

WIGHTLINK

FREE GUIDE

Wightlife

ISSUE 4: 2024

TM

LOCAL GUIDE
**WHAT'S ON
AND WHERE
TO GO**

EATING OUT
**ROOM AT
THE INN**

**WIGHT
CHRISTMAS
GIFT GUIDE**

Wightlink's essential guide to the Isle of Wight

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Welcome to autumn on the Isle of Wight

Hello – I am delighted to welcome you to my first **Wightlife** magazine, having joined Wightlink as the new CEO in September.



ISLAND LIFE

There are so many great things to do on the Island in the autumn and I am looking forward to meeting more of you, our valued customers, over the coming months. Whether you're enjoying relaxing woodland walks, exploring the beautiful coastline or taking a trip on a steam train through the changing countryside, you're sure to fall in love with the Isle of Wight.

VALUE FOR MONEY

I know how important it is to get value for money in the current economy so whether you are visiting the Isle of Wight or fortunate enough to live here, we offer a range of ways to save on your journey with Wightlink. We offer discounted rates for visitors that book with our excellent accommodation partners and Multilink Passes for Island residents. Booking ahead and travelling at a quieter time of day are also great ways to save on your crossing.

TIMETABLES TO SUIT YOU

Our extensive service offers three routes across the Solent, with crossings from early morning to evening between Portsmouth and Ryde, Lymington and Yarmouth, and a 24-hour service between Portsmouth and Fishbourne. We review our timetables regularly to match customer demand and our 2025 timetable is now available to book.

GETTING YOU THERE ON TIME

We work hard to ensure that every sailing operates as planned and on time. This year so far*, we have achieved 94.2% punctuality and 99.5% reliability, and we are constantly improving on this. When a sailing is disrupted by 30 minutes or more, we will let you know via the Wightlink App or by email.

PROTECTING THE ENVIRONMENT

Everyone at Wightlink is eager to reduce our impact on the environment. I will be driving Wightlink forward to meet future sustainability challenges head-on, including our commitment to decarbonising our ships and shore facilities.

SUPPORTING ISLAND COMMUNITIES

This year we welcomed several new teams and groups to our Wightlink in the Community sponsorship scheme. We also provide free and discounted travel for over 50 sporting, arts and charity groups, as well as 75 individuals. These groups are hugely important to the Island's community, providing opportunities for young people to develop their skills, broaden their horizons and realise their ambitions.

INVESTMENT

We use this time of year to ensure our ships and ports are maintained to the highest possible standards of safety and reliability and to further enhance your experience. We're investing over £7.3 million in ship refits and a further £3.2 million in port infrastructure, technology upgrades and retail outlets.

FEEDBACK

Finally, I would like to thank all my Wightlink colleagues who work so diligently and cheerfully in getting you across the Solent. I will be spending a lot of time with them as I get to know the service better.

We are always looking for more ways to improve the Wightlink experience, and I welcome your suggestions. Please drop me a line at feedback@wightlink.co.uk.

I look forward to meeting you onboard soon.

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the Inn for all...

*Statistic covers the financial year from April-July 2024.

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Whether you're looking for a souvenir to take home and savour or a gift for the gastronome in your life, follow our trail to 'taste the Wight'.

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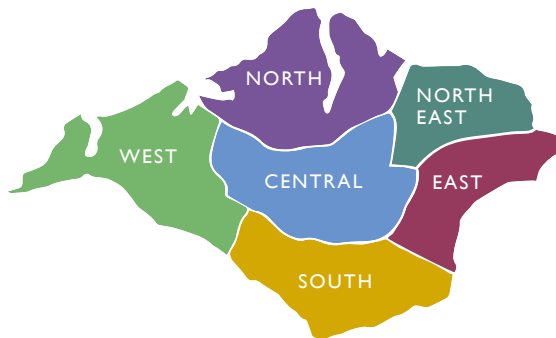
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Discover what's going on in the next few months at the cities and towns near to our ferry ports.

The Guide

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

WIGHTLINK
IN THE COMMUNITY

Meet & Greet event 2024

Wightlink celebrates the achievements of its sponsored athletes, sports and arts groups.

More than a hundred sportsmen and women, talented athletes and representatives from arts groups, charities and good causes across the Isle of Wight came together for our Meet & Greet event.

The annual event, held at Quay Arts, is always a highlight for Wightlink colleagues who enjoy hearing their stories. Attendees included representatives from the Wightlink-Wight Mountain Cycle Race Team, Hampshire & Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust, John Cattle's Skate Club and the Isle of Wight Symphony Orchestra.

"This gathering is a highlight of the year for us," explains Wightlink Commercial Director Phil Delaney. "There are so many talented people of all ages on the Isle of Wight and we always enjoy hearing their news. We are proud to support teams, charities and good causes to help them achieve their potential."

Applications for community sponsorship in 2025 are now open. To find out more and apply, visit wightlink.co.uk/sponsorship



LET'S GO FLY A WIGHTLIFE KITE

Have you ever wondered what happens to our old Wightlife magazines?

This summer they were put to good use by children visiting our 'kite studio' at Portsmouth International Kite Festival!

We made thousands of kites with families visiting the event. It was a great way to use up old Wightlife magazines and teach children about recycling materials.

Wightlink worked in partnership with Aspex Portsmouth to deliver this activity for the International Kite Festival on Southsea Common. We were supported by HIVE Portsmouth volunteers.



Afternoon Flyer

Whether you're indulging in a spot of sightseeing, Christmas shopping or looking to watch a panto this festive season, make the most of our Afternoon Flyer offer.

Prices start at just £16.60 for MyLink members and £18.40 for non-members, and you can travel out between 12:00 and 23:59, and return by 04:30 the next morning.

To find out more and book, visit wightlink.co.uk/special-offers/afternoon-flyer



NEW PRIORITY SEATING

You asked, we delivered. To improve accessibility at Wightlink and accommodate our customers' varied travel requirements, we are adding Priority Seating onboard our vessels. Suggestions were made at focus groups with customers and disability charities on the Island that priority seating would make it easier to travel with us. The aim is to provide a Priority Table near the toilets, lifts and retail areas in all passenger lounges.

For further details about our accessible travel facilities visit wight.link/accessible





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Enter our competition and you could win a Parkdean Resorts holiday worth up to £500, at any of their 66 holiday parks.

Parkdean Resorts is the UK's largest holiday park operator. Spanning throughout England, Scotland and Wales, your holiday happy is never far away!

From stunning seaside resorts to idyllic countryside locations, with a range of attractions, activities and entertainment to enjoy, you're sure to find the perfect family holiday. From camping under canvas to the practicality of a caravan or the luxury of a lodge or apartment, there's something for everyone!

Holiday Parks on the Isle of Wight

Choose from Landguard or Lower Hyde near Shanklin, Nodes Point near St Helens, Ryde or Thorness Bay near Thorness, Cowes.

Positioned in some of the Island's top locations, holidays on the Isle of Wight are just a 40-minute ferry crossing away with a vehicle ferry, and from just 22 minutes for foot passengers and offer visitors a chance to experience a truly stunning destination.

Look forward to fantastic on-site features such as restaurants serving up local produce, entertainment, and indoor swimming pools. Beach or bar, rain or shine, there's so much to see on the Island!

Whichever holiday you choose, Wightlink will include £250 of ferry travel, boosting your prize fund up to £750!

Don't forget:

Parkdean Resorts customers receive special ferry rates with Wightlink. Visit parkdeanresorts.co.uk/ferrytravel for more details.



For your chance to win visit wight.link/parkdean and use the form to enter by 31 December 2024.

This prize draw is open for entries from 1 October 2024. Entries must be received by 23:59 on 31 December 2024. Entrants must be 18+. The winner will receive a voucher to use in booking a holiday at any of Parkdean Resorts' holiday parks, up to the value of £500, subject to availability and holiday park opening dates. The prize is non-exchangeable, and no cash or voucher alternative is offered. For full terms and conditions visit wight.link/parkdean



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Isle of fright

Your ultimate Halloween guide



As the cool winds of autumn creep in and the nights darken, the Island transforms from a summer wonderland into the perfect backdrop for Halloween. So whether you're a family seeking pumpkin-filled fun or the spine-tingling thrill of ghostly adventures, our guide to the top Halloween events will ensure a frightfully good time for all.

FAMILY-FRIENDLY FRIGHTS

Shanklin Chine is transforming into a haven for the haunted during their Halloween Spooktacular on 4 October–2 November! Take in the beauty of the Island's oldest tourist attraction by day with all of its autumnal colours, but be sure to stick around until the sun sets, because that's when the real magic happens. Visitors can explore the Chine's many winding, illuminated paths while keeping their eyes peeled for creepy creatures and critters scattered around the site. Be prepared to come face to face with anything from werewolves to wyverns. There'll also be live music during the weekends, where you can expect to hear an assortment of your favourite monstrous melodies. Fancy dress is strongly encouraged!

Peel back the layers of history to discover intrigue, mystery, scandal and murder with the Isle of Wight Ghost Experience.

Tapnell Farm's Pumpkin Festival is a seasonal favourite that offers a delightful blend of activities for the entire family. Held between 28-31 October, the festival sees the farm transform into a sea of orange with pumpkins of all shapes and sizes to choose from. Get involved in pumpkin carving, where children can proudly display their spooky designs and lots of pumpkin fun. The pumpkin trail will be open on 12-13 October and during half term, 19-31 October.



What will you find lurking in the undergrowth at Shanklin Chine this Halloween?

For a more relaxed Halloween experience, Ventnor Botanic Garden hosts No Tricks, Just Treats on 25-26 and 30-31 October. This event is perfect for younger children and those who prefer a gentler celebration of the season. Families can enjoy themed crafts, with a make-your-own spooky pizza and pumpkin carving workshop, and take part in a scarecrow treasure trail hunt, with prizes for those who figure out what they're trying to spell. There'll also be a spine-chilling slime party!



Left: Try your hand at a spot of pumpkin carving at Ventnor Botanic Garden. Right: Shanklin Chine has a plethora of pumpkins for you to take your pick from!

Inspired by 'Día de los Muertos', Blackgang Chine's 'Fiesta of the Dead' promises a journey like no other. On selected days between 25-31 October, make the crossing to the Land of the Dead, where visitors can gaze upon large vibrant inflatables, pay tribute to lost loved ones in the Sacred Fire Garden, and enjoy thrilling entertainment in Cowboy Town, including DJ sets and fire performances. Themed food and drinks will be available throughout the night, and you can even experience their 360-degree pendulum swing ride, Extinction, in the dark!



Ventnor Botanic Garden, Undercliff Drive, Ventnor, Isle of Wight PO38 1UL

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Take your little witches and warlocks along to the Isle of Wight Steam Railway for Wizard Week.

The Wildheart Animal Sanctuary will be celebrating the spooky season with their Myths and Legends Adventure during half term from 21 October–1 November. Solve riddles and puzzles, and find a missing explorer in immersive escape rooms inspired by legendary tales. They'll also be running a 2-for-1 ticket offer for kids, so you can have double the fun at half the cost!

The Isle of Wight Steam Railway will be celebrating in a similarly mythical manner this October, with their Wizard Week, held between 26 October–1 November. Here, little ones can join the (friendly) witches of Havenstreet in casting spells as their apprentice, hear an assortment of terrible tales, and head to the Barn Café for free magic shows with the wizard Professor Crump. Dare to take the terrifying treasure hunt trail before boarding the steam train, where a wicked witch will be dealing out treats (maybe a few tricks) before journeying through the 'haunted' woodland.

GROWN-UP GHOULISH DELIGHTS

Carisbrooke Castle offers an exciting blend of history and hauntings with their Halloween Half Term events between 19 October–3 November, and Ghost Tales on selected evenings from 26–31 October. During the day, families can explore the castle's grounds, participate in medieval-themed activities, and enjoy a historical scavenger hunt that educates as well as entertains.



Dare you take a spine tingling tour after dark at Carisbrooke Castle?

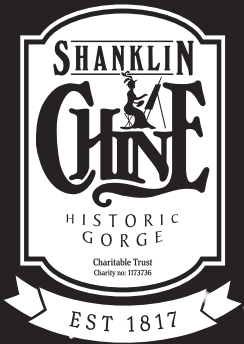
As night falls over the castle, the atmosphere shifts to one of terror with Ghost Tales, a series of guided tours that delve into the castle's haunted history. Experienced storytellers lead you through darkened corridors and rooms, recounting chilling tales of ghostly apparitions and unexplained phenomena. The castle's past comes alive with these spine-tingling stories, making it a must-visit for those who love a good scare. Tours are suitable for over 16s only, and don't forget to bring a torch – things are going to get dark!



Cowboy Town gets a Mexican makeover for Fiesta of the Dead at Blackgang Chine.

HALLOWEEN

- Spooktacular -



LIVE MUSIC
ON SELECTED
NIGHTS!



FRIDAY 4TH OCTOBER – SATURDAY 2ND NOVEMBER

WANDER THE WINDY WALKWAYS OF SHANKLIN CHINE AS THINGS GO 'BUMP IN THE NIGHT' AT THIS FAMILY FRIENDLY EVENT. OPEN DAILY 10AM – 9PM. ILLUMINATIONS SWITCHED ON FROM 5PM. A MONSTER MASH-UP OF LIVE MUSIC ON SELECTED NIGHTS, TRICKY TRAILS, CREEPY CRITTERS, TASTY TREATS AND MUCH MORE!

01983 866432 | [f/SHANKLINCHINE](https://www.facebook.com/shanklinchine) | STANDARD ADMISSION PRICES APPLY



You'll encounter all sorts of creepy characters at Arreton Manor's Halloween Party – rumoured to be one of the Island's most haunted buildings.

For those in search of an authentic paranormal experience, join Marc Tuckey on an Isle of Wight Ghost Experience. A seasoned ghost hunter for 30 years, Marc leads tours of some of the Island's most famously haunted locations throughout October. Tours include visits to eerie sites like Arreton Barns, the ghostly Knighton Gorges and Ventnor Botanic Garden – which was once the site of the Royal National Hospital for Diseases of the Chest.

During the tours, Marc shares his extensive knowledge of the Island's haunted history and recounts personal experiences with the supernatural. Attendees have reported seeing phantom carriages, spectral figures and unexplained

lights. It's a truly immersive experience that offers a deeper understanding of the Island's haunted past, and a thrilling adventure for those interested in the paranormal.



Marc Tuckey and his team share their extensive knowledge of the Island's haunted history at locations such as St Catherine's Lighthouse (left) and Ventnor Botanic Garden (right).



With reported sightings of phantom carriages and spectral figures, you'll get shivers down your spine on an Isle of Wight Ghost Experience tour.

