

WIGHTLINK

FREE GUIDE

Wightlife

ISSUE 4: 2025

TM



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

DAYS OUT
**AUTUMN
GOLD**

WIGHT
**CHRISTMAS
GIFT GUIDE**

Wightlink's essential guide to the Isle of Wight

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Inspiration for your Island adventure

Welcome to the autumn edition of Wightlife, packed with inspiration and ideas for your visit to the Isle of Wight.

You've chosen a wonderful time to visit. Inside, you'll discover hidden gems, places to visit, Halloween events and festive ideas.



I've been enjoying time across the Island myself – from a walk along West Wight to see the rocket testing station (who knew!), to visiting the new European brown bears at the Wildheart Animal Sanctuary in Sandown, to attending the Isle of Wight Festival in the summer, where the number of different acts performing was astounding.

It's been a busy year for us at Wightlink; we have introduced new tickets, extra sailings, better customer information and improved website information. We have also created more opportunities to give feedback through our Meet the Team events, our Wightlink in the Community afternoon tea and our conversations day in, day out with our colleagues and customers at the ports and on the ships.

In recent months, we've made a number of improvements: a newly upgraded café and shop at Portsmouth Harbour, improved coffee onboard, more salads and sushi in our cafés, and a much-needed lick of paint at Ryde Pier. We continue to invest across the business and are now at the beginning of refit season, so you'll soon notice upgrades onboard the St Clare and our fleet of ships on the Lymington and Yarmouth route – watch this space!

Thank you for choosing to travel with Wightlink. We are here to make your journey easy and enjoyable, so please don't hesitate to ask for help. And enjoy your trip, I might even see you there!

Katy

Katy Taylor
Chief Executive

WIGHTLINK

At low tide, Compton's sands stretch out and are the perfect place for a stroll in the autumn sun.

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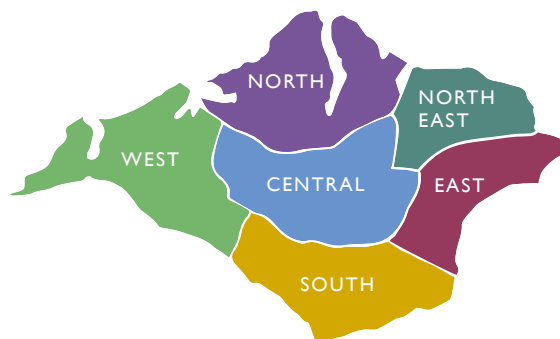


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The Guide

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



'Ask for Alan' initiative

We're pleased to announce 'Ask for Alan' a new initiative we've introduced to support some of our male customers.

Earlier this year, we began working closely with The Isle of Wight Prostate Cancer Support Group, a dedicated team of volunteers who provide education, testing, and support to men affected by prostate cancer – as well as to their partners and families.

To help raise awareness and offer practical support to those who may need it, we've introduced 'Ask for Alan.' Men travelling with us who may experience urinary incontinence can discreetly request support by going to any customer service point or retail outlet at our ports or on board and ask for 'a package for Alan' to receive a small blue envelope containing a male incontinence pad and disposal bag.

We've also introduced 'Bins for Boys' – one cubicle in each male toilet now has a clearly marked disposal bin, helping customers travel with dignity, comfort and confidence.



MONKEY HAVEN CELEBRATES 15 YEARS

Since opening in 2010, Monkey Haven has rescued hundreds of creatures in need, from tiny songbirds to mighty Siamangs.

In 1999, founder Don Walser bought a muddy field on the Isle of Wight and started planning a haven for rescued monkeys and birds of prey. With the help of friends, family, and countless supporters, he turned it into an award-winning animal sanctuary.

Monkey Haven specialises in primate care and is home to over 19 species, including the singing Lar gibbons, mighty Siamangs and Mueller's gibbons, plus Mangabeys, Colobus monkeys, Javan langurs, critically endangered Cotton-top tamarins and many more.

Catch the keeper talks throughout the day to learn about the amazing residents and how they came to be at the Haven. Many were rescued from tragic situations, found tied up in airports, or badly neglected by their previous owners.

Find out more about visiting the sanctuary at monkeyhaven.org

Afternoon Flyer

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

Prices start at just £17.20 for MyLink members and £19.00 for non-members, and you can travel out between 12:00 and 23:59, and return by 04:30 the next morning.

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



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 this autumn and festive season, with the offer covering the October half term and Christmas holidays.

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



Win a break at Bembridge Coast – a Warner Hotel, worth up to £850!

Enter our competition and you could win an accommodation voucher at Bembridge Coast – a Warner Hotel worth up to £600 plus £250 of Wightlink ferry travel included.

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For your chance to win, visit wight.link/bembridge-coast and use the form to enter by 31 December 2025.

This prize draw is open for entries from 1 October 2025. Entries must be received by 23:59 on 31 December 2025. Entrants must be 18+. Cannot be transferred, refunded or exchanged for cash. The winner will receive an accommodation voucher to Bembridge Coast to the value of £600, redeemable against your booking, based on two adults sharing standard accommodation with breakfast and dinner. Supplements and upgrades are available at an extra cost. Travel is not included except for £250 Wightlink ferry vouchers. Entertainment, pool access and selected activities included. Drinks and other food excluded. Excludes Christmas and New Year breaks, June to August breaks, Starbreaks, Drinks Inclusive breaks, By Invitation only breaks and other selected dates based on promotional availability. Break must be taken in 2026. For full terms and conditions, visit wight.link/bembridge-coast



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Autumn gold

The season of crunchy leaves and pumpkin spice lattes is upon us and it's the ideal time to plan a little trip to the Isle of Wight. Slip into those wellies and sling on your best bobble hat as we've got plenty of autumnal activities to keep the whole family entertained.

The Island's forests are a riot of orange and golden hues every autumn.

To kick off your autumnal adventures, consider heading to the scenic village of Newtown for a spot of seasonal bird spotting. Once a thriving medieval settlement (ravaged by both the plague and a French skirmish soon after), it's now home to just a cluster of quaint cottages and a 17th-century town hall. Head down through the fields and across the wooden boardwalk to Newtown Creek, where you'll find one of the best spots on the Island for birdwatching. Winged visitors to the riverbanks and marshes near here include Eurasian wigeon, black-tailed godwits, common redshank and even red-breasted mergansers. Binoculars recommended.



Newtown Creek is one of the best spots on the Isle of Wight for birdwatching.

For something a little more adrenaline-inducing (to keep away those autumn chills), hop on a mountain bike and take to the 200 miles of cycle trails, tracks and bridle paths that crisscross the Isle of Wight. The bravest of souls can consider the Chalk Ridge Extreme (with 'extreme' certainly being the key word here), a 53-mile chalk and mud track route weaving past Carisbrooke Castle, the Mottistone Longstone and across some of our steepest hills; it should take the best part of eight hours to complete. For a gentler, more family-friendly alternative, take a sedate cycle from Quarr Abbey through the woods to Binstead and down into Ryde, finishing up on The Esplanade for a dark-chilli hot chocolate at The Chocolate Apothecary.



With over 200 miles of cycle trails and bridle paths to explore, it's a great time of year to hop on a mountain bike.

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The coastline from Brook Bay to Compton Bay is one of the best stretches to go fossil hunting.

If you're still keen to witness some more local wildlife, then it's the perfect time to go looking for red squirrels (as it's their busiest time of year). Start off at Parkhurst Forest, a dense and leafy mix of ancient woodland, Napoleonic oak plantations and 20th-century pine forest, where King James I supposedly once hunted wild deer. Early mornings and late afternoons are the best times to drop by, when those furry ginger critters will be busy looking for fresh hazelnuts and pine nuts amongst the trees. Alternatively, head southeast to the tranquil village of Alverstone and the designated red squirrel hide at Alverstone Mead nature reserve. Conveniently protected from the elements, extra quiet visitors are in with a good chance of catching a squirrel sighting here, come rain or shine.

Perhaps dinosaurs are more likely to float your autumnal boat, in which case fossil hunting is a great activity to add to the schedule. The Isle of Wight is said to be one of the richest sources of dinosaur remains in Europe and the sandy shoreline between Brook Bay and Compton Bay is one of the best stretches of coast to go hunting.



Weather not playing ball? Head to Island Gems and learn all about the Isle of Wight's gems and fossils or book a guided fossil hunting trip for a brighter day.



Head to the designated red squirrel hide at Alverstone Mead and you stand a good chance of spotting one of the furry ginger critters.

Fossils from over 20 different species have been found on the sands here, some dating back 125 million years. And if you're struggling to tell the difference between an iguanodon rib and a common pebble, then fear not, year-round fossil walks can be arranged, including National Trust hunts during October half term. If those waves are just too rough though, pop into Island Gems, set in a historic thatched cottage in Godshill, where you can pick up all manner of amber, gems and fossilised remains to keep as a memento instead.

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Brading Roman Villa has some of the finest mosaics discovered in Britain, including one of Medusa.

When that peckish feeling starts to creep up on you, make tracks to one of our characterful country pubs (bonus points if they come with rustic oak beams, comfy wooden settles and a roaring open fire). Options include The Sun at Calbourne, a newly refurbished pub with tasteful, sage-coloured interiors and a farm-to-fork dining ethos. The beef and lamb come from animals raised in the village, while you can also pick up locally-laid eggs from the bar. Alternatively, on the hills above Carisbrooke, you'll find The Blacksmiths, a historic roadside inn (reputed to be 400 years old), that comes with some pretty unbeatable countryside views. Especially popular with local food enthusiasts (just check their Google reviews), it's the ideal spot to recharge before heading back out into the drizzle.

Finally, what could be more autumnal than donning your best knitted jumper and spending an enlightening afternoon in a warm and toasty museum? Try Brading Roman Villa for starters, where the western wing of a grand 4th-century home has been uncovered and preserved. Look out for the mosaic of the snake-haired mythical figure Medusa, as well as a depiction of Bacchus, god of wine, laid out in tiny tiles.



Once the home of photographer Julia Margaret Cameron, Dimbola Museum and Galleries has a life-size bronze of iconic rock 'n' roller Jimi Hendrix outside.

If you're heading west instead, don't miss Dimbola Museum and Galleries, set just a stone's throw from the lapping waves of Freshwater Bay. Once the home of pioneering Victorian photographer Julia Margaret Cameron, it now includes modern photographic exhibitions, a curated collection of Julia's groundbreaking portraits and a recreation of her 19th-century bedroom.

For more ideas on places to visit, turn to pages 52–79 or visit wight.link/attractions

James Rayner



The Sun Inn at Calbourne is newly refurbished with a cosy sage-coloured interior. The farm-to-fork dining ethos will ensure you're well fuelled for your autumn explorations.

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You can't leave the Island without...

#1 GETTING WINDSWEEP ON THE BEACH

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



#2 PICKING A PUMPKIN

Get crafty this October and carve a jack-o'-lantern. Pick up a locally-grown pumpkin at Briddlesford Farm, straight from the field at Westover Farm or head to Tapnell Farm for a whole host of autumn fun on 18–31 October. See our What's On Guide on pages 84–88.

#3 GETTING SPOOKED

From fancy dress and days out for your little monsters, to ghoulish ghost tours strictly for grown-ups, the Isle of Fright has plenty of places to send a shiver down your spine. See pages 18–22 for our guide to all the places you can scare yourself silly this Halloween!



#4 COSYING UP WITH A LOCAL TIPPLE

After an autumnal walk, it's hard to beat heading to a local pub to warm up with a pint or a glass of spirit to sip by the fire. Meet some of the Island's talented brewers and distillers on pages 60, 68, 72 and 78.

#5 GOING WILD

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





#6 SHOPPING LOCAL THIS CHRISTMAS

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

#7 WATCHING A PANTO

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



#8 SEEING SANTA

Catch the big man in red before he gears up for his busiest day of the year. Whether it's aboard a heritage locomotive at the Isle of Wight Steam Railway or amongst the artisans at Arreton Barns, see our What's On Guide on pages 84–88 for seasonal Santa sightings.

#9 A BOXING DAY SWIM

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



#10 KICKING UP THE LEAVES ON A WOODLAND WALK

Immerse yourself in colour and head to one of the Island's forests for a walk. Brighstone, Borthwood and Firestone are all spectacular at this time of year. Don't forget to keep your eyes peeled for red squirrels! Find more ideas for autumn days out on pages 10–14.

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

Frightfully good days out

Spooky season has crept across the Solent and where better to give yourself the willies than the Isle of Wight, often labelled as the most haunted Island in the world! The Island's rich history, blood-curdling legends and atmospheric autumn nights make it the perfect place to embrace the eerie.

With centuries-old curses, spectral sightings and a calendar packed with Halloween happenings, there's something frightfully good for everyone this October.

FREAKISH FAMILY FUN

With events running throughout the season, you can be sure to find a spooky spot to take the kids anywhere on the Island. We've put together a small list of must-do Halloween activities!

Spooktacular at Robin Hill 30–31 October

Two nights of family-friendly frights at Robin Hill's Woodland Ponds await! Featuring a cheeky monkey fire show, dazzling pyrotechnics, live DJ sets and ghostly tractor train rides around the haunted trail. Explore illuminated woodlands, unleash your inner ghoul in the glow-and-throw UV powder arena and enter the costume competition to win the secret prize, before refuelling from the selection of hot food stalls and bar.

Halloween Pumpkin Hunt at Arreton Barns 18 October–1 November

The Spooktacular Pumpkin Hunt returns to Arreton Barns for 2025! Grab a map and set off along the eerie autumn trail to track down the hidden pumpkins, each one holding a clue to a spooky anagram. Crack it and you could be in with a chance of winning the coveted prize. It's a fun, family-friendly adventure for all ages – no need to pre-book, just turn up and get hunting!

Who will you find lurking in the illuminated woodlands at Robin Hill?

Wizard Week at the Isle of Wight Steam Railway 19–31 October

Havenstreet Station becomes a spellbound playground during Wizard Week. Meet the friendly witches of Havenstreet, lend a hand with their spell-making and try your luck at the spooky treasure trail. Illusionist Greg Chapman will be on hand to dazzle with tricks, while Professor Crump's magic shows in the Barn Café keep the little ones mystified. Top it all off with a vintage steam train ride through the misty autumn woodlands and watch out for the crafty witch onboard with her mix of tricks and treats.



All aboard for wicked fun at the Isle of Wight Steam Railway's Wizard Week.

