

WIGHTLINK

FREE GUIDE

Wightlife

ISSUE 2: 2025

TM

BLISSFUL
BREAKS
FOR ALL
BUDGETS

LOCAL GUIDE
WHAT'S ON
AND WHERE
TO GO

BLOOMING
MARVELLOUS
SPRINGTIME GARDENS

Wightlink's essential guide to the Isle of Wight

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



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Extraordinary*



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Welcome to your Island escape

It's starting to feel like spring is in the air, and with the longer days coming, I am looking forward to more beautiful sunrises across the Solent and opportunities to spend time outdoors on the Island, in Portsmouth and the New Forest.



At Wightlink, we're always looking for ways to improve your journey, support our local communities and invest in the future. That's why we're always listening to your feedback – and acting on it.

Through our customer drop-in sessions, you've told us what matters most to you. As a result, we've introduced the Best Fare Finder to help you get the best deal on tickets; issued discount vouchers to Multilink holders; and improved our communications with our brand-new WhatsApp service bringing real-time travel updates to your mobile. Your input shapes how we operate and we're committed to making your journey even better, so please keep sending your ideas to feedback@wightlink.co.uk.

We continue to make improvements across our ports and ferries to enhance reliability and comfort. We have opened a new customer area in Ryde and added quiet and calm areas on board the St Clare and Victoria of Wight to support those who may find travel overwhelming. Meanwhile, our ferries have been undergoing vital refits to keep them in good condition for years to come.

Spring is an exciting time to visit the Isle of Wight, as the Island comes to life with stunning blooms, flourishing wildlife and a packed calendar of events. We're thrilled to see Robin Hill Country Park (a personal favourite for my kids and I in the past) reopening, bringing back its fantastic mix of adventure and entertainment for families. Whether you're here for a relaxing getaway, a festival, or an outdoor escape, there's something for you to enjoy.

Supporting the Island's economy remains a key focus for us, and we're proud to work closely with the Isle of Wight Chamber of Commerce and local businesses to drive tourism, boost employment and create opportunities during what remains a challenging economic climate.

Of course, Wightlink wouldn't be Wightlink without the people who make it all happen. We're investing in our workforce for the long term. With over 500 dedicated colleagues, we're committed to offering secure contracts, excellent training opportunities and career development across all areas of our business. One-third of our colleagues live on the Isle of Wight, meaning we're not just a ferry operator – we're a part of the Island community, and we take that responsibility seriously.

Thank you for choosing Wightlink. Whether you're commuting, exploring, or visiting loved ones, we're here to bring people together and make every journey special.

Katy Taylor

Katy Taylor
Chief Executive

WIGHTLINK

Lace up your boots and take a walk to the beautiful historic harbourside town of Yarmouth.

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COVER SHOT
Ventnor from Cascade Gardens
By Available Light Photography



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Why not stop for a meal or drink before,
during, or after your holiday?

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(next to the Fishbourne Wightlink Ferry terminal)

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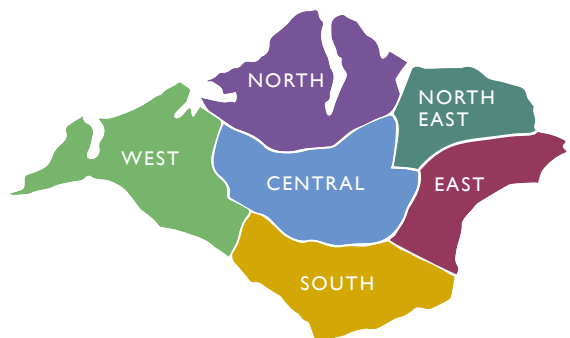
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The Guide

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



Isle of Wight Breastfeeding Friendly Scheme

We are proud to join the scheme and support parents onboard our ferries and at our ports.

Breastfeeding has major health benefits for both mothers and babies. Mothers have the legal right to breastfeed anywhere (Equality Act 2010). However many feel nervous or less confident about breastfeeding in public.

We welcome and support families and aim to provide a friendly environment onboard our ferries and at our ports. Doing so encourages families to go out, even if they are breastfeeding, which in turn, helps their mental well-being. Having a new baby is a big life event, it can be stressful and overwhelming. Being out in the local community can promote important connections with others.

To find out more, visit wightlink.link/breastfeeding



FOUR NEW GROUPS JOIN COMMUNITY SPONSORSHIP SCHEME

Every year, we sponsor a number of sporting teams and organisations with discounted travel through our Wightlink in the Community Scheme.

We have recently welcomed four new organisations to our Wightlink in the Community family: Ryde Amateur Boxing Club, Ryde Swimming Club, Wightgymnasts (Xcel) and the Isle of Wight Young Farmers Club join dozens of Island sporting, arts and community groups that are already supported with assisted travel.

The Wightlink in the Community initiative is continuing its support for a wide range of organisations, from sports teams and theatres to sea cadets and dance schools, who all offer valuable opportunities for Islanders, especially younger people, allowing them to flourish in their chosen activities.

To find out more, turn to pages 40, 66, 70 and 86 or visit wightlink.co.uk/community

Lost property: from false teeth to cuddly toys

Ever wondered what forgetful passengers leave behind on Wightlink's ferries?

With more than four million people crossing the Solent every year with us, it's not surprising that some of them leave things behind on our ships and at ports.

Although we do all we can to reunite forgetful passengers with their possessions, sometimes it's impossible. In 2024, 2,447 items ended up in the lost property store.

Most frequently left behind are spectacles and sunglasses, followed by bank cards, mobile phones, purses, wallets and items of clothing like hats, jackets and gloves.

Some of the quirkier items of lost property included a set of false teeth, a banjo and a child's potty. Even a bag of golf clubs and a packet of Hobnobs were left behind!

You can find out what else our customers left onboard at wightlink.link/lostproperty



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 luxurious two-night break with Luccombe Hotels and Wightlink worth over £1,250

Enter our incredible competition for a chance to win a luxurious two-night break at Luccombe Hall or Luccombe Manor, with ferry travel included. Stunning sea views, award-winning hospitality and unforgettable experiences await!

Escape to the breathtaking Isle of Wight with a fabulous two-night stay for two adults and up to two children at Luccombe Hall or Luccombe Manor worth over £1,000, plus £250 of Wightlink ferry travel to get you there. With three convenient routes, Wightlink is your link to the Island. What's more, if you're bringing a four-legged friend, Luccombe Manor welcomes dogs too!

Enjoy an indulgent dinner on your first night and unwind in stunning accommodation, with a choice of a Sea View Room at Luccombe Manor or a Superior Balcony or Superior Garden Room at Luccombe Hall.

Nestled in an unrivalled cliff-top location with spectacular sea views, the multi-award-winning hotels offer a warm welcome and outstanding facilities, including indoor and outdoor pools, hot tubs, games rooms and beautiful gardens. Whether you're craving relaxation or adventure, this is the perfect island retreat!

Don't miss your chance to win this incredible getaway! For your chance to win, visit wight.link/luccombe and use the form to enter by 30 June 2025.

This prize draw is open for entries from 1 April 2025. Entries must be received by 23:59 on 30 June 2025. Entrants must be 18+. Cannot be transferred, refunded or exchanged for cash/vouchers. The prize is subject to availability and must be redeemed by 30 November 2025 and excludes 25 July to 30 August 2025. The prize includes a two-night stay for up to two adults and two children at Luccombe Hall or Luccombe Manor, plus dinner on the first night. Dogs are permitted at Luccombe Manor only. Travel is not included except for £250 Wightlink ferry vouchers. For full terms and conditions visit wight.link/luccombe



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Springtime adventures



As the days get longer and the flowers begin to bloom, the Isle of Wight comes alive with a whole host of Easter activities to suit everyone. Whether you're looking to explore historic sites, spend the day with furry friends or immerse yourself in nature, this vibrant Island offers something for every member of the family. So, grab your Easter bonnet and head out to explore some of the Island's best spots, all while soaking in the beauty of springtime.

ANIMAL MAGIC

For families with younger children, the Isle of Wight is full of opportunities for animal encounters that will leave everyone smiling. The Isle of Wight Donkey Sanctuary in Wroxall is a firm favourite, with over 100 adorable donkeys, mules and ponies to meet and greet, and offers free entry to all ages. While you're there, enjoy a peaceful walk through the paddocks, stop off at the café to enjoy a selection of homemade goodies or book an exclusive behind-the-scenes experience with the team. Don't forget to stop by the wildlife meadow for a peaceful picnic – the perfect place for dogs and their well-behaved owners to relax and soak up the sun when it's shining.

Get up close and personal and make some new furry friends at the Isle of Wight Donkey Sanctuary.

Over at Tapnell Farm, one of the most popular family destinations on the Island, you can enjoy a selection of daily events and activities on offer throughout spring. Take a look around the animal barn and paddocks to discover the range of adorable animals both big and small, from goats and wallabies to alpacas and pigs. Why not have a go on the brand-new tower slide, a huge indoor slide where fun soars to new heights, or the nine-hole outdoor crazy golf course? With a full day of fun under your belt, why not cap it off with a delicious meal at The Cow, the on-site restaurant renowned for its locally produced and award-winning burgers as you watch the stunning sunset over The Solent.



Meet the mob in the Wallaby Walkabout at Tapnell Farm Park.

STEP BACK IN TIME

For a journey through time, head to Carisbrooke Castle and step into the footsteps of Saxon soldiers and captive kings. The castle's historical significance is brought to life with fascinating displays, exhibits and the opportunity to watch the resident donkeys who still pull water in the 16th-century well house! Enjoy panoramic views from the castle walls and, for added amusement, embark on an Easter Adventure Quest from 5-27 April – there's a special chocolatey reward for those who can conquer the castle's cryptic clues.



Enjoy the panoramic views from Carisbrooke Castle's ramparts.



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Let the kids run free as they search for clues in the Osborne Easter Adventure Quest.

If royal history is more your style, Osborne offers the chance to wander through Queen Victoria's favourite residence and its stunning grounds, private beach and walled garden. Over Easter, kids can join in the Big Brick Build, where they'll help create a LEGO sculpture of the charming Swiss Cottage found within the Osborne estate or take part in the Easter Adventure Quest in an attempt to claim the coveted chocolate prize.

SOAK IN THE BEAUTY OF SPRING

Easter is the perfect time to take in the natural beauty of the Isle of Wight. Ventnor Botanic Garden is a great place to explore the Island's diverse plant life and enjoy a springtime stroll through lush greenery. The garden's peaceful atmosphere and unique microclimate make it the ideal spot to unwind and soak up the season's vibrant colours.



Thanks to the unique microclimate, Ventnor Botanic Garden boasts an impressive collection of over 30,000 rare and sub-tropical plants and trees.

A little further along the coast, Shanklin Chine offers a truly magical experience. Take a picturesque walk through the lush gorge, complete with waterfalls, wildlife and sprawling sea views – and if you've got time to spare, a hot drink and a slice of cake provide the perfect accompaniment to the spectacular scenery. With live music and events planned throughout Easter, there's something for everyone.

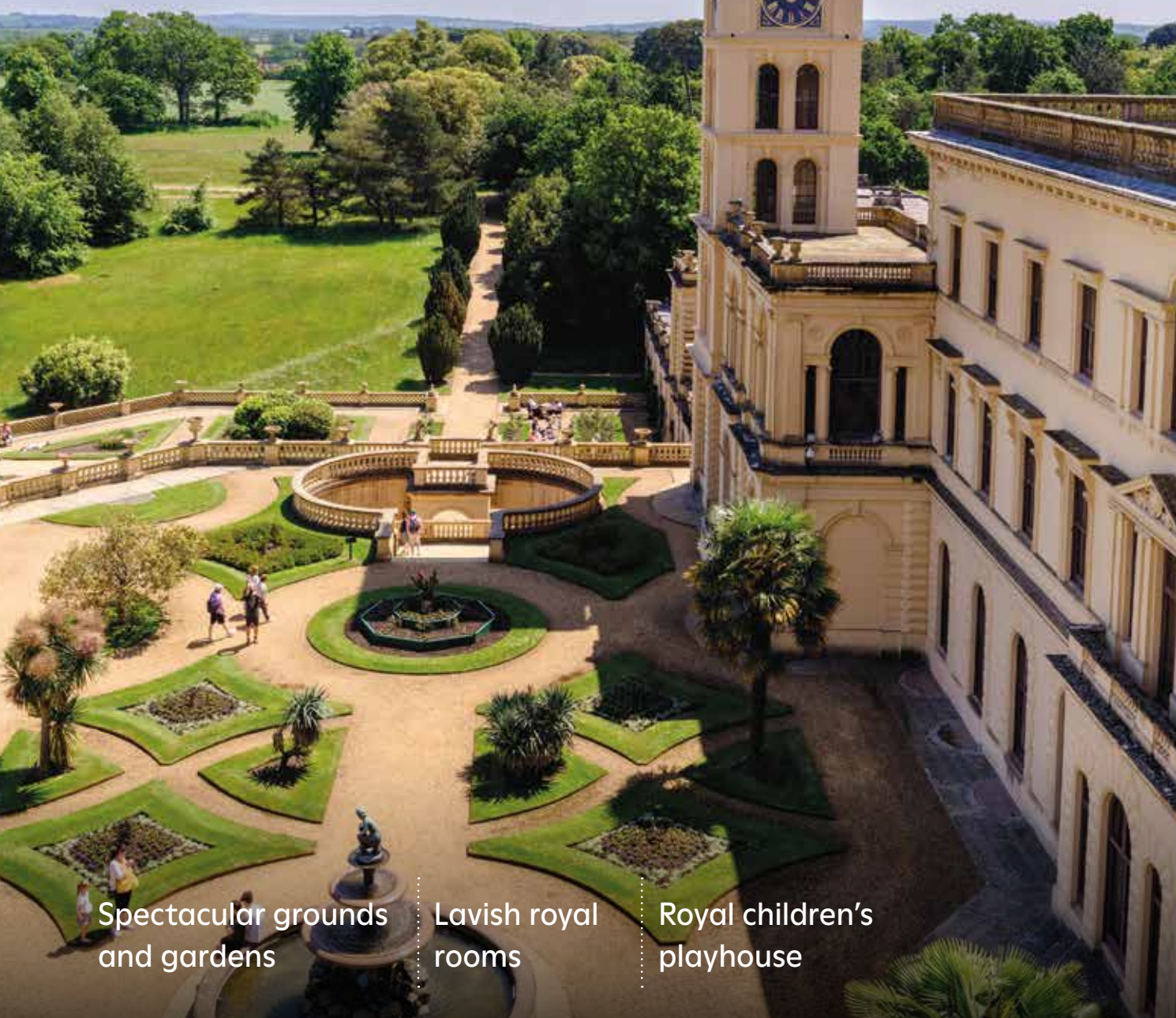


Shanklin Chine's impressive 45-foot waterfall lies at the end of the tree-lined gorge.

For those looking to stretch their legs and explore some of the Island's best walks, head to Arreton Barns – the Island's largest arts and crafts centre. Enjoy the sights of nature alongside charming shops and local artisans before setting off for a peaceful stroll along the medieval carp pond and 12th-century church. Whether it's a quiet wander or an adventurous hike to Arreton Down, there's no shortage of stunning trails.

Osborne

Victoria and Albert's
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Lavish royal
rooms

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Tucked in the heart of Arreton Barns is a picturesque medieval carp pond.