Arreton Manor, one of the Island's oldest and supposedly most haunted buildings, is throwing open its doors and welcoming guests to an exclusive Halloween Party on 26 October. Partygoers will encounter a variety of creepy characters throughout the evening and are promised to expect a night full of flowing drinks, food, laughter and dancing. Fancy dress is also mandatory, with this year's theme being 'Minxes & Demons'. Please note that this is a ticketed event for ages 18+ only.

For more Halloween events, see our What's On Guide on pages 84–88 or visit wightlink.co.uk/explorer.

Thomas Spence



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You can't leave the Island without...



#1 GETTING WINDSWEPT ON THE BEACH

Blow away the cobwebs with a spot of beachcombing. The windier weather and stormy seas mean that fossil hunting and glass foraging are better at this time of year. Compton and Brook beach in the west and Yaverland in the east are favourites for finds.



#2 PICKING A PUMPKIN

Get crafty this October and carve a jack-o'-lantern. Pick up a locally-grown pumpkin at Harvey Browns, Briddlesford Farm or head to Tapnell Farm for a whole host of pumpkin fun at their festival held between 28–31 October. See our What's On Guide on pages 84–88.

#3 GETTING SPOOKED

From fancy dress and days out for your little monsters to ghost tours and haunted houses, the Isle of Fright has plenty of places to send a shiver down your spine. See pages 84–88 for our guide to all the places you can scare yourself silly this Halloween!



#4 COSYING UP IN A LOCAL PUB

After an autumnal walk, it's hard to beat heading to a local pub to warm up with a pint and a bite to eat by the fire – you'll find plenty to choose from in our Room at the Inn feature on pages 36–40.

#5 GOING WILD

You'd be forgiven for thinking that the Island's attractions close over the winter period but it's the perfect time to visit the animals at Monkey Haven, Amazon World Zoo Park or Wildheart Animal Sanctuary for some wild fun.





#6 SHOPPING LOCAL THIS CHRISTMAS

From talented artists and craftspeople to fantastic food producers and carefully curated retail collections, we've got a bounty of unique boutiques, so make a pledge to shop small and support an Isle of Wight business. Find our top tips for Christmas gifts on pages 30–34 and 42–46.

#7 WATCHING A PANTO

He's behind you! Oh no he isn't! There's nothing like a good old-fashioned pantomime to get you in the Christmas spirit. Guaranteed fun for all the family. For more shows, see our What's On Guide on pages 84–88.



#8 SEEING SANTA

Catch the big man in red before he gears up for his busiest day of the year. Whether it's aboard a heritage locomotive at the Isle of Wight Steam Railway or amongst the artisans at Arreton Barns, we've wrapped up the best places to find Father Christmas on page 87.

#9 A BOXING DAY SWIM

What better way to blow away the Christmas cobwebs than a bracing Boxing Day Swim? There are events at beaches around the Island, with the most popular taking place in Ventnor. For more details see our What's On Guide on pages 84–88.



#10 KICKING UP THE LEAVES ON A WOODLAND WALK

Immerse yourself in colour and head to one of the Island's forests for a walk. Brighstone, Borthwood and Firestone are all spectacular at this time of year. Don't forget to keep your eyes peeled for red squirrels!

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

Shipwrecks, shouts and safety

200 Years of the RNLI

Since 1824, the RNLI's brave band of nautical volunteers have been taking to the waves to save lives at sea – including from the sparkly seas of the Isle of Wight. And as if one momentous anniversary wasn't enough, the Yarmouth station is celebrating its 100th birthday too. So, don a life jacket and prepare your best set of sea legs as we dive in to find out more.



The waters around the Isle of Wight aren't always smooth sailing and the RNLI provides a vital service for those who find themselves in danger.

Back in the early days of the 19th century, around 1,800 ships a year were wrecked around Britain's coastline, from the chilly waters of the Shetlands to the rocky coast of Cornwall and even along the Isle of Wight's notoriously treacherous southern shore. With major loss of life and no rescue organisations in place to help, something had to be done, and philanthropist Sir William Hillary was the man to do it.



The RNLI has saved over 146,000 lives since inception in 1824.

From the grand interior of the City of London Tavern (one of the capital's most fashionable meeting places and a popular haunt of Charles Dickens) Sir William formed a charitable group devoted to rescuing men and women in trouble at sea. Starting with thirty supporters, and soon joined by King George IV, it later took on the name of the Royal National Lifeboat Institution (RNLI) and has since saved over 146,000 lives.



Yarmouth RNLI's Senior Station Technician Richard Pimm.

With the Solent on one side and the Channel on the other, the waters around the Isle of Wight have certainly kept the RNLI busy over the years – including the crew of the Yarmouth Lifeboat Station who first opened their boathouse doors in 1924. These shipshape volunteers have been involved in plenty of extraordinary rescues in their time, including a Greek steamship carrying tangerines from Algiers which struck rocks off the Needles and sank in 1947. Just in the past 54 years alone, the Yarmouth RNLI have launched their lifeboat, most recently the Severn Class All-weather Lifeboat (ALB), over 2,000 times and saved an impressive total of 777 lives in that period, winning seventeen awards for their courage and bravery in the process.

REAL PUBS GREAT LOCATIONS

THE BARGEMAN'S REST

• NEWPORT •



FAMILY FRIENDLY, COSY TRADITIONAL PUBS

THE DAIRYMAN'S DAUGHTER

• ARRETON BARNES •



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The Yarmouth volunteer crew are ready to pull on their kit and spring into action within mere moments of a 'shout' going out.

Fortunately, two hundred years on from launch, few ships are wrecked around the coast of the UK, but the RNLI's mission of saving lives at sea is just as relevant today. If you're wondering what the RNLI looks like in action, then last summer's dramatic search and rescue operation for two missing paddleboarders off the Dorset coast serves as the perfect example. Within sixteen minutes of the 'shout' going out, the volunteer crew at Yarmouth had already assembled at the station, pulled on their kit, boarded the lifeboat and set sail to join the search. Earlier that afternoon, RNLI lifeboats from Swanage, Poole, Mudeford and Lymington had been scanning the seas for the missing paddleboarders, alongside police and HM coastguard helicopters – but as yet, no one had been found.

With three crew members up top, acting as lookouts, and four below working on search patterns, the Yarmouth crew started their task and within five minutes of searching, they found something. "Tom was looking

through the binoculars" remembers RNLI Senior Station Technician Richard Pimm, "and as we got closer, he said: 'It's a paddleboarder!'. We instantly thought: 'Oh my god, we've found them!' it was an amazing feeling, but then the realisation set in that it was only one paddleboarder when two had been reported missing".



The Severn Class All-weather lifeboat is a familiar landmark on harbourside for those arriving at and departing from Wightlink's Yarmouth port.



In the past 54 years alone, the crew have launched over 2,000 times and saved an impressive total of 777 lives.

Discovered four miles from the Swanage coast, and having spent seven hours floating out at sea, the paddleboarder was exhausted and confused. Thankfully, the skilled Yarmouth crew managed to get him aboard and keep him warm until a helicopter came to winch him away and quickly transfer him to hospital. Soon word reached the crew that the other paddleboarder had safely made it to shore at Bournemouth and they could all breathe a sigh of relief after a job well done. "It was like looking for a needle in a haystack and then actually finding that needle" explains volunteer crew member Peter Lemonius, "we were elated, it's a fantastic feeling. Without the RNLI, there's no shadow of a doubt, that guy would have died out there that night".

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FAMILY FUN

AWARD-WINNING MUSEUM



AUTUMN EVENTS & FESTIVE FUN



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Staying safe at sea

While we can all agree that the RNLI's heroic crews and their skilful seamanship are handy to have on standby, it's better if we can avoid the need for a 'shout' in the first place by swotting up on our water safety and taking the utmost care when in or on the water. With that in mind, here are some simple rules to remember if you're thinking of paddleboarding off the Isle of Wight coastline.

- **Wear a buoyancy aid and suitable clothing**
The lifejacket will help keep you afloat, while a wetsuit will keep you warm and stop you from catching a chill.
- **Carry your phone in a waterproof pouch**
Hung around your neck and safe from water damage, you'll be able to call 999 or 112 and ask for the coastguard if you find yourself in trouble.
- **Wear the correct leash**
If you lose your balance and end up falling in the water, an appropriate leash will ensure you and your board stay connected.
- **Avoid offshore winds**
Turn back to shore as soon as you encounter any gusty winds or strengthening breezes, especially if they are offshore, as they can carry you far out to sea, making it tricky and tiring to head back to land.

For more tips, advice and information on kayaking, paddleboarding, or simply enjoying the Island's wonderful beaches safely, take a look at rnli.org/safety

James Rayner





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www.bradingromanvilla.org.uk

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Autumn escapes and winter breaks

When the buckets and spades have been packed away and the nights are drawing in and getting chilly, there's nothing better than planning a getaway. The Island has everything you need for an autumn or winter break, from bracing walks on the beach to watching the leaves change colour in acres of forest, and for those who don't fancy the great outdoors, some places to pamper yourself.



Kick back and relax at The Caledon
Guest House in Cowes.

Stay in a little piece of history at Farringford, once home to the poet Alfred, Lord Tennyson in the 1800s, in one of their delightful holiday cottages. Located in a peaceful courtyard to the rear of the main house, there are two cottages to choose from with a further five stable cottages at the edge of the estate, some of which are dog-friendly, so ideal if Fido fancies a trip to the Island. Both Alfred cottages have woodburning stoves, perfect for a getaway in chillier weather or to warm up after you've stomped up Tennyson Down, named after the great man himself.

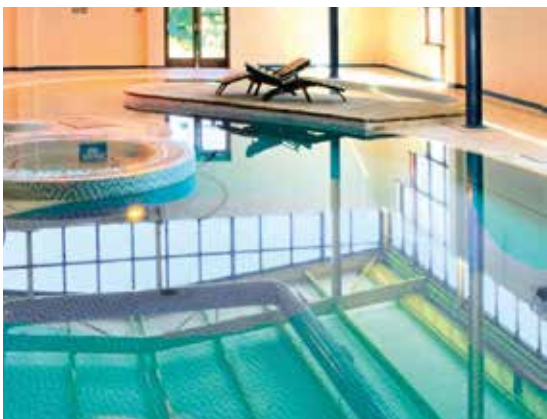
farringford.co.uk



Located in a peaceful courtyard at Farringford, both Alfred Cottages have woodburning stoves perfect for warming up after a walk.

For unrivalled sea views across Shanklin Bay and within a short walk of the old village with its thatched cottages, pubs, and gift shops, the Ocean View Hotel does exactly what the name suggests. You can walk along the cliff path to Sandown with its pier and amusements or if you're feeling energetic, get your walking boots on and go to the top of Culver Down and admire the view with the added bonus of a downhill walk on the way back. The hotel also has a heated indoor pool and a reading room so take your cossie and some books and relax.

oceanviewhoteliow.co.uk



Spoil yourself with a dip in the indoor heated pool at the Ocean View Hotel.



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The Caledon Guest House at Cowes is a beautifully decorated Victorian B&B and retains many period features.

If you like breakfast and dinner included in your package and a wide range of activities to try your hand at, head for the Bembridge Coast Hotel – once favoured by the Queen Mother. The dinner menu changes nightly, there’s a heated pool, spa rooms, a fitness centre, and a cinema room as well as live music and evening entertainment, making it an ideal place to hunker down if the weather is a bit inclement. All you need to do is unpack and unwind.

warnerleisurehotels.co.uk



The Bembridge Coast Hotel was once favoured by the Queen Mother and sits in a regal position overlooking the Solent. Stay in luxury in one of the Royale rooms.

Stay in a beautifully-decorated Victorian B&B, The Caledon Guest House, and enjoy all that Cowes has to offer. With award-winning restaurants and a charming high street full of independent shops just a short stroll down the hill, you can return to your cosy room following an afternoon exploring or help yourself at the honesty bar. With secure bicycle storage, you could bring a friend, bring your bikes, and explore the many trails that criss-cross the Island via the Cowes to Newport cycle path.

the-caledon.co.uk

For train enthusiasts, the former Whitwell Station dating from the late 1800s has been turned into holiday accommodation – Primrose Cottage having been the Station Master’s Office, Ticket Hall and Waiting Room, and Bluebell Cottage, formerly the Ladies’ Waiting Room and Parcel Office. Both have been sympathetically converted into comfortable and homely cottages without losing that ‘railway’ heritage.

Situated in the south of the Island, amongst stunning countryside and within an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, both cottages are family and dog-friendly and are just a short walk to refreshments at the White Horse.

whitwellstation-iow.co.uk



Whitwell Station has been sympathetically converted into two self-catering cottages.



