

WIGHTLINK

FREE GUIDE

Wightlife

ISSUE 3: 2024

TM

HOLIDAY
HIDEAWAYS
**STAY BY
THE SEA**

FOOD & DRINK
**TASTE THE
SUNSHINE**

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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Extraordinary*



theneedles.co.uk

Welcome to summer on the Isle of Wight

Although spring was definitely on the chilly side, summer is now here and we're all looking forward to getting out into the fresh air and making memories with our family and friends.



Our customers voted Wightlink the best UK ferry operator at the British Travel Awards last year and we are proud to take you across the Solent for your well-earned holiday.

You've come to the right place as the Isle of Wight is packed with wonderful things to do and this edition of Wightlife magazine will give you a few more ideas.

The Island offers beautiful beaches, lovely country walks and much more, whether you'll be based in pretty villages like Freshwater and Bembridge, the harbour town of Yarmouth, the sunny resorts of Sandown, Shanklin or Ventnor or perhaps lively Ryde with its miles of golden sands. When you're feeling hungry, there's everything from welcoming pubs and cafés to award-winning restaurants serving tasty dishes of all kinds. Check out local produce including tomatoes, garlic, gin and beer and maybe take some home. We always have a good range in Wightlink's outlets at our ports and onboard our car ferries.

Fancy stretching your legs and getting some exercise? There are footpaths everywhere and a 68-mile coastal path with breathtaking views along the way. The whole Island has been designated a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve, just head out into nature and find out why. Cyclists love tackling our hills and clifftop routes but there are plenty of easy rides and you can even hire a bike if you've left yours at home. But, if you'd prefer to take the bus or drive, you won't miss out.

However you get here, our Island attractions are second to none. Say hello to Softi and Toph, the magnificent new tigers at Wildheart Animal Sanctuary overlooking Sandown Bay. The iconic Needles Landmark Attraction is always a family favourite and you can even go dinosaur hunting on the beaches, learn all about them at Dinosaur Isle.

Don't forget the Island is also a special place to visit in autumn when everything is a little quieter and the welcome will be just as warm. A weekend break can be magical but do book in advance to make sure you can get the crossing of your choice.

Thank you for travelling with Wightlink, we're delighted to welcome you on board.

Keith Chenfield

Chief Executive

WIGHTLINK

Dip your toes in the water at Seagrove Bay – perfect for paddling at this time of year!

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COVER SHOT

Sandown Pier from the Air
By Available Light Photography



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the Inn for all...

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The south coast town has plenty to offer, including a beautiful beach, subtropical gardens, a plethora of seaside cafés, pubs and restaurants and even a paddling pool – escape for the day and take a tour with us.





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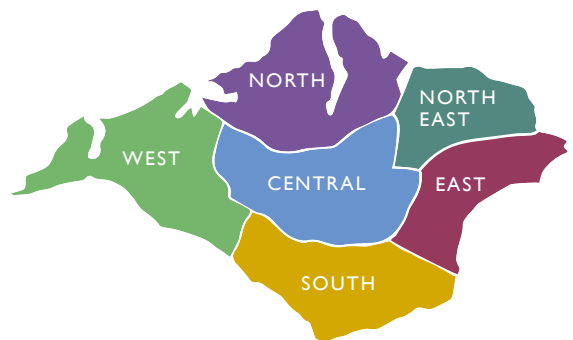
From healthcare to breakdown recovery, all the details you may need, plus Visit Isle of Wight travel information centres.

68 ISLAND DESTINATIONS

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84 EAST

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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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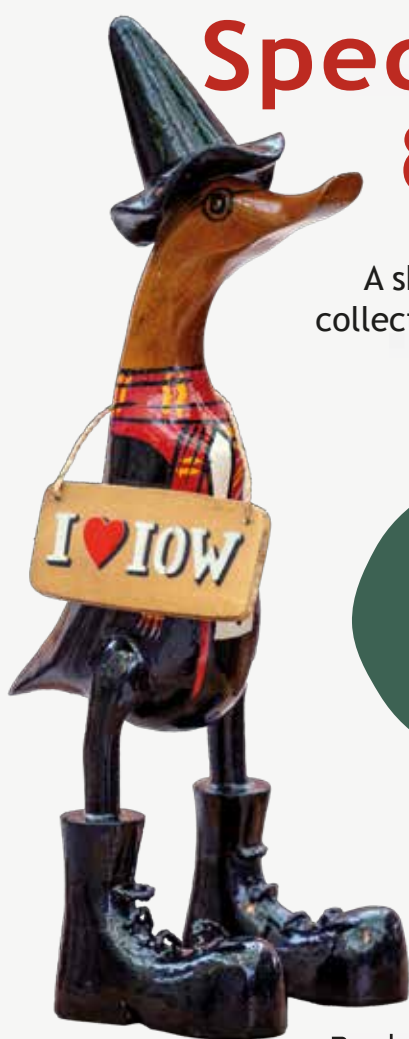
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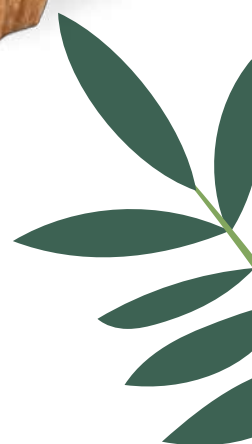
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OUR DESTINATION
GUIDES START
ON PAGE 68



ATTRACTIONS
ACCOMMODATION
FOOD & DRINK

The Guide

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



Watch out for Wightlink's new TV advert

Have you seen our new TV advert airing on Sky and Virgin media channels yet?

Filmed around the Island and on-board one of our Wight Class ferries on the Lymington to Yarmouth route, the advert focuses on the adventures of a couple taking their newest edition, Taffy the dog, on an exhilarating day out on the Isle of Wight. As expected on the sunniest part of the UK, the weather was great when the team filmed at Compton Beach, Brighstone Forest and Cowes. Check out the TV screens on our ferries this summer and you may catch the advert!

PS. Fans of Doc Martin, starring Martin Clunes, may recognise our TV star Taffy from his appearances on the show.

A FRESH NEW LOOK FOR SUMMER

We continue to improve the Wight Taste offering across our ships and ports.

Our Ryde Pier Head and Lymington outlets are among the latest to get a new look for summer. But don't worry, they're still selling your favourite tasty snacks from the likes of Graces Bakery and Calbourne Classics as well as teas and coffees made with Briddlesford Farm milk. You can also pick up a range of gifts from Isle of Wight producers like The Garlic Farm, Isle of Wight Tomatoes, Mermaid Gin and, new for 2024, Bloody Hell Hot Sauce.



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

AUTOMATED GATES ARRIVE ON FASTCAT ROUTE

Foot passengers travelling on our Portsmouth Harbour and Ryde Pier Head FastCat route began using newly installed automatic entrance gates at both ports in May.

The gates are able to recognise rail tickets with barcodes or QR codes as well as Wightlink paper tickets, passes and online tickets on smartphones. Port staff will be on hand for customers using rail tickets with magnetic strips, as these will require manual scanning as well as adults travelling with children.

Following a half a million pounds investment in the technology, the gates are designed to make foot passenger journeys easier and provide a direct link to rail ticketing systems. Once customers have passed through the electronic gates, they will be able to relax in the passenger lounge until their FastCat is ready for boarding.





Win a luxury ‘Dine & Stay’ package with The Royal Hotel and Wightlink worth over £420

Enter our competition and you could win a luxury ‘Dine & Stay’ at The Royal Hotel for two people, with dinner in the Geranium Restaurant and delicious breakfast the following morning, with ferry travel included!

We are giving away a one-night luxury stay worth over £220 at one of the Isle of Wight’s most historic hotels, The Royal Hotel in Ventnor. Plus, £200 of Wightlink ferry travel to get you there – with three convenient routes, Wightlink is your link to the Island.

Feast like royalty at the renowned Geranium Restaurant, which has been recognised with 2 AA Rosettes and The Beautiful South Restaurant of the Year 2023 (silver). Let your taste buds dance with delight as the talented chefs craft culinary masterpieces using the finest locally sourced ingredients.

And that’s not all – you’ll also get access to the outdoor heated paradise pool! A beautiful spot to relax and soak up some sunshine.

After a day of fun, food, and perhaps a beverage or two from the cocktail bar, retire to your classic, comfy double/twin room. Sink into sumptuous bedding ensuring you a restful night’s sleep.

Wake up to a full English breakfast, served to perfection. Start your day on a delicious note, ready to explore all that Ventnor has to offer.

For your chance to win an indulgent ‘Dine & Stay’ package at The Royal Hotel, visit wight.link/royal and use the form to enter by 30 September 2024.

This prize draw is open for entries from 1 July 2024. Entries must be received by 23:59 on 30 September 2024. Entrants must be 18+. Cannot be transferred, refunded or exchanged for cash/vouchers. The prize must be redeemed by 30 May 2025. Not applicable on Christmas, New Year or special event dates. Based on two adults sharing a Classic double or twin room with a £90 dinner allowance per couple and breakfast. For full terms and conditions visit wight.link/royal



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Hidden histories

Ahead of Heritage Open Days at the beginning of September, we've decided to take a peek behind the scenes and over the garden walls of some of the Island's historic houses and attractions, revealing their hidden stories and bringing their forgotten pasts back to life.

Mottistone Manor's Sicilian-inspired terraces and gardens are a lovely place to lose yourself in the summer sun. Photo: National Trust Images/Chris Lacey.

OSBORNE

Set amongst the wide fields and leafy woodlands above East Cowes is Osborne – an impressive Italianate villa, best known as Queen Victoria's former seaside home. With elegant terraces, an underground ice house and a walled garden growing everything from rhubarb to bergamot (that's the citrus fruit used in Earl Grey tea), it's a must-see for many Isle of Wight visitors. However, while its royal connections and Indian influences are well-known, Osborne has a wealth of other stories to uncover too.



Queen Victoria's seaside residence, Osborne, is an impressive Italianate villa.

Tucked away in the Swiss Cottage Museum are two elaborately embroidered Turkish-style jackets, once owned by two young brothers named Johans and Georgio. Rescued from the Bulgarian-Romanian border during the Crimean War, the badly injured pair were picked up by sailors from HMS Firebrand who brought them back to Britain. Once Queen Victoria heard their story, she took them under her wing, lodging them with Mrs Jackman – a tenant of the Osborne Estate living at Barton Cottages. Here they would grow up under the new names of John and George Hyde, with frequent visits from the Queen who would even drop by to sketch them.

english-heritage.org.uk



The museum at Swiss Cottage is surrounded by beautiful blooms and houses some interesting royal artifacts.

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King Charles I was famously imprisoned at Carisbrooke Castle – but despite numerous attempts, was never able to escape.

CARISBROOKE CASTLE

Occupying a prominent hilltop position, close to the centre of the Island is Carisbrooke Castle, whose crumbly stone walls have long been a feature of the local landscape, resisting centuries of weather and even a short-lived French siege. While you might like to clamber up to the Norman keep or watch the resident grey donkeys turn the historic well-house wheel – there's one particular character from Carisbrooke's past who deserves another look.

Jane Whorwood was a female secret agent and Royalist spy during the First Civil War. When King Charles I fled Hampton Court for the Isle of Wight in 1647, he soon found himself imprisoned behind the castle walls of Carisbrooke. Jane had already arrived in the nearby market town of Newport and as his 'escape manager' tried to coordinate his getaway. Coded letters were smuggled in and out, and she even arranged for a ship to whisk the king away to Holland once he'd broken free, however, unfortunately for Charles, none of his escape attempts ever proved successful.

english-heritage.org.uk



Watch the resident donkeys power the Carisbrooke Castle well-house wheel.

MOTTISTONE MANOR

On the southwestern side of the Island, in the shadow of Mottistone Down (and its mystical Neolithic standing stone), the winding road will lead you to the gates of Mottistone Manor. Mentioned in the Domesday Book, this ancient home (now owned by the National Trust) features a Tudor wing, an Elizabethan extension and some Sicilian-inspired terraces and gardens laid out in the 1960s by Lady Vivien Nicholson.



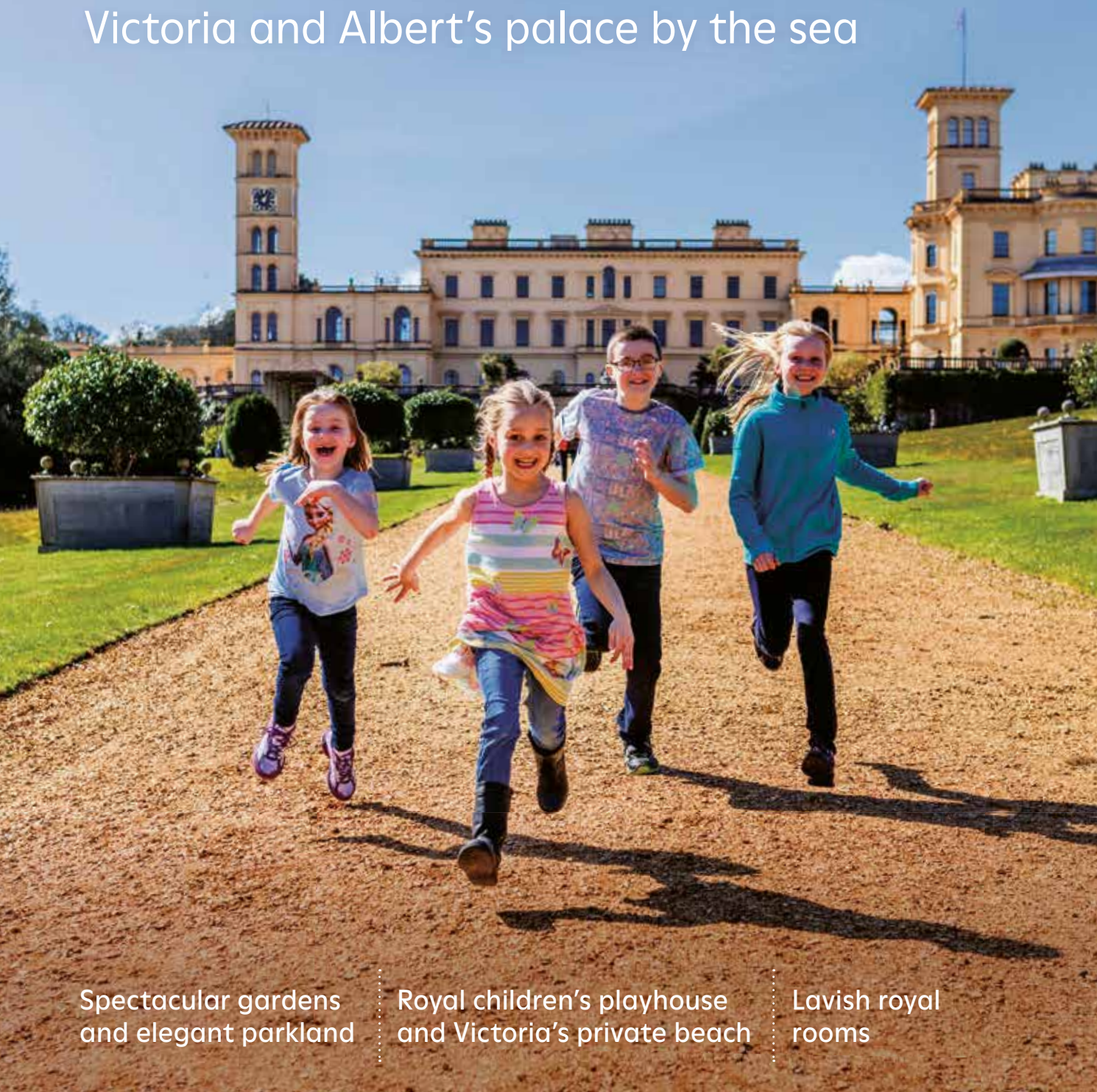
Mottistone owner, Jack Seely was sent to the western front, accompanied by his horse, Warrior. They survived the battles of the First World War before returning to the manor.

