-clad home of Newport Rowing Club, the medieval church at Northwood and the rows of young grapevines growing at the Pinkmead Estate.



Newport Rowing Club's original wooden boathouse, built in the 1860s, still stands on the banks of the River Medina and is a local landmark.

Once you've reached the seaside town of Cowes, continue north through the streets of Victorian houses before ending at Northwood House – an elegant neoclassical home dating back to the early 1800s, surrounded by spacious parkland and volunteer-tended gardens.



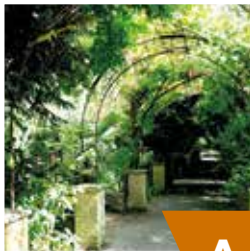
If you're looking for somewhere to rest your weary feet and grab a bite to eat before heading uphill, The Spyglass Inn, perched at the end of Ventnor Esplanade is hard to beat!

VENTNOR COAST

If seaside saunters are more your bag, then take one of the stunning coastal routes around Ventnor. From the sparkling waters of The Esplanade, you could turn east towards the ancient village of Bonchurch (where Charles Dickens used to come and stay), however, we'd personally recommend a more westerly direction this time around. Begin by climbing the zig-zagging road behind the Spyglass Inn, turn left at the Royal Hotel and slip into the calm and tranquil Ventnor Park, complete with Swiss-style park keeper's lodge and (at the right time of year) ducklings too.



BOTANIC.CO.UK

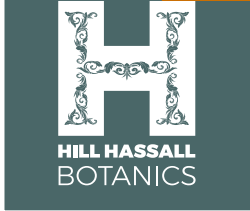


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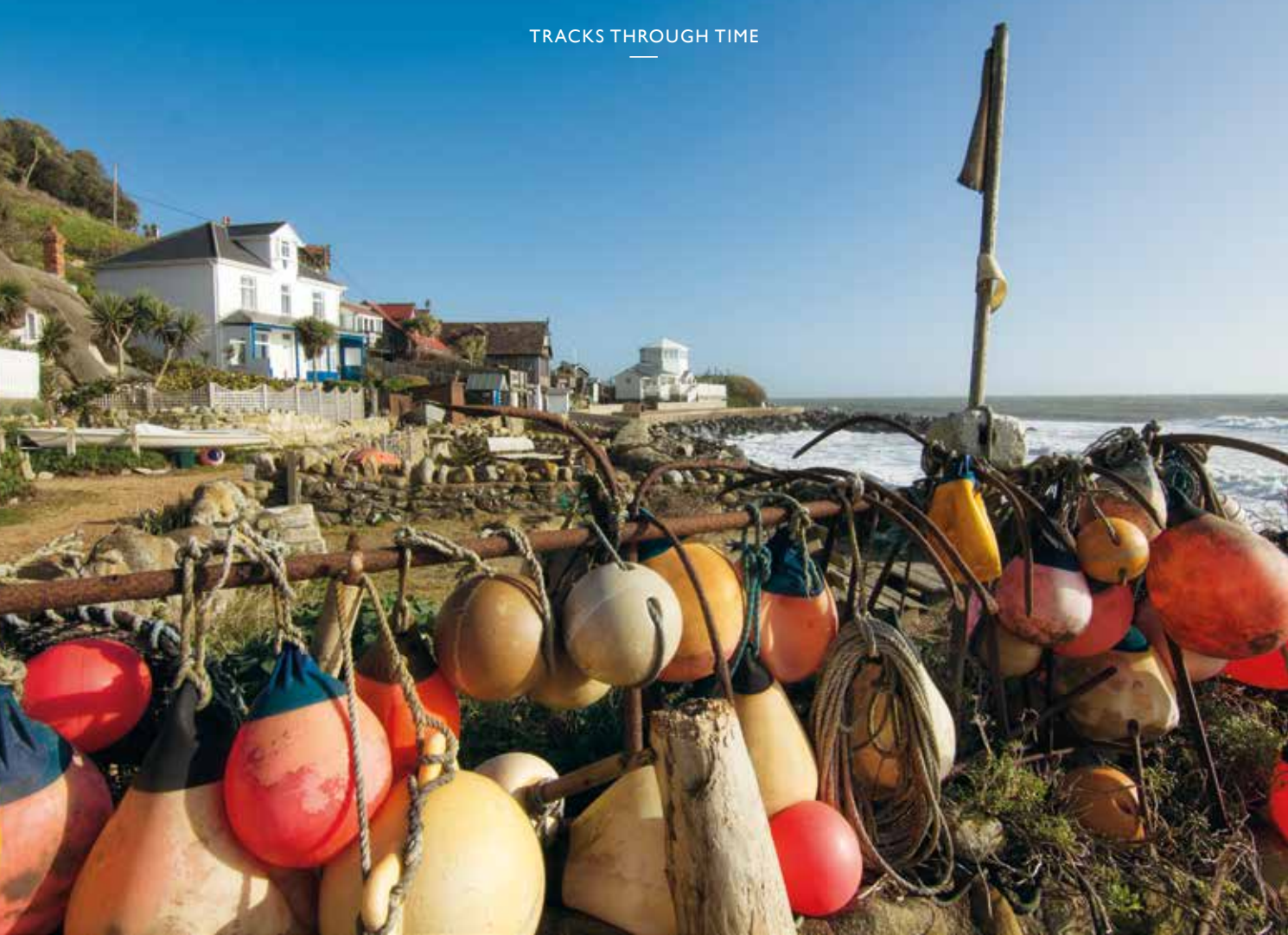


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Steephill Cove is packed with character.

From here it's an easy downhill stroll to Steephill Cove, a characterful corner with rustic stone cottages and one of the most popular beaches on the Island. If you're not finished yet, continue to Ventnor Botanic Gardens or keep to the coastal path and you'll eventually end up in the former smuggling village of Niton.

SEAVIEW TO RYDE

Last on our list (although we'd love to share more) is the smooth and gentle route from Seaview into Ryde – a firm favourite with local dog walkers. Setting off from the centre of Seaview village, head down Bluett Avenue towards the charming row of red-tiled cottages in Salterns Road – some of which date back to the 16th century. Next, turning towards the coast, follow the sea wall to Puckpool Park and past the gun emplacements and fortifications of the old Victorian battery.

Once out the other side of the park, it's a gentle walk past Appley Tower (a 19th-century folly that looks like something Rapunzel might have lived in) before reaching the seaside town of Ryde. If all that walking has been thirsty work, then head up the hill and slip into No64 on Cross Street – an atmospheric café housed in a former pharmacy, where barista-made coffees and home-baked cakes await.



Left: Seaview's pretty streets, leading to the seafront, are popular with dog walkers. Right: Ventnor Botanic Garden makes the most of the unique microclimate.



Appley Tower is straight out of a fairytale!

For more ideas on places to visit, turn to pages 58–93 or visit wightlink.co.uk/explorer

James Rayner



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Ecclesiastical escapes

From a cosy stone farmhouse set in the grounds of a Benedictine monastery to a converted tin tabernacle on the rugged south coast, the Isle of Wight has plenty of unusual accommodation with a spiritual link or two. Whichever you plump for, you're sure to find peace and tranquillity – and (if you're lucky) perhaps a touch of divine inspiration too.

As idyllic as this sounds, unfortunately, the typical unpredictability of British weather can often put a bit of a dampener on things. But fear not, as we've gone and compiled some of the best things you can get up to this spring, come rain or shine.

PILGRIM'S LOFT

Following the winding roads from St Boniface Down, heading south towards the sea, you might just pass Pilgrim's Loft, a swanky first-floor apartment housed in a former church (and boxing club) set on Ventnor High Street.



Bright and lofty, Pilgrim's Loft has elegant decor and plush velvet upholstery.

Since 2022, this bright and lofty bolthole has been impressing guests and visitors with its plush velvet upholstery and sleek, elegant decor – so much so it took silver for the region at last year’s ‘Gems’ awards, organised by Sykes Cottages. Described by the owner as a ‘serene’ spot to sleep, it also offers the perfect location for seaside swims and mindful walks amongst the lush, green shrubs of Ventnor Botanic Garden.

sykescottages.co.uk



Left: Pilgrim’s Loft is a first floor apartment in a converted church in Ventnor. Right: Old Abbey Farmhouse at Quarr Abbey has bags of rustic charm.

OLD ABBEY FARMHOUSE

Meanwhile, alongside the medieval ruins of Quarr Abbey, within sight and sound of a flock of bleating sheep, is Old Abbey Farmhouse. This sturdy stone cottage comes with plenty of rustic charm, a toasty log burner for those chillier nights and a private patio outside – to soak up the warming rays of spring sunshine. For those bringing a canine companion, you can rest assured there are plenty of lengthy walks through ancient woodlands right on your doorstep too – as well as more sticks for fetch than your pup will know what to do with.

Maybe, however, you fancy something a bit more deep and meaningful during your Isle of Wight sojourn, in which case, consider taking a room in the ‘new’ Quarr Abbey just up the road. Guests are invited to stay with the Benedictine monks in their Edwardian red-brick home, joining them for prayers, silent retreats and a thoroughly pared-back lifestyle.

quarrabbey.org



Old Abbey Farmhouse is set alongside the ruins of Quarr Abbey.

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Chapel House is packed with lovingly restored original features, including stained glass windows.

THE MISSION

Moving south, you can't fail to miss the cheerful red and green paint of The Mission near Chale – a late Victorian chapel made from sheets of corrugated tin. Constructed in the 1890s (by a British family returning from Madras in India), its warm woody interiors and colourful mid-century design now welcome visitors looking for a tranquil countryside retreat on the Island's south coast.

With two bedrooms on the mezzanine and two others in the old Sunday School, The Mission comfortably sleeps up to eight people, with fun features including a sunken bath, a retro record player (with a plethora of vinyl) and a Japanese-style kamado barbecue outside in the garden. Although hard to leave all these things behind, a trip beyond the front door is well worth the effort, with surf-suitable beaches and an atmospheric country pub just moments away.

themission.holiday



The Mission was built in 1897 to bring salvation to the smugglers and wreckers of the area and was run as an evangelical mission until 1991, before being converted in the 2010s.

CHAPEL HOUSE

Just around the corner, on the fringes of Chale Green, you'll find Chapel House – an impressive former church, bordered by green fields and thatched cottages. Set up for self-catering getaways in 2015 (after sitting empty for more than a decade), visitors will notice its lovingly restored original features, including stained glass windows and carved stone archways, as well as its elegant furniture and oh-so-sinkable beds.



The kitchen at Chapel House in Chale Green is elegant and modern – and has been fitted with every possible appliance you might need.

Located in a hamlet, surrounded by some of the Island's most impressive scenery, Chapel House is a particularly good option for those with countryside hikes high up on their agenda. Nearby paths and bridleways lead to the 19th-century Hoy Monument (built to commemorate the visit of a Russian tsar), as well as the ancient lighthouse on St. Catherine's Down and the magical mini waterfall at Bierley.

sykescottages.co.uk

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The Mission is furnished in an eclectic mid-century modern style and is packed with quirky and fun features.

THE LIGHT CHAPEL

If you prefer your ecclesiastical escape to be a tad more urban, then swap the sticks for Station Road in Sandown, home to The Light Chapel. Once a Wesleyan church, designed by London-born architect William Wilmer Pocock (whose portfolio included chapels in Winchester, Hastings and Petersfield too) it has since been tastefully divided and converted – with the bright red door to the side (with its shiny lion-shaped doorknocker) marking the entry to The Light Chapel.

Here, up to four guests can bed down in lofty rooms, set amongst the beams – with sea glimpses on offer from the original criss-crossed lead windows. There's also a restful living area and sunny private garden, however, with the sandy beaches and lapping waves of The Channel just a short walk away, you probably won't be spending very much time here.

theislandholidaycompany.co.uk



A room with a view – the bedrooms at The Light Chapel offer glimpses of the sea.

OLD CHURCH LODGE

Last but not least, visitors looking to locate themselves on the eastern side of the Island can't go wrong with Old Church Lodge in St Helens. This rustic stone cottage, owned by the National Trust, takes its name from the ruins of the ancient church of St Helena, most of which has been claimed by the waves over centuries past. Today, all that remains is the 13th-century tower, which was bricked up and made into a seamark for the navy in 1719.



If you're looking for a dog-friendly stay, Old Church Lodge is a cosy cottage just perfect for you and your four-legged friend to relax in! *Photos: National Trust Images/Steve Thearle.*

Restful and homely, Old Church Lodge makes a great dog-friendly stay – and with no wifi on hand, it works well for any digital detoxing you may wish to do as well. Just behind the cottage sits the undulating turf of St. Helens Duver, an ecologically important area of sand dunes and grassland home to chiffchaffs, crickets and rare species of bees.

nationaltrust.org.uk/holidays

For more ideas on places to stay, turn to pages 58–93 or visit wightlink.co.uk/explorer

James Rayner

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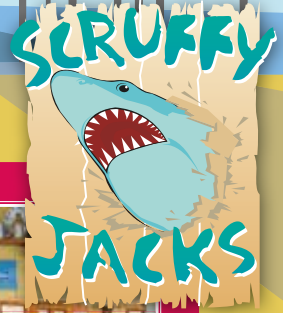


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Inspirational Islanders: Mike Christie

Singer, member of G4 and Wight Proms founder

Singer and composer Mike began his professional career at the age of 8 as a chorister before appearing in the movie *Four Weddings and a Funeral*. In 2004, he auditioned as a member of vocal group G4 on the X Factor. The band celebrate their 20th anniversary this year with a new studio album out on 12 April, followed by an extensive UK tour – which includes the 5 June at Medina Theatre. In 2018 Mike launched Wight Proms, the annual outdoor proms festival in Cowes which celebrates comedy, musical theatre, opera and classical music, and includes free arts workshops.

“What I love about the Island is that I feel like I’m on holiday all the time, no matter how much work I’ve got on, and Cowes where I live is the most sociable place I have ever lived.

It might sound odd, but the tennis courts at Northwood House are my favourite place to be. We are so fortunate to have such an incredible facility, and these courts kept me sane when I lost all of my work due to COVID.

The Isle of Wight has some beautiful beaches, but Scratchell’s Bay is the best in my opinion. Super secluded, with access only by boat, you feel like you’re escaping to your own private beach!

Tennyson Down above is a great place for a walk. Simply stunning being so high up with the Solent on either side. You get a real sense of the shape of the Island from there.

Of course, I have to say the Wight Proms Festival is my favourite event! It’s hard to believe we’re celebrating our sixth year and I’m proud of how it’s grown. We’ve got our series of Wight Proms Wednesdays returning too, where you can catch a performance and enjoy lunch afterwards. New this year, we will be taking the concerts to The Garlic Farm in the evenings, with tapas beforehand.

I also love Ventnor Fringe and can’t wait to perform there on 21 July with Thomas as our singing duo ‘Cameron & Christie’.

If I only had an hour to spend on the Island, I would go to Mountbatten Hospice to sing to the residents; something that means a lot to me. They do fantastic work supporting patients as well as their loved ones at the most difficult times.”