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*subject to previously booking accommodation listed with IHH via a booking channel

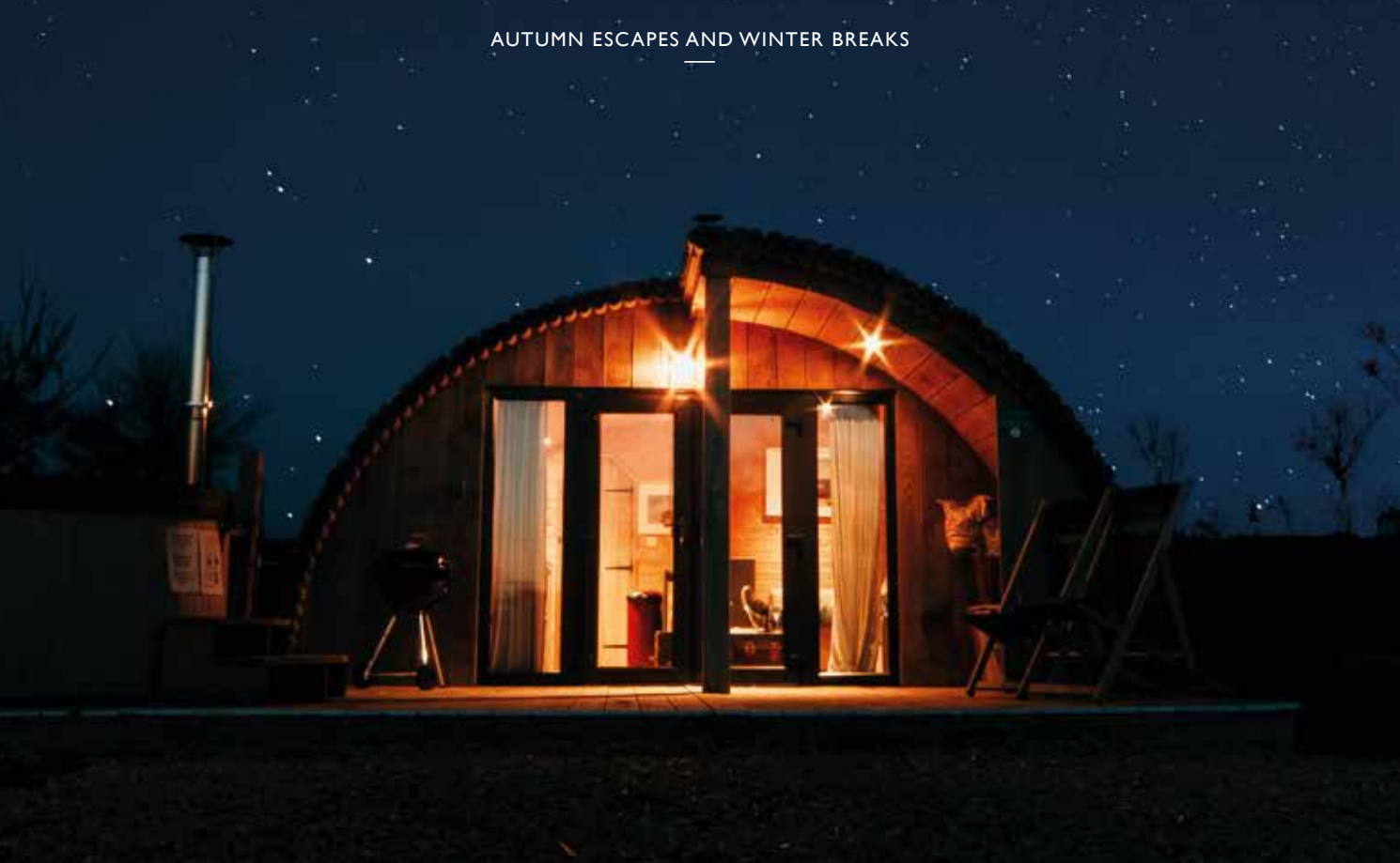


Part of Hose Rhodes Dickson

01983 866455 island-holiday-homes.net



SCAN ME



Make your autumn escape an eco-friendly one and stay in a Modulog at Tapnell Farm – the perfect glamping getaway!

Feel at one with nature in one of Tom's Eco Lodge Modulogs, specially designed for Tapnell Farm's guests. These fabulous eco-friendly wooden houses provide unique glamping and are nestled in the hillside with amazing views down to the coast. They come complete with a wood-burning stove indoors, a wood-burning outdoor tub, and a firepit as well as plenty of logs to keep the fires fuelled. All you need to pack for the ultimate cosy getaway is your favourite hot chocolate. Tapnell can also organise hampers of local produce to be delivered to you and when the chickens are laying, give you free eggs for breakfast.

tapnellfarm.com/stay

On the south of the Island, The Wight Mouse Inn is a family-run pub with ten rooms to stay in. Historically a 'smugglers' pub, it's most associated with the loss of the Clarendon, a ship laden with rum and molasses, which sank off Rocken



The rooms at The Wight Mouse give a nod to the inn's heritage as a haven for smugglers.

End in 1836. Many of the timbers from the stricken vessel were subsequently used to build an extension to the building. There are far-reaching sea views, wood fires in winter, and the opportunity for blustery walks at Compton Bay which is a short drive away and renowned for its fossils and dinosaur footprint.

wightmouse.co.uk



Is there anything better than retiring to the bar and settling down next to the open fire with a drink and some nibbles? The Wellington in Ventnor is chic and cosy.

Established in 1854 and formerly a Victorian gentleman's residence, The Wellington in Ventnor is now a chic boutique hotel with a cosy bar with an open fire and panoramic views over Ventnor Beach. It's a great winter bolt hole and base to explore the south side of the Island and the town is filled with cafés, restaurants, and pubs to enjoy. Charles Dickens described it as "The prettiest place I ever saw in my life, at home or abroad" and it's been visited by Karl Marx, Sir Winston Churchill, and Mahatma Gandhi to name but a few.

thewellington.co.uk

For more ideas on places to stay, turn to pages 50–79 or visit wightlink.co.uk/explorer

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Have yourself a Wight Merry Christmas

It's time to make your Christmas gift list and here on the Island it couldn't be easier to shop for everything you need for those stockings, the family, friends, and hard-to-buy-for people.

With a wealth of inspirational independent shops in our towns and villages with shelves filled with beautiful locally-made presents, a huge range of other great ideas, and hundreds of artisans, artists and creators to choose from, we think you'll be spoilt for choice. Together, these businesses offer creative, unusual, and often unique presents that are hard to find elsewhere. Plus, they provide great benefits for the Island, like employing local people, preserving historic skills, and supporting small-scale suppliers.

As the festive season approaches, explore what our local crafters and sellers have to offer. We've gathered a selection of our favourites, including presents that spread a little festive cheer, from animals to adopt at Amazon World to gifts that make you feel good about yourself and your environment. We've even included presents that bring people together with pottery and jewellery classes on offer and membership suggestions.

Whoever's on your present list, our Christmas Gift Guide is sure to have something perfect. So, pour yourself some eggnog, slip into those elf slippers, and dive in!

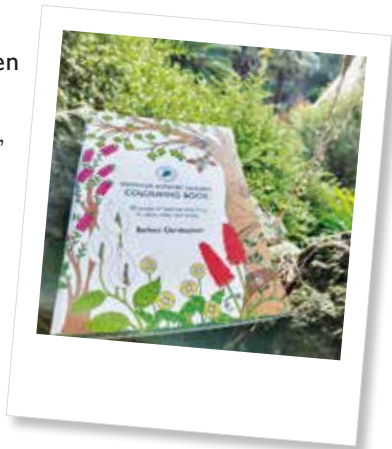


Browse the boutiques at the Old Smithy at Godshill and you're guaranteed to find some festive finishing touches and unique gifts.

Gifts for kids...

Colouring Book £4.50,
Ventnor Botanic Garden

If the winter weather leaves kids stuck indoors, step into the vibrant world of Ventnor Botanic Garden. With their colouring pencils, they can explore an African terrace, Australian walkway, secret Arid gardens and an Amazonian hot house, and bring nature to life.



🛒 Puya Boutique, Ventnor Botanic Garden
📞 botanic.co.uk



Kate the Station Mistress Bear £21.95,
Isle of Wight Steam Railway

All aboard for cuddles! Meet Kate, the Station Mistress bear. Complete with a tiny conductor's hat and a pocket watch, she's perfect for a bear lover who needs a 'paw-some' companion this Christmas.

🛒 Isle of Wight Steam Railway,
Havenstreet
📞 iwsteamrailway.co.uk

Piglets Jigsaw Puzzle
£23, Quarr Abbey

Get ready for some oink-tastic fun with the 'Quarr Abbey Piglets' jigsaw puzzle. Perfect for little puzzle enthusiasts, they'll love putting together these piggy pals, especially if they've been to feed them at the Abbey.



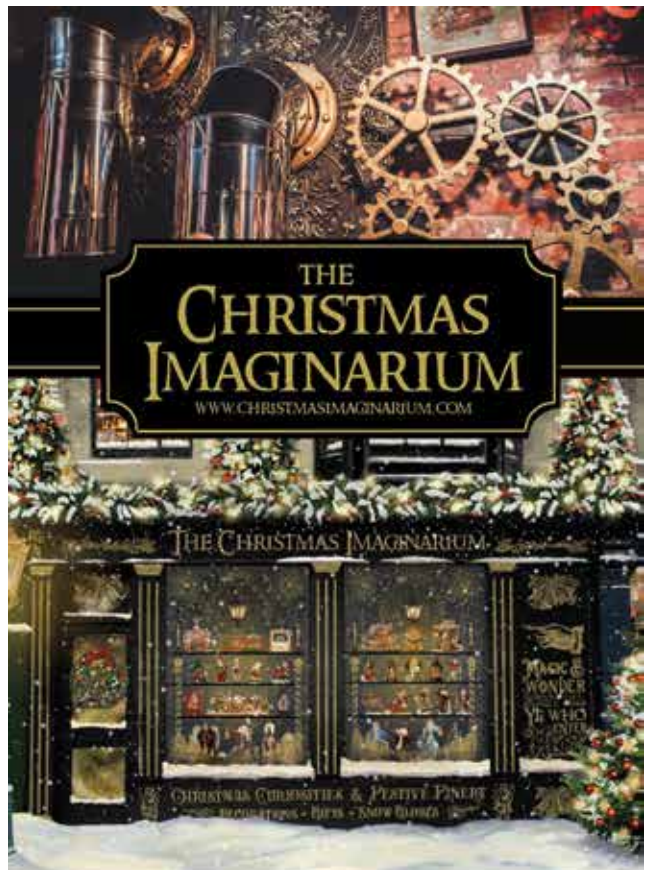
🛒 Quarr Abbey, Ryde
📞 shop.quarrabbey.org



Donkey Ears and Tail £5, Isle of
Wight Donkey Sanctuary

Let little ones discover their inner Eeyore with this cute set of donkey ears and tail and they'll be the most adorable little donkeys in the paddock. Every shop sale goes towards the upkeep of the Sanctuary's 100 donkeys, mules, and Shetland ponies

🛒 Isle of Wight Donkey Sanctuary, Wroxall
📞 iowdonkeysanctuary.org



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Gifts for grown ups...

Our Island Bangle £98, Honeybourne Jewellery

Who doesn't love finding a beautiful shiny gift under the tree? Improve your brownie points tally with this Our Island bangle inscribed with the Jane Austen quote 'She thinks of nothing, but the Isle of Wight and she calls it the Island as if there's no other'. Handcrafted in sterling silver in Ventnor.



🛒 **Honeybourne Jewellery, Ventnor**
 📍 honeybournejewellery.com



Women's Island Girl Hoody £48, Mint & Wight

For the discerning dresser, and available in six colours, including lavender, this hoody is perfect for lounging on the beach, the sofa or for post-Christmas winter walks and is a great gift for the Island girl in your life.

📍 mintandwight.co.uk

Gifts to make you feel good...

Winter Spice Candle £34.99, Mindfully Lit

You can never have too many candles to help with your Hygge, and this Winter Spice candle with ginger and hints of cinnamon, clove, nutmeg and star anise will make your home smell like the inside of a Christmas pud. Hand-poured by mother and daughter Olga and Yuliya, these eco-friendly soy candles have jars and trays made from water-based and eco-materials.



📍 mindfullylit.com

Gift Voucher from £25, The Jewellery Cabin

If you want something truly bespoke, then a course at the Jewellery Cabin will help to unleash your inner creative. There are courses on bangle, ring and necklace making which are suitable for beginners, and a masterclass for the more experienced. Book a class or buy a gift voucher.

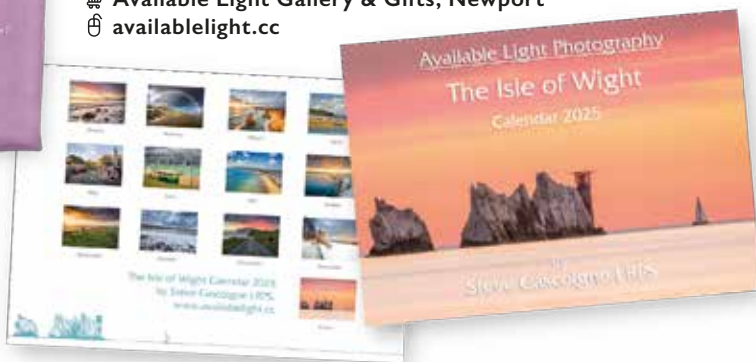
🛒 **The Jewellery Cabin, Gatcombe**
 📍 thejewellerycabin.com



Isle of Wight Calendar £9.99, Available Light

The perfect gift for Granny and Grandad, especially if they live off-Island, to put those all-important birthdays, anniversaries and appointments on. Featuring stunning photography by Steve Gascoigne of views across the Island, this year-long gift really does keep giving.

🛒 **Available Light Gallery & Gifts, Newport**
 📍 availablelight.cc



Botanical Minis £44, Duxmore Botanics

Refresh, revitalise and soothe with this fabulous little box of minis from Duxmore Botanics. Great for frazzled mums or need a rest nans, these little scented wonders with neroli, geranium and lavender will perk them up no end.

🛒 **Duxmore Botanics, Ryde**
 📍 duxmorebotanics.co.uk



Men's Maritime Flags T-Shirt £28, Rapanui

For the sailor in your life, a t-shirt featuring maritime flags is a must. Made from organic cotton, the international maritime signal flags spell Rapanui. You can also send old clothing from any brand to Rapanui which will be made into new products, or responsibly recycled, and be rewarded with a £5 voucher for every parcel sent to them. Winner, winner.

📍 rapanui clothing.com

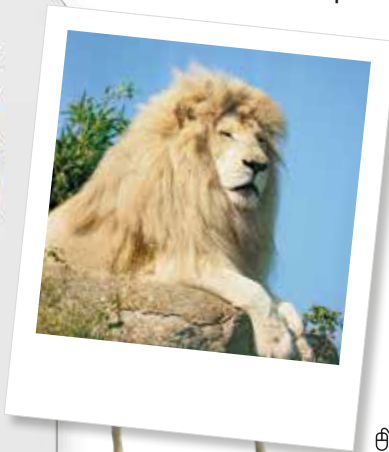


Membership from £35, The Wildheart Trust

Who doesn't love visiting the rescued tigers, lions and other cats at The Wildheart Trust in Sandown. Buy a membership and you can visit Casper, Softi, and Toph every day and really get to know them, as well as make savings in the café and shop. A perfect gift for all mad cat ladies (and gentlemen) in your life.

🛒 **The Wildheart Animal Sanctuary, Sandown**

📍 wildheartanimalsanctuary.org



Gifts for the home...

Hanging Planter £24, Tregear Pottery

Jazz up indoor plants with a hare or whitebait decorated hanging planter. Handmade by renowned potter Neil Tregear, these little planters are perfect for the green-fingered and will make small succulents or hanging plants look amazing.

🛒 **Tregear Pottery, Niton**
📍 tregearpottery.co.uk



Ceramic Mug from £9.95, Chad Powell

Sip morning coffee or afternoon tea in style from a beautiful mug which is a brilliant gift for family or friends who love the Island. Featuring a stunning sunset at Freshwater Bay, it's great for a cuppa while opening presents or a hot chocolate while watching *The Great Escape* for the tenth time.

🛒 **Chad Powell Photography, Arreton Barns**
📍 chadpowellphotography.com



Needles Tea Towel £11, XVstripes

Banish the washing up blues with a hand-drawn organic cotton tea towel that is the essence of coastal living. It's almost too pretty to use. Almost.

