

WIGHTLINK

FREE GUIDE

Wightlife

ISSUE 1: 2025

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RELAX &
RECHARGE

LOCAL GUIDE
WHAT'S ON
AND WHERE
TO GO

PLACES TO STAY
GOURMET
GETAWAYS

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Welcome to 2025 on the Isle of Wight

Happy New Year and welcome to 2025's first edition of **Wightlife** magazine.



WORKING TOGETHER

As a relative 'newbie' to the business, I've been busy meeting lots of customers at our ports and onboard our ships, as well as local partners such as our MPs, councillors, suppliers, community partners and other key stakeholders.

I've also had the joy of some fantastic Isle of Wight moments recently, like watching fireworks displays, taking drizzly runs along the coast at Freshwater, enjoying wonderful coffee and cake at Caffè Isola, and tasting cheese at Briddlesford's Bluebells Café (maybe I should focus more on running and less on food). These experiences continue to remind me of the special community and the wonderful destination that we're privileged to serve.

I look forward to meeting more of you at our Meet The Team events, more about this on page 8. Your feedback has been invaluable, and we're working hard to make improvements based on your suggestions.

WINTER ADJUSTMENTS

As we move through winter, we've changed our timetable to meet the Island's seasonal travel needs. Our Portsmouth to Fishbourne route operates 24 hours a day, providing reliable access even in the quieter months. During this period we're also investing in our ships and infrastructure – all eight vessels will undergo refits as part of our annual maintenance programme, alongside new concrete roadways and fenders for our ports.

A HEARTFELT THANK YOU

I couldn't be prouder of the Wightlink team for their recent successes at both the National Transport Awards and the British Travel Awards. Thanks to everyone who voted in the public polls, and my gratitude goes to my colleagues who display such care and friendliness every day.

I look forward to seeing you onboard soon.



Katy Taylor
Chief Executive



Even in the colder months Freshwater Bay is a picturesque spot. Take a stroll along the shingle and listen to the waves.

EDITOR
Jo Butt

SENIOR DESIGNER
Jo Butt

DESIGNERS
Dillon Earley and Tom Squirrell

ADVERTISING SALES
David Brooks

DISTRIBUTION MANAGER
Brian Curd

FINANCE MANAGER
Karen Barnes

PRODUCTION
Karen Barnes and Lisa Thurbon

PRINT
Precision Colour Printing

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

PHOTOGRAPHY
Tim Addison, Maria Bell, Blackgang Chine,
Julien Bourgeois, Chris Boyce, James
Bridle, Jeremy Cangialosi, Gianpaolo Mario
Photography, Tanya Goodwin, Holly Jolliffe,
Robbie Khan, Little Isle Photography, Luke
Nesbitt, Charlie Price, Shipwreck Centre
& Maritime Museum, Neil Southwell, Tom
Squires (Procam Films), Jason Swain, Tapnell
Farm, Visit Isle of Wight, Visit the New
Forest, Sam Warren (TheCamOfSam), Julian
Winslow and W. J. Nigh & Sons Ltd.

COVER SHOT
Cold Water Swimmers, Freshwater Bay
By Christian Lawrence Photography

For your own safety, please remember
to check the tide times, weather and sea
conditions before entering the water.



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



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The Needles are arguably the Isle of Wight's most photographed landmark.



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Pop on a pinny, grab a friend and learn a new skill. With workshops on everything from pottery to painting, stained glass and scent-blending, there's something for everyone.

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Our top ten things to do and places to visit to make the most of your Island holiday – experiences, events, entertainment and much more!

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18 A SENSE OF ENORMOUS WELL-BEING

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We meet the talented athletes who share a family connection and discover their favourite Island locations and what makes it such a special place to live and train.



30 GOURMET GETAWAYS

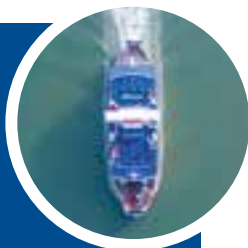
What could be better than booking a break where you can tickle your taste buds too? Let us tempt you with our menu of the best 'dine and stay' locations the Isle of Wight has to offer.

38 THE HIDDEN HISTORY OF CHALE

The often-overlooked village of Chale might seem quiet and unassuming, however, if you know where to look you'll uncover a long and intriguing history.

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WIGHTLINK

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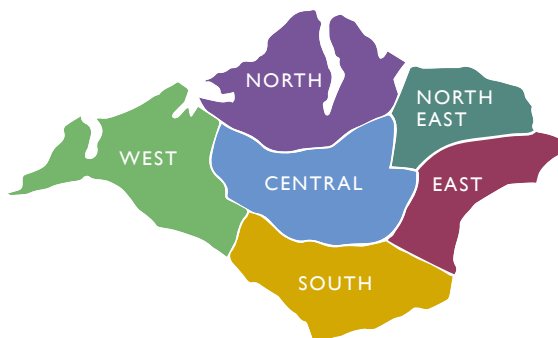
From healthcare to breakdown recovery, all the details you may need, plus Visit Isle of Wight travel information centres.

46 ISLAND DESTINATIONS

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48 ISLAND MAP

Our map provides an overview of the Island with the main roads, visitor attractions, beaches and places of interest.



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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...

Celebrating our amazing team

We were thrilled to have received Silver at the British Travel Awards 2024 in November and been crowned Best Ferry Operator 2024 at the National Transport Awards in October. Both are a real testament to the incredible efforts of our team.

Adding to our accolades, we also took home the Net Zero Navigator trophy at the Maritime UK Solent Awards in October – recognition of our efforts in sustainability.

We'd like to extend our heartfelt thanks to all our colleagues for their unwavering commitment to delivering reliability, punctuality, and exceptional customer service every single day.

At the British Travel Awards, over 1.5 million customers voted to celebrate the nation's top travel companies, based on their own experiences. For us, this incredible honour is the ultimate validation of the hard work and dedication of our amazing team.



MEET THE TEAM CUSTOMER EVENTS

Come along to one of our Meet the Team events on the Isle of Wight – it's your chance to tell us how we can improve our services.

You'll have the opportunity to meet a range of members from our Senior Team who each specialise in areas of the business, from customer service to operations. Come along to ask questions, discuss areas of concern and suggest changes you think will make our service better.

Upcoming dates:

- 30 January 2025
- 30 April 2025
- 16 July 2025
- 22 October 2025

For more information, visit wightlink.co.uk/about-wightlink/meet-team-event



Investing in our ships

The annual maintenance programme for our eight-strong fleet is set to wrap up by Easter.

We're proud to have kept much of the planned works close to home, with Wight Sky and Wight Light visiting Hythe Shipyard, Wight Ryder I and Wight Ryder II dry docking in Portchester. St Faith and St Clare are undergoing refits in Southampton with a brief visit to Falmouth for docking and hull inspections. Victoria of Wight is seeing Southampton and Portsmouth and taking a short trip to Portland for an in-water-survey. The annual refit, which can include dry docking, is vital to ensure we stay shipshape and ready to transport around 4 million of you every year.



Kids go free during the school holidays

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

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

Make the most of this deal throughout 2025, with the offer covering the Easter, summer and Christmas holidays as well as the May and October half terms.

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





Win a luxury stay with The Albion and Wightlink worth over £700

Enter our competition and you could win a one-night stay for two people at The Albion, the Isle of Wight's newest luxury hotel, with breakfast, a voucher for £100 towards dinner and ferry travel included!

We are giving away a one-night stay at The Albion worth over £450 for two people sharing a Coastal Suite, which includes a voucher for dinner to the value of £100 and breakfast. Plus, £250 of Wightlink ferry travel to get you there – with three convenient routes, Wightlink is your link to the Island.

Following a major £6m complete refurbishment, The Albion offers the Island's newest, luxury hotel, restaurant and bar, right on the shoreline of Freshwater Bay. This beautiful 40-bedroom boutique hotel has been fully transformed, restored and modernised, whilst still paying homage to its Victorian origins which date back to the middle of the 1700s. The Albion has a long history of welcoming visitors to the West Wight and is delighted to have reopened its doors in Summer 2024.

SLEEP

Every aspect of the Albion's refurb has been elegantly designed with comfort in mind, offering a cosy retreat where you can unwind and savour the uncomplicated pleasures of life. 36 of the 40 bedrooms boast a beach or coastal view with a balcony or shared terrace to sit out on and enjoy the sound of the waves lapping against the shore. All of the rooms have been decorated in a calming Victorian chic style, using coastal colours in keeping with its surroundings. It is also the first hotel on the Island to be fully air-conditioned throughout.

DINE

The hotel now boasts a brand new 120-seat restaurant called The Rock, which is open to residents and non-residents alike and when making a booking in advance, the restaurant will arrange for pick up and drop off from Yarmouth Harbour in their complimentary bus (certain dates may be excluded, so please contact the hotel for details). Offering a public coastal-style bar, a resident's private lounge and a private dining room for small groups, The Rock is under the culinary direction of executive head chef Steve Harris, who has curated a menu that celebrates simplicity, seasonality and local tastes. Chef Harris has extensive knowledge of suppliers on the Island ensuring the best produce available, and with his impressive pedigree at some of the finest restaurants on and off the Isle of Wight, including Michelin-starred Lords of the Manor in the Cotswolds, you'll be in for a treat.

For your chance to win visit wight.link/albion and use the form to enter by 30 March 2025.

This prize draw is open for entries from 1 January. Entries must be received by 23:59 on 30 March 2025. Entrants must be 18+. This prize includes accommodation for two sharing a Coastal Suite for one night. The prize is valid for six months from the announcement date and booking dates are dependent on availability. The winner may upgrade the room at their own cost, which must be arranged during booking. Prize use is subject to availability, is non-transferable and cannot be exchanged for cash or other services. Any additional expenses beyond the package are the winner's responsibility. For full terms and conditions visit wight.link/albion

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Arts, crafts and quality time

New skills to learn on the Island this winter

Whether it's sat behind a potter's wheel or perched amongst the canvases in an artist's studio, the Isle of Wight's winter workshops offer the perfect way to learn new skills – as well as providing some pretty unforgettable memories too. So roll up those sleeves and tie those apron strings as we give you a quick tour of the options.

Wight Apothecary will teach you the skills needed to adorn your door with a hand woven dried flower wreath.

THE JEWELLERY CABIN

If a few relaxing hours tapping away with a hammer, bending solid silver with pliers and creating unique items of jewellery sounds like your cup of tea, then book yourself a slot at the Jewellery Cabin. Set amongst the green fields between Gatcombe and Chillerton, this rural retreat offers a range of sessions, from private birthday and hen do parties, to bangle-making evening classes and sea glass ring workshops. Ready and waiting to instruct are co-founders Kelly and Jodie (both silversmithing graduates) alongside experienced jewellery makers Suzy and Becca. With a room (or should that be studio) full of experience, all the tools you could need, and an ample supply of drinks and sweet treats, the stage is set for a fascinating few hours of making.



Learn to make a stone set stacking ring at The Jewellery Cabin. With drinks and sweet treats provided, courses are great fun for groups.

WIGHT APOTHECARY

Perhaps you prefer your workshops to come with an array of enticing aromas and a dose of rejuvenation, in which case, the classes on offer from Wight Apothecary could be just the thing. Run by former photographer Tracey Simmonds-Bland (also known as Mrs B), they mix craft, sustainability and well-being into one – with workshop options including reed diffuser making, dried flower wreath weaving and aromatherapy candle mixing. For a shorter spell of crafting, consider the bath salt workshop, where attendees learn the fundamentals of blending essential oils and base oils, before creating their own stress-relieving mix of ethically sourced salts.



Among the 'scentsational' courses on offer at Wight Apothecary are aromatherapy candle mixing, reed diffuser making and a bath salt workshop.



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

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Artist Julie Sajous's classes cover everything from collage and printmaking to acrylic painting and watercolour.

ISLE OF WIGHT POTTERY

If the smell of fresh clay and the soothing rotations of the potter's wheel are more up your street, then head to the historic village of Niton. Here you'll find Isle of Wight Pottery, where Scarlett and Sara are on hand to provide fun and friendly sessions for amateur potters, both young and old. Perfect for fans of *The Great Pottery Throw Down*, classes can introduce you to sculpting, handbuilding or wheel throwing, plus everything you make gets fired and taken home. If an hour and a half is just not long enough, enrol yourself on the weekend course, where master potter Neil Tregear (who originally learned his stoneware skills in Kyoto, Japan) will teach you how to make everything from mugs and bowls to vases and jugs.



Try your hand at sculpting or get behind the potters wheel at Isle of Wight Pottery.

JULIE SAJOUS ART CLASSES

Over in Wellow, in a converted caravan set amongst her lush green garden, you'll find the sunny studio of West Wight artist Julie Sajous. Hosting small classes, with tea and cake at the ready, she covers everything from collage and printmaking to acrylic painting and watercolour. In-person lessons offer a warm and supportive environment, where even the most self-conscious of sketchers will lose the fear and regain their artistic confidence.



Can't make it along to an in-person workshop? Try one of Julie's video sessions which take place in a diverse array of locations including The Needles, London and Portugal.