A GROWN-UP ESCAPE

While the Island is packed with family-friendly adventures, there are also some fantastic grown-up escapes. Head to the Isle of Wight Steam Railway and let the train take the strain for a nostalgic ride through the Island's scenic countryside. Feel the distinctive power of the majestic 19th-century steam train as it transports you back in time on an enchanting tour of historical stations, unspoiled countryside and ancient woodlands. Once back at the station, take a look through the immersive museum, grab a drink and a bite to eat or why not book yourself, or someone special, a VIP Experience?



All aboard! Hop onboard one of the locomotives at the Isle of Wight Steam Railway and enjoy a nostalgic ride through the Island's countryside.

For those craving an Easter adrenaline rush, look no further than TackT-Isle Adventures, where a thrilling range of watersports awaits. Whether you're a seasoned pro or just catching the exciting first bite of the watersports bug, their expert and friendly team has all the gear and guidance you need to conquer the waves of the incredible Isle of Wight coast with total confidence.



TackT-Isle adventures will get you out and on the water to try your hand at a variety of sports including windsurfing and paddleboarding.

As the Island blooms in spring, there's no better time to make memories with the ones you love. Whether you're hopping between history, wildlife, culinary delights, or the great outdoors, the Isle of Wight is sure to offer a perfect Easter getaway for the whole family.

For more Easter events see our What's On Guide on pages 98–104 or visit wightlink.co.uk/explorer

Brad Stockdale

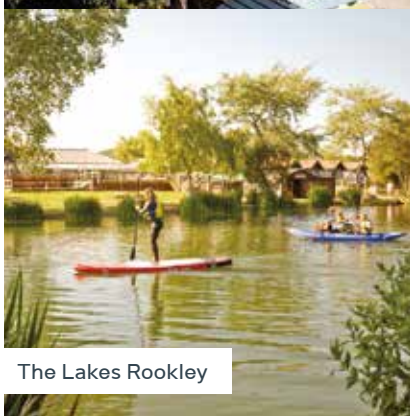
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GIANT
BOUNCY
PILLOWS!

DAILY
ANIMAL
ACTIVITIES

NEW
FOR
2025

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PLUS, there's plenty of indoor and outdoor play for everyone with **JUMPING PILLOWS**, go-karts, **SLEDGE SLIDES**, trim trails, **SOFT PLAY**, adventure barn and **CRAZY GOLF**!

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CRAZY GOLF

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You can't leave the Island without...

#1 PUTTING YOUR BEST FOOT FORWARD

Lace up your walking boots and discover the Island during the Isle of Wight Walking Festival. Taking place from 10–18 May, with coastal and country routes to suit all abilities, there's no better way to see the Island.

To save 20% on ferry travel to the Island for the Walking Festival, visit [wight.link/springwalk](https://www.isleofwight.co.uk/walking)



#2 GOING ON AN EGG HUNT

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

#3 TASTING THE WIGHT

The weather not only makes Islanders happier, it does wonders for our food too – you can virtually taste the sunshine in the fruit and vegetables we grow, the drinks we brew and the meat we rear. Find out more about the Isle of Wight's rich food heritage on pages 52–56.



#4 VISITING A VILLAGE

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

#5 CATCHING FESTIVAL FEVER

Always the first major music festival in the summer calendar, the Isle of Wight Festival returns from 19–22 June. Attracting the biggest names in rock and pop including Sting, Stereophonics and Justin Timberlake this year, it's not to be missed!





#6 HITTING THE BEACH

57 miles of coastline means beaches for everything you could want. Sandy shores for all the family, bays perfect for watersports, dog-friendly coves and some of the most famous coloured sands in the country. Look out for our favourites in our Destination Guides on pages 60–93.

#7 GETTING ON YOUR BIKE

Spend some time in the saddle this spring and take part in the Randonnee. This free-to-enter event on 4 May follows the Round the Island cycle routes in a clockwise direction and is a great way to take in the Island's scenery.



#8 MAKING THE MOST OF THE MICROCLIMATE

Enjoying more hours of sunshine than the national average, the Isle of Wight benefits from a unique microclimate that is perfect for plants and makes for gorgeous gardens. Take a tour around our favourites on pages 34–38.

#9 SPOTTING SOME SAILING

The Round the Island Race on 7 June is one of the largest yacht races of its kind in the world. With 1,200 boats and around 10,000 sailors taking part, it's a sight to be seen. Make sure you get yourself a good vantage point to watch the action!



#10 SPYING UNIQUE ANIMALS

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



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

Blissful breaks for all budgets

Whether you're looking for a fun-filled family holiday or a romantic getaway for two, when it comes to beautiful breaks the Isle of Wight is the place to be. With glorious glamping, quirky caravans and self-catering cottages in abundance, you can treat the family to a relaxing Island escape that won't break the bank.



THE GARLIC FARM

One for the foodies and garlic lovers! Nestled next to the historic village of Newchurch you'll find The Garlic Farm, where their seven luxury yurts and five tastefully converted cottages offer a relaxed countryside getaway. Explore stunning, organic farmland right on your doorstep, with beautiful woodland, peaceful lakes, and pasture-raised cows and goats grazing in the surrounding fields. If you don't spot the red squirrels while walking, the on-site restaurant is a great viewing point, complemented by garlicky dishes and occasional entertainment – Sunday Jazz is a local favourite!

We recommend: Yurt Ruthie

The Garlic Farm's luxury yurts are indeed luxurious, with comfortable beds, electricity, fully equipped kitchens and beautifully designed bathrooms. Treat your tribe to a stay under the stars in Yurt Ruthie, lounge in the hot tub and enjoy cosy evenings toasting marshmallows around the fire pit, then retreat to your yurt, kept warm and snug by the wood-burning stove. For a dose of wellness, there's also a wood-fired barrel sauna and cold plunge tub, surrounded by trees. This is back to nature, without compromising on comfort – glamping at its finest!

Enjoy a countryside getaway and stay under the stars in one of The Garlic Farm's seven luxurious yurts.

THE ORCHARDS

Set in rolling countryside, nestled amongst old apple orchards, this green and lush holiday park is a haven of peace and relaxation. With holiday homes, pitches for tents and touring, as well as a private house for hire, there are great value options to suit all budgets. Two swimming pools and a well-stocked shop filled with local produce and goodies make this an easy spot for a family holiday – and their takeaway cabin is an added bonus for those relaxed evenings when even firing up the barbecue is too much effort.



The Orchards is situated in an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and boasts not one, but two swimming pools, as well as a well-stocked shop.

The park's location in an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty means it's a great base for exploring. Take a gentle stroll across the rolling hills or explore nearby Newtown Nature Reserve, a quiet backwater with a medieval past, ancient woodlands and wildflower meadows. The shallow waters also make this a great spot for canoeing and paddleboarding.



Need more space? Orchard House is a four-bedroom house on the park.

We recommend: Orchard House

If you prefer creature comforts to pitching up, book into Orchard House, a four-bedroom, stone-built house on the park, complete with a private garden, sunny patio and barbecue. Round up your family and friends and enjoy all the benefits of the park, with plenty of space, privacy and comfy beds all ready and waiting for you on arrival.

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Steephill Cove is a real hidden oasis, with clear waters to rival the Mediterranean.

STEEPHILL COVE

Stepping onto Steephill Cove is like stepping back in time. The quaint little bay is quiet and secluded, with a handful of fishermen's cottages and a small lighthouse looking onto a sandy cove, surrounded by rocks and dotted with lobster pots and deck chairs. Spend the day exploring the local area of quirky Ventnor town, just a stroll away via a beautiful coastal cliff route, where you can take in striking art deco and Victorian architecture and browse independent shops and restaurants.

The luscious Ventnor Botanic Garden is also just a stone's throw away, where an impressive collection of 30,000 rare and sub-tropical plants and trees thrive, benefitting from Ventnor's unique microclimate. At Steephill Cove, The Crab

Shed is not to be missed. Named in honour of its immensely popular fresh crab pasties, it's a great spot to take in the view and enjoy a relaxed lunch. If you're lucky, you may even spot seals, dolphins or porpoises.



Why not take your coffee or out on the sun deck and admire the views over the water? Sea Breeze is perfectly placed just a stone's throw from the shoreline.

We recommend: Sea Breeze

If your jam is self-catering with sea views, check into the Sea Breeze apartment in the cove and feel your stresses wash away. This light and airy coastal one-bedroom is perfect for couples or small families. Relax on the sun deck, sip your coffee and watch the waves in your private Island paradise.



Sea Breeze is a light an airy apartment perfect for couples or small families,

Let the memory
making begin!



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Clad in colourful wooden cladding, TriBeCa is a caravan holiday given a modern makeover at Whitecliff Bay.

WHITECLIFF BAY

A real hidden gem with stunning sea views. Choose from touring pitches, glamping and holiday homes with Away Resorts at Whitecliff Bay. While away days on the glorious private golden beach, or splash in their indoor and outdoor pools. With activities such as archery and crazy golf on offer and a jam-packed schedule of events, the whole family is sure to be entertained. Located in the tranquil countryside of the north east of the Island, explore Bembridge and Culver Downs, with its dramatic chalk cliffs and magnificent views. For nature lovers, a walk through Brading Marshes Nature Reserve is sure to please, where you can see buzzards, woodpeckers and little egrets.

We recommend: TriBeCa

Who says a British caravan holiday can't be glamorous? This is stylish accommodation for fun-loving families, with décor emulating a Manhattan loft and clad in colourful stripes. The living space is light and airy, with panoramic glass sliding doors for a truly indoor-outdoor living experience. Children will love the funky cabin-style bunk beds, while the master bedroom is a relaxing sanctuary, with a luxurious stand-alone bathtub – bliss!



Stay at Whitecliff Bay and you have easy access to the beautiful beach.

For more ideas on places to stay, turn to pages 60–93 or visit wightlink.co.uk/explorer



You won't be short of style or the comforts of home at Whitecliff Bay.

Ginnie Taylor

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- 6 Gordy's Wood Co
- 7 Sculptglass & Remembrance Glass

- 8 Rainbow Kingdom Encaustic Art
- 9 Sweet Memories Sweet Shop
- 10 Snoot Box
- 11 Chad Powell Gallery & Shop

- 12 Fortune Leathercraft
- 13 The Craft Cabin
- 14 Little Art at the Barn
- 15 Isle of Wight Stone Creations
- 16 Squirrel's Den Collectibles
- 18 Isle of Wight Glass Museum
- 20 St George's 12th-Century Church
- 21 Historic Carp Pond
- 23 Lavender Cottage Holiday Let

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

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

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

17 WIGHT CLASSICS

A friendly garage specialising in the maintenance and repair of classic cars. The team aims to provide a high quality service at down to earth prices and regularly look after a diverse range of cars from Jaguars and Fiats to Land Rovers and Rolls-Royces and everything in between.



5 THE DAIRYMAN'S DAUGHTER

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

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



2 THE CORN EXCHANGE

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





1 THOMAS P COCHRAN

Solid sterling silver jewellery, handmade by the team in their workshop at Arreton Barns. Cast in recycled silver from the moulds of real shells, come and browse their unique pieces based on nature. Day courses in jewellery making now available. Group or individual bookings.

19 ISLE OF WIGHT STUDIO GLASS

As seen on Channel 5's *Isle of Wight: Jewel of the South*, take the opportunity to experience the magic of Master Artist and leading British designer-maker Timothy Harris and team. The world famous, innovative family run studio has for over 50 years been inspired by the Island's breathtaking year round scenery, flora, fauna and magical coastlines.

The ground floor easy access studio and shop areas are free for all to enjoy. Browse the shop for something special, from a small gift to a lasting investment. Experiences available, commissions welcome. Not to be confused with any other Island glass studio, Isle of Wight STUDIO Glass is located at the very top of the site above the pond and church.



22 SHIPWRECK CENTRE

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



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

ARRETON BARNES

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

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

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

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Shop 01983 539365 | Pub 01983 539361

Blooming marvellous

Late spring and early summer are when the Island is at its most beautiful. Bare boughs sprout green shoots, bulbs burst from the soil, and gardens awaken. Take some time to explore some of the many gardens open to the public or wander through woodland to reconnect with nature and the new season.

GARDENS WITH HISTORY

Queen Victoria's favourite retreat, Osborne, is a must-visit for its beautiful formal gardens, colourful terraces and sweeping views over the Solent. The walled garden, originally used to grow fruit and vegetables for the royal household, is now a beautifully restored space showcasing seasonal flower, fruit and vegetable planting. The terraces lead to the private beach, and visitors can also explore the

extensive woodland walks that stretch down to the Swiss Cottage, a playhouse built for Victoria's children, where they learned to cultivate their own garden.

The Princess Beatrice Garden at Carisbrooke Castle, designed by Chris Beardshaw, is a tucked away space featuring a mix of period planting and topiary. This tranquil garden was designed in honour of Queen Victoria's youngest daughter and features fountains, climbing roses and historic herbaceous borders. The wider castle grounds have picturesque picnic spots and plenty of room for kids to let off steam.



The formal gardens at Queen Victoria's summer home, Osborne, look stunning in the spring sunshine.

The former home of Alfred, Lord Tennyson, Farringford has a wonderfully restored walled garden filled with heritage blooms inspired by the 19th-century planting schemes of Tennyson's time. Beyond the walled garden, the estate also features parkland with delightful walking trails, offering scenic views over the rolling countryside.



Inspired by the planting schemes fashionable in his time, the walled garden at Alfred, Lord Tennyson's home at Farringford features heritage blooms.

Mottistone Gardens and Estate, managed by the National Trust, includes a mix of Mediterranean-style planting, winding paths and hidden corners perfect for a romantic stroll. In spring, the orchard is filled with apple blossoms, providing a picture-perfect setting for those Instagram moments, and in summer, beds are filled with a mix of colourful perennials and herbs. Walk from the gardens to the nearby neolithic Longstone to appreciate the sweeping views.



Mottistone Gardens's beds are filled with colourful perennials.
Photo: National Trust Images/Chris Lacey.

FAMILY TIME OUT

Ventnor Botanic Garden with its exotic plant species, dinosaur-themed trails and a great café, is known as 'Britain's hottest garden'. Thanks to Ventnor's unique microclimate, the garden is home to a variety of rare and subtropical plants, including palm trees and cacti. The garden also features an underground mushroom farm and a medicinal garden showcasing plants with healing properties. Kids will enjoy the adventurous tunnel walkways, while parents can relax and take in the stunning sea views.

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THE STEAMER INN

• SHANKLIN •



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Godshill Model Village is a combination of gardens and intricate miniature versions of Island locations, including Godshill itself.

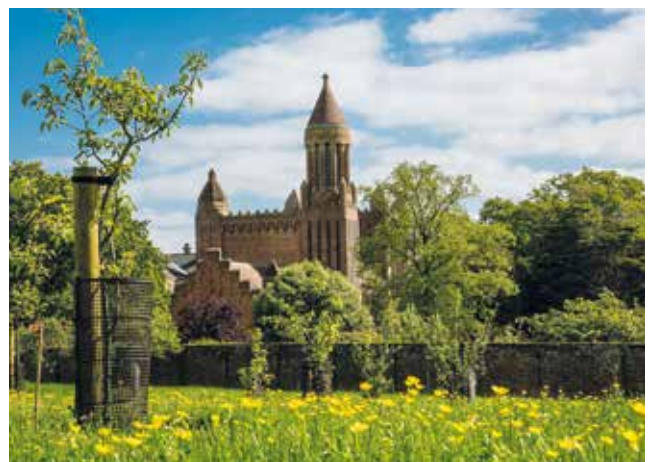
While known for its adventure play, newly reopened Robin Hill's woodland gardens and scenic walks offer an added touch of natural beauty. The ancient woodland valley is filled with blossoming wildflowers in spring and features woodland sculptures hidden among the trees. Keep your eyes peeled for the Island's favourite residents, the red squirrels.