After strolling through the orchards and visiting the tea garden for a reviving drink, you might like to crack out your compass and head for The Warrior Trail – a hiking route that gives a nod to a recently rediscovered local story. During the First World War, Mottistone owner General Jack Seely was sent to the Western Front, accompanied by his loyal, locally born and bred horse Warrior. Despite finding themselves in some of the fiercest battles of the conflict, Warrior survived and returned to the Island in 1918 as a local hero, living out the rest of his days in the fields around Mottistone.

nationaltrust.org.uk

Osborne

Victoria and Albert's palace by the sea



Spectacular gardens
and elegant parkland

Royal children's playhouse
and Victoria's private beach

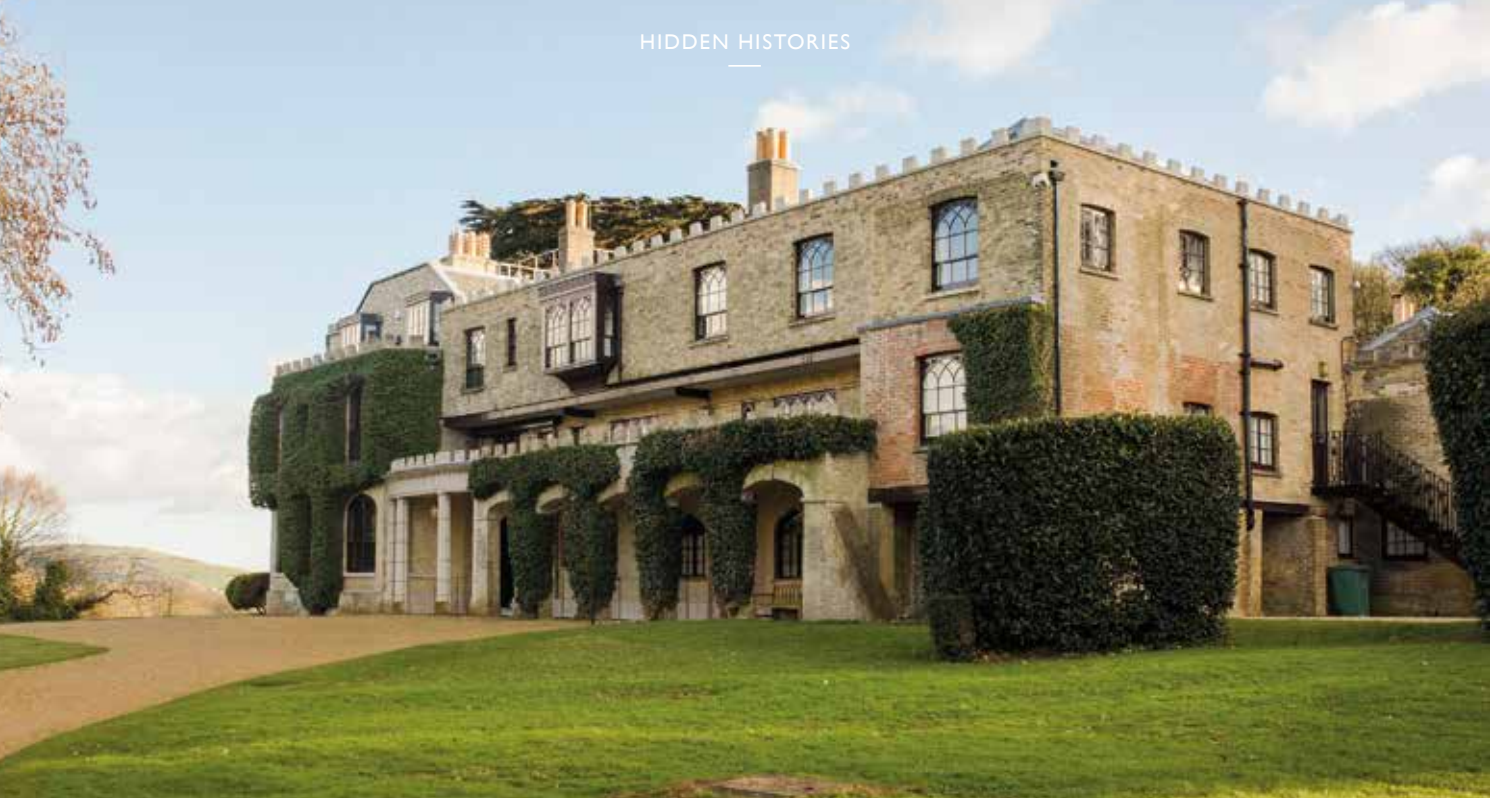
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Farringford is a Grade I Listed Building and was the main residence of the Poet Laureate Alfred, Lord Tennyson from 1853 until his death in 1892.

FARRINGFORD

Not far from the lapping waves of Freshwater Bay is Farringford, a tranquil Gothic home once owned by the famous Victorian poet Alfred, Lord Tennyson. Here he would write poems (including *Maud* and *Enoch Arden*), take walks across the chalky downland wearing his black cape and broad-brimmed hat and occasionally escape from visitors through the turret staircase or across his specially made bridge which led out from his garden.

One guest he didn't try to avoid though was Queen Emma of Hawaii who visited the UK in 1865 to raise money to build a cathedral in Honolulu. An avid reader she was especially keen to meet Tennyson and was invited to spend a few days amongst the calming atmosphere of Farringford. During her time in Freshwater though, so many guests dropped by to catch a glimpse of the visiting Hawaiian queen that in the end Tennyson had to hide her in the summerhouse in the kitchen garden so she could read her letters in peace.

farringford.co.uk



Blending Georgian structural principles with exquisite Gothic details, Farringford is decorated in sumptuous colours and has a calming atmosphere.

MUSEUM OF ISLAND HISTORY

Amongst the busy streets of Newport, set in one of the oldest parts of town, is The Guildhall – an often overlooked building, characterised by its tall Greek columns and colonnaded walkway below. Constructed in 1816, it was based on plans drawn up by high-flying architect John Nash – who also designed Brighton Pavilion, Marble Arch and Regent's Park in London. Initially intended as a marketplace with a town hall above, over the years this impressive stony-coloured building has undergone many tweaks and alterations and has previously housed Newport's ambulance station, fire station and courtroom too.



The Museum of Island History is housed in Newport's impressive Guildhall and the collection includes exhibits from the Isle of Wight's pre-historic past through to the present day.

Today, the ground floor is home to the Museum of Island History which last year opened its doors for free during Heritage Open Days. Alongside its permanent collections, it also hosted a special exhibition on the famous Isle of Wight Rodeo Riders – a group of local men who travelled the country performing incredible stunts on horseback between 1924 and 1939. Keep an eye out as they announce what's planned for this year's event.

iow.gov.uk

For more ideas on places to visit, turn to pages 68–109 or visit wightlink.co.uk/explorer

James Rayner

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Our next rescue – Project Bears.



Brothers Benji and Balu in Azerbaijan

For the full story see pages 40-41.

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You can't leave the Island without...

#1 HAVING FUN WITH YOUR FOUR-LEGGED FRIEND

With walks galore, sandy beaches for running and swimming and plenty of pet-friendly pit stops, your perfect pooch needn't miss out on your Island escape this summer. Follow our top tips for paw-fect travel and dog-friendly days out on pages 64–66.



#2 HITTING THE BEACH

Whether you're dipping a tentative toe in the sea with a little paddle or you're a seasoned adrenaline-fuelled watersports junkie, now is the time to hit the beach. Build a sandcastle, swim in the sea and soak up the sun. You'll find our Beach Guides within pages 68–109.

#3 TASTING THE SUNSHINE

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. Tickle your taste buds and discover our pick of the local producers on pages 24–28.



#4 STEAMING THROUGH THE ISLAND'S COUNTRYSIDE

The Island Steam Fair returns for another year at the Isle of Wight Steam Railway. The majestic steam trains will be running along the line, plus there's vintage transport, a traditional fairground and live entertainment to enjoy. Find out more in our What's On Guide on pages 114–120.

#5 ENJOYING AN ICE CREAM

What better way to keep cool on a warm day than with a locally churned ice cream? Whether you like a scoop of raspberry ripple, a classic whippy or a more frivolous flavour, you'll find our favourite 'Beaches & Cream' spots on pages 60–62





#6 GOING SCOOTER SPOTTING

Between 23–26 August, thousands of vintage scooters and their owners will descend on the Island for the Isle of Wight Scooter Rally. Featuring live music, custom shows and trade stalls and the legendary 'big ride-out', it's not to be missed. For more details, see pages 114–120.

#7 STEPPING BACK IN TIME

Head to Osborne between 20–22 August and join Queen Victoria and Her Majesty's horses for a day at the races. Place your bets on your favourite and watch displays of exceptional horsemanship. For more events, see our What's On Guide on pages 114–120.



#8 GETTING ACTIVE... WHATEVER THE WEATHER

When it rains, it pours, but thankfully, there are many activities where you can burn off some energy such as Wight Karting, Isle of Wight Mountain Bike Centre, Canopy Skatepark and Sandown Pier. For great days out rain or shine, see our feature on pages 42–46

#9 VISITING A COUNTY SHOW

Summertime is show time with the Royal Isle of Wight County Show, Chale Show, the Garlic Festival and Wolverton Manor Garden Fair all taking place. Offering everything from motorcycle displays and vintage funfairs to rural crafts and agricultural animals, they guarantee fun for all the family! Turn to pages 114–120 for more details.



#10 CATCHING FESTIVAL FEVER

2024 is the summer of music! There really is something for everyone – retro music lovers will enjoy the Jack Up Summer Party, the Wight Proms will keep classical connoisseurs happy and dance fans will love the new Big Beach Weekender and Blackgang Chine's series of Sunset Sessions. For more summer events see our What's On Guide on pages 114–120.

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

Taste the sunshine

The Isle of Wight was recently named the sunniest part of the UK, being the only region to enjoy an average of over five hours of sunshine per day. This is a game-changer when it comes to the Island's food and drink. Here, we're going to take a look at the farmers, growers and brewers who are tickling our taste buds and taking full advantage of the Island's unique climate.



Visitors to the Firkin' Deck Restaurant and Bar at Goddards Brewery can sample a huge range of Goddards beers, some of which are incorporated into their menu offerings.

FANTASTIC FRUIT AND VEG

For those with a penchant for the smellier things in life, The Garlic Farm offers a sensory journey like no other. Here, amid fields of fragrant garlic bulbs, visitors can explore the wonders of this humble yet versatile ingredient, by simply roaming the farm's expansive pasture. We also recommend tasting some of the farm's offerings for yourself! The aptly named onsite 'Garlic Farm Restaurant' showcases the versatility of garlic in all its glory, with an array of dishes that celebrate its unique flavour profile in innovative and delicious ways. If you like what you see (or taste), there's also an onsite shop offering an array of suitably 'garlicky' wares, from beer to ice cream!



At the Garlic Farm, you can watch the fragrant bulbs being harvested and then sample them as an array of delicious dishes in the onsite restaurant.

Also located in Arreton Valley is Isle of Wight Tomatoes. The family-run enterprise has been taking full advantage of the Island's unique microclimate when it comes to growing its produce, using long hours of daily sunshine, along the rich fertile soil of Arreton Valley, to grow exceptionally juicy, flavourful sun-soaked tomatoes. Their deliciousness has not gone unnoticed, with the company supplying produce to many local restaurants and shops. An assortment of their products can even be seen on the shelves of luxury retailer giant, Harrods! You can now also order a box of them to your front door with their new online delivery service.



You can taste the extra hours of sunshine in Isle of Wight Tomatoes produce.



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Explore the grounds at the villa by following the Nature Trail

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

www.bradingromanvilla.org.uk



Get the full garlic experience in the idyllic surroundings of The Garlic Farm near Newchurch.

THE GRASS IS ALWAYS GREENER

But it's not just vegetable farms that thrive on the Isle of Wight. At Briddlesford Lodge, a dairy farm with a proud tradition dating back to 1923, the lush pastures and gentle climate provide the perfect conditions for happy cows to roam and graze. The result? Milk of unparalleled richness and quality, that serves as the foundation for all of their dairy products. In fact, you may already have had a taste of their delicious milk in your tea or coffee on your journey with Wightlink, as they supply all the milk for the Wight Taste cafés and outlets. A highlight is the range of artisanal and farmhouse cheeses, which have garnered awards and acclaim far beyond the Island's shores. The onsite shop offers a full range of their own dairy products, in addition to products from over 50 local producers.

The flourishing, nutrient-rich grasslands of the Island are also ideal when it comes to rearing livestock, resulting in flavourful, tender cuts of meat. One of the most popular suppliers of Island-sourced beef, alongside speciality cuts of lamb and pork, is the Isle of Wight Meat Co., whose cows are reared on the local Cheverton Farm and sold in their onsite shop.



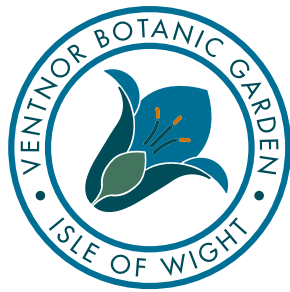
Briddlesford Farm's herd of pedigree Guernsey cattle have room to roam and graze which help them to produce milk of unparalleled richness and quality.

SIPPIN' ON THE SUNSHINE

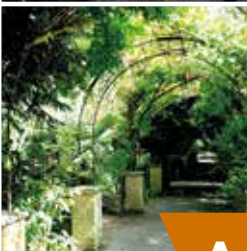
The sunshine's influence doesn't stop at the fields; it extends to the Island's breweries and vineyards, where it plays a pivotal role in crafting beverages that capture the essence of summer in every sip.



The Briddlesford Farm onsite shop is packed to the rafters with local produce.



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Take an audio-guided vineyard tour at Adgestone Vineyard and soak up the sun on the slopes.

Adgestone Vineyard remains the oldest continuously operating vineyard in the UK. The Island's ample sunshine provides an ideal setting for grape cultivation, allowing the fruit to ripen slowly and develop complex flavours while retaining natural acidity. Furthermore, the Isle of Wight's chalky soils, reminiscent of those found in the Champagne region of France, impart minerality and depth to the wines that make each bottle truly unique. They are also the UK's only producers of sparkling blue wine, as seen on Channel 5's *Isle of Wight Jewel of the South*. The Vineyard serves as an excellent spot for those looking to learn more about the processes involved in producing English wine, from grape to glass, with audio-guided tours around the 10-acre site and wine-tasting lessons. There's also an onsite cafe and a shop stocked with local produce.

Dating back to 1993, Goddards Brewery has earned itself a reputation for producing exceptional, innovative craft brews using traditional methods. They've always sought to use locally-grown hops wherever possible when producing their beers, with the abundant sunshine providing the perfect environment for their cultivation. The result is brews infused with unique floral notes and nuanced flavours, reflective of the Brewery's countryside surroundings.



Goddards Brewery produce a range of high quality, innovative craft brews, using locally-grown hops where possible at their new state-of-the-art facility near Arreton.

Their new state-of-the-art visitor facility opened in 2023 and lets visitors see the Brewery in action, and learn more about the day-to-day operations. Additionally, the onsite Firkin' Deck Restaurant and Bar allow guests to sample a huge range of Goddards beers, which they also incorporate into many of their menu offerings.

For more places to eat, please turn to pages 68–109 or visit wightlink.co.uk/explorer

Thomas Spence



Adgestone Vineyard are the UK's only producers of sparkling blue wine – 'Something Blue'.



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Stay by the sea

With the summer holidays upon us, there's no better place to be than by the sea. Whether you're looking for a coastal cottage, a clifftop campsite or a seaside holiday lodge just a short sprint down to those crisp blue waves, our handy guide has plenty of ideas.

WHITECLIFF BAY

Arranged on a clifftop (sufficiently far back from the edge, of course) is Whitecliff Bay, a coastal holiday park offering everything from archery and crazy golf in the daytime to live acts and performances once the sun goes down. Depending on whether you book yourself into a lodge, caravan or chalet, you might get some shimmery sea glimpses from your accommodation windows.



As the sun goes down, you can slide into your own hot tub at Whitecliff Bay. This coastal holiday park has facilities to keep the whole family happy.

For those who find the waters of the British seaside a bit on the chilly side there are places to stay with their own sufficiently steamy hot tubs too (try The Rockstar lodge for instance). Overlooked by the chalky cliffs of Culver, the shoreline is just a short shuffle down the hill and makes a great spot for the family to rub in that Factor 50 and soak up the seaside rays.

awayresorts.co.uk



At The Buddle Smugglers Inn, guests will find a range of recently refurbished rooms as well as a well-stocked bar and a tasty selection of food options.

THE BUDDLE SMUGGLERS INN

Supposedly one of the Island's oldest pubs (dating back to the 18th century), The Buddle Inn is filled to the rafters with character, charm and apparently the odd ghost too. Tucked down a quiet lane in the former smuggling village of Niton (once famous for its locally-caught crabs) it makes a superb seaside base for walks to St. Catherine's lofty lighthouse or the quaint bay at Castlehaven with its rustic beachfront cafés.

Back at the Buddle though, guests will find a range of recently revamped boutique rooms designed with comfort and style in mind. Once you've settled in and unpacked your bags, just head downstairs to the bar when it's time for your evening meal. Here, menu options include the ribeye steak with duck fat potatoes, the burger with smoked cheese béchamel or The Buddle Fish Pie made up of smoked fish, tarragon, spinach and lemon sauce.

buddleinn.co.uk



Tucked down a quiet lane, The Buddle Inn is filled with character and charm.

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The interior at the The Seaview Hotel oozes elegance, with crisp white linen and nautical flourishes.

THE ORCHARDS HOLIDAY PARK

Over in the West Wight hamlet of Newbridge, set amongst lush undulating countryside and with panoramic views over the ships in the Solent, you'll find The Orchards. Visitors to this award-winning holiday park can manoeuvre their campervans or hammer their tent pegs into one of the site's many grassy pitches. Alternatively, a fleet of bright and welcoming caravans awaits (each sleeping between four and six guests) – an option especially popular with the youngest visitors.

From The Orchards, a ten-minute drive to the west will bring you to the nautical harbour town of Yarmouth, where you can sample ice creams on the pier or cross over the river to explore the dunes of Sandhard Beach. Setting coordinates southwards instead will take you to the rugged coastline that flanks the Military Road, where the waves of The Channel are known to make excellent conditions for surfing.

orchardsholidaypark.co.uk



The Orchards Holiday Park near Yarmouth has a fleet of bright and welcoming caravans as well as grassy pitches nestled amongst stunning countryside.