🛒 **XVstripes, Yarmouth**
📍 xvstripes.com



Blue Vine Baubles from £19-£43, Isle of Wight Studio Glass

If your Christmas tree decorations have seen better days, replace them with these beauties. Based in Arreton, Studio Glass celebrates over 50 years of creating world-renowned decorative studio glass, and these glass-blown baubles are just some of the beautiful offerings they have.

🛒 **Isle of Wight Studio Glass, Arreton**
📍 isleofwightstudioglass.com



A4 print and chocolate bar set £26.95, Becky Bettesworth

For retro lovers, Becky Bettesworth's prints are reminiscent of 1930s railway travel posters. Her Isle of Wight print features the iconic Needles and even better, comes with three bars of chocolate which you can either pop in someone's stocking or gift to yourself.

📍 beckybettesworth.co.uk



Gifts to get you out of the house...

Animal Adoption from £15–£50, Amazon World

If you've always dreamt of having an exotic pet like a Giant Madagascan Day Gecko or a Plate Billed Mountain Toucan, why not adopt one at Amazon World? You'll receive a certificate with a photo of your adopted animal, your name on the animal's enclosure, and a ticket to visit them.

🛒 Amazon World,
Nr Arreton
🌐 amazonworld.co.uk



Family Membership £126, English Heritage

Steep your family in Isle of Wight history at Osborne, holiday home of Queen Victoria, and Carisbrooke Castle, prison of Charles I – two of seven English Heritage properties on the Island. Plus, with a family membership, you can visit over 400 locations across England as often as you like.

🌐 english-heritage.org.uk

Gift Voucher from £30–£160, Tapnell Farm Park

Burn off some Christmas overindulgence at Tapnell Farm Park on their go-karts, jumping pillows, trim trails, and sledge slides, or just make friends with a Meerkat. A gift voucher towards a season pass, lunch in The Cow Restaurant & Bar or the Island's bounciest and wettest attraction the Aqua Park, is the perfect present.

🛒 Tapnell Farm Park, Yarmouth
🌐 tapnellfarm.com



Classes and gift vouchers from £25, Isle of Wight Pottery

For aspiring potters, enthusiastic creatives, or those who just want to have a go, book a session on the wheel or learn how to make ceramic flowers at Isle of Wight Pottery. Classes for kids, difficult-to-buy for teenagers and adults, and vouchers are available to get those creative juices flowing.

🛒 Isle of Wight Pottery, Niton
🌐 isleofwightpottery.com

Seasonal Family Membership from £75, Monkey Haven

Treat your little monkeys to a seasonal family membership at the Monkey Haven sanctuary where they can listen to the singing Lar Gibbons and get up close to nineteen species including teeny marmosets and Cherry Crowned Mangabes. It's a primate-pleasing experience for all ages!

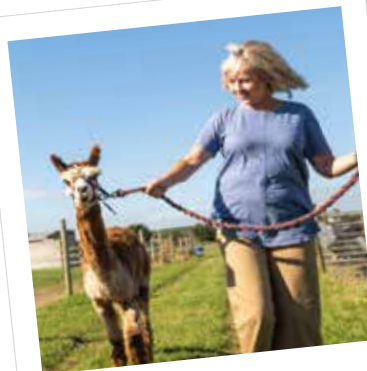
🌐 monkeyhaven.org



Alpaca Trek from £24.50, West Wight Alpacas

Embark on a furry adventure with Alpaca and Llama walking and get up close with these friendly creatures, leading them through scenic trails and learning more about them. Visit the other animals on the farm and enjoy a post-walk glass of something refreshing and a cake in the café.

🛒 West Wight Alpacas,
Wellow
🌐 westwightalpacas.co.uk



Please note: all details and prices were correct at time of going to press (September 2024) but may be subject to change. Please check availability with individual retailers.

James Rayner



Inspirational Islanders: Sophie Honeybourne Jewellery Designer Maker

Island born, Sophie is the owner and head jeweller at Honeybourne Jewellery in Ventnor. In 2003, she started the business after graduating with an MA from the Royal College of Art and training under Chris Morphy from Theodosia for seven years. Working alongside husband Raff and jeweller Emily, the trio work in silver, gold, enamels, precious and semi-precious stones to create beautiful jewellery and bespoke pieces.

“It’s the pace of life that the Island offers that makes it a unique place to live and work. During the summer months, I venture down to Ventnor Beach for an early morning swim before opening up the shop. As I dust off the sand from my toes, I always feel incredibly lucky to be able to do this. Living in St Lawrence, my morning commute takes minutes and the freedom to sea swim before work never tires.

I love camping at Compton Farm, having a fire and watching the sunset through the valley over Freshwater Bay and Tennyson Down. The stars out that way at night are amazing.

I’d have to say my favourite beach has got to be Ventnor, for many reasons year-round. It’s great for daily winter walks with our little whippet Syd and during the summer, it’s perfect for family fun, swimming, snorkelling and paddle-boarding as well as relaxing with friends with fish and chips and a pint. It’s a safe beach for our son Rex to meet friends and explore, plus it’s great for food and drinks, it’s got everything you need.

The stunning rugged coastline from Ventnor to Niton via St Lawrence is the best place for a walk in my opinion. The landscape changes with the seasons, but it’s beautiful whatever the weather.

Although the Island has a wealth of amazing events, without a doubt, the Ventnor Fringe Festival is my favourite. To see this independent festival grow into the spectacle that it is today has been a real joy. It brings a whole new audience to Ventnor and with it, a real party vibe to our doorstep for the 10-day duration, it’s not to be missed.

If I only had an hour on the Island, I’d probably head down to The True Food Kitchen in Niton for lunch during the summer months but would try to fit in a little walk to St Catherine’s lighthouse or a quick swim, breathtaking scenery and excellent food!

For more information on Sophie’s work and to shop, visit honeybournejewellery.com. Find more Inspirational Islanders on pages 47 and 78.

Room at the inn

Autumn and winter are the ideal time for exploring the Isle of Wight's abundance of charming, cosy pubs. Whether it's warming up with a hearty meal after braving a bracing and blustery walk on one of our beautiful beaches, or huddling around a log fire with a tippie while catching up with your loved ones, the Island's public houses offer the perfect retreat.



The large, yet snug dining room at The Bargeman's Rest is packed to the rafters with nautical paraphernalia.

COASTAL COMFORTS

Locals know that a walk along one of the Island's many coastal paths is always a fantastic plan whatever the season, but wintery walks mean you're far more likely to be battered by the strong, and let's face it, sometimes wet, coastal winds. Luckily there are plenty of pubs to shield you from the elements.



Enjoy freshly caught fish and warming seasonal dishes at The Spyglass Inn where muddy boots and well-behaved dogs are welcome.

Ideally situated at the start of the Ventnor Coastal Path, The Spyglass Inn provides stunning sea views and a nautical charm that's hard to resist. The pub's festive menu boasts locally caught fish and a selection of warming seasonal dishes. Also a stone's throw away from the beach is the Steamer Inn, in Shanklin, a pub that promises hearty portions and a warm welcome. Its position on the promenade makes it the ideal haven for those strolling along Shanklin Esplanade. Both pubs are popular with dog walkers and welcome well-behaved dogs and muddy boots.



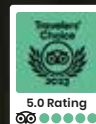
The Steamer Inn is located on Shanklin Esplanade and is ideally placed for a pitstop after a walk along the promenade.

BEST FOR A BEER

Those looking for a proper local pint fear not! There is an abundance of Island watering holes that are guaranteed to warm both body and soul.

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Many of the meals at the Firkin' Deck Restaurant and Bar at Goddard's Brewery make use of their ales – like this beer battered fish and chips.

Goddards Brewery is a must-visit for any beer enthusiast and is the oldest brewery on the Island. In their purpose-built visitor facility, you can sample a range of their award-winning beers and ales at the Firkin' Deck Restaurant and Bar, all of which are brewed onsite just metres away from your seat. You may even catch the team at work from the restaurant's observation deck during your visit.

The Pilot Boat Inn on the other hand is one of the latest additions to the craft beer scene. Owned by the Wight Knuckle Brewery, this quirky boat-shaped little pub on the corner in Bembridge acts as the taproom for the brewery, where you can try all of their core range and seasonal beers, as well as grab a pizza or a bite to eat. The inn also offers themed nights and has accommodation available with five en suite rooms.



The Pilot Boat Inn is a quirky boat-shaped little pub at Bembridge.

For the true connoisseurs, a trip to Newport Ale House is a must-visit. This friendly, independent free house is the smallest on the Isle of Wight. It's got bags (or should that be barrels?) of old-fashioned charm and serves a selection of local ales, beers and ciders directly from the cask – which recently earned it recognition from the Isle of Wight branch of CAMRA (the Campaign for Real Ale) and the accolade of being their 'Pub of the Year'.



Pop into the Newport Ale House – this pint-sized pub has bags of old-fashioned charm

RURAL RETREATS

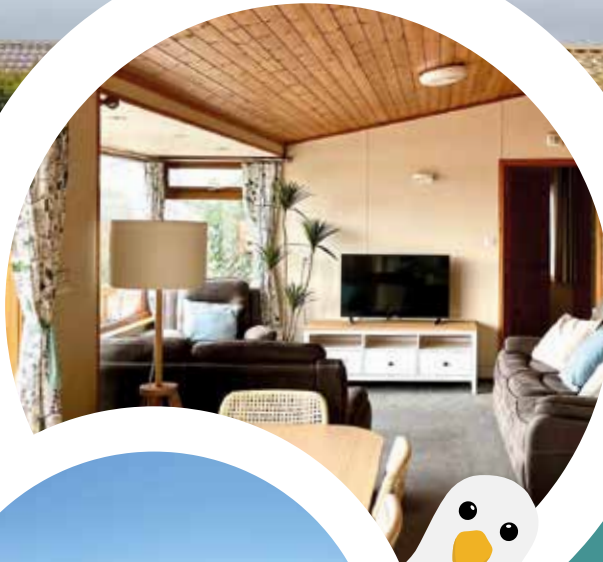
Sometimes you just want to get away from all the noise, hustle and bustle of everyday life, and experience true, undisturbed relaxation.

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www.oldmill.co.uk





Situated near the Tennyson Down trail and The Needles, The Highdown Inn at Totland is warm and welcoming.

The Blacksmiths is perfect for those who would still like to enjoy panoramic, countryside views, but from the comfort of a warm interior. The expansive windows allow for fantastic views, where you can see livestock grazing in the surrounding field and even the Solent in the distance. Enjoy it with one of their infamous Sunday Roasts.

Over in Totland, you can find The Highdown Inn. Warm and welcoming, it's the very definition of a true country pub with a large open hearth and rolling green hills as far as the eye can see. Their variety of seasonal dishes and local ales are sure to warm you up on even the coldest of days and is ideally situated mere moments away from the Tennyson Down trail and the iconic Needles if you're in need of a pitstop on your hike.



The home-made 'Shortcrust Pastry Newchurch Pie' at the Blacksmiths is the stuff of legends!

TOWN-CENTRE TAVERNS

Conveniently located in the heart of Newport, The Castle Inn is perfect for those looking to stay close to the town centre. With a lively atmosphere, frequent entertainment and live music, it's an ideal spot for a few evening drinks with friends. Regular food offers also ensure that this historic pub is friendly on the pocket too!



If you like great value pub grub and a lively atmosphere, then head to The Castle Inn – you might need to arrive early to get a spot by the open fire though!

Also in Newport, The Bargeman's Rest is renowned for its large yet snug dining room and generous portions of hearty, proper pub food. On the edge of the River Medina, the pub is packed full of maritime paraphernalia and is a great place to refuel after a long afternoon of Christmas shopping.

For more ideas on where to eat and drink, see pages 50–79 or visit wightlink.co.uk/explorer.

Thomas Spence

Autumn Wonders and Winter Tales Await!

As the leaves begin to fall and the nights draw in, come and experience our Sanctuary without the busy summer crowds. We're open all year round, so you can enjoy a day out with our rescued animals in every season!

Events this Autumn & Winter

October Half Term
MYTHS AND LEGENDS

KIDS 2 FOR 1 OFFER!

December
CHRISTMAS CRAFT EVENTS

WILDHEART WINTER WONDERLAND

SELECTED DATES

Book your tickets online

SCAN ME TODAY!



OPEN ALL YEAR



wildheart
animal isle of wight
sanctuary

Yaverland Road, Sandown, PO36 8QB

wildheartanimalsanctuary.org



Our next rescue
'Project Bears'

Brothers Benji
and Balu in
Azerbaijan



wildheartanimalsanctuary.org/project-bears

MAP KEY

1. Isle of Wight Fudge Company
2. Say It With Brownies
3. Island Roasted
4. Briddlesford Farm
5. Godshill Orchards
6. Isle of Wight Tomatoes
7. Goddard's Brewery
8. The Garlic Farm
9. It's About Thyme
10. Isle of Wight Distillery
11. Grace's Bakery
12. Wight Whisky



Christmas party nights, menus,
Isle of Wight hampers and gifts...
Come to Briddlesford,
we've got it all wrapped up!



**BRIDDLESFORD
FARM**



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DAIRY | SHOP | CAFÉ
FARM TOURS
HERITAGE CENTRE

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Call us on 01983 882885
Follow us on X (Twitter) and Facebook

briddlesford.co.uk

NUMBER 1 BUS PASSES RIGHT OUTSIDE THE DOOR



W.M.A.H.M
WIGHT MILITARY AND HERITAGE MUSEUM



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



NEW FOR SUMMER 2024
Islander Aircraft Simulator

Churchills our Licensed Tea Room is open daily where you can enjoy light refreshments or one of our delicious homemade meals and a selection of hot and cold drinks.



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

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



Registered charity 1159529

Christmas gifts for foodies...

The Isle of Wight Fudge Company
Handmade Local Fudge
Price By Weight **1**

Sweet, creamy and incredibly soft, this Yarmouth-made fudge is sure to go down a treat. Heated in copper kettles and creamed on marble, flavours include decadent treacle toffee, sophisticated Old Jamaica and nostalgic peanut butter. You can even watch Tim and Sally whipping it up from their shop in St. James' Square.




 **Isle of Wight Fudge Company, Yarmouth**

Isle of Wight Tomatoes
Makhani Tomato Curry Sauce **6**
£4.50 (400g)



Want to leave something comforting and warm for Santa after his chilly round of present delivery? Then pop this silky and aromatic Punjabi-inspired curry sauce under the tree – made from vine-ripened Arretton tomatoes! Handmade in small batches, it goes perfectly with vegetables, fish or even leftover turkey.

 iowtomatoes.co.uk

Say It With Brownies
Chocolate Brownie Selection £14.99 (6 pieces) **2**

For some Christmas cheer that fits conveniently through a letterbox, order some sweet treats from Say It With Brownies. Baked by Anita in the historic village of Shorwell, each handmade batch can include up to four different flavours of your choosing. Pick from walnut, honeycomb, Rolo, Biscoff, salted caramel and more.