Half Term Halloween Fun at the Isle of Wight Donkey Sanctuary 18 October–2 November

They might not be the scariest creatures you'll meet this Halloween, but the donkeys at the Isle of Wight Donkey Sanctuary are certainly the most lovable. This October half term, trot on down for some spooky-sweet Halloween fun. Meet the long-eared locals, follow the family pumpkin trail through the paddocks and watch the donkeys tuck into their favourite seasonal snack – pumpkins! After the trail, cosy up in the café with delicious autumn treats and enjoy more family-friendly activities to make your Halloween day out one to remember.



Meet the long-eared locals and enjoy some spooky-sweet Halloween half term fun at the Isle of Wight Donkey Sanctuary.

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Part carnival, part Halloween spectacular, Blackgang Chine's event is inspired by Día de los Muertos.

Fiesta of the Dead at Blackgang Chine 24–30 October

The UK's oldest theme park transforms into a Day of the Dead celebration like no other. Wander through mesmerising neon displays, dance with the dead to unmissable DJ sets, marvel at fearsome fire-breathers and ride the adrenaline-fuelled attractions under the moonlight. Part carnival, part Halloween spectacular, Fiesta of the Dead is the perfect event for anyone who likes their scares served with a splash of salsa and a side of theme-park thrills.

Isle of Wight Ghost Experience

The chance to explore some of the Island's most infamous haunted sites, from Ventnor Botanic Garden and Arreton Barns to picturesque Shanklin Old Village, awaits those brave enough to join Marc Tuckey and his team. These atmospheric, lantern-lit tours blend history, mystery and mischief, bringing the Island's darkest tales to life. Keep an eye on their Facebook page for upcoming dates and prepare for an evening of jump scares, eerie alleyways and goosebumps galore. Suitable for fearless kids aged 13+ and grown-ups alike.

THE ISLAND'S HAUNTED HISTORY

Sometimes only the real thing will do. If pumpkins and grumpkins aren't enough to send a shiver down your spine, why not take things into your own hands? Investigate some of the Island's haunted hot-spots, complete with horrible histories and gruesome mysteries fit for the scariest of slasher movies!

Knighton Gorges

Two weathered stone gateposts on Knighton Shute are all that remain of the once-grand Knighton Manor, a house steeped in wealth, scandal and a vengeful curse. In 1821, its final owner ordered the entire estate demolished on his deathbed to keep it from his estranged heirs. Ever since, locals and ghost-hunters alike have claimed to see the manor reappear on New Year's Eve, windows glowing, candlelight flickering and music drifting through the night. Even if you miss the big night, keep your ears open – phantom carriage wheels have been heard clattering over the long-forgotten cobble path. The Island's "most cursed spot" promises spine-tingling suspense for those patient enough to wait.



The gate posts from Knighton Gorges are all that remain of the old estate.

Have a Bear-illiant day out this Autumn!

Benji and Balu are loving life — and now's your chance to see them at their happiest!

With quieter days and crisp Autumn air, you can watch them tumble, play, and settle in for the coziest season of all.

Don't miss the paw-some fun...
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**BEAR EXPERIENCES
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The Royal National Hospital where Ventnor Botanic Garden now stands.

Carisbrooke Castle

Nearly a millennium of battles, sieges and political intrigue have left Carisbrooke Castle with more than a few ghost stories. Charles I spent his final year captive behind the towering walls before his execution in 1649 and visitors still claim to spot the shadowy figure of the 'Grey Lady' along the battlements. The most chilling? The distant cries and ghoulish face of young servant girl, Elizabeth Ruffin, can be seen peering up from the bottom of the 150-foot-deep well, where she tragically fell in 1632.



Keep your eyes peeled for the 'Grey Lady' as you explore Carisbrooke Castle's battlements.

Ventnor Botanic Garden

Beneath the tropical palms of Ventnor Botanic Garden lies a far darker history. From 1869 to 1964, the Royal National Hospital for Tuberculosis stood here before its demolition in 1969, offering rest and treatment to thousands who sadly never left. Visitors today speak of lights flickering in empty rooms, lifts moving on their own, the faint echo of coughs through the night air and a distinct, unsettling smell drifting from the Temperance House and its tunnels. It's a paradise by day, but by night, the gardens feel like the stories of a darker era come to life.



Buried beneath Ventnor Botanic Garden lies a mysterious 350 foot long vaulted roofed tunnel. The only evidence of its existence is an unassuming gate hidden in the undergrowth.

Whether you're herding tiny terrors through pumpkin patches, braving the Island's most haunted spots at midnight or dancing with skeletons under the stars, the Isle of Wight knows how to do Halloween with a twist. Pack layers, bring a torch and prepare for a few chills (that aren't just from the sea breeze). Happy haunting!

For more ideas for places to visit, turn to pages 52–79 or visit wightlink.co.uk/explorer

Brad Stockdale

ESTD 1984 THE WATERFRONT

The Waterfront Bar and Restaurant finds itself tucked in the bay of Totland beach, sat upon the seawall, offering undisturbed, panoramic views of the Western Solent where it meets the Dorset Jurassic Coastline, as well as stunning sunsets all year round!

Staff offer a friendly and warm welcome, whilst the Kitchen use a wide variety of locally sourced produce to deliver the best seasonal dishes, the island has to offer.

If you aren't sat in our Table Served Restaurant, you could be enjoying the fresh sea air in the Beer Garden and watch the skies turn from blue to sunset pink!



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Spacious stays for a magical Christmas

It's been said that Christmas is better when surrounded by loved ones, but whoever said that probably didn't host Christmas dinner squeezed into a two-up two-down. So, this year, why not broaden those festive horizons? Gather the gang, leave the cramped spaces behind and book a spacious Isle of Wight stay guaranteed to create memories to last a lifetime.

COSY CHRISTMAS ESCAPES

For those dreaming of a Christmas reminiscent of movies like *The Holiday*, where crackling fires and rustic charm greet your every turn, these cottages and converted buildings offer character and seasonal warmth that'll feel like you're living in your very own fairytale.

East Afton Farmhouse & Annexe near Freshwater

Situated next to Tapnell Farm, East Afton combines farmhouse charm with luxurious comforts, offering space for up to 14 guests. Cook up festive feasts in a traditional kitchen featuring an Aga, gather in the cinema room for Christmas movie marathons or soak in starry winter skies from the rooftop terrace. Open fires and spacious gardens complete this stunning countryside escape.

tapnellfarm.com

St Andrews in Yarmouth

If you're looking for something truly unique, gather your friends or family for an unforgettable stay in a beautifully converted 19th-century church. St Andrews retains its majestic stained-glass windows and peaked ceilings but now offers luxurious open-plan living, a sauna, hot tub, private gardens and countryside views stretching across the Solent and beyond, providing an extraordinary backdrop for festive celebrations.

classic.co.uk



East Afton Farmhouse combines farmhouse charm with luxurious comforts.

SEASIDE SANCTUARIES

If waking up on Christmas morning to the sounds of waves lapping at the shore as the sun rises over the misty horizon sounds like your idea of a perfect holiday getaway, the Island offers idyllic spots for groups looking for a festive seaside sanctuary.

The Pink House in Bembridge

This charming Georgian manor provides the quintessential seaside escape. With ample space for 12 or more guests, almost every room boasts captivating sea views. Gather everyone on the terrace to toast with mulled wine overlooking the icy winter waters. After dinner, challenge friends to a match of table tennis or pool in the games room and savour the crisp sea air on your private lawn as you follow the path leading directly to the beach below.

thepinkhouse-bembridge.com



There's no doubting how The Pink House got its name!

Sun Lodge in Ventnor

Perched on a hillside with sweeping sea views, Sun Lodge is a warm, inviting sanctuary for groups of eight in the heart of Ventnor. Imagine cosy nights by the fireplace, wrapped in blankets, sipping hot chocolate while watching winter sunsets illuminate Ventnor Bay - a perfect festive retreat in a bustling town full of great eateries and pubs galore.

wightlocations.co.uk



Sun Lodge is warm and inviting, but light and airy too.

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Newly built Castle View has an open plan kitchen and dining room perfect for socialising.

BUDGET-FRIENDLY FESTIVITIES

There's no hiding away from it; group escapes aren't always the most penny-sensitive way to spend your holidays. But festive indulgence doesn't need to break the bank. These welcoming properties offer space, comfort and charm without overstretching the Christmas budget.

Orchard House in Bembridge

Located near the picturesque Bembridge Harbour, Orchard House offers generous space for 10 guests. Gather everyone around the large kitchen table for a hearty festive feast before retreating to the spacious living room to exchange presents beside the twinkling Christmas tree, with the enclosed garden providing ample room for brisk walks to shake off the excess Christmas pud.

wightlocations.co.uk



Orchard House has generous space and a relaxing feel.

Castle View in Newport

Perfect for those seeking modern comforts at great value, Castle View sits just outside the Island's capital, near a host of unmissable eateries and entertainment venues. Newly built and accommodating eight people, its open-plan kitchen is ideal for socialising while preparing festive treats. Eco-friendly underfloor heating keeps things cosy and enviable countryside views make this contemporary home enjoyable for all group gatherings.

island-holiday-homes.net



Left: Just a short stroll from the beach, Little Forelands comfortably sleeps 10 people.
Right: Fancy a festive dip? Don't worry, the pool is heated.

Little Forelands in Bembridge

Offering an unbeatable mix of value and luxury, Little Forelands comfortably sleeps 10 and is just a short stroll from Forelands Beach. Relax with sea views in multiple reception rooms, including a snug and a conservatory or if you've filled yourself with Bucks Fizz and Baileys, why not brave a festive dip in the heated outdoor pool? Its spacious layout and excellent amenities ensure a delightful Christmas without stretching your budget.

island-holiday-homes.net

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Be lord of your own manor at Northcourt House.

THE URGE TO SPLURGE

When the festive season demands that special something, these luxurious properties provide the ultimate backdrop for a truly once-in-a-lifetime Christmas, turning even the most Scrooge-like guests into firm Yuletide believers.

Shalfleet Manor near Newtown Creek

Step into a Christmas fantasy at Shalfleet Manor, a Grade II manor house brimming with history and luxury. Picture oak-panelled rooms aglow with firelight, mulled wine in hand or toasts beneath twinkling lights on the terrace overlooking 60 acres of private grounds. With its outdoor pool, tennis court and private boat mooring, it's the kind of setting that makes celebrations feel truly extraordinary.

shalfleetmanor.com



With a roaring fire, staying at Shalfleet Manor is like stepping into a Christmas fantasy.

Northcourt House in Shorwell

For the largest family gatherings or reunions with friends, Northcourt House offers space for up to 36 guests within a Jacobean mansion. Enjoy festive sing-alongs in the 32-foot music room, complete with a grand piano or wander through 15 acres of enchanting gardens for frosty morning strolls. Its elegant yet homely ambience makes it ideal for multi-generational Christmas celebrations that linger in the memory long after the decorations come down.

northcourthouse.co.uk



Left: There's ample room for dinner in the formal dining room at Northcourt House. Right: Is there anything like sliding yourself into a roll top bath on a cold day?

Whether your Christmas revolves around treasured traditions, festive feasts or simply great company, these group getaways promise a season spent with loved ones in a setting straight out of a Christmas movie.

For more places to stay, turn to pages 52–79 or visit wightlink.co.uk/explorer

Brad Stockdale



Royal Wight Estate:
Our Vision

www.royalwightestate.com

Tel: 01983 214757

At Royal Wight Estate, we're creating something truly special on the Isle of Wight. A brand new residential development, which boasts stylish, modern bungalows; all set within a beautifully designed, peaceful estate.



The middle image shows a bird's-eye view of our estate today, giving you a glimpse of the progress already being made. With new homes being built this week, we are excited to share our lifelong dream with you - exclusive, limitless luxury.

Below, you'll see the vision for our homes: a bungalow with a sleek glass veranda and driftwood-finish balcony. This captures the look and feel we're bringing to Royal Wight Estate, contemporary, coastal living.

We hope you can see our vision and share in our dream of building something magical here. A serene, safe sanctuary, with grand wrought iron gates at the entrance, remote controlled for ease, as well as security and 24 hour concierge available. With plots already selling quickly, now is the time to secure your forever home at Royal Wight Estate. Once complete, it's a development everyone will wish they had joined sooner... an exclusive community where luxury and island living come together perfectly.



Gifts for a Wight Christmas

From handmade, locally crafted gifts to unique experiences, our little Island has everything you might need to fill those stockings, lay under the tree or pop in the post this season.

The Isle of Wight is home to a wealth of artisans, creators and makers, so it's the ideal place for a spot of Christmas shopping. With the festive season fast approaching, we've put together a handy gift guide featuring a selection of our favourite presents from the Island, all connected to the Isle in some way – whether they're made here in a boutique shop or workshop, inspired by the landscape or wildlife, or include visits to Isle of Wight locations.

Discover niche, independent retailers and support local businesses while you shop, with everything from beautifully crafted jewellery to Island-inspired clothing and quirky homewares. Experience is everything, so we've also featured a host of local attractions, including English Heritage sites Carisbrooke Castle and Osborne House and some of our much-loved animal sanctuaries. If you like to spread a little festive cheer and bring people together, these presents are ideal for families and those tricky loved ones who are notoriously difficult to shop for – and they also support worthy local causes.

Whoever you're shopping for, we have the perfect gift for you. So, get cosy in front of the fire, indulge in a mince pie or two and have a browse of these Island-inspired festive gifts.



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

Stocking Fillers...

Poppy the Squirrel
(small) £25,
Alum Bay Glass

Established in 1972, the skilled craftsmen at Alum Bay Glass produce beautiful and unique glassware from their workshop at The Needles. The range includes cute squirrels in a range of colours including 'Poppy' in distinctive red.



🛒 Alum Bay Glass,
📍 The Needles Landmark Attraction
theneedles.co.uk



William the Station
Master Bear £21.95,
Isle of Wight Steam Railway

A lovely present for a child, these cuddly teddy bears are sure to become well-loved toys. If you're visiting, pick one up from the Railway or find William the bear and his colleagues on their website – there are three to collect.

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

Various Gifts,
Lesley's Nutshell

A treasure trove brimming with fun and unique gifts, as well as plenty of classic toys for the little ones. With ethically made gifts from the Island and beyond, you'll find something for all ages in this boutique.