THE SEAVIEW HOTEL

If you're looking for something a tad fancier but equally as nautical, try The Seaview Hotel on the Island's eastern shore. Located in the upmarket sailing village of Seaview (from where it takes its name), you'll be close to sailing clubs, coastal walks and a selection of salt-kissed swimming beaches, including Seagrove Bay which has its own pop-up barista bar at this time of year.



The food at The Seaview Hotel is a feast for the eyes as well as the taste buds.

Check-in options at The Seaview Hotel include crisp and comfy standard rooms, an apartment suite (if you fancy splashing out) and an assortment of superior rooms with views out over the calm blue seas below. If you're starting to feel peckish, you can take a seat in the ground floor Aquitania restaurant – winner of 2 AA Rosettes – for a modern assortment of dishes atop the whitest of tablecloths and with the sparkliest of silverware.

seaviewhotel.co.uk

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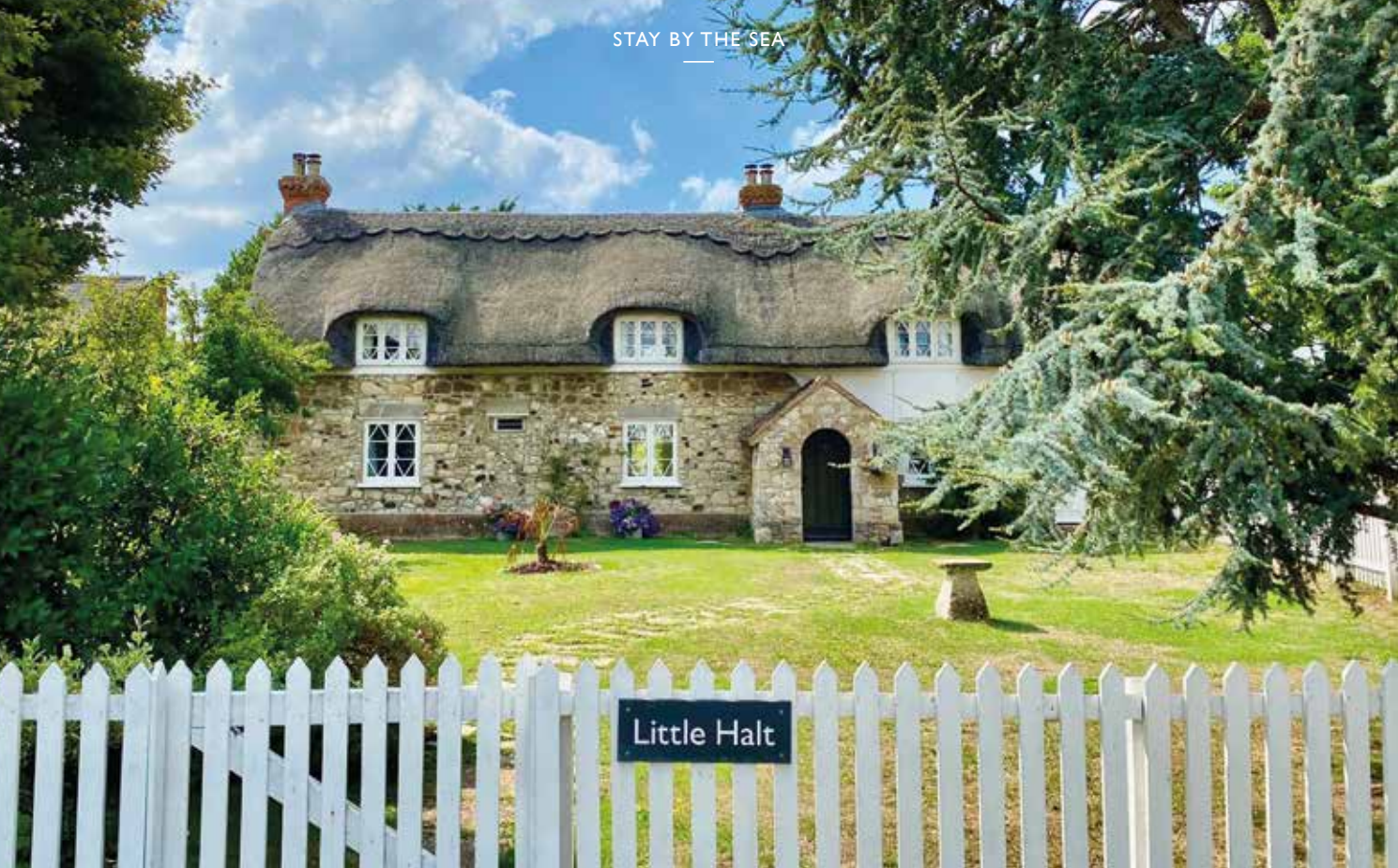


FALCONRY DISPLAYS



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Staying by the sea needn't mean missing out on the chocolate-box charm of a thatched cottage.

VILLA AMANTI APARTMENT

Down on the Esplanade at Ventnor, amongst the brightly coloured deckchairs and circling seagulls, is Villa Amanti – an elegant sandy-coloured Victorian villa which wouldn't look out of place in Tuscany. Behind its row of welcoming palm trees, guests will discover a spick and span beachfront apartment, conveniently set on the building's ground floor.

Aside from the restful interiors and shipshape facilities, the pièce de résistance of this two-bedroom apartment has to be its compact front patio, which looks out across the shingly beach of Ventnor and onto the deep blue waters beyond. Providing a prime lookout point, from here you'll also be able to spot local fishing vessels gliding back into harbour, or catch sight of the cross-Channel ferries sailing over to the French coast. Managed by Island Holiday Homes, this elegant seaside bolt-hole makes the perfect base for trips to the leafy village of Bonchurch (once visited by Charles Dickens) or the calm waters of Steephill Cove.

island-holiday-homes.net



Stay in your very own Mediterranean villa – in Ventnor! With restful interiors and all the facilities you could want, it's harder to stay any closer to the sea than at Villa Amanti.

LITTLE HALT, FRESHWATER

Shifting from the starboard side of the Island to port, if rustic charm is top of your agenda, then you can't go wrong with a getaway to Little Halt – a 17th-century thatched cottage in the coastal town of Freshwater. Set overlooking Pound Green, this Grade II listed stone house boasts grassy lawns, a secluded terrace and more period features than you could shake an oar at.



Little Halt is chic, but cosy and comfortable too. Perfect for a relaxing break.

While it might be tricky to tear yourself away from the charm of Little Halt, a two-minute drive (or a swift twenty-minute stroll) will bring you to the tranquillity of Freshwater Bay, where you can pick up all your nautical knick-knacks at the Freshwater Bay Trading Co. and (if it's a Friday or Sunday evening) sample a wood-fired pizza on the shore, fresh from the oven of the vintage Wight Wood Pizza van.

isleofwighthideaways.co.uk

For more ideas on places to stay, turn to pages 68–109 or visit wightlink.co.uk/explorer

James Rayner

All Weather Family Fun – Open All Year

Sandown Pier

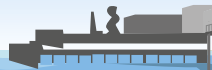
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Inspirational Islanders: Daniel Seaman, aged nine Goalkeeper

Sport is for all...and nobody proves this better than young Daniel Seaman, who is profoundly deaf but doesn't let it get in the way of him enjoying his football.

The nine-year-old goalkeeper (of course he is with a surname like that!) has been travelling to Brighton and Hove Albion's Elite Disability training sessions and para talent hub, where he has been receiving top-level coaching from the Premier League club.

But that's not all... Daniel recently took part in England's Regional Emerging Talent Programme, and is "super excited" for his forthcoming programme session in August which will take place at St Georges Park in Burton-on-Trent. He also plays in the Junior Premier League at Stoneham Lane Complex near Eastleigh with his U9s LJR squad.

Back on the Island, Daniel plays for his grassroots football club Ryde Saints – Eagles U9s. He loves the Island life because of all of the beaches and exciting places to explore.

He said: "I love visiting Appley Beach in Ryde, especially when the beach soccer festival is on."

When he is not on the beach, Daniel enjoys walking around Firestone Copse, near Wootton, exploring and den building, as well as visiting places such as Tapnell Farm Park and Osborne.

"One of my real stand-out places are the Freshwater caves where me and my family went exploring last year."

Daniel said the sponsorship from Wightlink in the Community has enabled him to play weekly at Eastleigh, attend the sessions at Brighton, as well as travelling to Middlesex FA to train with England coaches.

To find out more, visit wightlink.co.uk/community or stay updated at facebook.com/wightlinkthecommunity. Find more Inspirational Islanders on pages 50 and 82.



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TOM WALKER

COMEDY

FRANKIE BOYLE

RIA LINA / SAANIYA ABBAS
COMPERE - EMMANUEL SONUBI

BEATS & SWING
HEADLINER

AFTERNOON
SPECIAL GUEST

BABY SAID / WELLY / K.O.G SOUNDSYSTEM / FLORENCE ADOONI / BODY CRISIS
PILOT LIGHT / RATS! RATS! RATS! / BETH BROOKFIELD / WOODED / YOGAMUM

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BIFFY CLYRO
BECKY HILL / WET LEG

JAMES BAY / ARLO PARKS / SOFT PLAY / YARD ACT

NATASHA BEDINGFIELD / THE HUNNA / PROFESSOR GREEN
THE PIGEON DETECTIVES / RED RUM CLUB / THE FUTUREHEADS / JOHN POWER (CAST) / BROOKE COMBE
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A new home for bears

The Wildheart's Animal Sanctuary's latest rescue mission

Set against the backdrop of the alluring Sandown Bay, the Wildheart Animal Sanctuary has become well known for its inspiring rescue stories.

Just last year, they offered a forever home to two tigers, Softi and Toph, who had been found in the back of a horsebox on the Belarussian border, bound for fates unknown. Now, the Wildheart team has undertaken their biggest project yet: to build a brand-new habitat for two European Brown Bears and rescue them directly from Azerbaijan.

While many other rescued animals have been lucky to find temporary sanctuary in Europe before coming to the Wildheart Animal Sanctuary, bears Benji and Balu are still waiting to be saved from a concrete cage. The brothers have spent most of their lives at the side of a restaurant, living off scraps of food and serving as a novelty to attract customers. They have now been moved to a larger enclosure away from public view, but their living conditions are still less than favourable.

Rescuing and building a brand-new habitat for two European Brown Bears will be the Wildheart Animal Sanctuary's biggest project yet.

That is why the Sanctuary has launched an urgent campaign to raise £150,000 for Benji and Balu's rescue, which will cover the necessary costs of transporting them across Europe and constructing a new purpose-built habitat. Since Project Bears launched in May, the Wildheart Animal Sanctuary has already raised over £45,000 through donations and has wasted no time in putting these funds to good use. Contractors have already begun works to transform a 3,500-metre square area into the perfect forever home for Benji and Balu.



Brothers Benji and Balu have spent most of their lives in a concrete cage at the side of a restaurant.

Throughout the summer, there will be various fundraising events taking place on the Isle of Wight and beyond to raise money for this groundbreaking project. In June, the Wildheart team will be facing the Three Peaks Challenge, climbing three mountains in twenty-four hours, and on the 20 July you'll be able to 'bear' witness as two cyclists dressed as bears ride across the Island on Penny Farthing bikes – yes, you did read that right!



Part of the 3,500-metre square area set aside for the bears' new enclosure.

Marketing Manager at the Wildheart Animal Sanctuary, Lee Saudan added: "There are so many ways that people can get involved with this incredible project – whether that's making a donation, setting up their own fundraiser, or volunteering time, goods or services – so if you've got a great idea, we'd love for you to get in touch."

To find out more and to donate please visit wildheartanimalsanctuary.org/project-bears

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Days out: rain or shine!

Sometimes it rains, sometimes it pours – even during the beautiful British summer. For those (hopefully rare) occasions, the Isle of Wight has plenty of interesting, unusual and adrenaline-inducing activities that will keep the whole family occupied. So strap on those biking helmets and tighten up those knee pads as we take a quick tour of our favourites.



Designed for recreation and education, Canopy Skatepark caters for all skateboarders from beginners to pro-skaters and all types of learners.

CANOPY SKATEPARK

If the forecast for the day ahead is a touch on the drizzly side, make your way to Canopy Skatepark, an all-weather skateboarding space set down a quiet lane, close to the South Wight hamlet of Chale Green. Housed in a former barn, it caters to every type of skater, from absolute beginners to seasoned, hardy professionals.



Housed in a former barn, there's plenty of space to practice your tricks at Canopy Skatepark – whatever the weather.

Before hitting those ramps though, check the schedule to find the best time to visit – whether you're looking for a girls-only skateboarding session or an instructor-led slot to perfect those ollies and kickflips. Located on a disused farm, the venture is part of a wider project to rejuvenate the site and offer a top-notch facility for visitors and locals alike. In the future, expect outdoor classrooms, nature trails, axe-throwing arenas and on-site accommodation too.



Competitive family? Find out who's fastest on four wheels at Wight Karting.

WIGHT KARTING

For those looking to rev things up a bit, Wight Karting on the outskirts of Ryde should easily satisfy your need for speed. The Island's only all-weather outdoor karting track, anyone from the age of eight years and up can don a helmet and slide into a suit before taking to the 520-metre track to tackle those hairpin bends.



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Charity number: 1159886



The action is better when it's wetter at Wight Karting!

So far, almost 70,000 visitors have dropped by this family-owned attraction, with 34.098 seconds being the current fastest time to beat. Alongside the winding trackway, with its speedy petrol-powered go-karts whizzing by, you'll find a clubhouse with changing rooms, a licensed bar and food and drink available to pre-order if you feel like making a day of it.

ISLE OF WIGHT MOUNTAIN BIKE CENTRE

Meanwhile, over at the Isle of Wight Mountain Bike Centre, a spot of light rain certainly won't dampen the mood for those taking to the trails. Based on Cheverton Farm near Shorwell, the site features an array of purpose-built mountain biking routes, traversing dense woodlands and undulating open fields – originally built for the 2011 Island Games (an international sporting event for islands around the world).

Once in the saddle, the trails vary from blue (moderately intense) to black (pretty tricky) and include flow trails, jump trails and technical trails where you'll be navigating between tree stumps, roots and wooden roll-ins (which, if you don't know, are a type of ramp). From May to September, it's open every day of the week from 08:00–20:00 and available for just £10 per person with a day pass.



Pick up a club and meander through the recreated ruins at Lost World Adventure Golf at Sandown Pier. Great fun for all the family and the ideal way to dodge the downpours.

LOST WORLD ADVENTURE GOLF

For those looking for something a touch less muddy and bone-rattling, why not pick up a golf club and get putting at Lost World Adventure Golf – an Aztec-themed indoor crazy golf course, built atop the wooden planks of Sandown Pier.



The Isle of Wight Mountain Bike Centre has jump trails, flow trails and technical trails.



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The Isle of Wight Aqua Park at Tapnell farm is supposedly the Island's bounciest and wettest attraction.

Moving from holes one to eleven, you'll encounter monkeys, lions, lightning and even smoke effects too as you meander through the recreated ruins, before tallying up those scores to find out who was the prime putter of the group. While it might only take half an hour to work your way round, it's open all day and ideal for dodging any short-lived downpours.

ISLE OF WIGHT AQUA PARK

Supposedly the Island's bounciest and wettest attraction, the Isle of Wight Aqua Park at Tapnell Farm is a suitably moist and slippery attraction for the damper days of the holiday. Competitors aged seven and over (and more than 110cm in height) can splash and slide their way around 20 different obstacles, including free-fall slides, bouncy staircases and inflatable runways.

Wetsuits and buoyancy aids are supplied on arrival, as well as changing rooms and a well-positioned spectators area for those who prefer to take it all in from the sidelines. After completing the course and working up an appetite, The Cow restaurant is conveniently close by, serving award-winning burgers and gently seared steaks.

ISLAND RIDING CENTRE

Finally, if you canter over to the green fields above Newport, you'll find the Island Riding Centre, an impressive equestrian complex including stables, livery yard and riding school – as well as an on-site bar and restaurant for those parents not keen to saddle up and brave the stirrups. With a surprisingly spacious indoor arena (bigger than an Olympic-sized swimming pool) the centre's horse-based activities make a fantastic option come rain or shine.



Island Riding Centre offer plenty of options for young riders including one-on-one lessons and a pony ride and pamper session – and the indoor arena is spacious and shower-proof!

Options for young visitors include one-to-one lessons, group lessons and a pony ride and pamper session (lasting 30 minutes and including a gentle introduction to riding). There's also a holiday club on offer, where young riders can take part in the day-to-day life of the stables, helping to make feeds, fill hay nets and muck out too.