For pure, old-fashioned whimsy, Godshill Model Village, a combination of gardens and intricate model buildings, is a place that kids will love. Miniature trees, carefully pruned to scale, surround tiny versions of local landmarks and the landscaped gardens are beautifully tended, featuring floral displays that mirror the miniature world inside.

Watch the entire butterfly life cycle in action and even have the chance to see a butterfly emerge from its chrysalis at Butterfly World. This indoor tropical paradise is home to hundreds of butterflies fluttering amongst the flowers, a koi pond and a collection of exotic plants, making it a great day out for nature lovers.

FREE-TO-ENTER PARKS AND GARDENS

Ventnor's beautifully kept Victorian park with a bandstand, duck pond, putting green and colourful flowerbeds is a favourite for dog walkers. In spring and summer, you might even catch a live brass band performance. The winding paths lead to peaceful seating areas, making it a lovely place to enjoy a book or a chat with a friend.



Quarr Abbey's grounds have meadows and orchards to explore, as well as a well-stocked farm shop selling local produce and a tearoom serving freshly baked cakes and honey.



Left: Butterfly World is an indoor tropical paradise where you can see the entire butterfly lifecycle in action. Right: Is there anything cuter than a pile of piglets at Quarr Abbey?

Explore the atmospheric ruins, enjoy the gardens where the monks grow fruit and vegetables and visit the friendly pigs at historic Quarr Abbey. The grounds have meadows, orchards and a small shop selling homemade produce made by the monks. The Abbey also has a tearoom serving freshly baked cakes and local honey with outdoor seating for sunny days.



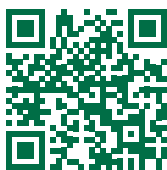
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**Open daily from
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Please check our website for specific dates and opening times.

Shanklin Chine has long been at the forefront of countless childhood holiday memories with its main waterfall, tumbling down the cliff edge from 45 feet being a key feature.

Enjoy events such as character meet & greets, a Halloween Spooktacular, live music and as day turns to dusk, Shanklin Chine is transformed as hundreds of lights are turned on creating a magical and enchanting evening.

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**Visit our 'pub on the beach',
Fisherman's Cottage Inn...**

SCAN ME!



Nestled beneath Shanklin Chine and located on the beach at the end of Shanklin Esplanade, the Fisherman's Cottage Inn is the perfect spot to enjoy breakfast, lunch or dinner.

2025 Pub Opening Times

Opening times may vary. Please see our website, social media or call our booking office.

To book a table inside contact bookings@shanklinchine.co.uk

Shanklin Esplanade, PO37 6BN | 01983 863882 | fishermanscottageinn.co.uk | Follow us on  



The Garlic Farm is a real feast for the senses. Take a seat in the sunshine and enjoy some garlicky goodness.

Rylstone Gardens in Shanklin is perfect for a relaxed afternoon, often with live music from the bandstand, especially during the summer months. The gardens overlook Shanklin Chine, with stunning coastal views, and the shady mature trees are a lovely place to enjoy an ice cream from the nearby café on a warm spring day.

A FEAST FOR THE SENSES

The Garlic Farm is an Island treasure. Set in the heart of the Isle of Wight's countryside, it features beautifully maintained gardens filled with a variety of garlic species, wildflowers and kitchen garden herbs. Visitors can follow farm trails that meander through ancient woodlands and wildflower meadows. There's a well-curated shop where you can sample a wide array of garlic-based products, and the café serves up mouthwatering garlic-infused dishes, including black garlic ice cream for the more adventurous.

At Appuldurcombe, surrounding the historic house, the estate's ancient woodland bursts with bluebells and wild garlic in spring. The celebrated landscape designer Capability Brown enhanced the rolling grounds in the 1780s, designing a peaceful setting with stunning views across the Wroxall Valley, with woodland paths leading to secluded clearings for a moment away from the crowds.



The woodland surrounding Appuldurcombe bursts with bluebells and wild garlic in spring.

From regal estates and historic homes to ancient woodland glades, whether you're seeking adventure, relaxation, or floral inspiration, there's a blooming marvellous Island garden waiting to welcome you. Enjoy the great outdoors.

For more Easter events see our What's On Guide on pages 98–104 or visit wightlink.co.uk/explorer

Amber Beard



Take a walk on the wild side through The Garlic Farm's wildflower meadows.

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Wightlink in the Community: Ryde Swimming Club

Founded in 2015 by Waterside Community Trust, Ryde Swimming Club (RYDS) are a friendly and competitive swimming club with ages ranging from seven years through to Masters (25+). The club trains at Waterside Pool, next to the boating lake on the Esplanade at Ryde.

The pool is one of the only pools in the UK with a retractable roof – bringing sunshine right into swimming sessions when the weather permits – and is the only one on the Island to have Swim Mark Accreditation from Swim England.

The club aims to develop the swimming skills, stamina and speed of all members. The goal is for all swimmers to achieve the best they can and to improve on their 'personal best' times as well as enjoy the training and make friends along the way.

Waterside is in the blood of Club Deputy Jacob Jenner. He has been involved with the club for over 10 years, competing for Ryde Swimming Club since the age of nine, and being part of the coaching team for the past five years. With the pool only a short walk or cycle away from home, he makes full use of the facilities to swim and help coach the next generation into young adult athletes.

"The Isle of Wight offers beautiful scenery and landscapes, partnered with a recent increase of sporting and leisure activities for our younger generations. Waterside aims to provide the best experience possible to our young members.

Ryde Sands has golden beaches, which during the summer are lifeguarded by Ryde Beach Lifeguards. It is a gorgeous spot for the public to relax and enjoy our coastline. Many of our swimmers visit our local beach during the summer.

Firestone Copse, located on the outskirts of Ryde, is a well-maintained, thriving forest. Gravelled pathways lead you around the woods, with smaller trails allowing you to explore to your heart's content. Families, especially those who own pets, find it the perfect place to journey to.

Tennyson Down is one of the prettiest places on the Island. The scenery makes for a very enjoyable walk.

Our Wightlink sponsorship helps our swimmers attend more regular meets, allowing them to experience more through swimming. Along with competing, we also hope their ability in the water and their personalities grow as they spend more time with one another in new environments."

Follow the club at facebook.com/Rydeswimmingclub.

To find out more about our sponsorships, visit wightlink.co.uk/community. Meet more of our sponsored groups on pages 66, 70 and 86.



ROARS of Excitement this Spring!

New beginnings and exciting times at the Sanctuary!

The long-awaited arrival of **Benji and Balu**, two rescued brown bears, is imminent! These magnificent bears will soon join our incredible family of rescued animals—including lions, tigers, lynx, servals, lemurs, monkeys, and more. Come and be part of their heartwarming journey as we welcome them to their forever home!



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New Rescues Arriving this Spring!



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Island expeditions (minus the car!)



With buses crisscrossing the rolling downs, trains stopping off at some seaside towns and a steam engine that chugs through sun-dappled ancient woodland, the Island is certainly home to a host of scenic trips if you go by public transport. So, leave the car or camper back at base and follow us as we shop, sip and snack through our ideal car-free Isle of Wight itinerary.

IN THE BEGINNING...

If you've just crossed the Solent by FastCat and found yourself at the wet and salty end of Ryde's historic wooden pier, then you've started on an excellent note. From here, you can either take a leisurely walk down the pier or step aboard an Island Line train, which, following an extensive renovation, will reopen during May and provides an impressive introduction to the Isle of Wight. Taking you across the lapping waves and over to the shore, you'll see the skyline of Ryde draw nearer, complete with towering church spires, elegant Georgian townhouses and long stretches of sandy beach.

It's better by bus. Climb aboard the Island Coaster and admire the views of the Military Road.



Thanks to recent refurbishment you can now get the train or stretch your legs on the pedestrian walkway on Ryde Pier.

After disembarking at Ryde Esplanade (don't forget to mind the gap), turn westwards and make your way to the inviting and recently-opened RT Café Grill, run by award-winning chef (and once the UK's youngest Michelin star winner) Robert Thompson. Whether on the seaside terrace or tucked away in the cosy bar, start proceedings with a coffee and cake (the Amalfi lemon cake with vanilla meringue is highly recommended). Once suitably revived, make a quick detour to Union Street and step inside Duxmore Botanics. From citrus-infused bath oils to botanical body washes and candles inspired by the Island's salty sea air, there are plenty of locally-crafted wellness wares to cast an eye over.



Duxmore Botanics is a sweetly-scented shop full of well-chosen wellness wares.

MOVING WEST

From here, the Southern Vectis Number 9 bus will whisk you over to Newport, where you can change to the Summer Links route and continue onwards through the lush green fields of West Wight. The destination is Yarmouth, a historic port town complete with Tudor castle, quaint cottages and a scenic river estuary. Once you've taken in the sights, make sure you turn into Wheatsheaf Lane and head through the door of Fox & Robin, a unique interiors shop run by the charming Christopher Johnson. Whether you're on the lookout for locally-printed nautical lampshades, framed vintage artwork, or stylish Staffordshire-made mugs, this stunning shop won't disappoint.

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Bag yourself something beautiful for the home at Fox & Robin in Yarmouth.

With time moving on, a little lunch is in order. Stroll along the riverbank, following the old railway line to Freshwater, then cross the stone bridge and make the steep (but brief) climb up to the Red Lion. Full to the brim with character, and more cosy nooks than you could ever wish for, it's the ideal location for a culinary pitstop. Award-winning chef Sean Jeffers is at the helm here, with a seasonal menu that features such tempting options as the Isle of Wight beef crumpet and the spiced lamb shoulder bonbons. Next, catch the Needles Breezer down into Freshwater Bay and stock up on some retro apparel at Freshwater Bay Vintage – a haven of iconic American fashion. From US army tops to 1980s varsity jackets, there's plenty to try on. P.S. Don't miss the super stylish upcycled and handpainted garments made by local creative Holly Maslen.

BACK TO THE DEPOT

Our next route takes us south across rugged clifftops and along scenic twisting stretches of the Military Road (often voted one of the most stunning drives in the country). But before the Island Coaster cruises back onto the Isle of Wight's eastern side and deposits you safely in Shanklin, stop off in Ventnor for a little libation and sustenance.



Ventnor, located on the Island's south coast, is an eclectic mix of seaside charm and Victorian architecture and is perfect for a pit stop.

We'd particularly recommend making a reservation at the Smoking Lobster. Situated on the Esplanade, with views over the sandy beach, the chefs here incorporate Isle of Wight seafood in their exciting pan-Asian inspired menu. Try the steamed bass with clam and white soy dashi or the seared scallops with sake and Avrugia caviar sauce.



The Red Lion has a seasonal menu full of tempting options like the Isle of Wight beef crumpet.

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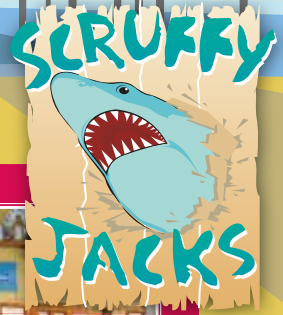


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Stop off at Smallbrook Station and step back in time at the Isle of Wight Steam Railway.

A 10-minute trip back aboard the Island Coaster takes you to Shanklin, a historic seaside town that inspired writers including John Keats, Henry Wadsworth Longfellow and Mimi Khalvati. With all those links to creative writing, you can't miss Babushka Books on Regent Street. First opened by an eccentric book collector in the 1950s, it's now in the capable literary hands of Reuben Simpson-Little. Here, you can pick up first-edition John le Carré novels, signed works by Dylan Thomas and a discerning selection of modern fiction. Before setting off on the final furlong, head round the corner to Deli-Cious Artisan Bakery for a well-earned snack. Options include Polish apple pudding, "WZ" chocolate cake or (if you visit on a Saturday) jam-filled pączki doughnuts, all baked by master baker Piotr Banachowski.

From Shanklin, the Island Line trains will whisk you back to Ryde in no time, but if you still have an hour or two for a small detour, disembark a few stops early, at Smallbrook Junction. At this unassuming station, you can cross over to the sooty and atmospheric Isle of Wight Steam Railway, where carriages dating back to 1864 await.



Bookworm? Babushka Books in Shanklin is a real treasure trove of both second-hand and new books, including a discerning selection of modern fiction.

The route takes in quiet rural stations and pockets of ancient woodland, with a chance to see deer and red squirrels as you gently chug by. As the sun begins to set and you pull into your final station, look back on your action-packed day and feel satisfied that you managed to achieve every single bit of it without the need for a car!

For more ideas on places to visit and eating out, turn to pages 60–93 or visit wightlink.co.uk/explorer

James Rayner



Sweet tooth? Deli-Cious have a whole host of freshly baked goodies to tempt you.



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@ntisleofwight



Explore the vibrant arts scene with Isle of Wight Open Studios

The beautiful Isle of Wight has always been an inspirational haven for creatives who have set up their homes and studios across the Island within a unique UNESCO Biosphere Reserve. Now, you have the chance to step into their world.

Ever wondered what it's like inside an artist's studio? Looking for that one-of-a-kind piece to transform your home? Or simply curious about the creative process?

Get up close and personal to over 150 artists during Isle of Wight Open Studios which runs for 11 days from Friday, 16 May right through to Spring Bank Holiday on Monday, 26 May. Creatives from all artistic genres, from painting to pottery, sculpting and woodcraft, photography, craft-making, jewellery design and even digital art and textiles are throwing open their studio doors to visitors.

This year, Isle of Wight Open Studios is proud to be supporting five young emerging artists. These 'Brave Island' creatives have been given the opportunity to 'buddy up' with an experienced artist who will share their studio space with them. This has given them the chance to showcase their talent by exhibiting their work as part of one of the Island's premier art events and connect with the Island's diverse creative community.

Sue Paraskeva's multidisciplinary work comprises of stand-alone pieces, installation, film and tableware.

To make the most of your Open Studios experience, visit the interactive website where four Area Maps pinpoint every venue. The 'Artists' pages offer a closer look at each participant, their work, and studio locations. You can also browse the Island-Wide Artists Directory online or pick up a printed guide which is widely available across the Island.



Fine artist Trudie Wilson draws inspiration from the Island's unique landscapes and sense of place and encourages others to explore and create.

To support this popular annual event, a free Showcase Exhibition at the West Gallery, Quay Arts in Newport, will feature works from some of the participating artists. Running from 3 April to 31 May, this exhibition offers a perfect preview of what's in store during IW Open Studios.



Andy Fortune turns colourful wooden vases and practical wooden kitchen wares from locally sourced timber.

Whether you call the Island home or are visiting its shores, the Isle of Wight's vibrant community of artists, spread across all four corners of this beautiful Island, would love to meet you and show you around their creative space. You can be sure that there will be something for everyone to enjoy – whatever your age, taste or budget!

To find out more about IW Open Studios visit isleofwightopenstudios.co.uk. For more events see our What's On Guide on pages 98–104.



**Friday 16 May –
Monday 26 May**
Spring Bank Holiday 2025



Explore the unique creative worlds of local artists from across the Island

Pick up a copy of the IW Open Studios Artist Directory at sites across the Island or scan the QR code to make the most of your Open Studios experience.

Visit our Showcase Exhibition at the Quay Arts, Newport Harbour
Thursday 3 April – Saturday 31 May
Open 9am – 5pm daily

FREE admission at all venues!



Visit our website
isleofwightopenstudios.co.uk

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ISLE OF WIGHT PUBS

Character Inns have been family-owned and run for three generations and offer a collection of landmark Isle of Wight pubs. Discover three traditional inns offering an abundance of charm, personality and character – whether dining, staying or drinking your favourite tipple. New for 2025 are three beautifully refurbished pubs with new boutique ensuite rooms each offering the opportunity to stay at these landmark inns.