Exclusive offer for Wightlife readers: save 15% when you enter the voucher code 'Wightlife' when ordering.


 sayitwithbrownies.co.uk




Your Lunch.
Handmade by
Grace's Bakery

Every Grace's sandwich is made in Ryde, by hand, using our own freshly baked bread.

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



 **scan me**

3 Island Roasted Burundi Nyagishiru Single Origin Coffee £11 (250g)

For anyone struggling to keep their eyes open during another showing of *The Great Escape*, try this light and fruity coffee – roasted in Newport! Grown by a collective of smallholders in the relatively flat lands of the Muyinga Province of Burundi, this brew comes with hints of wild strawberry, honey and Oolong tea.



🛒 Caffè Isola, Newport
📍 islandroasted.co.uk

Bridlesford Farm Dairy Fetter Cheese £4.70 (200g)

Give your festive cheeseboard a little je ne sais quoi with the swanky addition of some artisan cheese from Bridlesford Farm. For over a hundred years, the Griffin family have kept pedigree Guernsey cattle in the green fields above Newport. Now you can enjoy their rich and creamy cheeses, including this sharp and salty “fetter”.

🛒 **Bridlesford Farm**
📍 **bridlesford.co.uk** **4**



Godshill Orchards Cherry Jam £4 (227g) **5**

Liven up those Christmas canapés with a dollop of Godshill goodness. This locally bubbled jam is made from Isle of Wight cherries, harvested from the Medway family’s 4,000 cherry trees in Godshill. It also makes a great Christmas dinner stand-in if someone forgot to buy the cranberry sauce (again)!



🛒 Vivienne’s Larder, Godshill Orchards, Godshill
📍 godshillorchards.co.uk

THE SPYGLASS INN

Over 30 years of stunning views, great food, real ales and live music

thespyglass.com | 01983 855338 | PO38 1JX

VENTNOR SEAFRONT

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ventnorseafront.co.uk | 07484 174872 | PO38 1JP

THE MET
WINE · TAPAS · COFFEE

Freshly brewed coffee, fine wine and delicious food right on Ventnor Seafront

themetwinebar.co.uk | 01983 853544 | PO38 1JP

Grace's Bakery Mini Breakfast In Bed £18.50

Before the family chef embarks on the marathon session of turkey basting and potato roasting, treat them to a special breakfast in bed. Assembled by Grace's Bakery, this enticing assortment includes local tea or coffee and Island-made raspberry jam as well as croissants and a cinnamon loaf fresh from the ovens of Grace's H.Q. in Ryde.

📍 gracesbakery.uk



11

Isle of Wight Distillery Mermaid Spiced Rum £41 (70cl)

Give Nan something different to sip (rather than the usual glass of sherry) as she sits down to watch the King's Speech. Spicy and smooth with caramel notes, this enticing rum from the Isle of Wight distillery is expertly crafted from a blend of Caribbean spirits and handpicked botanicals.

📍 isleofwightdistillery.com



It's About Thyme Banger £5.50 (6 sausages)

If you're looking to add a whole new layer of snazzy to this year's pigs in blankets, then try a hearty, local sausage. Using free-range Isle of Wight pork and made in their on-site Shanklin butchery, these It's About Thyme Bangers include the appetising additions of smoked bacon, red onion, garlic, parsley and roasted red peppers.

📍 itsaboutthyme.co.uk

Please note: all details and prices were correct at time of going to press (September 2024) but may be subject to change. Please check availability with individual retailers.

Goddard's Brewery Riptide Red Ale £33 (12 bottles)

If your chief decorator needs a break from untangling those reams and reams of twinkly lights, pass them a well-earned bottle of frothy local ale from Goddard's Brewery. From the new Brewed in the Bay range, as part of a collaboration with Boojum&Snark, this Riptide Red, is a citrusy Irish-style red beer, made with American hops, adding a little bitter aftertaste.

📍 goddardsbrewery.com



Garlic Farm Wonky Wight Rustic Garlic £12 (10 Bulbs)

To take that stuffing up a notch, or to turn those parsnips into an aromatic wonder, try incorporating some wonky garlic bulbs from the Newchurch-based Garlic Farm. Fighting food waste, each bag contains a mix of British, French and Spanish bulbs that wouldn't normally make the grade (but still taste pretty unbeatable).

8

📍 thegarlicfarm.co.uk



Wight Whisky Signature Malt Blend £42 (70cl)

Fruity and smooth with a creamy, honey finish – this carefully balanced and blended Wight Whisky would be a welcome addition to any stocking in need of filling. Made from Isle of Wight barley, Knighton spring water and distilled on the Nunwell Estate this tasty dram's local provenance is pretty hard to beat.

📍 wightwhisky.com



James Rayner

Inspirational Islanders: Andrew Dowden

Ceramics and mixed media artist

An Islander for over 30 years, Andrew now wouldn't choose any other place to live. The continually changing landscapes and seascapes inspire his distinctive handmade ceramics and artwork. He became an artist whilst researching a book on Isle of Wight Pottery, 'A Century of Ceramics', after watching a pot being thrown on a wheel. He has co-organised several successful historical Isle of Wight pottery exhibitions and exhibited across the Island.

"Everyone says this I know, but the Island is such a special place to live; and has been a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve since 2019. As Islanders we are most fortunate to benefit from so many dramatic landscapes and seascapes; I love the winter months, but even during the summer there is always a quiet place you can escape to.

My favourite place has to be Quarr Abbey. As soon as you turn off the main road, down the tree-lined drive, a calm descends. The landscaped grounds are green and leafy, and the magnificent brick church, with its unique architecture, is visible from almost every spot. There's a farm shop, a great tearoom and, of course, there is the art gallery which has a changing exhibition every week.

There are so many beaches around the Island, each one having its own special or unique feature – but my favourite is at Osborne House, followed by Brighstone beach. Both have inspired my artwork. Osborne beach is mainly sandy and surrounded by trees. The seaside café serves great coffee and scones; and it's a great place to sit in a deckchair and relax. Brighstone beach is sandy with high cliffs, and my wife and I love walking there at sunset.

There are so many great walks on the Island! A few favourites: Being an English Heritage member, walking around the grounds at Osborne House at any time of year is good for my health and well-being, and it's always inspirational for my artwork. The gentle hike up to Shanklin and St Martin's Downs is another good one, and worth it for the views at the top across to Tennyson Down in one direction, and the open sea in the other.

The Island has such a creative community: musicians, artists, festivals, exhibitions, shows, theatre, but my favourite event is the annual Wolverton Manor Garden Fair. Set in the glorious Shorwell countryside, with the Elizabethan manor presiding, there's always plenty going on, with over 150 plant and craft stalls, displays, music and activities.

If I only had an hour on the Island I would have to visit Quarr Abbey. The grounds are lovely, the atmosphere is peaceful and relaxing, there's lots to see – including the Quarr pigs – and learn about the Abbey and its fascinating history, walks and wildlife – and the coffee is great!"

For more details about Andrew's work and upcoming events, visit andrewdowden.co.uk. Find more Inspirational Islanders on pages 35 and 78.

Green news: sustainability update

Even though our hybrid flagship Victoria of Wight came into service 6 years ago, sustainability is still our priority. She has been a fantastic addition to our fleet, but there is much more to do.

Powered by hybrid energy, from a combination of batteries and conventional engines, she sails round the clock, using 20 per cent less fuel and producing 17 per cent fewer carbon emissions than ships of a similar size.

Victoria of Wight can carry up to 178 cars and more than 1,000 passengers on every crossing between Portsmouth and Fishbourne, Isle of Wight.

We plan to switch to all-electric ferries once the right power sources are available at our ports. Cutting emissions is essential to making our ferry services more environmentally friendly.

Most recently we installed solar panels at our ports in Gunwharf Road Portsmouth, Lymington and Fishbourne. We are also looking at installing solar panels on our ferries.

In the first six months of 2024, 52,085kW of power was generated by our solar panels, enough to boil 473,501 litres of water for 1,894,004 cups of tea or coffee
(*based on a 250ml serving).

We are actively increasing our recycling rates and we've installed a new waste compactor at our Portsmouth Gunwharf port. Not only does this decrease the volume of our waste, it makes it easier to manage and reduces the number of trips needed to transport the waste to a landfill or recycling centre, saving fuel.

In our food outlets we prioritise products that are grown, harvested, or produced close to home. By doing so, we minimise food miles – the distance food travels from farm to table – ensuring that our food is fresher and more eco-friendly. This is why you'll find milk from Briddlesford Farm Dairy in our Island Roasted coffees and sandwiches from Grace's Bakery.



Solar panels have been installed at our port in Gunwharf Road Portsmouth

As part of our Green Solent Project, we work with several environmental organisations. Blue Marine Foundation maintains thriving oyster nurseries at our Lymington port and the University of Portsmouth marine scientists have placed cuttlefish habitats under Ryde Pier and at Portsmouth Harbour to gain new insights into the lives of the marine molluscs.



Victoria of Wight, our hybrid flagship, came into service 6 years ago.

We work with Forestry England and the Roy Dennis Wildlife Foundation to transport young white-tailed eagles from Scotland for release on the Isle of Wight.

We help white-tailed eagles, oysters, cuttlefish and wildlife reserves thrive through our partnerships.



We work closely with marine scientists from the University of Portsmouth to deliver outreach activities to Isle of Wight primary schools.

We're also a partner of Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust, supporting its reserves team to cross the Solent and to rewild the Island's natural environment.

We host marine scientists from the University of Portsmouth onboard and at our ports to deliver outreach activities including for children from Isle of Wight primary schools. We also work with the Solent Seascape Project, working to restore, protect and connect nature within the Solent. This is the first seascape-scale marine restoration project in the UK.

The Solent Seascape Project is an official United Nations Decade Action that contributes towards international goals for the protection and restoration of marine biodiversity.

It is unique as it recognises the critical role of connectivity across key habitats - salt marshes, seagrass beds, oyster reefs and seabird sites - due to the collective benefits they provide for people and nature.

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

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
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- 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



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.



HEATED INDOOR POOL

Pool Party Hire
Non-Residents Welcome

CHILDREN'S SOFT PLAY ROOM

For Hire Under 5's

BALLROOM

For Hire, Pine Sprung Floor (10m x 7m)

PLUS MORE

Coffee shop
Group/Schools Welcome
Easy Access To Cliff Lift

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01983 861 111

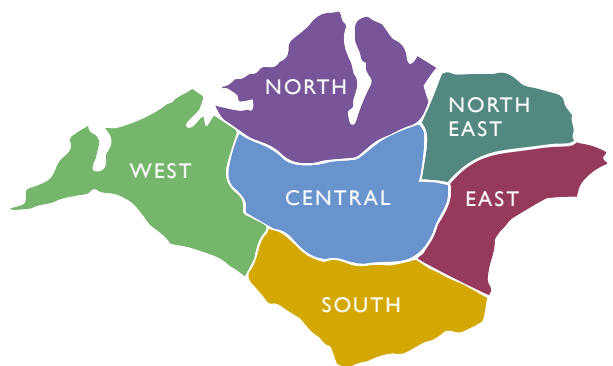
www.oceanviewhoteliow.co.uk
1 – 5 Park Road, Shanklin, PO37 6BB

Island destinations

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

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!



Tread the boards on Yarmouth Pier and admire the views across the Solent.

54 NORTH

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

56 NORTH EAST

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

60 EAST

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

64 SOUTH

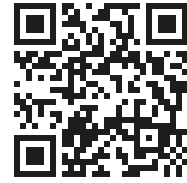
'Back of the Wight' following the rugged southern coastline from Luccombe and Bonchurch to Ventnor and Niton.

68 WEST

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

74 CENTRAL

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



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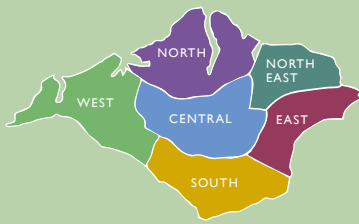
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wightkarting.co.uk

RYDE, PO33 1QS
01983 565366





Lymington

Lymington to Yarmouth
car/passenger ferry
40 mins



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

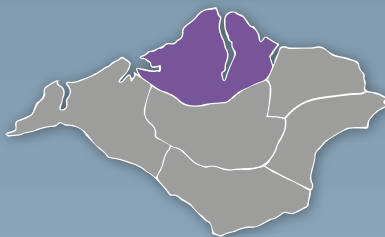
Yarmouth



ATTRACTIONS

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|--|
| 1. Amazon World Zoo Park p29 | 14. Oasis p2–3 & 23 |
| 2. Arreton Barns p9 | 15. Osborne p92 (back page) |
| 3. Blackgang Chine p65 | 16. Shanklin Chine p13 |
| 4. Brading Roman Villa p23 | 17. Shanklin Theatre p84 |
| 5. Briddlesford Farm p43 | 18. Spinnaker Tower p81 |
| 6. Carisbrooke Castle p92 (back page) | 19. Strings Bar & Venue p76 |
| 7. Dinosaur Isle p49 | 20. The Garlic Farm p79 |
| 8. Farringford p70 | 21. The Old Smithy p25 |
| 9. Isle of Wight Distillery p83 | 22. Ventnor Botanic Garden p11 |
| 10. Isle of Wight Pearl p69 | 23. Wight Karting p51 |
| 11. Isle of Wight Steam Railway p21 | 24. Wight Military & Heritage Museum p44 |
| 12. Monkey Haven p37 | 25. Wildheart Animal Sanctuary p41 |
| 13. Naturezones p77 | 26. Yarmouth Castle p92 (back page) |

North



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

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

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

"It is impossible to imagine a prettier spot"

—
Queen Victoria

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

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



Queen Victoria's holiday home, Osborne, is beautiful whatever the weather.



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
0370 333 1181
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



The Mermaid at the Royal Yacht Squadron, Cowes, sculpted by Jonathan Wylder.



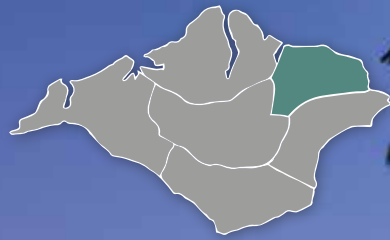
Cowes Web App
Explore the best of Cowes



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.