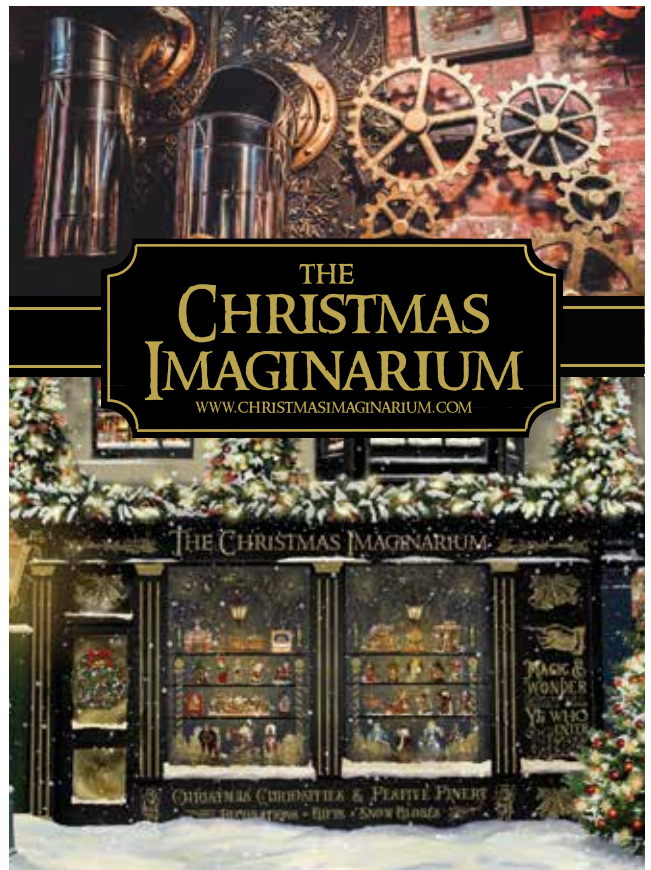
🛒 Lesley's Nutshell,
Ventnor



Ginger the Red Squirrel
Finds a New Home £5.99,
Isle of Wight Books

This educational story for young children is a great choice for little ones who love to learn about wildlife. And when better than Christmas time to snuggle up with a hot chocolate and a story?

📍 isleofwightbooks.co.uk



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**Garden Duo of
Pyramid Seeds £8.99, Ventnor Botanic Garden**

Beautifully bauble-shaped, these pyramids contain *Echium pininana* seeds, handpicked from those that grow in the botanical garden here on the Island. Great for gifting mindful moments to experienced or novice gardeners.

🛒 **Puya Boutique, Ventnor Botanic Garden**
📍 botanic.co.uk

Isle of Wight Calendar £9.99, Available Light

Give a useful present with a calendar from Available Light, featuring 12 Isle of Wight landscapes. A good gift for those who like to stay organised! Only one print run of these calendars takes place per year, so order in plenty of time to avoid disappointment.

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



Gifts for mind, body and soul...



**The Island Botanical Hand
& Body Care Duo £48,
Duxmore Botanics**

Treat them to moments of tranquillity with this revitalising and nourishing duo, presented in elegant amber glass. Beautifully fragranced using natural ingredients and ethically made on the Isle of Wight.

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



**Pamper massage £50,
Laura Jane Holistic Therapy**

Give the gift of rest and relaxation with an hour of pampering favourites at this Island boutique. Allow them to truly unwind with a back, neck and foot massage. Great for the busy people in your life – and just what's needed after the festive season.

🛒 **Laura Jane Holistic Therapy, Ventnor**
📍 laurajaneholistictherapy.com

Jewellery making classes from £25, The Jewellery Cabin

The perfect gift for a maker or creator! Vouchers can be used towards courses, which include ring, necklace and bangle making, or items in the online shop. Ideal for family or friends who like to get crafty and creative.

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



**Rapanui x Wight Trash Charity
Deck £45, Wight Trash**

If you have a skateboarder (or retired skateboarder) in your crew, this gift will go down a treat. The deck is a collaboration between two Island brands, the one-off design depicts sea creatures, with all sales supporting the Island's not-for-profit community skate club.

🛒 **Wight Trash, Ryde**
📍 wight-trash.com

Animal Adoption from £15, Amazon World

Do good with a gift that helps conserve the fantastic creatures cared for at Amazon World. Complete with a certificate, the adopter's name by the animal's enclosure and a ticket to visit the zoo, this gift will delight any animal enthusiast.

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



Pottery classes from £27.50, Isle of Wight Pottery

The ideal present for the chilled creative in your life – some relaxing time in the studio, under the tuition of experienced potters. A wonderful gift for anyone who isn't afraid of getting their hands dirty and likes to try new skills!

🛒 Isle of Wight Pottery, Niton
🌐 isleofwightpottery.com

Gifts for Island lovers...

Isle of Wight Towns North Pole Signpost £18, The Christmas Imaginarium

A sweet present full of festive cheer. This beautiful, handmade wooden decoration would make a great addition to the tree. Ideal for Christmas and Island fans!

🛒 The Christmas Imaginarium, Ryde
🌐 christmasimaginarium.com



Men's Fossils T-Shirt £28, Rapanui

This is a great gift for the beach (or dinosaur) loving folks who are tricky to buy for! These comfy tees are made here on the Island, from sustainably sourced, organic cotton.

🌐 rapanuiclothing.com



Isle of Wight Keyring £4, Chad Powell

This Isle of Wight-shaped vegan leather keyring is a brilliant gift to slip into the stocking of those forgetful family or friends who love the Island, but keep losing their keys. With 48 different designs including The Needles, St Catherine's Oratory and even a red squirrel, the difficulty is knowing which one to pick!

🛒 Chad Powell Photography, Arreton Barns
🌐 chadpowellphotography.com



Ryde Pier Heart from £20, Gordy's Wood Co

Hand-crafted on the Island, these wooden hearts made from the old Ryde Pier make a striking addition to the home. Gift them a piece of unique Island history that they'll be sure to treasure.

🛒 Gordy's Wood Co,
Arreton Barns
🌐 arretonbarns.co.uk

Enamel Isle of Wight Charm from £30, Honeybourne Jewellery

Dip into this treasure trove in Ventnor for these gorgeous, chunky sterling silver pendants, filled with sumptuous colour in kiln-fired Vitreous enamel. All pieces are made on the Isle of Wight.

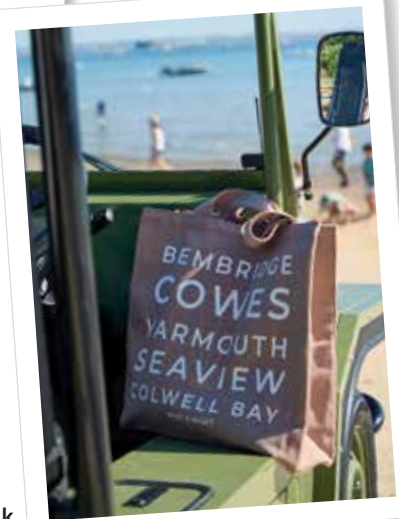
🛒 Honeybourne Jewellery,
Ventnor
🌐 honeybournejewellery.com



The Shell Square Tote Bag £28, Mint & Wight

Give some summer beach vibes this Christmas with a handy, recycled cotton tote bag they'll make use of in all seasons. Great for swim or gym gear, beach and shopping trips.

🌐 mintandwight.co.uk



Gifts for the family...

Gift vouchers from £1–£1,000, Wight Karting

One for the thrill seekers! Give them an unforgettable experience with go-karting fun for those aged 8 and up. The track is all-weather, so this gift can be enjoyed come rain or shine.

🛒 **Wight Karting, Ryde**
📍 wightkarting.co.uk



Seasonal Family Membership from £80, Monkey Haven

A super fun pressie for little monkeys. Give a gift that helps care for rescued monkeys and birds of prey, while also providing hours of entertainment for the whole family. What's more, you'll get 10% off in the shop and tea room.

📍 monkeyhaven.org



Alpaca Trek from £24.50, West Wight Alpacas

This gift is sure to be a memorable experience for the lucky recipient! Get up close and personal with alpacas and llamas with this walking experience at West Wight Alpacas, based in scenic farmland. Walks take place in groups of between two to eight people and one alpaca can also be shared between two people for £35, making this a fab gift for siblings or couples.

🛒 **West Wight Alpacas, Wellow**
📍 westwightalpacas.co.uk

Family Membership £144, English Heritage

Gift access to 400 incredible historical sites, including Queen Victoria's Island residence, Osborne and Carisbrooke Castle, where Charles I was famously imprisoned. An ideal gift for both grown-ups and children

📍 english-heritage.org.uk/join



Gift vouchers from £10–£100, Tapnell Farm Park

If you're shopping for a family with young children, treat them to a visit to one of the Island's favourite attractions. They can enjoy meeting all sorts of animals, from reptiles to farm animals, wallabies and meerkats, while the indoor soft play, giant bouncy pillow and go karts will provide plenty of entertainment.

🛒 **Tapnell Farm Park, Yarmouth**
📍 tapnellfarm.com



Family Membership £168.60, National Trust

This is a super present for active families who like to get out and about. With a National Trust Membership, you can treat them to days out at historical homes and tranquil gardens – both on the Isle of Wight and beyond.

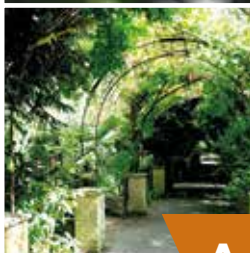
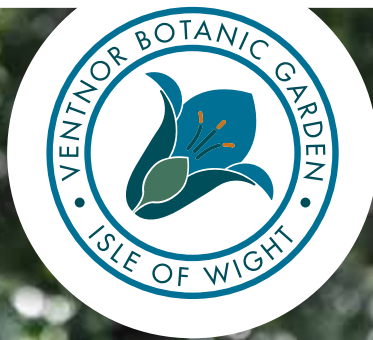
📍 nationaltrust.org.uk/membership



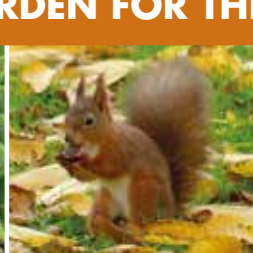
Photo: National Trust Images/Paul Harris

Please note: all details and prices were correct at time of going to press (September 2025) but may be subject to change. Please check availability with individual retailers.

Ginnie Taylor



A BOTANIC GARDEN FOR THE 21ST CENTURY



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An Island of literary connections

With the Isle of Wight Literary Festival taking place 9–12 October, we delve into the Island's rich literary history, spanning from Jane Austen, Alfred, Lord Tennyson and Charles Dickens through to the modern-day writers inspired by the Island's natural beauty.



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

With its dramatic landscapes and rugged coastlines, the Island has long been a destination for poets, novelists and artists, inspiring musings on the sublime – the vastness and power of nature – in the works of the Romantic poets. Perhaps most famously, Victorian Poet Laureate Alfred, Lord Tennyson and his wife Emily resided at the neo-Gothic house Farringford from 1853 until his death in 1892. Tennyson wrote many of his works on the Island, including the metaphorical meditation *Crossing the Bar*, which was composed while crossing the Solent.



Tennyson wrote many of his works at Farringford, which has been meticulously restored and redecorated in a late 19th-century style.

A striking monument to the Victorian Poet Laureate stands on the highest point of downland in West Wight. Once known as High Down, it's now named after the poet himself. His home became a meeting place for writers, artists and intellectuals, with Anne Thackeray Ritchie writing: "Everybody is either a genius, or a poet, or a painter or peculiar in some way", after a visit to Freshwater in 1865. Amongst visitors to the house were children's authors Lewis Carroll and Margaret Gatty. The house and gardens are now open to visitors during the summer months, with guests invited to immerse themselves in history at the former home of one of England's most famous authors.



A striking monument to Tennyson stands on the downs above Freshwater Bay.

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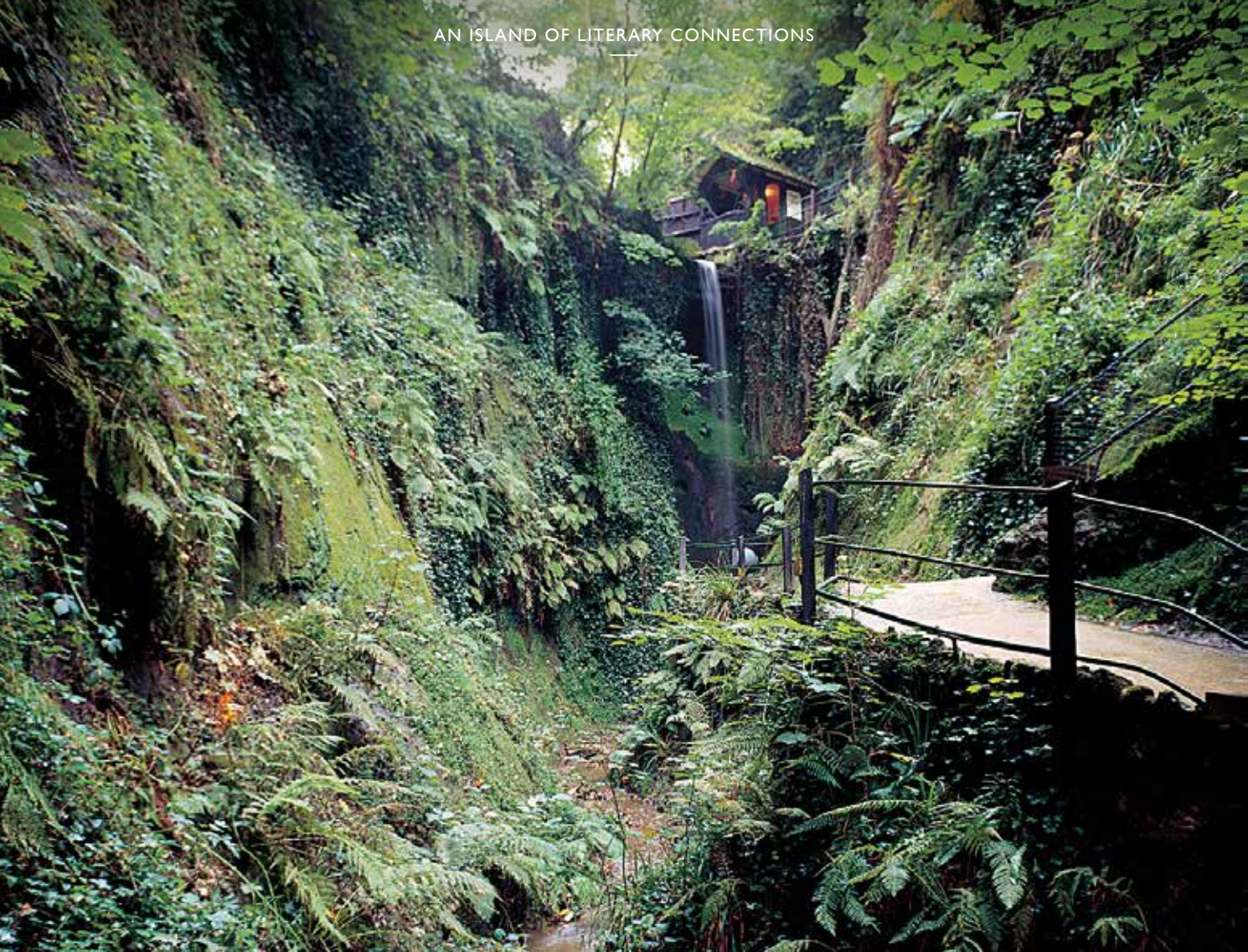
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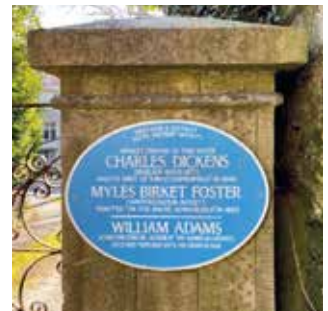
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The Isle of Wight's oldest visitor attraction, Shanklin Chine, was beloved by Jane Austen and John Keats.