Wight Proms takes place on 9–18 August at Northwood House, Cowes. To find out more about the festival and the Wight Proms Wednesdays events, turn to our What’s On Guide on pages 98–104 or visit wightproms.co.uk



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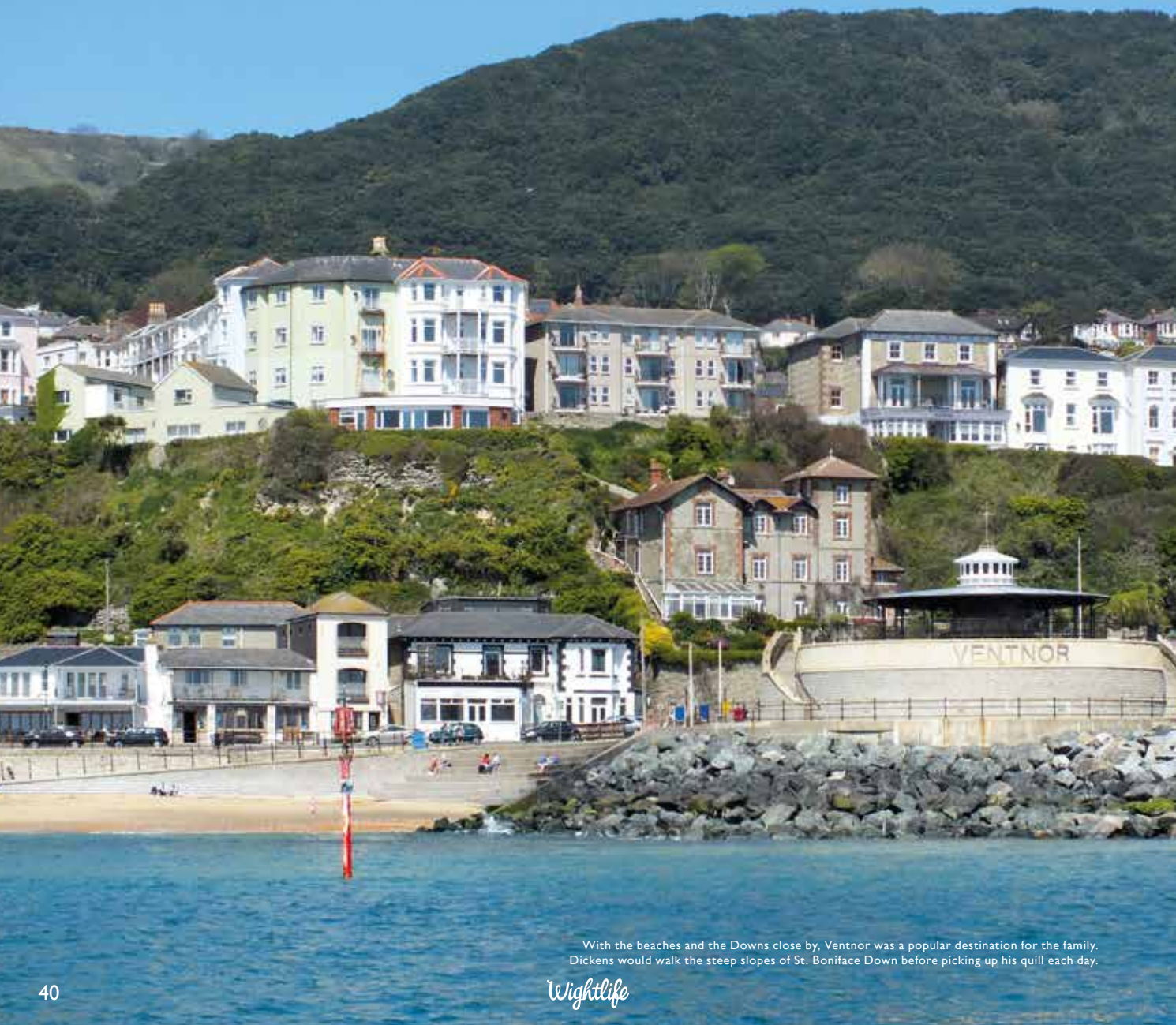


Dickens on the Island

As you gaze from your Wightlink ferry, did you know that you are travelling in the footsteps of Charles Dickens? 2024 marks the 175th anniversary of his last visit to the Isle of Wight and offers the perfect opportunity to uncover some hidden gems connected to his life and which inspired his works. We invite you to explore with Dickens' great-great-grandson and Island resident, Ian Charles Dickens.

Dickens wasn't a stranger to this part of the UK, because he was born in Portsmouth on 7 February 1812. His father worked in the Royal Navy pay office and Charles' earliest sights, sounds and smells would have been linked to the sea.

His first visit to the Island was in 1838 when he and his wife spent a week in The Grove's Needles Hotel at Alum Bay and a second week at the Ventnor Hotel (now The Royal Hotel). They were recently married, their first child had been born, *The Pickwick Papers* was becoming a publishing phenomenon and his new book – *Oliver Twist* – was proving equally popular. The year before, the Princess Royal Victoria had become Queen and it was her physician, Sir James Clark, who had first recognised that the air quality on the south of the Island had restorative properties.



With the beaches and the Downs close by, Ventnor was a popular destination for the family. Dickens would walk the steep slopes of St. Boniface Down before picking up his quill each day.

Victoria was a huge Dickens fan, writing excitedly in her diary about this new young author and when *Oliver Twist* was published, her Prime Minister warned her not to read it as he thought she would find it too shocking. She ignored him, finishing it on the eve of her wedding and declared the book “excessively interesting”.



Founded in 1832, The Royal is one of the most historic hotels on the Island.

After their marriage, Queen Victoria and Prince Albert established Osborne House as their favoured summer residence which meant that the Island became THE place to holiday for Victorian society. That is likely part of the reason Dickens returned in 1849. He had begun work on *David Copperfield* and finding somewhere hidden away would allow him sanctuary to write. With the beaches and Downs nearby, he could then spend the afternoon doing all the typical family things that holidaymakers on the Island still do today. He was now a global superstar and wherever the writer went, he attracted attention from all quarters.



Osborne House put the Isle of Wight firmly on the map for Victorian tourists.

In July of that year, the Dickens family travelled on the newly built railway from London before taking a paddle steamer ferry from Portsmouth to Ryde. With him, his wife Catherine and their eight children, were copious amounts of luggage, as their visit was to last for three months. They had taken Winterbourne House in Bonchurch, which Charles fell instantly in love with – he wrote “I think it is the prettiest place I ever saw in my life, either at home or abroad”.

THE SPYGLASS INN

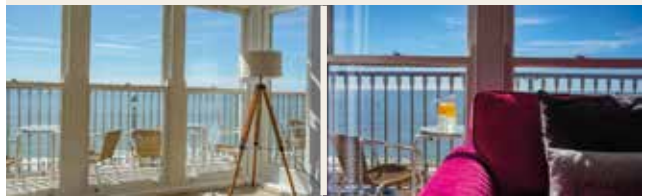
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To set himself up each day, Dickens would take a swim from the beach in Bonchurch, returning after writing to play rounders with his family.

David Copperfield is a novel that reflects much of Dickens' own life. He always said that it was his favourite, but because the early chapters reflected his tough childhood, it was hard to write about. To set himself up each morning, Dickens – then 37 years old – would take a swim from the beach in Bonchurch, before showering under an ice-cold waterfall that tumbled over the cliff. In 1849, Dickens had a carpenter route it in order to give him a perpetual shower bath. It still flows today in the garden of Waterfall Cottage. Then it was a walk up the steep slopes of St. Boniface Down to the Island's highest point before he was ready to pick up his quill. He declared to family and friends; "I have made it a rule that the inimitable is invisible until two every day".

When the writing was done, he was ready to spend time with family and friends and when the Dickens family took to the beach to play a game of rounders, the entire village was there to watch them.

The Dickens' made friends with the Reverend James White, a local property owner and daughters Mamie and Katie Dickens got on very well with the Reverend's daughters. Another family to strike up a friendship were the Dick family and two of the Dick children were to feature in two of Dickens' books.



The blue plaque outside Winterbourne House, where Dickens stayed across the summer.

A son – Charles Dick – was to become the inspiration for a character in *David Copperfield*. In Dickens' notes, this fictional eccentric was to be called Mr. Roberts but during his time on the Island, it was swiftly changed to 'Mr. Dick'. Charles Dick's sister Margaret was also friendly with the Dickens daughters and they were to meet again 11 years later.



Left: The waterfall now flows through the gardens of Waterfall Cottage. Right: Ian Dickens, Charles' great-great-grandson and President of the Dickens Fellowship from 2019–2022.

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In 1860, Dickens' daughter Mamie was back with the Whites as she convalesced from an illness. At the same time, Margaret Dick was due to be married and when she was jilted at the altar, she fled home in her wedding dress and became a recluse. A month later, Dickens started work on *Great Expectations* and it is widely believed that Margaret was the inspiration for Miss Havisham. You can find the graves of both Charles and Margaret Dick in Ventnor cemetery.

Across that summer of 1849, many other friends visited the Dickens family including poet Alfred, Lord Tennyson (Godfather to Dickens' sixth child Alfred), who would later settle on the Island himself at Farringford, essayist Thomas Carlyle and the illustrator of *A Christmas Carol* John Leech, who also took a cottage in Bonchurch. In August, during Cowes Week, Dickens visited the town and met with his friend the Reverend Chauncy Hare Townshend who owned a house on the front, which you can still see today. Together they watched Queen Victoria embark on the Royal Yacht for her first state visit to Ireland.

So as you step onto the Island, you not only walk in the footsteps of my great-great-grandfather, but also numerous characters who live on in films, TV dramas and theatre productions around the world. I hope you have a very happy holiday and while here, get to write your own memorable story!

To coincide with the anniversary, the Technicolour Dickens exhibition will be at Dimbola Museum and Galleries until 19 May 2024. To find out more, see our What's On Guide on pages 98–104.

Ian Dickens

The Technicolour Dickens exhibition was originally commissioned to mark the 150th anniversary of his death in 2020 and was co-curated by The Charles Dickens Museum.
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- 11 Snoot Box
- 14 The Craft Cabin
- 15 Little Art at the Barn
- 16 Cotton Candy Kids & Ceramic Crafts
- 17 Squirrel's Den Collectibles
- 18 Wight Classics
- 19 Isle of Wight Glass Museum
- 21 St George's 12th Century Church
- 22 Historic Carp Pond
- 24 Lavender Cottage Holiday Let

Set in beautiful countryside at the heart of the Island, Arreton Barns is home to a vast array of arts and crafts studios, showcasing some of the best in local artisans and craftspeople. Browse independent local shops and find interesting and unique gift ideas, or even have a bespoke piece commissioned to take home.

There is a real historic charm at Arreton Barns. Here you can visit the family-owned real ale pub, a 12th century church, duck pond, traditional sweet shop and well stocked farm shop, all on site. It's the perfect place to spend a day with the whole family.

Watch the skilled artisans at work as they create unique, yet affordable items, all of which can be bought directly from the makers in their individual studios. They create a wide range of handmade items from a variety of mediums including silver, leather, glass, wood and much more.

13 FORTUNE LEATHERCRAFT

Specialising in making and selling handcrafted made-to-measure leather belts, everything is made traditionally on site. Pop into the workshop, where Anders, the skilled artisan, also carries out leather repairs and makes bespoke leather goods to order.



6 THE DAIRYMAN'S DAUGHTER

A key feature of Arreton Barns, is The Dairyman's Daughter enjoyed by locals and visitors alike. Traditionally decorated with original memorabilia, the pub has a lovely paved courtyard and sheltered conservatory seating area, perfect for enjoying a cold drink in the summer months.

Much of the produce used in the kitchen is sourced locally, with the menu and daily specials board boasting a range of home-cooked pub favourites. There are extensive gluten free options available, plus a range of choices for vegetarians and vegan diets. Real ales (many of which are local) line the bar, with a great selection of fine wines and spirits on offer too.



2 THE CORN EXCHANGE

Offering a wide choice of home and interior accessories to suit any home. As well as interior decorations, the Corn Exchange is fast becoming known among locals and holidaymakers for its great range of designer handbags, accessories and jewellery.





12 CHAD POWELL GALLERY & SHOP

Focused on capturing the fabulous night skies and diverse Isle of Wight landscapes, this gallery and shop contains an abundance of gorgeous images that show off the very best of the Island. With beautiful wall art and affordable gifts, if you're looking for a unique souvenir, this is the place to go.

20 ISLE OF WIGHT STUDIO GLASS

As seen on Channel 5's *Isle of Wight: Jewel of the South*. Take the opportunity to watch Master Artist, leading British designer-maker Timothy Harris and his team. The World Famous studio has for over 50 years been inspired by the Islands breathtaking year round scenery, flora, fauna and magical coastlines.



Browse the shop for something special, from a simple gift to a lasting investment. Free for all to see, experiences available, commissions welcome. Not to be confused with other studios, Isle of Wight Studio Glass is located at the very top of the site above the pond.



23 SHIPWRECK CENTRE

Founded in 1978 by professional diver, Martin Woodward. In 2017 the Maritime Archaeology Trust, a charity with over 30 years experience in research, investigations and pioneering techniques for the study of marine cultural heritage, took over the management of the museum. Inside you will find deep sea treasures and legends of shipwrecks from local waters. New for 2024: protected wrecks exhibit.



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Inspirational Islanders: Ben Stubbs, singer-songwriter

Born and raised on the Isle of Wight, singer-songwriter Ben learnt to play the guitar at a young age, honing his singing skills at Medina High School. His original songs combine pop, rock and country and are heavily influenced by great songwriters like Bob Dylan, Bruce Springsteen and John Mayer. Ben's debut album was released in May 2023 and has attracted global attention from the music press. Along with his band, Ben regularly performs at venues and events across the South Coast and beyond.

“There's something really special about the Island. Something that encourages you to relax. A sense of calm you can't find in many places. As an artist, and a creative person, being able to relax and let your mind make stuff with little sense of urgency is a huge part of being able to create something that's honest and natural.

I think that's why we have such an abundance of exceptionally talented, creative people here. An incredibly supportive community is also such a big thing for anyone attempting to push their art out into the world and the Island community is wonderful. People just support each other and they actually care. Of course, having a feast of really excellent pubs, bars and restaurants hosting regular live music is a major benefit to someone in my job!

Choosing my favourite Isle of Wight place is tough, but it's got to be Ventnor Bay. It feels like you're somewhere in the Mediterranean on a warm summer evening. Who needs a summer holiday abroad when you have that?

We're pretty spoilt for choice when it comes to beaches, but Appley sticks out for me. A gorgeous, sprawling sandy beach, surrounded by trees and nature, in close proximity to some really great places to eat.

I used to love the walk from Ventnor through to Shanklin, through Devil's Chimney and the Landslip. We've lost a lot of that very recently but we're very fortunate to still have a lot of really amazing places to walk. Headon Warren out to the west is breathtaking. The views are incredible up there.

Little surprise here, but my favourite event has got to be the Isle of Wight Festival. We're very lucky to host some brilliant events here on the Island but for me, as a huge music fan, it has to be the Festival. It's such a great platform for our fantastic local music scene.

If I only had an hour on the Island, I'd go and see my grandad for a chat and a cuppa (or a beer). As a visitor though, I'd probably put on some great driving music and go for a drive out along the Military Road. I love that drive when the weather's nice. Great for clearing your head and reminding you to appreciate the little things.”

For more details about Ben's upcoming gigs and performances, as well as where to download his music, visit facebook.com/benstubbsmusic. You'll find other Inspirational Islanders on pages 38 and 64.



Shanklin seafront

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ATTRACTION**



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shanklinseafront.co.uk
PO37 6BG



What's on Wight

Get set for a busy summer! The Island's calendar is full to brimming with a whole host of exciting events – from music festivals and motorsports to comedy and country shows. So crack open that diary and get your pencilling-in hand ready, as we share our top tips for what not to miss over the coming months.

ISLAND CAR CENTRE SANDOWN SPRINT 20–21 APRIL

Hitting the road this April (with plenty of revving and shiny car mascots) is the Sandown Sprint – an exhilarating weekend of motoring action. Reviving the once popular speed trials and rallies held on the Island up until the late 1950s, this event sees the town's Parade turned into a temporary racetrack, with the lapping waves of the sea on one side and the chalk cliffs of Culver up ahead.



The Island Car Centre Sandown Sprint will see a diverse range of makes and models compete in a speed trial event along the closed public road at Sandown. Photo: Rob Schaverien.

Last year, vehicles weaving their way through the straw-bale chicanes included a 1930s Austin, an MG from the 60s and a brand-new Ford Fiesta rally car. Later in the year, you'll also find the Isle of Wight Classic Motor Show taking place in Ryde and Newport – with up to 1,000 vintage, rare and classic cars parked up and ready to view.



The revetment provides spectators with a great view of the action below at the Island Car Centre Sandown Sprint. Photo: Rob Schaverien.

VENTNOR BOTANIC GARDEN WELLBEING WEEKEND 18–19 MAY

If you're feeling that a little bit of relaxing and reviving is in order, then you won't want to skip the upcoming Wellbeing Weekend, held in the tranquil grounds of Ventnor Botanic Garden. Designed to help you connect (or reconnect) with your inner self, you can take part in everything from yoga and pilates to dance therapy, art therapy and even a spot of forest bathing. Plus, if you fancy taking the experience a step further you can even spend the night under canvas, camping amongst the lush greenery of the Botanic Garden.



Enjoy yoga amongst the lush greenery at Ventnor Botanic Garden.

Can't make the date? No problem – there's also a weekend wellness retreat hosted by Balance+Glo being held at East Afton Farmhouse in April, where you can experience daily energising yoga, strength-building fitness and optional sea dips too (weather dependent of course).