North East



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

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

Ryde is where you find our FastCat port and passengers will travel down the UK's oldest pleasure pier. Ryde Pier was built in 1814 and here at Wightlink, we continue to invest in maintaining this piece of UK history.

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

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

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

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

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

—
Edward Lear



Seagrove Bay at dawn is a tranquil spot for a stroll.



ATTRACTIONS

Isle of Wight Steam Railway



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

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



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



For more inspiration visit
wightlink.co.uk/explorer



Wight Karting



Fun for all generations! Open all year round and each weekday in school holidays. Book in advance online for small groups and individuals aged 8–88+ or for 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



This independent, unique and quirky ladies boutique is 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 and 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
christmasimagarium.com

The Isle of Wight's bookshop on The Green.
Here for the love of reading for over 35 years.

THE GOOSE

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

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

OFFICIAL STOCKIST OF

Bellissima

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

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

The Goose



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

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



ACCOMMODATION

Old Mill Holiday Park



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

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

St Helens Coastal Resort



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

Field Lane, St Helens, PO33 IUX
0330 127 4616
 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 one 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



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 IPX
01983 613653
 isleofwightdistillery.com



The Seaview Hotel



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

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



WINTER WARMERS

Dine with us for some amazing deals this Winter!
Enjoy your favourite meals with our special 2 for £23.00 offer.



Monday: Curry Night

Dive into the rich and aromatic flavours of our delicious curries.

Wednesday: Pie Night

Relish in the comforting goodness of our hearty pies.



Friday: Fish & Chips

Indulge in the classic, crispy fish and chips everyone loves.

Available Lunch and Dinner until Friday 28th March 2025.



7 consecutive years

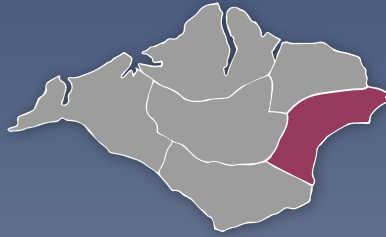


'A class act'
– THE TIMES

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



East



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

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

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

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

—
Jane Austen, Mansfield Park

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

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

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



Sandown's iconic pier provides old fashioned seaside fun whatever the weather.



ATTRACTIONS

Brading Roman Villa



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

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



Dinosaur Isle



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

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

Shanklin 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. Seasonal exhibitions, tea gardens, nature and heritage displays and antiques gift centre. Open until 3 November 2024.

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

For more inspiration visit
wightlink.co.uk/explorer

Shanklin Theatre



Shanklin Theatre is open all year round offering great entertainment from festive pantomimes and live music, to comedians including Ed Byrne and Frank Skinner together with a diverse selection of top quality tribute acts.

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

The Wildheart Animal Sanctuary



Situated opposite the glorious sandy beach in Sandown Bay, the Wildheart Animal Sanctuary delivers an inspirational experience. The friendly atmosphere 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 yourself. With kids' play areas and a spacious café.

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



ACCOMMODATION

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

SPOTLIGHT IOW
PRESENTS

Sleeping Beauty

THE SPELLBINDING
FAMILY PANTOMIME

SHANKLIN THEATRE

DECEMBER 2024
2pm: 21st-24th, 26th-28th, 30th & 31st
3pm: 29th 6pm: 21st-23rd, 27th 28th & 30th

JANUARY 2025
2pm: 1st

TICKET PRICES
Age 2-4 £18 | Under 16's £20
Seniors £22 | Adults £25

Party Rates available
Discounts for blue light card holders
Price include Shanklin Theatre's booking fee

Relaxed performance December 29th at 11am
Adapted to create a welcoming and accessible environment
for our customers with sensory needs and disabilities

Box Office 01983 868000
shanklintheatre.com



Family Holidays

The Seascape

- AWARD WINNING
- SLEEPS 6
- HOT TUB
- SEA VIEWS
- 80M LANDSCAPE GARDEN
- BBQ
- EV CHARGING



SCAN HERE TO BOOK

07775 764246 | info@theseascape.co.uk | Book direct at www.theseascape.co.uk



Blueberrys Café



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

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

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



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

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 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



Vectis Holiday Homes



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.

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



Whitecliff Bay Holiday Park



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

Hillway Road, Bembridge, PO35 5PL
 0330 127 4616
 awayresorts.co.uk



FOOD & DRINK



Blueberrys Café



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

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

Fisherman's Cottage



Nestled beneath Shanklin Chine at the end of Shanklin Esplanade, Fisherman's Cottage is 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. Open until 3 November 2024.

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

For more inspiration visit wightlink.co.uk/explorer



Spectacular skies and reflections at Bembridge lifeboat station.

Grace's Bakery



Grace's is the perfect place to call into after a blustery walk on the beach or exploring the shops at 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.uk

The Best Dressed Crab



Situated in Bembridge, preparing the most delicious crab and lobster direct from the fishing boat. Enjoy dressed crab, tubs of crab, whole crabs and lobsters, prepared lobsters, giant crab claws and spider crab claws. Come and eat in this lovely floating café and enjoy the fantastic views of the 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 0EN
01983 406223
bradingromanvilla.org.uk

The Harbour View



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

Embankment Road, Bembridge,
PO35 5NR
01983 872742

The Steamer Inn



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

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

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



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



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

Try our speciality seafood platter for two. Fully licensed.

Please note: we will be closed during January.



Visit us at: www.thebestdressedcrabintown.co.uk

01983 872742

Fully Licensed



Harbour View Café
CAFÉ & BISTRO

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



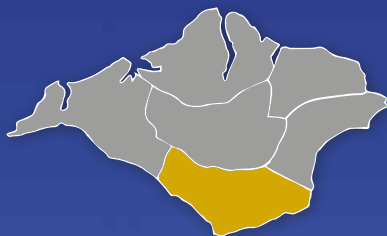
Look out for our new winter menu on our facebook page
Closed in January



The Harbour View Cafe, Bembridge IOW

Embankment Rd, Bembridge Harbour, PO35 5NR

South



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

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

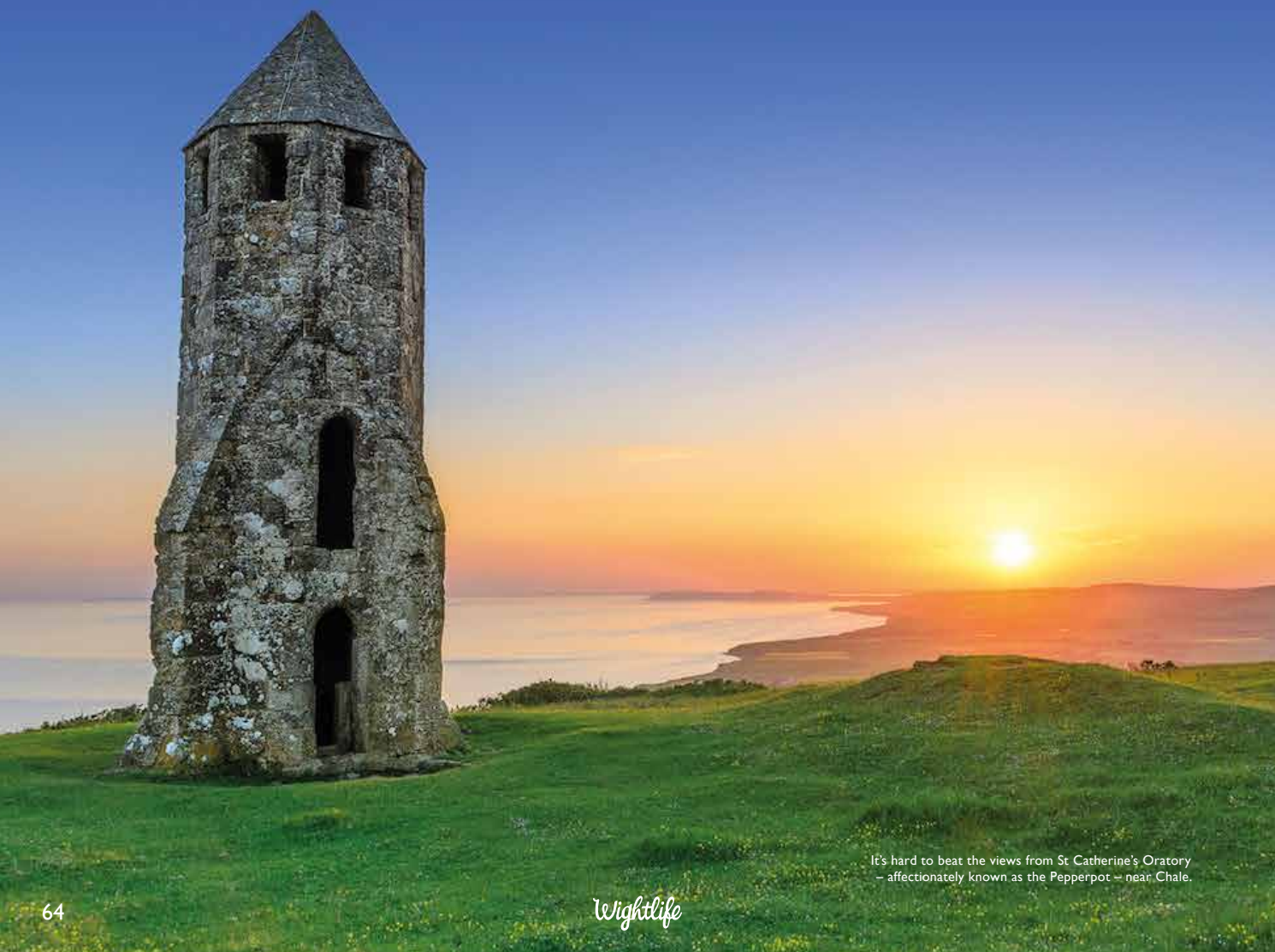
If you're looking for a bracing walk, trek past the iconic Spyglass pub through to Steephill Cove. It's an Island gem at any time of the year where one of the cafés serves up an Island favourite, crab pasties.

"This island is a little paradise"

—
Karl Marx

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

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



It's hard to beat the views from St Catherine's Oratory – affectionately known as the Pepperpot – near Chale.



ATTRACTIONS

Blackgang Chine



Enjoy an action-packed family day out at the UK's oldest amusement park with thrilling rides and Lands of Imagination to explore. Become a rootin' tootin' sheriff in Cowboy Town or carefully tread through Restricted Area 5 as a courageous dinosaur keeper. From epic new adventures like Extinction, the Island's only 360 ride, to nostalgic attractions like Rumpus Mansion you'll unlock core memories and make new magical ones. Open until 1 November 2024. See website for opening times and tickets.

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

Ventnor Botanic Garden



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

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



SHOPPING

Honeybourne Jewellery



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

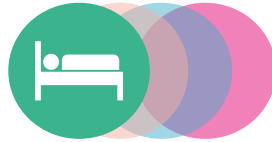
3 Church Street, Ventnor,
PO38 1SW
01983 854618
honeybournejewellery.com

Mermaid Lights



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

07885 720503



ACCOMMODATION

The Buddle Smugglers Inn



Situated at the heart of Niton Undercliff, The Buddle offers four charming rooms above a cosy character pub below. Stylishly decorated, each room has been renovated to a high standard, with sumptuous beds and modern bathroom facilities making for a comfortable stay.

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

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. 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

25TH, 26TH, 29TH, 30TH, 31ST OCT

Fiesta OF THE Dead

Enter the Land of the Dead

Dazzling Lights. Giant Inflatables. and NEW Fire Show
Await at This Award Winning Halloween Event!

BOOK TICKETS TODAY AT BLACKGANGCHINE.COM

SEE THE SEASON OUT WITH OUR BIGGEST, MOST DAZZLING DISPLAY EVER!

£15

FIREWORK FINALE

SATURDAY 2ND NOVEMBER

BOOK TICKETS TODAY AT BLACKGANGCHINE.COM

HONEYBOURNE
JEWELLERY

HONEYBOURNE JEWELLERY

Est. 2003, bespoke jewellery handmade on the premises
3 Church St, Ventnor, IOW. PO38 1SW. 01983 854618
www.honeybournejewellery.com

Facebook and Instagram icons.

ISLE OF WIGHT MERMAID BOTTLE LIGHTS

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



Great gifts
at any time
of the year



NEW
USB RECHARGEABLE
LED LIGHTS AVAILABLE!

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

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

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

For all enquiries please contact David
mermaidlightsiw@gmail.com
Call or Text: 07885 720503

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

The Wellington Hotel



The Wellington Hotel Restaurant offers visitors a taste of sophistication with its seasonal 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 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 autumn sunshine in this natural sun trap after a walk on the beach or around the town. The perfect hot-spot for whiling away an afternoon.

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



CHAMPAGNE+™ FROMAGE

GREAT TOGETHER... ANY TIME



CHAMPAGNE+FROMAGE BY THE WELLINGTON FIRE

Champagne+Fromage opened its doors in Covent Garden in 2011 and since then it's been an institution. We source all our products exclusively from small independent producers in France to deliver a magical paired experience!



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.

THE GREAT FESTIVE LUNCH

AT THE
WELLINGTON
HOTEL

Join us for a Festive Lunch!

This holiday season, indulge in the ultimate festive dining experience with our special Festive Feast, available every Friday, Saturday, and Sunday. Savor the flavors of the season with a mouthwatering lunch that brings together the best of holiday traditions and festive delights.

Our Festive Feast is designed to warm your heart and satisfy your taste buds, featuring a sumptuous spread of classic holiday dishes, seasonal favorites, and decadent desserts. Whether you're gathering with family, friends, or colleagues, our festive lunch is the perfect way to celebrate the joy and warmth of the season.

Don't miss out on this delightful culinary experience reserve your table today and make your weekends truly merry and bright!

Festive Lunch Dates: December 1st, 6th, 8th, 13th, 15th, 20th, 21st & 22nd

To Book: email info@thewellington.co.uk or call 01983 856600



BOOK C+F



Belgrave Road, Isle of Wight, PO38 1JH.

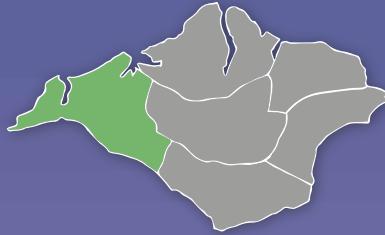
01983 856 600 | info@thewellington.co.uk

www.thewellington.co.uk



BOOK FESTIVE LUNCH

West



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

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

The rugged coastline along the iconic Military Road is home to some of the best fossil-hunting beaches in the UK. With over 25 species of dinosaurs discovered to have lived on the Island, Brook Beach is a must for any budding or established palaeontologist as at this time of year, with the rougher seas, you have a good chance of discovering a fossil or two. Plus the Iguanodon foot casts along the mud flats are a fascinating find.