But it wasn't just the majestic cliffs of the West Wight that inspired writers. The Island's oldest visitor attraction, Shanklin Chine, captured the imagination of the earlier literary figures, with Jane Austen calling it "lovely" and John Keats remarking on its natural beauty. In a letter to a friend, Keats wrote: "the wondrous Chine is a very great lion". It's believed to have inspired his poem *Endymion*, which opens with the line "a thing of beauty is a joy for ever". The sentiment rings true as today, visitors can still visit the chine, as well as dine and stay at Keats Cottage, the house once rented by the Romantic poet.

Travelling south, the sleepy village of Bonchurch is rumoured to be where Charles Dickens began writing *David Copperfield*. With the support of local historians and the Charles Dickens Fellowship, Alan Cartwright, of Haviland Cottage in Bonchurch, has researched Dickens's connections to the village and concluded that some of his characters were based on Islanders.



Left: Charles Dickens started each day with a swim at Bonchurch. Right: The blue plaque outside Winterbourne House, where Dickens stayed and wrote part of *David Copperfield*.



The beauty of Shanklin Chine and beach beyond has inspired many literary greats.

Notably, he suggests that the character Mr Dick from *David Copperfield* was inspired by a fellow of the same name, befriended by Dickens during his time in Bonchurch. Cartwright also asserts that Miss Havisham from *Great Expectations* was based on a local, Margaret Dick, who lived in the village. Like the wealthy spinster depicted in Dickens's novel, Miss Dick was jilted at the altar and became a recluse, rarely seen in public life.



The Traders Collective supporting our beautiful harbour town of Yarmouth, Isle of Wight.



Independent retailers, pubs, eateries, clubs and service providers are coming together to bring you news, discounts, promotions and a fantastic shopping experience.



It's easy to imagine the Famous Five frolicking amongst the rocks at Seaview.

While the Victorians were undoubtedly charmed by the Island, it remained a holiday destination for writers in the 20th century. The prolific children's author Enid Blyton stayed at a cottage in Seaview in 1935, and while there is no definitive evidence that her Famous Five series was influenced by her visits to the Island, those familiar with the books can easily draw comparisons between the stories of wrecks and rugged coastlines and the Island's landscapes. More recently, Seaview became the setting for Georgina Moore's novel *The Garnett Girls*, which tells an intriguing tale of three sisters, love and history, with a background of the beaches and villages of the Isle of Wight.

With its rich literary history, the Island is a fitting place for an event celebrating the written word. Now in its twelfth year, the Isle of Wight Literary Festival draws writers and thinkers from around the United Kingdom to discuss literature in a setting that has the subject deeply

embedded in its history and culture. Among the speakers at this year's Isle of Wight Literary Festival is Natasha Edwards, author of *The Goodness of Garlic* and Managing Director of The Garlic Farm. Natasha grew up on her family farm on the Isle of Wight, surrounded by rolling hills, in a location that is now a designated UNESCO biosphere reserve. Still today, writers are inspired by the natural beauty of the Island – and its bounty.



This year's speakers at the Isle of Wight Literary Festival include Natasha Edwards, author of *The Goodness of Garlic* and Managing Director of The Garlic Farm.



Northwood House in Cowes is the primary venue for the Isle of Wight Literary Festival.

Jane Austen wrote in *Mansfield Park*: "She thinks of nothing but the Isle of Wight, and she calls it the Island, as if there were no other island in the world." The quote has been claimed by Islanders and can be found inscribed on jewellery and memorabilia, for those who want to keep a little of the Island's charm with them. Because, to those inspired by the Isle of Wight, there truly is no other Island that compares.

For more ideas on places to visit, turn to pages 52–79 or visit wightlink.co.uk/explorer

Ginnie Taylor

HALLOWEEN

- Spooktacular -



LIVE MUSIC
ON SELECTED
NIGHTS!



FRIDAY 3RD OCTOBER – SATURDAY 1ST NOVEMBER

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Wightlife's festive food guide

The tastiest season of the year has arrived, but before launching into that lengthy festive food shopping list, consider the enticing options provided by the Island's talented farmers, makers, brewers and bakers.



Grab some local fizz and a bottle of Mermaid Zest Gin and celebrate the best the Wight has to offer this Christmas.

Surrounded by sparkling blue seas, carpeted with lush grazing and blessed with a few extra rays of sunshine than the rest of the UK, the Isle of Wight has some pretty perfect conditions for creating enticing food and drink. Not only that, but the Island is also home to a talented flock of artisans and producers, as well as a dusting of top-notch chefs, all helping put local food firmly on the map.



The Island is home to a talented flock of artisans and producers making everything from beverages to brownies!

But it isn't just us that thinks the Island's culinary offering punches well above its weight. Food writer Grace Dent and TV chef Ainsley Harriott took a tour of the Island's foodie outposts a few years back (praising everything from The Royal Hotel's soufflés to Smoking Lobster's seafood), and James Martin is known to be a fan of Woodford's flaky Bembridge-made sausage rolls. Meanwhile, Arreton-grown tomatoes are sent to all four corners of the country and one of the UK's youngest chefs to ever win a Michelin star was Islander Robert Thompson.



Lush grazing makes for happy cows and creamy milk and butter at Briddlesford.

So, while you could easily fill your festive basket at the supermarket, why would you want to miss out on the tasty locally-made treats on offer? By shopping local, not only will you come home with your bags for life filled to the brim with unusual and interesting goods, but you'll have more fun in the process. Just pop on that scratchy Christmas jumper and prepare to weave through the carol singers, as you explore the best in festive food and drink that the Isle of Wight has to offer.

The top half of the advertisement features a blue sky background with the Briddlesford logo, which includes a silhouette of a cow and calf and the text 'EST. 1923'. Below the logo is a photograph of a herd of brown and white Guernsey cows grazing in a green field. The bottom half of the advertisement has a black background with white text.

BRIDDELSFORD

FARM | SHOP | CAFE

**Autumn to Christmas,
savour the best of our
Guernsey herd – award-
winning cheese, butter,
cream, and festive cafe
delights – all from our
family farm.**

01983 882 885 Briddlesford Road, PO33 4RY
(less than 10 minutes from Newport and Ryde)

briddlesford.co.uk

NEW Close



HIRE OUR VENUE

Nestled in a picturesque setting, Newclose offers the perfect venue for your next event. Whether you are planning a wedding, corporate event, or private celebration, Newclose provides a versatile space that can be tailored to your needs.

Our modern facilities, coupled with stunning views, create an ideal backdrop for any occasion. With ample parking, dedicated event staff, and a range of catering options, Newclose ensures a seamless experience from start to finish. Let us help you make your event truly memorable at Newclose.

**Weddings | Private Functions
Corporate Events | Christmas Parties**
Up to 250 guests



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PO30 3BE | 01983 824570 | NEWCLOSE.ORG
INFO@NEWCLOSE.ORG | [f](#) [i](#) [g](#)

Christmas gifts for foodies...

Yates' Brewery Islander Ale £3.50 (500ml)

Any stockings still in need of filling? We've got just the thing. Expertly brewed in Newchurch by a family of knowledgeable beer makers, this 4.0% Islander ale comes with hints of pine and spices – perfect for sipping alongside a slice of the deconstructed gingerbread house.

🛒 Available from Co-op and Morrisons stores, The Garlic Farm, Norris Family Grocers at Niton, Harvey's of Yarmouth and Brighstone Village Shop



**Isle of Wight Tomatoes
Romesco Tomato Sauce
£4.50 (265g)**

Is your niece the next Nigella Lawson? Then wrap her up a jar of small-batch romesco sauce made from Arreton Valley tomatoes. Rich, intense and inspired by Catalan tradition, it's the perfect thing to liven up all manner of experimental dishes (and you can drizzle it over any leftover Brussels sprouts too).

📞 iowtomatoes.co.uk

**Frostbite Bakery
Bogtrotter Cake £180**

Perhaps you're fed up with the younger members of the family making faces when you unveil the Christmas pudding. Well, make life simple and please everyone with this hefty 9-inch chocolate cake. Made to order by Ellie and Louisa at Frostbite Bakery, it uses free-range eggs from Hazelgrove Farm and tastes so decadent you'll forget mince pies even exist!

📞 isleofwightcakes.com



Island Leaf All Day Breakfast Loose Leaf £4.95 (90g)



Though Auntie Wendy might be fiercely loyal to her PG Tips, pop some Island Leaf tea under the tree and see whether she'll become a convert.

Blended in Newport, from a mix of Indian, Rwandan and Sri Lankan black teas, this loose-leaf All Day Breakfast is perfect with a dash of milk and a Hobnob.

Caffè Isola, Newport
 islandroasted.co.uk

Jasper's Coffee Single Origin Colombian Coffee £15.95 (200g)

For anyone "resting their eyes" during the many repeats of *Dad's Army* on TV, bring them back to life with a steamy mug of Jasper's Coffee, roasted in the heart of Cowes. Choose from an assortment of sustainable single-origin coffees, including one transported from Colombia to the roasting plant via wind-powered sailing ship!

jasperscoffee.co.uk



Briddlesford Farm Cheddar Cheese £5.40 (190g)

A true taste of the Isle of Wight, Briddlesford Cheddar is matured for up to 12 months to achieve a smooth, buttery richness with a gentle nuttiness. Made with golden Guernsey milk from Briddlesford's own herd, it's a delicious celebration of local farming and tradition. Perfect for a Christmas cheeseboard or as a thoughtful foodie gift, this cheddar brings the flavour of our Island pastures to your festive table.

Briddlesford Farm briddlesford.co.uk



Escape to the Isle of Wight Your Coastal Retreat Awaits

Discover the charm, tranquillity, and timeless beauty of the Isle of Wight. Situated only a stone's throw from the sea, The Seaview Hotel is a rare example of a unique independent British coastal hotel set in a charming village.

Wake up to invigorating sea air, enjoy fresh local cuisine at our award-winning restaurant, and unwind in elegantly styled rooms designed for comfort and relaxation.



Prime location | 2 AA Rosette Restaurant
Best Hampshire and Isle of Wight Restaurant 2025
Complimentary parking & Wi-Fi
Dog-friendly rooms available | Functions

Book now and enjoy 10% off your first stay when you quote "ISLE10"

High Street, Seaview, Isle of Wight, PO34 5EX
Call 01983 612711 | seaviewhotel.co.uk
reception@seaviewhotel.co.uk



Grace's Bakery Savoury Afternoon Tea £28

If Granny needs an energy boost before rustling up her famous Boxing Day picky bits buffet, then consider sending over an afternoon tea. This one from Grace's includes local cheese, Merstone-made chutney and buttery scones fresh from the ovens of the bakery's H.Q. in Ryde.

📞 gracesbakery.uk

**Isle of Wight Distillery Mermaid Winter Gin £40 (70cl)**

Looking for something to post to aunts and uncles in chillier parts of the country? Send them a bottle of Mermaid Winter Gin to warm their cockles. Luscious figs and vine-ripened grapes are blended with cassia, orange peel, and Isle of Wight honey to make the ideal drink to raise a festive glass with. The gin is available to pick up from the Isle of Wight Distillery at Pondwell or as a John Lewis exclusive via Waitrose Click and Collect.

📞 isleofwightdistillery.com

**Garlic Farm Vampire Relish £4.95 (275g)**

If you're looking to elevate those Christmas canapés to new heights this year, then try this on your cheese-topped crackers. Made by The Garlic Farm,

this blood-red tomato salsa provides some delicious tang and plenty of garlic (naturally). Alternatively, add a spoonful to that turkey if it comes out of the oven a little dry... again.

🛒 **The Garlic Farm** 📞 thegarlicfarm.co.uk

Goddard's Brewery South Island Pale Ale £33.60 (12 bottles)

After untangling endless strings of Christmas lights, Grandpa more than deserves a little local brew to wet his whistle. So, drop one of these South Island Pale Ales from Goddard's Brewery in his lap. With hints of passion fruit, gooseberry and grapefruit, it's the ideal escape from all the festive mayhem.

📞 goddardsbrewery.com

**Wight Whisky Wight Garden £45 (12x 250ml cans)**

For the cocktail connoisseur of the family, tie a bow around this twelve-pack of local pre-mixed cocktails from Wight Whisky. Each gently chilled can of Wight Garden includes a crisp blend of sparkling apple, zesty ginger and creamy single malt whisky distilled on the Nunwell Estate near Brading.

📞 wightwhisky.com

**Isle of Wight Grain Strong White Flour £3.50**

If your homemade mince pies have already reached legendary status amongst family members, see if you can raise the bar a little further by sifting some Isle of Wight flour into that dough. Naturally higher in protein (thanks to our sunny climate), it's bound to add an extra je ne sais quoi.

🛒 **It's About Thyme, Shanklin** 📞 itsaboutthyme.co.uk

Please note: all details and prices were correct at time of going to press (September 2025) but may be subject to change. Items are subject to availability, please check with individual retailers.

James Rayner



◡ A LITTLE LUXURY BESIDE THE SEA ◡

Experience the perfect blend of comfort and coastal charm and relax in our fully air-conditioned rooms, each thoughtfully designed to provide a restful retreat.

From our premium Victoria and Albert suites to beach deluxe and dog-friendly rooms, each has been designed with your relaxation in mind.