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The Round the Island Race sees over 1,200 boats take to the waters around the Isle of Wight.

ROUND THE ISLAND RACE 15 JUNE

Prepare to don that lifejacket and hoist the mainsail on 15 June as the Round the Island Race returns. Put together by the Island Sailing Club, the race regularly attracts over 1,200 boats and 10,000 sailors – making it one of the largest yacht races in the world. After the brass cannons of the Royal Yacht Squadron are fired, competitors follow a fifty-nautical-mile course, starting from the waters off Cowes, racing westwards to The Needles, south to St Catherine’s Point, rounding Bembridge Ledge and sweeping back into The Solent. Other notable nautical events in the schedule include Cowes Week (weighing anchor on the 27 July) and the Seaview Regatta (setting sail in August).



Competitors in the Round the Island Race follow a fifty-nautical-mile course, heading westwards from Cowes towards the iconic Needles.

ISLE OF WIGHT FESTIVAL 20–23 JUNE

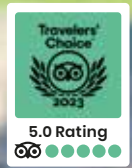
Ever since Jimi Hendrix played to a crowd of up to 600,000 people at Afton Down in 1970, the Island has been renowned for its legendary music festivals. Keeping this tradition going strong today is the annual Isle of Wight Festival (revived in 2002 and held at Seaclose Park near Newport), which returns for 2024 on the penultimate weekend in June.



As well as great music, the Isle of Wight Festival has plenty to keep the kids occupied too!

Headlining the event are The Prodigy, Pet Shop Boys and Green Day, whilst other acts stepping up to the mic will include Zara Larsson, Beverley Knight and The Darkness. If you’re more of a classical music person though, you might prefer to make your way to Northwood House in mid-August where the operatic and orchestral Wight Proms will take place.

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Isle of Wight
AWARDS
— 2023 —
GOLD AWARD

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Arguably the most famous event in the Island's calendar, the Isle of Wight Festival promises four days of fantastic music, arts and culture.

VENTNOR FRINGE 19–28 JULY

Described by the Independent as 'one hell of a homegrown festival', the Ventnor Fringe is the place to be for comedy, indie music and more artistic creativity than you can shake an easel at. Hosting over one hundred different shows, the event sees stages spring up across the town – from the black and white Magpie tent in Ventnor Park to the spacious Big Top on the scenic clifftop at Flowers Brook. Last year, events included comedy from London-based stand-up Sophie Duker, music from indie rock band Gengahr and an 'existential crisis on stage' by the Island's most well-known drag performer – Quivers. Other upcoming arts-based events on the Island include the ever-popular artists' Open Studios as well as the regular jazz and acoustic music evenings held at Newport's Quay Arts Centre.



Ventnor Fringe turns the town into one big venue as over one hundred different shows take place over the festival's 10-day duration.

ISLE OF WIGHT GARLIC FESTIVAL 17–18 AUGUST

For the foodies amongst us, a trip to the annual Garlic Festival (taking place just outside Newchurch) is definitely not one to be missed. Held annually since 1983, it celebrates one of the Isle of Wight's most famous (and most fragrant) exports – garlic – as well as bringing together local businesses, musicians and charities too.



Head to the Isle of Wight Garlic Festival and you'll discover a fragrant feast of garlicky goodness and a host of tasty treats to keep the whole family happy.

Taking centre stage will be the 'Theatre Kitchen', which in previous years has seen TV's Nadia Hussain demonstrating her baking magic, whilst local honey makers, drinks producers and fudge mixers will sell their tasty creations from rows of stalls nearby. If that's whetted your appetite for more foodie festivals, then you'll want to take a look at the Isle of Wight Steam Railway's Cider and Cheese Festival and the Great Wight Bite too – both coincidentally taking place on the 7-8 September.

For more events, turn to our What's On Guide on pages 98–104 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.

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Green News

Ryde Pier BioHuts: providing new habitats

Marine scientists from the University of Portsmouth have been swimming underneath our port on Ryde Pier to place new habitats on the historic 200-year-old structure.

The students fixed three 'BioHuts' to the metal piles. The large cages, containing oyster shells and hessian rope, will remain there for two years and will be monitored for signs of marine life inside. Similar projects elsewhere in the Solent have seen several species of fish and even endangered European eels swimming in and around the BioHuts.

Seagrass beds, salt marshes and kelp forests play an invaluable role in the Solent environment. The team have been carrying out assessments of the rich seagrass meadows under the Pier too.

By providing new habitats we will increase biodiversity, encouraging juvenile fish and cuttlefish to set up home inside them so populations can increase. We expect the cages to quickly become colonised by marine flora, with marine creatures likely to follow.

The research will provide the University with information on the health and productivity of these ecosystems, along with initiating conservation and rewilding efforts, that will improve the biodiversity associated with these ecosystems across the Solent.

Wightlink is committed to looking after the environment we sail through every day, and we are pleased to support University of Portsmouth marine scientists with their research projects.



Kristy Johnson, Benjamin Hazell, Georgios Georgiou and Abby Easton prepare to install the BioHuts.

Future Fuels – finding cleaner and more sustainable sources

When we use fossil fuels like oil and gas for energy, they produce carbon dioxide, a major contributor to climate change. Our industry is working together to find cleaner and more sustainable energy sources.

But what are the fuels of the future? Could ferries sailing the Solent in years to come use 100% electric power? Innovative fuels like ammonia and methanol? Or green replacements for diesel such as biofuel?

Different shipping companies and routes will require different types of fuels and Wightlink is proud to be leading the way with Victoria of Wight – England's first hybrid electric ferry, that uses powerful batteries as well as conventional engines.

We recently organised a conference on the Island at Fishbourne, bringing together representatives from the UK Government's Department for Transport, shipping companies, and regional maritime businesses.

The aim was to address important challenges facing our industry. Maritime UK Solent invited leaders from various sectors to discuss the move from traditional fuels to more environmentally friendly options, with the goal of achieving net zero carbon emissions by 2050.

Achieving net zero means reducing emissions as much as possible from things like fossil fuels and offsetting any remaining emissions through natural processes like ocean and forest absorption or by using carbon capture technologies.

Decarbonisation – how we'll reach net zero – is a shared challenge for everyone in our industry, but fortunately the Solent maritime community has a wealth of expertise to draw upon. The discussion covered a range of topics, including technological hurdles, investment in infrastructure, and training for maritime professionals to adapt to these new fuel sources.



Chief Executive Keith Greenfield presenting at the Future Fuels conference onboard Victoria of Wight.



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



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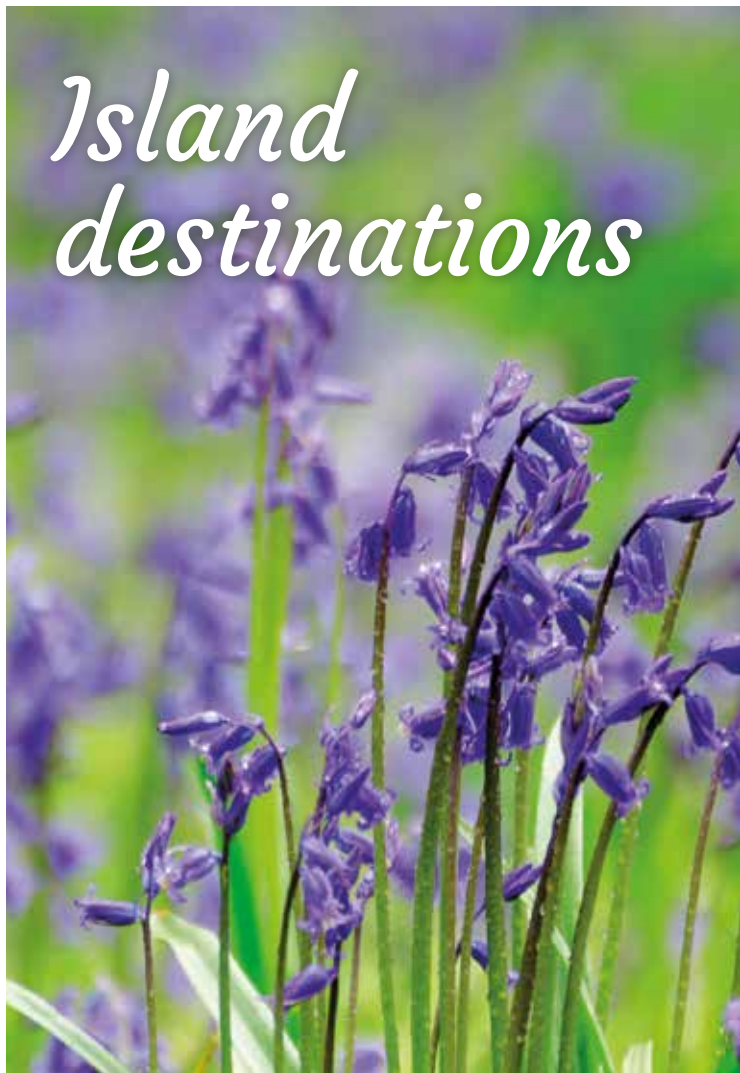


www.iowdonkeysanctuary.org

Lower Winstone Farm, St. Johns Road,
Wroxall, PO38 3AA

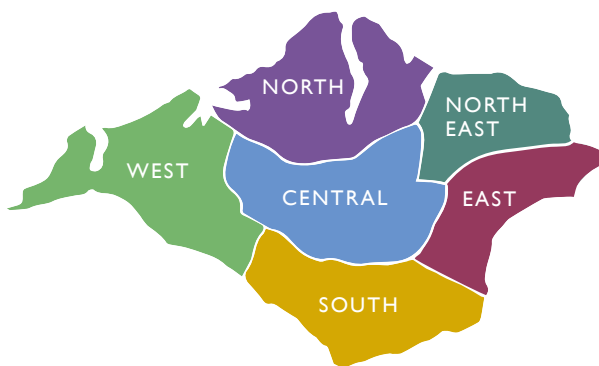
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



Island destinations

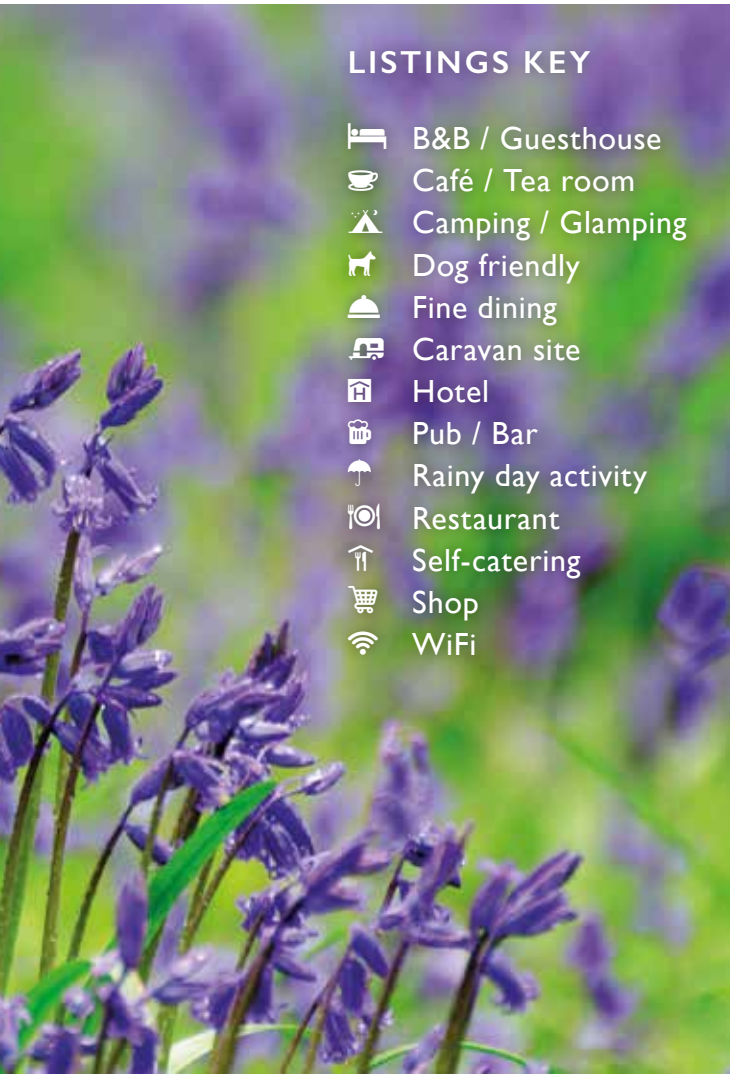
Let us take you on a journey through the Island's towns and villages, as our destination guides paint a picture of the Isle of Wight, ready for you to explore. Broken down into North, North East, East, South, West and Central, it is full of things to see and do...



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

LISTINGS KEY

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



The Island puts on a spectacular display of bluebells at this time of year.

62 NORTH

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

66 NORTH EAST

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

72 EAST

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

78 SOUTH

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

82 WEST

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

88 CENTRAL

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

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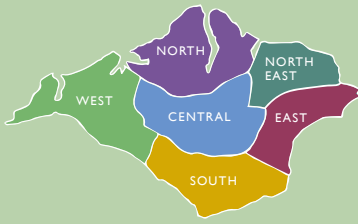
Last admission one hour before close.

For further information visit our website or call 01983 404344

INTERACTIVE MUSEUM



Isle of Wight Council



Lymington

Lymington to Yarmouth
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40 mins



For more things to do visit
wightlink.co.uk/explorer



ATTRACTIONS

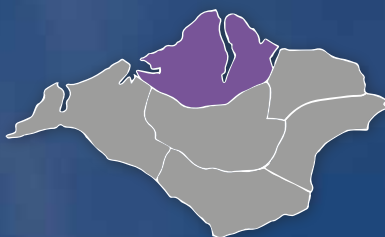
1. Amazon World Zoo Park p30–31
2. Arreton Barns p46–47
3. Bembridge Windmill p45
4. Blackgang Chine p43
5. Brading Roman Villa p25
6. Briddlesford Farm p51
7. Carisbrooke Castle p17
8. Dinosaur Isle p59
9. Farringford p33 & 87
10. Holliers Park p92
11. Isle of Wight Aqua Park p20–21
12. Isle of Wight Distillery p97
13. Isle of Wight Donkey Sanctuary p58
14. Isle of Wight Pearl p85
15. Isle of Wight Steam Railway p35
16. Lilliput Doll & Toy Museum p76
17. Monkey Haven p53 & 108 (back page)
18. Mottistone Gardens p45
19. National Poo Museum p73
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21. Oasis p8–9
22. Osborne p17
23. Ryde Marina p71
24. Sandham Gardens p12–13
25. Sandown Pier p37
26. Shanklin Chine p29
27. Shanklin Seafront p49
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30. Spinnaker Tower p95
31. Tapnell Farm p20–21
32. The Garlic Farm p92
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36. The Old Smithy p15
37. Ventnor Botanic Garden p27
38. West Wight Alpacas p83
39. Wight Military & Heritage Museum p65
40. Wildheart Animal Sanctuary p19
41. Yarmouth Castle p17



Portsmouth to Fishbourne
car/passenger ferry
45 mins

Portsmouth to
Ryde Pier Head FastCat
22 mins

North



The north of the Island is home to possibly the best-known town on the Isle of Wight, Cowes. Long associated with sailing and all things nautical, Cowes is a hive of activity during the summer months...

From the sailing competitions including the Round the Island Race and Cowes Week, to the dry land entertainment, there are a multitude of events taking place. Many of the pubs that line the High Street have live music playing and there are street entertainers – it's a real party atmosphere. A summer stroll from Cowes to the neighbouring village of Gurnard is a must, with perfect

vantage points lining this flat and even walk. Upon arrival, you will find Gurnard to be a pretty little village with a couple of pubs, a post office-come-coffee shop and a peppering of beach huts lining the esplanade.

Across the River Medina is East Cowes. Once the holiday destination of Queen Victoria and her family, a trip to the Island would not be complete without a tour around her palatial holiday home, Osborne. It was built between 1845 and 1851 in a quintessential Italian Renaissance palazzo style, with its sweeping terraces, towers and stunning formal gardens leading down to a beautiful beach, only accessible through the grounds.

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

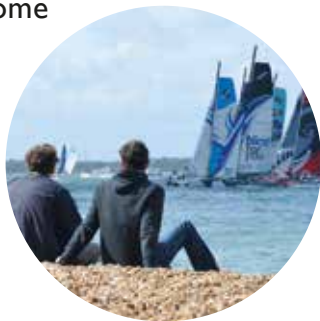


Play where royal children once did at Swiss Cottage at Osborne.