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

—
Alfred, Lord Tennyson

Further along the road towards Freshwater is Farringford, the former home of Alfred, Lord Tennyson, Poet Laureate. If you’re feeling energetic the steep walk up Tennyson Down to the monument is rewarded by panoramic views across the Channel and over the iconic Needles. The white chalk stacks, with the red and white lighthouse, are instantly recognisable as the Isle of Wight thanks to adorning many holiday postcards. Take the chair lift down to Alum Bay, past the coloured, sandy cliffs, at The Needles Landmark Attraction, which promises a day full of family fun all year round.

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



Freshwater Bay is beautiful on a frosty day.



ATTRACTIONS



Farringford



Farringford was the main home of the renowned Victorian poet Alfred, Lord Tennyson, from 1853–1892. Outside, the estate gardens have been returned to the original informal planting scheme, including an award-winning walled garden and parkland walk with enchanting views of the house and High Down. The gardens are open Tuesday–Saturday until 26 October 2024. See website for 2025 house opening dates.

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



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 forget to grab a bite to eat at The Pearl Café, which champions small-scale local producers. It's the perfect spot to enjoy great quality Island delicacies.

Chilton Chine, Military Road, Brighstone, PO30 4DD
01983 740352
iowpearl.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. Open until 3 November 2024.

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



SHOPPING

XVstripes



Inspired by a love of coastal living and the ocean, XVstripes captures the essence of laidback luxe for your bedroom and home. The collection includes bedding, cushions and throws, 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
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xvstripes.com



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Bedbury Lane, Freshwater Bay, PO40 9PE
01983 752500
farringford.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 127 4616
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



The Isle of Wight is renowned for being a fossil hunting hot spot for good reason – keep your eyes peeled for the dinosaur foot casts on Brook Beach.

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



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FOOD & DRINK



Grace's Bakery



Situated right next to the Wightlink Yarmouth to Lymington ferry terminal, 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.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. Championing small-scale local producers and seasonal food, 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



The Needles are arguably the Isle of Wight's most famous rock formation, and rumoured to be the most photographed too. At sunset, you can see why!

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WATERFRONT



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

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

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

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

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



[The Waterfront Bar and Restaurant](#)

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



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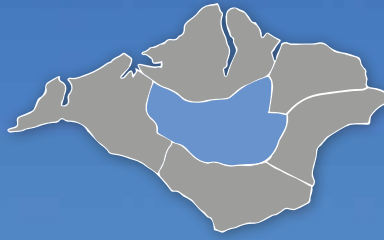
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Central



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

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

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

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

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

—
Charles Dickens

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

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



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



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



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



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
0370 333 1181
english-heritage.org.uk



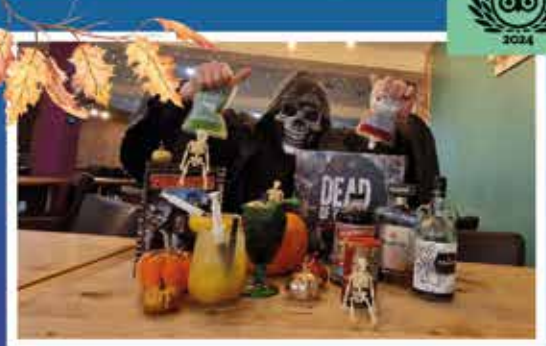
Monkey Haven – The Leaf Foundation



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 3 November 2024.

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

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Birchmore Lane, Blackwater,
PO30 3BP
01983 296110
naturezones.co.uk

The Old Smithy



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

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



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



Strings Bar & Venue



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

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

The Garlic Farm



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

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

Fields Menswear



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

108 St James' Square,
Newport, PO30 IUR
01983 522255

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

Visual Impact



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



ACCOMMODATION

The Lakes Rookley



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.

Main Road, Rookley, PO38 3LU
0330 127 4616
awayresorts.co.uk



FOOD & DRINK



**Bluebells Café at
Bridlesford 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. Bridlesford rose veal and dairy products feature in a number of signature dishes, including the home-made pies, burgers and 'Bridlesford mess' dessert.

Bridlesford Road, Wootton,
PO33 4RY
01983 882885
bridlesford.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

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Inspirational Islanders: Timothy Harris

Glass Designer and Maker

Isle of Wight Studio Glass has remained internationally pre-eminent in studio glass design and production for over half a century. Today, from the studio at Arreton Barns, master glassmaker Timothy Harris continues the family tradition. Attracted at an early age by the heat, fire and smoke of his father's studio, as soon as he could hold a blowing iron Timothy began to experiment for himself. Inspired by the Island's breathtaking scenery, flora, fauna and magical coastlines, he still finds new ways of working with hot glass – constantly experimenting in his quest for perfection.

“My first experience of the Island was as a young teenager when in 1972 I moved over with my younger brother and parents. The Island has offered me a very safe, friendly, happy environment full of inspiration to grow into and work, and it continues to do so for our ever-growing family.

My favourite place has got to be the Undercliff, which has influenced me in my work as a glass designer and maker giving me much pleasure and enjoyment, as it still does. Running along the southern coast from Niton to Bonchurch, it's a great place for a walk and you can feel like you're stepping back in time in parts.

The Isle of Wight has some beautiful beaches, but Binnel Bay (also in the Undercliff) was always a place to seek inspiration for my work and solitude. It's a hidden gem, rugged and unspoilt. My children enjoyed many a time amongst the rock pools when they were smaller.

Cuisine-wise the Island has a very diverse choice of eating and drinking establishments most of which are a delight to explore and enjoy. I'm not sure I could narrow it down to just one favourite.

One of my great distractions is the Isle of Wight Scooter Rally which takes place each year over the August bank holiday weekend. With over 5,000 riders, it is the largest gathering of scooters in the world. Celebrating all things scooter-related and iconic British cultures – it's like a carnival on two wheels!

It might sound predictable, but if I only had one hour on the Island, my first choice would always be to go to my studio and make a piece of glass.”

For more information on Timothy's work and to shop, visit isleofwightstudioglass.co.uk. Find more Inspirational Islanders on pages 35 and 47.



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 870+ 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 or burger. Booking advisable.

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

The Bargeman's Rest



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

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



The Bargeman's Rest has a cosy atmosphere and is packed with nautical charm.



The Dairyman's Daughter



The Dairyman's Daughter is a bustling freehouse pub nestled at the centre of Arretton 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, Arretton, 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

visual impact

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Portsmouth

Autumn and winter may be when other coastal destinations wind down – but not Portsmouth! In fact, some of the biggest events in the city’s calendar are coming up over the months ahead.

First is the Great South Run on 20 October, where tens of thousands of athletes head to Portsmouth to test themselves against the world’s premier 10-mile running event. The course is flat and fast so it’s ideal for setting personal bests, while the stunning views that greet runners along the way (from picturesque Old Portsmouth to the Historic Dockyard, Southsea Common and Seafront) provide ample distraction from aching legs!

We Shine Portsmouth returns from 21–23 November. The light festival is back for 2024, bringing with it fantastic – and free – light displays right across the city. Renowned artists will line up to showcase unique creations and awe-inspiring displays this November.

Of course, it wouldn’t be the winter season without a pantomime or two. Oh no it wouldn’t! Thanks to Portsmouth’s great selection of theatres and live venues, you have plenty of choice.

The ever-popular Kings panto will be Dick Whittington this year, whilst at the New Theatre Royal it’s off to the castle for Beauty and the Beast. At Portsmouth Guildhall’s Lens Studio you can witness The Snow Queen – A Frozen

Adventure, whereas the Groundlings sees Rapunzel let down her hair. Tickets for all shows are available now.



The Great South Run route takes in plenty of Portsmouth landmarks on the way!

If you’re looking instead to tick some items off the Christmas shopping list – or even get a treat for yourself – there are loads of festive markets to enjoy. Head to the Visit Portsmouth website for full dates, times and locations of all the Christmas Markets taking place at the Great Waterfront City. And don’t forget, the events listings pages are where you’ll find more information on all the above, as well as everything else on offer over the weeks and months ahead.

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

David Howells



We Shine Portsmouth fills the city with light and colour.



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Lymington & the New Forest

As the crisp autumn air sets in and the New Forest transforms into vibrant orange, yellow, and red hues, it's the perfect time to explore this magical location. Offering a stunning backdrop for seasonal activities and events – and just a stone's throw away for Wightlink's Lymington port – the New Forest is the place to be.

Jump into the spirit of Halloween with unique experiences from New Forest Activities this October. Dare to join their spooky river tours or try archery pumpkin shooting. Feel the thrill of Halloween at Exbury Gardens with its Ghost Train and gruesome trail, perfect for families seeking frightful fun.

Following Halloween, experience the magic of Christmas in the enchanting New Forest. Longdown Activity Farm's Christmas Barn is a must-visit, promising festive cheer, seasonal fun, and adorable animals. The Christmas spirit will be in full swing at Beaulieu with their New Forest VW Santa Run on 24 November.

The New Forest is also ideal for picking up unique Christmas presents. Give the gift of unforgettable encounters with vouchers for guided adventures, mindful spas, and luxury dining. Fill hampers with local produce gifts, offering a vast choice of food, drinks and crafts.

After days of autumn exploring, unwind at charming pubs. Think thatched roofs, open fireplaces, rustic decor and hearty meals. The New Forest Inn and The Waterloo

Arms are perfect for delightful evenings. Several pubs also double up as intimate places to stay, with The Filly Inn and The Trusty Servant offering snug accommodation deep in the forest.

For a home away from home, choose self-catering cottages or B&Bs. For cosy hotel escapes, the Montagu Arms Hotel and the recently renovated New Park Manor Hotel provide luxurious stays for a comfortable retreat.



Try your hand at pumpkin archery with New Forest Activities.

Autumn in the New Forest is one-of-a-kind. Experience traditional pannage, where pigs roam freely to feast on fallen acorns, and marvel at the diverse fungi and breathtaking autumn colours that cover the forest.

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

Go New Forest



Pannage in the New Forest sees pigs roam freely to feast on fallen acorns.



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DIVE IN



What's on...

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

Fiesta of the Dead at Blackgang Chine.



OCTOBER



Isle of Wight Literary Festival

3–6 October, Northwood House (IW)

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

Isle of Wight Walking Festival

5–13 October, Various locations (IW)

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



Pumpkin Festival

12–31 October (selected dates), Tapnell Farm Park (IW)

Celebrate everything pumpkin at Tapnell Farm! The Pumpkin Trail will be open on 12–13 October and throughout half term (19–31 October). There will also be a host of pumpkin-related activities taking place in the Events Barn for the Pumpkin Festival from 28–31 October, including pick your own pumpkin, gourd games, pumpkin carving, ferret racing and vintage funfair amusements. If that's not enough, tuck into seasonal treats, grab a drink at the licensed bar and enjoy live music. tapnellfarm.com



Halloween Spooktacular

4 October–2 November, Shanklin Chine (IW)

Wander the windy walkways of Shanklin Chine as things go 'bump in the night' at this family friendly event. Open daily between 10:00–21:00, with illuminations switched on from 17:00, there will be a monster mash-up of live music on selected nights, tricky trails, creepy critters, tasty treats and much more! shanklinchine.co.uk

Beer & Steam

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

Head to the 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



Open all year round hosting a full programme of professional and amateur productions.

Box Office (01983) 868000 shanklintheatre.com

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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 are available to buy online, with proceeds going towards the museum.

wightrider.co.uk

Fan TC Con

19 October, Medina
Leisure Centre (IW)



The Isle of Wight's very own comic con, Fan TC Con, returns for a third year. With celebrity guests including Frazer Hines, Sylvester McCoy and the Island's very own Quivers, as well as Q&A sessions, traders, activities, retro gaming, comic artists, award winning screen writers and much more, it's a great day out for all the family.

fantcon.net

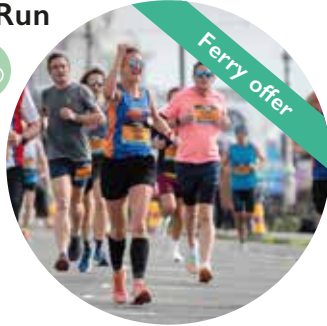
AJ Bell Great South Run

19–20 October,
Portsmouth (Mainland)



The South coast's biggest and best running event takes place in Portsmouth over a fast and flat ten mile route. The Great South Run is part of an incredible weekend of running that also includes the 5k and Junior Mini Great South Run on Saturday.

greatrun.org



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

Apple Day

19 October, Brading
Roman Villa (IW)



With a wide range of activities including arts and crafts, living history demonstrations and, of course, apple pressing, there's something for everyone at Apple Day! There will be a traditional apple press on the front lawn and Grazed Knee Cider will demonstrate turning apples into juice and how to transform the juice into delicious homemade cider. Visitors are also welcome to bring their own apples for pressing. There is also the opportunity to explore the free Autumn Nature Trail.

bradingromanvilla.org.uk



October Half Term: Myths & Legends

21 October–1 November,
Wildheart Animal
Sanctuary (IW)

Embark on a Myths and Legends adventure this October Half Term! Solve riddles, puzzles, and find a missing explorer in immersive escape rooms inspired by legendary tales. Head to the Wildheart Animal Sanctuary for a magical world of adventure. Plus, with special offer, when you buy one kids' ticket, you'll get one FREE for double the fun at half the cost!

wildheartanimalsanctuary.org

EVENT CATEGORIES:



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listings on wightlink.co.uk/explorer

For more events visit wightlink.co.uk/explorer

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY



Fiesta of the Dead

25 October–1 November
(selected dates),
Blackgang Chine (IW)

Ghost Tales

26–31 October (selected dates),
Carisbrooke Castle (IW)



Father Christmas at Osborne

30 November–22 December
(selected dates), Osborne (IW)

Santa Specials

7–8 and 13–24 December,
Isle of Wight Steam Railway (IW)



Spotlight IOW Sleeping Beauty

21 December–1 January
Shanklin Theatre (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.



Fiesta of the Dead

25 October–1 November (selected dates), Blackgang Chine (IW)

Immerse yourself in a vibrant eruption of light and colour inspired by the traditional Mexican Día de los Muertos celebration. Embark on a journey from the land of the living to the land of the dead, passing spectacular lighting displays and the spirits of the past on your way. Dance the night away with the live Mariachi band under colourful papel picado flags with street entertainment and flavours of Mexico. blackgangchine.com

No Tricks, Just Treats

25–31 October, Ventnor Botanic Garden (IW)

Looking for something different to do with the children this Halloween... then look no further! Take your boos and ghouls to Ventnor Botanic Garden where they can get creative with pumpkin carving, get messy with a slime party and even have a go at making their own 'spooky' pizza. Follow the scarecrows to see what they are spelling in the garden and you could win a prize!

botanic.co.uk

Bembridge Fireworks Night

25 October, Bembridge (IW)

Wrap up warm and head on down to Steyne Park for a fireworks spectacular hosted by Bembridge Youth and Community Centre. Gates open at 18:30 with the fireworks starting at 19:30. There will be stalls in the hall, food stalls outside, DJ and the bar will be open all night. Entry is free but donations will be appreciated, with all money raised going towards BYCC and this great village event.

facebook.com/BembridgeYCC

Ghost Tales at Carisbrooke Castle

26–31 October (selected dates), Carisbrooke Castle (IW)

Dare you experience Carisbrooke Castle after dark this Halloween? Join the storytellers on a journey through the past, with tales of ghosts, supernatural sightings and horrors from history. Tours are suitable for over 16s only, and don't forget to bring a torch – things are going to get dark... english-heritage.org.uk



NOVEMBER

Fred Dineage: How to Survive 60 Years in TV!