If lessons clash with something already pencilled into your diary, fear not, as you can always take part in Julie's online virtual sketch walks. These engaging video-based sessions will sharpen up your landscape and architectural drawing skills while taking in an array of attractive locations such as the Needles, London's Southbank and Olhão in Portugal.

WHAT! You didn't know?

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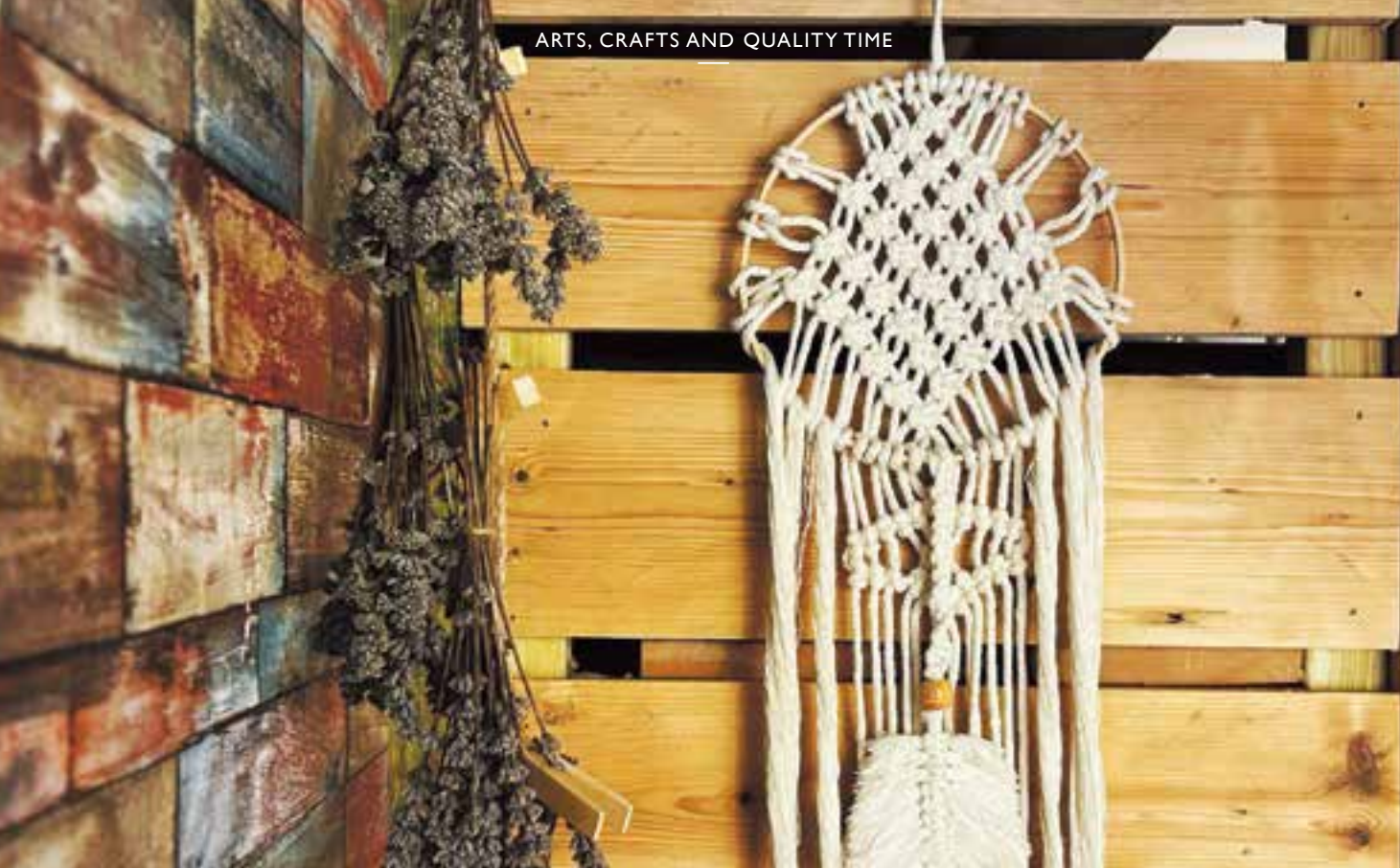
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Island CraftWorks specialise in Boho-inspired crafts and incorporate natural elements, such as macramé weaving.

CORALESCE STAINED GLASS

Maybe you're looking to channel your inner artisan and get to grips with a critically endangered craft, then try out one of the illuminating courses on offer from Coralesce Stained Glass. From his airy Victorian barn in Brighstone, master craftsman Colin Conroy shares his skills and experience accumulated over forty years of making, repairing and rebuilding stained glass panels across Essex, Surrey and the Isle of Wight.

Ease yourself in gently with the two-and-a-half-hour taster course, which introduces the history, materials and tools of the trade – before helping you create your own four-panel stained glass light catcher. For something more in-depth, the five-week courses await. Whether you plump for beginner, intermediate or advanced, these inspiring sessions will have you well on your way to becoming a stained-glass maker. Alternatively, the stained glass workshops allow visitors to create small ornaments or decorative panels within a one-day session.



Get to grips with glass and make a small ornament with Coralesce Stained Glass.

ISLAND CRAFTWORKS

And finally, behind the unassuming shopfront of 130 High Street, Ryde, is Island CraftWorks, a creative and uplifting space for hands-on arts and crafts. Especially popular with younger visitors, these affordable sessions are perfect for entry-level crafters looking to get stuck in and make something new.



Left: a colourful stained glass kingfisher made by Coralesce Stained Glass. Right: Gabby is at the helm at Island CraftWorks and offers a constantly evolving range of classes for all ages.

At the helm is Gabby, whose passion for arts and crafts began as she grew up in the New York borough of Brooklyn. These days, she specialises in Boho-inspired crafts, incorporating natural elements into home décor, gifts and attractive decorations. Amongst the constantly evolving repertoire of classes, recent options have included paper flower crafting, macramé weaving and Native American dream catcher making, as well as seashell wreaths and wind chimes. You can also book a birthday party or date night session, or sign up for the seasonally-themed half-term and holiday classes.

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

James Rayner



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You can't leave the Island without...

#1 PULLING ON YOUR WELLIES

From coast to country, the Isle of Wight has some beautiful scenery and landmarks to explore whatever the weather, so grab your coat and wellies and join us for a walk. Try our favourite routes on pages 24–28 – we've even made sure there's a cuppa and cake at the end!

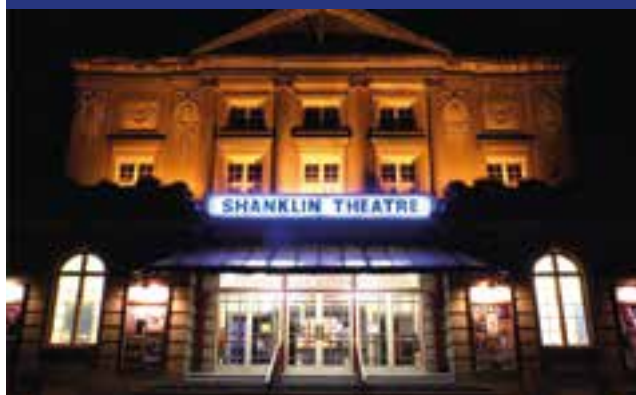


#2 A BIT OF BIRDWATCHING

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

#3 SEEING A SHOW

Shanklin Theatre has a diverse selection of performances coming up this season, from theatre, musicals and theme nights to comedians and tribute acts, as well as big names such as Chris McCausland, Ben Fogle and Aled Jones. You'll find our What's On Guide on pages 76–80.



#4 GOING DINOSAUR HUNTING

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

#5 TICKLING YOUR TASTE BUDS

With everything from cosy pubs with rooms to chic fine dining hotels and even glamping at the Garlic Farm, the Isle of Wight is the ideal place for a gastro break! For places to stay with a great breakfast guaranteed turn to pages 30–34.





#6 MAKING TIME FOR MUM

Whether it's a locally-made gift, afternoon tea at one of the Island's cafés and restaurants or even a pottery workshop together, say 'thank you' to the special lady in your life this Mother's Day on Sunday, 30 March.

#7 LEARNING A NEW SKILL

If you've ever fancied getting your hands covered in clay at the potter's wheel, picking up a paintbrush or even blending your own scent, a winter workshop is the perfect way to while away a rainy day and try your hand at something new. Find some inspiration on pages 10–14.



#8 PLANNING YOUR NEXT VISIT

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

#9 RECHARGING YOUR BATTERIES

With breathtaking beaches and tranquil countryside, the Isle of Wight is the perfect place to kick back and unwind. Whether you're looking for a wellness retreat, yoga haven or even to just chill out at home, make time for you with our relaxation guide on pages 18–22.



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

#10 STEPPING BACK IN TIME

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

A sense of enormous well-being

Contrary to popular belief, winter and a new year are not the time for new beginnings but an opportunity for rest, contemplation, reflection and finding magic in the moment. Filling our days with little joys can make the season pass and nourish the spirit – and the Island is the perfect place to do just that.



Duxmore Botanics, create high-quality products blended from ethically and responsibly sourced ingredients.

With cobweb-busting walks, fresh sea air and a feeling of tranquillity, the Isle of Wight in the winter months is one of the UK's hidden gems to rejuvenate and shake off those post-festive blues. If forest bathing sounds wonderful, yoga is your thing or if you'd like to take a little bit of the Island home with you to boost your well-being, we have some suggestions.

Forest bathing, or 'shinrin-yoku' in Japanese, emerged in the 1980s as a unique practice inviting participants to immerse themselves in the tranquil, revitalising atmosphere of forests, offering a chance for reflection, an uplift in positive energy and a renewed sense of well-being. For access to a variety of public and private forest and woodland locations on the Island to practice your bathing, Forest Bathing Isle of Wight will tailor experiences to suit you.



Anthea from Forest Bathing Isle of Wight will tailor an experience amongst the trees to leave you feeling revitalised and relaxed.

Look no further than Balance+Glo for yoga and holistic pick-me-ups. With events, retreats and online classes so that you can continue even if you're off-island, the ethos behind this company is The Balance Method, using MOVE, NOURISH, CARE and NATURE, to live healthy and fulfilling lives in a sustainable holistic way. The team can also organise bespoke well-being experiences for those visiting the Island.



Balance+Glo believe in a holistic approach to well-being and fitness.



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Luccombe Hall in Shanklin is a peaceful oasis with plenty for the little ones to do while you take time to relax.

Sometimes, nothing beats a hotel spa stay. There's something about just moving from room to spa and back that makes it irresistible. Lakeside in Wootton has four beauty treatment rooms, a relaxation room and a bubble lounge offering a wide range of body treatments and beauty therapies. In addition, being in an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty means that the walks around the hotel and creek are simply beautiful, whatever the weather. Add in the brasserie for dining or afternoon tea and you're in spa heaven.

If you are bringing smaller folk with you, Luccombe Hall in Shanklin has loads to keep them entertained, allowing you to do a few leisurely laps in the pool. From an indoor play area for toddlers to a climbing frame, swings, slide and giant outdoor chess and draughts, as well as putting and Pétanque for older kids, there's plenty for them to do while you relax in the sauna with a Margarita. Even if you're not staying at the hotel, you can book a Winter Leisure 1-Day Pass.

Wildlife spotting, walks by the sea and yoga are all on the menu at Nettlecombe Farm. This working farm, which has been in the same family for generations, offers comfortable cottage accommodation, daily feeding tours of the many and various animals and birds (think emu, reindeer and rare breed sheep amongst others), and any number of wonderful walks through stunning countryside and along the beaches. There's also a chance to book one-to-one yoga, holistic treatments and even a private chef for the ultimate time off effect...



Left: Yoga at Nettlecombe Farm and takes place in the underfloor heated studio. Right: The younger members of the family can meet the farm's animals on a daily feeding tour.



Rob Da Banks Slomo Sauna recently popped up on the lake at Tapnell Farm.

When he's not DJing in far-flung places, Rob da Bank is a sauna supremo with his mobile saunas that pop up all over the Island for guest appearances. The Slomo Sauna method is simple: relax, rejuvenate and reconnect, away from the pressures of daily life. The Scandinavian sauna has two beautiful hand-made wood-fired saunas, a cold plunge tank and an exfoliating salt scrub. Get ready to get steamy!

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Blue Labelle Skincare's products are all made by hand at the boutique in Ventnor.

Of course, having a treatment, a yoga session or indulging in some forest bathing is great, but what happens when you get home? There's nothing nicer than taking a little bit of the Island back with you and here are a few things that will make your home and your skin smell wonderful, as well as lift your spirits.

At Duxmore Botanics, the team takes pride in delivering personalised, first-class service and high-quality products crafted from ethically and responsibly sourced ingredients. Whether it's a scent to uplift, comfort or ground, sometimes a moment to breathe in a soothing fragrance is all it takes. Through candles, reed diffusers, room sprays or essential oil blends, each fragrance is thoughtfully curated and handcrafted in-house using pure essential oils. The body care collection contains a therapeutic blend of essential oils to soothe, nourish, and soften your skin. Perfect as a little gift to yourself.