**Best beach for some sailing action:
COWES**

Cowes is the Mecca for all things sailing. The beach itself is shingle and you can often unearth some sea glass treasures. Watch out for passing cruise ships and high-octane sailing sports.



**Best beach for sunsets:
GURNARD**

Gurnard is a great place to catch a sunset as it lights up the sky over the Solent. The beach is pebbly and good for swimming – just watch out for learner dinghy sailors. There is a pub and public toilets close by. Keep your eyes peeled too, as the beach also benefits from regular visits from an ice cream van!



**Best beach to feel like a queen:
OSBORNE**

Not just any beach, this was Queen Victoria's beach. Accessed via paid entry to Osborne, take a stroll through the Italianate-style gardens or catch the shuttle bus. Once here, you will find a café serving up classic ice creams and teas and coffees, plus Queen Victoria's bathing machine.



Find out more at wightlink.co.uk/explorer



Cowes Web App
Explore the best of Cowes



app.cowes.co.uk

Explore local businesses in the Town Directory and find all the information and insights you need to enhance your experience on the water.

Inspirational Islanders: Claydon Connor

Co-founder, Strings Bar & Venue

Opened in 2017, Strings Bar & Venue is a 300-capacity live music and performing arts venue situated in Newport. Having collectively realised there wasn't a dedicated live venue on the Isle of Wight for musicians, co-founders Claydon Connor and Ian Davison established Strings. The venue is now pivotal to the Isle of Wight music scene, helping emerging local artists such as Wet Leg, Lauran Hibberd and Beth Brookfield showcase their talents as well as hosting a wide variety of bands, DJs and comedians.

"I'm originally from Manchester, but moved here when I was quite young. We used to holiday here as kids and loved the idea of living by the sea. The Isle of Wight offered a good opportunity to create something special in a unique part of the country. The slightly slower pace and fresh sea air certainly add to the appeal too.

We have some stunning landscapes, but I've always liked Newtown Creek and that northwest part of the Island. It changes through the seasons, but there's always something different to see.

When the weather is good, I like to head to the beach and, although it's a shingle beach, I actually really like Woodside Bay in Wootton. With trees along the edge, it's a little off the beaten track and has great views over the Solent.

There's certainly no shortage of places to go for a walk on the Isle of Wight. The narrow streets in Yarmouth always have a nice buzz about them, but within minutes you can be alongside the estuary on the Causeway. If I want to get out in the open air, I head to Mottistone Down.

Picking my favourite event is hard, as to be honest... my life is one show after another, so I don't get to go to many others on the Island. We've got some great performers coming up in the next few months at Strings, including Tankus the Henge, The Bluetones and China Crisis. Goldie Lookin Chain and Vote Pedro should be good fun too.

If I only had an hour on the Island, I'd head to Newtown Creek to take a wander along the boardwalk and see what I could spot. It's a real haven for wildlife."

For more details about the upcoming events at Strings Bar and Venue, visit stringsbarandvenue.com. You'll find other Inspirational Islanders on pages 38 and 48.



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



ACCOMMODATION

Thorness Bay Holiday Park



With stunning views over the Solent, a beautiful countryside location and a beach on your doorstep, you know you're in for an incredible holiday at Thorness Bay. The park is packed full of fun for everyone to enjoy, with an adventure playground, kids club and indoor pool, as well as a convenience store for any essentials.

Thorness, Nr Cowes, PO31 8NJ
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W.M.A.H.M

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W.M.A.H.M, Northwood Camp,
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wmahm.org.uk | 01983 305555
enquiries@wmahm.org.uk

Registered charity 1159529

Boat Trips

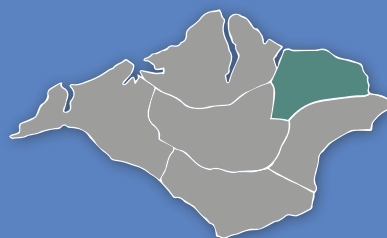
- Two Ports Cruise** •
Cowes & Portsmouth Naval Dockyard
- Cowes Harbour Trip** •
- Day Trip to Portsmouth** •



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For more information or to book please visit:
www.solentcruises.co.uk or call 01983 564602

Follow us for updates

North East



The north east has everything going for it. From the miles of golden sands that hug the coastline, to the wildlife-rich limestone ledges off St Helens Duver and the hustle and bustle of the Island's largest town, Ryde...

Here you will find miles of perfect sandy beaches coupled with excellent entertainment. Stripey beach huts sit alongside coastal cafés and restaurants, whilst traditional funfairs, trampolines, a bowling alley and a boating lake provide hours of entertainment for all the family. The town itself is built up a hill that provides wonderful views when looking back down towards the Solent and the pre-Victorian pier. You will find a good range of boutique shops for that one-off treasure, as well as plenty of places to relax with a drink and a bite to eat.

Venturing out of Ryde you will undoubtedly stumble across Seaview. The picturesque Edwardian coastal town has a nostalgic charm, with regattas galore during the summer months and the sea is busy with Mermaid boats and kitesurfers. The beaches here are slightly quieter and have a distinctly desert island feel.

Round the corner, before you hit the most easterly tip of the Island you will pass through the village of St Helens, known for its large village green that forms the centre.

On the outskirts towards Brading, Oasis is well worth a visit. Family owned and run, this shop is a veritable treasure trove, packed with interesting and unique items for the home – many hand-picked in Bali. They also have a coffee shop where the cakes are worth the visit alone!

The small parish of Fishbourne could be mistaken for not much more than a place to get on and off the Island at Wightlink's ferry port, but you would be missing a trick. It is the ideal place to start a walk to neighbouring Quarr Abbey along a well-trodden path. Quarr Abbey was built next to the ruins of the original abbey in 1911. There are beautiful grounds to explore, where you will find pigs to feed and watch as they revel in the mud. The Tea and Farm Shop does a superb ploughman's and stocks the Abbey's own produce, including the refreshing Quarr Abbey Ale.

Further inland, you can step into a perfectly preserved piece of history. The Isle of Wight Steam Railway provides a brilliant family day out. Take the steam train along the line from Wootton to Smallbrook Junction. Alight at Havenstreet for a trip around the award-winning Train Story Discovery Centre, watch engines being renovated or stretch your legs and venture through the Woodland Walk.

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



Travel the line and enjoy a family day out at the Isle of Wight Steam Railway.



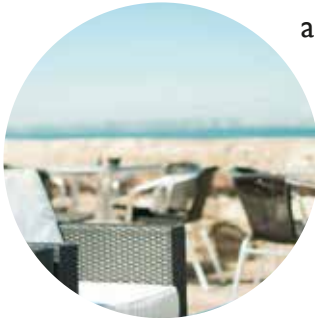
**Best beach for sandcastles:
APPLEY**

Perfect for families, Appley offers miles of fine, golden sand and a long flat promenade, perfect for pushing a buggy or wheelchair. When the tide goes out, you feel like you can walk to Portsmouth. Along the seafront, you will find plenty of cafés, toilets, parking and children's play areas as well as Appley Tower, a gothic folly built in the 1870s.



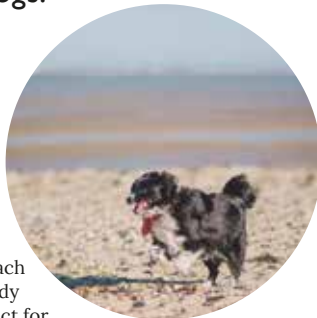
**Best beach to sit with
a G&T: SEAVIEW**

This sandy beach is popular with the sailing crowd during the warmer months, culminating in the Seaview Regatta in August. The sands are good for beach games at low tide or just sitting and relaxing looking across the Solent.



**Best beach for dogs:
ST HELENS**

Four-legged friends are welcome on the beach here all year round. It's easily accessible for buggies and wheelchairs with a flat promenade. There are pretty painted beach huts, a café and toilets all close by. The beach itself is backed by the sandy dunes of The Duver, perfect for the dog to have yet another walk.



Find out more at wightlink.co.uk/explorer



**YOUR
COASTAL
RETREAT**



Nestled in the 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 Priority Bay. Embrace the serene rhythm of the tides and the soothing sounds of the sea during your stay.



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

7 consecutive years

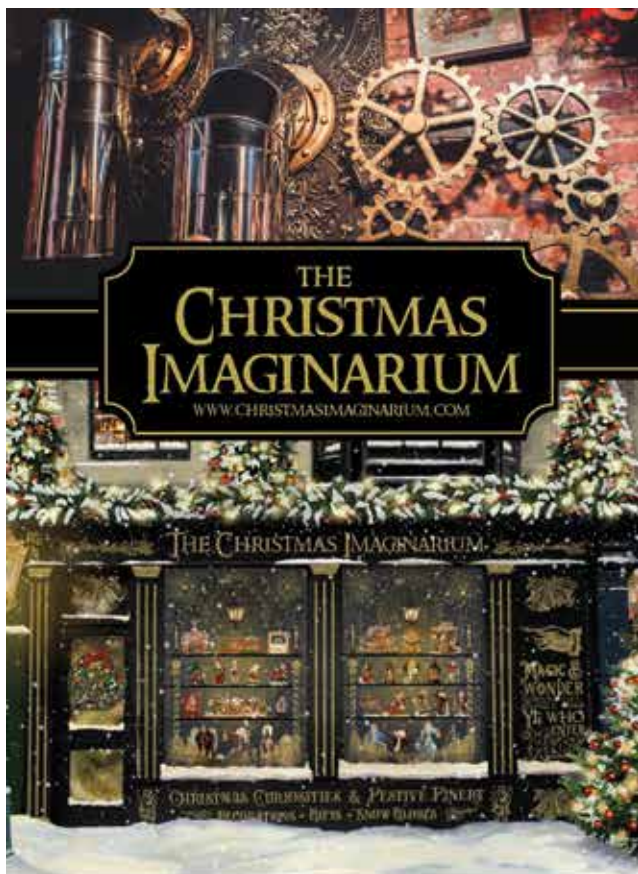
6 years running



'A class act'
- THE TIMES

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





PLEASE CHECK OUR WEBSITE FOR OPENING TIMES
 WWW.CHRISTMASIMAGINARIUM.COM
 POST CODE: FIND US AT 4 CROSS STREET, RYDE
 PO33 2AA JUST OFF THE TOP OF UNION STREET



ATTRACTIONS

Isle of Wight Steam Railway



This award-winning railway will charm, engage and captivate, leaving you with lasting memories. Settle back in beautifully restored carriages and discover an idyllic view of the Island's unspoilt countryside. Visit online for special events and to book in advance.

The Railway Station,
 Havenstreet, PO33 4DS
 01983 882204
 iwsteamrailway.co.uk

Ryde Marina



Enjoy a day of seaside fun for all the family at Ryde! Kids will love Peter Pan's traditional funfair, amusement arcade and the trampoline park. There is also regular live music and entertainment. Ice cream parlour. Hot and cold food and snacks available at the Beach House or Harbour House offers great food and drinks in a fabulous waterfront location, overlooking Ryde Marina.

Esplanade, Ryde, PO33 1JA
 01983 566339



SHOPPING

Bellissima



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
 bellissimaiv.co.uk



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

The Christmas Imaginarium



The Christmas Imaginarium is an emporium of wonder where magic abounds. Home of the world famous Santa Claus: The Book of Secrets, the shop offers an exquisite range of Christmas curiosities and festive finery.

4 Cross Street, Ryde, PO33 2AA
 01983 566937
 christmasimaginarium.com



Seagrove Bay is a little slice of paradise.



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, PO33 ITS
01983 874063
thegoosebooks.com



ACCOMMODATION

Nodes Point Holiday Park



At Nodes Point you can expect all the makings of a brilliant seaside holiday. Stroll along picturesque harbours, take a horse ride along the sands, discover amazing views and beautiful beaches or explore everything the park has to offer.

St Helens, Ryde, PO33 IYA
0344 3819 128
parkdeanresorts.co.uk

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, horse riding, golf and bird watching.

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

St Helens Coastal Resort



Escape to the beautiful St Helens Coastal Resort on the north east of the Island. Just a short walk from a sandy beach, this secluded retreat offers luxury lodge and caravan accommodation in a tranquil setting. The little ones will love the adventure playground and outdoor swimming pool and you'll love the lodges with private hot tubs.

Field Lane, St Helens, PO33 IUX
0330 1274 616
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



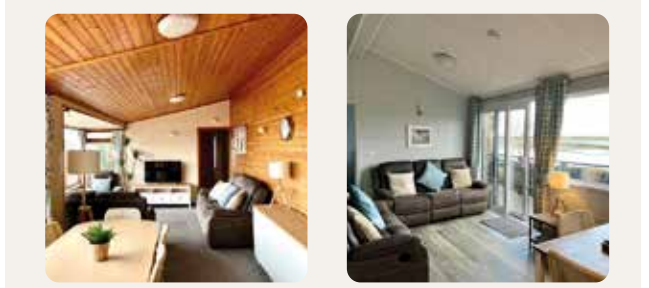
Explore the Isle of Wight and stay in the idyllic location of St Helens.
Built for those looking to experience a fantastic holiday with natural surroundings on your door step.

FIND THE PERFECT PLACE FOR YOU
★★★★★
5 STAR RATING



Home away from home


Our accommodation is a mix of holiday caravans and cabins, which are generously spaced and built with comfort and practicality in mind.



01983 872507
holiday@oldmill.co.uk www.oldmill.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
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thegoosebooks.com | @thegoosebooks | +44(0)1983 874063

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Bellissima

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

 BellissimaIsleOfWight
 bellissimaisleofwight

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 six years running, and two AA rosettes for the past seven years. Car park with Tesla and electric vehicle chargers.

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



FOOD & DRINK

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 at the Isle of Wight Distillery



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 IPX
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 six years running, along with two AA Rosettes for seven consecutive years.

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

RYDE MARINA

Bar - Restaurant - Amusement Arcade - Beaches - Music - Entertainment - Competition

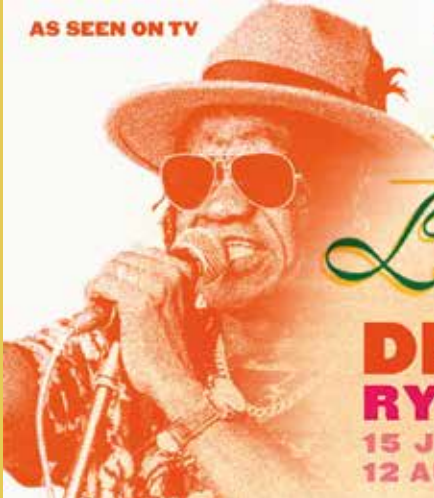


Open for private parties and functions



AS SEEN ON TV

FREE WEEKLY LIVE MUSIC EVENT AT RYDE MARINA



Love Monday
WITH

DEREK SANDY
RYDE MARINA 6PM

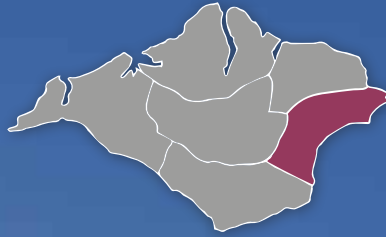
15 JUL 22 JUL 29 JUL 5 AUG
12 AUG 19 AUG 26 AUG 2 SEPT



GOOD VIBRATIONS ONLY

and stage?

East



The east of the Island delivers the classic British seaside vibe in spades! Deckchairs, ice cream cones and shops selling flags for your sandcastle, are joined by beachside cafés and bars, hotels with some of the best views around and plenty of fun for all ages...

Sandown comes complete with a traditional pleasure pier. Take a stroll out to sea and pass through a range of entertainment in the form of amusement games, bowling and even indoor crazy golf.

The east side boasts several of the best family attractions on the Island. Visit the Wildheart Animal Sanctuary for a close encounter with a tiger, lion or monkey to name but a few. For animals of a more prehistoric nature, Dinosaur Isle is a fun, imaginative and engaging museum – even the building is shaped like a giant pterosaur.

For history and imagination combined, Brading Roman Villa offers an interactive experience. Sandham Gardens provides hours of entertainment with a dinosaur-themed adventure golf, go-karts and plenty of ice cream to go round.