For more ideas on places to visit, turn to pages 68–109 or visit wightlink.co.uk/explorer

James Rayner



Splash and slide your way around 20 different obstacles, including free-fall slides at the Isle of Wight Aqua Park at Tapnell Farm

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- 5 Penny Arcade

- 7 Gordy's Wood Co
- 8 Sculptglass & Remembrance Glass
- 9 Rainbow Kingdom Encaustic Art
- 10 Sweet Memories Sweet Shop

- 11 Snoot Box
- 14 The Craft Cabin
- 15 Little Art at the Barn
- 16 Isle of Wight Stone Creations
- 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 the magic of 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. The ground floor easy access studio and shop areas offer free viewing, browse for a simple gift to a lasting investment. Experiences available, commissions welcomed. Not to be confused with any other Island glass studio, 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.



To find out more about the artisans, including their individual contact details, visit arretonbarns.co.uk

ARRETON BARNES

THE ISLAND'S LARGEST ARTS AND CRAFTS CENTRE...

Nestled in the heart of the Arreton Valley, visit some of the Isle of Wight's most talented artists and artisans alongside boutique shops.

Stop by at the Dairyman's Daughter pub for some delicious home-cooked food, real ales & fine wines.

Escape for a more relaxed shopping experience and buy gifts as unique as the people you are buying for.

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Main Road, Arreton, PO30 3AA
arretonbarns.co.uk | [f/ArretonBarns](https://www.facebook.com/ArretonBarns)
Shop 01983 539365 | Pub 01983 539361



Inspirational Islanders: Noah Gartell, aged 12 Snooker star, javelin thrower, cricketer and more!

Practice makes perfect and 12-year-old Noah Gartell knows this to be the case if he is going to achieve his ambition of becoming a pro snooker star.

While he is also a javelin protégé, plays cricket for the Island and enjoys his football, it is snooker that is the Ryde School pupil's big passion.

He is not shy of taking on adults on the green baize and regularly plays at mainland tournaments thanks to his travel support from Wightlink, and also Wight Gold Coins who help with his tournament fees and overnight accommodation. Noah said: "In order to gain a national ranking I need to compete in all five of the English Partnership for Snooker and Billiard's Junior Tour so that is my next aim."

The Gartell family moved to the Island – where Noah's mum Melanie grew up – when Noah was two and they live near Yarmouth. At school, Noah's favourite subjects are maths, PE and geography.

"I love sport but snooker is my absolute favourite, I have been playing for over two years and my highest break is 60. I also throw the javelin and this year I was awarded the Ray Scovell Rising Star Award."

Noah's favourite places are mostly linked to sports. As well as snooker clubs at Brighstone and Ryde, he also enjoys playing crazy golf, visiting the bowling alley at Ryde with his friends and family and has fond memories of days out at Blackgang Chine.

"When the sun shines, I also enjoy throwing myself off of the obstacles at the Isle of Wight Aqua Park at Tapnell Farm! It's also my favourite place to eat – the burgers at The Cow are amazing. I would also recommend Fumo in Ryde, this is my favourite Italian restaurant with the best pizzas on the Island."

Noah's favourite places for walks are Fort Victoria, Tennyson Down and the Causeway.

Noah is supported through Wightlink in the Community via the Isle of Wight Council's Talented Athlete Scheme. The scheme is a sponsored discount scheme and has been designed to help gifted sports people reach their full potential, which Wightlink are proud to sponsor.

To find out more, visit wightlink.co.uk/community or stay updated at facebook.com/wightlinkthecommunity. Find more Inspirational Islanders on pages 38 and 82.

Your own slice of Island life

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

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

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

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

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Destination Ventnor

Nestled along the southern coast of the Island lies Ventnor. Known for its quaint charm and picturesque beaches, this seaside town has enticed visitors and locals alike for centuries. Here, we'll explore just some of the things that make Ventnor a must-visit destination on the Island, by sharing some of our top things to do and places to eat!

THINGS TO DO

Once described by Charles Dickens as "The prettiest place I ever saw in my life, at home or abroad", Ventnor's stunning, varied landscape remains a huge draw for anyone looking to immerse themselves in the beautiful scenery that the Island is renowned for.

Taking full advantage of Ventnor's unique microclimate, which is an average of 5 degrees warmer than the rest of the UK, is the famous Ventnor Botanic Garden. The warmer conditions allow tropical flora to flourish here, resulting in acres upon acres of rare, exotic plants and trees. The 30,000+ plants are categorised by their continent of origin, and line the side of the numerous winding walkways of the gardens. There's plenty on offer for the kids too, with specialised activity packs, an outdoor play area and an indoor colouring wall for rainy days.

Sheltered beneath chalk downland, you could be forgiven for thinking you're in the Med rather than the Isle of Wight in sunny Ventnor!

A trip to Steephill Cove is another essential for visitors. Tucked away at the foot of Ventnor's undercliff area, this secluded bay offers crystal-clear waters and plenty of rockpools to explore. A host of small cafés and shops are also open during the summer months, perfect for when you get peckish. Steephill Cove can be accessed directly from the back of Ventnor Botanic Garden, or by a short walk from the town along the Coastal Path.



Ventnor Botanic Garden has an unrivalled collection of subtropical plants.

Ventnor is also home to the southernmost beach on the Island. This expansive, red shingle and golden sand beach is home to several authentic Victorian beach huts which are available to rent, as well as deck chairs, sun loungers and windbreaks. Those looking to swim are advised to enter the water from the middle of the beach, where a large channel, clear of rocks, is situated.



Honeybourne Jewellery have been creating items – such as these gemstone torq bangles and vitreous enamel earrings – on the premises for over 20 years.

SHOP 'TIL YOU DROP

Whether you're looking for a souvenir to bring back home, or simply wanting to blow off steam with some retail therapy, Ventnor's bustling high street has got you covered.

For those with a penchant for shiny things, Honeybourne Jewellery is a must-visit. Established in 2003, the small boutique specialises in kiln-fired sterling silver jewellery (in addition to gold and silver), crafting pieces that suit a wide range of budgets and tastes. Be sure to pop in and check out what's on display, and you never know, you might stumble upon the perfect gift for a loved one!

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Cover the whole Island with just a hop, skip and a jump!

Another note-worthy mention is Reggie's Retro, the first independent record shop on the Island. Being part of the Ventnor Exchange, you can even enjoy a coffee or a beer whilst browsing through their massive collection of new and pre-loved vinyls.

BREAKFAST, BRUNCH AND BEYOND

Whether you're looking to fuel up before a long day of exploring, or just feeling peckish after a day of basking in the sun, Ventnor has plenty of eateries to satisfy hungry tumms.

To start your day, head on over to Besty and Spinkys. Winner of last year's Isle of Wight County Press Café of the Year Award, this spot is renowned for its 'legendary' breakfasts, plating up everything from full English fry-ups to Belgian waffles. Just outside the café, you'll find the popular Isle of Wight-shaped paddling pool, which is perfect for keeping the kids entertained.

Just a stone's throw down the Esplanade from Besty and Spinkys is The Mill Bay, a cosy family-friendly pub offering the perfect lunch spot for beach-goers. Famous for their fish and chips and Sunday roasts, both are available to take away, ideal for those wanting to kick back and enjoy their meal on the adjacent beach. There's also indoor seating if the weather decides to take a turn for the worst!



Left: Besty and Spinkys are renowned for their 'legendary' full English breakfasts. Right: If traditional fish and chips are your favourite seaside supper, head to The Mill Bay.



The Smoking Lobster is known for serving local Island produce and seafood through a 'Pan-Asian lens' and holds two AA Rosettes.

SUMMER SUPPERS AND SUNDOWNERS

Around 5 o'clock, Ventnor's restaurants open their doors for dinner service, and you are faced with the near-impossible decision of where to spend the evening!

We'd recommend starting with a pre-dinner drink at the world-famous, award-winning Spyglass Inn. Situated at the end of the Esplanade, right by the water's edge, this pub offers plenty of outdoor seating across its two terraces, where you can enjoy stunning views across the Channel whilst sipping on your favourite tippie. If you don't want your night to end there, they offer an extensive evening menu, with an emphasis on fresh seafood, alongside traditional pub classics.

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If you're searching for something a little lavish for dinner, look no further than the Smoking Lobster. This quirky little restaurant has earned itself two silver AA Rosettes since its opening in 2017, and is known for serving local Island produce and seafood through a 'Pan-Asian lens'. There's an assortment of Asian-inspired cocktails on offer to accompany your meal, as well as traditional quality Sake and a carefully curated wine list.

After dinner, make your way down to The Met, where there's an extensive selection of drinks to choose from, ranging from in-house speciality cocktails to fine wines. If you're not quite full, they also serve a range of small tapas plates.

Beer lovers are also in luck. The Ventnor Exchange is located in a former post office which now houses a studio theatre and a craft beer bar, with over 50 guest beers at any one time. Ventnor Exchange is also the HQ for the annual Ventnor Fringe Festival, held every summer. The Exchange hosts a bunch of shows, workshops and events year-round, so it's always worth checking out what's on (which can be done in advance on their website).

PLEASE NOTE:

Leeson Road – the main road connecting Shanklin to Ventnor – is closed for the foreseeable future after a major landslide last year. However, there are still numerous ways you can access Ventnor via alternative routes.

Please see islandroads.com for details.



Ventnor Exchange is a creative hub, combining a theatre, record store, craft beer and cocktail bar and is located in the town's former post office.

Ventnor really does have something for everyone, and whatever may be bringing you to the Isle of Wight this summer, a trip to this historic town should be at the top of your to-do list!

For more ideas on places to visit, turn to pages 68–109 or visit wightlink.co.uk/explorer

Thomas Spence



The Spyglass Inn is located at the end of the Esplanade, right by the water's edge.

MEET THE RESCUES



KEEPER TALKS

Don't miss the brilliant talks and feeds held by our animal carers throughout the day.



MAKE A FEATHERY FRIEND

Get up close to the magnificent owls and meet the rescued birds of prey.



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AND MORE



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- ✓ Enjoy an al fresco picnic



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RESCUE CENTRE

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Green Innovation Fund

At Wightlink, we are encouraging communities on the Isle of Wight to make progress towards meeting the world's sustainability goals, by awarding grants to selected projects from a £10,000 fund.

We are challenging groups to innovate, improve and take action through our Green Innovation Fund. It's part of Wightlink's commitment to run an environmentally conscious business. We are delighted to introduce you to our successful projects.

KEERT

We have awarded alternative transport trailblazers Keert £2,500 towards buying a new e-cargo bike for the West Wight. Enthusiastic riders are already delivering all kinds of things for the Island community, with zero emissions.

Using an e-cargo bike improves air quality, makes roads quieter and reduces traffic noise. It shows Islanders that bikes are an alternative to cars and inspires others towards a healthier lifestyle.

The e-cargo bikes can carry up to 150kg and surprising volumes of parcels. Keert riders receive a living wage and full training, with all deliveries insured and tracked – it's an efficient, safe, and secure service. For the past 18 months, Keert has been delivering for Isle of Wight businesses and local community groups, utilising volunteer assistance to ensure they can deliver all not for profit community deliveries. Keert now aims to expand all its services across more of the Island.

Keert's e-cargo bikes offer an efficient and safe parcel delivery service with zero emissions.

Why 'Keert'? It's the Isle of Wight dialect word for 'to carry anything in a cart or waggon' according to a local 1886 dictionary.

WATERSIDE COMMUNITY TRUST

Ryde's Waterside Community Trust has been awarded £7,500 towards the cost of an electric all-terrain vehicle. It will be used every day in the summer to respond to emergencies and transport beach wheelchairs, an inshore rescue boat and other kit between the beaches in Ryde and Sandown. Replacing a petrol vehicle, the e-ATV will eliminate fossil fuels and reduce carbon emissions and noise pollution.



The Waterside Community Trust deliver lifeguard and first aid training courses across the Island all year round.

The Trust encourages everyone to take part in its activities. They include a summer beach lifeguard service and a pioneering drowning prevention programme, as well as all-year-round training, delivering lifeguard and first aid courses across the Island and the South Coast. It also manages Waterside Pool, a 25-metre lido next to Ryde Beach.

This year the charity will be fitting PV solar panels to its pool and hall along with an efficient heat exchange unit, which will cut gas and electricity usage – and bills.

We look forward to following the progress of these projects and in a future issue we'll catch up with them both. In the meantime, stay tuned to our Wightlink in the Community social media channels: facebook.com/wightlinkinthecommunity or instagram.com/wightlinkcommunity

Our Green Solent Project outlines our wide-ranging initiatives to protect the sea, land and air that surround us. We already support communities in a number of ways under our Wightlink in the Community Sponsorship scheme, giving travel support to over 150 local organisations every year. We launched our Green Fund in 2022 to help residents bring their sustainability projects to life.

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



Located on a stunning cliff top spot that overlooks Shanklin Bay, the Ocean View Hotel provides guests with breathtaking views, welcoming and hospitable services, comfortable rooms, many with sea views and balconies, ensuring a delightful experience for your enjoyment.



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Beaches and cream

Nothing says British summertime like an ice cream by the sea – and thankfully the Isle of Wight has plenty of unusual creamy creations you'll want to stick a Flake in. From parlours packed with locally churned flavours, to vegan sorbet makers and artisanal ice cream vans, we pair our favourite coastal spots for a little 'beaches and cream', so let's get scooping!

TOPPINGS

On Shanklin Esplanade you'll find Toppings – an ice cream parlour so close to the beach you can almost taste the sea salt. Here, they offer over 50 tasty ice cream flavours (including gluten-free and vegan choices) where you could plump for blueberry, candy floss or maybe a caramel-infused millionaire's shortbread. If a few scoops in a wafer cornet just won't cut it, then try their spectacular sundaes, including ice cream scoops of your choice, a sprinkle of chopped nuts, a drizzle of fruit sauce and of course a Flake on top. With the sands of Shanklin Beach just across the road, you won't have far to go for a scenic spot to enjoy it.

CRAVE

There's always a raspberry ripple of excitement when Tracy and Chris from Ventnor's Crave announce their latest flavours on social media. With inventive options including white chocolate latte, rose and pistachio and nibbly chocolate fingers, it's no wonder they often have queues out the door.



Keep your eyes peeled on social media for when Crave announce their latest flavours.

You'll be spoilt for choice at Toppings in Shanklin.

Inside their distinctively curved home on Spring Hill, they also create special batches for those with dietary requirements – such as the vegan açai berry sorbet or the zero sugar dark chocolate ice cream. Plus, to top things off, it's just a short downhill shuffle to the sparkly blue waves of The Channel – the perfect location to get tasting (if that is, your ice creams haven't already disappeared on the walk down).

SCOOPS OF YARMOUTH

Tucked down Yarmouth's Wheatsheaf Lane (and just a cone's throw from the boat-filled harbourside), you'll find Scoops. For the indecisive ones amongst us, they have a handy spin wheel outside the door, helping you choose which of their locally sourced options to try out – each one sourced from within a 10-mile radius of the shop.



Scoops of Yarmouth is just a cone's throw from our Yarmouth port and has over 30 flavours to choose from – as well as some just for dogs!

Options include Isle of Wight made mango sorbet or chocolate orange ice cream, as well as scoops of coffee mocha and crystallised ginger which come from just across the Solent. Special rotating guest flavours also make an appearance (which can be enjoyed on waffles or blended into milkshakes) and for the canine community, Scoops even offers flavoured doggie ice creams from nutrition-led brand Billy + Margot.

the Isle of Wight Doughnut

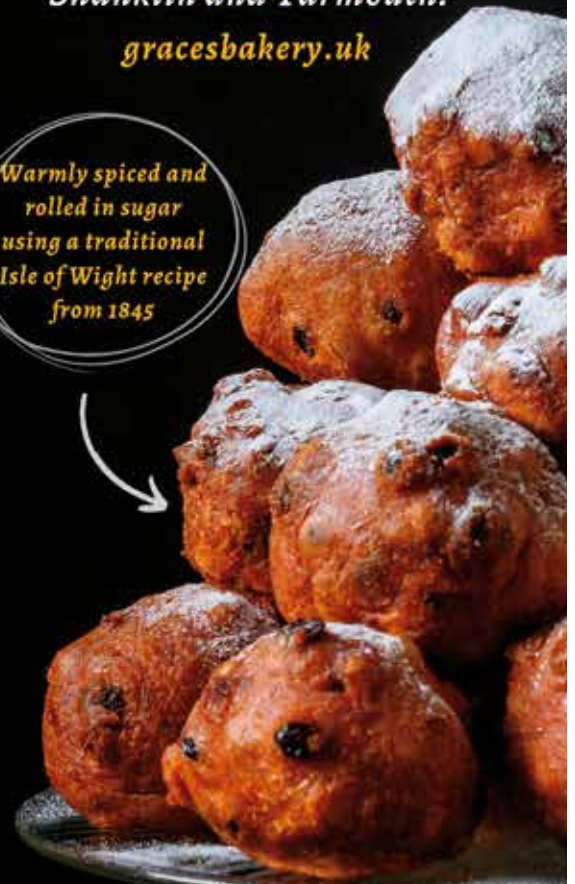


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rolled in sugar
using a traditional
Isle of Wight recipe
from 1845



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





The distinctively curved frontage of The Ventnorian on Spring Hill in Ventnor is home to Crave.

BLISS ICE CREAM

Also popping up around the Island's coastal towns and villages this summer is Bliss – a bright blue ice cream van run by Jenny and Louise, the women behind three of the Island's locally churned ice cream labels. Parking up in different spots, they'll be providing milkshakes, sundaes and ice cream topped waffles, as well as waffle cones and tubs of their ice creamy creations, all made with 100% Isle of Wight milk and cream.