Our hotel restaurant, The Rock, has a perfectly appointed terrace with stunning views of Stag Rock and sweeping Freshwater Bay and is the perfect spot to enjoy delicious dishes made with locally sourced produce whether you're joining us for breakfast, lunch, or dinner.

And, as we're right beside the sea you can enjoy coastal walks, windsurfing, and paddle boarding all just steps away.



FOR FURTHER INFORMATION AND TO BOOK YOUR STAY

www.albionhotel.co.uk

01983 755 755

From concrete cage to Island paradise: Benji & Balu

If you're visiting the Isle of Wight and love animals, there's a heartwarming story waiting to be discovered. At the Wildheart Animal Sanctuary in Sandown, two rescued brown bears – Benji and Balu – have traded a life of hardship in Azerbaijan for a safe, spacious home by the sea.

FROM DESPAIR TO HOPE

Benji and Balu's journey began in Azerbaijan, where they spent years confined to a small, featureless concrete cage. There was no grass under their paws, no shade from the sun and no pool to cool down in.

Their rescue became reality thanks to the combined efforts of international animal welfare organisations and the dedicated team at the Wildheart Animal Sanctuary. Months of planning went into the operation – from negotiating their release and securing specialist transport to ensuring the bears were medically cleared for travel and preparing their new home.



The purpose-built habitat has been built to meet the brothers' physical and emotional needs, which includes a playful grapple!

BUILDING A NEW LIFE – LITERALLY

Welcoming two brown bears to the Isle of Wight was no small feat. The Sanctuary's team worked tirelessly to design and build a 3,500sqm, purpose-built habitat to meet the brothers' physical and emotional needs.

The result is an impressive enclosure with open grassy spaces, shady woodland, natural climbing structures and a large pool for swimming and play. Specially designed enrichment equipment encourages the bears to forage, climb and explore, stimulating both mind and body.



The large pool gives the bears ample space to splash around.

None of this would have been possible without an extraordinary show of community spirit. A fundraising campaign, supported by animal lovers far and wide, raised over £250,000 to turn the vision into reality. Local and national businesses donated time, skills, services and materials – from construction and landscaping to transport and specialist equipment. This generosity created far more than a habitat; it gave Benji and Balu a second chance at life. The debt can only truly be repaid in seeing the fruits of these endeavours – two happy, healthy and contented bears, thriving in their new home.

SETTLING INTO ISLAND LIFE

When the bears arrived in June, after travelling over 3,000 miles, they stepped onto grass for the very first time. Since that moment, their transformation has been remarkable. Their coats, once dull and patchy, are now thick and glossy; their muscles stronger; their eyes bright with curiosity.



On their day of arrival, the bears were curious but tentative.



24/7 Islandwide Taxi Coverage

- Fast, Friendly & Reliable
- The Island's largest fleet
- Official concession holder for St Mary's Hospital
- Pet friendly
- Wheelchair accessible

**01983
280 280**

Alphaiow.co.uk

BOOK NOW!





Watching Benji and Balu transform and gain confidence has been a magical experience for the team at the Wildheart Animal Sanctuary.

Benji, the more adventurous, was quick to explore every corner, climbing frame and enrichment toy. Balu, initially more cautious, has gained confidence daily, revealing a playful side that delights visitors.

“They’re unrecognisable from the animals we first saw,” says Lawrence Bates, CEO of the Wildheart Animal Sanctuary. “Seeing them splashing, digging and climbing is magical. This is what every wild animal deserves – a life worth living.”

MISCHIEF, MEALS AND MEMORABLE MOMENTS

The brothers have shown a fondness for digging – much to the amusement (and occasional frustration) of the maintenance team. “We fix one hole and they start another,” jokes Lawrence. “But it’s a great sign – it means they feel safe enough to just be bears.”

Their diet is now varied and nourishing, including fruit, vegetables and, for the first time in their lives, meat – vital for their health and development. Visitors often watch with fascination as the bears forage for food hidden by their carers, displaying natural hunting and problem-solving skills.

A GLOBAL AUDIENCE

Benji and Balu have captured hearts far beyond the Isle of Wight. The Sanctuary’s live webcams attract viewers from around the world, with thousands of views from as far as Australia and the United States. Their rescue story has also reached national audiences through BBC’s *The One Show*, shining a spotlight on their remarkable journey.

SEE THE BEARS FOR YOURSELF

Whether you’re visiting the Isle of Wight for a day or a week, meeting Benji and Balu is an experience not to be missed. Their story – from a stark concrete cage in Azerbaijan to a lush, purpose-built sanctuary – is a testament to what compassion, teamwork and public support can achieve.



The lookout allows visitors to the Sanctuary a unique view of the bears’ enclosure.

As Lawrence reflects: “The public has given these bears the life they were always meant to have – and in return, they’ve given us joy, laughter and a whole lot of digging.”

To find out more and view the Sanctuary’s webcams, visit wildheartanimalsanctuary.org



Your own slice of Island life

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

HOLIDAY HOME OWNERSHIP



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The Orchards, Main Road, Newbridge, Yarmouth, Isle of Wight, PO41 0TS
01983 531 331 | orchardsholidaypark.co.uk

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

W.M.A.H.M

WIGHT MILITARY AND HERITAGE MUSEUM



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



Churchill's Licensed Tea Room is open daily, where you can enjoy light refreshments or one of our delicious homemade meals, along with a selection of hot and cold drinks. Every Wednesday is mid-week roast day and every Thursday is pensioner discount day.

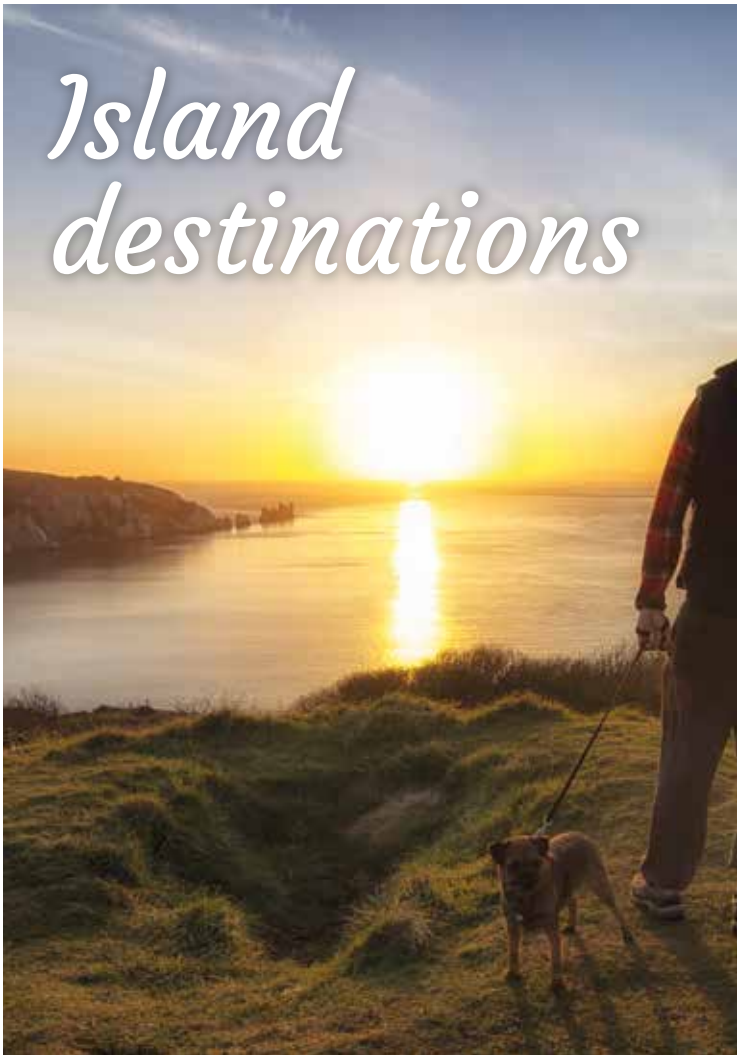


Open Monday to Saturday all year. Follow us on Facebook or call for more details



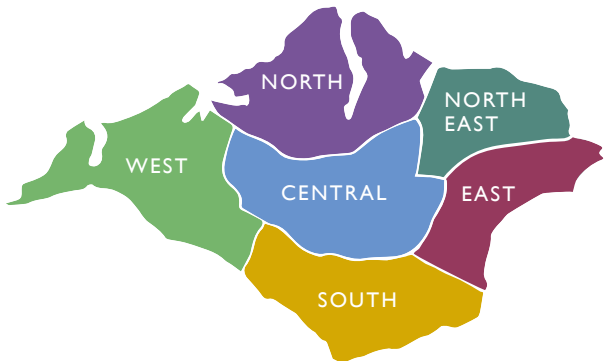
**W.M.A.H.M, Northwood Camp,
490 Newport Road, Cowes, PO31 8QU**
wmahm.org.uk | 01983 305555
enquiries@wmahm.org.uk

Registered charity 1159529



Island destinations

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



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

THE Jewellery CABIN
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ENJOY














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with a variety of courses available

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www.thejewellerycabin.com



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

Take in a spectacular autumn sunset overlooking The Needles.

56 NORTH

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

58 NORTH EAST

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

62 EAST

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

66 SOUTH

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

70 WEST

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

74 CENTRAL

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

SPOTLIGHT IOW
PRESENTS



SHANKLIN THEATRE

**20TH DECEMBER
UNTIL 1ST JANUARY**

DECEMBER 2025

1pm: 24th & 31st

2pm: 21st - 23rd, 26th - 28th & 30th

5pm: 29th

6pm: 20th & 21st, 27th, 28th & 30th

JANUARY 2025

2pm: 1st

TICKET PRICES

Age 2-4 £20 | Under 16's £22

Seniors £24 | Adults £27

Party Rates available

Discounts for blue light card holders

Price include Shanklin Theatre's booking fee

Box Office 01983 868000
shanklintheatre.com



Lymington

Lymington to Yarmouth
car/passenger ferry
40 mins

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

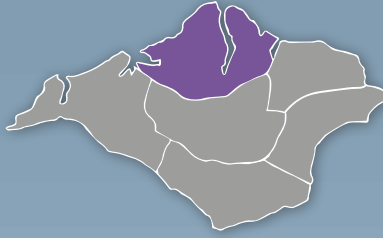
Yarmouth

ATTRACTIONS

1. Amazon World Zoo Park p27
2. Arreton Barns p9
3. Brading Roman Villa p64
4. Briddlesford Farm p43
5. Carisbrooke Castle p92 (back page)
6. Farringford p73
7. Isle of Wight Distillery p61 & 91
8. Isle of Wight Pearl p71
9. Isle of Wight Steam Railway p15
10. Monkey Haven p19
11. Naturezones p79
12. Oasis p2–3 & 23
13. Osborne p92 (back page)
14. Shanklin Chine p41
15. Shanklin Theatre p84
16. The Garlic Farm p77
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18. The Old Smithy p25
19. Thomas P Cochran p79
20. Ventnor Botanic Garden p35
21. Wight Karting p59
22. Wight Military & Heritage Museum p52
23. Wildheart Animal Sanctuary p21 & 48–50
24. Yarmouth Castle p92 (back page)



North



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

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

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

*"It is impossible to imagine
a prettier spot"*

—
Queen Victoria

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

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



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



ATTRACTIONS



Osborne



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

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

Wight Military & Heritage Museum



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

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



FOOD & DRINK

Churchills



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

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

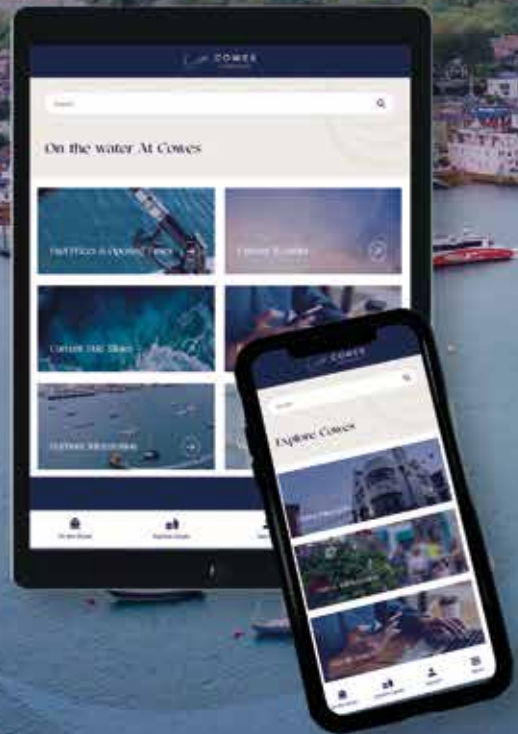


The Mermaid at the Royal Yacht Squadron, Cowes, sculpted by Jonathan Wylder.



Cowes Web App

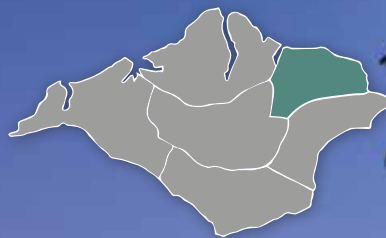
Explore the best of Cowes



app.cowes.co.uk

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

North East



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

—
Edward Lear



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



ATTRACTIONS

Isle of Wight Steam Railway



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

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



Oasis



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

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

Wight Karting



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

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

For more inspiration visit
wightlink.co.uk/explorer



SHOPPING

The Christmas Imaginarium



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

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

The Goose



The Isle of Wight's bookshop on the green, The Goose, has been based in St Helens for over 40 years, selling second hand and antiquarian books to locals and holiday-makers alike. The shop is a real hidden gem, stocking rare hard-to-find titles and treasured classics, alongside a wide selection of interesting and readable books for both adults and children.

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



ACCOMMODATION

St Helens Coastal Resort



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

Field Lane, St Helens,
PO33 IUX
0330 053 7000
awayresorts.co.uk

BOOK ONLINE
5% OFF – USE CODE
5WL2025



wightkarting.co.uk

RYDE, PO33 1QS
01983 565366



Inspirational Islanders: Lucy Gregg

Co-founder, Wight Whisky

Raised on the Isle of Wight, Lucy spent two decades building a successful marketing career with some of the biggest names in beauty – including L'Oréal, Unilever and the Isle of Wight's own Liz Earle. After 10 years in London, she returned home with her family and quickly spotted a gap in the market: the Island had no whisky that truly told its story. That spark of an idea turned into a mission – to create a whisky that celebrates the Isle of Wight's character, history and spirit.