The beaches on the east coast of the Island are some of the best in the country. In fact, Sandown Beach has been awarded prestigious Blue Flag status. Try your hand at watersports in Lake, search for fossils along Yaverland beach, or enjoy a good old-fashioned lie in the sunshine on Small Hope beach.

Sandown's neighbouring town of Shanklin is a seaside destination with charming style. Visit the Old Village for thatched pubs and tea rooms and keep the kids happy with a trip to a gorgeous traditional sweet shop. The Rock Shop specialises in sticks of rock and old-fashioned sweets and is sure to delight all who visit.

On the seafront, you will find a range of activities including pitch and putt and traditional amusement arcades. You can even take a trip down to the Esplanade in the famous cliff lift to save your legs, or just to enjoy the views. Satisfy hungry tummies with fish and chips enjoyed in the salt air or a sweet treat – Toppings Ice Cream Parlour has over 50 flavours to choose from!

Find out more at wightlink.co.uk/explorer



Bring your bucket and spade and spend some time on the beach at Shanklin. There's plenty to keep the whole family amused along the promenade.



**Best beaches for little ones:
SANDOWN OR SHANKLIN**

Choose from either beach as both are equally brilliant for families. The waters here are ideal for swimming or paddling and there are plenty of options to get on the water. The golden sands are perfect for sandcastles and you will find all the traditional amusements of classic seaside resorts.



**Best beach for rock pooling:
BEMBRIDGE**

The best place for rock pooling is Bembridge Ledge. Revealed when the tide is out, this rocky outcrop extends as far as the slipway ramp at Bembridge Lifeboat's offshore boathouse. Expect to find various crabs (including the famous edible Bembridge crab), shrimps, anemones, goby fish and brittle stars.



**Best beach for a barbecue:
RED CLIFF**

Red Cliff at the end of Yaverland beach is the one beach on the Island where barbecues are permitted. When the tide is out, it's the perfect spot to relax with a bite to eat, whilst the kids play.



Find out more at wightlink.co.uk/explorer

THE NATIONAL POO MUSEUM

Have you been?

poomuseum.org  

Find luxury
BY THE SEA

THE SEASCAPE

3 BEDROOM COASTAL APARTMENT

LOCATED IN THE STUNNING CLIFF-TOPS OF LUCCOMBE, SHANKLIN

**SLEEPS 6 | HOT TUB | SEA VIEWS
ALFRESCO DINING WITH BBQ | EV CHARGING**

Tempted?
Scan this QR code to discover your next coastal retreat
or call us to find out more:
07775 764246

BOOK NOW


www.theseascape.co.uk



ATTRACTIONS

Bembridge Windmill



This picturesque, 300-year-old windmill is one of the Island's best-loved landmarks and is the only surviving windmill on the Island. Please note: dogs are welcome in the grounds but not in the windmill. See online for opening times at nationaltrust.org.uk/bembridge-windmill

High Street, Bembridge, PO35 5SQ
01983 873945
nationaltrust.org.uk/isleofwight



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. A great day out whatever the weather. 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. Learn all about their stories and how they lived. The whole exhibition is inside which makes it an ideal place to visit come rain or shine! Phone or check website for opening times.

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

Lilliput Doll & Toy Museum



Celebrating 50 years in 2024, Lilliput is one of Britain's finest private collections of antique dolls and toys with more than 2,000 exhibits from 2000BC to 1950 on display, including antique bisque dolls, rocking horses, teddy bears, trains, tinplate vehicles, dolls' houses and many rare and usual toys. Open 10:00-16:00 Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday (closed Monday and Thursday, except Bank Holidays). See website for latest information.

High Street, Brading, PO36 0DJ
01983 407231
lilliputmuseum.co.uk



Sandham Gardens



Located on the northern side of the town, Sandham Gardens is the ideal place to relax and enjoy some quality time with friends and family. Offering a great value day out for all ages, with activities including Go Karting and Adventure Golf.

Culver Parade, Sandown, PO36 8AT
01983 407802
sandhamgardens.com

Sandown Pier



All year round entertainment for the whole family. Includes indoor golf, ten pin bowling and indoor play area. The end of the pier opens from Easter with fishing available and has rides for everyone. There is a café, ice cream kiosk, burger bar and sports bar.

Esplanade, Sandown, PO36 8JT
01983 404122
sandownpier.co.uk

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



01983 874758

'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.



Visit us at: www.thebestdressedcrabintown.co.uk

01983 872742 FULLY LICENSED



THE HARBOURVIEW CAFE



JOIN US FOR THE BEST SUNSETS. AMAZING FOOD LOCALLY SOURCED
BREAKFASTS SERVED ALLDAY
SUNSET EVENING MENU
OPEN 8.30AM UNTIL 5PM
8.30AM UNTIL LATE (AUGUST)

EMBankment ROAD
BEMBRIDGE
PO35 5NR



DOG FRIENDLY

Shanklin Chine



A Site of Important Nature Conservation, this stunning tree-lined gorge has been a magnet for visitors since 1817. Wander amid the natural tranquillity until dusk then enjoy the lights illuminating the narrow paths, streams and waterfalls in the evening. Will you find one of the dinosaurs lurking in the undergrowth? With seasonal exhibitions, regular events, plus tea gardens, nature and heritage displays and an antiques and gift centre, there's plenty to explore.

3 Chine Hill, Shanklin,
PO37 6BW
01983 866432
shanklinchine.co.uk

Shanklin Seafront



Rediscover the Great British seaside on Shanklin Seafront. Indulge yourself with traditional seaside family fun whatever the weather. Open daily from 09:00. Hot and cold food is available across a range of eateries, serving seaside favourites.

Shanklin Esplanade, Shanklin,
PO37 6BG
01983 867585
shanklinseafront.co.uk

Shanklin Theatre



Shanklin Theatre is open all year round offering great entertainment that has included top household names in popular music such as Francis Rossi, Russell Watson and Collabro in the past, together with comedians including Al Murray, Joe Pasquale and Ed Byrne and a diverse selection of top quality tribute acts.

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

The National Poo Museum



A world of waste awaits at The National Poo Museum! From the Romans to the natural world, this museum exists to safely explore the amazing world of poo, using quirkiness and family-friendly humour to break through the poo taboo. The unique collection and displays will engage, entertain and inform visitors.

Battery Gardens, Talbot Road,
Sandown, PO36 9EB
07732 858637
poomuseum.org



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 coffee nest
we bake fresh

Bembridge Coast
1 Fishermans Walk
Bembridge
PO35 5TB
To book call
01983 654721

Norton Grange
Halletts Shute
Yarmouth
PO41 0SD
To book call
01983 760323

Scan this QR code to view the menu from your phone

Adults only resorts

Pop into the new Coffee Nest

at either Bembridge Coast or Norton Grange for great coffee and delicious light bites, cakes and pastries.

Coffee Nest is open
Monday - Sunday 10am - 5pm



WARNERLEISUREHOTELS

ENJOY 20% OFF YOUR FIRST VISIT

When you purchase one of the below

Show this advert

Lunch and a drink

Lunch and gin tasting experience combo

Booking essential - Tuesday only.

Afternoon tea for two
Booking essential

Cream tea for two

Subject to availability. Offer can be removed at any time. Offer open to walk-ins only. Cannot be combined with any other offer.



ACCOMMODATION

Bembridge Coast



Once owned by George V's Lord in Waiting, Bembridge Coast overlooks the Solent. The adults-only hotel has a wonderful beach, and is an ideal base for touring the Island. Balcony rooms allow guests to enjoy the sunrise over the Solent, followed by a dinner in the Four Tides restaurant. Then there is the option of live music and dancing in the Late Lounge. During your stay, why not take a coastal walk, try archery, indoor bowls or rifle shooting with tuition from one of the team.

1 Fishermans Walk, Bembridge, PO35 5TB
0330 8081 327
warnerleisurehotels.co.uk



Landguard Holiday Park



Between Shanklin and Sandown, you'll find Landguard, which offers both the peace of the countryside and fun of the seaside, so you don't have to choose. Both here, and at nearby Lower Hyde, there's fun facilities for the whole family!

Landguard Holiday Park, Shanklin, PO37 7PJ
0344 3819 128
parkdeanresorts.co.uk

Lower Hyde Holiday Park



If you're looking for a scenic location open 12 months a year, with fantastic facilities, Lower Hyde Holiday Park is a great choice. There are indoor and outdoor pools, a multi-sports court, an adventure playground and even a kids club, perfect for keeping the little ones entertained. Not only does it have two beautiful beaches nearby, there's countryside in your back garden too.

Lower Hyde Holiday Park, Shanklin, PO37 7LL
0344 3819 128
parkdeanresorts.co.uk

The Crab & Lobster Inn



Tucked away on Bembridge Ledge with a garden overlooking the sea, you can dine and stay with breathtaking views. There are five en suite rooms to choose from and each room is furnished to a high standard.

32 Forelands Field Road, Bembridge, PO35 5TR
01983 872244
characterinns.co.uk

The Steamer Inn



A traditional seaside pub sitting opposite the beautiful sandy beach of Shanklin, offering the ideal spot for a family break. The Steamer Inn is a great base for your holiday and has a range of five en suite bed and breakfast rooms.

Shanklin Esplanade, Shanklin, PO37 6BS
01983 862641
thesteamer.co.uk



Vectis Holiday Homes



Stylish and high quality apartments. The Seascope 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.

Seascope, 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 everything this beautiful Island has to offer. This park has 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
0330 1274 616
awayresorts.co.uk

IT'S ABOUT THYME

Butchers - Deli - Coffee



Full Butchery
Coffee Shop
Fine Deli Foods
Local Products & Food Gifts
Nationwide delivery

22 Regent Street Shanklin PO377AA 01983 864245
www.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)
blueberryscafe.co.uk | 01983 866378
Facebook: BlueberrysCafe | Twitter: @BlueberrysCafe | Instagram: blueberrys_cafe

CELEBRATING 50 YEARS
THE LILLIPUT
Antique
Doll & Toy
MUSEUM

SEE OVER 2,000 DOLLS AND TOYS FROM c.2000 BC TO c.1950. ONE OF THE MOST COMPREHENSIVE PRIVATE COLLECTIONS IN THE COUNTRY



RARE AND UNIQUE EXHIBITS – AWARD WINNING MUSEUM AS SEEN ON TELEVISION

Open Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday 10am - 4pm
(closed Monday and Thursday – except Bank Holidays)

High Street, BRADING, PO36 0DJ
Tel: (01983) 407231 | lilliputmuseum.co.uk

10% off your entry fee with this voucher



FOOD & DRINK

Blueberrys Café



Located on the cliff path between Sandown and Shanklin. Relax at Blueberry's 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.

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

Fisherman's Cottage



Nestled beneath Shanklin Chine at the end of Shanklin Esplanade the town's original thatched pub on the beach. Frequented by visitors and locals alike, the pub dates back more than 200 years and is a real hidden gem.

1 Esplanade, Shanklin,
PO37 6BN
01983 863882
fishermanscottageinn.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



As seen on Channel 5's *Isle of Wight: Jewel of the South*. 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 Crab & Lobster Inn



Tucked away on picturesque Bembridge Ledge with a garden overlooking the sea, you can dine with breathtaking views. As the name suggests, seafood is their speciality – caught locally each day and served fresh to your table – although they also serve Island reared meats.

32 Forelands Field Road,
Bembridge, PO35 5TR
01983 872244
characterinns.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

The Steamer Inn



Situated on Shanklin seafront The Steamer Inn enjoys some of the best views on the Island. On warmer days, relax on the terrace gazing out across the English Channel or enjoy a drink in the nautical themed bar. Renowned for home-made food and a friendly welcome.

Shanklin Esplanade, Shanklin,
PO37 6BS
01983 862641
thesteamer.co.uk

For more inspiration visit
wightlink.co.uk/explorer



THE CRAB & LOBSTER INN

SEAFOOD | ROOMS | VIEWS

32 Forelands Field Road
Bembridge
Isle of Wight
PO35 5TR

See Website For
Opening Times

***A Hidden Gem Serving Local
Seafood and Pub Classics
Overlooking Bembridge
Ledge and Beyond!***

NEW FOR 2024

'THE SEAFOOD SHACK'

The freshest seafood landed daily - make your own seafood platters.

FULLY REFURBISHED ROOMS

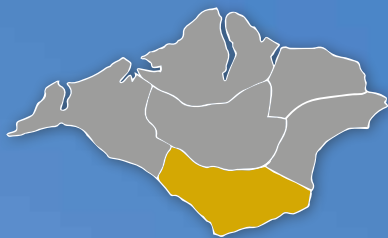
5 ensuite rooms fitted out to the highest standard
- the perfect home from home.



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to The Crab & Lobster Inn!*

BOOK ONLINE: crabandlobsterinn.co.uk | CALL: 01983 872244

South



The southern point of the Island has its own distinct feel, due to the unique microclimate and the artistic heritage that is still in full swing today...

Ventnor is a real mini-Mediterranean town, bustling with pavement cafés, where people sit and take in the views of the English Channel. The town has a distinct artisan vibe, as zigzag roads with Victorian terraces lead down to one-off shops including art galleries, vintage and antique emporiums and jewellers. There are plenty of independent eateries that use local produce. Being close to the sea, seafood is, of course, a local speciality. Watch the fishermen sail in on their boats and then pick up the day's catch at the shop on the harbour. Try one of the pubs and restaurants that will be offering fresh fish as the daily special, such as The Spyglass Inn that sits atop the sea wall.

The unique climate of the south is perhaps best experienced with a trip to Ventnor Botanic Garden, where you will find an unrivalled selection of subtropical and exotic plants and flowers set in 22 acres. From the garden, take a walk down to Steephill Cove where after the (many) steps, you will be rewarded with a picturesque cove and a smattering of eateries serving up the speciality of locally-caught crab.

A visit over this side provides the perfect excuse for a trip to the Isle of Wight Donkey Sanctuary where everyone is welcome, including well-behaved dogs. Rugged beaches, steep cliffs and beautiful walks, the south coast has it all and it's no wonder it has inspired a few famous names over the years, including Charles Dickens who wrote several chapters of *David Copperfield* here.

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

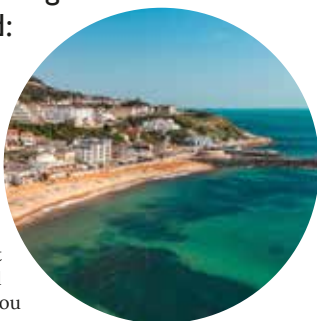


Only accessible by foot, south-facing Steephill Cove is a real sun-trap.



Best beach for feeling like you're in the Med: VENTNOR

Most of the south coast feels decidedly Mediterranean thanks to its unique microclimate and sub-tropical plant species. Ventnor beach, backdropped by pavement cafés, cliff-top houses and winding roads can make you think you have taken the boat to the Amalfi Coast by accident!



Best beach for dogs: STEEPHILL COVE

Dogs are permitted on the beach here on a lead during the day and then given free rein after 18:00. Steephill Cove is a true hidden gem and could easily be mistaken for a tropical island. Only accessible by foot, making it ideal for beachgoers with dogs as your four-legged friends get a good walk there and back.



Best beach to have to yourself: BINNEL BAY

Its relative inaccessibility means that if you make the trip to Binnel Bay, you are usually rewarded by having this rugged and unspoilt beach to yourself. You will not find any facilities here so best to pack a picnic and you certainly need to be able to walk and climb over some of the larger rocks to get there.



Find out more at wightlink.co.uk/explorer

HONEYBOURNE JEWELLERY

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

The WIGHT MOUSE INN

Wight Mouse Inn
 [thewightmouseinn](https://www.instagram.com/thewightmouseinn)

The Wight Mouse Inn is a friendly, fun, family run pub in Chale on the south coast of the island with amazing views across to the Needles and Tennyson Down. We are well known for value for money, honest pub food and can cater for party's large and small; choose any occasion from popping in for a quick bite to family celebrations. We are open for breakfast (open to non-residents) then full menu from midday and always have a daily specials board to complement our extensive menu.

- Excellent Pub Food
- Live Music
- Breakfast Served 8:30-10:30
- Food Served 12:00-21:00
- Stay: En-suite Bedrooms
- Large Garden & Car Park
- Outdoor Play Area
- Dogs Welcome
- Amusement Arcade!

Reservations, Party & Group Bookings **01983 730 431**
info@wightmouse.com

Church Place, Chale, PO38 2HA wightmouse.co.uk

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



NEW
USB RECHARGEABLE
LED LIGHTS AVAILABLE!