PARADICE

Since 2018, number 56 on the High Street in Cowes has been home to Paradise, a shipshape ice cream parlour which can whizz up different combinations of their icy flavours into over three hundred types of milkshakes. Visitors peering through their freezer counter windows will see a tasteful selection of Gelarto and Kelly's Cornish Ice Cream – including chocolate and hazelnut, coconut and (local favourite) Sicilian pistachio. Also on the menu are knickerbocker glories, banana splits and affogatos – served with a splash of local espresso from Newport-based company Island Roasted. From the Paradise doorstep, just follow the winding curves of Bath Road round to Cowes Esplanade where you can hop onto the wall and tuck into that sundae whilst the boats glide in and out of the harbour.

MINGHELLA

Top of the list to try has to be the Minghella brand of ice creams, first established in Ryde in 1950 by Italian 'master gelatiere' Edward Minghella and his wife Gloria. At a time when ice cream was only ever eaten plain in Britain, the pair experimented with all sorts of flavours and soon won themselves a loyal following. Today the tradition continues and you can try their top-notch ice creams for yourself in flavours including old English toffee, crushed walnuts and maple syrup, lemon meringue and fudgey sundae.

For more ideas on places to eat and drink, and our Beach Guides, turn to pages 68–109.

James Rayner



Established in Ryde in 1950, Minghella have a rich heritage on the Isle of Wight, renowned for creating fabulous flavours such as old English toffee.



Island Holiday Homes

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SCAN ME

Travelling with your dog

IN ASSOCIATION WITH



The Isle of Wight is one of the most dog-friendly places in Britain. There are walks galore, sandy beaches for running and swimming, glorious countryside to explore and plenty of pet-friendly pit-stops for when the humans need refuelling.

Dogs travel free on Wightlink's three ferry routes linking the Isle of Wight to the south coast – when accompanied by a well-behaved owner, of course.



Dogs travel for free with Wightlink and your four-legged friend will get a warm welcome onboard.

TRAVEL ESSENTIALS

Have you got your keys? Phone? Bags? Dog lead? Water? Bowl? You do? Phew! There's so much to remember when you are travelling, especially when going with your dog. It can all feel a little daunting but when you are out discovering new experiences it is incredibly rewarding having your pooch by your side.

ON THE FERRY

On a clear day, dogs can amble on the car ferries' outer decks and when the weather is not so good they can enjoy the short crossing inside the ferries' dedicated pet areas.



Settle in and enjoy your journey across the Solent in our pet-friendly areas.

For those using the pet-friendly areas, there aren't many guidelines but the few we do have are important and worth familiarising yourself with.

Let's get the big issue out of the way first – accidents happen and we understand that sometimes this can't be helped. Our friends at Paleo Ridge have supplied pet cleaning stations on board and at our ports to make those awkward moments a little easier.

While on the ferry it's worth remembering that your dog must remain on the lead and to take care on the stairs – there are lots of sights, sounds and smells that will be unfamiliar, exciting and tempting to explore.

While on board, why not pick up some dog treats from Paleo Ridge at our cafés?

WHAT TO PACK

- A bottle of water
- A portable bowl
- A bag of treats
- Poo-bags and cleaning wipes
- Favourite toy or ball for fetch
- A towel – for an unexpected swim or change in weather at your destination
- A dog bed for longer trips
- Any medicine your dog may need
- A coat
- Dog lead



PREMIUM RAW DOG FOOD

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PALEORIDGE.CO.UK

TOP PLACES TO TAKE YOUR DOG

The Isle of Wight is well established as one of the UK's top dog-friendly destinations. There are miles of footpaths and beaches to be explored, as well as stunning countryside and woodland to enjoy with your four-legged friends. We are also undoubtedly an Island of dog lovers, where pubs will offer a welcoming water bowl and some ice cream parlours even sell dog-friendly cornets.

We asked Islanders to vote for their favourite places for dogs, and this is what they said:

TOP BEACH: SEAGROVE BEACH

Seagrove Beach welcomes dogs all year round. With lots of space, it's the go-to beach where many friendly dogs can be seen with their owners. Walkers love the parking options, tropical-like sands and access to Duver Beach and Ryde when the tide is just right.

TOP PLACE TO EAT: OFF THE RAILS, YARMOUTH

Off the Rails, a converted railway station, has an extensive dog-friendly menu! It's a beautiful place to visit, well located to combine with a dog walk. They proudly show off their support by taking pictures of their regulars and making them a part of the business and customer base.

TOP ATTRACTION: ISLE OF WIGHT DONKEY SANCTUARY

The Isle of Wight Donkey Sanctuary has a wildlife meadow and a stream giving dog owners a great place for a picnic. Best of all, the donkeys love dogs and come up to the fences to interact with them.

TOP ACCOMMODATION: LUCCOMBE MANOR

Luccombe Manor offers an exceptional service for dogs staying at the hotel. It's the little things that make all the difference and that can be said here – from providing towels, to a dog-friendly dining room, this hotel has dogs at heart.

TOP WALK: FRESHWATER CAUSEWAY BACK TO FRESHWATER BY ALL SAINTS CHURCH

This route has everything a dog and its owner could ask for. During spring, flowers are in bloom, birds are tweeting and boats are out at sea creating a very picturesque scene. This route also passes the Red Lion, a great all-round pub that welcomes dogs!

For more information on travelling to the Isle of Wight with your dog, visit wightlink/dogs

The Red Lion at Freshwater is a great place to rest tired legs and refuel hungry tummies.



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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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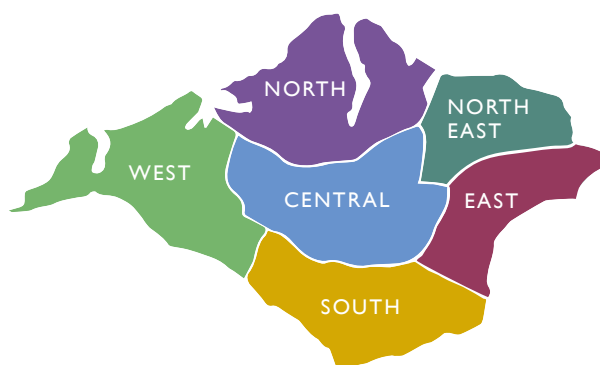
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www.bridlesford.co.uk

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!



Make some new friends and explore the Island on a trek with West Wight Alpacas.

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

72 NORTH

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

76 NORTH EAST

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

84 EAST

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

90 SOUTH

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

96 WEST

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

104 CENTRAL

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

DINOSAUR ISLE

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



DINODEAL!

One child goes free with a full paying adult, when you show this advert (maximum two children per group).

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

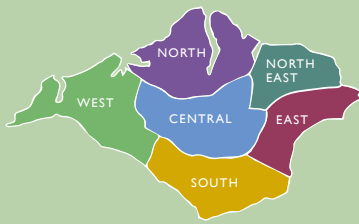
September to June, open Tuesday to Saturday, 10am to 4pm
 July to August, open daily 9.30am to 5pm.
 Last admission one hour before close.
 For further information visit our website or call 01983 404344

INTERACTIVE MUSEUM





Isle of Wight Council



Lymington

Lymington to Yarmouth
car/passenger ferry
40 mins

For more
things to do visit
[wightlink.co.uk/
explorer](http://wightlink.co.uk/explorer)



Yarmouth



ATTRACTIONS

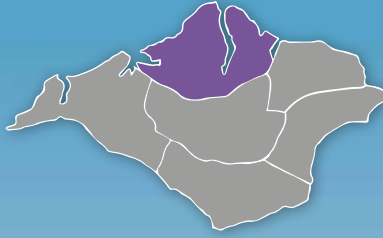
1. Amazon World Zoo Park p30–31
2. Arreton Barns p48–49
3. Bembridge Windmill p45
4. Blackgang Chine p55
5. Brading Roman Villa p25
6. Briddlesford Farm p68
7. Carisbrooke Castle p17
8. Dinosaur Isle p69
9. Farringford p33 & 101
10. Hill Farm Stables p100
11. Holliers Park p108
12. Island Gems p106
13. Isle of Wight Aqua Park p20–21
14. Isle of Wight Bus & Coach Museum p83
15. Isle of Wight Distillery p123
16. Isle of Wight Donkey Sanctuary p43
17. Isle of Wight Pearl p97
18. Isle of Wight Steam Railway p35
19. Lilliput Doll & Toy Museum p88
20. Monkey Haven p57 & 124 (back page)
21. Mottistone Gardens p45
22. National Poo Museum p85
23. Needles Pleasure Cruises p100
24. Newtown National Nature Reserve p45
25. Oasis p8–9
26. Osborne p17
27. Ryde Marina p81
28. Sandham Gardens p12–13
29. Sandown Pier p37
30. Shanklin Chine p29
31. Shanklin Seafront p47
32. Shanklin Theatre p114
33. Shipwreck Centre & Maritime Museum p49 & 105
34. Spinnaker Tower p111
35. Tapnell Farm p20–21
36. The Garlic Farm p107
37. The Jewellery Cabin p106
38. The Needles Battery p45
39. The Needles Landmark Attraction p2–3
40. The Old Smithy p15
41. Ventnor Botanic Garden p27
42. West Wight Alpacas p99
43. Wight Karting p77
44. Wight Military & Heritage Museum p74
45. Wildheart Animal Sanctuary p19 & 40–41
46. Yarmouth Castle p17



KEY

- Supermarket
- Beach
- Train Line
- Ferry Crossing

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

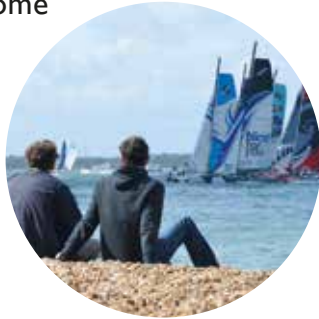


Queen Victoria's palatial holiday home, Osborne, has its own private beach.



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 royalty: **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.

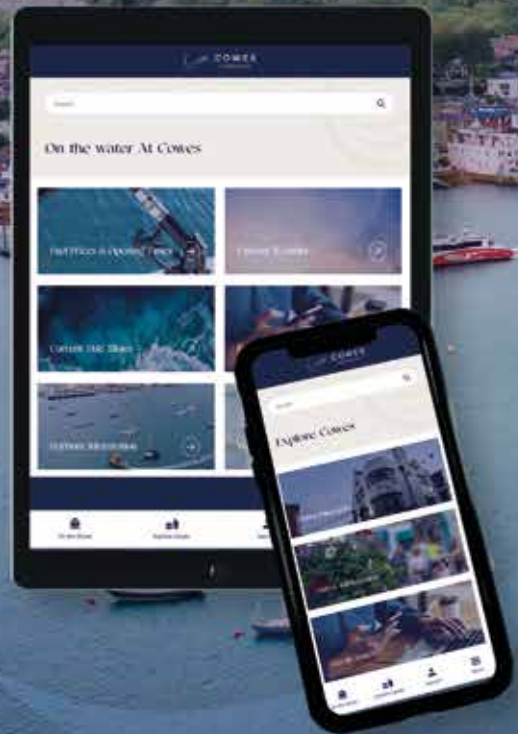


Find out more at
wightlink.co.uk/explorer



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.

**NUMBER 1
BUS PASSES
RIGHT OUTSIDE
THE DOOR**



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

Registered charity 1159529



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 all essentials.

Thorness, Nr Cowes, PO31 8NJ
0344 3819 128
parkdeanresorts.co.uk



Boat Trips

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



All boat trips leave from Cowes
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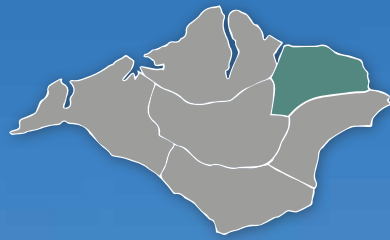
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North East



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



Picturesque Quarr Abbey has a superb tea shop and beautiful grounds to explore.



Best beach for sandcastles:

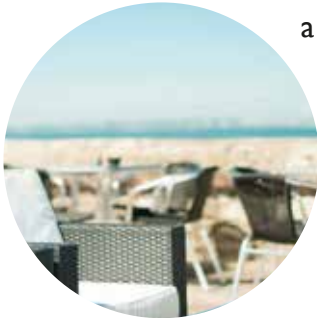
APPLEY

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.



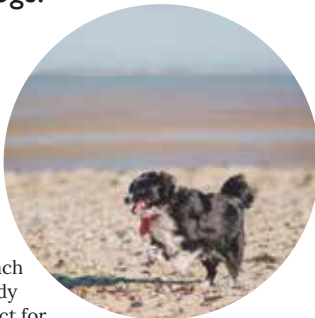
Best beach to sit with a G&T: SEAVIEW

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

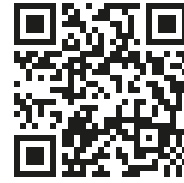
Four-legged friends are welcome on the beach here all year round. It's easily accessible for buggies and wheelchairs with a flat promenade. There are pretty painted beach huts, a café and toilets all close by. The beach itself is backed by the sandy dunes of The Duver, perfect for the dog to have yet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



Find out more at
wightlink.co.uk/explorer



WIGHT KARTING



KARTING

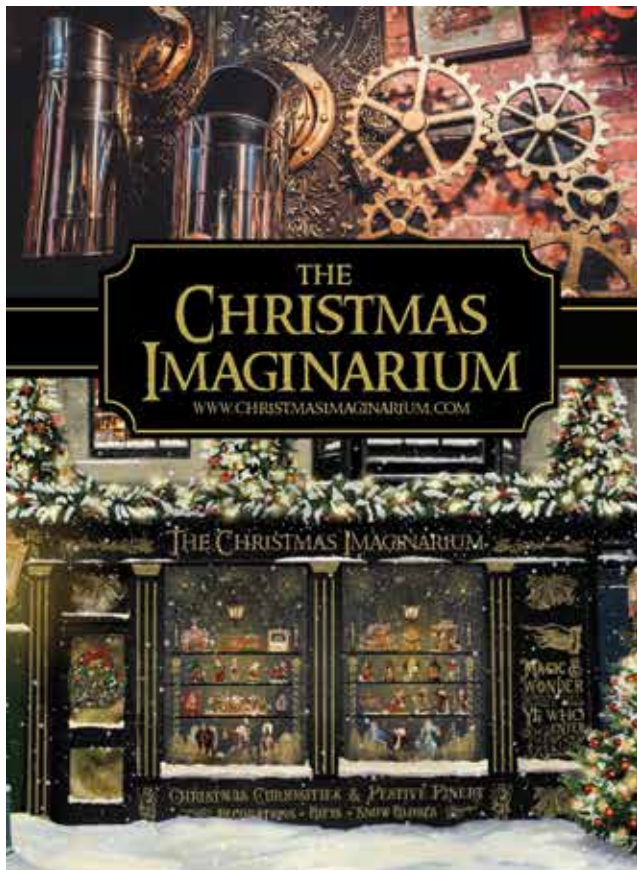
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ATTRACTIONS

Isle of Wight Bus & Coach Museum



Established in 1997 by a group of enthusiasts, the Isle of Wight Bus & Coach Museum's collection of vehicles and associated artefacts provides an impressive display of the Island's transport heritage. Exhibits range from an 1880s stagecoach named 'Civility' and a 1934 Dennis Ace, through to the youngest acquisition, a 2002 Dennis Dart. There are also examples of vehicles under restoration, many items of memorabilia and a vast collection of photographs reflecting the heyday of the Island as a holiday destination, as well as a café and a shop.

The Bus Depot, Park Road,
Ryde, PO33 2BE
01983 567796

iwbuseum.org.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



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



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



Put your pedal to the metal at Wight Karting – great fun for drivers of all ages!

Wight Karting



Fun for all generations! Open all year round and each weekday in school holidays. Book in advance for small groups and individuals online ages 8–88+, larger stag and hen groups please call. Young drivers can also join in Junior Track Days.

Westridge, Brading Road,
Ryde, PO33 1QS
01983 565366
wightkarting.co.uk



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
bellissimaiw.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



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



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 Priory Bay. Embrace the serene rhythm of the tides and the soothing sounds of the sea during your stay.



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– THE TIMES

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01983 612711 | SEAVIEWHOTEL.CO.UK



For more inspiration visit
wightlink.co.uk/explorer

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Joe Browns
Est. 1998

Bellissima

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

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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 1YA
0344 3819 128
parkdeanresorts.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 1UX
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 and awarded a Rosette for culinary excellence, the pub is also recognised as one of the top UK bed and breakfast establishments and also features as a Late Rooms 'B&B Gem'.

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



The Fishbourne



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

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

The Seaview Hotel



This famous hotel has 25 rooms, including dog-friendly accommodation. Located in the sailing village of Seaview, it's renowned for good food and the restaurant has been awarded 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



Say hello to the resident swans at Ryde canoe lake!