Wight Whisky's Signature Malt Blend has quickly become a favourite among discerning drinkers. Since its launch just last year, the blend has been making waves well beyond the Isle of Wight, even picking up a coveted Great Taste Award. At its heart lies Isle of Wight single malt, layered with nuance and brimming with personality. The result? A whisky that is complex, characterful and unmistakably Island-born.

"My husband and I are Island kids – we both grew up here and about four years ago, we felt the call of home and moved back. The Island lifestyle is just unbeatable for us and our family... slower days, familiar faces and the sea right at our doorstep. There's something pretty special about raising our kids with the same ocean views and beach adventures we had growing up.

One of my favourite Island spots has to be Ventnor. I love the mix of great places to eat, little boutiques to wander around, the gorgeous seafront and of course, grabbing an ice cream from Crave – it's the best!

When it comes to beaches, we're spoiled for choice. But if I had to choose just one, it would be Priory Bay. It's the perfect combination of beauty, calm, and those "wish you were here" views.

If I want to stretch my legs and get some air, nothing beats Bembridge at low tide. The coastal walk all around is stunning and has the kind of peacefulness you can only find by the water.

As for Island events, the Isle of Wight Festival is hands down the best! Four days of music and entertainment. There's something for everyone.

And, if I only had an hour on the Island? I'd grab my paddleboard and head to Freshwater Bay, gliding out to explore the cliffs and coves with crystal clear water all around you... just stunning."

To find out more about Wight Whisky, visit wightwhisky.com. Meet more of our Inspirational Islanders on pages 68, 72 and 78.



Image courtesy of Julian Winslow for Style of Wight.

The Boathouse



Set just a stone's throw from the sandy beaches of Seaview, with sweeping views across the Solent, The Boathouse offers enviable beachfront accommodation paired with relaxed dining. Proudly named a Late Rooms 'B&B Gem' and awarded an AA Rosette for culinary excellence, guests can enjoy a delicious breakfast before heading out to explore, all just minutes from the charm of Seaview or bustle of Ryde.

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

The Seaview Hotel



This famous hotel has 25 rooms, including dog-friendly accommodation. Located in the sailing village of Seaview, it's renowned for good food and the restaurant has been awarded two AA Rosettes for the past seven years. Car park with Tesla and electric vehicle chargers.

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



FOOD & DRINK

Oasis Coffee Shop



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

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



The Boathouse



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

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



The 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. With delicious food and a superb cocktail menu, there's something for everyone to enjoy. Visit website for seasonal opening hours.

Pondwell Hill, Ryde, PO33 1PX
01983 613653
isleofwightdistillery.com



The Seaview Hotel



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

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

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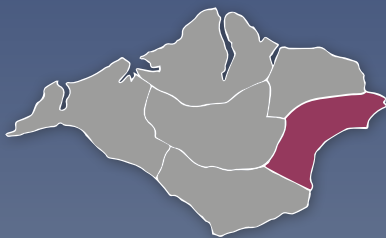


ISLEOFWIGHTDISTILLERY.COM
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drinkaware.co.uk
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MERMAID

East



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

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

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

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

—
Jane Austen, Mansfield Park

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

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

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



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



Attractions

Brading Roman Villa



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

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

Shanklin Chine



A Site of Importance for Nature Conservation – this stunning tree-lined gorge has been a magnet for visitors since 1817. Wander amid the natural tranquillity until dusk then enjoy the lights illuminating the narrow paths, streams and waterfalls in the evening. Seasonal exhibitions, tea gardens, nature and heritage displays and antiques gift centre.

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

Shanklin Theatre



Shanklin Theatre is open all year round offering great entertainment from festive pantomimes and live music, to household names including Fred Dineage and Harry Redknapp together with a diverse selection of top quality tribute acts.

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



The Wildheart Animal Sanctuary



Situated opposite the glorious sandy beaches of Sandown Bay, the Wildheart Animal Sanctuary gives a forever home to rescued animals including bears, 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 the dog friendly, plant-based Wildheart Café.

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



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

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



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BEMBRIDGE PO35 5NR

Contact Us:

01983 872742

theharbourviewbembridge@gmail.com



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



The Steamer Inn



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

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



Vectis Holiday Homes



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

Seascope, Luccombe Road,
Shanklin, PO37 6RR
07775 764246
theseascope.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 053 7000
awayresorts.co.uk



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. See website for seasonal opening hours.

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



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www.bradingromanvilla.org.uk or call 01983 406223

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 Bembridge Harbour.

Embankment Road, Bembridge,
PO35 5NS
01983 874758
thebestdressedcrabintown.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 and gluten free and vegan options. Entry to the café is free.

Morton Old Road, Brading,
PO36 0PH (SatNav PO36 OEN)
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. 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



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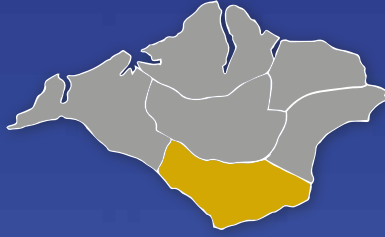
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luccombehall.co.uk/islanders

South



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

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

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

"This island is a little paradise"

—
Karl Marx

The Isle of Wight's most southerly village, Niton, is home to one of the Island's two working lighthouses. It was built in response to the ship, The Clarendon, hitting the rocks around the southern tip of the Island in 1836. Steeped in history, it's also home to a ghost tale or two. For a small village, there are plenty of places to eat, including The Buddle Smugglers Inn, which has been recently refurbished and sits at the heart of Niton Undercliff.

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



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



ATTRACTIONS

Ventnor Botanic Garden



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

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



SHOPPING

Mermaid Lights



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

07885 720503



Located in the Island's unique microclimate, Ventnor Botanic Garden offers a sheltered and tranquil place to enjoy tea and cake amongst the plants on an autumn day.



ACCOMMODATION

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

The Wight Mouse Inn



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

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

Ventnor Seafront



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

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

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wightmouse.co.uk

Inspirational Islanders: Toby Jenkins

Distiller, Isle of Wight Distillery

Originally born in Ryde, Toby then lived in New Zealand for three years as a child, before returning in 2008. He studied at Platform One and then completed a music degree at Leeds Conservatoire. He has now been working as a distiller for Isle of Wight Distillery, home of Mermaid, for the past five years.

Established in 2014, the Distillery recently celebrated the 10-year anniversary of Mermaid Gin and has marked the occasion with the production of a limited edition gin. The special batch of just 1,500 bottles sees its signature spirit reimagined by enhancing the locally foraged rock samphire with the unique addition of coastal fig leaves to provide a deeper expression of the brand's coastal roots.

"The Isle of Wight really is one of the most beautiful places in the country. With its amazing weather and beaches, it's the kind of place I would come on holiday, so to live here is an absolute dream. I love the fact that I can go to work in the morning and be swimming in the sea by the afternoon.

My favourite place on the Island would have to be Ryde Cinema, walking in there is like stepping back in time and it's so affordable!

Steephill Cove is my favourite beach. It's so serene and peaceful. It's also a special place because my partner and I had one of our first dates there. Plus, if it's the right time of year, I can snag a bit of rock samphire for making gin.

Walking the dog up Culver Down with an ice cream at the top is always a delight. As long as it isn't too windy, the views out over Sandown are spectacular.

It might be an obvious choice, but my top event has to be the Isle of Wight Festival. I've been either attending or performing there for 10+ years and it's always such a good weekend. To have such a major festival on our doorstep really shouldn't be taken for granted.

If I only had an hour on the Isle of Wight, I would go and grab a fro-yo from French Franks in Ryde and then play some pool at Rocket Ronnies."

To find out more about the Isle of Wight Distillery, visit isleofwightdistillery.com. Meet more of our Inspirational Islanders on pages 60, 72 and 78.





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 Met**

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

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



Fish and chips by the sea? Yes please! The Spyglass offer good grub and great beer.

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.

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

The Spyglass Inn

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

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

The 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

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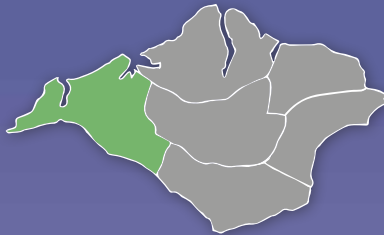
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mermaidlightsiw@gmail.com
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West



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

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

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

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

—
Alfred, Lord Tennyson

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

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



Freshwater Bay is beautiful on a frosty day.



ATTRACTIONS



Farringford Estate



Farringford was the main home of the renowned Victorian poet Alfred, Lord Tennyson, from 1853–1892. Outside, the estate gardens have been returned to the original informal planting scheme, including an award-winning walled garden and parkland walk with enchanting views of the house and High Down. The gardens are open from Tuesday–Saturday until 25 October 2025. See website for 2026 house opening dates.

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



Isle of Wight Pearl



The Brighstone venue is home to a vast collection of beautiful pearl jewellery, a popular indoor and outdoor café with spectacular cliff-top views over the English Channel, pearl master class and family fun Pick-a-Pearl experience for a day like no other. Plus, don't forget to grab a bite to eat at The Pearl Café, which champions small-scale local producers. It's the perfect spot to enjoy great quality Island delicacies.

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

Yarmouth Castle



Completed in 1547, the final year of King Henry VIII's reign, Yarmouth Castle was built to guard the western entrance to the Solent and protect the Isle of Wight. Enjoy the spectacular view across the Solent from the gunners' platform – it also provides one of the best picnic locations on the Island. For car parking use PO41 0NS. Book online now and save. Open until 2 November 2025.

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



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





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For more inspiration visit
wightlink.co.uk/explorer

Inspirational Islanders: Josh Davies Head Brewer, Yates' Brewery

Originally from Bridport, Josh started out washing up and cooking in pubs at the age of 14, before progressing to bar work at 18. He made the move to the Isle of Wight 12 years ago and joined Goddards Brewery as an apprentice in 2015, working his way up through the ranks. Earlier this year, he joined Newchurch-based Yates' Brewery as Head Brewer, where he has been working on improving both consistency and flavour in the older recipes and introducing new seasonal products to the range. Outside of work, Josh spends time with his family and is an avid fisherman, enjoying both fly fishing and sea fishing.

"I moved to the Isle of Wight in 2013 from Dorset and after meeting my wife in the same year, it's where I now call home with her and our children. Island life is chilled and relaxed. I like that I can work on my own time and have excellent access to great fishing on shore and by boat.

You can usually find me in one of the many great bakeries, such as Grace's or Deli-Cious, eating pastries (sweet and savoury!) and washing them down with great coffee.

The best beach for me is Yaverland through to Shanklin. There's a plethora of things to do, from sandcastles to swimming, crazy golf to arcades and museums to animal sanctuaries! And most importantly, of course, the many seafront pubs make it perfect for a sunny pint or three.

I enjoy walking through America Woods in Shanklin with my family in autumn, wrapped up in hats, scarves and wellies. It's peaceful and looks amazing with the autumn-coloured leaves. There's plenty of space for fun and adventure and we love hunting for conkers and squirrels.

In summer, my favourite event has got to be our local Sandown Illuminated carnival, and out of season, we never miss a chance to go pumpkin picking at Tapnell Farm for loads of spooky fun.

If I only had an hour on the Island, I'd go to Shanklin Arcade to play as many games as possible and win loads of tickets, followed by going to Toppings to eat the biggest ice-cream I could get my hands on."

To find out more about Yates' Brewery, visit yates-brewery.co.uk. Meet more of our Inspirational Islanders on pages 60, 68 and 78.

**YATES'
BREWERY**



The Albion Hotel



Nestled in Freshwater Bay, the newly refurbished Albion Hotel invites you to indulge in the art of simplicity, where every detail is thoughtfully crafted to ensure your stay is as effortless as it is enjoyable. The fully air-conditioned rooms, elegantly designed with your comfort in mind, offer a cosy retreat where you can unwind and savour the view. Whether enjoying a meal whilst watching the waves, or relaxing in your room, your time at The Albion is guaranteed to be memorable, comfortable, and effortless.

Freshwater Bay, Freshwater,
PO40 9RA
01983 755755
albionhotel.co.uk

The Bay Colwell



Stunning hot tub cottages and laidback beach houses are waiting for you and the family too at The Bay Colwell. Just a stroll away from the sandy beach 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 053 7000
awayresorts.co.uk

The Orchards Holiday Park



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



FOOD & DRINK

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 Rock at The Albion Hotel



The Rock at The Albion Hotel is a new 100-seater restaurant with the most spectacular views, just yards from the waves lapping against the shore. The menu is as inviting as the view, and there is something for everyone. You can kick back, enjoy your favourite food and one of the best views this idyllic Island has to offer.

Freshwater Bay, Freshwater,
PO40 9RA
01983 755755
albionhotel.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

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Central



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

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

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

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

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

—
Charles Dickens

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

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



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



ATTRACTIONS

Amazon World Zoo Park



Home to the Island's largest collection of exotic animals, including; mammals, birds, fish, reptiles, insects, fauna and flora. This multi-award-winning zoo offers you more than just animals, it includes a large Jurassic playground, museum, dino dig and the Island's largest indoor soft play area. A great day out rain or shine, there is a café and a snack shack, and a large gift and souvenir shop

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



Arreton Barns



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

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



Carisbrooke Castle



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

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

Monkey Haven – The Leaf Foundation



Swing on by to the award-winning primate rescue centre making animals happy – and people happy! Meet rescued gibbons, monkeys, meerkats, birds of prey and reptiles. Lots of fun for everyone, including keeper talks, a 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.

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

The Garlic Farm



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

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

The 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 of up to 8 people, so 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



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www.snacksandladders.co.uk
01983 716710



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



The Old Smithy



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

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



SHOPPING

Briddlesford Farm Shop



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

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



Chad Powell Gallery & Shop



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

Arreton Barns Craft Village,
Main Road, Arreton, PO30 3AA
07504 850339
chadpowellphotography.com

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.

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

Visual Impact



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

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



ACCOMMODATION

The Garlic Farm Self Catering Cottages and Luxury Yurts



Stay in a beautifully converted country cottage or luxury yurt at The Garlic Farm – a unique setting in organic farmland, with award-winning restaurant and shop on site. Choose from a range of accommodation options, including some with hot tubs and wood burning stoves. Relax in the sauna or make use of the tennis court, football pitch and games room.

Mersley Lane, Newchurch,
PO36 0NR
01983 898477
thegarlicfarm.co.uk

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 with swimming pools, bar and eatery, plus activities for the whole family to enjoy, it's the perfect base to explore the Island.