Nestled in some of the Island's most scenic spots and just a stone's throw from the sea, you'll find a wonderful selection of Character Inns, each one unique and rich in local history.

These charming inns combine the warmth of your favourite British pub with the welcoming feel of a guesthouse, making them a perfect home away from home for travellers. They offer a lovely place to dine, unwind and enjoy your stay in a distinctive period setting.

THE BUDDLE SMUGGLERS INN NITON



Tucked away in an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty in Niton Undercliff, at the southern-most point of the Island, this Grade II listed inn is a true gem. As one of the oldest pubs on the Island, it boasts charming flagstone floors, exposed beams, and a warm log fire that invites you to unwind.

In summer months its large garden overlooking the sea is a really a very pleasant way to unwind and forget about everyday life. The Buddle Inn has a lovely cosy vibe and stunning views of the English Channel that will make you not want to leave.

Recently the pub has been converted to an inn with a complete renovation of the upstairs into 4 en suite boutique rooms that maintain the inn's historic charm. This has been 200 years in the making but the reviews certainly agree that this is a great addition to the pub.



The pub has recently been awarded much acclaim by travellers and locals alike and it's no wonder that both The Times and The Guardian have recognised it as one of the UK's top inns!

**The
Guardian**

Voted in the Top 10
'Best Renovated
English Foodie Inns'

THE TIMES

Voted in the Top 10
'English Cosy English
Country Pub Stays'

The kitchen serves up tasty pub favourites and a beloved Sunday roast, all in a welcoming atmosphere that even your furry friends can enjoy. It's the perfect spot for those exploring the Island, with plenty of footpaths and local sights to discover. The building itself has an intriguing history, dating back to the 16th century when it was a barn for smugglers to hide their treasures before becoming an inn in 1829.

Speaking of treasures, the Buddle is steeped in tales of smuggling, and rumour has it that there might still be some hidden gems beneath the floorboards today! buddleinn.co.uk

THE BUGLE COACHING INN YARMOUTH

Located In the very heart of Yarmouth's Square, you'll discover The Bugle Coaching Inn, a charming Grade II listed inn. This winter has been a busy one for the Bugle team – all nine of their guest rooms have been lovingly restored to offer boutique ensuite accommodation which is a perfect starting point to explore all that the West Wight has to offer.



Dating back to the 16th century, this pub is full of character with its inviting flagstone floors, traditional inglenook beams, cosy snugs, and a warm open fire that makes you feel right at home. Guests can retreat to comfortable King, Twin, or Family rooms, all in a setting that's bursting with charm. Plus, it's dog-friendly! Enjoy spacious dining areas, both indoors and outdoors, where you can savour a delightful year-round menu featuring classic pub favourites, often accompanied by live music.



The Bugle is a vibrant and welcoming place to be... in the summer months the inn boasts a large sun garden with outside bar and live music at the weekends. The inn is a beloved local spot and favourite for visitors alike in this picturesque Island fishing town. It's the ideal destination to gather and enjoy sharing memories, no matter what the occasion has to offer. thebugleinn.co.uk

THE CRAB & LOBSTER INN BEMBRIDGE

Nestled at the far eastern tip of the Isle of Wight, in the village of Bembridge, this charming inn is a beloved spot for locals and visitors alike to wind away the day enjoying a meal, your favourite tipple or even a relaxed stay over.



Offering stunning views of Bembridge Ledge, and just a stone's throw from the sparkling sea and beach, you really would not wish to be anywhere else. The inn's accommodation has been completely refurbished for the 2025 season and now offers 5 boutique ensuite rooms in this stunning location. The inn offers something for every one. The pub itself is traditional with inglenook beams, cosy snugs and a warm open fire that makes you feel right at home. On sunny days, you can dine al fresco while soaking up the expansive views across the English Channel.



Afterwards, if you are lucky enough, you can head upstairs to one of the cosy, refurbished rooms for a well-deserved rest – pure bliss! The pub is also dog-friendly and conveniently located right by the coastal path, making it an ideal starting and finishing point for your adventures exploring Bembridge and the gorgeous East Wight coastline and beaches. crabandlobsterinn.co.uk

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A taste of the past

While it may not be obvious at first sight, the Isle of Wight has a rich and varied food history stretching back many centuries. Scratch beneath the surface and you'll find resurrected local specialities and plenty of pioneering modern producers drawing inspiration from the past. So pull up a chair and unfurl that napkin as we take you on a quick culinary tour.

HISTORIC SPICED DOUGHNUTS

Made in homes and bakeries across the Island for many centuries, the Isle of Wight doughnut is perhaps our most famous culinary creation. Around the size of a cricket ball, these tasty sweet treats were originally made from a spiced dough which was left to rise next to a fire, filled with wild plums or currants, then fried in boiling lard and drained on clean straw. Despite sharing a name with the American doughnut (which has Dutch origins), the Isle of Wight version appears to have developed completely independently – and can supposedly be traced back as far as the 17th century.



The Redrup family of Grace's Bakery produce Isle of Wight doughnuts based on a recipe from 1845.

By the Edwardian era, Isle of Wight doughnuts were quickly dying out, however, in more recent years they've had something of a revival. Using an 1845 recipe by celebrated cookbook writer Eliza Acton, the Redrup family of local bakery chain Grace's, have started producing a cinnamon and currant-based variation, using their decades of sugar-sprinkled experience. With bakery outposts in Ryde, Shanklin and Yarmouth, plus a newly opened location in a former bootmaker's shop on Newport High Street, you can't possibly miss them.

LOCALLY-GROWN CHERRIES

For Islanders of the past, cherries were amongst the most popular fruits around, often baked into puddings and tarts, or used to flavour (and disguise) bottles of smuggled gin. Known as merries in the local dialect – a word said to come from the French word *merise* – cherry trees grew wild in many parts of the Island, whilst cherry orchards were called merry gardens (a label which lives on in a local street name and pub name, both situated just outside Lake).



You can taste the sunshine in Godshill Orchard's cherry jam and juice.

While most of the Island's orchards have long since disappeared, over in the scenic South Wight village of Godshill, one excellent example is still flourishing today. Run by the Medway family, Godshill Orchards is home to 4,000 trees and 20 different varieties of cherry. Not only can you pick up a punnet of glossy cherries from the farm gate during the summer, you can also buy their homemade cherry juice, cherry chutney or white cherry jam year-round.



Godshill Orchards is home to 4,000 trees and it's not just cherries the Medway family grow, but apricots too.

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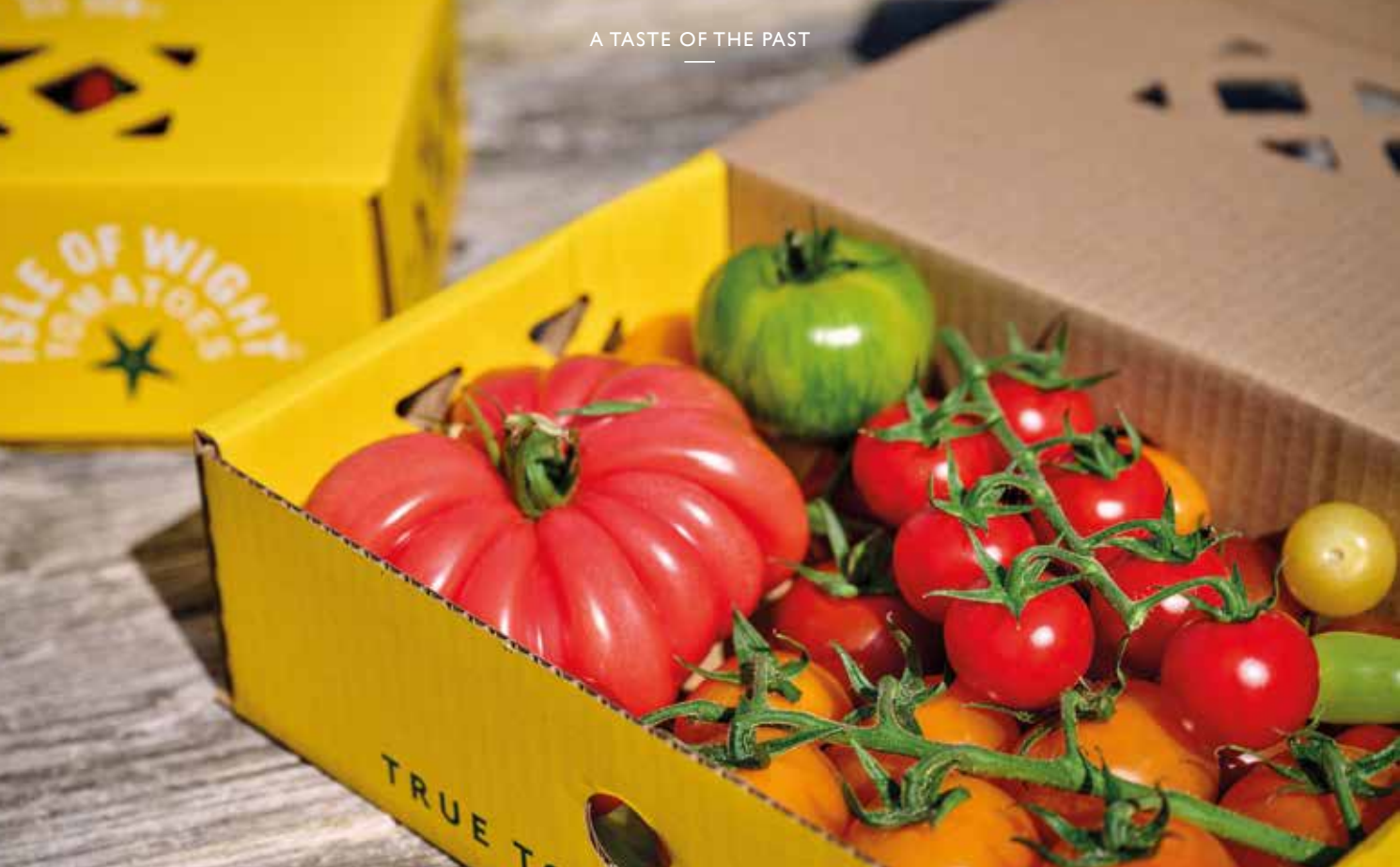
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Isle of Wight Tomatoes have been growing in the Arreton Valley for over 15 years.

SUN-RIPENED TOMATOES

Back in the year 1900, the Belgian owner of Ventnor's Royal Hotel, Hubert Cloots, was growing tomatoes in his unheated greenhouses and in the decades before him, horticultural hobbyists and the gardeners of grand houses across the Island were growing them too. However, it wouldn't be until the 1950s and 1960s that tomato growing became a bigger industry on the Island, turning the process into a commercial success story and making the Isle of Wight tomato one of our most famous exports.



Any slightly wonky or imperfect tomatoes don't go to waste, but are made into products such as Isle of Wight Tomatoes pesto instead.

Much of that fame has been down to one trailblazing firm in particular – Isle of Wight Tomatoes. They've been growing tomatoes in the rich and fertile soil of the Arreton Valley for over 15 years, with sustainability top of the agenda. Rainwater is harvested for irrigation, crop waste is recycled and slightly wonky or imperfect tomatoes are used to make tasty products such as pesto, smokey tomato-infused balsamic and Punjabi-inspired curry sauce.

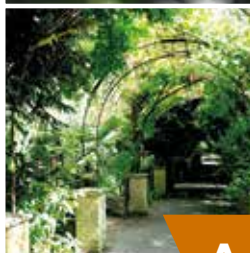
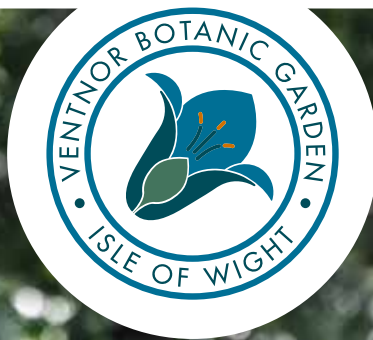
Over the years, Isle of Wight Tomatoes produce has been stocked at farm shops from Dorset to rural Fife and has also been spotted on the hallowed shelves of Selfridges. It's a favourite with celebrity chefs too and often makes an appearance on the menu of Brasserie Zédel (a glitzy upmarket restaurant just off London's Piccadilly Circus).

ARTISANAL BREWS

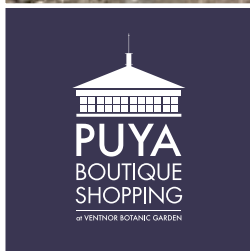
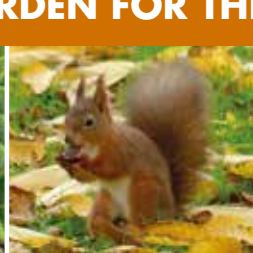
Historically, when raising a glass or wetting a whistle, the first choice for locals tended to be beer. Using locally-grown barley and hops which grew wild in the woods, Islanders brewed all sorts of frothy concoctions, from light swizzles and stronger nammet beers to the very strongest puncheon beer, usually served to harvest workers. Breweries started taking off during the Victorian era, including Newport-based Mew, Langton & Co. which used to supply Osborne House when Queen Victoria was in residence. While none of our 19th-century beer makers still survive today, plenty of smaller-scale artisans have taken the reins and kept our local brewing tradition alive.



Say cheers! Smaller-scale artisan producers, such as Wight Knuckle Brewery are keeping the Isle of Wight's local brewing tradition alive.



A BOTANIC GARDEN FOR THE 21ST CENTURY



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EXPLORE | DINE | SHOP | STAY



Wight Whisky uses locally farmed barley and fresh water from Knighton Spring to make their Signature Malt Blend.

One such firm is Wight Knuckle Brewery, an award-winning sustainable craft brewery which began life in the back rooms of the Pilot Boat Inn at Bembridge. Founded by brothers Ed and Fergus, they now operate from the Nunwell Estate, using the highest quality natural British ingredients, alongside local water and a thoroughly modern approach.

Brews include the Wight Knuckle Pale Ale (a refreshingly light creation, with hints of citrus and berries) and their Unfiltered Lager (with a gentle bitterness and captivating floral aroma). Whichever option you plump for, you can sip happily knowing each pint is 100% vegan, and the spent grain is used to feed pigs at Nunwell Home Farm.



Wight Knuckle Brewery was founded by brothers Ed and Fergus.

ISLAND-DISTILLED SPIRITS

Whilst we've been home to bubbling gin stills for a number of years, in 2024 the Isle of Wight's food and drink culture started a new chapter, as Wight Whisky became the first local distillery to begin crafting the ancient amber-coloured spirit and released its opening product. Based at New Farm, just outside Brading, the team uses locally farmed barley and fresh water from Knighton Spring to ferment, distil and blend into their 40% ABV Signature Malt Blend.



Wight Whisky are the first local distillery to craft the amber coloured spirit – which makes delicious cocktails including a Wight Mule with ginger ale and lime juice.

This hearty dram features notes of light oak and dried fruits with a creamy honey finish, and is ideal for sipping neat or for mixing into your next Manhattan, Old Fashioned, Whisky Sour or even a Wight Mule. With more products in the pipeline from Wight Whisky, and with a whole host of other passionate food producers across the Island all working hard to achieve big things, the future is certainly looking bright for Isle of Wight gastronomy.