RYDE MARINA

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



Open for private parties and functions



HH
HARBOUR
HOUSE
RESTAURANT AND COCKTAIL BAR



**Ice Cream
PARLOR**
RYDE MARINA



AS SEEN ON TV

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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 2



Inspirational Islanders: Ryde Sea Cadets

Ryde Sea Cadets aim to give young people an experience that will help them grow in confidence and develop valuable life skills in a safe and friendly environment. Spending as much time on the water as possible, the cadets learn teamwork, respect and self-discipline through a range of different activities from sailing, windsurfing and powerboating to rock climbing, camping, and music.

"The Island is a great place to live, as we are surrounded by water so there's lots of places for the Sea Cadets to go out on boats!

We might be biased, but our favourite beach has to be our very own one in Ryde! We have spent many evenings over the summers on Ryde beach. The cadets learn leadership skills, play games and practise their seamanship skills.

Our favourite Island place is Island Harbour at Newport as that's where our Royal Yachting Association registered boating station is, but we also love visiting Jersey Camp in Porchfield regularly throughout the year. We have our annual camp there, with sea cadets from Bognor Regis, Chichester, Littlehampton, Gosport, Portsmouth, Worthing and Cowes and get to do a range of activities such as rifle shooting, rowing, sailing and expeditions!

Although there are loads of great places to walk on the Isle of Wight, as cadets, our preferred way to explore is to paddle! We love to explore from our base at Newport, but we also enjoy Bembridge Harbour and Ryde Harbour. We are just lucky there are many places the Island offers!

We are a charity that relies solely on self-funding, so every donation we receive is greatly appreciated as it directly supports the development of young people's confidence. Thanks to the sponsorship from Wightlink, we are able to participate in competitions, regattas, and training on the mainland. For some of our cadets, simply getting off the Island is a new and exciting experience."

To find out more, visit wightlink.co.uk/community or stay updated at facebook.com/wightlinkthecommunity. Find more Inspirational Islanders on pages 38 and 50.





FOOD & DRINK

Grace's Bakery



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

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

Oasis Coffee Shop



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

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



The Boathouse



The Boathouse prides itself on offering quality dining in a pub environment, matched with superb ales and an extensive wine selection. With a reputation for using local produce, especially fish. Awarded an AA Rosette earlier this year, the pub has also held AA Dining Awards from 2011 to 2024, and was also the winner of the 2019 'Good Pub Guide Dining Pub of the Year' for the Isle of Wight.

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 1PX
01983 613653
isleofwightdistillery.com



The Seaview Hotel



Good food coupled with relaxed informal dining is at the heart of The Seaview Hotel. The food on offer is as local as possible. The style is modern British with a regional Isle of Wight twist and the restaurant has been awarded two AA Rosettes for seven consecutive years.

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

·ISLE OF WIGHT· BUS & COACH MUSEUM

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FROM EASTER UNTIL THE END OF OCTOBER




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THE MUSEUM'S COLLECTION OF
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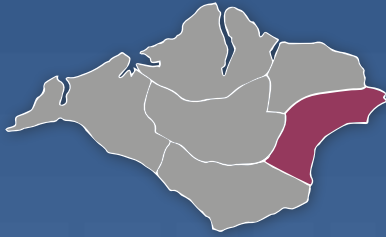
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VOLUNTEERS AND NEW MEMBERS
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MUSEUM FOR FURTHER DETAILS.



FREE
ADMISSION

THE BUS DEPOT
PARK ROAD, RYDE, ISLE OF WIGHT
PO33 2BE | 01983 567796 |  

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 sea air or a sweet treat – Toppings Ice Cream Parlour has over 50 flavours to choose from!

Find out more at wightlink.co.uk/explorer



Sandown's iconic pleasure pier promises traditional seaside fun!



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



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THE NATIONAL POO MUSEUM

Have you been?

poomuseum.org



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 unusual toys. Open 10:00–16:00 Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday (closed Monday and Thursday, except Bank Holidays). See website for full details.

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

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

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



01983
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BEMBRIDGE
PO35 5NR



DOG FRIENDLY

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 including top household names in music such as Will Young and Aled Jones, together with comedians including Frank Skinner, 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! 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.

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

The Wildheart Animal Sanctuary



The friendly atmosphere at the Wildheart Animal Sanctuary is perfect for getting to know the rescued tigers, lions, lynx, lemurs, meerkats, monkeys and many other species. Enjoy the daily talks or simply roam the grounds. With kids' play areas and 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



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

For more inspiration visit
wightlink.co.uk/explorer

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Halletts Shute
Yarmouth PO41 0SD
To book call 01983 760323

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

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.

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
crabandlobsterinn.co.uk

The Ocean View Hotel



Located on a stunning cliff top spot that overlooks Shanklin Bay, the Ocean View Hotel provides guests with breathtaking views, welcoming and hospitable services, comfortable rooms, many with sea views and balconies, ensuring a delightful experience. The hotel boasts an indoor heated swimming pool, coffee shop, bar, Canadian pine sprung dance floor, games room, restaurant, and entertainment most evenings. The hotel is licensed for civil wedding ceremonies and can accommodate business meetings.

5 Park Road, Shanklin,
PO37 6BB
01983 861111
oceanviewhoteliow.co.uk

The Seascape



The Seascape is a ground floor luxury apartment, located in exclusive Luccombe in Shanklin. With sweeping views over Sandown Bay, this spacious self catering three bedroom holiday accommodation is as tranquil as it gets.

The Seascape, Luccombe Road,
Shanklin, PO37 6RR
07775 764246
theseascape.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 five en suite bed and breakfast rooms.

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

Whitecliff Bay Holiday Park



Perfectly situated by its own stunning secluded beach, Whitecliff Bay is the ideal holiday base to explore the Island. Offering superb family facilities including indoor and outdoor swimming pools and a range of self-catering options.

Hillway Road, Bembridge,
PO35 5PL
0330 1274 616
awayresorts.co.uk



FOOD & DRINK

Blueberrys Café



Located on the cliff path between Sandown and Shanklin, Blueberry's offers some of the most spectacular views on the Isle of Wight. Fully licensed and dog-friendly, serving delicious home-cooked food and cakes.

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

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22 Regent Street Shanklin PO377AA 01983 864245
www.itsaboutthyme.co.uk

Blueberrys Café

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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)

blueberryscafeiw.co.uk | 01983 866378

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High Street, BRADING, PO36 0DJ

Tel: (01983) 407231 | lilliputmuseum.co.uk

10% off your entry fee with this voucher



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

Grace's Bakery



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

20A Regent Street, Shanklin,
PO37 7AA
01983 865353
gracesbakery.co.uk

It's About Thyme



Deli foods and fabulous Bristol 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
crabandlobsterinn.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 0PH
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

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See Website For
Opening Times

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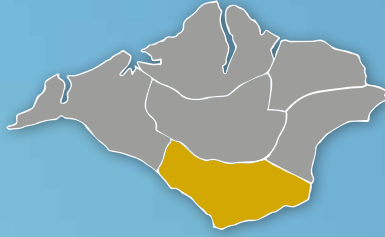
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South



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

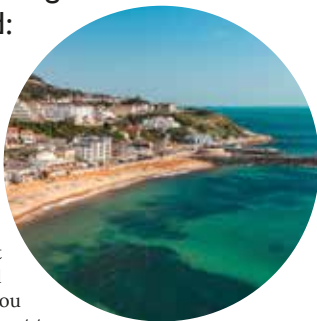


St Catherine's Down offers stunning views over Blackgang and the Island's coastline beyond.



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

The WIGHT MOUSE INN

Facebook: [Wight Mouse Inn](https://www.facebook.com/wightmouseinn)
Instagram: [thewightmouseinn](https://www.instagram.com/wightmouseinn)

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	Large Garden & Car Park
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info@wightmouse.com

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mermaidlightsiw@gmail.com
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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 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

For more inspiration visit
wightlink.co.uk/explorer

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OUR WAY OF THINKING

Champagne + Fromage is more than just a restaurant; it's a journey through the heart of France's culinary traditions.

Our concept is simple yet sophisticated, offering an exquisite pairing of Champagne and artisanal cheeses.

It's a place where friends and family enjoy the finest delicacies in a warm and welcoming atmosphere.

We want to change the perception that Champagne is for celebration only. Champagne is a wine, and as such, can be enjoyed anytime, by itself or with a meal. It's the perfect pairing with cheese, much more than red or white wine.

WELLINGTON
HOTEL

Sunday Lunch

Every Sunday | 2 course set menu from £24.50
3 course set menu from £29.95



Sunday Lunch at The Wellington!

Indulge in the epitome of a lazy Sunday afternoon at The Wellington Hotel's Sunday Kitchen, where we invite you to savour the delights of our renowned Sunday Lunch.



On Sundays, we believe in embracing the leisurely moments - whether it's relishing a lie-in, enjoying a cooked breakfast, tending to weekend chores, or, of course, treating yourself to a hearty roast for lunch.

After all, what better way to unwind than with a comforting and delicious meal?

Join us at The Wellington for a Sunday lunch experience that transcends the ordinary – where every dish tells a story of quality, tradition, and a deep-rooted connection to the local community.



BOOK C+F



Belgrave Road, Isle of Wight, PO38 1JH.

01983 856 600 | info@thewellington.co.uk

www.thewellington.co.uk



BOOK
SUNDAY LUNCH



ACCOMMODATION

The Spyglass Inn



Offering 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 Wellington Hotel



The Wellington Hotel in Ventnor offers charming Victorian elegance with stunning sea views. Located near the beach, this boutique hotel features comfortable rooms, a fine dining restaurant with an expansive outdoor terrace, and a relaxing bar area. The seamless blend of historic charm and modern amenities make it an ideal pick for anyone in search of a serene Island getaway.

**Belgrave Road, Ventnor,
PO38 1JH
01983 856600
thewellington.co.uk**

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**

For more inspiration visit
wightlink.co.uk/explorer

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 1JX
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 1UL
01983 855397
botanic.co.uk**

The Buddle Smugglers Inn



Nestled in Niton Undercliff, The Buddle is one of the Island's most popular and historic inns and renowned for serving great food and great beer alike. Recently renovated, it offers a welcoming and relaxed space for dining and overnight stays, whilst protecting the rustic charm and character of the 18th century smugglers inn.

**St Catherine's Road, Niton,
PO38 2NE
01983 730243
buddleinn.co.uk**

The Met

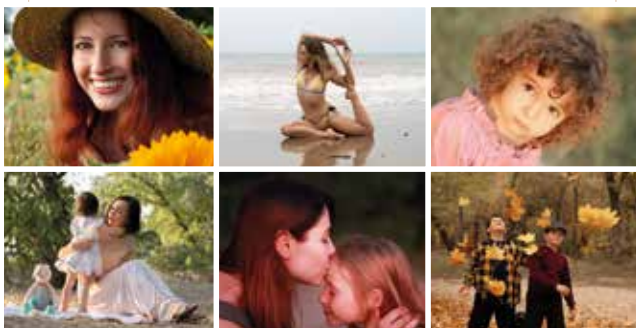


Set right on the seafront on Ventnor Esplanade, The Met serves fresh coffee, tasty tapas and fine wines. Enjoy the distinct Mediterranean feel and soak up the sunshine in this natural sun trap. The perfect hot-spot for whiling away an afternoon. The adjoining Queenies serves bubble waffles, ice creams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

**The Esplanade, Ventnor,
PO38 1JP
01983 853544
themetwinebar.co.uk**



I am offering Holiday Family Portraits set on the beautiful Isle of Wight. You will receive a mix of candid moments and posed portraits to capture your memorable experiences and emotions of a happy time spent together. My style is colourful, vibrant and rich in emotion.



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photographybysvitlana.com | 07867212449

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wightlink.co.uk/services

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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 1UL
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 bursting with character with authentic seafaring memorabilia adorning the walls. Its well-deserved reputation is founded on good grub, great beer and a fantastic atmosphere.

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

The Wellington Hotel



The Wellington Hotel Restaurant offers visitors a taste of sophistication with its summer menu. Their collaboration with the London-based 'Champagne+Fromage' restaurant brand allows guests to enjoy meticulously paired artisanal cheeses and fine grower Champagne on their expansive outdoor terrace or in their cosy indoor dining room. Traditional breakfasts and Sunday lunches are also on offer.

Belgrave Road, Ventnor,
PO38 1JH
01983 856600
thewellington.co.uk

The Wight Mouse Inn



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

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



Ventnor Botanic Garden is a tranquil oasis with 22 acres to explore.

**FREE
VENUE HIRE!**
WHEN BOOKING BEFORE 30/9/24



The Buddle Inn

WEDDINGS | FUNCTIONS | CELEBRATIONS

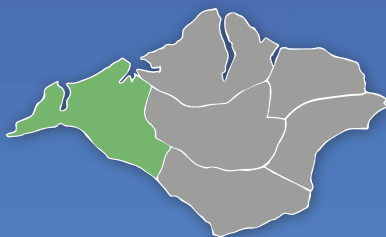
Come and see our beautifully refurbished barn – perfect for functions of all sizes.



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

St. Catherine's Road, Niton, IOW, 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



The iconic rock formations and lighthouse make The Needles the Isle of Wight's most Instagrammable location.



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.



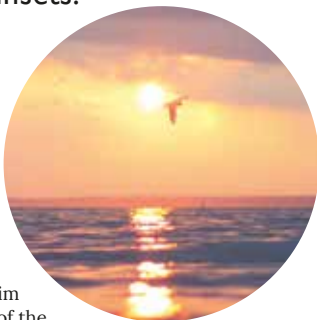
Best beach for swimming: FRESHWATER BAY

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



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To love and to layer, to mix and to match, our colourful thread is made from 100% recycled plastic bottles. Freshwater pearl with yellow gold plated sterling silver.

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The Needles, Newtown Creek
& The Tennyson Trail

NEWPORT

Newport Quay
PO30 2QRFor The Red Squirrel Trail to
Cowes, Godshill, Shanklin
& SandownBEST TO BOOK WWW.WIGHTCYCLEHIRE.CO.UK

f x i OR CALL 01983 761 800



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, new shepherds huts, camping pods or converted barns. Family-run with friendly farm animals.

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 4.30pm.Visit Bluebells at North Street, Brighstone, PO30 4AX [f](https://www.facebook.com/bluebells)

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 0YJ
01983 758722
tapnellfarm.com/play

Farringford Estate



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

Hill Farm Stables

The oldest established stables on the Island is still run by two generations of the same family, with the best horses and ponies and the most beautiful riding country on the Island. Offering rides tailor made for all abilities from experienced to the complete beginner, as well as lessons in the rubber surfaced school.

Hill Farm, Hill Lane,
Freshwater, PO40 9TQ
01983 752502
hillfarmstables.com

Isle of Wight Aqua Park at Tapnell Farm



Open from 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 0YJ
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 local producers, it's the perfect spot to enjoy quality Island delicacies.

Chilton Chine, Military Road,
Brighstone, PO30 4DD
01983 740352
iowpearl.co.ukFor more inspiration visit
wightlink.co.uk/explorer



North Street at Brighstone has bags of chocolate-box charm.

Needles Pleasure Cruises



Boat trips from Alum Bay on the west tip of the Isle of Wight viewing the famous Needles Rocks and Lighthouse. Choose between a 20 minute slow cruise or a 15 minute high-speed rib ride both operating from 1 April until 1 November, trips starting 10:30 daily.

Alum Bay, Totland Bay,
PO39 0JD
01983 761587
needlespleasurecruises.co.uk

Newtown National Nature Reserve

Natural harbour, creeks and woodlands home to native and visiting birds and wildlife. Bird hide and visitor point. The 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 531785
nationaltrust.org.uk/isleofwight



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

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



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)

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. See online for full site opening times. nationaltrust.org.uk/the-needles-old-battery-and-new-battery

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



Southern Vectis's Island Breezer is a great way to see the sights way out west!

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.

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

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 amazing locations and a great choice including mountain bikes and hybrids, kids bikes, electric bikes and even tandems! Choose to 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 also provides one of the best picnic locations on the Island. For car parking use PO41 0NS. Book online now and save.

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

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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 9:00 to 13:30 and Tuesday to Saturday from 09:00 to 16:30.

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



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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

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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, 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, shepherds hut 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
grangefarmcamping.co.uk

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

The Bay Colwell



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

Fort Warden Road, Freshwater, Totland Bay, PO39 0DA
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



Tom's Eco Lodge is one of the Island's best known glamping experiences, with accommodation offered in a variety of quirky lodgings including safari tents, eco pods, wood cabins, modulos and geo domes. Plus charming farm cottages too. Guests can enjoy the beautiful rural setting with space to roam, sea views and stunning sunsets!

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



FOOD & DRINK

Grace's Bakery



Situated right next to the Wightlink Yarmouth to Lymington Ferry port, it is the perfect place to grab a quick bite. Choose a freshly made sandwich or from the huge range of cakes on offer.