2 November, Shanklin Theatre (IW)

With a career spanning six decades, Fred Dineage has earned his place as one of Britain's most enduring and beloved broadcasters. During this show, the warm and witty Fred will take you on an enjoyable journey through his magnificent moments on popular programmes such as *Tell the Truth and How*, as well as his time as the face of news on *Coast To Coast* and later *Meridian Tonight*. In this trip down TV memory lane he will also share the truth behind the moments when it wasn't always 'alright on the night' with his hand-picked broadcasting bloopers and gaffs.

shanklintheatre.com



Oktoberfest Portsmouth

2 November, Portsmouth Guildhall (Mainland)

Oktoberfest is back for another year of German fun and frolics at Portsmouth Guildhall! Dust off your lederhosen, grab your friends and family and enjoy a day and night of amazing oompah music from live bands, two pint steins of German Bier, drinking games, Bratwurst and hangovers to remember.

portsmouthguildhall.org.uk

I Love Wight Pop Up Christmas Shop

9 November–24 December, The Garlic Farm (IW)

The place to pick up beautiful gifts! The I Love Wight pop up Christmas shop brings together the finest of the Island's crafts people to create a real treasure trove of unique special gifts including cards, stocking fillers, cosmetics, pottery, jewellery, knitwear, crafts and candles.

thegarlicfarm.co.uk

Winter Guided Tours at Osborne

9 November–14 March, Osborne (IW)

Take an extraordinary journey through time as you step into the grandeur of Queen Victoria and Prince Albert's beloved royal residence. During these special guided tours, you'll have the unique opportunity to delve deep into the stories and secrets of Osborne's royal household from knowledgeable staff members, wearing what Thomas Newell, a former footman, and Mrs. Smith, a former housekeeper would have worn whilst they were servants at Osborne. Access to the house will be exclusively through guided tours during this period, therefore booking is essential to secure your preferred time slot.

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 the Barn Café for free magic shows from friendly wizard, Professor Crump. Book in advance and secure your place on the train.

iwsteamrailway.co.uk

We Shine Portsmouth



21–23 November, Portsmouth (Mainland)

Step into a bright world of culture, creativity and community as We Shine Portsmouth lights up the city. Fill your dark evening with visual arts, performing arts, dance and music as local and national artists transform locations across Portsmouth with captivating light installations. Plus, explore the We Create market as local artisans showcase and sell their work. weshineportsmouth.co.uk

Frank Skinner: 30 Years of Dirt



28 November, Shanklin Theatre (IW)

Following a sell-out UK and Ireland spring tour, and after announcing a third run in the West End, comic legend Frank Skinner adds extra tour dates in Autumn 2024 for his critically acclaimed new stand-up show, '30 Years of Dirt'.

shanklintheatre.com



Christmas Craft Market



23 November, Medina Garden Centre (IW)

With over 25 talented crafters and a whole host of gifts and decorations to browse, the Christmas Craft Market is the ideal event to support local makers and businesses and stock up for Christmas. Don't forget to stop by Santa's grotto! All indoors. Plenty of free parking and large on site café. facebook.com/medinagardencentre



Northwood House Christmas Fair

30 November–1 December, Northwood House (IW)

One of the busiest Christmas events across the Island, the fair features some of the best local gift exhibitors in art, craft and produce the Island has to offer. It's the perfect inspiration for unique present buying for friends and loved ones. Free entry.

northwoodhouse.org



Santa Specials



7–8 and 13–24 December, Isle of Wight Steam Railway (IW)

The real Santa is once again making Havenstreet his official home this year. Take a magical, cosy steam train ride through the frosty countryside, before enjoying a stroll to Santa's North Pole Station where one of the Railway Elves take you to see the man himself. Climb aboard a traditionally festive decorated carriage where Santa will be waiting to hear your Christmas wishes and will have a gift for little ones in return. Head back to the main station for festive fun in the Barn Café and marvel at the Miniature Winter Wonderland. Booking is essential. iwsteamrailway.co.uk

MEET FATHER CHRISTMAS



Father Christmas at Osborne.

Father Christmas at Osborne

30 November–22 December (selected dates), Osborne (IW)



Join Father Christmas at Osborne for a magical way to start the season. Taking time out of his busy festive schedule he will tell some of his favourite seasonal stories around the Christmas tree in a group storytelling session. Then, you and your children will get the chance to meet the man himself, take photographs and make memories to treasure. Father Christmas will give every child a present to unwrap.

english-heritage.org.uk

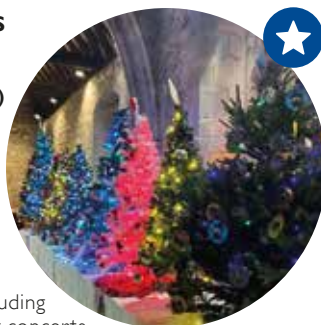
DECEMBER

Brighstone Christmas Tree Festival

5–8 December, Brighstone (IW)

Immerse yourself in the merry spirit of the season while supporting local charities with a visit to this spectacular event. View over 150 beautiful themed and decorated Christmas trees in various venues. Fun for all the family, with lots to see and do including craft demonstrations, carol singing concerts and even the opportunity to meet Santa himself. Free admission.

brighstonechristmastree.com



Christmas Craft fair

23 November, Medina Garden Centre (IW)
facebook.com/medinagardencentre

Father Christmas at Osborne

30 November–22 December*, Osborne (IW)
english-heritage.org.uk

Brighstone Christmas Tree Festival

5–8 December*, Brighstone (IW)
brighstonechristmastree.com

Santa Specials

7–8 December and 13–24 December, Isle of Wight Steam Railway (IW)
iwsteamrailway.co.uk

Meet Santa at Arreton Barns

14–15, 21 and 23–24 December, Arreton Barns (IW)
arretonbarns.co.uk

Wildheart Winter Wonderland

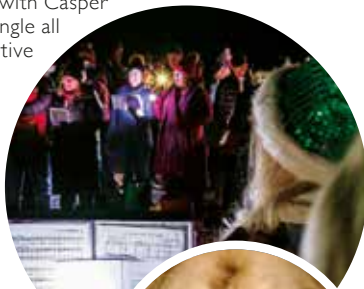
14–23 December*, Wildheart Animal Sanctuary (IW)
wildheartanimalsanctuary.org

*Selected Dates. 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.

Christmas Carols with Casper

13 December, Wildheart Animal Sanctuary (IW)

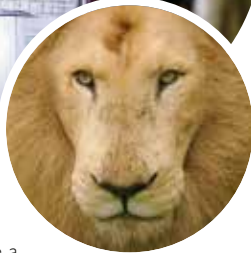
Join the Sanctuary for 'Carols with Casper' this Christmas. Get ready to jingle all the way and celebrate the festive season with a heartwarming evening of your favourite carols. Bring your family and friends to enjoy a magical night filled with classic carols, festive treats, and perhaps even a roar from Casper!



Wildheart Winter Wonderland

14–23 December (selected dates), Wildheart Animal Sanctuary (IW)

Experience the magic of Christmas at the Wildheart Winter Wonderland. Join the team and animals at the Sanctuary for a whimsical adventure with some mischievous elves as you help solve a Christmas conundrum and visit Santa in his Christmas Grotto. wildheartanimalsanctuary.org



Beauty & the Beast

13 December–5 January, New Theatre Royal (Mainland)

Experience a pantomime extravaganza that's simply the BEAST! Prepare to be enchanted by this classic tale which is full of laughs and plenty of panto fun. There's a baddy wanting boos, goodies with gags and a heroine in hot water, but what's happened to the handsome prince? Brace yourself for a spectacular adventure!

newtheatreroyal.com



The Snow Queen: A Frozen Adventure

17–30 December, Portsmouth Guildhall (Mainland)

Join the Snow Queen and her sister on a frozen adventure to reclaim her crown and learn how to use her magical powers. With evil forces plotting against them, the sisters will need all the help they can get from their friends – which include a magical reindeer and a giant snowflake!

portsmouthguildhall.org.uk



Spotlight IOW presents Sleeping Beauty

21 December–1 January, Shanklin Theatre (IW)

Wake up princes, princesses and fairy-tale fans! Get ready for an interactive adventure this Christmas as the award-winning Spotlight IOW proudly presents Sleeping Beauty, the most spellbinding pantomime of them all. This brand-new production is packed full of everything you'd want in a pantomime – sing along to captivating musical numbers, dance along with the colourful routines and get ready to laugh out loud at the hilarious twists and turns that await. Embark on a journey to a world where fairy tales come alive and laughter reigns supreme, with a show that is guaranteed fun for all the family.

shanklintheatre.com

Aladdin

21–30 December, Medina Theatre (IW)

It's the pantomime adventure you've been wishing for... experience the flying carpet ride of a lifetime as you soar through the clouds to Old Peking this Christmas and follow the adventures of Aladdin as he makes his way to the Cave of Wonders and discovers the magic that lies within! Featuring stunning scenery, colourful costumes, toe-tapping tunes, comedy by the bucketful and eye-popping special effects, this is one pantomime you won't want to miss.

medinatheatre.co.uk



Boxing Day Swim

26 December, Ventnor (IW)

The most famous Boxing Day swim event on the Island. Popular with crowds for many years, arrive early to get yourself a prime position on the Esplanade. Warm up in The Spyglass Inn afterwards!



Boxing Day Specials

26 December, Isle of Wight Steam Railway (IW)

One of the few attractions open on Boxing Day. After the indulgence of Christmas Day, settle back in a warm and cosy beautifully restored carriage and enjoy a 10-mile steam train journey through the Island's unspoilt winter landscape. Booking essential.

iwsteamrailway.co.uk



NEW YEAR'S DAY



New Year's Day Specials

1 January, Isle of Wight Steam Railway (IW)

Step into New Year with a peaceful ride through the Island's glorious winter landscape aboard one of the vintage steam trains. Settle back in a cosy carriage as you contemplate those New Year's resolutions. One of the only attractions open on New Year's Day, booking is essential

iwsteamrailway.co.uk



New Year's Day Celebrations

1 January, Sandown Esplanade (IW)

Blow away the post-Christmas cobwebs and celebrate the New Year with a spectacular fireworks display on Sandown seafront! Entry is free, but donations are gratefully appreciated.

sandowncarnival.com



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.



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Check ferry times with our live timetable look-up.



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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:

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

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

Contact us

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

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

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

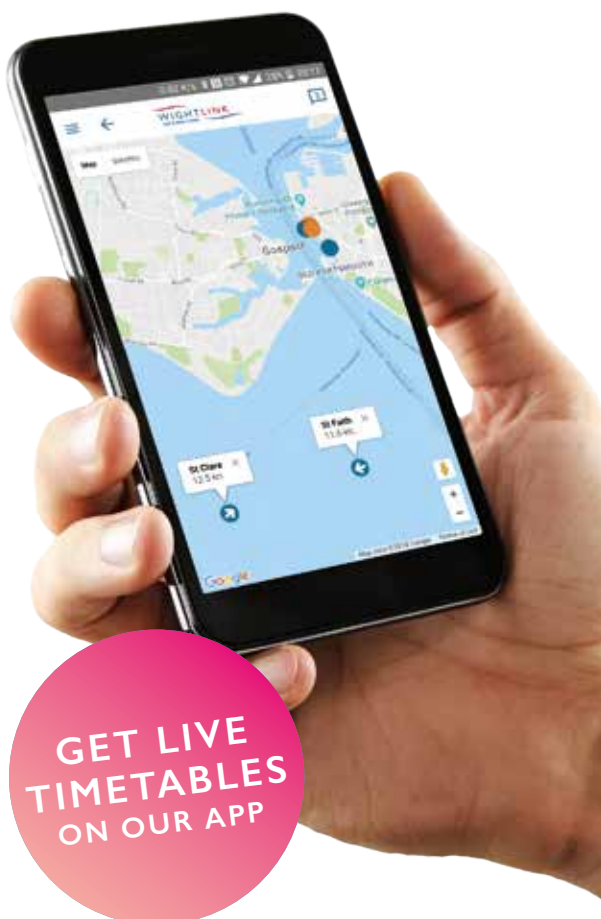
Visit wightlink.co.uk/contactus or call the Contact Centre on 0333 999 7333

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

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

Business customers

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





Useful numbers

EMERGENCY SERVICES

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

HEALTH SERVICES

For non-emergency medical matters, call NHS 111.

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

DENTAL TREATMENT

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

GETTING AROUND

Wightlink
0333 999 7333
wightlink.co.uk

Island Line
0345 600 0650
southwesternrailway.com

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

Southern Vectis
0330 0539 182
islandbuses.info

Routes designed to help visitors enjoy the Island.

LEISURE CENTRES

I Leisure
Medina, Newport
01983 823882

The Heights, Lake
01983 823881

Westridge, Ryde
01983 823883
lleisure.co.uk

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

BREAKDOWN COVER

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

Bartletts Service Station
01983 865338
bartlettsservicestation.co.uk

James Garage Services
01983 521010
jamesgarageservices.co.uk

Visitor information

Isle of Wight

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

For more details and opening times please visit: visitisleofwight.co.uk or [f/IWTravelAmbassadors](#)

NORTH

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

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

NORTH EAST

Bembridge Community Library
Church Road,
Bembridge, PO35 5NA

Isle of Wight Steam Railway
Havenstreet, PO33 4DS

Ryde Bus Station
Ryde Esplanade,
Ryde, PO33 2HE

EAST

Brading Railway Station
Station Road,
Brading, PO36 0DY

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

Vernon Cottage
1 Eastcliff Road,
Shanklin, PO37 6AA

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

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