For ideas on where to sample Isle of Wight food and drink, see pages 60–93 or visit wightlink.co.uk/explorer

James Rayner

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Green News

Wildlife could be lost from the Solent forever

A new report has revealed worrying news about the Solent's natural environment. For the first time, scientists have brought together data showing that some of the Solent's most important habitats and wildlife are disappearing fast. Without action, we could lose them completely in the future.

The Solent State of Nature Report focuses on a few key habitats you might not have heard of before – like salt marsh, seagrass meadows, mudflats and oyster beds. These areas are vital for wildlife, acting like underwater forests and feeding grounds. But the report shows that three of these habitats could vanish from the Solent altogether in the next 100-200 years unless we step in to help. One – the oyster beds – has already almost completely gone.

It's not just habitats under threat. Many types of birds and fish that rely on these spaces are also struggling, with numbers falling fast.

The Solent isn't just a beautiful stretch of water – it's also a vital home for wildlife. Every year, thousands of coastal and marine birds rely on the area to feed, nest or shelter over the winter, and its harbours and estuaries provide important nursery grounds for young fish, rays and even sharks. In 2023 alone, more than 11,500 pairs of seabirds bred here, and the Solent is especially important for a species called the Dark-bellied Brent Goose, which travels thousands of miles to spend winter on our shores.

But these natural spaces do much more than support wildlife. They also help tackle climate change by storing carbon, protecting our coasts from erosion and even helping clean the water.

Despite all of this, the new report has found that the Solent's habitats are under serious threat. Even though much of the area is officially protected, human activity – including pollution and the effects of climate change – is putting increasing pressure on this delicate environment. Some of these vital habitats are already disappearing, and once they're gone, they could be lost forever.

But there's good news too – efforts to turn things around are already underway. The Solent Seascape Project, which commissioned the Solent State of Nature Report, is leading the charge. It's the first project of its kind in the UK, working to protect and restore nature right across the Solent, and it's even part of the UN's global Ocean Decade initiative.

The project has already started bringing life back to the Solent in several places. This includes creating new oyster reefs, planting seagrass meadows, restoring salt marsh and protecting important seabird nesting sites. Together, these efforts aim to help nature recover, turning the Solent from a struggling environment into a thriving, healthy and connected ecosystem once again.

Wightlink is proud to support the Solent Seascape Project, helping scientists and conservation teams travel to and from the Isle of Wight to carry out this vital work.

To find out more about how this project is helping to protect the Solent for future generations – and how you can play a part – visit solentseascape.com



Acting like underwater forests and feeding grounds, the seagrass, near Bembridge's iconic lifeboat station, is vital for wildlife.



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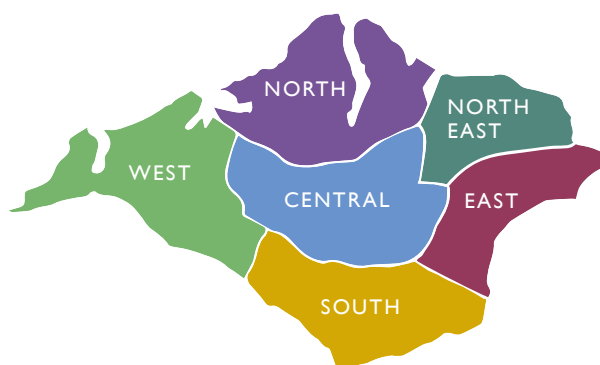
Isle of Wight Council

Island destinations

LISTINGS KEY

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

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



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



Take a ride through the countryside and admire the carpet of bluebells on one of the Isle of Wight Steam Railway's locomotives.

64 NORTH

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

68 NORTH EAST

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

72 EAST

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

78 SOUTH

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

82 WEST

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

88 CENTRAL

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

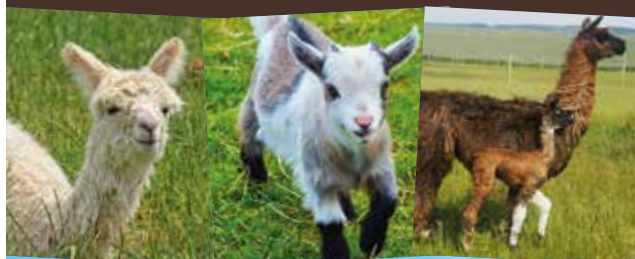


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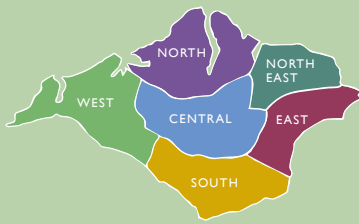


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Yarmouth

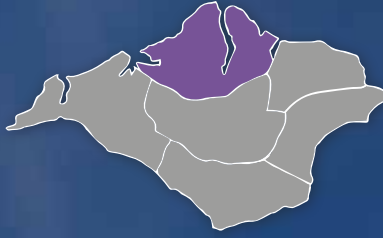


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North



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

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

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

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

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

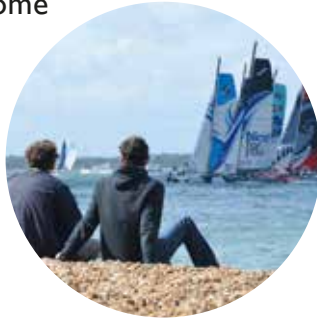


Play where royal children once did at Swiss Cottage at Osborne.



Best beach for some sailing action: COWES

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



Best beach for sunsets: GURNARD

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



Best beach to feel like a queen: OSBORNE

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



Find out more at
wightlink.co.uk/explorer

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enquiries@wmahm.org.uk

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Wightlink in the Community: Wight Gymnasts (Xcel)

Wight Gymnasts was founded in April 2024 to meet the needs of elite gymnasts who were no longer able to train on the Isle of Wight. Many of the gymnasts had been training from the age of three with a variety of local clubs, but due to the lack of specialist facilities and coaches, had outgrown what the Island had to offer.

The gymnasts have achieved great success in the last few years winning medals at every competition attended across England and Wales, including regional grades and finals. They also earned spaces in the Hampshire Squad which is a remarkable achievement given the limited training facilities available on the Isle of Wight.

In April 2024, their previous club became unable to offer competitive gymnastics at the level they needed. Wight Gymnasts provides support and fundraising towards the gymnasts' expenses. They now have no choice but to travel to the mainland and three of them have secured places at Xcel Gymnastics in Horndean, (the Wight Gymnasts Xcel) with the others training at Portsmouth Gymnastics Club. The girls are training and competing along a regional/national competitive pathway and hope to realise their dreams of national success.

IZZY (AGE 12)

"I love living on the Island because I can go to the beach and my family is here. Ryde beach is my favourite because there is so much sand and you can walk out a long way.

My favourite walk is from Sandown to Shanklin along the sea wall, especially when the waves come up and splash me! My favourite place is my house where I can spend time with my family.

I am so grateful for the sponsorship as we have to go to the mainland three times a week for training and we travel all over England and Wales for competitions and events. If we didn't have the sponsorship we wouldn't be able to train as

much as we need to with specialist equipment and coaches. There is nowhere suitable on the Island and we nearly had to give up on our dreams, so thank you Wightlink!"

INDIE (AGE 11)

"I like living on the Island because there are lots of beaches and it is fun in the summer. My favourite beach is Sandown because there are a lot of cool seagulls and the pier is really fun and cool.

My ideal place to walk is Steephill Cove because it has beautiful views and we always get an ice cream at the end! There are lots of places I love on the Island but my absolute favourite is Robin Hill because it has so much to do and it's really fun to play around on.

Having Wightlink sponsor us means that we still get to train and compete in the sport we all love which is gymnastics. So thank you Wightlink!"

ELLORA (AGE 11)

"I love living on the Island because my family and friends live here. My favourite beach is Sandown, because even though it is busy, it can be quite a good place to ride bikes and scooters.

My favourite place to go for a walk is near Medina Park. My favourite spot has got to be on the field because you barely see anyone there.

The sponsorship from Wightlink helps us to get to the gym more days and train harder."

To find out more, visit wightlink.co.uk/community. Meet more of our sponsored groups on pages 40, 70 and 86.





ATTRACTIONS

Osborne



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

York Avenue, East Cowes,
PO32 6JT
0370 333 1181
english-heritage.org.uk

Solent Cruises

Enjoy a fantastic view of the Island's coastline with Solent Cruises. Discover Cowes Harbour with a full live commentary, get up close to historic Portsmouth Harbour with a cruise around the Naval Base and view warships past and present or even explore both, on a Two Ports Cruise of these world-famous maritime locations. The Day Trip to Portsmouth shopping cruise to Gunwharf Quays is great value and perfect for those looking for some retail therapy. All vessels are available for private charter, corporate events, private trips or special occasions.

Thetis Wharf, Medina Road,
Cowes, PO31 7BX
01983 564602
solentcruises.co.uk



Wight Military & Heritage Museum



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

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



FOOD & DRINK

Churchills



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

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



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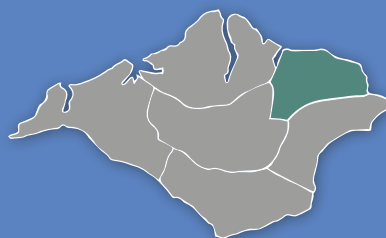


Wight Classics Ltd

Arreton Barns, Isle of Wight, PO30 3AA
(01983) 524216 • wightclassics.co.uk



North East



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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



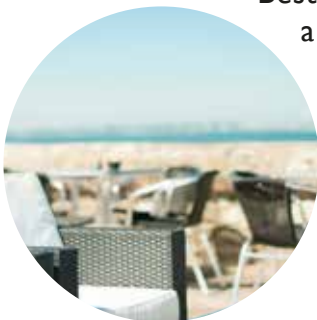
Best beach for sandcastles: APPLEY

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



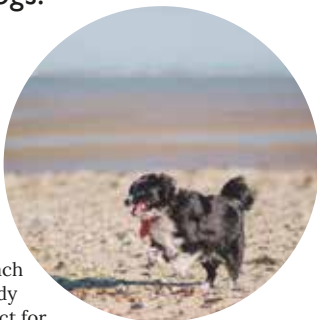
Best beach to sit with a G&T: SEAVIEW

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



Best beach for dogs: ST HELENS

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



Find out more at
wightlink.co.uk/explorer

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Wightlink in the Community: Ryde Amateur Boxing Club

Established in 1918, England Boxing registered Ryde Amateur Boxing Club has a long history on the Isle of Wight and continues to flourish today.

Based in the centre of Ryde, the club has a large group of young and not-so-young members who train at the club regularly. As well as the undoubted benefits of adapting to high levels of physical fitness through demanding boxing training, trainers Steve and Mark also see a huge improvement in confidence, communication skills, following instructions, teamwork and discipline. This is especially true for some of the younger members who may not have grown up with the benefit of a structure in their lives.

The club have close links with community groups, as well as the Isle of Wight police and youth workers, with occasional referrals which the team are able to assist with through the boxing programme.

If the boxers show promise, they progress through the ranks into regular sparring sessions with other clubs on the mainland and then can enter competitions with Southern County boxing clubs.

Being based on the Island allows members of the club the unique advantage of regular training runs along Ryde beachfront and no shortage of hill climbs to build stamina. The fresh air and natural environment on the

Island, with large open spaces, give a great incentive to their training routine.

The sponsorship from Wightlink facilitates travel across the Solent for training and competitions, which would be otherwise unaffordable, as the club is fully self-funded. These trips are important as they undoubtedly raise the confidence of the boxers and broaden their horizons. It's more than just the boxing.



For updates, follow the club at facebook.com/RydeABC. To find out more, visit wightlink.co.uk/community. Meet more of our sponsored groups on pages 40, 66 and 86.



ATTRACTIONS

Isle of Wight Steam Railway



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

Havenstreet, PO33 4DS
01983 882204
iwsteamrailway.co.uk

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 beautifully displayed products that have been chosen and designed. There's also a coffee shop and large free car park.

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



SHOPPING

The Christmas Imaginarium

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

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

The Goose



Based in St Helens for over 35 years, selling second hand and antiquarian books to locals and holiday-makers alike, The Goose is a real hidden gem, stocking rare hard-to-find titles and treasured classics.

Newlands House, Lower Green Road, PO33 1TS
01983 874063
thegoosebooks.com



ACCOMMODATION

St Helens Coastal Resort



Just a short walk from a sandy beach, this secluded retreat offers luxury lodge and caravan accommodation in a tranquil setting. The little ones will love the adventure playground and outdoor swimming pool and you'll love the lodges with private hot tubs.

Field Lane, St Helens, PO33 IUX
0330 127 4616
awayresorts.co.uk

The 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

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 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

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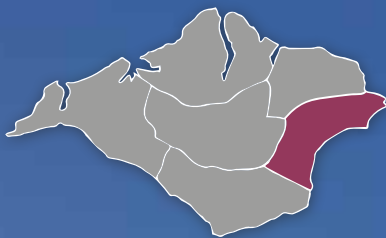
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East



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Find out more at wightlink.co.uk/explorer



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



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

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



Best beach for rock pooling: **BEMBRIDGE**

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



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

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



Find out more at
wightlink.co.uk/explorer



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theharbourviewbembridge@gmail.com



Attractions

Bembridge Fort

This Victorian fort, now managed by the Bembridge Fort Trust as part of an ambitious conservation and community programme, is undergoing major restoration work. It is currently only accessible through volunteer-led guided tours and special events. To book visit bembridgefort.org for further details.

Bembridge Down, PO36 8QY
01983 741020
nationaltrust.org.uk/isleofwight

Bembridge Windmill



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

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

Brading Roman Villa



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



iSurf

iSurf is the Island's only fully mobile surf school. For anyone interested in getting into the water under expert supervision, iSurf can help any ability learn to surf. Perfect for beginners or anyone looking to build on existing skills. Typically these sessions operate from the Compton area but do move depending on tides and conditions. Sessions for schools and groups are also available at the base in Sandown providing water-based activities suited to the weather on the day. This includes surfing, body boarding, giant paddle boards, slip and slide and water-based games.

07968 609169
iowsurf.com

Blueberrys Café

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

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

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



45 Littlestairs Rd, Shanklin PO37 6HS (adjacent to Winchester House car park)

blueberryscafeiow.co.uk | 01983 866378

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Lilliput Doll & Toy Museum



One of Britain's finest private collections of antique dolls and toys with more than 2,000 exhibits from 2000BC to 1950 on display, including antique bisque dolls, rocking horses, teddy bears, trains, tinplate vehicles, dolls' houses and many rare and unusual toys. Open 10:00–16:00 Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday (closed Monday and Thursday). See Google for latest opening times.

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

Sandham Gardens



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

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

Sandown Pier



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

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

Shanklin Chine



A Site of Important Nature Conservation – this stunning tree-lined gorge has been a magnet for visitors since 1817. Wander amid the natural tranquillity until dusk then enjoy the lights illuminating the narrow paths, streams and waterfalls in the evening. The steep sides and flowing water provide a mini sanctuary for wildlife and you may spot mammals, birds and insects. Seasonal exhibitions, tea gardens, nature and heritage displays and antiques gift centre.

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

Shanklin Seafront



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

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

Shanklin Theatre



Shanklin Theatre is open all year round offering great entertainment from household names such as Craig Revel Horwood, Annabel Croft and Aled Jones. The venue also hosts comedians including Jason Manford and Mark Steele, 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 beaches of Sandown Bay, the Wildheart Animal Sanctuary gives a forever home to rescued exotic animals from all over Europe including lions, tigers, monkeys and more. Enjoy daily talks from the Animal Carers, explore the Primate domes and wander through the Sanctuary at your own pace, enjoy play areas for children and our dog friendly, plant-based Wildheart Café.