Run by mother and daughter Olga and Yuliya, Mindfully Lit are a wellness and aesthetic candle company based on the Isle of Wight but originally from Ukraine. Their



Mindfully Lit's beautiful well-being candles offer a positive mantra.

hand-poured candles come with meditations and guides to help you on your path to wellness and are poured into the shapes of shells, flowers, leaves and moons. With names like Hope, Breath, and Cosy Night In, and in beautiful sustainable packaging, they are a mindful way to bring some light into your life.

Blue Labelle Skincare was founded by Pascale Edwards-Labelle in 2011, inspired by her passion for natural skincare. After discovering the benefits of botanical oils in 2006, Pascale began creating oil blends for her own use and later for family and friends. She now makes all her products in the workroom of Blue Labelle Boutique in Ventnor, which opened in October 2017. If you're struggling to make up your mind about what to try, why not begin your journey with one of her Blue Labelle Discover Boxes?



Left: Mindfully Lit's Lotus candle. Right: Blue Labelle Skincare's founder Pascale.

Although we may be in the depth of midwinter, spring is around the corner, and with that comes the possibility of new life and longer days ahead. But in the meantime, treat yourself to some winter rejuvenation and relaxation, Island style.

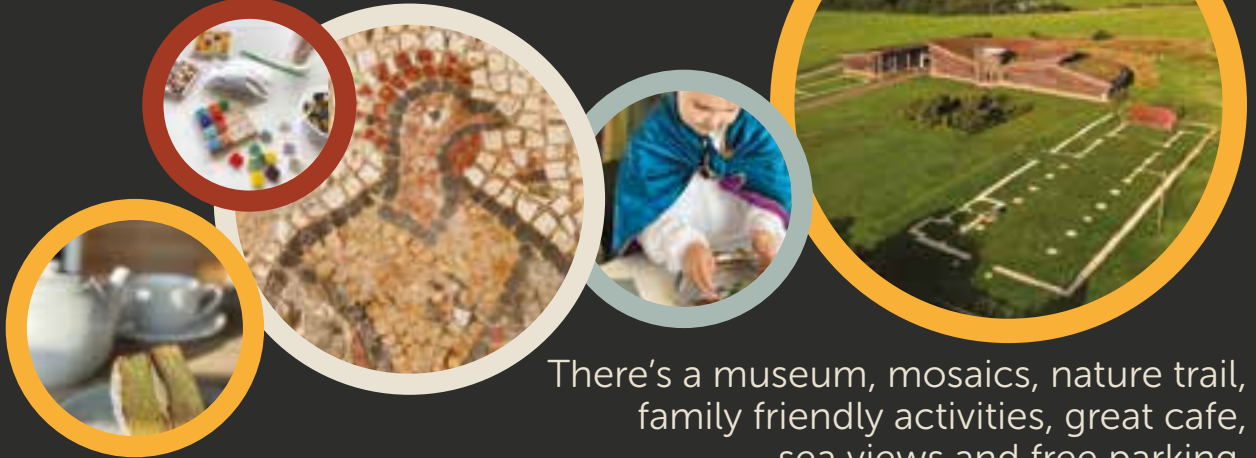
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Get your wellies on and get walking

Getting out into nature is one of the best things you can do for your physical and mental well-being and there's no better way to do this than with a bracing walk. There are walking trails aplenty on the Island and we also suggest tea and cake as a just reward for all of that exercise...

Some of the Island's paths can be a little on the rugged side so be well-prepared with proper footwear and waterproofs. There's so much varied countryside and coast to choose from that you'll be spoiled for choice: if it's fields and forests you're after to meander through, rugged chalk downs or the miles of coastal paths that take you to dramatic cliff tops, rocky coves and estuaries, then the Isle of Wight is the perfect walker's paradise.

Pull on your wellies and have a splash along the shoreline in the shadow of Sandown's iconic pier.

FOR LITTLE LEGS

The revetment running from Sandown to Shanklin along the beach is the perfect flat walk for kids and can also be walked as a circular route by returning along the upper cliff path. It's a great route for beachcombing on the way at low tide or avoiding the splashing waves at high tide for amazing views across the Bay. Begin at the pier in Sandown and once you get to the end at Small Hope Bay turn right up the hill and join the cliff path, stopping at Blueberry's Café en route for some of the best cake on the Island. It may be blustery up there, so it is an ideal time for those granny-knitted Christmas scarves.



Make a stop at Blueberry's Café en route for cake – you won't be disappointed!

FOR SQUIRREL SPOTTERS

The Isle of Wight is renowned for being the only place in the UK with a solely red squirrel population and the Red Squirrel Trail celebrates not just these furry mammals but a wide variety of other birds and wildlife. The 32-mile trail is a popular cycle route, but you can also walk the trail in sections, and the path from Shide to Newchurch is brilliant for kids who may want to scoot or cycle alongside you. It follows the route of a disused railway line which skirts farmland before reaching Merstone, where the former station consisting of a single island platform still stands. Following the signposted route takes you across the Yar's floodplain until Langbridge, at the edge of Newchurch to Pedallers Café where you can enjoy a much-earned cuppa or a glass of wine if that takes your fancy.



Left: Popular with cyclists, the Red Squirrel Trail follows the disused railway line to Merstone, where a single island platform still stands. Right: Will you spot one of the Isle of Wight's most residents on your walk?

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Built in 1875, picturesque Appley Tower is straight out of a fairytale.

FOR A TOUCH OF HISTORY

With the new abbey being built in 1907 for the French Benedictine monks of Solesmes exiled on the Island, Quarr Abbey is now home to a small group of Benedictine monks, and the walks around the grounds are tranquil, peaceful and a balm for the soul.



Situated in the tranquil grounds, the Quarr Abbey Tea Room is a great spot for a cuppa!

Start at the Abbey car park and cross into the grounds, visiting the pigs on the way. Head through the Abbey gates to find the Woodland Walk, which leads to Quarr Road and another woodland area. Then follow the trail toward the sea, keeping an eye out for mistletoe in the trees above your head. Near the Abbey Ruins, explore the arches and the oak tree growing through them, and then stop by the Tea Room where you can buy local produce and all-important pig food to feed your porcine pals on the way out.

FOR TEA BESIDE THE SEA

Running from Appley in Ryde through to Seagrove Bay, just beyond Seaview you can follow the 'Garden Walk', which leads along the sea wall and is a flat walk ideal for pushchairs or those who are less able. You'll pass by some little pockets of history with a Victorian fortification battery and Puckpool Park with Puckpool House, a Swiss-style cottage orné built in 1822. When you reach Seaview, if the tide is low you can continue to Seagrove Bay and marvel at some of the Island's most exclusive seaside properties before returning along the beach for tea with a view at the Dell Café back at Appley.



The flat 'Garden Walk' running along the sea wall between Appley and Seagrove Bay is perfect for pushchairs and those who are less able.



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SCAN ME



The Causeway starts at the old mill house at Yarmouth and follows the old railway line to Freshwater.

FOR TWITCHERS

The Causeway which runs from Yarmouth through to Freshwater on what was part of the old railway line is a mecca for birds that live and breed in the nature reserve and waters on either side of the route. Begin by the side of the old mill house in Yarmouth and continue down the path until you reach Church Place across the bridge. You can either retrace your steps or carry on with the trail which takes you through farmland (make sure you're wearing wellies!) and finishes on the opposite side of the bridge in Yarmouth to the one you started from. From there, treat yourself to some lunch at the converted railway station café and restaurant Off the Rails.

FOR SERIOUS STOMPERS

For a real challenge take yourself along the Tennyson Trail from Newport to Alum Bay via Brighstone, Freshwater and Tennyson Down. Begin your walk at Carisbrooke Castle where Charles I was imprisoned, then head through the beautiful Brighstone Down and Brighstone Forest before arriving at the coast with splendid views towards Alum Bay and the Needles from Freshwater Bay golf course. Walk down into Freshwater breaking your journey to fortify yourself at the Piano Café or Dimbola Tea Room at Dimbola Museum & Galleries before climbing Tennyson Down towards the monument and into Alum Bay. The walk is 23 km so make sure you've got your stomping legs on and it'll be a bus ride back to Newport.



Housed in what was Yarmouth's railway station, Off The Rails the perfect place to refuel.



The Tennyson Trail starts at Carisbrooke Castle and passes through stunning Freshwater Bay.

These are just a few of the wonderful Isle of Wight walks you can take but there are loads of other routes too along well-worn trails and more off-piste ones for the adventurous. So, grab a coat, get your wellies on and get walking.

For more walking routes and ideas for places to eat and drink, visit wightlink.co.uk

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Gourmet getaways

A thriving, vibrant food scene lies at the heart of the Isle of Wight, with many eateries providing visitors with the opportunity to enjoy a relaxing stay in addition to a mouthwatering meal. From unique rural getaways to luxury five-star hotels, we've gathered our favourite Island destinations for those with an appetite for culinary exploration.



BITES, BREWS, AND BEDS: ROOMS AT THE INN

Nestled in the undercliff of the historic coastal town of Niton, The Buddle Smugglers Inn has been hosting (and feeding) patrons for over 300 years. Just a stone's throw away from the iconic St Catherine's Lighthouse, guests can awaken to the sound of waves lapping against the shore below from the comfort of one of their recently renovated, en suite rooms.

You need only pop downstairs to enjoy one of their tried and tested pub classics from the comfort of a cosy rustic lounge. Featuring exposed original brickwork, oak wood flooring, low-hanging beams and an open fire for those chillier days, it's ideal for those wanting to soak up the charming atmosphere of a traditional rural pub and indulge in classic, hearty menu offerings.

If you have a soft spot for seafood and sea views, head to The Spyglass Inn on Ventnor's seafront.

If you have a soft spot for seafood and sea views, the award-winning Spyglass Inn is a real 'catch'. Perched right on the edge of Ventnor Seafront, the apartments here offer unrivalled views across the esplanade and the English Channel, which you can enjoy from your private balcony.



The historic Buddle Smugglers Inn is just a stone's throw from St Catherine's Lighthouse and offers four recently renovated en suite rooms.

The pub is literally packed to the rafters with maritime paraphernalia and nautical lamps, which lend a characterful ambience. Upon being seated, guests are treated to a sizeable menu with everything from locally sourced seafood to an array of rotating seasonal specials. A hamper full of fresh, local produce is also delivered to your room every morning, allowing you to prepare a delicious breakfast at your leisure.

DINE AND RECLINE: HOTELS FOR THE HUNGRY

Also situated in Ventnor, The Royal is a hotel that lives up to the high standards its name suggests, having enjoyed Queen Victoria's patronage in the 1800s. This 51-bedroom hotel, which was originally built as a coaching inn, has retained its historical significance and timeless appeal whilst providing modern comfort and amenities to guests.



If you're looking for a luxurious stay with meticulously presented food to match, then look no further than The Royal Hotel at Ventnor.

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The Seaview Hotel serves Modern British food with an Isle of Wight twist and has held two AA Rosettes for the past seven years.

Dining promises to be a highlight of guests' stay, whether enjoying traditional afternoon tea on the hotel's exotic grounds or sitting down for a three-course dinner at the award-winning Geranium Restaurant which boasts a suitably grandiose dining area, with ornate decor and shimmering crystal chandeliers. Food-wise, expect meticulously presented seasonal dishes that showcase Island produce, as well as a carefully curated selection of fine wines and speciality cocktails. A perfect choice for those looking to indulge in a truly lavish escape, as well as a solid pick for a Valentine's weekend away.

If you're looking for a fine dining experience with a chic coastal flair, set sail to The Seaview Hotel. Sat proudly in the heart of the upscale village of Seaview, the hotel's onsite Aquitania Restaurant combines good food with modern unfussy service and has held two AA Rosettes for seven consecutive years. The food is described as very

Modern British with a regional Isle of Wight twist, and as can be expected from its coastal location, seafood plays a vital role in the restaurant's menu.

Guests staying the night can expect a peaceful sleep in one of the hotel's crisp, minimalist standard rooms, or upgrade to the hotel's 'Superior Rooms' which boast large windows showcasing panoramic views across the Solent. The tranquil Seagrove Bay is also just a pebble throw away, so if you're staying the night with someone special, why not enjoy a romantic moonlit stroll after your dinner?



The Royal Hotel's grandiose Geranium Restaurant dining room.



The Seaview Hotel's distinctive exterior has large windows overlooking the Solent and a chic yet comfortable coastal-inspired interior.

WHERE FLAVOURS MEETS FIELDS: RURAL RETREATS

Over the years, the family-owned Garlic Farm in Newchurch has gone from a local producer to a fully-fledged foodie destination; with an onsite restaurant, a farm shop and a range of accommodation options. Tucked behind the farm in a lush green field you'll find five yurts, which offer a glitzy glamping experience for those looking to escape to the countryside. These fully equipped self-catering units are brimming with charm. Woodburning stoves and insulation ensure a comfortable stay whatever the weather.