Turquoise, coral pink, zest green, ice white & rum colours available.

- | | |
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| 1x Bottle Light
£10 (Battery)
£14 (USB rechargeable) | 2x Bottles Light
£18 (Battery)
£26 (USB rechargeable) |
|--|---|

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 contact David
mermaidlightsiw@gmail.com
Call or Text: 07885 720503



ATTRACTIONS

Blackgang Chine



Immerse yourself in the Land of Imagination, where you can become anything you want to be. Explore a world like no other in the UK's oldest amusement park; whether that's becoming a rootin' tootin' sheriff in Cowboy Town, casting spells from your very own castle in Fairyland or becoming a courageous dinosaur keeper in Restricted Area 5. It's the perfect place for an action-packed family day out to create magical family memories that last a lifetime!

Blackgang Chine, Nr Ventnor,
PO38 2HN
01983 730330
blackgangchine.com



Isle of Wight Donkey Sanctuary



Meet over 100 donkeys and over 20 Shetlands and ponies in their 'Forever Home'. Follow the trail, meet the herds, maybe learn something about donkeys that you did not know! Visit the new café, browse the shop and maybe adopt a donkey... or two. Free entrance and parking.

Lower Winstone Farm,
St Johns Road, Wroxall,
PO38 3AA
01983 852693
iowdonkeysanctuary.org

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, beautiful 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

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 five colours – original turquoise, coral pink, zest green, ice white and rum. 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



ACCOMMODATION

The Spyglass Inn



The Spyglass offers characterful accommodation in four self-contained apartments, composing of double bedrooms with en suite facilities, a lounge and balcony/terrace all with views overlooking Ventnor Bay.

The Esplanade, Ventnor,
PO38 1JX
01983 855338
thespyglass.com



The Wight Mouse Inn



The Wight Mouse Inn is a great base to stay and explore along the southern stretch of the Island. Perfect for walkers, cyclists and families alike.

Church Place, Chale, PO38 2HA
01983 730431
wightmouse.co.uk



Ventnor Seafront



Choose between two luxurious beach houses, situated just yards away from Ventnor Seafront. Both offer effortless beach access and stunning views of the English Channel, as well as convenient access to Ventnor's many shops and eateries, which are just a short walk away.

Esplanade, Ventnor, PO38 IJX
07484 174872
ventnorseafront.co.uk



FOOD & DRINK

edulis Restaurant



Meaning 'edible' in Latin, *edulis* is a relaxing space boasting huge picture windows that bring the lovely surroundings of Ventnor Botanic Garden's Mediterranean garden and fountain court inside. The chefs create ultra-fresh cuisine sourced locally and picked fresh from the garden.

Undercliff Drive, Ventnor,
PO38 IUL
01983 855397
botanic.co.uk

The Buddle Inn



Winner of the *Sunday Telegraph's* 'Top 10 UK Gardens with a Sea View'. Commonly known as one of the Island's most popular and historic inns, The Buddle Inn is renowned for serving great food and great beer alike.

St Catherines Road, Niton,
PO38 2NE
01983 730243
characterinns.co.uk

The Met



Set right on the seafront on Ventnor Esplanade, The Met serves fresh coffee, tasty tapas and fine wines. Enjoy the distinct Mediterranean feel and soak up the sunshine in this natural sun trap. The perfect hot-spot for whiling away an afternoon. The adjoining Queenies serves bubble waffles, ice creams and smoothies.

The Esplanade, Ventnor,
PO38 IJP
01983 853544
themetwinebar.co.uk

The Plantation Room Café



Open daily from 09:00. Located on the top level of Ventnor Botanic Garden, this cosy café has a sheltered outdoor terrace which overlooks the historical Palm Garden. With free parking, the café provides a cosy retreat for visitors who want to relax, read or are looking for a hot drink, a glass of wine or a light lunch and catch up with friends.

Undercliff Drive, Ventnor,
PO38 IUL
01983 855397
botanic.co.uk

The Spyglass Inn



The Spyglass Inn sits right above the sea on Ventnor Esplanade. The location is second to none, with spectacular views across the English Channel and Ventnor Bay. The pub is full of character and its well-deserved reputation is founded on good grub, great beer and a fantastic atmosphere.

The Esplanade, Ventnor,
PO38 IJX
01983 855338
thespyglass.com



The Wight Mouse Inn



A family run freehouse enjoying spectacular views on the south coast of the Island. The menu includes home-cooked pub classics and local ales – but don't miss the specials board! Large south facing garden, with indoor and outdoor kids play areas.

Church Place, Chale, PO38 2HA
01983 730431
wightmouse.co.uk



The Buddle Inn

DINE | STAY | CELEBRATE

A charming 18th Century Smugglers Inn with Sparkling Sea Views and a Roaring Log Fire Nestled in Niton Undercliff.

JOIN US FOR LUNCH, DINNER OR DRINKS WHATEVER THE SEASON

MUDDY BOOTS & PAWS ARE VERY WELCOME!

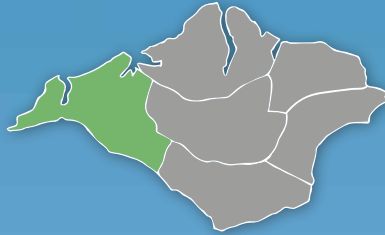
NEW GUEST ROOMS COMING SOON



BOOK NOW: buddleinn.co.uk | CALL: 01983 730243

St. Catherine's Road, Niton, Isle of Wight, PO38 2NE

West



The West Wight is a stunning part of the Island. Fields, forests and miles of coastline stretch out ahead of you as you go west...

Open space, unspoiled landscapes and rugged coastline, plus pretty towns and villages, lively pubs and independent shops make this a top destination. If you're arriving on the Wightlink ferry from Lymington, you will find yourself in the heart of Yarmouth. This historic harbour town contains some of the Island's oldest architecture, including English Heritage's 16th century Yarmouth Castle, the last addition to King Henry VIII's coastal defences.

The beauty of the west has inspired many artists over the years including Julia Margaret Cameron, the pioneering art photographer and her neighbour Alfred, Lord Tennyson, Poet Laureate during Queen Victoria's reign. Take a walk from Freshwater Bay to the Tennyson monument and the panoramic views mean it's not hard to see why. The poet used to walk on the down almost every day, saying that the air was worth 'sixpence a pint'.

No trip over to this side would be complete without a visit to the iconic landmark of The Needles. The three chalk stacks and the classic red and white striped lighthouse are synonymous with the Isle of Wight, adorning many a picture postcard. Take a chairlift ride down to Alum Bay, past the coloured sands.

The west side has more than its fair share of Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty, with Newtown perhaps being the jewel in the crown. A village built on the site of a medieval borough and a nature reserve makes for a great day out. Spot red squirrels, egrets and even a resident seal as you take a stroll around the estuary.

Brighstone is a pretty and busy village, nestled between the chalk downland to the north and stretching to the south-west facing coast. Famous for numerous dinosaur finds in the eroding cliffs, stop off along the way at Isle of Wight Pearl in Brighstone for some of the most impressive views of the English Channel and a beautiful shop dedicated to pearls, catering for all styles and tastes, plus The Pearl Café is open daily.

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



It's not hard to see why the coastline at Freshwater Bay has inspired many an artist – including Julia Margaret Cameron and Alfred, Lord Tennyson.



**Best beach for watersports:
COMPTON BAY**

Well known for its waves when they are big, Compton is great for surfing and when they are small, even better for bodyboarding and just general fun in the water. The reddish sand is backed by natural cliffs. Take the wooden steps down but don't forget your beach gear – there is a car park, toilet and ice cream van within walking distance.



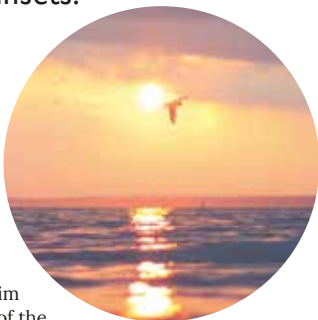
**Best beach for swimming:
FRESHWATER BAY**

Once you have made your way down to the sea (we suggest wearing sea shoes as this is a pebbly beach) you will be rewarded with almost instantly deep water, perfect for swimming. Swim round to the secret coves that can't be accessed by foot. Do let someone know if you are going swimming as this beach does not have a lifeguard but does have an independent lifeboat station.



**Best beach for sunsets:
COLWELL**

They say west is best and that is certainly the case when it comes to sunsets. The beach at Colwell provides a stunning display with Hurst Castle creating a dramatic silhouette across the Solent. Take a dip in the sea here for an evening swim followed by a drink at one of the few pubs and eateries nearby.



Find out more at wightlink.co.uk/explorer

WEST WIGHT
Alpacas
And Llamas

Alpaca & Llama Farm Park

Book online

Alpaca & Llama walking on the Isle of Wight





Walk around the farm to see all of our animals!
Café open to all, Alpaca themed country shop
Outdoor children's play area
On the hourly number 7 bus route







westwightalpacas.co.uk

Main Road, Wellow, Isle of Wight, PO41 0SZ
(We advise pre-booking for all of our treks)

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Depart from: Riverside Centre, The Quay, Newport, PO30 2QR
For The Red Squirrel Trail to Cowes, Godshill, Shanklin & Sandown

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Resident Artist
Anne Toms



& a great little card shop
OPEN DAILY



Bluebells

Come and visit us in the picturesque village for a range of greetings cards and gifts. Beautiful local handmade gifts available.

Open Monday 9am to 1.30pm and Tuesday to Saturday from 9am to 4.00pm.



Visit Bluebells at North Street, Brighstone, PO30 4AX 



ATTRACTIONS

Activities at Tapnell



Open throughout the summer season, the Island's only Football Golf course at Tapnell Farm. Great fun for all the family; if you can kick a ball, you can play! Plus, there's an all weather Archery & Axe Throwing range, suitable for ages 11+.

Newport Road, Yarmouth, PO41 OYJ
01983 758722
tapnellfarm.com/play

Farringford



Farringford was the main home of the renowned Victorian poet Alfred, Lord Tennyson, from 1853–1892. The house is furnished and decorated in a late 19th century style that reflects the Tennysons' taste, interests, and lifestyle. Open Tuesday–Thursday from 30 April–26 September 2024. Pre-booking essential, please see website. Outside, the estate has been returned to its original informal planting scheme, including an award-winning walled garden and parkland walk. The gardens are open Tuesday–Saturday from 2 April–26 October 2024.

Bedbury Lane, Freshwater Bay, PO40 9PE
01983 752500
farringford.co.uk



Isle of Wight Aqua Park at Tapnell Farm



Open from early May, the Island's only outdoor, floating Aqua Park at Tapnell Farm. Great fun for confident swimmers aged 7+, the Aqua Park lake features over 20 obstacles, including free fall slides, joined together to create a series of fun challenges. Wetsuits and buoyancy aids provided. Online bookings only.

Newport Road, Yarmouth, PO41 OYJ
01983 758722
tapnellfarm.com/play

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. Some manor rooms open, including a second-hand book shop. Large wider estate for country walks. Gardens open daily. 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 quirky Old Town Hall is evidence of Newtown's former importance. For opening times 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 straw bale barn, pedal go-karts, jumping pillows, sledge slides, footy shoot-out, soft play area and daily animal activities, plus monthly events. Online booking.

Tapnell Farm, Newport Road, Yarmouth, PO41 OYJ
 01983 758722
tapnellfarm.com/play

The Needles Landmark Attraction



Explore the extraordinary at the Island's best value family attraction with world-famous coloured sand cliffs that overlook The Needles Rocks and Lighthouse. Experience the spectacular chairlift ride to the beach. Offering a range of pay-as-you-go attractions; a variety of children's activities from a traditional Victorian carousel, Dino Jeep Safari, to the 4D family cinema. Don't miss the glassmaking demonstrations and Sweet Manufactory.

Alum Bay, Totland, PO39 0JD
 01983 752401
theneedles.co.uk

The Needles New Battery



Fascinating underground rooms which are home to the extraordinary exhibition about the secret rocket-testing programme that was carried out here during the 1950s and '60s, as part of Britain's Race for Space during the height of the Cold War. Outdoor remnants in a spectacular cliff-top location. Open selected dates, see online for 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

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. Walk, cycle or take the bus to the battery – car parking at Needles Landmark Attraction. See online for full site opening times.

West High Down, Alum Bay, PO39 0JH
 01983 754772
nationaltrust.org.uk/isleofwight

West Wight Alpacas



West Wight Alpacas & Llamas is home to a prize-winning herd of alpacas and llamas and much more including miniature donkeys, rare breed sheep, pygmy and Golden Guernsey goats, Kune Kune pigs and a vast array of rare breed poultry. You can book and have a walk with either alpacas or llamas or just simply take a stroll around the farm and enjoy tea and cake in their on-farm café after.

Main Road, Wellow, PO41 0SZ
 01983 760900
westwightalpacas.co.uk

Wight Cycle Hire



Wight Cycle Hire are the Island's cycle hire specialists, with two locations and a great choice including mountain bikes and hybrids, kids bikes, electric bikes and even tandems! Depart from either Newport for the Red Squirrel Trail or Yarmouth for Freshwater Bay and The Needles Landmark Attraction.

Yarmouth Station, Station Road, Yarmouth, PO41 0QT
 01983 761800
wightcyclehire.co.uk

Yarmouth Castle



Completed in 1547, the final year of King Henry VIII's reign, Yarmouth Castle was built to guard the western entrance to the Solent and protect the Isle of Wight. Enjoy the spectacular view across the Solent from the gunners platform – it's one of the best picnic locations on the Island. For car parking use PO41 0NS. Book online now and save.

Quay Street, Yarmouth, PO41 0QB
 0370 333 1181
english-heritage.org.uk


ISLE OF WIGHT
PEARL
A world of wonderful



Blossom - inspired by the delicate beauty of a flower garden, this collection of rings, bracelets, earrings, and pendants encapsulates the wonder of flowers in bloom. Featuring Mother of Pearl or Freshwater pearls set on rhodium and gold plated Sterling Silver.

CHILTON CHINE, MILITARY ROAD, BRIGHSTONE, PO30 4DD

01983 740352 | iowpearl.com



SHOPPING

Bluebells at Brighstone



Located within a row of pretty thatched cottages in picturesque North Street in Brighstone, Bluebells is a real treasure trove. Selling a wide range of cards, gifts and crafts from local artists including cushions, bags, candles and jewellery. Open Monday 09:00 to 13:30 and Tuesday to Saturday from 09:00 to 16:00.

North Street, Brighstone, PO30 4AX
07906 826884



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, in vibrant colour all made from softly woven eco-friendly, sustainable or recycled fabrics. The range also includes gifts, signature scented candles, wallpaper and tableware.

20 High Street, Yarmouth, PO41 0PL
01983 760055
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 also a great little card shop, as well as glass, ceramics and textiles.

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



ACCOMMODATION

Farringford



Discover the West Wight. Set in the grounds of Farringford, the former residence of Alfred, Lord Tennyson, the self-catering cottages are ideal for exploring the Isle of Wight. Equipped with every comfort from home, all of the cottages are available to let throughout the year, including the dog friendly ones.

Bedbury Lane, Freshwater Bay, PO40 9PE
01983 752500
farringford.co.uk



Grange Farm



One of the few unspoilt and non-commercialised coastal sites situated on the beautiful south west coast, with easy access to the sandy beach and picturesque views of the chine and Brighstone Forest. Choose to camp, pick a pod or book a cottage or static caravan. The whole area is ideal for cycling, fishing, fossil hunting – a walkers' paradise.

Brighstone Bay, Military Road, Brighstone, PO30 4DA
01983 740296
grangefarmholidays.com

Norton Grange



An adults-only chalet village with stunning views of the Solent, Norton Grange is moments from historic Fort Victoria. The chalets provide peaceful spaces to relax in after a night enjoying a range of excellent live entertainment, as well as a wide range of daily activities. The restaurant, Castaways, has a broad menu including local and seasonal produce.

Halletts Shute, Yarmouth, PO41 0SD
0330 8084 507
warnerleisurehotels.co.uk



Coastal Interiors

Bedding to Blankets

Throws to Tea Towels

Cushions to Candles

Gifts and more!

20 High Street
Yarmouth, IOW



xvstripes.com - inspired by life on and off the water.



The Bay Colwell



Stunning hot tub cottages and laidback beach houses are waiting for you and the family to enjoy. 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
0330 1274 616
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!