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

For more inspiration visit
wightlink.co.uk/explorer

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01983 87 22 77 | sandhillsholidaypark.com

Sandhills Holiday Park
Peacock Hill, Bembridge
Isle of Wight PO35 5QB



ACCOMMODATION

Luccombe Hall Hotel



Perched on the breathtaking cliffs of Shanklin, the multi-award-winning family-run Luccombe Hall Hotel offers a truly unforgettable escape. Providing unrivalled sea views and a diverse range of luxurious bedrooms including balcony rooms and private garden rooms with hot tubs. Plus, with an array of exceptional facilities, from a tropical indoor pool experience to free-to-play retro gaming and outdoor pool and activities, every stay is designed to delight.

**Luccombe Road, Shanklin,
PO37 6RL
01983 869000
luccombehall.co.uk**



Sandhills Holiday Park



Nestled under Culver Cliff, family-owned and run Sandhills Holiday Park is situated in beautiful countryside above the beach at Whitecliff Bay. A peaceful, relaxing retreat for coastal holidays, holiday home ownership is also available providing the perfect base to explore the Island.

**Peacock Hill, Bembridge,
PO35 5QB
01983 872277
sandhillsholidaypark.com**

The Crab & Lobster Inn



This Island gem is tucked away above Bembridge Ledge overlooking the sea. Dine with breathtaking views over the beach and sea at the Crab and Lobster or cosily inside its vintage interior with open fires. Known Island-wide for serving locally sourced seafood and Island-reared meats. The Inn has five fully refurbished en suite rooms with many boasting astonishing sea views.

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

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



Whitecliff Bay Holiday Park



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

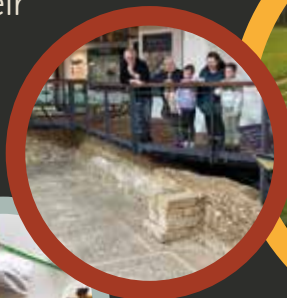
**Hillway Road, Bembridge,
PO35 5PL
0330 127 4616
awayresorts.co.uk**



BRADING ROMAN VILLA

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

We are open throughout the year



There are activities for all ages, nature trails, a great cafe, sea views and free parking.

For our opening hours and what's on please check our website www.bradingromanvilla.org.uk or call 01983 406223



FOOD & DRINK



Fisherman's Cottage



Nestled beneath Shanklin Chine at the end of Shanklin Esplanade, Fisherman's Cottage is the town's original thatched pub on the beach. Frequented by visitors and locals alike, the pub dates back more than 200 years and is a real hidden gem. Famed for its friendly and welcoming atmosphere, the pub serves delicious home-cooked food and specialises in seafood which can be found on the daily specials board.

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

Blueberrys Café



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

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

The Best Dressed Crab



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

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

The Crab & Lobster Inn



This Island gem is tucked away above Bembridge Ledge overlooking the sea. Dine with breathtaking views over the beach and sea at the Crab and Lobster or cosily inside its vintage interior with open fires. Known Island-wide for serving locally sourced seafood and Island-reared meats. The Inn has five fully refurbished en suite rooms with many boasting astonishing sea views.

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 privy to some stunning panoramic views over Sandown Bay and serves up a great range of lunches, snacks, cakes and drinks including daily specials. Entry to the café is free.

Morton Old Road, Brading,
PO36 0PH (SatNav PO36 0EV)
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



The Islands Hidden Gem



Open daily for Lunches and Afternoon Teas

Garden Parties with Live Music each Saturday during the Summer

Open daily for Lunches and Afternoon Teas

Tropical Indoor Pool

Summer Leisure Passes



Luxury Accommodation, Stunning Sea Views, Family Rooms with Balconies or Hot Tubs

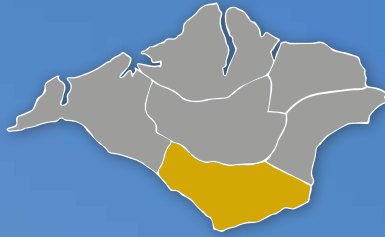
Multi-award-winning luxury, leisure, and dining – just for you!

Luccombe Hall Hotel

01983 869 000

luccombehall.co.uk

South



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

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

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

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

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

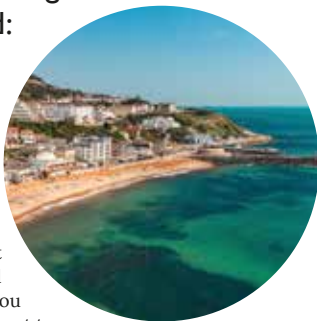


Only accessible by foot, south-facing Steephill Cove is a real sun-trap.



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

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



Best beach for dogs: STEEPHILL COVE

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



Best beach to have to yourself: BINNEL BAY

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



Find out more at wightlink.co.uk/explorer

The WIGHT MOUSE INN

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

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

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

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

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

HONEYBOURNE JEWELLERY

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

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at any time
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LED lights!

Turquoise, coral pink, zest green,
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£14 £26

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

£3 from each bottle sold is donated to Mountbatten

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



ATTRACTIONS

Blackgang Chine



Explore the UK's oldest amusement park for an action-packed family day out with thrilling rides and Lands of Imagination to explore. Become a rootin' tootin' Sheriff in Cowboy Town, or carefully tread through Restricted Area 5 as a courageous dinosaur keeper. From epic adventures like Extinction, the Island's only 360° ride, and the thrilling new Jolly Robin, to nostalgic attractions like Rumpus Mansion. Unlock core memories, and make new magical ones at Blackgang Chine. See website for opening times and tickets.

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

Isle of Wight Donkey Sanctuary



A forever home for over 100 donkeys and ponies in a beautiful South Wight location. Free to enter, free parking, donations welcome. Countryside walks, café, gift shop, hands-on donkey experiences and tours (please book in advance). Dogs welcome. Open all year round, check website for opening hours.

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

Ventnor Botanic Garden



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

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



SHOPPING

Honeybourne Jewellery



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

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



ACCOMMODATION

The Buddle Inn



The Buddle is an Island landmark sixteenth-century cliff-top smugglers' inn set in an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. With views across the English Channel, this Inn is a great base for walkers and nature lovers. Follow the path opposite down to St Catherine's Lighthouse or walk along the 'silent' route to Ventnor. Boasting real ales and an extensive menu featuring homemade dishes and specialities, for 2025 they are also now offering brand new en suite accommodation

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

The Spyglass Inn



Offering accommodation in four characterful self-contained apartments, composed 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

For more inspiration visit
wightlink.co.uk/explorer

The Wight Mouse Inn



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

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

Ventnor Seafront



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

Esplanade, Ventnor, PO38 1JX
07484 174872
ventnorseafront.co.uk



FOOD & DRINK

edulis Restaurant



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

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

The Buddle Inn



The Buddle is an Island landmark sixteenth-century cliff-top smugglers' inn set in an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. With fine views across the English Channel, this Inn is a great base for walkers and nature lovers. Follow the path opposite down to St Catherine's Lighthouse or walk along the 'silent' route to Ventnor. Boasting real ales and an extensive menu featuring homemade dishes and specialities, for 2025 they are also now offering brand new en suite accommodation

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

The Met



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

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

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 a 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, with muddy boots and well behaved dogs welcome.

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

The Wight Mouse Inn



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

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



A forever home for over
100 donkeys and ponies

The Isle of Wight Donkey Sanctuary

Cafe • Shop • Dog friendly
FREE entry and parking
Donations welcome

Open all year round.
Check website for opening hours.

Meet Hope & Charity



iowdonkeysanctuary.org

Lower Winstone Farm, Wroxall PO38 3AA
01983 852693

Registered charity number 1159886



West

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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



Best beach for watersports: COMPTON BAY

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



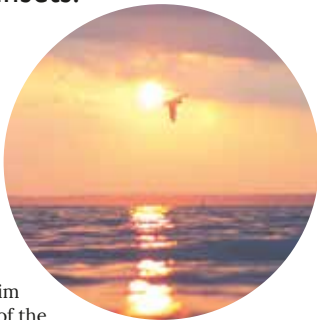
Best beach for swimming: FRESHWATER BAY

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



Best beach for sunsets: COLWELL

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



Find out more at
wightlink.co.uk/explorer

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ATTRACTIONS

Activities at Tapnell



Open throughout the summer season, the Island's only Football Golf course at Tapnell Farm. Great fun for all the family; if you can kick a ball, you can play! Plus, there's an all weather Archery & Axe Throwing range, suitable for ages 11+ and new for 2025: Frisbee Golf.

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

Farringford Estate



The main home of the renowned Victorian poet Alfred, Lord Tennyson, from 1853–1892, Farringford is furnished and decorated in a late 19th century style that reflects the Tennysons' taste, interests, and lifestyle. Open Tuesday–Thursday from 29 April–25 September 2025. Pre-booking essential, please see website. Outside, the estate has been returned to its original informal planting scheme, including a walled garden and parkland walk. The gardens are open Tuesday–Saturday from 1 April–25 October 2025.

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



Freshwater Bay Coasteering

Enjoy a 2 hour guided adventure around the stunning Freshwater Bay. Choose from an adrenaline filled high tide adventure including sea swimming, rock climbing, cliff jumping and caving or explore this hidden stretch of coast with a gentler low tide session. Whatever you choose, you will be kitted out with the equipment required and introduced to a world of hidden caves, secret beaches and stunning scenery.

Gate Lane, Freshwater Bay, PO40 9RA
07968 609169
fbciow.com

Hill Farm Stables

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

Hill Lane, Freshwater, PO40 9TQ
07543 074004
hillfarmstables.com

Isle of Wight Aqua Park at Tapnell Farm



Open from early May, the Island's only outdoor, floating Aqua Park at Tapnell Farm. Great fun for confident swimmers aged 7+, the Aqua Park lake features over 20 obstacles, including free fall slides, joined together to create a series of fun challenges. Wetsuits and buoyancy aids provided. Online bookings only.
Tapnell Farm, Newport Road, Yarmouth, PO41 OYJ
01983 758722
tapnellfarm.com/play

Isle of Wight Pearl



The Brighstone venue is home to a vast collection of beautiful pearl jewellery, a popular indoor and outdoor café with spectacular cliff-top views over the English Channel. Enjoy a pearl master class or 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.

Chilton Chine, Military Road, Brighstone, PO30 4DD
01983 740352
iowpearl.co.uk

iSurf

The Island's only fully mobile surf school. For anyone interested in getting into the water under expert supervision, iSurf can help any ability learn to surf. Perfect for beginners or anyone looking to build on existing skills. Typically these sessions operate from the Compton area but do move depending on tides and conditions. Sessions for schools and groups are also available at the base in Sandown providing water-based activities suited to the weather on the day. This includes surfing, body boarding, giant paddle boards, slip and slide and water-based games.

07968 609169
iowsurf.com

Mottistone Gardens



A magical garden with colourful herbaceous borders, shrub-filled terraces and views to the sea. Lovely tea garden, ideal for lunch or a cream tea. Some manor rooms open, including a second-hand book shop. Large wider estate for country walks, taking in the legendary Longstone. Gardens open daily. See online for opening times at nationaltrust.org.uk/mottistone-gardens-and-estate

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



Newtown National Nature Reserve

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

Newtown, Near Shalfleet, PO30 4PA
01983 531785
nationaltrust.org.uk/isleofwight

Tapnell Farm Park



Award-winning Tapnell Farm Park is one of the Island's biggest all-weather, fun-filled family attractions, with lots of indoor and outdoor play, including the adventure barn, pedal go-karts, jumping pillows, sledge slides and soft play. Plus, meet the farm animals and wallabies and take part in daily animal activities. New for 2025: huge indoor Tower Slide and Crazy Golf course! Online booking.

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



The Needles Landmark Attraction



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

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

The Needles New Battery



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

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

The Needles Old Battery



A spectacular clifftop fort overlooking the Needles. The attractions include two original guns situated on the parade ground and dramatic views of the sea and the Needles Lighthouse. The tea room tops it off with hot and cold drinks, ice creams, snacks and cakes. Walk, cycle or take the bus to the battery – car parking at Needles Landmark Attraction. See online for full site opening times. nationaltrust.org.uk/the-needles-old-battery-and-new-battery
West High Down, Alum Bay, PO39 0JH
01983 754772
nationaltrust.org.uk/isleofwight

West Wight Alpacas



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

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

Wight Cycle Hire



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

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

Yarmouth Castle



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

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



SHOPPING

Bluebells at Brighstone



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

North Street, Brighstone, PO30 4AX
07906 826884



ACCOMMODATION

Farringford Estate



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

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

Grange Farm



One of the few non-commercial sites situated on the beautiful south west coast, with easy access to the sandy beach and picturesque views of the chine. Choose to camp, pick a pod, shepherds hut or book a cottage or static caravan. The whole area is ideal for walking, cycling, fishing and fossil hunting.

Brighstone Bay, Military Road, Brighstone, PO30 4DA
01983 740296
grangefarmcamping.co.uk

The Bay Colwell



Stunning hot tub cottages and laidback beach houses are waiting for you and the family. 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 Bugle Coaching Inn



A charming sixteenth-century freehouse inn located in the very heart of Yarmouth's market square. The Bugle is a stone's throw from the harbour, with great hospitality, food and real ales. Plus new for 2025 they offer fully refurbished en suite rooms with many having exceptional views of the market square.

The Square, Yarmouth, PO41 0NS
01983 760272
thebugleinn.co.uk



The Island's favourite fully mobile surf school

BOOK ONLINE NOW



Also, from our base in Sandown
SCHOOLS | GROUPS | CLUBS

Includes: Surfing, bodyboarding, Giant SUP, slip & slide & water based games!

iowsurf.com

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hillfarmstables.com

All Abilities Welcome

Hill Lane, Freshwater, Isle of Wight PO40 9TQ

5 star rating from IWC & DEFRA

THE WATERFRONT

ESTD 1984

DOGS WELCOME IN CERTAIN AREAS

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

Open everyday from midday.

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

Wightlink in the Community:

Isle of Wight Young Farmers Club (YFC)

Despite the name, the Young Farmers Club is for everyone – members don't need to come from a farming background, just have an interest in agriculture, animals and the outdoors. The club aims to help the next generation and increase the amount of people who work in the agricultural industry on the Island, while also allowing them to develop as young people and to learn new skills.

Membership costs just £60 per year and is open to those aged 10 to 28. With meetings taking place on Wednesday evenings at least twice a month, the YFC is great for meeting new people, making friends and learning more about rural life, all whilst having fun!

Chair of the Isle of Wight Young Farmers, Siân Grove, is a first-generation shepherdess and began her farming career through her local Young Farmers Club. She now has her own flock of sheep, and although her main job is as Secretary for the Royal Isle of Wight County Show, Siân is also an NFU Student & Young Farmer Ambassador, and Secretary for the IOW Gilten Market.

"I love being an Island girlie, and I think we are very fortunate to have such a fantastic farming community on the Island, it is something I'm incredibly proud to be a part of. I'm also a bit of a water baby, so I love that a beach is

never more than 15 minutes away, with my favourite being Freshwater Bay. One of my favourite walks is from The Needles to the Chalkpit car park, which usually ends in a pint at the High Down Inn!

YFC is a national club, with most counties having individually run clubs. As such, there are a lot of events and competitions that take place on the mainland that we, as a charity, wouldn't be able to attend without the support from Wightlink. This also allows our young people to network, learn new skills and develop personally.