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For a glitzy glamping experience brimming with charm, book a stay in one of the the Garlic Farm's yurts.

The farm's restaurant, just a short stroll from the yurts, offers a variety of daily gourmet breakfast and lunch options. Working closely with many local producers, the restaurant features dishes that highlight Isle of Wight flavours, but with their signature garlicky flair. Many of the beverages on offer can be traced to Island breweries and distilleries, while fresh dairy products are sourced directly from the nearby Briddlesford Farm. What's more, you can stock up on goodies in the shop and take a taste of the Wight home with you.

Over in West Wight, nestled amongst the rolling hills of Freshwater, you'll find Tapnell Farm. The holiday destination is home to many attractions including a vast Farm Park (with all sorts of animals), fun-packed Play Barns and the Island's

only Aqua Park. However, the standout attraction for the foodie crowd is The Cow Restaurant & Bar, which serves up a wide range of award-winning burgers and expertly-cooked steaks in a rustic, converted Swiss barn. Dine out on their terrace during warmer months to experience breathtaking sunsets with your meal.



Left: Tapnell Farm's Eco Pods offer a snug yet chic glamping experience. Right: The Cow Restaurant & Bar serves up award-winning burgers – guaranteed to keep hungry tumms happy.

Tapnell has a wide variety of self-catering accommodation options, ranging from snug Eco Pods to the majestic 'Tapnell Manor' (sleeps up to 24). We recommend taking a look at Tom's Eco Lodge collection, which consists of five different varieties of glamping units of various shapes and sizes. All offer panoramic views across both countryside and coastline, plus with plenty of attractions and activities on offer, it's sure to be a hit with the little ones!

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



The yurts are just a short stroll from the Garlic Farm shop – perfect for stocking up on garlicky goodies to enjoy in the comfort of your accommodation.

Thomas Spence



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THE MIDDLETON



Inside, stylish interior design and a beautiful soft colour scheme flows throughout. The main living space is available with an 'L' shaped lounge / dining area or separate rooms, so there's a floor plan to suit, whatever your preference. If you're looking for a traditional, stylish and practical home with Omar's hallmark of quality, this may well be the home for you!



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Inspirational Islanders: Deborah and Nick Percy

Every year at Wightlink we sponsor a number of sporting teams and organisations with discounted travel, amongst which are some sporting family connections. We caught up with mother and son Deborah and Nick Percy to discover their favourite Island places.

Following a childhood in athletics, Deborah competed at GB Junior level and jokes that she had a 'running start' in life! After settling and starting a family with Andrew in Scotland, the family and their two young children, Nick and Brogan, relocated to the Isle of Wight in 1998 where Deborah began coaching before moving on to field and track judging. Now, she is still running, just in a very different way, managing everything from special events for disabled athletes to mainstream competitions across the Island.

Although both children followed in their mum's sporting footsteps, trying their hands at many athletic disciplines, Nick found his calling in throwing, specifically discus. He won a silver medal at the 2013 European Junior Championships and also represented Great Britain at the 2017 World Championships, before becoming British champion for the fifth time at the 2022 British Athletics Championships. In 2024 he achieved a lifelong dream of representing Great Britain at the Paris Olympics.

DEBORAH PERCY, COACH & JUDGE

"The Island offers a unique blend of peacefulness and community spirit that makes it a wonderful place to live and work. The natural beauty, with its coastal views and green landscapes, creates a calming atmosphere, while the close-knit community fosters genuine connections. There's a slower pace here, allowing for a better work-life balance, and the chance to make a meaningful impact locally feels rewarding. Plus, the Island's charm and friendly neighbours make every day feel like coming home.

Compton Bay is my favourite beach because it perfectly blends rugged beauty with a sense of tranquillity. The dramatic cliffs, golden sands and clear waters make it ideal for peaceful walks or refreshing swims. The sunsets are stunning, and there's always a feeling of escape and freedom there, away from crowds and surrounded by nature's untouched beauty.



St. Boniface Down is my favourite place to walk because it offers breathtaking views and a peaceful escape into nature. The path winds through lush landscapes, with panoramic sights over the Island and sea that make every step worth it. There's a wonderful sense of solitude, fresh air and the feeling of being on top of the world.

I love visiting Bonchurch because it feels like stepping into a hidden, timeless world. The quaint cottages, winding lanes and peaceful pond give it a unique charm, while the sea views and surroundings create a perfect retreat. It's a place full of character, history and calm, inviting you to slow down and savour the moment.

Being sponsored by Wightlink allows me to give back to the organisations I support through officiating, especially small disability groups. This support enables these groups to focus on their athletes without added financial pressure, helping them continue their important work without worry. It's incredibly rewarding to contribute to their success, knowing they can thrive with one less burden."

NICK PERCY, DISCUS THROWER

"The pace of the Island is a little slower than the rest of the world, you can appreciate so much more here and it is such a beautiful place to live. I have lived on the Island, in America and Sweden, and to me, the Island is the best place out of all three which is exactly why I came back.

I love Ventnor Beach. It's a little pocket community and the beach, no matter the time of year, is stunning. From the Boxing Day Swim to the peak of summer it is always well-maintained and looks inviting for all.

If I want to stretch my legs, I head to Ventnor Downs. The sea view, the near uninterrupted view across the whole Island and the wildlife up there, are just stunning. As a family, we have taken people from other countries and the mainland there and they cannot believe how breathtaking it is.

I would have to say my favourite Island place is Ventnor Beach again. The people and the view are just calming and stunning

Without Wightlink's sponsorship I wouldn't have been able to go to so many competitions and achieve the level of sport I have so far. They are one of the main reasons for me making it to the Olympic Games. They have supported me for the last 12 years and I cannot say thank you enough for believing in me and allowing me time to develop to where I am now."

For details on our sponsored athletes, visit wightlink.co.uk/community or stay updated at facebook.com/wightlinkinthecommunity. Find more Inspirational Islanders on page 44–45.

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The hidden history of Chale

Often overlooked, the compact village of Chale, located on the Island's southwest coastline, might seem quiet and unassuming. However, if you know where to look you'll soon find a long and intriguing history, giving you more reasons to visit than you might first think.

Known locally as The Pepperpot, the views from St Catherine's Oratory are second to none.

THE CLARENDON

Of all the places to begin, you can't go wrong with a snug settle tucked away in a corner of the Wight Mouse Inn, formerly known as The Clarendon. As you sip your freshly pulled pint, you might wonder where its previous name came from, and the answer could quite literally be in the beams above you.



An engraving of Blackgang Chine on the morning The Clarendon was wrecked, by local resident G. Brannon. Held by the Royal Museums, Greenwich, a copy is also on display at the Shipwreck Centre & Maritime Museum at Arreton Barns.

Back in 1836, a merchant ship of the same name went aground in Chale Bay during a heavy storm, carrying rum, sugar, molasses and coconuts from the Caribbean. A local fisherman, named John Wheeler, managed to save three lives from the ship but soon the waves had broken the boat apart and the remaining passengers and crew were lost.

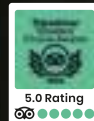
As its timbers washed up in the days that followed, some were picked up by the villagers and used to build part of what is now the Wight Mouse Inn. Meanwhile, local outrage at the tragedy led to the construction of St. Catherine's Lighthouse, just down the road in Niton, which has undoubtedly saved many lives since.



Timbers from the wreck of The Clarendon were salvaged by villagers and used to build part of what is now known as the Wight Mouse Inn.

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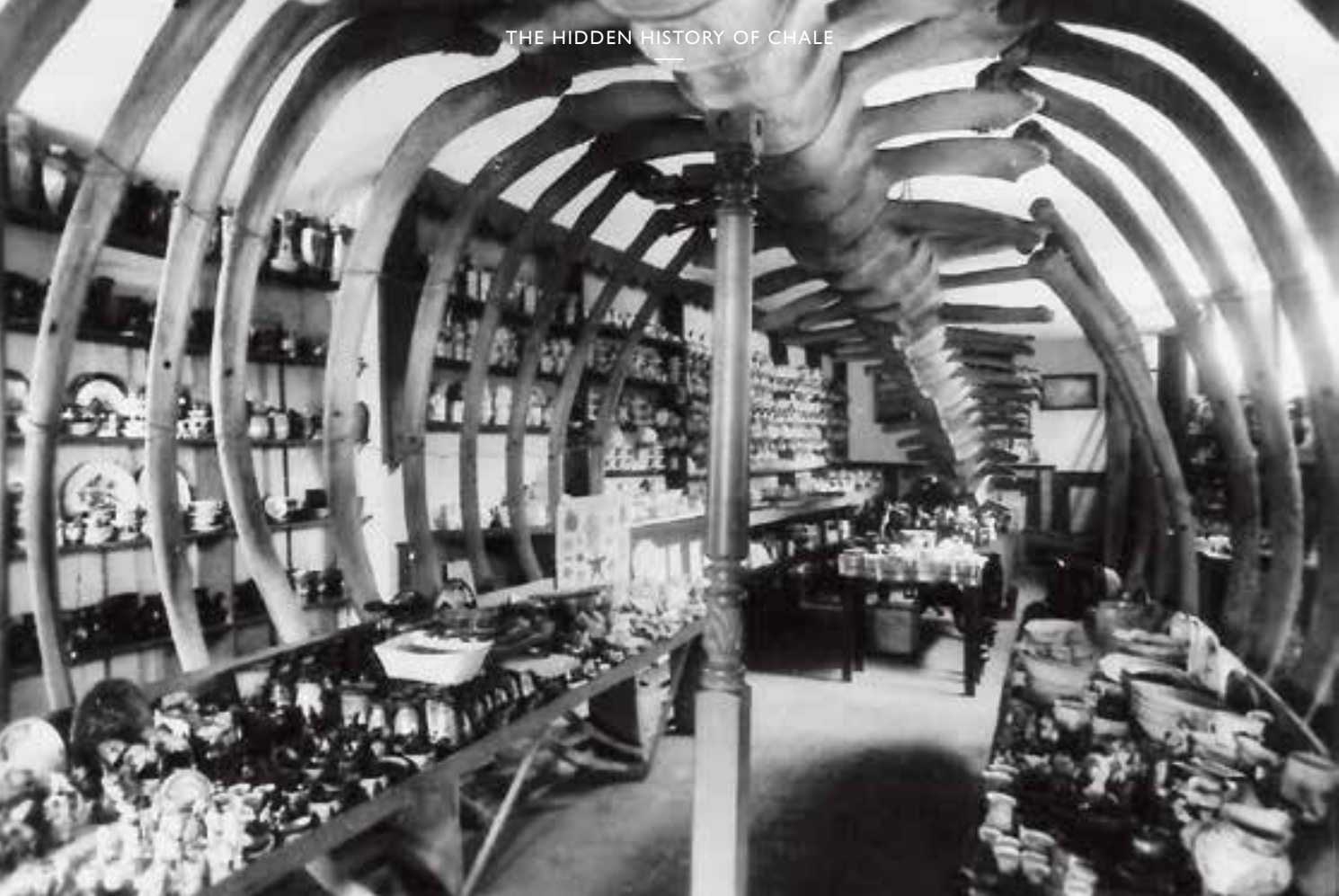


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Amongst the attractions at Blackgang Chine was a skeleton of a whale, from where you could buy fossils, ceramics and coloured sand.

BLACKGANG CHINE

Moving southwest, you can't fail to miss Blackgang Chine – especially the towering fibreglass figure of a smuggler which marks the entrance. Supposedly the UK's oldest amusement park, it can trace its history all the way back to 1843 when Alexander Dabell (great, great grandfather of the current owner Alec) chose the rustic hamlet of Blackgang to host his park of curiosities.

Amongst its attractions was the entire skeleton of a whale which had washed ashore on a beach near the Needles – soon becoming the centrepiece of the park's bazaar. From inside its ribcage, you could buy fossils, ceramics and bottles of coloured sand collected from Alum Bay. In 1853, Queen Victoria dropped by to see the infamous Blackgang whale, helping to cement the park's reputation as a must-visit Isle of Wight destination for years to come.



Visitors explore the 'chine' (deep coastal ravine) after which Blackgang Chine was named, although much of it has now eroded away. Photo: W. J. Nigh & Sons Ltd.

ST CATHERINE'S ORATORY

Heading further uphill and through a kissing gate, you come to St. Catherine's Down, one of the highest (and most blustery) points on the Island. At the top, perched overlooking the green fields and bright blue waves of the Channel, is a medieval octagonal tower, affectionately known to Islanders as 'The Pepperpot'. This sturdy stone structure is all that survives of an oratory (or chapel) built in 1328 by local landowner Walter de Godeton.



St Catherine's Oratory was built in 1328 and is thought to have been used as a lighthouse.

Fourteen years earlier, a ship sailing for a monastery in the French region of Picardy was wrecked nearby and Walter helped himself to its cargo of white wine. Having plundered church property, he was threatened with excommunication and ordered to build the oratory as penance, including a lighthouse – the tower of which you can still look inside today.

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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](#)

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Dating from 1897, The Mission operated a church all the way up until 1991, but now serves as stylish holiday accommodation.