1 The Quay, Yarmouth, PO41 0PG
01983 760190
gracesbakery.co.uk



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 Honey Pot Café at West Wight Alpacas



The Honey Pot 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, as well as sandwiches, baguettes and jacket potatoes. 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.co.uk



The Waterfront Bar



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



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www.xvstripes.com

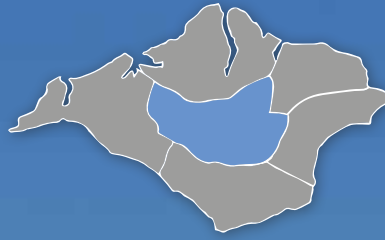
INTERIORS - CUSHIONS - THROWS - BEDDING - GIFTS & ACCESSORIES

 High Street, Yarmouth, Isle of Wight

 xvstripes



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



Arreton Barns is the Island's largest arts and crafts centre and is nestled at the heart of the village.



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



Island Gems



Island Gems offers a range of natural fossils, gemstones, amber and jewellery. With prices starting at just 50p, there's something to suit every pocket. Also available are the multi-award-winning fossil hunting trips. Trips are two hours and everything found can be kept. Advance booking recommended.

The Cottage, High Street,

Godshill, PO38 3HZ

01983 740493

islandgems.co.uk

Monkey Haven – The Leaf Foundation



Swing on by to the award-winning primate rescue centre making animals happy - and people happy! Meet rescued gibbons, monkeys, meerkats, birds of prey and reptiles. Lots of fun for everyone, including wonderful keeper talks, a fun free App, children's trail, tea room, gift shop and free return within a week. Open daily until 5 November and then weekends 11–26 November. See website for opening hours.

Five Acres Farm, Staplers

Road, Newport, PO30 2NB

01983 530885

monkeyhaven.org



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

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 and enjoy 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
07813 030676
thejewellerycabin.com



The Old Smithy



Boasting a range of well-stocked 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. Choose from a wide selection of gifts from cards to collectables, pictures, candles, pottery, glassware and more.

High Street, Godshill,
PO38 3HZ
01983 840364
theoldsmithy.com

Wight Cycle Hire



Wight Cycle Hire are the Island's Cycle Hire specialists, with two amazing locations and a great choice including mountain bikes and hybrids, kids bikes, electric bikes and even tandems! Choose to 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



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

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



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Newport, PO30 1UR
01983 522255

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

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Choose The Lakes Rookley for your self-catering holiday and stay in a stunning cottage, lakehouse or caravan holiday home – some even have hot tubs for something extra special. Set in leafy parkland at the heart of the Isle of Wight with swimming pools, bar and eatery, plus activities for the whole family to enjoy, it's the perfect base to explore. Plus, half the Island's beaches are within 20 minutes drive.

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



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www.thegarlicfarm.co.uk



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Holliers Farm, Branstone, Sandown,
Isle of Wight, PO36 0LT
01983 864449 | [f HolliersParkIOW](https://www.facebook.com/HolliersParkIOW)



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



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

Grace's Bakery



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

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

102 High Street, Newport,
PO30 1TJ
01983 717878

gracesbakery.uk



Spend an afternoon wandering around the shops at The Old Smithy at Godshill.

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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.com



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 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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www.visualimpact.co.uk



Portsmouth

Summer is here, which means the events calendar is packed with great things to see and do over the months ahead!

There's free live music to enjoy on Saturdays and Sundays as Live at the Bandstand returns. As in recent years the event is going 'on tour', with pop-ups at Castle Field, Southsea Common and King George V Playing Fields. See the Visit Portsmouth website for line-up details and locations.



Tickle your taste buds in the summer sun at Southsea Food Festival.

As well as Live at the Bandstand there's music to enjoy elsewhere at the Queens Hotel's Sunday Sessions. Relax in its stunning garden with a glass of wine whilst listening to soul, swing or acoustic music from some of the best acts in the South.

July will see Southsea Food Festival take over Palmerston Road and its surrounds for the weekend from 20-21 July. Stallholders will be out in their droves selling freshly prepared dishes from around the world, or the best local ingredients for you to take home and whip up a culinary storm yourself.

The following weekend (27-28 July) it's the turn of Portsmouth International Kite Festival. The popular family favourite is back on Southsea Common, welcoming flyers from around the world with everything from huge novelty kites to tiny dancing ones.



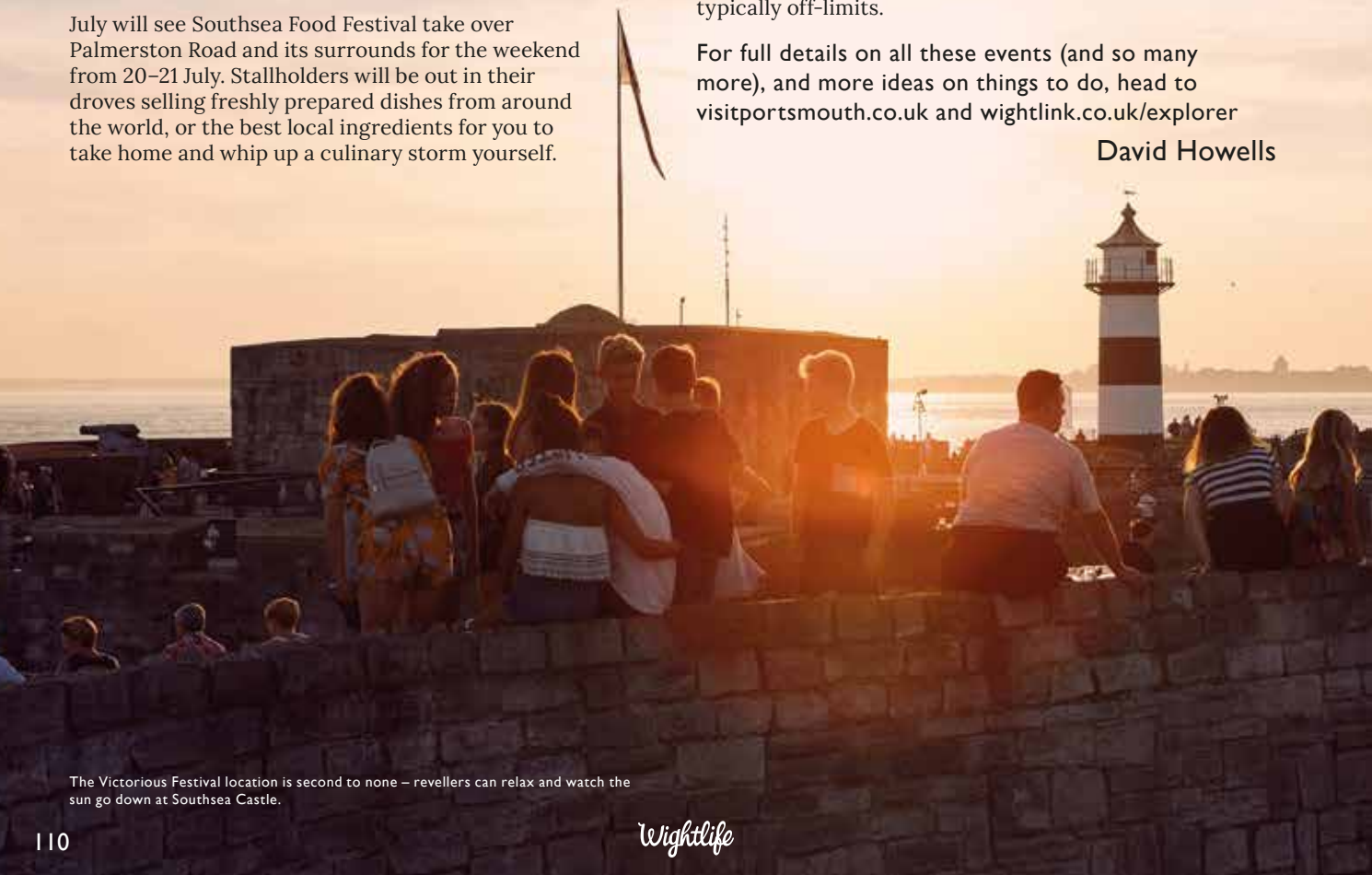
Portsmouth International Kite Festival is a riot of colour.

Then, over the August Bank Holiday, it's time for Victorious Festival. This year's event is headlined by Fatboy Slim, Snow Patrol, Jamie T and Biffy Clyro, with the likes of Becky Hill, Jess Glynne, The Kooks, Razorlight, Louis Tomlinson, Wet Leg and more completing the line-up. Plus, there's tons of family entertainment and a host of big-name comedians (including Frankie Boyle, Russell Howard and Al Murray).

September brings us to Heritage Open Days, where sites across Portsmouth will be opening their doors for free entry – and often letting visitors into areas that are typically off-limits.

For full details on all these events (and so many more), and more ideas on things to do, head to visitportsmouth.co.uk and wightlink.co.uk/explorer

David Howells



The Victorious Festival location is second to none – revellers can relax and watch the sun go down at Southsea Castle.

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Lymington & the New Forest

Hello summer! A vibrant season in the New Forest, not only due to the gorgeous bright flora, beaming blue skies and dazzling green trees but also from the incredible festivals, events and days out on offer over the next few months. This scenic location is just a stone's throw away from Wightlink's Lymington port.

It's a season for foodies, with the annual Lymington Seafood Festival returning to the town from 12–14 July. This is the perfect event for food lovers to gather and indulge in the freshest seafood and other delicious local produce, learn cooking tips at the Chef's Stage, get involved at the Cookery School, and enjoy live music that will make you tap your feet.

This year also brings the first-ever New Forest Food Festival between 17–18 August – a weekend dedicated to celebrating local produce and artisanal goods. Explore food stalls, get hands-on with activities and crafts and watch cooking demonstrations. The highlight of the weekend will be interactive sessions with local chefs, where they'll teach their kitchen secrets!

Experience the traditional way of New Forest life at the ever-popular New Forest & Hampshire County Show from 30 July–1 August. Encapsulating the spirit of the forest, expect agricultural displays, equestrian events, wildlife experiences and local stalls. Another local country fair this summer is the Ellingham Show, at Somerley House on 10 August. Enjoy crafts, livestock competitions and family entertainment whilst experiencing local culture at this excellent annual event.

Be sure to explore the New Forest this summer! Discover breathtaking views and spot magical free-roaming animals on walks and bike rides along the miles of winding pathways through ancient woodlands and across heathlands bursting with colour. Hop on board The New Forest Tour, for a bird's-eye view of panoramic forest scenes from the open-top bus, stopping by quaint villages full of fascinating history.

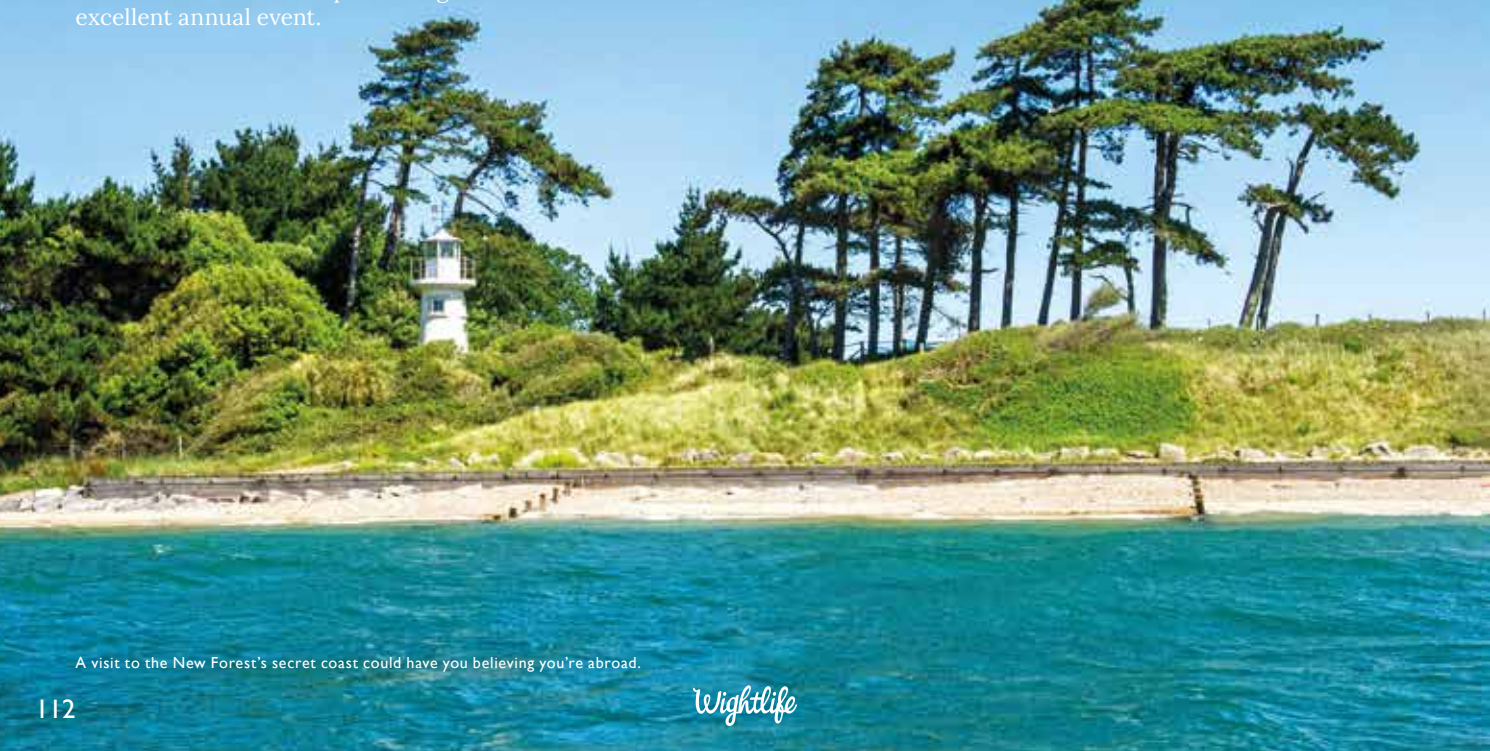


Indulge in the freshest seafood and delicious local produce at Lymington Seafood Festival.

With the sun shining, the beach will be calling! Visit the New Forest's secret coast, with stunning views across to the Isle of Wight and the Needles. Lepe Country Park is a wonderful spot for a beach picnic, or head to Hurst Castle, offering historical insights and glorious scenery.

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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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...

Legendary Joust at Carisbrooke Castle.



JULY

Fish & Chip Evenings



2 July–27 August, Isle of Wight Steam Railway (IW)

New for 2024 – head to the Isle of Wight Steam Railway any Tuesday evening in July and August for a relaxed evening that includes a proper Fish and Chip supper and a ride through the Island's countryside in the luxury of an Edwardian carriage pulled by an historic steam locomotive. Enjoy an evening drink sat inside or outside the new chic bar and café, let the kids let off their own steam in the park and play area and catch the evening falconry display.
iwsteamrailway.co.uk

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. In addition to rugby sevens, get set for sports such as; beach rugby, netball, stand up paddleboarding and kite sports.

southislandsevens.co.uk



Ferry offer

ABBA Chique Party Night

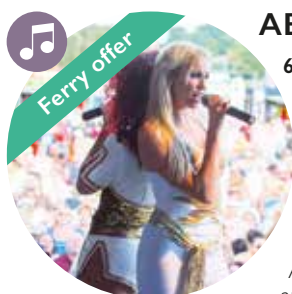
6 July, Retro Staycations, Ryde (IW)

Be transported back to the '70s and '80s with ABBA's greatest hits.

Made up of a full five-piece, this dynamic act pride themselves on their authentic ABBA sound and look. Their solid gold performance will take place on Jack Up Event's silver bullet Airstream stage in a pretty meadow as an open-air concert. With a real ale bar

courtesy of Island Ales and freshly cooked local produce prepared by local traders, it's the perfect way to party your way into summer!

jackupevents.co.uk



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



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, 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!
newcarnival.co.uk



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Cowes Classics Week



6–12 July, Cowes (IW)

Come to Cowes and experience Classics Week, focusing on traditional yachts and celebrating with fantastic social events ashore. All types and models of traditional crafts are welcome to negotiate a wide range of Solent courses. The week features daily prize giving events, furnished with complimentary tea and cake, alongside a special gala awards ceremony for the yacht sailors and crew.

cowesclassicsweek.org

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

bigbeach.org



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

Real Ale Train



13 July, Isle of Wight Steam Railway (IW)

It's full steam ahead for the Real Ale Train! The first train of the day departs at 10:05am with bars opening along the line from 11:00. Stop off at each station to sample a selection of national and local brews. Finish up at Havenstreet where The Barn will have live music and of course more beer. All aboard!

iwsteamrailway.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

EVENT CATEGORIES:



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For more events visit wightlink.co.uk/explorer

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY



Ventnor Fringe Festival

19–28 July, Ventnor (IW)

Wight Proms

9–18 August, Northwood House (IW)



Jack Up the Summer Party

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

Island Steam Fair

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



Isle of Wight Classic Motor Show

7–8 September, Newport Quay and Ryde Esplanade (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.