Main Road, Rookley, PO38 3LU
0330 053 7000
awayresorts.co.uk



FOOD & DRINK



Bluebells Café at Briddlesford Farm



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

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

Newclose County Cricket Ground



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

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

Snacks & Ladders Board Game Café



Snacks & Ladders is a little oasis where you can escape the real world and lose yourself in the world of games. Along with the huge menu of 1,000+ 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.

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

The Garlic Farm Restaurant



At The Garlic Farm Restaurant you can sample the best garlicky food in beautiful farm surroundings with friendly service, fully licensed bar and excellent views across the valley. Open daily for breakfast and lunch, the menu and 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



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Chad Powell

LANDSCAPE PHOTOGRAPHER

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www.chadpowellphotography.com

Inspirational Islanders: Bob Simpson

Managing Director, Goddards Brewery

Having moved to the Isle of Wight from London in the 1980s, Bob started his brewing journey in the mid-1990s, founding Ventnor Brewery. Since then, he has worked at Bass, Molson Coors and Yates' Brewery. Beer is one of Bob's main passions, but he's also keen on sports and recently played a charity match at Twickenham as a 'super-vet' for the local Hurricanes rugby union team. He can often be found building and renovating properties in his time off.

The oldest brewery on the Isle of Wight and one of the first independent craft beer producers in the UK, Goddards was acquired by Powder Monkey Brewing Co Ltd in January this year. From the purpose-built state-of-the-art brewery at Hale Common, Goddards produce a range of award-winning beers, from full-bodied favourites to a light and refreshing lager.

"As a place to live and work, the Isle of Wight is hard to beat. Most of my mates in London went to work in the City, but for me, life is about quality and not quantity. I've travelled the world three times and have always ended up back on the Island. Only New Zealand even came close.

We regularly deliver Goddards beer to Quarr Abbey and it's become one of my favourite places. It's wonderfully tranquil and I love the bees and the pigs. There are farmers in our family and that must be the reason. This year, Goddards has brewed Apiary Ale, a Belgian-style beer using honey from Quarr.

My favourite beach is Priory Bay without a doubt. I have family who have lived in and around St Helens and Seaview for generations. It's a stunning beach and it's where I grew up and feel most at home.

Culver Down is where I'd walk my dog every day. The views out over Sandown Bay are amazing at any time of the year. A walk around the headland is a really good place to clear your mind, ready to start the day.

In terms of events, Goddards provide beer backstage at the Isle of Wight Festival. Although we're technically working, it's great to be alongside the other Wight Marque suppliers who have been chosen to look after the artists. We have a lot of fun.

If I only had an hour on the Island, I'd take the kids to the beach. It's what the Isle of Wight is all about."

To find out more about Goddards Brewery, visit goddardsbrewery.com. Meet more of our Inspirational Islanders on pages 60, 68 and 72.





* RALPH LAUREN * BARBOUR * PART TWO * LEVIS * FRED PERRY *
 * FRENCH CONNECTION * GANT * NUDIE JEANS *
 * NYDJ * LYLE & SCOTT * YAYA * MARC DARC *
 * SCOTCH & SODA * TIMBERLAND * LOAKES SHOEMAKERS *





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01983 821908

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naturezones.org.uk

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 [thomaspcochran](https://www.facebook.com/thomaspcochran) |
  [thomaspcochranltd](https://www.instagram.com/thomaspcochranltd)

Portsmouth

Autumn is a fantastic time to visit Portsmouth. Touring season brings huge shows to the city's theatres and venues and there are some big events in the city's calendar making their return and a whole host of family-friendly activities will run over the October and Christmas school holidays.

First up, it's the return of the Great South Run on 19 October, which unfortunately had to be cancelled last year with strong winds making it unsafe to go ahead. As such, many entrants rolled over their places to 2025, so this year's 10-mile event has sold out. That said, it's still a great day out for all visitors, with the chance to soak up the atmosphere and be among the thousands of well-wishers cheering runners on as they test themselves against the 10-mile course around the city.

As we look ahead toward Christmas, panto takes centre stage – oh yes it does! There are plenty to choose from in Portsmouth; the Kings is putting on *Aladdin* (which sees the return of Shaun Williamson by huge popular demand), while the New Theatre Royal has *Snow White* and for Portsmouth Guildhall it's the turn of *Cinderella*.

If festive shopping holds more appeal, then be sure to visit some of the city's many Christmas markets. Port Solent and the Hotwalls Studios will be among those welcoming some of the best artisan makers the South has to offer, so you can give gifts that are truly unique.

Keep an eye on the Visit Portsmouth website for dates and details on all the city's festive markets, as well as everything else there is to see and do at the Great Waterfront City. There are festive film screenings, Christmas concerts and loads more besides – so make sure you don't miss out on what's going on!

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

The Spinnaker Tower looks even more spectacular as night falls.



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023 9252 4551

Lymington & the New Forest

Autumn is a truly magical scene in the New Forest. Picture ancient woodland and open heathland blanketed in dazzling shades of orange and red, pigs snuffling through fallen leaves and sunrises and sunsets you'll never forget. What's more, it's just a short trip across the Solent from our Yarmouth port or the perfect pit stop on your way to the Island.

To experience the very best of the season's colours, plan a walk or bike ride along the miles of gravel tracks that crisscross the National Park. Whether you prefer trails beneath golden canopies or beautiful heathland dotted with orange ferns, you're in for a treat. Keep your eyes peeled for the free-roaming wildlife that makes this place so special.

One of the most unique autumn sights in the New Forest is pannage – when pigs are released to feast on fallen acorns, which are toxic to ponies and cattle. It's a centuries-old tradition and a wonderful sight to witness if you're visiting during the season.

As October draws to a close, it's time for Halloween fun! With so many local attractions and activity providers, you're spoiled for spooky choice. Hop aboard the ghost train at Exbury Gardens, take a haunted paddle on the Beaulieu River with New Forest Activities or brave the haunted barn at Longdown Activity Farm.

Then it's onto the festive season. The New Forest transforms into an enchanting winter wonderland – gather with loved ones at cosy, decorated pubs and restaurants, meet Santa, follow twinkling light trails and get hands-on with Christmas craft workshops.



Sprinkled with snow, Lyndhurst is a scene straight off of a Christmas card.

When it comes to gift shopping, you'll find plenty of festive inspiration at Christmas markets and in the New Forest's charming high streets. Don't miss Eats 'n' Treats food festival at Brockenhurst on 16 November, and be sure to visit Lyndhurst, Lymington and Hythe for unique local gifts.

For more seasonal ideas, events, walking routes, itineraries and places to stay, visit thenewforest.co.uk and wightlink.co.uk/explorer

Go New Forest



During autumn, pigs are released into the New Forest to feast on fallen acorns.

Celebrate this
Christmas
at Stanwell House

Celebrate with us and enjoy a range of enchanting events, from festive afternoon tea and gourmet Christmas dinner to mulled wine, mince pies and cosy, luxurious accommodation.

Christmas Day Lunch
£125 per person

Whether you're seeking a cosy retreat, a sumptuous meal, or a charming venue for your festive celebrations, Stanwell House combines traditional charm with modern luxury to create the perfect Christmas atmosphere.

Festive Celebrations
from £40 per person

Experience the magic of Christmas at Stanwell House in Lymington. Our historic hotel becomes a festive haven, adorned with beautiful decorations and filled with seasonal cheer.



Find out more about celebrating Christmas with us.

14-15 High Street, Lymington, SO41 9AA | stanwellhouse.com




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thenewforest.co.uk/new-forest-card/digital-card

The
**New
Forest**



What's on...

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

Fiesta of the Dead at Blackgang Chine.



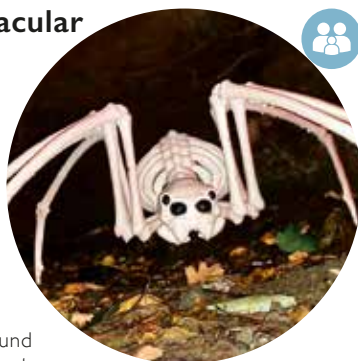
OCTOBER

Halloween Spooktacular

3 October–1 November,
Shanklin Chine (IW)

Get ready for a hair-raising Halloween Spooktacular! This October, Shanklin Chine will be holding a month-long celebration of all things spooky! Explore the haunted grounds decked out with eerie decorations, animatronics and live actors bringing frightful surprises around every corner. From werewolves to wyverns, you never know what lurks in the shadows! On weekends, enjoy live music featuring your favourite spooky tunes, and don't forget to come in costume – fancy dress is highly encouraged!

shanklinchine.co.uk



The Pumpkin Patch at Westover Farm

4–31 October
(selected dates),
Calbourne (IW)

Pick your own pumpkins straight from the field at Westover Farm in Calbourne. Wander the paths to choose from a range of pumpkins, squashes and gourds of all shapes, sizes and colours, perfect for your autumnal display, carving or autumn foods. The pumpkin patch is suitable for all ages and dogs on leads are welcome. See Facebook for opening times.

facebook.com/westoverfarmiw



Dash in the Dark

4 October, The Royal
Isle of Wight County
Showground (IW)

On your mark, get set, GLOW! Dash in the Dark, the 5K fun run, raising vital funds for the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Air Ambulance returns. Gather your glow gang and get ready to walk, jog, run or dance your way around this special night-time mission. There will be lights, music and plenty of fun along the way, so grab your fluorescent clothing and bring your glow sticks!

hiowaa.org



Isle of Wight Walking Festival

4–12 October,
Various locations (IW)

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

isleofwightwalkingfestival.co.uk



Isle of Wight Literary Festival

9–12 October, Northwood
House (IW)

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

isleofwightliteraryfestival.com



Wightrider

11–12 October,
The Isle of Wight Bus &
Coach Museum (IW)

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

wightrider.co.uk



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

Box Office (01983) 868000
shanklintheatre.com

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Ferry offer



Beer & Steam

11–12 October, Isle of Wight
Steam Railway (IW)

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

Yorkshire, Somerset and more. Entry to the festival is free; if you wish to board the steam train, usual operating day fares apply.

iwsteamrailway.co.uk

AJ Bell Great South Run

18–19 October,
Portsmouth (Mainland)



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

greatrun.org



Ferry offer



Halloween Half Term

18 October–2 November,
Carisbrooke Castle (IW)

Gather your little monsters for a ghoulishly good day out this half-term. Follow the quest to solve creepy clues and step into the shadows with Carisbrooke's very own ghost hunters as they tell spine-tingling tales and spooky stories from the castle's past.

english-heritage.org.uk

Autumn at Tapnell Farm Park

18–31 October, Tapnell Farm Park (IW)

Get ready as Tapnell Farm Park bursts into Autumn, with colour, adventure, and cosy seasonal vibes! Whether you're little or just young at heart, there's something for everyone. The pumpkins are plump, the animals are friendly and the good times roll like falling leaves!

tapnellfarm.com



Halloween Pumpkin Hunt



18 October–1 November,
Arreton Barns (IW)

The spooktacular Halloween Pumpkin Hunt returns to Arreton Barns! Grab a map and set off along the eerie autumn trail to track down the pumpkins, each one holding a clue to a spooky anagram. It's a fun, family-friendly adventure. No need to prebook, just turn up and get hunting.

arretonbarns.co.uk

Half Term Halloween Fun



18 October–2 November,
Isle of Wight Donkey
Sanctuary (IW)

Spooky season has come around again and it's time for some Halloween fun. Follow the family pumpkin trail through the paddocks, meet the donkeys and watch them tuck into their favourite seasonal snack – pumpkins! There will be autumn treats in the café to enjoy too.

iowdonkeysanctuary.org

EVENT CATEGORIES:



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& DRINK



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listings on wightlink.co.uk/explorer

For more events visit wightlink.co.uk/explorer

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY



Wizard Week

19–31 October, Isle of Wight
Steam Railway (IW)

Harp on Wight

23–27 October, Various locations,
Ryde (IW)



Spooktacular

30–31 October, Robin Hill (IW)

Festive Fun at Osborne

29 November–21 December
(selected dates), Osborne (IW)



Spotlight IOW Dick Whittington

20 December–1 January
Shanklin Theatre (IW)

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

Half Term Halloween Fun

18 October–2 November,
The Garlic Farm (IW)

Are you vampire ready? With all the garlicky protection you need, where better to hang out when the ghosts and ghouls are around than The Garlic Farm this half term? Take the Spooky Halloween Trail through the farm and woodlands with ghosts, witches, pumpkin heads and plenty of quirky fun installations to be found.
thegarlicfarm.co.uk



No Tricks, Just Treats!

29–31 October, Ventnor
Botanic Garden (IW)

Explore a trail through the garden, perfect for all ages seeking a little Halloween fright. There will also be pumpkin carving workshops, where you can carve your own pumpkin, make slime and enjoy a make your own 'spooky' pizza for lunch.
botanic.co.uk



Wizard Week

19–31 October, Isle of Wight
Steam Railway (IW)

It's wickedly wonderful half term fun as witches and wizards cast their magic spell and takeover the Railway. Follow the treasure hunt trail then climb aboard the spooky steam train. Meet the witch wandering the platform... does she have a trick or treat for you? Favourite entertainer Greg Chapman will be on hand at the station with hair-raising tales and mesmerising magic tricks. Book in advance and secure your place on the train.

iwsteamrailway.co.uk



Harp on Wight

23–27 October, Various
locations, Ryde (IW)

Founded in 2014, Harp on Wight International has become a key musical fixture on the Island with a series of beautiful concerts by international harpists taking place. Based in Ryde, the festival attracts a wide range of performers and audiences from across the world. There are also teaching workshops, an exhibition of harps made by national manufacturers and a six-day course to make your own harp.
harpsonwight.co.uk



Fiesta of the Dead

24–30 October (selected dates), Blackgang Chine (IW)

Immerse yourself in a vibrant eruption of light and colour inspired by the traditional Mexican Día de los Muertos celebration. Step through the gates this Halloween into a world beyond, where the charismatic Gate Keeper awaits to guide you on your journey to the other side. As you walk through the Land of the Dead, take in the surroundings with beautiful inflatable displays, each more fantastical than the last.
blackgangchine.com



Ronnie, Reggie and Me with Fred Dineage: – All New Show!