THE MISSION

Following the twisting turns of Blythe Shute back down into the village, you can't fail to miss the cheerful red and green paintwork of The Mission – a late Victorian chapel made from sheets of corrugated tin. Back in 1873, Charles Reade, a civil servant based in Madras, India, returned to the UK and settled with his family on the Isle of Wight's southern shore. A religious family, they hoped to support the local community by building a small church hall (which has since fallen into the sea) but as their following grew, a bigger and better one was in order.

Dating from 1897, The Mission operated as a church all the way up until 1991 but now serves as stylish holiday accommodation, complete with warm woody interiors and colourful mid-century décor. The double-height hall now hosts a relaxing living area and 1950s-style kitchen, whilst the old Sunday school has been converted into some bright and airy bedrooms.

CHALE ABBEY STUDIOS

Next, you could take a scenic coastal drive along the rugged Military Road and pass the vast agricultural fields, once tended to by Czechoslovakian refugees during the Second World War. Alternatively, if you happen to have a debut single to record, you might want to turn inland and make Chale Abbey your destination.



Chale Abbey is rumoured to be one of the oldest domestic structures on the Island and now houses a well-equipped recording studio, packed with ecclesiastical charm.

Originally constructed in the 14th century for the Constable of Carisbrooke Castle, the listed stone building is supposedly one of the oldest domestic structures on the Isle of Wight (though it was interestingly never actually an abbey). Today a private home, its 16th-century barn has been restored, revamped and converted into one of the best-equipped recording spaces on the British south coast. Nestled on the undulating slopes of the downs, Chale Abbey Studios is now making history of its own and has already been involved in the recording of Michael Kiwanuka's number one album *Love & Hate*, as well as the Grammy-nominated album *Islander* by Norwegian singer-songwriter Bernhoft.

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



With its distinctive red and green colour scheme, The Mission is a local landmark.

Amber Beard



Your own slice of Island life

Nestled in 15 acres of rolling countryside and with stunning panoramic views, The Orchards is a special place to make memories and relax.

HOLIDAY HOME OWNERSHIP



HOLIDAY CARAVANS



TOURING & CAMPING PITCHES



- Caravan holidays & camping • Holiday homes for sale
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The Orchards, Main Road, Newbridge, Yarmouth, Isle of Wight, PO41 0TS
01983 531 331 | orchardsholidaypark.co.uk

Inspirational Islanders: Nigel and Boe Howell

Every year Wightlink sponsor a number of athletes and sports teams with discounted travel, amongst which are some notable family connections. We caught up with father and daughter Nigel and Boe Howell to discover their favourite Island places.

Nigel has competed all over the world in watersports including on the PWA Windsurfing World Tour for many years becoming National Champion, World Cup event champion, and also the Kitesurfing National Champion. For many years he ran the famous White Air Extreme Sports Festival – an amazing event featuring multiple adventure and extreme sports both on and off the water. Nigel can now often be seen at surfing events alongside his daughter Boe who is part of the Surfing England team.

Now 17 years old, Boe has been surfing since she was six and has travelled to some of the world's top surfing venues to train and compete. She is a member of the Surfing England Team and in December 2023 travelled to Rio to compete in the World Junior Surfing Championships. Boe lives on the Island but trains wherever the waves are best, training with the England Team in Cornwall, Devon and abroad.

NIGEL HOWELL, WINDSURFER

“The options that the Isle of Wight offers for water sports, with lots of beaches and harbours within easy reach of each other, make it the ideal place to live. Being an Island, you can find the wind and surf conditions that you want simply by driving a few miles, rather than long-distance drives required on the mainland. There are perhaps fewer work opportunities than in more urban areas, but the lifestyle and outdoor sports access are really why we live here.

Between surfing with my daughter Boe, who competes for England, the various wind-based water sports and other activities we do as a family (my wife Sarah competes in the Premier Pickleball League and has recently been crowned National Champion 2024 in the mixed doubles) we are always involved in something that requires ferry travel! We travel a lot, but wherever you live it will be the same... the difference being that the Isle of Wight is an amazing place to return to after each trip. Nothing changes and everything seems to stand still... it's like going back in time!

My favourite beaches are the west side surf beaches as they offer better conditions for wind sports and surfing. Most of my time is spent along the west and south coast between Freshwater Bay and Niton.



It's hard to beat a walk up over Tennyson Down to the monument. It's got stunning views overlooking the west coast, Freshwater Bay, Yarmouth and The Needles, all the way over to the mainland. A really impressive sight on a clear day.

The Isle of Wight is blessed with lots of beautiful places, but my home town of Yarmouth is my favourite. It's such a beautiful harbour town, close to the surf beaches, quick access to the mainland, and gets the long evenings with the sunsets.

Sponsorship from Wightlink makes a huge difference to us. It simply wouldn't be possible to take the sports to other levels without it. All the training, the Surfing England Team events; and all the other events are on the mainland, so I am constantly travelling. Getting to mainland events when you live on an Island and have to get the ferry isn't easy, but without the sponsorship it simply couldn't happen."



Sport really is in the blood for Boe – mum Sarah is a Pickleball champion!

BOE HOWELL, SURFER

"The Isle of Wight is one of the most unique places in England as it's an island, it's super pretty all year round with really nice beaches on every side of it, and overall just a great place to live.

All the Island's beaches are really nice, but my favourite is probably Freshwater Bay as it gets great surf and has an insane water colour and really cool cliffs.

I agree with Dad. I'd definitely recommend a walk over the downs because of the insane views!

I like Ventnor and Yarmouth as they're really pretty towns, but other than that, pretty much just any of the beaches in the West Wight, like Freshwater Bay.

Wightlink's sponsorship makes it possible for me to go to competitions and surf more than I'd ever normally be able to. Being sponsored has seriously changed my life and I couldn't appreciate it more."

For details on our sponsored athletes, visit wightlink.co.uk/community or stay updated at facebook.com/wightlinkinthecommunity. Find more Inspirational Islanders on page 36–37.

Great Days Out
Amazing Evenings
Over 870 Games
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Dog Friendly
Fully Licensed
Award Winning



Snacks & Ladders
Board Game Cafe & Eatery
70 St James Street, Newport, PO30 1LQ



www.snacksandladders.co.uk
01983 716710

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

**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.



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.

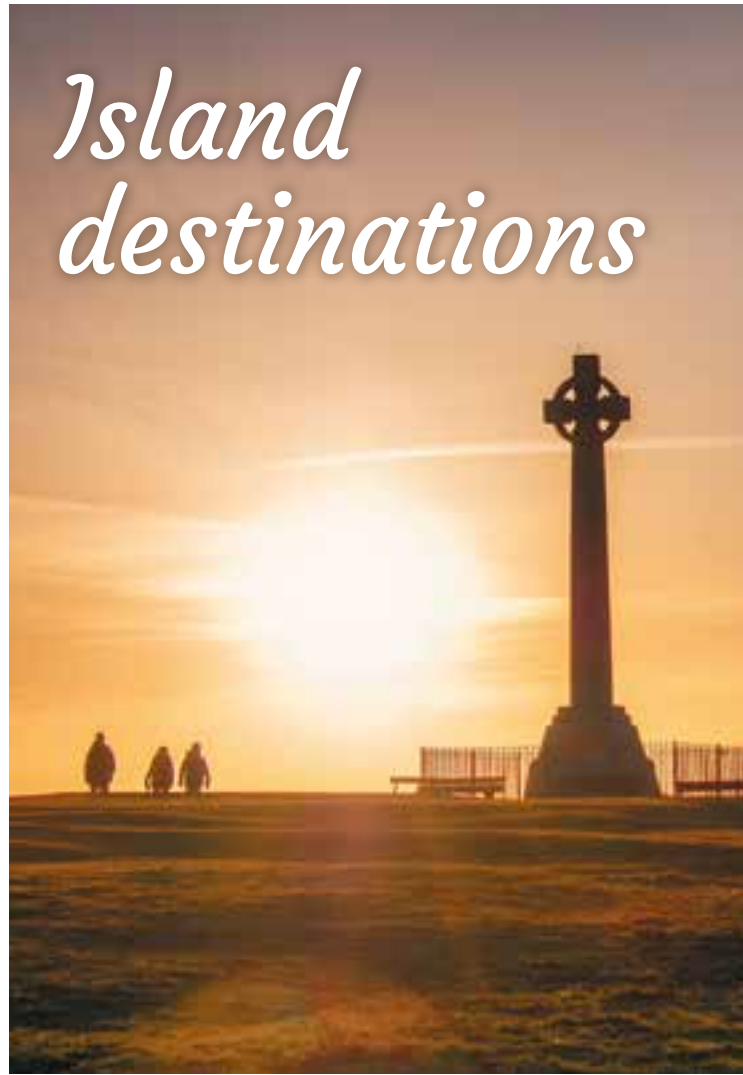


Open Monday to Saturday all year. Check us out on wmahm.org.uk, follow us on Facebook or call 01983 305555 for more details



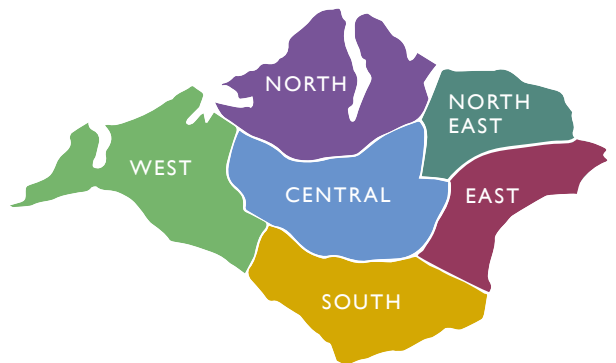
**W.M.A.H.M, Northwood Camp,
490 Newport Road, Cowes, PO31 8QU
wmahm.org.uk | 01983 305555
enquiries@wmahm.org.uk**

Registered charity 1159529



Island destinations

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


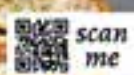


This handy guide will become your companion for your holiday. Enjoy!














Your Lunch.
*Handmade by
Grace's Bakery*

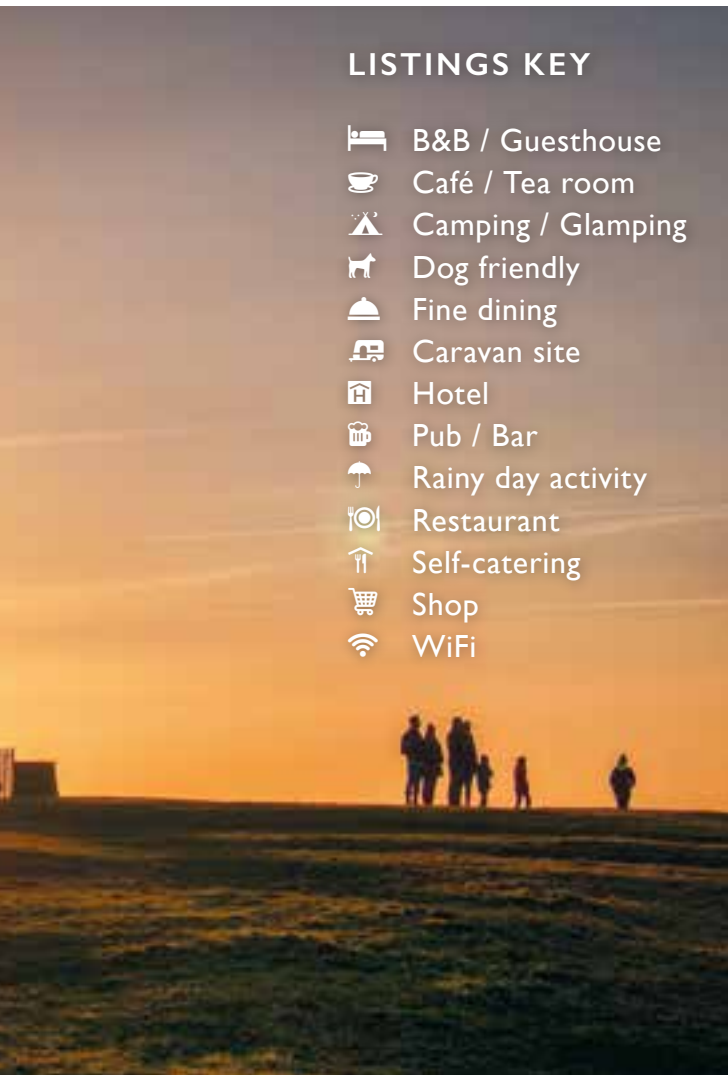
Every Grace's sandwich is made in Ryde, by hand, using our own freshly baked bread.

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

LISTINGS KEY

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



The Tennyson Monument marks the highest point on the chalk cliffs of West Wight.

50 NORTH

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

52 NORTH EAST

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

56 EAST

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

60 SOUTH

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

64 WEST

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

66 CENTRAL

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



DINOSAUR ISLE

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

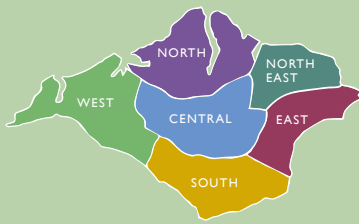
DINODEAL!
One child goes free with a full paying adult, when you show this advert (maximum two children per group).