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



Isle of Wight Pride

19–21 July, Ryde (IW)

A celebration of diversity and equality and a display of love, 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



Summer Fest

24 July–28 August, Blackgang Chine (IW)

Every Wednesday, soak up the sun at the Isle of Wight's biggest family nights out! Delve into the epic foam, confetti, and laser parties and dance away to the live DJ, before gazing towards the night skies for Blackgang Chine's famous firework displays! Break out your best moves and shake your stuff to the sounds of the summer as the sun goes down. blackgangchine.com



Silver Bangle Workshop

23 July, The Jewellery Cabin (IW)

This evening class provides a great introduction into jewellery making by teaching you the vital skills needed. You will learn how to measure, calculate, cut and form a silver bangle. You will get hands on with the gas torch and solder your bangle to make it one solid piece, always a highlight for jewellers! Once the bangle has been textured to your liking you will polish it up before popping it on and wearing it with pride. thejewellerycabin.com



Cowes Week

27 July–2 August, Cowes (IW)

Playing a key role in the British sporting calendar, Cowes Week is one 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



Wight Wave Beach Fest

26–28 July, Appley Beach, Ryde (IW)

The Wight Wave Beach Fest is a collection of adrenaline-charged sports competitions, blended together with an eclectic and laid-back mix of quality music and locally-sourced food and drink. Including activities such as beach volleyball, soccer, running, foot-volley, tennis, rugby, paddleboard racing and open water life-saving competitions. wightwave.co.uk/beach-fest



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



Moo Mania: The Island's Ultimate Kids Rave!

30 July–27 August, Tapnell Farm Park (IW)

Farm – Barn – Rave – Repeat! New for 2024, head along to Tapnell every Tuesday night through the summer holidays for the ultimate one-stop, all-weather destination for the Island's most epic kids rave. DJ, live entertainment and much more! tapnellfarm.com



Pirates! At Carisbrooke Castle

30 July–1 August, Carisbrooke Castle (IW)

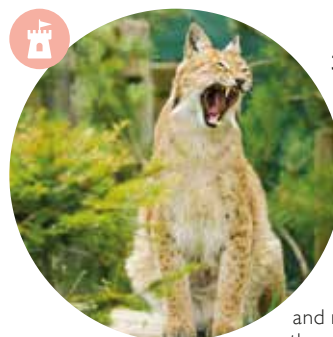
Ahoy, me hearties! Set sail for Carisbrooke Castle this summer and get ready for a spectacular adventure on the high seas. See some of history's most famous pirates fight it out, and listen to them tell their tales of booty, bounty and barnacles. With shows, demonstrations and hands-on activities, there'll be plenty of fun for the whole family – whether you're a scallywag, a salty sea dog or a lily-livered landlubber. english-heritage.org.uk



Twilight Safaris

31 July–4 September, Wildheart Animal Sanctuary (IW)

Every Wednesday during August, experience the Wildheart Animal Sanctuary in a completely different light. It is a special opportunity to enjoy an enchanting encounter in the seductive early evening twilight. As the sun sets kick back and relax alongside the rescued animals as they settle down for the evening. Enjoy behind the scenes tours and special animal encounters with the big cats, lemurs and farm animals as well as a Big Cat talk and feed. wildheartanimalsanctuary.org



AUGUST

Farm Fun & Moo-vie Nights



1–29 August, Tapnell Farm Park (IW)

Every Thursday during the summer enjoy all the fun of the Farm Park and then settle down for a screening of the best kids' films in the under cover, all-weather events barn.

tapnellfarm.com



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



Knights' Tournament



6–8 August, Carisbrooke Castle (IW)

Travel back in time and get up close to the action as rival knights compete in the ultimate test of strength and skill. Experience the pageantry, excitement and action of the fearsome tournaments that took place at the castle in days gone by. Don't miss one of history's most spectacular sporting contests. Book online and save 15%.

english-heritage.org.uk



Sunrise Breakfasts

6–31 August (selected dates), Wildheart Animal Sanctuary (IW)



Head to the Wildheart Animal Sanctuary as the doors open at 08.30 and enjoy a delicious 'grab and go' breakfast amongst the animals. Your early start will be rewarded by the unique sounds of the Sanctuary as the animals day begins and the grounds come alive. Numbers are strictly restricted and places must be booked in advance.

wildheartanimalsanctuary.org



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



Ferry offer



Sandown Bay Regatta

10–11 August, Sandown (IW)

Organised by Sandown Carnival, the Sandown Bay Regatta really has something for everyone. Saturday features sea and shoreside events and Sunday will be fun-packed with market stalls lining the Esplanade and family-friendly live entertainment from the stage and on the beach!

sandowncarnival.com

CARNIVALS

The Isle of Wight has long been hailed as the 'Carnival Capital' of the UK and is set to host a whole range of fun and free carnival processions – many of which date back to the latter half of the 19th century and are still going strong.

Newport

Main Carnival
Illuminated Carnival

20 July from 19:00
22 August from 21:00

Sandown

Children's Carnival
Main Carnival
Illuminated Carnival

27 July from 11:00
27 July from 19:00
28 August from 20:30

Shanklin

Children's Carnival
Grand Carnival Procession
Illuminated Carnival

4 August from 14:00
7 August from 19:00
10 August from 21:15

Yarmouth

Carnival Week

10–17 August

Ventnor

Children's Carnival
Grand Carnival & Fireworks
Illuminated Carnival

14 August from 12:00
14 August from 19:00
17 August from 21:00

St Helens

Main Carnival

26 August from 18:30

Ryde

Children's Carnival
Main Carnival
Illuminated Carnival

24 August from 11:00
29 August from 18:30
31 August from 20:30

Please note: all event details were correct at time of going to press but may be subject to change. Please check online.

Joe Pasquale: The New Normal

11 August, Shanklin
Theatre (IW)

Joe Pasquale has been showing off on stage for over 40 years and he's bringing his favourites for another airing to show that things have never been normal.... If you have ever wondered why chicken breasts don't have nipples? then this is the show for you. Includes a questions and answers session.

shanklintheatre.com

Sunset Sessions presents Nathan Dawe

17 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



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



Legendary Joust

13–15 August, Carisbrooke
Castle (IW)

Experience the spectacle of speed and skill as four legendary knights compete for honour and glory. See lances shatter, feel the thunder of hooves and hear the roar of the crowd as reputations are won and lost. Choose your champion and cheer them on to victory – or console them in defeat. Don't miss one of history's most spectacular sporting contests – book online and save!

english-heritage.org.uk



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

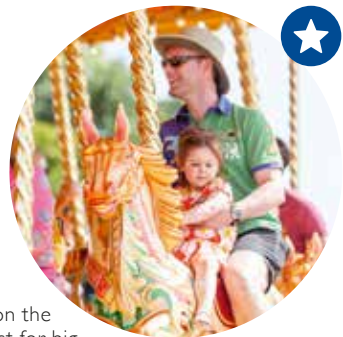


Island Steam Fair

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 Open Studios

23 August–8 October,
Various locations (IW)

Embark on a journey of artistic discovery within a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve! During the annual Open Studios event, you can wander through studios, local venues, pop-up exhibitions and galleries, where you'll encounter a rich tapestry of artistic expression. From contemporary marvels to traditional treasures, there's something for everyone. Best of all, admission is free at all venues. Immerse yourself in the world of painting, sculpture, printmaking, photography, textiles, jewellery, ceramics, and more, and meet the makers behind the art.

isleofwightopenstudios.co.uk



Binnel Studios Annual Exhibition

24–26 August,
St Lawrence (IW)

The year the beautiful Binnel Studios in St Lawrence celebrates its 10 year anniversary. The August bank holiday weekend brings with it the annual chance to meet the highly regarded artists as they open their studios to the public.

binnelstudios.com



All the Queen's Horses

20–22 August, Osborne (IW)

Join Queen Victoria at Osborne for a day at the races as Her Majesty's horses charge into view! Place your bets and cheer on your riders against the backdrop of the Queen's beloved Island home. As music fills the air, immerse yourself in the thrill and excitement of exceptional horsemanship – who will reign supreme? In between these magnificent displays, enjoy dazzling sidesaddle performances, storytelling and more!

english-heritage.org.uk



Carpenters Gold

31 August, Shanklin
Theatre (IW)

Carpenters Gold authentically performs their greatest hits, such as *Goodbye to Love*, *Solitaire*, *We've Only Just Begun*, *Top of the World*, *Yesterday*, *Once More*, plus many more; recreating the look and sound of their worldwide 1970 tours, including a special highlight where 'Karen' plays the drums with her full live backing band.

shanklintheatre.com



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

Summer Pottery Workshops

27 August, Wildheart Animal Sanctuary (IW)

Enjoy a creative pottery session run by the wonderful team at Isle of Wight Pottery. During these two hour workshops, you and your family use a variety of hand building techniques to lovingly create form and texture to get a true likeness of the Sanctuary's most iconic animals. Then, you will paint and finish all work before it is whisked off for glazing and firing. All materials included. Suitable for ages 6+.

wildheartanimalsanctuary.org



Wolvorton Manor Garden Fair

31 August–1 September, Wolvorton Manor (IW)

A special two day event hosting over 140 stunning Isle of Wight and mainland nurseries, garden and craft stalls. With classic motor vehicle displays, farmers produce markets, street food stands, live music, craft workshops, outdoor activities and even dancing displays, there's plenty of entertainment!

wolvortongardenfair.co.uk



Isle of Wight Classic Car Extravaganza

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/iwclassicmotorshow

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.

greatwightbite.co.uk



Cider and Cheese Festival

7–8 September, Isle of Wight Steam Railway (IW)

A regular in the Railway's events calendar. Get set to sample a whole host of various cheeses with the prepared platters, perfectly paired with crunchy pickles and tangy chutneys. It's the perfect accompaniment to a cool glass of cider, and with over 25 varieties to try, it's time to book a taxi. There will be live music to keep you entertained and the bar opens from 11:00. All this and it's free entry to the event!

iwsteamrailway.co.uk

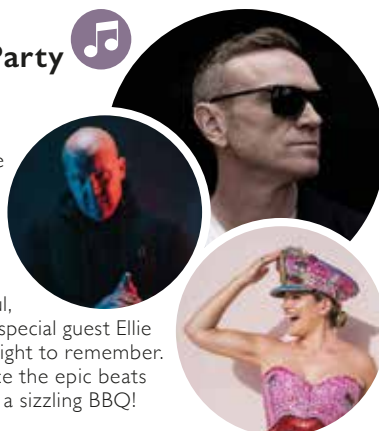
SEPTEMBER

Sunset Sessions End of Summer Party

6 September, Blackgang Chine (IW)

Triple the excitement, triple the beats! This September, Sunset Sessions wraps up the summer with not one, not two, but THREE incredible headlining acts! Featuring the iconic Tall Paul, dynamic duo Ultrabeat and special guest Ellie Sax, this promises to be a night to remember. Not only will you experience the epic beats and drinks aplenty, but also a sizzling BBQ!

blackgangchine.com



Bohemian Style Earrings Workshop

7 September, The Jewellery Cabin (IW)

With the help of your tutor, you will design and create a stunning boho style pair of silver earrings. You will have time to practice with the mark-making tools before choosing your earring shape, cutting it from the sheet and applying your chosen detail. You will then work on finishing and adding the earwires ready to wear your beautiful earrings home.

thejewellerycabin.com





Wight Buggin'

13–15 September, Retro Staycations, Ryde (IW)

Further to the incredibly successful event in 2023 and following this year's Spring Buggin' back in May, Wight Buggin' returns, full of family fun and a lovely end-of-season opportunity to hangout with the V-Dubbers. This will be a family-friendly weekend with three nights camping, but also has some superb bands and music acts performing live for everyone's enjoyment, local trade stalls plus bar courtesy of Island Ales and hot food selection courtesy of local traders.

retrostaycations.co.uk



Jack Up the 70s with The Zoots

21 September, Shanklin Theatre (IW)

From Glam Rock to Disco, Motown to Two-tone... you can't help grooving to The Sounds of the 70s! Jack Up Events are preparing to wind the clock back once more with the much-anticipated return of Jack Up The 70s at the theatre! Dig out your flares and prepare to boogie all night long to the very best of T.Rex, Chic, Sister Sledge, Mud, Abba, Boney M, Kool and The Gang, Dolly Parton, Bowie, The Sweet and other amazing Seventies chart toppers!

jackupevents.co.uk

Isle of Wight Jazz Weekend

19–22 September, Various locations (IW)

Due to its growing popularity, the IW Jazz Weekend will be making a welcome return to various venues across the Island in 2024, where the very best jazz in the UK can be enjoyed.

iwjazzweekend.co.uk

OCTOBER



Isle of Wight Literary Festival

3–6 October, Northwood House (IW)

The festival provides a far reaching eclectic programme. Over the four days, 60+ writers and presenters will share their latest works. Topics include crime fiction, history, travel, maritime adventure, gardening, medicine, technology and social and political issues.

isleofwightliteraryfestival.com

Dash in the Dark

5 October, Seaclose Park (IW)

On your marks, get set, GLOW! Dash in the Dark, the 5K fun run, raising vital funds for the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Air Ambulance, returns to Seaclose Park in Newport. Gather your gang and get ready to walk, jog, run or dance your way around this special night time mission. There will be lights, music and plenty of fun along the way.

hiowaa.org



Isle of Wight Walking Festival

5–13 October, Various locations (IW)

The second instalment of this year's Isle of Wight Walking Festival takes place in October beneath a canopy of fiery, autumnal changing leaves, offering a chance to discover the best of the Island at this special time of year.

isleofwightwalkingfestival.co.uk



Beer & Steam

12–13 October, Isle of Wight Steam Railway (IW)

Head to the Isle of Wight Steam Railway's Autumn beer festival for a celebration of beer and steam. Choose from a huge selection of real ales, there are even a few ciders for those with a sweeter tooth. You'll have the opportunity to try local brews from Yates', Goddards and Island Brewery alongside ales from Yorkshire, Somerset and more.

iwsteamrailway.co.uk



Wightrider

12–13 October, The Bus Museum Ryde (IW)

Organised by the Isle of Wight Bus & Coach Museum, Wightrider allows you to enjoy free classic bus rides to destinations and attractions across the eastern side of the Island over the weekend. Programmes giving full details and timetable available to buy online, with proceeds going towards the museum.

wightrider.co.uk



Halloween Half Term

19 October–3 November, Carisbrooke Castle (IW)

Gather your little monsters for a ghoulishly good day out at Carisbrooke Castle this October half term. Follow the trail to solve creepy clues and gather round to listen to spooky stories. A devilish day out for you and your little ones set in the grounds of a creepy Castle!

english-heritage.org.uk



Wizard Week

26 October–1 November, Isle of Wight Steam Railway (IW)

It's wickedly wonderful half term fun as witches and wizards cast their magic spells and takeover the Railway. Follow the spooky treasure hunt trail then climb aboard the steam train. Haven Falconry will be flying wise old owls and birds of prey in the events field and entertainer Greg Chapman will be on hand with hair-raising tales and mesmerising magic tricks. Head to our Barn Café for free magic shows from our friendly wizard, Professor Crump. Book in advance and secure your place on the train.

iwsteamrailway.co.uk



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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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.

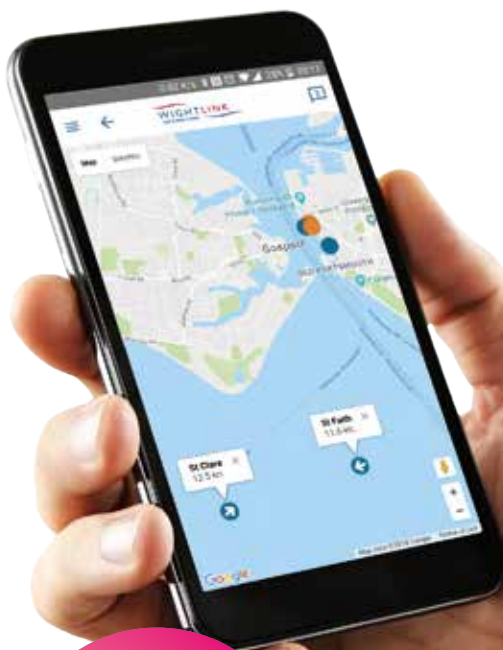
Visit wightlink.co.uk/contactus or call the Contact Centre on 0333 999 7333

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.



**GET LIVE
TIMETABLES
ON OUR APP**



Useful numbers

EMERGENCY SERVICES

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

HEALTH SERVICES

For non-emergency medical matters, call NHS 111.

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

DENTAL TREATMENT

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

GETTING AROUND

Wightlink
0333 999 7333
wightlink.co.uk

Island Line
0345 600 0650
southwesternrailway.com

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

Southern Vectis
0330 0539 182
islandbuses.info

Routes designed to help visitors enjoy the Island.

LEISURE CENTRES

ILeisure
Medina, Newport
01983 823882

The Heights, Lake
01983 823881

Westridge, Ryde
01983 823883
ileisure.co.uk

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

BREAKDOWN COVER

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

Bartletts Service Station
01983 865338
bartlettsservicestation.co.uk

James Garage Services
01983 521010
jamesgarageservices.co.uk

Visitor information

Isle of Wight

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

For more details and opening times please visit:
visitisleofwight.co.uk or
[f/IWTravelAmbassadors](https://www.facebook.com/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

Godshill Village Store
High Street,
Godshill, PO38 3HH

Newport Bus Station
South Street,
Newport, PO30 1LL



Compton Beach is a firm favourite with the bucket and spade brigade!



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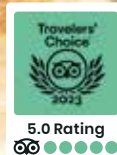
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