We have had the highest membership number this year, which is continuing to grow year on year and have taken part in and supported a lot of local Island events, such as Brighstone Christmas Tree Festival, Gilten Market, Newport Carnival, the Sheepdog Trials, the Royal IOW County Show, Chale Show, the Scarecrow Festival. We have also donated to fellow charities such as the Farming Community Network, the IOW Air Ambulance, and most recently did a food collection, raising over 200 items to donate to the IOW Foodbank.

You don't have to be involved in farming to be a member of the club – just someone who appreciates the countryside, animals and rural activities. If you would be interested in getting involved, please get in contact."

For more updates follow the Young Farmers Club on facebook.com/isleofwightyoungfarmersclub or instagram.com/isleofwightyfc. To find out more, visit wightlink.co.uk/community. Meet more of our sponsored groups on pages 40, 66 and 70.



The Orchards Holiday Park



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

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

Tom's Eco Lodge & Farm Accommodation



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

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



FOOD & DRINK

Marconi's Tearoom



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

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

The Bugle Coaching Inn



A charming sixteenth-century freehouse inn located in the very heart of Yarmouth's market square. The Bugle is a stone's throw from the harbour, with great hospitality, food and real ales. Why not experience the large garden with live events over the weekends in the season?

The Square, Yarmouth,
PO41 0NS
01983 760272
thebugleinn.co.uk

The Cow Restaurant & Bar



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

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

The King's Head



A most charming traditional pub with a beamed interior, and open fires in the winter. Nestled in the heart of the picturesque coastal town of Yarmouth and popular with the sailing community, this historical pub, dating from the sixteenth century, is well-known for its great atmosphere and superb food and drink.

Quay Street, Yarmouth,
PO41 0PB
01983 760177
kingsyarmouth.co.uk



The Pearl Café



Settle down in the comfortable café serving a wide range of dishes and light bites and take in the stunning panoramic views across the English Channel. Plus, don't miss the new Island Deli at The Pearl Café – championing small-scale local producers, it's the perfect spot to enjoy great quality Island delicacies.

Military Road, Brighstone,
PO30 4DD
01983 740352
iowpearl.co.uk

The Waterfront



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

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

GRANGE FARM

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



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



Bluebells at Brighstone

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

Open Tuesday to Saturday
from 9am to 4pm.

Visit Bluebells at North Street, Brighstone, PO30 4AX

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PO41 0QT

For Freshwater Bay,
The Needles, Newtown Creek
& The Tennyson Trail

NEWPORT

Newport Quay
PO30 2QR

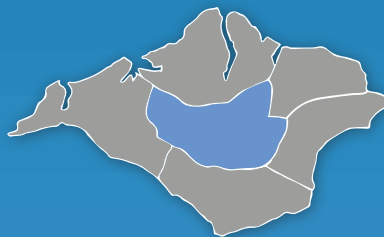
For The Red Squirrel Trail to
Cowes, Godshill, Shanklin
& Sandown

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OR CALL 01983 761 800



Central



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



Carisbrooke Castle boasts impressive views of the Island and beyond.



ATTRACTIONS

Amazon World Zoo Park



Home to the Island's largest collection of exotic animals, including; mammals, birds, fish, reptiles, insects, fauna and flora. This multi-award-winning zoo also 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 and souvenir shop.

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

Arreton Barns



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

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

Carisbrooke Castle



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

Castle Hill, Newport, PO30 1XY
0370 333 1181
english-heritage.org.uk

Island Gems



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

The Cottage, High Street,
Godshill, PO38 3HZ
01983 740493
islandgems.co.uk

Monkey Haven – The Leaf Foundation



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

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



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



Shipwreck Centre & Maritime Museum



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

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

WWW.SHIPWRECKCENTRE.CO.UK



FREE CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES!



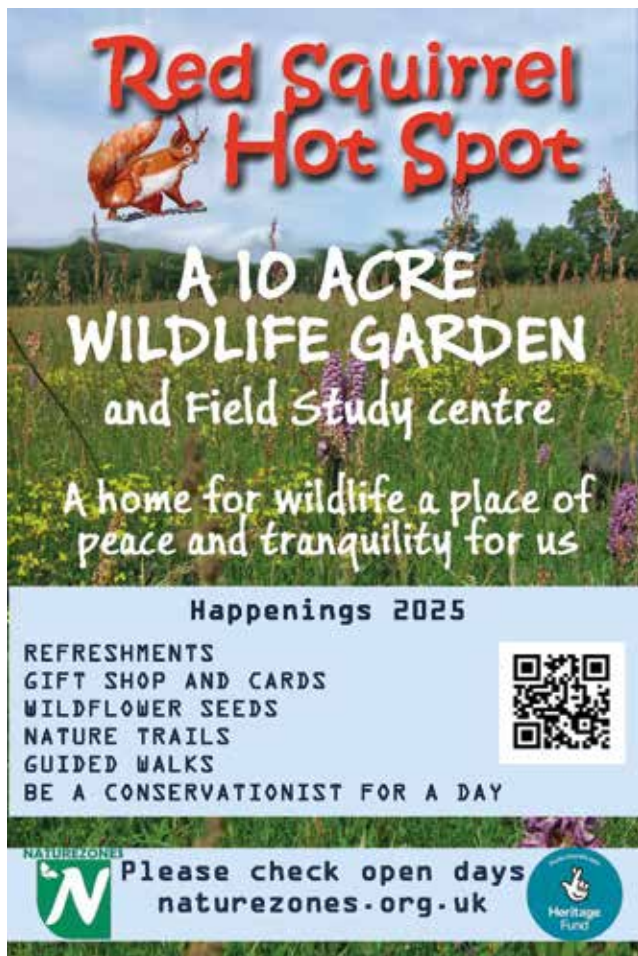
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APRIL - NOVEMBER

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CRAFT VILLAGE
PO30 3AA



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Please check open days
naturezones.org.uk

Nature Zones
Heritage Fund

The Garlic Farm



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

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

The Jewellery Cabin



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

3a Sheat Manor Farm,
Gatcombe, PO30 3HP
07813 030676
thejewellerycabin.com

The Old Smithy



Boasting a variety of well-stocked shops, including fashion brands and home interiors. Browse in the Old Forge and cottage, stroll through the landscaped garden with pixie and fairy grottos, then relax and enjoy lunch and cakes in the coffee shop. Choose from a wide selection of gifts including cards, pictures, candles and more.

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

Wight Cycle Hire



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

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



SHOPPING

Briddlesford Farm Shop



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, clotted cream and butter, a range of farmhouse cheeses and Briddlesford Veal. Try it for yourself at Bluebells 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 in both formal and casual wear in sizes from small to 5XL.

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

FIELDS MENSWEAR

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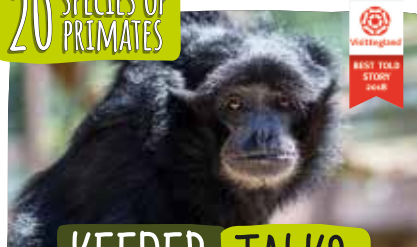


TO BOOK VISIT

www.thejewellerycabin.com

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

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- ✓ Quiet Hour mornings
- ✓ Accessible facilities

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RESCUE CENTRE

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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!

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



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. Set in leafy parkland at the heart of the Isle of Wight with swimming pools, bar and eatery, plus activities for the whole family to enjoy, it's the perfect base to explore.

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



FOOD & DRINK

Bluebells Café at 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. 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



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, burger or pancakes. 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 specials 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



As seen on TV!

Multi Award Winning

Island Gems

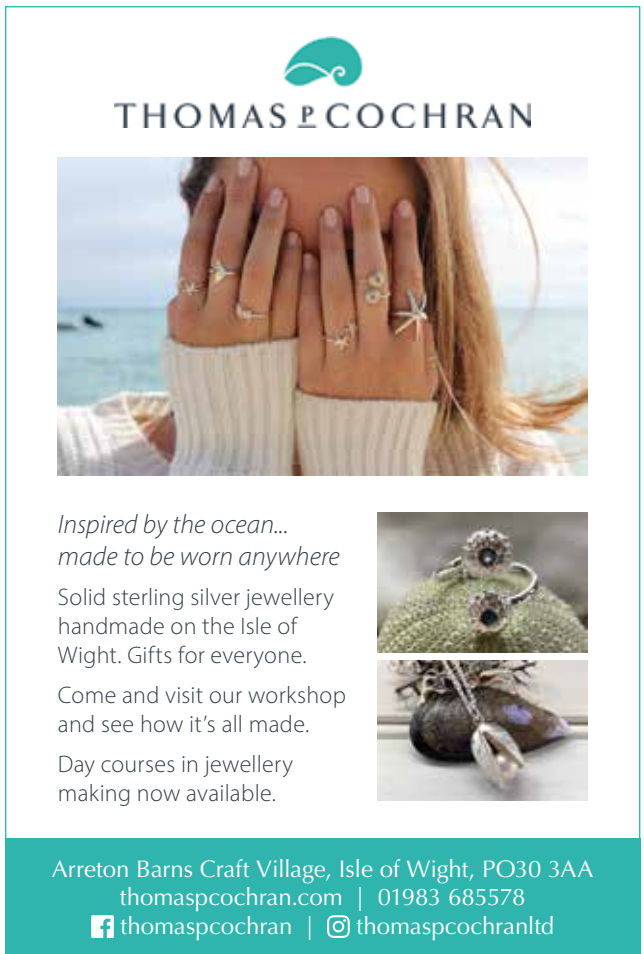
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2 hour beach trip | guided by an expert | keep what you find

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The Cottage, High Street, Godshell, IoW, PO38 3HZ
 01983 740493 www.islandgems.co.uk

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Day courses in jewellery making now available.

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thomaspcochrane.com | 01983 685578
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 Open 7 days a week*

Explore our certified organic farm, enjoy nature, farm animals, excellent food and large range of garlicky products.

*See website for shop & restaurant opening & serving times, book a table or book a stay

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

www.thegarlicfarm.co.uk

Portsmouth

Spring has arrived – and so too has a whole host of top events in Portsmouth!

The Vintage Bus Tours are back, thanks to the City of Portsmouth Preserved Transport Depot. There will be monthly services across Southsea and Old Portsmouth through spring and summer, as well as a number of special open days and events. The buses are free to ride, with donations towards their upkeep welcomed.

Think pantomime is just for Christmas? Oh no, it isn't! The New Theatre Royal hosts Robin Hood, an Easter Panto that's packed with merry-men-t.

Prefer a spicier weekend away? The UK's only Chilli & Gin Festival returns to Fort Purbrook, bringing with it artisan distillers, top-quality local chefs and plenty of live entertainment.

On the subject of live music, Country by the Coast returns to South Parade Pier. Witness sets by some of the best up-and-coming singers and bands as they perform alongside big names in the world of country and Americana.

The big events keep coming, with the Guildhall gearing up for the return of Portsmouth Comic Con – the largest event of its kind on the South Coast. A host of screen icons will make an appearance,

and there's a chance for visitors to get involved through interactive exhibitions, games and – of course – cosplay.



There's no better way to explore the Great Waterfront City than on an open top bus tour.

Last but very much not least, it's UK Pride; the national event taking place in Portsmouth this year. Southsea Common will be at the centre of festivities, with a huge celebration that features comedy and music performances from stars of the drag, cabaret and music scene. There's a parade to kick off proceedings and entry is totally free.

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



Whether shopping or shows are your bag, there's plenty to do in Portsmouth this spring!



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JULY 2025**

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ORACLE

2025 SEASON / EVENT 08

Lymington & the New Forest

Watch the New Forest burst into life this spring! As vibrant flowers bloom, fresh green leaves unfurl and baby animals take their first steps, this magical season is the perfect time to explore – just a short ferry ride from the Isle of Wight.

Spring is the season for garden lovers, and the glorious New Forest gardens won't disappoint. Wander through Exbury Gardens, a 200-acre paradise filled with landscaped woodlands, formal gardens and a stunning steam railway. Alternatively, find peace at Furzey Gardens near Lyndhurst, where fairy doors, wildflower meadows and a tranquil lake create a truly enchanting experience.

Easter in the New Forest is all about fun-filled adventures! Hunt for golden eggs at Longdown Activity Farm over the Easter weekend or solve riddles to win a chocolate prize at The Montagu Arms Hotel's garden egg hunt. For a unique twist, join New Forest Activities' Canoe Easter Egg Hunt – paddle along the Beaulieu River to uncover hidden eggs along the riverside.

Exploring the New Forest doesn't have to break the bank. Enjoy scenic walks through ancient woodlands, cycle over 100 miles of breathtaking trails or take a refreshing dip along the 'secret' coastline – all completely free. Visit the New Forest Heritage Centre for fascinating exhibits and interactive activities (donations welcome) or head to Bolderwood Deer Sanctuary to spot wild deer from a special viewing platform. The New Forest Reptile Centre

(seasonal opening) is another must-visit, where you can see rare native species up close. For an affordable stay, pitch up at one of the many scenic campsites.

Spring and summer bring incredible events, starting with Dogstival at Burley Park (31 May–1 June) – the ultimate festival for dog lovers! Looking ahead, don't miss Lymington Seafood Festival (11–13 July), the New Forest and Hampshire County Show (29–31 July), and the New Forest Food Festival (16–17 August).



Grab a paddle and have a go at New Forest Activities' Canoe Easter Egg Hunt.

Your springtime adventure in the New Forest awaits – come and experience it for yourself!

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

Go New Forest



With over 100 miles of breathtaking trails to explore, there's a walk to suit all ages and abilities.

NEW

THE ISLE OF WIGHT

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 f Wight Whisky

What's on...

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



Shaun the Sheep:
Farmathon Live!

APRIL

Easter Adventure Quest

5–27 April, Osborne (IW)

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

english-heritage.org.uk



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 chocolate prize? Join the Easter Bonnet Parade at 13:15 each day, with your hats prepared at home in advance.

iwsteamrailway.co.uk



The Wild Easter Eggventure Trail

5–21 April, Wildheart Animal Sanctuary (IW)

Swing into Easter at the Wildheart Animal Sanctuary for an egg-straordinary Wild Easter Eggventure! Bring your little cubs and follow the clues and learn as you go – there will be tons of Easter surprises for the whole family to enjoy.

wildheartanimalsanctuary.org

Mosaic Easter

5 April–21 May, Brading Roman Villa (IW)

Celebrate Mosaic Easter at Brading Roman Villa! Explore the brand-new Mosaic Exhibition at the museum. There will be a variety of art and craft activities for all ages, all around the theme of mosaics. Plus, the Spring Nature Trail will be open for you to enjoy the outdoors.

bradingromanvilla.org.uk



Alice's Easter Wonderland

7–18 April (selected dates), Tapnell Farm Park (IW)

Step into a world of wonder this Easter as Alice and her friends return to Tapnell Farm Park for a magical holiday adventure! From Monday to Friday each week, enjoy fun-filled live shows with the Mad Hatter, bursting with laughter and surprises, and take part in creative workshops hosted by Alice herself.

tapnellfarm.com



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

Box Office (01983) 868000
shanklintheatre.com

Proudly sponsored by WIGHTLINK



The Big Brick Build at Osborne

12–21 April, Osborne (IW)



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

english-heritage.org.uk

Island Savoyards present Charlie and the Chocolate Factory

17–21 April, Shanklin Theatre (IW)



Step into a world of pure imagination as the Island Savoyards bring Roald Dahl's Charlie and the Chocolate Factory to life. Get ready for a musical adventure filled with magic, mischief and mouth-watering moments. Watch as Charlie Bucket and his fellow golden ticket winners are whisked into Willy Wonka's extraordinary factory, where nothing is quite as it seems!

shanklintheatre.com

Isle of Wight Spring Art & Garden Fair



18–19 April, Northwood House (IW)

Following the 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

Easter Egg Hunt



18–20 April, Ventnor Botanic Garden (IW)

Looking for something to do with the kids this Easter? Hop on over to Ventnor Botanic Garden for an Easter egg hunt and enjoy some family fun. Solve the clues and puzzles as you stroll around the garden. Get them right and the children can claim a chocolate treat at the end of their walk.

botanic.co.uk

Rhythm + Flo Yoga Disco

23 April, East Afton Barn, Tapnell (IW)



Get set to dance, flow and sparkle. This evening is all about embracing your inner dancer, letting go and reconnecting with your body in a fun and freeing way. Move, groove and flow through an energising yoga session set to an epic playlist curated by a live DJ on the decks! Whether you're a seasoned yogi or just here to shake off the winter blues, this event is for anyone who loves to move. The vibes will be electric with glitter, beats and a supportive community coming together. After the flow, fuel up with delicious food from Soul IOW.

balanceandglo.com



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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.