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Last admission one hour before close.
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INTERACTIVE MUSEUM 

 Isle of Wight Council



Lymington

Lymington to Yarmouth
car/passenger ferry
40 mins



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

Yarmouth

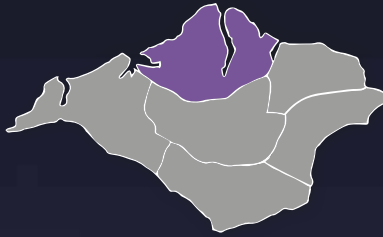


ATTRACTIONS

1. Amazon World p29
2. Arreton Barns p9
3. Brading Roman Villa p23
4. Briddlesford Farm p31
5. Carisbrooke Castle p84 (back page)
6. Dinosaur Isle p47
7. Isle of Wight Distillery p55
8. Isle of Wight Pearl p65
9. Monkey Haven p39
10. Naturezones p68
11. Oasis p2-3
12. Osborne p84 (back page)
13. Shanklin Theatre p76
14. Strings Bar & Venue p68
15. The Garlic Farm p67
16. The Old Smithy p19
17. Thomas P Cochran p71
18. Ventnor Botanic Garden p11
19. Wight Karting p53
20. Wight Military & Heritage Museum p46
21. Wildheart Animal Sanctuary p13



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



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



ATTRACTIONS



Wight Military & Heritage



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

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

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



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



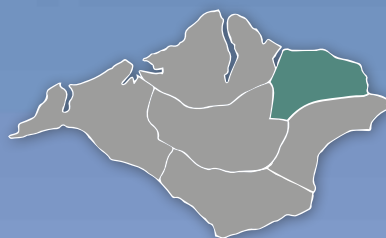
Cowes Web App
Explore the best of Cowes



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 on 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.

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

—
Edward Lear

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

If you're looking to sample some of the best in Island produce, the Isle of Wight 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



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



ATTRACTIONS

Oasis



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

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



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



An independent and quirky ladies boutique set in the heart of Ryde. Official stockist of Joe Browns 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 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



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RYDE, PO33 1QS
01983 565366



**The Isle of Wight's
bookshop on The Green.**

Here for the love of reading for over 35 years.



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Bellissima

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TEL: 01983 717004
bellissimaiw.co.uk**

**f BellissimalIsleOfWight
bellissimaisleofwight**

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



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



VISIT THE ISLE OF WIGHT DISTILLERY

HOME OF MERMAID GIN

COCKTAILS & REFRESHMENTS | RELAXED ATMOSPHERE | MERMAID BAR & SHOP



ISLE OF WIGHT DISTILLERY, PONDWELL HILL, RYDE, PO33 1PX

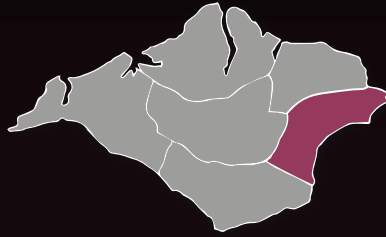
01983 613653 | WWW.ISLEOFWIGHTDISTILLERY.COM

[f](#) [@](#) @IOWDISTILLERY | @MERMAIDGIN

DIVE IN



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 an 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 dinosaur-themed 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



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



ATTRACTIONS

Brading Roman Villa



One of the finest Roman sites in the UK. The award-winning visitor centre and museum offers a unique insight into Roman life in Britain, from beautifully preserved mosaic floors to an extensive collection of Roman archaeology. Visit the on-site licensed café and shop. Don't miss the nature trail, which is open all year and changes with the seasons.

Morton Old Road, Brading, PO36 0PH (SatNav PO36 OEV) 01983 406223
bradingromanvilla.org.uk



Dinosaur Isle



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

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

Shanklin Theatre



Shanklin Theatre is open all year round offering great entertainment from household names such as Ben Fogle, Craig Revel Horwood and Aled Jones. The venue also hosts comedians including Chris McCausland, Jack Dee and Julian Clary, as well as 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 sanctuary delivers an inspirational experience and the friendly atmosphere is perfect for getting to know the rescued tigers, lions, lynx, lemurs, meerkats, monkeys and many other species. New Primate Rescue Centre now open! Enjoy the daily talks or simply roam the grounds yourself. With kids' play areas and the spacious Wildheart Café.

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



ACCOMMODATION

Sandhills Holiday Park



Family-owned and run, Sandhills Holiday Park is situated in beautiful countryside near Bembridge. Friendly and peaceful, it is the ideal location to truly relax and unwind with family and friends. Nestled under the striking Culver Down it is perfect for walkers, with the coastal footpath running alongside the park and overlooking the sandy beach of Whitecliff Bay which can be accessed by Sandhills own private path.

Whitecliff Bay, Bembridge, PO35 5QB 01983 872277
sandhillsholidaypark.com



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



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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.



For more inspiration visit
wightlink.co.uk/explorer

45 Littlestairs Rd, Shanklin PO37 6HS (adjacent to Winchester House car park)
blueberryscafe.co.uk | 01983 866378
f BlueberrysCafe | t @BlueberrysCafe | i blueberrys_cafe

The Crab & Lobster Inn



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

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



The Steamer Inn



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

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

Vectis Holiday Homes



The Seascope is a ground floor luxury apartment, located in exclusive Luccombe in Shanklin. With sweeping views over Sandown Bay, this spacious self-catering three bedroom holiday accommodation is as tranquil as it gets. The landscaped garden even has a hot tub where you can enjoy the starry night skies.

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

Whitecliff Bay Holiday Park



Perfectly situated by its own stunning secluded beach, Whitecliff Bay makes for the ideal holiday base to explore 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, Blueberrys Café serve delicious home-cooked food and cakes. Located on the cliff path between Sandown and Shanklin. Visit social media for further information and a tempting glimpse of the day's bakes.

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



Grace's Bakery



Established in 1977, Grace's Bakery 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, something sweet from the huge range of cakes on offer or try an Isle of Wight doughnut. A Grace's Bakery speciality, they're handmade using a traditional Isle of Wight recipe from 1845.

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. Open from February onwards.

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

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

01983 874758

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

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

Try our speciality seafood platter for two. Fully licensed.

Please note: we will be closed during January.

Visit us at: www.thebestdressedcrabintown.co.uk

the harbour view cafe

Treat yourself to our exquisite cuisine, with fresh seafood and local produce

**EMBankment ROAD
BEMBRIDGE PO35 5NR**

Contact Us: 01983 872742
theharbourviewbembridge@gmail.com

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. Family run over four generations.

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 at Brading Roman Villa is open to all and is privy to some stunning panoramic views over Sandown Bay. Serving up a great range of lunches, snacks, cakes and drinks, there are also daily specials, freshly baked scones and gluten free and vegan options available. Entry to the café is free.

Morton Old Road, Brading,
PO36 0PH (SatNav PO36 OEV)
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, you can relax on the terrace gazing out across the English Channel or stay warm and enjoy a drink at the bar, admiring the nautical memorabilia that adorns the walls. Family-friendly and renowned for home-made food (especially the famous Steamer 'Seafood Chowder'), muddy boots and well-behaved dogs are welcome.

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



Bembridge's pebbly beach is a great place for a family walk in the colder months and offers views of the iconic lifeboat station.

A FAMILY OWNED & RUN HOLIDAY PARK NESTLED IN WHITECLIFF BAY



PEACEFUL SURROUNDINGS WITH A TRANQUIL ATMOSPHERE

Direct access to sandy beach - One of the Island's best-kept secrets
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**SANDHILLS
HOLIDAY PARK**

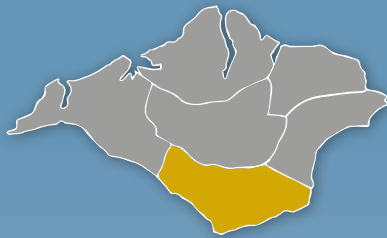
WHITECLIFF BAY

Tel 01983 87 22 77



enquiries@sandhillsholidaypark.com
www.sandhillsholidaypark.com

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 The Buddle Smugglers Inn, which has been recently refurbished and sits at the heart of Niton Undercliff.

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



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



ATTRACTIONS

Ventnor Botanic Garden



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

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



SHOPPING

Honeybourne Jewellery



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

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

Mermaid Lights



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

22 Alpine Road, Ventnor,
PO38 1BU
07885 720503

For more inspiration visit
wightlink.co.uk/explorer



ACCOMMODATION



The Buddle 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



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

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
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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



FOOD & DRINK

edulis Restaurant



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

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



The Buddle 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 Met



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

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

The Plantation Room Café



Open daily from 09:00. Located on the top level of Ventnor Botanic Garden, this cosy café has a sheltered outdoor terrace which overlooks the historical Palm Garden. With free parking, the café provides a 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 Spyglass Inn serves great food with stunning sea views.

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WIGHT WHISKY

SIGNATURE MALT BLEND

Discover the unique terroir of our Isle of Wight home, brought to life in our Signature Malt Blend.

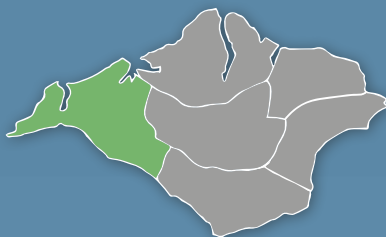


be **drinkaware**.co.uk

wightwhisky.com

@wightwhisky  Wight Whisky

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 adorn many holiday postcards and The Needles Landmark Attraction promises a day full of family fun all year round.

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



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



ATTRACTIONS

Isle of Wight Pearl



The Brighstone venue is home to a vast collection of beautiful pearl jewellery, a popular indoor and outdoor café with spectacular cliff-top views over the English Channel, pearl master class and family fun Pick-a-Pearl experience for a day like no other. Plus, don't 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



SHOPPING

XVstripes



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

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



ACCOMMODATION

Linstone Chine Holiday Village



Come and escape to your very own Jewel of the South and stay in a holiday chalet by the beach. With fantastic sea views of the Needles and Hurst Castle, fresh air, amazing sunsets and two sites to choose from, Linstone Chine Holiday Village is the best-kept secret on the Island.

Monks Lane, Freshwater,
PO40 9SU
01983 755933
linstone-chine.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



FOOD & DRINK

Grace's Bakery



Situated right next to the Wightlink Yarmouth ferry port, Grace's Bakery is the perfect place to grab a quick bite. Choose a freshly made sandwich or from the huge range of cakes on offer. Why not try an Isle of Wight doughnut? Handmade using a traditional Isle of Wight recipe from 1845.

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



ISLE OF WIGHT PEARL

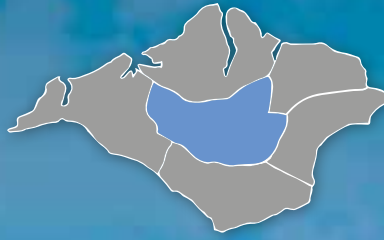




A modern blend of silky lustre and geometric shapes for statement pieces that are both unique and sophisticated.

iowpearl.com

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.