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

Tom's Eco Lodge & Farm Accommodation



One of the Island's best known glamping experiences, with a variety of quirky lodgings including safari tents, eco pods, wood cabins, modulogs and geo domes. Plus charming farm cottages too. Guests can enjoy the beautiful rural setting, sea views and stunning sunsets!

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



FOOD & DRINK

Marconi's Tearoom



Enjoy a refreshing cup of tea or speciality coffee at The Needles Landmark Attraction. There's a range of delicious cakes and pastries and a wide selection of soft drinks, cold beers and other alcoholic beverages.

Alum Bay, PO39 0JD
01983 752401
theneedles.co.uk

The Cow Restaurant & Bar



One of the Island's most unique eateries, set in a converted Swiss barn at the heart of Tapnell Farm. Open seven days a week during the summer serving delicious, home-cooked, award-winning burgers, and steaks plus gluten free, vegetarian and vegan choices. Family friendly, relaxed restaurant with lots of outdoor space and stunning views. Booking advised.

Tapnell Farm, Newport Road, Yarmouth, PO41 0YJ
01983 758725
tapnellfarm.com/eat/the-cow

The Llama Tree at West Wight Alpacas



The café has a wide range of coffees using beans from Peru and roasted on the Island, teas, a choice of hot chocolates and cold drinks. Pop in for light bites, pasties, sausage rolls and genuine homemade cakes – or even a breakfast cooked in the wood fired pizza oven. See Facebook for updates.

Main Road, Wellow, PO41 0SZ
01983 760900
westwightalpacas.co.uk



The Pearl Café



Settle down in the comfortable café serving a wide range of dishes and light bites and take in the stunning panoramic views across the English Channel. 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.

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

The Waterfront



A popular seafront pub less than 20 feet from the sea. Experience some of the finest sunsets on the Island over a drink, or the freshly prepared Mediterranean cuisine.

The Beach, Madeira Road, Totland Bay, PO39 0BQ
01983 756969
waterfrontiow.com

GRANGE FARM

Grange Farm, Brighstone Bay, PO30 4DA
01983 740296 | grangefarmcamping.co.uk



Come and stay at this beautiful farm on the stunning south west coast – the perfect base for cycling, walking and fishing. Choose from either centrally heated static caravans, camping pods or converted barns. Family-run with unusual, friendly, farm animals.

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THE WATERFRONT

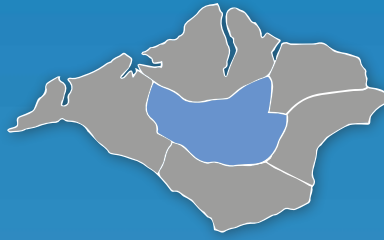
A warm welcome awaits you at The Waterfront Totland Bay. Come and see some of the finest sunsets in the whole of Europe in our picturesque setting with stunning views over the Western Solent and the Dorset Jurassic coastline.

Enjoy freshly prepared Mediterranean cuisine with a fine selection of wines, beers and spirits.

Open everyday from midday.

The Beach, Totland Bay, PO39 0BQ
 01983 756969 | eatbythesea.com

Central



At the heart of the Island you will find several quaint villages, as well as the Island's capital town, Newport. Here you will enjoy a mixture of High Street names and some excellent independent boutiques for both fashion and homewares...

The town centres around two main squares then stretches down to the historic quay where you will find an art gallery and café. The Bargeman's Rest pub sits on the water's edge and is an ideal spot to relax.

For local heritage, Carisbrooke Castle is hard to beat. The history of the castle can be traced back to about AD 1000. Raided by both the Spanish and French, the castle's most famous inhabitant was King Charles I, who was imprisoned here during the Civil War between 1647-1648, before being executed in 1649.

Take a drive through Arreton and be sure to stop off at Arreton Barns, the Island's largest centre for arts and crafts. Here you will find traditional crafters mixed with contemporary artisans. There is also a pub serving real ales and home-cooked food, a farm shop packed to the

rafters with local produce and The Corn Exchange – a beautiful interiors and giftware store.

The whole family will love a trip to Amazon World Zoo Park, with its vast array of tropical and endangered animals, plus play parks, wildlife museum and café, where you can relax and listen to the monkeys chattering. Alternatively, stop off at nearby Goddards Brewery and sample a locally brewed pint. The state-of-the-art visitors centre also has an onsite restaurant – The Firkin Deck – and a shop, so don't forget a few bottles to take home!

Further inland, nestled in the beautiful countryside of Newchurch, is The Garlic Farm. Home to all things garlic (you might smell it before you see it) you can enjoy a meal and purchase local produce from the well-stocked shop.

For the quintessential English village, a trip to Godshill is a must. This pretty village is complete with chocolate-box thatched cottages and some of the oldest architecture on the Island. The Old Smithy, once the village blacksmith's, is now home to a range of stylish shops centred around a popular café. Wander around The Model Village, the 1/10th scale 'Island in miniature' depicting Godshill and other landmarks including Shanklin Old Village and the Chine.

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



Carisbrooke Castle boasts impressive views of the Island and beyond.



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



Arreton Barns



Set in the stunning Arreton countryside, Arreton Barns is the Island's largest arts and crafts centre, showcasing the best in local artisans. Open seven days a week, with free parking. Find unique gifts then enjoy delicious food, fine wines and real ales at The Dairyman's Daughter pub.

Main Road, Arreton, PO30 3AA
01983 539365
arretonbarns.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

Holliers Park



Holliers Park and House of Chilli is an exceptional retail park with original art and creative crafts, antiques and collectables, clothing and fancy dress, as well as interior decor and furniture, plus much more. Sensory Island offers weekly sessions and private hire. Visit the Bus Stop Café for a light lunch, cake, tea or coffee.

Newport Road, Branstone,
PO36 0LT
01983 864449



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. See website for opening hours.

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



Shipwreck Centre & Maritime Museum



One of the largest collections in the country of items brought up from real shipwrecks, diving equipment and maritime curiosa. Join in with one of the free family activities, marvel at the amount of rare and special items in the collections and learn more about the local diver who made it all possible. New for 2024: protected wrecks exhibit.

Arreton Barns Craft Village,
Main Road, Arreton, PO30 3AA
01983 533079
shipwreckcentre.co.uk

WWW.SHIPWRECKCENTRE.CO.UK



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www.thejewellerycabin.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. Whether you're a total beginner or hoping to further your skills, the friendly tutors will make sure you leave with a creation you're 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, Godshill, PO38 3HZ
01983 840364
theoldsmithy.com

Wight Cycle Hire



The Island's cycle hire specialists, with two locations and a great choice including mountain bikes and hybrids, kids bikes, electric bikes and even tandems! Depart from either Newport for the Red Squirrel Trail or Yarmouth for Freshwater Bay and The Needles Landmark Attraction.

Riverside Centre, The Quay, Newport, PO30 2QR
01983 761800
wightcyclehire.co.uk



SHOPPING

Briddlesford Farm Shop



Step straight into the Island's very own larder! Stocking products from over 50 local producers as well as the full range of Briddlesford'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 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

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21 Holyrood Street, Newport, PO30 5AZ
01983 821908
visualimpact.co.uk



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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.

Main Road, Rookley, PO38 3LU
0330 1274 616
awayresorts.co.uk



FOOD & DRINK

**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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Green Barn Antiques - furniture and collectables
Sensory Island - weekly sessions and private hire



Holliers Farm, Branstone, Sandown, Isle of Wight, PO36 OLT

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Newclose County Cricket Ground



Situated on the outskirts of Newport amongst beautiful unspoilt countryside, Newclose is the perfect backdrop to any event. From corporate meetings in The Pavilion to grand weddings in the Marquee, with first-class catering provided by the award-winning Seaview Hotel, you're guaranteed an event to remember.

Blackwater Road, Newport, PO30 3BE
01983 824570
newclose.org



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 freshly made panini, pizza, burger or pancakes. Booking advisable.

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



For more inspiration visit wightlink.co.uk/explorer

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The Garlic Farm, Mersley Lane, Newchurch, PO36 0NR

www.thegarlicfarm.co.uk



The Dairyman's Daughter



The Dairyman's Daughter is a bustling freehouse pub nestled at the centre of Arreton Barns. A traditional pub serving home-cooked food from an extensive menu, using local produce and ingredients where possible. Enjoy a wide selection of fine wines and real ales, including some local brews.

Main Road, Arreton, PO30 3AA
01983 539361
dairymansdaughter.co.uk

The Bargeman's Rest



Set on Little London Quay, The Bargeman's Rest is located close to Newport town centre and is the perfect pitstop on a walk along the River Medina. Experience the cosy atmosphere and nautical charm as you sample the extensive menu. Serving all day breakfasts, light bites and rustic baguettes as well as traditional pub favourites and speciality burgers.

Little London Quay, Newport, PO30 5BS
01983 525828
bargemansrest.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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01983 716710



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



Portsmouth

In the year that the Isle of Wight celebrates 175 years since Charles Dickens enjoyed a working holiday in “quite the prettiest place” he had ever seen, why not also hop across the Solent to visit the home in which he was born?

A terraced house, on what is now Portsmouth's Old Commercial Road, witnessed Dickens' birth and is today a museum dedicated to the great author.

Open on set days throughout the year, the Charles Dickens' Birthplace Museum is decorated in the Regency style and contains many of the author's personal possessions.

The big anniversaries continue, with 2024 marking 80 years since the D-Day campaign of World War 2. Thousands of troops set off from Portsmouth on the operation to liberate France, and many of their testimonies are recounted at The D-Day Story museum on Southsea seafront. It's where you'll also find LCT 7074, the enormous Landing Craft that carried up to 10 tanks and their crew members across the channel.

A host of events are planned for the days around the anniversary on 6 June, in addition to a whole year of activities being organised by The D-Day Story itself.

The events continue apace across Portsmouth these coming months, with something in the calendar for all tastes and budgets. Takedown Festival returns, bringing the best in rock and metal to Portsmouth Guildhall over two days and a great many stages. The Guildhall is also playing host to its annual Comic Con in May, as well as 'Fiesta!' – celebrating the food and music of Mexico.

Meanwhile, over at Gunwharf Quays, there's the Sweat Fitness Festival, where you can enjoy free fitness classes or even try your hand at something entirely new.



The D-Day Story museum on Southsea seafront is home to LCT 7074.

Alternatively, how about Pretty Muddy and Race For Life, where you can test yourself against a fun and welcoming course, whilst also raising funds for charity?

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

David Howells



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Lymington & the New Forest

Spring has well and truly sprung and if you'd like to make the most of it, there's no better place than the magical New Forest, just mere minutes from Wightlink's Lymington port.

This is the time of year when the New Forest wakes up after its long winter slumber. Watch the adorable newborn foals and donkeys wobble and skip their way across the seemingly endless heathland. Take a stroll into the beautiful bluebell woods and you may be lucky enough to spot some baby badgers, foxes or even fawns, playing in the glades.

The greatest way to see all the wildlife is by foot or by bike and the New Forest has miles of waymarked tracks and footpaths to cycle or stroll, from easy-to-follow mini-hikes, to long-distance trails, there's something for everyone to enjoy. Just 40 short minutes sail from Yarmouth, it makes for a delightful day out in the fresh air.

The best news of all is that you can now download a selection of interactive maps for walkers and cyclists, which are easy to follow and mean you can discover fascinating facts about the route you've chosen. Simply visit thenewforest.co.uk/things-to-do/walking to find out more.

Spring and early summer is also a fantastic time to visit the New Forest with your dog. Many of the hotels, pubs and restaurants welcome furry friends and, if you visit over 1-2 June, you'll be able to take them to Dogstival – the best day out a dog can have.

Dogstival's Burley Park showground will be packed with fabulous experiences for your pet to enjoy; from showing, to flyball, agility trials and even a doggy MOT station, for spot checks on their health.



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

Don't forget to check out all the dog-friendly promos at thenewforest.co.uk, the place for everything you need to know about visiting this beautiful part of the world. You'll also be able to find out about Paultons Parks' newest thrill ride and the commemorations taking place on 6 June for the 80th anniversary of the D-Day Landings.

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

Go New Forest



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DIVE IN



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 the coming months...

Isle of Wight Festival.

EASTER

Easter Egg Hunt



25 March–14 April, Mottistone Gardens (IW)

'Red Squirrel' and her hibernating friends, have been sleeping soundly all winter. Now though 'Signs of Spring' are starting to appear across the gardens. Help Red discover and collect all the 'Signs' so she can work out if it is time for her friends to wake. Make your way along the trail and find nature-inspired activities for the whole family – try leaping like a frog on tree rings and build a nest in the willow maze. At each point there are stamps to collect. Gather them all and receive your chocolate egg.

nationaltrust.org.uk

Easter Madagascar Madness at the Sanctuary



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

Looking for a wild and wonderful way to spend Easter this year? Look no further than the Easter Madagascar Madness celebration. Explore the native home of the Sanctuary's five species of lemur! Embark on an adventure with the interactive activity trail, get your creative juices flowing with Easter Egg rock painting and join the expert animal carers on a walk through the primate domes. Plus, there is face painting and an egg hunt. It's the place to be this Easter!

wildheartanimalsanctuary.org

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



Easter Adventure Quest

23 March–14 April, Osborne (IW)

Get out and about this Easter on Osborne's adventure quest. Each child will receive a quest booklet which will take them on an egg-citing hunt around the grounds, uncovering clues to the fascinating history behind Easter as they go. On completing the challenge there will be a tasty chocolate treat to tuck into.

english-heritage.org.uk



Alice's Easter Wonderland

2–11 April, Tapnell Farm Park (IW)

Hop on down to Tapnell Farm Park Tuesdays–Thursdays from the 2–11 April for an all-weather adventure beyond imagination. Prepare to be dazzled by six impossible things before breakfast, including Potions with Alice, Circus Games with the White Rabbit, and interactive shows with the Queen of Hearts. Explore the twists and turns of the Mad Hatter's Maze – it's bound to be a world of wonder! Plus, don't miss your favourite daily animal activities from wallaby walkabout to goat feeding and more!

tapnellfarm.com



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APRIL

Technicolour Dickens

1 April–19 May, Dimbola Museum and Galleries (IW)

Opened back in February, Technicolour Dickens was originally commissioned to mark the 150th anniversary of Dickens' death in 2020. It comes to the Island in celebration of 175 years since the publication of *David Copperfield*, partly written whilst the author was staying at Ventnor. The exhibition takes 120 original portraits and brings them to life in full colour with cutting-edge digital enhancements. dimbola.co.uk



The Big Brick Build

6–14 April, Osborne (IW)

Take part in a giant LEGO® Brick Build session, the first of its kind held at Queen Victoria and Prince Albert's seaside home. Children over four years old can get creative by helping to build a LEGO® sculpture of Queen Victoria herself, guided by expert brick artists. Families can take part as many times as they like for the price of a standard admission ticket. english-heritage.org.uk



Silver and Sea Glass Pendant Workshop

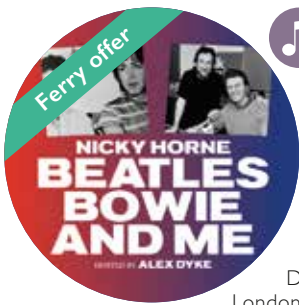
20 April, The Jewellery Cabin (IW)

Using sea glass found on the Island's beaches, you will learn how to set them in silver to create a beautiful natural treasure to wear as a pendant. A lovely day with lots of skills to learn. The pendant is made with a silver border, which enables you to create a beautiful shape around the glass and is much easier on the hands! thejewellerycabin.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



Wightlink Isle of Wight Chess Congress

19–21 April, The Ryde Castle Hotel (IW)

This spring, immerse yourself in the inaugural edition of the unique chess event, where sun, sea, and strategic moves converge in a historic castle hotel opposite Ryde beach. Prepare to face off against formidable opponents – among the competitors are renowned players such as former English Champion GM Keith Arkell and FM Jonathan Pein, with more top-tier participants to be revealed soon.



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iowchess.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.



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

MAY



Wight Proms Wednesdays: Rodney Earl Clarke (Voice) & Marina Savova (Piano)

1 May, Northwood House (IW)

Gramophone's "Singer to be watched" Rodney Earl, is joined by Marina Savova on piano at Northwood House, Cowes as part of 'Wight Proms Wednesdays'. Taking place monthly on eight Wednesdays and each lasting 40 minutes, the concerts allow the audience to experience a taste of the popular festival this year with lunch included.