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 hosts 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



Design and Make a Silver Pendant

26 April, The Jewellery Cabin (IW)

Use your creativity to design and make a silver pendant. With lots of techniques available to use, you will learn the skills to personalise a pendant, attach a loop and try out different finishing techniques before popping your creation onto a chain and wearing it home. Whether you are a beginner or a jeweller in training, this course is a great for learning new skills.

thejewellerycabin.com



Isle of Wight Ultra Challenge

3-4 May, Islandwide (IW)

Great challenges need great settings – and few are better than the Island's spectacular coastal path. Up to 2,000 adventurers will take on the full challenge this year; walking, jogging or running the epic 106km journey. Starting at Chale, taking in the spectacular southern cliffs, the route heads past the iconic Needles, on towards Cowes and historic Ventnor, through Shanklin and Sandown and returning to base camp at Chale.

ultrachallenge.com



Portsmouth Comic Con

3-4 May, Portsmouth Guildhall (Mainland)

Portsmouth Comic Con returns bringing you the best in comics, film, TV and pop culture. The event welcomes some of the greatest writers and illustrators in the industry, alongside stars of the screen and the world of cosplay. With panels, displays, gaming, VR, Steampunk and an incredible range of merch and collectables. If you're serious about comics and cult series or looking for a fun family day out – this is the event for you

portsmouthguildhall.org.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



RSPCA The Great Isle of Wight Dog Walk and Show

27 April, Isle of Wight Steam Railway (IW)

The Isle of Wight Steam Railway and the RSPCA have joined forces to host The Great Isle of Wight Dog Walk. The morning walk will involve a ride on a vintage steam train to the start of a dog-friendly 3k walking route. Your vintage carriage awaits, hauled by a magnificent steam locomotive. The afternoon hike will be a circular 5 miles from Havenstreet, with the route heading through the extensive station site and out along gravel tracks to Great Briddlesford Farm. Treat your pet to a commemorative tag and enjoy some dog-related fun and games, including a Family Dog Show organised by the Friends of the Animals. Because of the nature of the event dogs will need to be well-behaved and be kept on a lead at all times.

iwsteamrailway.co.uk



Isle of Wight Randonnee

4 May, Islandwide (IW)

Take to two wheels and cycle your way 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 participants in this great event.

cycleisland.co.uk



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



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



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



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



Silver Hoop Workshop

11 May, The Jewellery Cabin (IW)

Create your own gorgeous pair of textured hoop earrings. There are lots of samples for inspiration and once you have chosen the size, thickness and design of your hoops you will get busy forming them, before soldering on the ear wire post and polishing them to make the texture sparkle.

thejewellerycabin.com



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.

jackupevents.co.uk



Isle of Wight Open Studios

16–26 May, Islandwide (IW)

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



Isle of Wight Symphony Orchestra: Ben Goldscheider

17 May, Medina Theatre (IW)

Young horn player Ben Goldscheider joins the IWSO to perform Ralph Vaughan Williams – *Fantasia on a Theme by Thomas Tallis*. The concert will also include Glière – *Horn Concerto*, Malabar Journey Home and Dvořák – *Symphony No.9 (From the New World)*

THIS EVENT IS PROUDLY SPONSORED BY WIGHTLINK

iwso.co.uk



RYDABUS

17–18 May, Various locations (IW)

The popular Rydabus event is back and even better for 2025. With a wide range of vintage buses from the 60s, 70s and 80s, routes are centred around Ryde and the eastern part of the Island. Enjoy a classic bus ride to various locations and attractions.

rydabus.co.uk



Festival of Transport

18 May, Isle of Wight Steam Railway (IW)

Certified motorheads will get revved up about this brilliant festival of cars, lorries, bikes and trucks! There's something for every vehicle fan, be it a vintage pride and joy to a brand new hot rod. Switch from road to rail and climb aboard the Isle of Wight's Steam Railway trains then explore the Train Story Discovery Centre to learn about the historical transport and engineering story of our Island.

iwsteamrailway.co.uk



Yarmouth Sea Songs Festival and Old Gaffers Regatta

22–25 May (Old Gaffers) and 23–26 May (Sea Songs), Yarmouth (IW)

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

This year, the event aligns with the Solent Old Gaffers Regatta, which sees colourful gaff-rigged and traditional sailing boats fill the harbour and surrounding waters of the Solent.

yarmouth-harbour.co.uk



Wild West Week

24–31 May, Blackgang Chine (IW)

Fancy yourself the next sheriff or outlaw of Cowboy Town? Take in the adrenaline-inducing live action cowboy show and round-up those dastardly outlaws this Wild West Week! Plus, don't miss Wild West Fest on Wednesday 28 May. Experience Blackgang Chine after dark for late night rides, family party with live DJ, foam cannons and a spectacular firework finale.

blackgangchine.com





May Half Term Fun & Games



24 May–1 June, Carisbrooke Castle (IW)

Have fun in the grounds of Carisbrooke Castle this May half term with hands-on activities and fresh-air family fun.

english-heritage.org.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



Shaun the Sheep: Farmathlon Live!

26–30 May, Tapnell Farm Park (IW)

Get ready to hop, skip, and jump into Shaun the Sheep: Farmathlon Live! at Tapnell Farm Park this May half term! Enjoy hilarious fun competing in seven activities in the Heptathlon, plus there's the chance to meet Shaun the Sheep too!

tapnellfarm.com

JUNE

Isle of Wight Festival of Running

1–8 June, Various locations (IW)

Runners of all abilities will find a course suited to them at The Isle of Wight Festival of Running. From a youngsters' fun run to the most demanding course, experience the local picturesque scenery and beautiful landscapes via cross country routes, which also includes the Needles half marathon.

isleofwightfestivalofrunning.co.uk



Mini Beast May Half Term



26–31 May, Brading Roman Villa (IW)

It's Mini Beast May at Brading Roman Villa this half term! Every day at the Villa you can join in with the Biosphere Explorer Nature Trail. To help you discover clues about the wonderful wild world outside, pick up an Explorer Bag from our Foyer. The trail is £2 per head with a prize at the end. There is also a Museum Trail on throughout the week, where you can claim another prize if you can find the hidden ladybirds.

bradingromanvilla.org.uk

Dogstival



31 May–1 June, Burley (Mainland)

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

dogstival.co.uk



Craig Revel Horwood: Revelations



1 June, Shanklin Theatre (IW)

The longest-serving judge on BBC One's *Strictly Come Dancing* and the master of the Glitter Ball, Craig Revel Horwood is a national treasure. After starting as a dancer, he worked on the nation's biggest musicals and became a choreographer, director and best-selling author. Craig is also a remarkable singer and to celebrate the release of his debut solo album, *Revelations*, he'll reveal his hidden talent during a night of big songs, tall tales and glamour.

shanklintheatre.com

Sunset Sessions presents Charlie Hedges



7 June, Blackgang Chine (IW)

Bringing her passion and enthusiasm for dance music, Radio 1 *Dance Anthems* DJ Charlie Hedges takes over the South Coast for an unforgettable night of music on the cliff top of Blackgang Chine. With support from Jordan Peak and DJ Omar, not only will you experience the epic beats and drinks aplenty, but also a sizzling BBQ. So grab a burger or hotdog before the sun goes down on the clifftop and take in the breathtaking views of the Jurassic Coast.

blackgangchine.com



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

Shorwell Midsummer Fair



14 June, Wolverton Manor (IW)

Now in its 63rd year, this traditional village fair is one of the last surviving 'original' fairs on the Island providing family entertainment and a memorable afternoon for all. Now held in the grounds of picturesque Wolverton Manor, alongside attractions and stalls there is a tea tent, arena displays and live music. Money raised goes to support local charities, community groups and organisations. Free parking. Entry is £3 for adults or free for children under 16.

facebook.com/ShorwellMidsummerFair

Gin & Steam

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



Ride of Champions

15 June, Various locations (IW and Mainland)



Are you a seasoned cyclist ready to push your limits? The Ride of Champions is calling all elite riders to take on the ultimate challenge designed to test your endurance, strength and determination. Tackle a gruelling 100-mile course around Hampshire and Isle of Wight, experiencing challenging climbs, rapid descents, and rugged landscapes that will test your skills and stamina. Ferry tickets, a charity event jersey, comfort stops, live rider location tracking, a finisher's medal, and event mechanic included in entry price.

hiowaa.org



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



FOCAS Festival

28–29 June, Wildheart Animal Sanctuary (IW)

The Focus on Conservation and Science festival is back for 2025, which aims to help make conservation and science more accessible to all children. Discover how to rescue a beached dolphin, learn how to make a bug hotel, explore the old and new worlds of dinosaurs and underwater robots and much, much more!

wildheartanimalsanctuary.org



JULY

Isle of Wight Symphony Orchestra: Season Finale



5 July, Medina Theatre (IW)

The Isle of Wight Symphony Orchestra returns to Medina Theatre to perform *Invitation to the Dance* Weber (orch. Berlioz), *Appalachian Spring* (Ballet) Copland, *La Fille mal Gardée* (Ballet Suite) Hérold, *Slavonic Dances Opus 46 Nos 3 and 8* Dvořák, *Adagio from the ballet Spartacus* Khachaturian and *Pineapple Poll* (Ballet Suite) Sullivan.

THIS EVENT IS PROUDLY SPONSORED BY WIGHTLINK

iwso.co.uk



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 into pin curls. There will be 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 and get those Union Jack flags at the ready to wave in the steam train before your 10 mile round trip.

iwsteamrailway.co.uk

Isle of Wight Mardi Gras



5 July, Ryde (IW)

A collaboration between The New Carnival Company and local schools, the Isle of Wight Mardi Gras procession takes inspiration from New Orleans Mardi Gras as well as Latin and Caribbean carnivals. With samba bands and other arts organisations along with visiting carnival groups, it's a fantastic spectacle of colour and sound!

thenewcarnivalcompany.com

British Classic Week



6–11 July, Cowes (IW)

The annual regatta organised by the British Classic Yacht Club attracts not only entries from the UK, but also across Europe, Australia and New Zealand. The regatta is a celebratory occasion for classic boat enthusiasts to enjoy good racing and to spend time with fellow sailors who share the same appreciation of classic yachts.

britishclassicweek.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

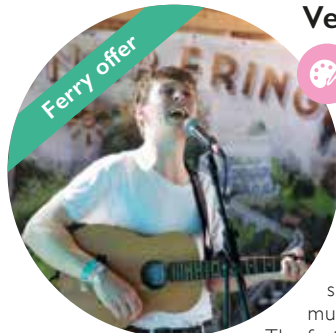
18–27 July, Ventnor (IW)



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



Jason Manford: A Manford All Seasons

18–19 July, Shanklin Theatre (IW)



Jason Manford is back with his brand-new live show. He's been busy since his last smash-hit stand up show but fans of his Absolute Radio show will know this nationally acclaimed comedian hasn't changed a bit.

shanklintheatre.com

Isle of Wight Pride 2025

19 July, Ryde (IW)



Isle of Wight Pride is a riot of colour and fun, a celebration of diversity and equality and a display of love throughout the community. The day will start with the traditional parade and will be followed by an afternoon and evening of entertainment.

iwpride.org



SailGP Great Britain

19–20 July, Portsmouth (Mainland)



SailGP's fast and furious racing finally returns to UK waters for the highly-anticipated Emirates Great Britain Sail Grand Prix. Get ready for the new location of Portsmouth, a port city steeped in British maritime history, which will see Dylan Fletcher's home team Emirates GBR gunning for victory in front of packed shoreside crowds. Fans on land will enjoy spectacular viewing from the elevated Race Stadium, while a huge on-water presence is expected to flood The Solent as the UK's passionate sailing fandom flock to the event of the summer.

sailgp.com

AUGUST



Cowes Week

2–8 August, Cowes (IW)



One 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, there's plenty for spectators to enjoy.

cowesweek.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

Isle of Wight International Scooter Rally

22–25 August, Various locations (IW)



The world famous Isle of Wight Scooter Rally hosts up to 5,000 riders of classic scooters, heading mostly to the coastal towns of Ryde and Sandown. With an Island-wide 'ride out' on the Sunday. The 'Best of British' evening entertainment 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 timetables

Check ferry times with our live timetable look-up.



Digital ticket passes

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



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Show your MyLink loyalty card in the app.

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Accessible Travel Facilities

Changing Places toilets

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

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

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

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

Contact us

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

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

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

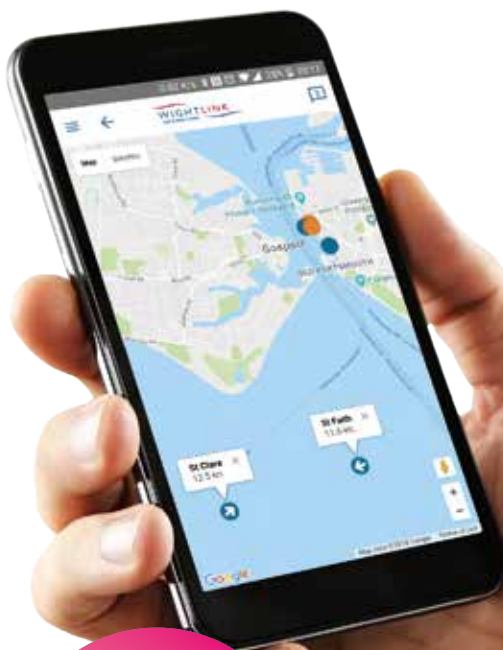
Visit wightlink.co.uk/contactus or call the Contact Centre on 0333 999 7333

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

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

Business customers

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



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TIMETABLES
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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

Illeisure
Medina, Newport
01983 823882

The Heights, Lake
01983 823881

Westridge, Ryde
01983 823883
illeisure.co.uk

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

BREAKDOWN COVER

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

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

James Garage Services
01983 521010
jamesgarageservices.co.uk

Visitor information Isle of Wight

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

For more details and opening times please visit: visitisleofwight.co.uk or [f/IWTravelAmbassadors](https://www.facebook.com/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,
Shanklin, PO37 6AA

SOUTH

Ventnor Exchange
11 Church Street,
Ventnor, PO38 1SW

WEST

Brighstone Village Shop
Main Road,
Brighstone, PO30 4AH

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

Yarmouth Harbour Office
The Quay,
Yarmouth, PO41 0NT

CENTRAL

Godshill Village Store
High Street,
Godshill, PO38 3HH

Newport Bus Station
South Street,
Newport, PO30 1LL



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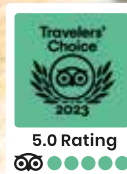
DIVE IN



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Registered Charity Number 1153254

RED FUNNEL
Isle of Wight
AWARDS
— 2023 —
GOLD AWARD



SWING
BY
AND SAY
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