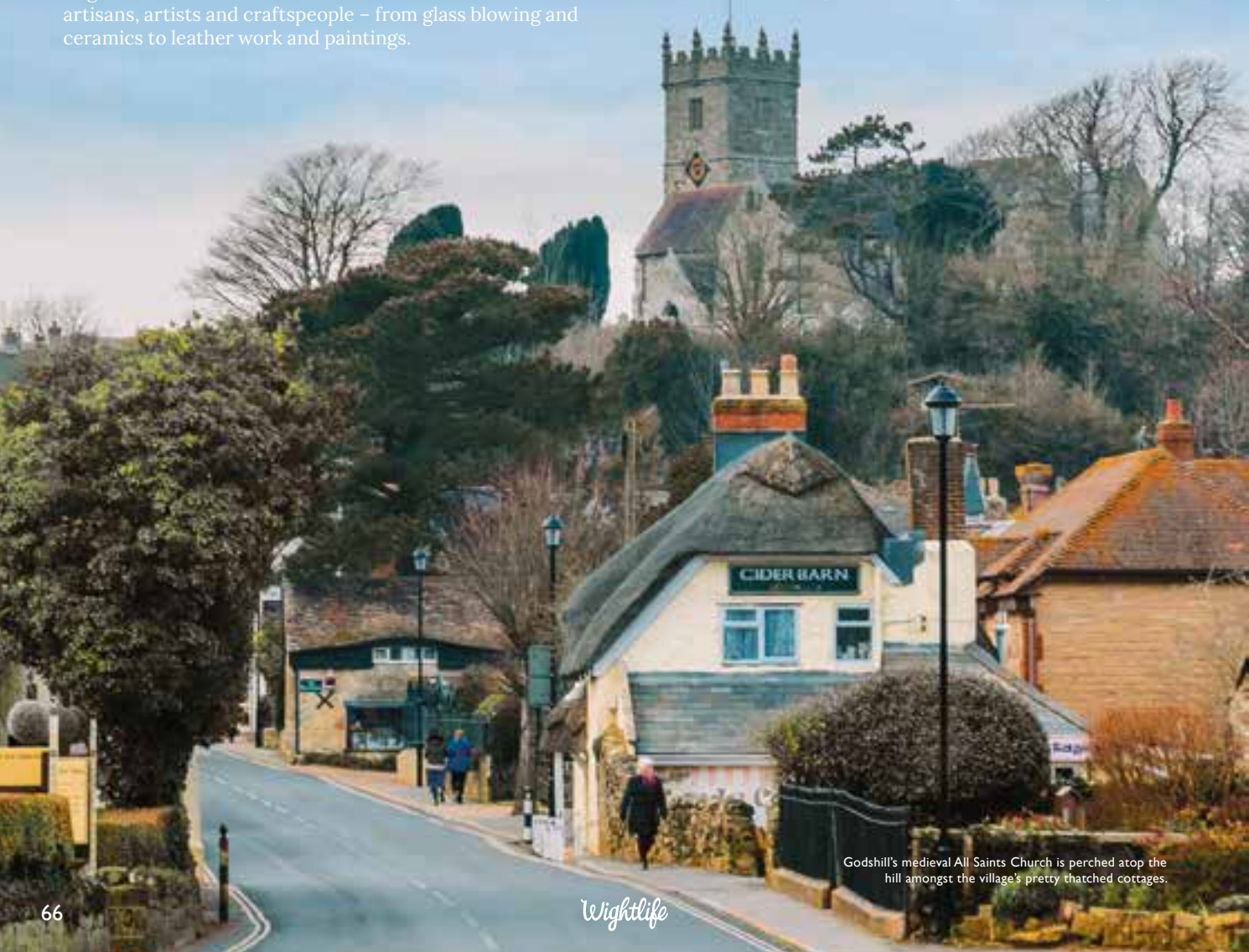
For a local shopping experience, nestled within the rolling fields of the village of Arreton is Arreton Barns. The Island's largest arts and crafts centre showcases the best in local artisans, artists and craftspeople – from glass blowing and ceramics to leather work and paintings.

"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



Carisbrooke Castle sits high and proud at the heart of the Isle of Wight.



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. See website for opening times.

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



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www.visualimpact.co.uk



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www.naturezones.org.uk

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Sweet tooth? You'll be in heaven browsing the selection at Sweet Memories at Arretton Barns.

Naturezones Wildlife Education Trust



Naturezones field study centre provides a home for wildlife and a haven of peace and tranquillity for us. Take a walk through the 10-acre wildlife garden. Sit and listen, smell the scents of nature, close your eyes and breathe it all in. Spend quality time with your children exploring the wonders of nature and enjoy pond dipping, chasing butterflies and scavenger hunting at a price you can afford.

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



The Garlic Farm



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

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

The Old Smithy



Boasting a range 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



Strings Bar & Venue



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

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



FIELDS
MENSWEAR

Broad range of styles and fits in formal and casual wear. Sizes from small to 5XL.

108 St James Square
Newport PO30 1UR
01983 522255



Strings
BAR & VENUE

THE ISLAND'S PREMIER LIVE MUSIC VENUE
[STRINGSBARANDVENUE.COM](http://stringsbarandvenue.com)

For more inspiration visit wightlink.co.uk/explorer



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 a heritage centre, milk processing factory, cheese room and café.

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



Fields Menswear



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

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



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



Thomas P Cochran



Handmade silver and gold jewellery... inspired by the ocean. Collections for men and women, cast in solid silver or gold from a mould of real shells. Come and visit the workshop and see how the unique pieces are created. Day courses in jewellery making now available. Group or individual bookings.

Arreton Barns, Main Road,
Arreton, PO30 3AA
01983 685578
thomaspcochran.com

Visual Impact



The Island's leading stockist of quality branded clothing and footwear since 1985. Including Paul Smith, Ralph Lauren, Barbour, Fred Perry, Lyle & Scott, Gant, Pretty Green, Part Two, Ugg, Levis, French Connection and many more.

21 Holyrood Street, Newport,
PO30 5AZ
01983 530260
visualimpact.co.uk



The Island's classic car garage

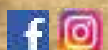


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Wight Classics Ltd

Arreton Barns, Isle of Wight, PO30 3AA
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West Gallery,
Quay Arts, Sea Street
Newport PO30 5BD

Free Entry
Open Daily 9am - 5pm | Feb 1st - 8th

Charitable Reg No: 272007



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. Plus, half the Island's beaches are within 20 minutes drive.

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



FOOD & DRINK

Bluebells Café at Briddlesford Farm



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

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



Quay Arts in Newport is the perfect spot for a coffee in the sunshine.



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

Grace's Bakery



Now open in a new location on Newport's High Street, Grace's Bakery is perfect for taking the weight off your feet during a hard days shopping. Choose a freshly made sandwich or something sweet from the huge range of cakes on offer or try and Isle of Wight doughnut.

40 High Street, Newport,
PO30 1SE
gracesbakery.uk

Snacks & Ladders Board Game Café



Snacks & Ladders is a little oasis where you can escape the real world and lose yourself in the world of games. Along with the huge menu of 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 Dairyman's Daughter



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

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



The Garlic Farm Restaurant



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

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



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

Portsmouth



Start the new year with a trip across the water; there's loads going on in Portsmouth this winter.

Portsmouth Creates has designated 2025 as its Year of Literature and Literacy – to not only celebrate the city's links with world-renowned authors, but also foster the love of books and reading among local schoolchildren.

The year gets off to a great start, first with the anniversary of Charles Dickens' birth and later with events for Portsmouth BookFest. The former will see a small ceremony take place at the Charles Dickens' Birthplace Museum (which will be open with free entry), whilst the latter will welcome authors and writers to the city for talks and workshops between 18 February and 9 March.

If music is more your thing, you'll be spoilt for choice with everything going on at the city's venues and theatres. Some top names in rock and pop will stop off in Portsmouth on their latest tours – among them Mike & The Mechanics, The Darkness, David Gray, Craig Charles and Turin Brakes.

Expect huge productions and singalongs in the Legally Blonde and Bat Out of Hell musicals or show-stopping productions from Strictly stars Giovanni Pernice, Amy Dowden, Carlos Gu, Karen Hauer and Gorka Marquez.

The Classical Series at Portsmouth Guildhall continues into 2025, with stunning contemporary performances, as well as three separate shows from the Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra.

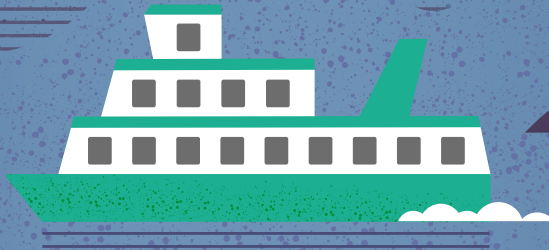
If you need to start the year with a good laugh then look no further. Touring comics will be bringing their shows to Portsmouth – with some big names including Chris McCausland, Alan Davies, Ed Byrne, Jack Dee, Russell Kane and John Culshaw. Plus, don't forget the regular comedy club night at the Wedgewood Rooms and the Valentine's Special at Spinnaker Tower (where you get a trip up to the View Decks as well as a night of laughs).

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

David Howells

What could be more romantic than watching the sunset from the Spinnaker Tower this Valentine's Day?

Scenic Solent Cruises 2025



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summer on the water

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online!

Choose from a wide range of day and half day cruises to suit all budgets. Explore with us the picturesque and busy waters of the Solent including the quaint harbour town of Lymington. For full details and to book your cruise online visit gosportferry.co.uk.

www.gosportferry.co.uk
023 9252 4551   

Gosport Ferry 

Lymington & the New Forest

As the new year unfolds, why not kick off 2025 with a trip to the New Forest, just a short hop from the Isle of Wight? This magical landscape offers the perfect winter retreat with unique experiences to recharge, explore and unwind.

Picture yourself on a cosy winter walk, winding through ancient woodlands or across open heathlands, with a coffee and cake stop midway to warm up. The New Forest boasts numerous trails with cafés like The Woods Bikes and Brews and The Old Station Tearooms, which are perfectly placed for a delicious pit stop. You'll be sure to spot some free-roaming animals along the way too.

Embrace the tranquil atmosphere with some forest bathing – a gentle, mindful way to connect with nature. With towering trees all around, the New Forest offers an ideal setting to leave behind daily stresses. If you're after deeper relaxation, local spas offer luxurious experiences for a touch of 'me time', or book a bespoke retreat, the best way to relax and rejuvenate.

Winter is also the time to indulge in the New Forest's exceptional local produce. Book a room at Stanwell House in Lymington for a taste of local flavours or head to Rhinefield House Hotel, where forest surrounds and fine dining experiences await, making it a food lover's dream destination.

For something hands-on, try one of the many craft workshops, from pottery to weaving, or bring the family along for kids' activities and nature trails. The Hanger Farm Arts Centre has a calendar packed with live performances and entertainment for all ages.



Warm up with a coffee and cake stop at The Woods Bikes and Brews.

With plenty of unique experiences, breathtaking views and attractions to visit, the New Forest is ready to welcome you to create unforgettable memories, come rain or shine.

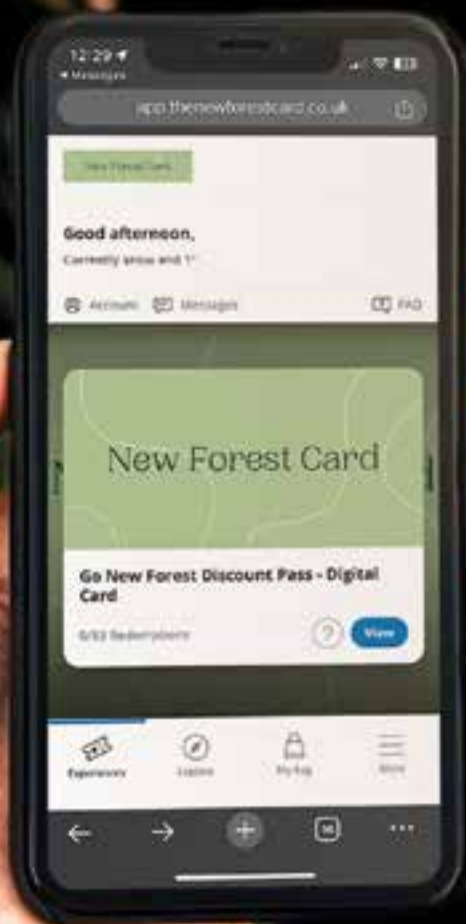
For more details on what to do in the New Forest, visit thenewforest.co.uk and wightlink.co.uk/explorer

Go New Forest



Get out for a walk amongst the trees and embrace the New Forest's tranquil atmosphere.

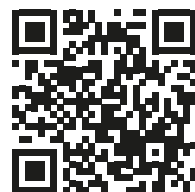
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*The
New
Forest*

Enjoy the New Forest for less with a New Forest Card and open up a world of savings while supporting local businesses.

For more information scan the QR code or visit the link below ↘
card.gonewforest.com



What's on...

The Island's events calendar is bursting at the seams and there's always so much to see and do, you will be spoilt for choice. Here is our pick of what not to miss in 2025...

Island Steam Fair.

JANUARY



An Evening with Paul Merson

6 January, Medina Theatre (IW)



Experience an unforgettable evening with one of the most charismatic footballing legends, Paul Merson! This exclusive show will feature a live and unscripted interview with Paul and the event host, followed by an audience question and answer session and much more. medinatheatre.co.uk

Alternative Burns Night



24 January, Dairyman's Daughter (IW)

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

dairymansdaughter.co.uk



Isle of Wight Symphony Orchestra: Finn Mannion, Cello



18 January, Medina Theatre (IW)

Young cellist Finn Mannion joins the IWSO to perform Wagner's *The Flying Dutchman* overture. The performance will also include *Serenade in E-Flat Major, Op. 7* by Strauss and *Symphonic Dances, Op. 45* by Rachmaninov.