30 October, Shanklin Theatre (IW)



Ferry offer

Join Fred in person in this all new show as he discloses what it was like to venture into some of Britain's toughest institutions and meet the most foreboding twins in criminal history, who other journalists just couldn't get close to. You'll hear stories that will fascinate and intrigue, while learning about the gritty reality of being a gangster in the criminal underworld of the swinging 60s, from the only man they trusted to tell their tale.

jackupvents.co.uk



Spooktacular

30–31 October, Robin Hill (IW)

Head to the magical Woodland Ponds for a hauntingly fun Halloween evening like no other! Spooktacular at Robin Hill offers two nights of family-friendly frights and delights, featuring The Cheeky Monkey Fire Show, live DJ sets, dazzling pyrotechnics and ghostly tractor train rides around the spectacular lit trails. Unleash your inner ghoulish in the glow and throw UV powder arena before refuelling from the hot food stalls and bar.

robin-hill.com



NOVEMBER

Isle of Wight Symphony Orchestra: November Concert

1 November, Medina Theatre (IW)

The Isle of Wight Symphony Orchestra season opens with a tribute to Samuel Coleridge-Taylor on the 150th anniversary of his birth, featuring his *Petite Suite de Concert*. David Campbell, dubbed 'the finest player of his generation', takes centre stage in Carl Davis' *Clarinet Concerto*, followed by the grandeur of Elgar's *Symphony No. 1*, a stirring masterpiece of British composition.

iwso.co.uk



I Love Wight Pop Up Christmas Shop



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

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

thegarlicfarm.co.uk

An Evening With Harry Redknapp

20 November,
Shanklin Theatre (IW)



Come join the one and only Harry Redknapp for a night full of laughter, football stories and feel-good moments. From his storied career patrolling the touchlines to King of the Jungle on *I'm a Celebrity... Get Me Out of Here*, Harry's storytelling will leave you hanging on every word and laughing till it hurts.

shanklintheatre.com



Disney the Little Mermaid



13–16 November,
Shanklin Theatre (IW)

Based on one of Hans Christian Andersen's most beloved stories and the classic animated film, Disney's *The Little Mermaid* is a hauntingly beautiful love story. With fantastic costumes and sets, join in for some of the best-known songs, including *Under the Sea*, *Kiss the Girl* and *Part of Your World*, this fishy fable will capture your heart.

shanklintheatre.com



Winter Wellness Retreat



21–24 November,
Tapnell Farm Park (IW)

Escape the demands of a busy life in the beautiful countryside setting of East Afton Farmhouse for a weekend of wellness, fitness and relaxation hosted by wellbeing experts, Balance+Glo. Enjoy daily energising and relaxing yoga sessions, strength building fitness, guided walks or runs and a fun archery session.

tapnellfarm.com

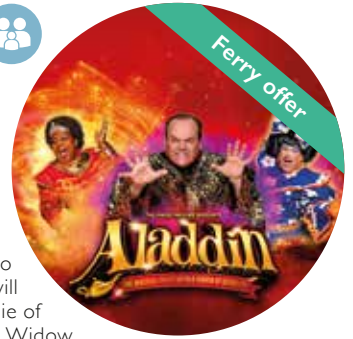
Aladdin



5–31 December,
Kings Theatre (Mainland)

Take a magical carpet ride with Aladdin! Featuring dazzling costumes, jaw-dropping sets, and all the festive fun you could wish for – it's the perfect treat for the whole family. *EastEnders* icon Shaun Williamson returns to cause mayhem and Rustie Lee will also take on the role of the Genie of the Lamp! Join Aladdin, Jasmine, Widow Twankey, and a genie or two as they battle Abanazar and discover that true magic lies in love, laughter, and a lamp full of surprises.

kingsportsmouth.co.uk



The Land of Christmas... at Tapnell Farm

6–23 December (selected dates), Tapnell Farm Park (IW)

There is another world of imagination to discover this Christmas at Tapnell! Travel away from the humdrum, far from your daily worries, and straight to the Land of Christmas... where kids can be kids, and grownups can too, to make magical memories to take home with you. A Christmas Wonderland and a chance to meet Santa himself awaits on selected dates throughout December.

tapnellfarm.com

Festive Fun at Osborne

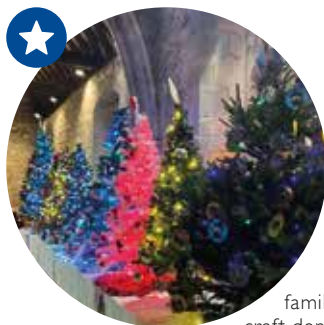
29 November–21 December
(selected dates), Osborne (IW)

Each weekend from 29 November through to 21 December, head to Osborne for a festive day out that the whole family will love. Make magical memories as you explore the grounds and enjoy festive activities and soak up the sights, sounds and scents of Christmas.

english-heritage.org.uk



DECEMBER



Brighstone Christmas Tree Festival

4–7 December, Brighstone (IW)

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

brighstonechristmastree.com

I Love Wight Christmas Makers Market



6–7 December,
The Garlic Farm (IW)

Enjoy a weekend of Christmas fun with market stalls, music, mulled wine and artisan Isle of Wight crafters and makers at The Garlic Farm. Perfect for finding those one-of-a-kind Christmas presents.

thegarlicfarm.co.uk

Christmas Carol Singing



14 December, Ventnor Botanic Garden (IW)

Wrap up warm and head to Ventnor Botanic Garden for sing-along Christmas carols on the Top Lawn. Accompanied by the beautiful tones of Shanklin Town Brass Band, this event is guaranteed to make you feel good this festive season.

botanic.co.uk

Santa at Arreton Barns



13–14, 20–21 and
23–24 December,
Arreton Barns (IW)

Ho-ho-head on down to Arreton Barns to meet the jolly man in red himself! Santa will be paying a visit on selected dates during December, so be sure to head down with the little ones for a magical meet and greet and perfect prelude to Christmas.

arretonbarns.co.uk



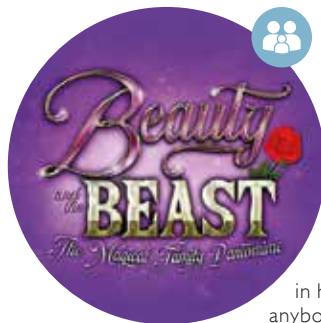


Santa Specials

13–14 and 20–24 December, Isle of Wight Steam Railway (IW)

The real Santa is once again making Havenstreet his official home this year. Take a magical, cosy steam train ride through the frosty countryside, before enjoying a stroll to Santa's North Pole Station. Enjoy live entertainment while you wait before one of the Railway Elves take you to see the man himself. Climb aboard a traditionally festive decorated carriage where Santa will be by the tree waiting to hear your Christmas wishes and will have a gift for little ones in return. Booking is essential.

iwsteamrailway.co.uk



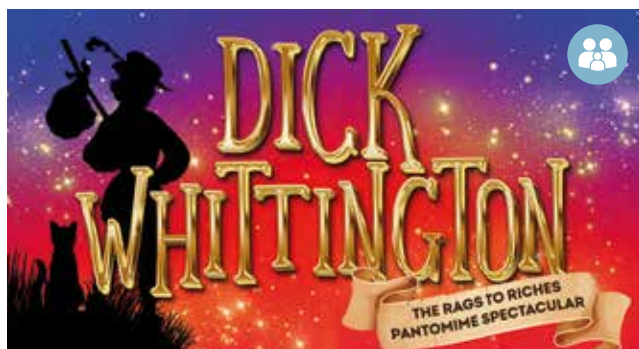
Beauty and the Beast

20–30 December,
Medina Theatre (IW)

On a cold, dark night many years ago, a spell was cast over the selfish and unkind Prince Benedict, forcing him to spend his days as a hideous Beast until he could learn to love another and receive their love in return. Forced to live alone in his castle, he fell into despair. Could anybody learn to love... a Beast?!

Can the beautiful Belle save the Prince's fate? Come along and find out as you go on a spellbinding pantomime adventure with a brand new production featuring stunning scenery, toe-tapping tunes, dazzling dance routines and hilarious comedy, you'd be mad to miss it!

medinatheatre.co.uk



Spotlight IOW present Dick Whittington

20 December–1 January, Shanklin Theatre (IW)

Dick Whittington and his faithful cat embark on a quest for fame and fortune, only to arrive in London to find the streets not paved with gold but overrun by mayhem bringing rats! The adventure soon leads them to a sun-soaked holiday island you may recognise, where our hero will need every ounce of courage, wit and help from friends to fulfil his dream of becoming Mayor of London. This pantomime delivers magical storytelling, dazzling costumes, eye-popping dance routines, toe-tapping music and plenty of audience participation.

shanklintheatre.com

Cinderella

22–31 December,
Portsmouth Guildhall
(Mainland)

Cinderella is the ultimate family panto. Packed with all the magic, mayhem and festive fun you could ask for, this is the perfect treat for your family, without breaking the bank this Christmas. Step into a world of magic with stunning LED visuals that bring every fairy-tale moment to life! From the magical pumpkin to the wicked stepsisters, Cinderella is bursting with dazzling costumes, interactive fun and laugh-out-loud moments for all ages.

portsmouthguildhall.org.uk



Boxing Day Swim

26 December, Ventnor (IW)

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

Boxing Day Specials

26 December, Isle of Wight
Steam Railway (IW)

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

iwsteamrailway.co.uk



NEW YEAR'S DAY



New Year's Day Specials

1 January, Isle of Wight Steam Railway (IW)

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

iwsteamrailway.co.uk



New Year's Day Celebrations

1 January,
Sandown Esplanade (IW)

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

sandowncarnival.com

Travel information

Download the Wightlink app



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Check sailing status

Use our real time sailing status function to check that ferries are running on time. Check vessel positions on our live maps.



Check timetables

Check ferry times with our live timetable look-up.



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



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Accessible Travel Facilities

Changing Places toilets

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

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

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

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

Contact us

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

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

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

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

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

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

Business customers

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



**GET LIVE
TIMETABLES
ON OUR APP**



Useful numbers

EMERGENCY SERVICES

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

HEALTH SERVICES

For non-emergency medical matters, call NHS 111.

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

DENTAL TREATMENT

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

GETTING AROUND

Wightlink
0333 999 7333
wightlink.co.uk

Island Line
0345 600 0650
southwesternrailway.com

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

Southern Vectis
0330 0539 182
islandbuses.info

Routes designed to help visitors enjoy the Island.

LEISURE CENTRES

I Leisure
Medina, Newport
01983 823882

The Heights, Lake
01983 823881

Westridge, Ryde
01983 823883
ileisure.co.uk

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

BREAKDOWN COVER

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

Bartletts Service Station
01983 865338
bartlettsservicestation.co.uk

James Garage Services
01983 521010
jamesgarageservices.co.uk

Visitor information Isle of Wight

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

For more details and opening times please visit:
visitisleofwight.co.uk or
f/IWTravelAmbassadors

NORTH

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

The Newport to Cowes cycle path is great for wildlife spotting, whatever the season.

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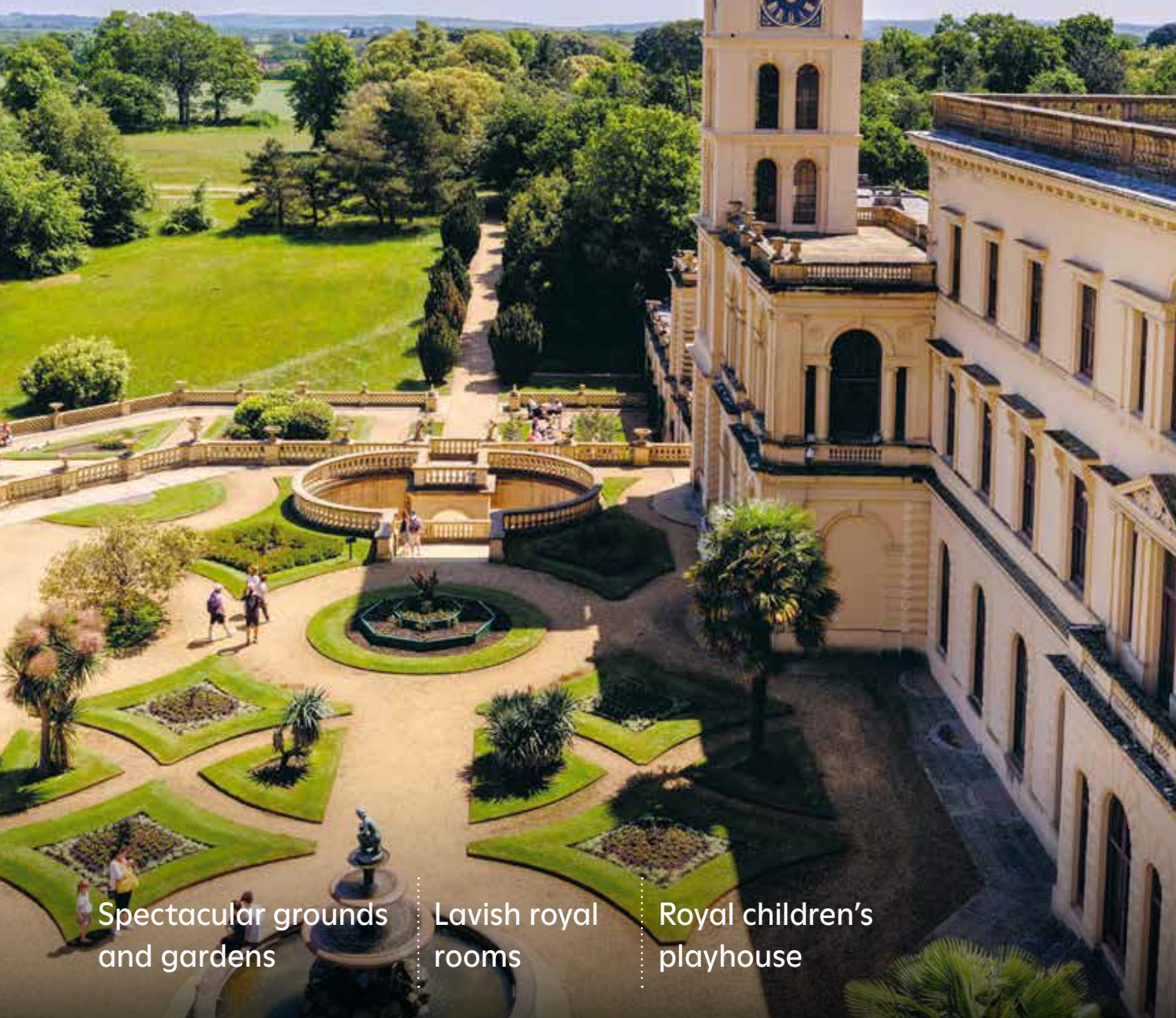
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and gardens

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rooms

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playhouse



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