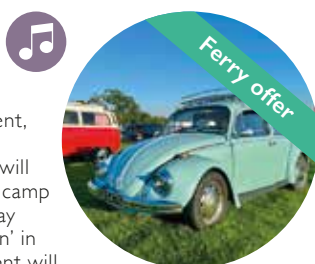
wightproms.co.uk

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 Ultra Challenge

4–5 May, Islandwide (IW)

Up to 2,000 adventurers will take on the challenge this year, walking, jogging or running the epic 106km journey. Starting at Chale, taking in the spectacular southern cliffs, the epic route heads past the iconic Needles, on towards the half way stop at Cowes, before heading through Shanklin, Sandown and Ventnor and returning to Chale.

isleofwightchallenge.com

Real Ale Festival

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

Start your May Bank Holiday in style 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

The Bouncy Barn

4–6 May 2024, Tapnell
Farm Park (IW)

Following a great bouncy week in February, this high energy event is for all ages, with a huge range of inflatable activities – is back over May Bank Holiday! Are the 'GLADIATORS READY!' for the arena? There will be hilarious challenges to keep the small (and big) kids entertained. We'll have you jumping for joy!

tapnellfarm.com

Riverfest

11 May,
Newport Quay (IW)

This fun, free event organised by the Newport Carnival & Community Events Association has all the feel of a traditional village fete, with a whole host of activities for children. Local charities attend promoting the work they do in the community, helping people and the surrounding environment.

riverfest.org.uk

Isle of Wight Randonnee

5 May, Islandwide (IW)

Take to two wheels and cycle clockwise around the Isle of Wight. Pick from the 100km or 55km routes and witness the whole of the Island's stunning scenery. Attracting over 3,000 participants, this great, free to enter family event, was first established in 1985.

cycleisland.co.uk

Portsmouth Comic Con

11–12 May, Portsmouth
Guildhall (Mainland)

The hugely popular Comic Con is set to return to the Guildhall. A sell-out in previous years, tickets will 'fly' quickly. Presenting the best in comic, film, TV and pop culture entertainment, this is the biggest family-friendly comic con of its kind and offers a full day of fun.

portsmouthguildhall.org.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

Ticket to Ryde



25–26 May, Ryde (IW)

Prepare to soak up the festival vibes at this fantastic free music event situated near Ryde's golden beaches. With local Isle of Wight talent, well-established bands and soloists, visitors can treat themselves to hot food and real ales. There are plenty of gift, memorabilia and music stalls to check out, as well as lots of kids activities too. jackupevents.co.uk

Wild West Week



25 May–1 June, Blackgang Chine (IW)

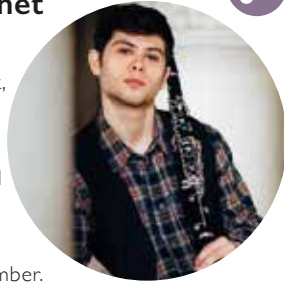
Fancy yourself the next sheriff or outlaw of Cowboy Town? Take in the adrenaline-inducing live action cowboy show and round-up those dastardly outlaws this Wild West Week! Plus, on Wednesday, 29 May the sky comes alive with colour for the fantastic fireworks display and lots of Pirate Cove fun. blackgangchine.com

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

Goodwoof



18–19 May, The Kennels, Goodwood (Mainland)

A grand celebration of all things dog, Goodwoof will see dogs of all shapes, sizes and breeds gather at Goodwood. Featuring a fantastic line-up of demonstrations, play and pampering, wellness, nutrition and even behavioural advice from experts, it will be a feast of family-friendly fun. There's plenty to have a go at too, from agility and CaniCross to Flyball and even Dog Yoga. goodwood.com/goodwoof



Hullabaloo



18–19 May, Sandown Bay (IW)

Hullabaloo is a free discovery and exploration event in Sandown Bay, combining art, science and heritage together with the madcap antics of carnival and seaside traditions. Bringing people together, through play and exploration, building sandcastles, making new creations and learning about the environment. hullabalooiw.com

Yarmouth Sea Songs Festival



24–27 May, Yarmouth (IW)

Enjoy a festival of shanties and traditional jigs performed live on the Green at Yarmouth. Grab a wash board and join in with the knee slapping melodies of the sea! yarmouth-harbour.co.uk



RYDABUS



18–19 May, Various locations (IW)

The popular Rydabus event is back and even better for 2024. With a wide range of vintage buses from the 60s, 70s and 80s, routes are centred around Ryde and the eastern part of the Island. Enjoy a classic bus ride to various locations and attractions. rydabus.co.uk

Victoria's Family Day Out



28–30 May, Osborne (IW)

Join Queen Victoria and her beloved Albert for old-fashioned thrills and spills on traditional fairground rides like swing boats and the helter-skelter. Giggle and gasp at the silly antics of the palace Jester and marvel at mesmerising illusions by the skilled magicians! Enjoy live Victorian musical merriment throughout the day. Don't miss your chance to experience a royally good day out this half-term! english-heritage.org.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, bubblesleeves and bell bottoms, grab yourself a drink at the Barn Café and get ready to be transported back in time! iwsteamrailway.co.uk

Dogstival



1–2 June, Burley (Mainland)

The coolest dog show in town is back at Burley Park, The New Forest. Watch world class dog displays, get behaviour and vet advice from experts and even make a splash at the aquasports dock. With award-winning food from local producers and plenty of stalls to browse it's the ultimate day out for you and your dog! dogstival.co.uk

Wight Proms Wednesdays: James Longford (Piano)



5 June, Northwood House (IW)

Steinway Artist and award-winning pianist, James Longford, performs in the Ballroom at Northwood House, Cowes as part of the series of eight 'Wight Proms Wednesdays' concerts. Taking place monthly and each lasting 40 minutes, the concerts allow the audience to experience a taste of the popular festival throughout the year with a delicious lunch included. wightproms.co.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

Solent Old Gaffers Regatta



13–16 June, Yarmouth (IW)

Thousands of revellers flock to the village of Yarmouth each year, taking to the streets to enjoy the colours of the gaff-rigged and traditional sailing boats, street entertainment, live and local music, food, crafts and community spirit.

yarmouth-harbour.co.uk

Gin & Steam



15–16 June, Isle of Wight Steam Railway (IW)

Step back in time in a unique 1940s setting and sample a range of craft gins and spirits from an array of distillers. For the ultimate relaxed and carefree experience, join the Gin Train and travel in unique style while sipping your choice of tippable as you travel through the Island's countryside. The weekend includes fabulous live music and entertainment guaranteed to lift your spirits.

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

Wight Wheels 2024



30 June, Chale Recreation Ground (IW)

The Wight Wheels Charity Classic Car and Bike Show returns to Chale Recreation Ground for its seventh year. Formerly known as the Classic Car and Bike Show, this event promises a vibrant mix of vehicles of all kinds, from classic and modified cars to drag cars, hot rods, bikes and more.

aaciow.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 bite to eat before the sun goes down 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.

southislandsevns.co.uk



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

Isle of Wight Symphony Orchestra: Thomas Luke, Piano



6 July, Medina Theatre (IW)

The young pianist Thomas Luke is no stranger to the Isle of Wight. Widely praised for his exceptional musicality and depth of interpretation, Thomas will be performing the *Warsaw Concerto* by Richard Addinsell, as well as *Fanfare from La Péri* by Paul Dukas, *Festivities* by Roy Douglas and *Orb and Sceptre* by composer William Walton.

THIS EVENT IS PROUDLY SPONSORED BY WIGHTLINK
iwso.co.uk



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



The 1940s Experience

6–7 July, Isle of Wight Steam Railway (IW)

Enjoy a memorable day of nostalgia and be immersed in the sights and sounds of England during the 1940s. Dig out your best vintage outfit and dance to the music of the era. There will also be pop-up shops, traditional games, shows, period vehicles and a fairground for the little ones.

iwsteamrailway.co.uk

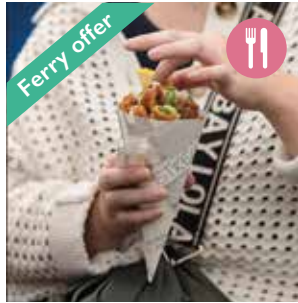


Isle of Wight Mardi Gras



6 July, Ryde (IW)

A collaboration between The New Carnival Company and local schools, the Isle of Wight Mardi Gras procession takes inspiration from New Orleans Mardi Gras as well as Latin and Caribbean carnivals. A fantastic spectacle of colour and sound! thenewcarnivalcompany.com



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. lymingtonseafoodfestival.co.uk

The Big Beach Weekender



11–13 July, Ryde Harbour Beach (IW)

New for 2024: the Big Beach Weekender is a series of outdoor summer entertainment shows featuring 'exceptional talent in an exceptional setting'. With a comedy night featuring four comedians, a party night and a dance night, there's something for everyone [f: BigBeachWeekender](http://BigBeachWeekender)

Isle of Wight Pride



19–21 July, Ryde (IW)

A celebration of diversity and equality and a display of love throughout the community, Isle of Wight Pride starts with a launch party on Friday. The parade sets off from Ryde School at 11:00 on Saturday and is followed by a full afternoon and evening of entertainment. The weekend finishes on Sunday with Symphonix Pride – a stunning production featuring a 30-piece orchestra. iwpride.org

New Forest & Hampshire County Show



30 July–1 August, Brockenhurst (Mainland)

The quintessential agricultural show! Three days of show jumping, displays and livestock competitions. Wander around the tradestands, where you can pick up treats for your dogs, equipment for your horses, clothes and accessories, homeware and delicious food and drink from local producers! newforestshow.co.uk



Cowes Week



27 July–2 August, Cowes (IW)

Playing a key role in the British sporting calendar, Cowes Week is one of the UK's longest running and successful events of its kind. Now boasting up to 40 daily races for 1,000 boats, it is one of the largest sailing regattas in the world. With 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

AUGUST

Chale Show

3–4 August, Chale (IW)

Grown from a small scale village fair, this traditional country show now attracts thousands of visitors and guests. Enjoy a wide selection of delicious local produce, displays and presentations from motorbike stunt shows and dog agility displays to live bands, as well as stalls and rides.

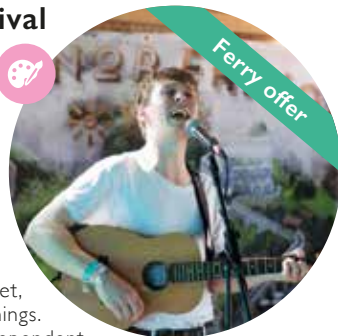


The show also boasts the Isle of Wight's largest Horticultural Marquee with over 1,500 entries showcasing a vast array of produce, craft, floral and culinary talent. thechaleshow.co.uk

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



Wight Proms



9–18 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 ten days, culminating in its spectacular Last Wight of the Proms' finale on Sunday evening. wightproms.co.uk



Jack Up the Summer Party

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



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



Sunset Sessions presents Nathan Dawe



16 August, Blackgang Chine (IW)

Get ready for an unforgettable night of electrifying beats, stunning views, and pure Ibiza vibes at Blackgang Chine's adult-only Sunset Sessions event. Prepare to be swept away by the infectious energy of Nathan Dawe, one of the UK's most prominent dance acts.

blackgangchine.com

Showaddywaddy

16 August, Shanklin Theatre (IW)



'The Greatest Rock & Roll Band In The World' is a bold statement, but Showaddywaddy have lived up to that title for the last 5 decades! Formed in Leicester in 1973, the band have gone on to sell more than 20 million records. The show will be dynamic and uplifting, featuring all their greatest hits, including 'Under The Moon Of Love', 'Blue Moon' and many more.

shanklintheatre.com

Isle of Wight Garlic Festival



17–18 August, Fighting Cocks Crossroad (IW)

The famous Isle of Wight Garlic Festival returns 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, the festival is a celebration of wonderful local produce. Sample garlicky goodies such as ice cream and garlic beer and get culinary inspiration in the Theatre Kitchen.

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.

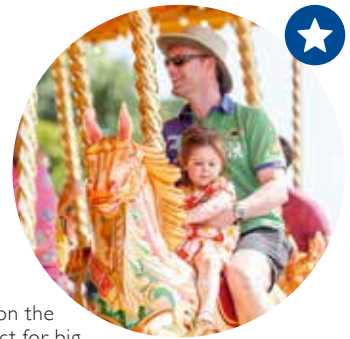
victoriousfestival.co.uk

Island Steam Fair

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

The Island Steam Show 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 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



Isle of Wight International Scooter Rally

23–26 August, Various locations (IW)

The world famous Isle of Wight Scooter Rally hosts up to 5,000 riders of classic scooters, heading mostly to the coastal towns of Ryde and Sandown. With an island-wide 'ride out' on the Sunday. The 'Best of British' evening entertainment spans four venues and features live music from a range of bands and tribute acts playing classic Britpop, ska and two tone, as well as mod, soul and punk.

vfmscoot.co.uk



Ticket to Ryde

24–25 August, Ryde (IW)

This free community event is part of the International Scooter Rally and blends local Isle of Wight talent and well-established bands and soloists on stage. Visitors can treat themselves to hot food, fantastic real ales and plenty of gift, memorabilia and music stalls to check out. A great range of kids' activities are available to keep every family happy.

jackupevents.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.



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Show your MyLink loyalty card in the app.

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



Accessible Travel Facilities

Changing Places toilets

If you have limited mobility and you can't use standard accessible toilets, we have Changing Places toilets at our Portsmouth Gunwharf and Ryde Pier Head ports.

The toilets are much larger than a standard room and come equipped with:

- Changing bench
- Height-adjustable washbasin
- Hoist
- Accessible shower
- Peninsular toilet
- Grab rails

For more information on our accessible travel facilities, visit wightlink.co.uk/accessible

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.

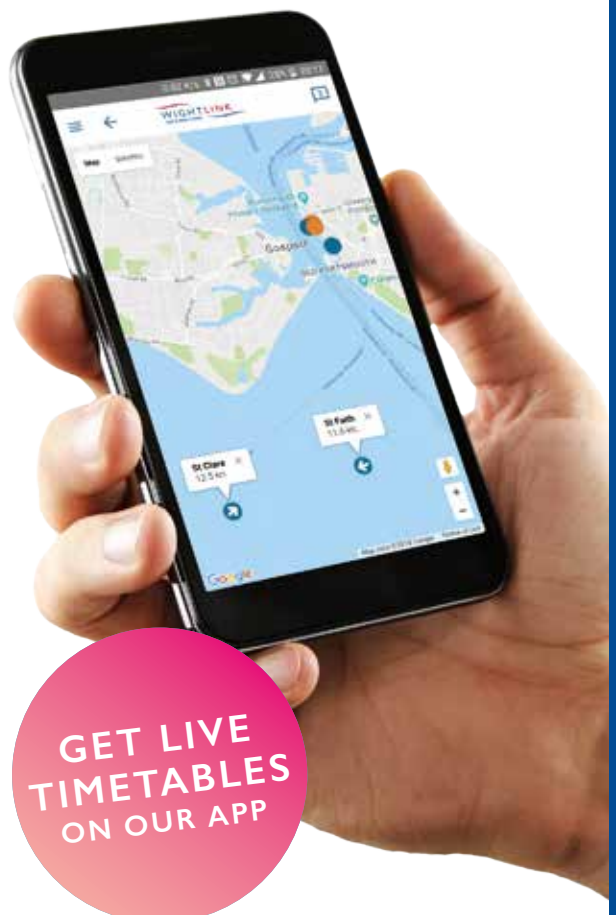
Visit wightlink.co.uk/contactus or call the Contact Centre on 0333 999 7333

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

I Leisure
Medina, Newport
01983 823882

The Heights, Lake
01983 823881

Westridge, Ryde
01983 823883
lleisure.co.uk

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

BREAKDOWN COVER

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

Bartletts Service Station
01983 865338
bartlettservicestation.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

SOUTH

Ventnor Exchange
11 Church Street,
Ventnor, PO38 1SW

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

Godshell Village Store
High Street,
Godshell, PO38 3HH

Newport Bus Station
South Street,
Newport, PO30 1LL



The chalk ridge of Brading Down offers stunning panoramic views and is great for wildlife spotting.

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awayresorts.co.uk

*Based on 2-nights in Superior accommodation at St Helens Holiday Resort in September, price correct at time of print.

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— 2023 —
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