THIS EVENT IS PROUDLY SPONSORED BY WIGHTLINK

iwso.co.uk



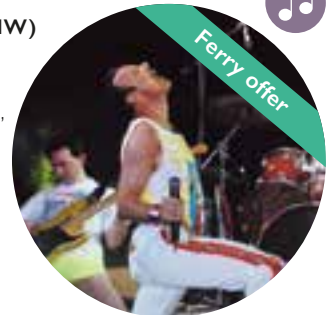
FEBRUARY

A Night of a Thousand Freddies



1 February, Shanklin Theatre (IW)

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



Ferry offer

Under the Bed Sale

1-9 February, Quay Arts (IW)



The Under the Bed Sale returns at a new location. Featuring works from over 50 Isle of Wight artists, including original artwork painting, printmaking, sculpture and ceramics, the sale is the perfect accessible and affordable opportunity for people to start or continue to build their art collections.

quayarts.org



Shirley Valentine

8 February, Shanklin Theatre (IW)



Wondering what has happened to her youth and feeling stagnant and in a rut, Shirley feels as if her family treats her more like a servant. When her best friend wins a competition for two to Greece, she packs her bags, leaves a note on the cupboard door in the kitchen and heads for a fortnight of rest and relaxation. In Greece she rediscovers everything she had been missing and when the vacation is over she decides not to return, ditching her friend at the airport and going back to the hotel where she'd been staying to ask for a job.

shanklintheatre.com



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

Box Office (01983) 868000
shanklintheatre.com

Proudly sponsored by **WIGHTLINK**



Wightlink Isle of Wight International Chess Tournament



18–23 February, Ryde School (IW)

This spring, the Island will host elite chess players from across the globe in a six day, nine round tournament at Ryde School, which also features a weekend Congress and multiple side events. Prepare to face off against formidable opponents – among the competitors are renowned players such as former English Champion GM Keith Arkell and IM and WGM Jovanka Houska, with more top-tier participants to be revealed soon.

iowchess.com

Isle of Wight Story Festival



20–22 February, Quay Arts (IW)

A magic mix of storytelling, performance, puppeteers, workshops, competitions, comedy nights and debates. Offering both free and ticketed events featuring a number of popular children's authors, there really is something for youngsters of all ages. You can even bring along your favorite bear for the Teddy Bear's picnic! iwstoryfestival.com

Dark Ale and Winter Gala



20–23 February, Isle of Wight Steam Railway (IW)

Celebrate Railway 200 as well as the Isle of Wight Steam Railway's own anniversaries taking place in 2025, including 150 years of the Ryde to Newport Line, 100 years of the Calbourne locomotive on the Island and the upcoming 50th Steam Show. Enjoy dark ales and train rides and celebrate the Railway's illustrious history. iwsteamrailway.co.uk

MARCH

The Wind in the Willows



6–8 March, Shanklin Theatre (IW)

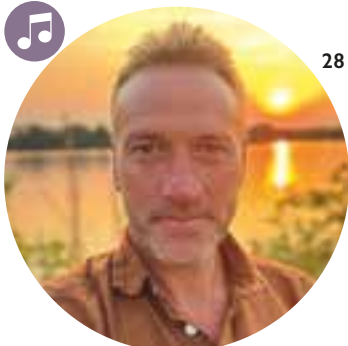
Step into the enchanting world of Mole, Ratty, Badger, and the Toad as their timeless adventures unfold on stage. Combining captivating performances with Alan Bennett's signature wit, this is a heartwarming tale of friendship, mischief and the beauty of nature. shanklintheatre.com

March of the MODS



29 March, Ryde (IW)

Head to Ryde seafront as the March of the MODS rolls into town. Celebrating 10 years, there will be a whole host of live bands and DJ's playing the best Mod, Ska and Northern Soul Classics, it promises to be a night to remember. Dress to impress and support the Teenage Cancer Trust. visualimpact.co.uk



Ben Fogle: Wild

28 March, Shanklin Theatre (IW)

In *Wild*, Ben Fogle brings stories and tales of hope, possibility and positivity to life on stage. From his extraordinary encounters with the human and natural world to the wilderness and hostile extreme environments, Ben will take you on a journey that will leave you enchanted and entertained. shanklintheatre.com

EVENT CATEGORIES:



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WELLNESS

For more events visit wightlink.co.uk/explorer

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY



Spring Buggin'

2–5 May, Retro Staycations, Ryde (IW)



Isle of Wight Walking Festival

10–18 May, Various locations (IW)



Isle of Wight Festival

19–22 June, Seaclose Park (IW)



Ventnor Fringe Festival

18–27 July, Ventnor (IW)



50th Island Steam Fair

22–25 August, Isle of Wight Steam Railway (IW)

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



Jack Up the 60s with The Zoots

29 March, Shanklin Theatre (IW)

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

shanklintheatre.com



APRIL

The Great Railway Easter Event

6-21 April, Isle of Wight Steam Railway (IW)

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

iwsteamrailway.co.uk



Isle of Wight Spring Art & Garden Fair

18-19 April, Northwood House (IW)

Following the tremendous success of previous years, the fair promises to be bigger and more popular than ever before. Combining plants, shrubs, garden machinery, tools and landscaping products with a fantastic Island artist showcase, this is an event not to be missed.

northwoodhouse.org



Aled Jones: Full Circle

23 April, Shanklin Theatre (IW)

Prepare to hear Aled Jones as you've never heard him before. He was the boy treble who captivated the world with his angelic voice on *Walking in the Air*. Equally at home on the classical stage or starring in musical theatre, he is an award-winning presenter and heads up BBC's *Songs of Praise*. Now, after 40 years in the business, he's looking back on a remarkable career with a one-man show.

shanklintheatre.com



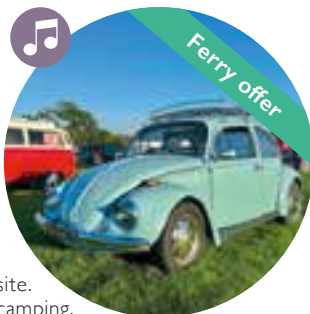
MAY

Spring Buggin'

2-5 May, Retro Staycations, Ryde (IW)

Spring Buggin' will kick-start the season in style with a camp out over the Early May Bank Holiday weekend, followed by Wight Buggin' in September. This will be a family-friendly occasion with a licensed bar courtesy of Island Ales and several Island food traders on-site. All are welcome including non-VW camping.

retrostaycations.co.uk



Real Ale Festival

3-5 May, Isle of Wight Steam Railway (IW)

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

iwsteamrailway.co.uk



Isle of Wight Randonnee

4 May, Islandwide (IW)

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

cycleisland.co.uk



Wolverton Folk and Blues Festival

10 May, Wolverton Manor (IW)

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

facebook.com/WolvertonFolkandBlues



Isle of Wight Walking Festival

10-18 May, Various locations (IW)

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

isleofwightwalkingfestival.co.uk



Riverfest

10 May, Newport Quay (IW)

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

riverfest.org.uk



Walk the Wight 2025

11 May, Islandwide (IW)

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

mountbatten.org.uk



Isle of Wight Open Studios

16–26 May, Islandwide (IW)

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

isleofwightopenstudios.co.uk



Legend – The Music of Bob Marley Live

16 May, Shanklin Theatre (IW)

When you think reggae, there is only one name that comes to mind. Enjoy an unforgettable evening celebrating this musical icon as a talented cast recreate the timeless hits *Could You Be Loved*, *Is This Love*, *One Love*, *No Woman No Cry*, *Jammin'* and many more reggae classics in a two-hour spectacular show.

jackupevents.co.uk



Ticket to Ryde

24–25 May, Ryde (IW)

Soak up the laid-back festival vibes at this fantastic free music event. Blending local Isle of Wight talent and well-established bands and soloists, visitors can treat themselves to hot food, fantastic real ales and plenty of gift, memorabilia and music stalls to check out. With a great range of kids' activities to keep every family happy.

jackupevents.co.uk



JUNE



Jack Up Events presents Swift & Styles – The Tribute Concert

7 June, Retro Staycations, Ryde (IW)

This award-winning extravaganza celebrates the biggest hits of two of the leading contemporary recording artists of our time; pop icons Taylor Swift and Harry Styles. Featuring stunning costume changes, dancers and a mesmerizing production with spot-on vocals, looks and charm. Sing and dance along to chart toppers *Shake It Off*, *As It Was*, *Cruel Summer*, *Sign of the Times*, *I Knew You Were Trouble*, *Watermelon Sugar* and many more!

jackupevents.co.uk



Round the Island Race

7 June, Islandwide (IW)

Attracting over 1,200 boats and 10,000 individual sailors, this one day yacht race is one of the largest international races of its kind. See sailing teams from across the world negotiate the 50 nautical mile course around the Isle of Wight, starting off and ending at the renowned Royal Yacht Squadron line in Cowes.

roundtheisland.org.uk



The Gin Festival

14–15 June, Isle of Wight Steam Railway (IW)

Step back in time into this unique 1940s setting and sample a range of craft gins and spirits from an array of distillers. While gin is at the forefront of the event, there are also rum, vodka, tequila, cocktails, prosecco and even beers and ciders on offer for you to try around the station. For the ultimate relaxed and carefree experience, join the Gin Train and travel in unique style while sipping your choice of tipple as you travel through the Island's countryside. The weekend includes fabulous live music and entertainment guaranteed to lift your spirits.

iwsteamrailway.co.uk



Isle of Wight Festival

19–22 June, Seaclose Park (IW)

Always the first major music festival in the summer calendar and with Sting, Faithless, Stereophonics and Justin Timberlake already confirmed for 2025, it's a fantastic experience for music lovers of all ages, including family-friendly areas and a huge range of accommodation options and VIP packages. Four days of great music, arts and culture that mark the start of the UK's festival season.

isleofwightfestival.com



JULY

The 1940s Experience

5–6 July, Isle of Wight Steam Railway (IW)

Enjoy a memorable day of nostalgia for the whole family and be immersed in the sights and sounds of England during the 1940s. Dance to the music of the era, dig out your best vintage clothes and pop those locks in to pin curls. There will be street scene shops for quirky clothes, traditional games, shows, period vehicles and a fairground for little ones. Visit the refreshment room to refuel with hearty themed food and a drink or two, so get those union jack flags at the ready to wave in the steam train before your 10 mile round trip.

iwsteamrailway.co.uk



Lymington Seafood Festival

11–13 July, Bath Road Park, Lymington (Mainland)

This unique culinary celebration showcases the best in the New Forest and south coast artisan food and drink. Sample local seafood and fish produce, find inspiration as chefs prepare food in the demonstration kitchens, sip craft beer, sparkling wines, boutique gin and enjoy music from the live bands.

lymingtonseafoodfestival.co.uk





Royal Isle of Wight County Show

12–13 July, Isle of Wight County Showground (IW)

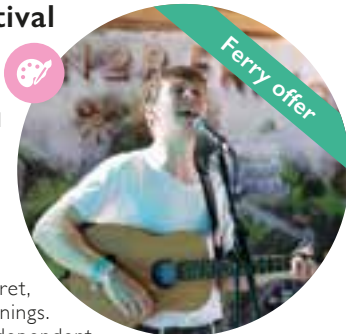


Celebrate the best of Island life at the Royal Isle of Wight County Show. See prize winning animals and livestock, sample delicious local produce, experience displays of show jumping, sheep shearing, tractor rides, clay pigeon shoots, 4x4 driving and arts and crafts. There'll be a chance to talk to the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

iwcountyshow.co.uk

Ventnor Fringe Festival

18–27 July, Ventnor (IW)



Ventnor Fringe brings together a rich, varied and eclectic blend of arts and culture. Launched back in 2010, the festival has developed into one of the Island's cultural highlights, presenting a programme of live acts and performances spanning theatre, comedy, cabaret, music and special one-off screenings.

The festival remains proudly independent and accessible to all, with a vibrant programme of events this summer.

vfringe.co.uk

Victorious Festival

22–24 August, Southsea (Mainland)



Based on the coast in beautiful sunny Southsea, Victorious is a great family friendly music festival by the sea. Now well-established and always boasting a top line up of acts, which this year includes Queen's of the Stone Age, Vampire Weekend and Kings of Leon, as well as a range of comedy headliners. There's also a whole host of food and drink, and retail stalls onsite, all in a stunning setting by the Solent.

victoriousfestival.co.uk



50th Island Steam Fair

22–25 August, Isle of Wight Steam Railway (IW)



The family friendly Bank Holiday event of 2025! The Island Steam Show celebrates 50 glorious years. Enjoy a vast collection of vintage transport, traditional fairground, live entertainment, plus majestic steam trains running along the line. Little ones will love playing traditional games such as coconut shys and hook the duck as well as a ride on the steam powered gallopers, perfect for big kids too. Hungry? Refuel at one of the onsite refreshment kiosks or cool down with an ice cream, plus there's even a real ale bar!

iwsteamrailway.co.uk

AUGUST



Cowes Week

2–8 August, Cowes (IW)

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

cowesweek.co.uk

Wight Proms

12–17 August, Northwood House (IW)



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

wightproms.co.uk

Isle of Wight Garlic Festival

16–17 August, Fighting Cocks Crossroad (IW)



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

garlicfestival.co.uk

SEPTEMBER



Isle of Wight Classic Motor Show

6–7 September, Newport Quay (Saturday) and Ryde Esplanade (Sunday) (IW)

Get ready to step back in time and experience the nostalgia of classic automobiles! This beloved event promises a weekend filled with vintage charm and roaring engines. From sleek motorbikes to elegant cars and sturdy lorries, the show boasts an impressive array of vehicles from the golden years of motoring. Whether you're a passionate enthusiast or simply appreciate the beauty of classic design, there's something for everyone.

iwmotorshow.co.uk

Isle of Wight International Scooter Rally

22–25 September, Various locations (IW)



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

visualimpact.co.uk



Travel information

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Check ferry times with our live timetable look-up.



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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
ileisure.co.uk

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

BREAKDOWN COVER

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

Bartletts Service Station
01983 865338
bartlettsstation.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
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,
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Yarmouth Harbour Office
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