

# ISLE OF WIGHT

2023 EDITION / FREE

*guide*



## WHAT'S INSIDE?

Days Out Ideas / Planning Advice /  
Places to Stay / Food & Drink Guide /  
Beach Guide / plus much more...



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# WELCOME TO THE ISLE OF WIGHT

The jewel in the crown of the south coast, the Isle of Wight is a destination that doesn't disappoint. Boasting miles of unspoiled countryside wrapped in a halo of idyllic beaches, this diamond-shaped island offers a unique taste of paradise right here in the UK.

With a circumference of only 70 miles following the coast, it takes just 6 hours to cycle round the Island and 1 hour to drive from one side to the other! Yet, despite its modest size, the Isle of Wight offers an abundance of places to visit, things to do, and warm hospitality wherever you go.

Start your unforgettable Island adventure with over 50 attractions to choose from, 500 miles of pathways to explore and 25 beaches suited to everything from sunbathing to surfing. Peckish? We've got over 450 independent cafés, bars, farm kitchens, pubs, and restaurants ready to serve up your favourites – whether you fancy a

hearty roast in the country, or fish and chips by the sea. Discover charming towns and villages, a rich local history, and breathtaking views around every corner. It's impossible not to fall in love with the Island's relaxed approach to life.

As the original Isle of Wight ferry, we've proudly sailed visitors across to the Island for over 160 years. With the help of local friends, businesses, and past visitors, we've compiled the best of our local knowledge into this handy guide to help you make the most of your holiday or day trip to the Isle of Wight.

What's on your Island bucket list?

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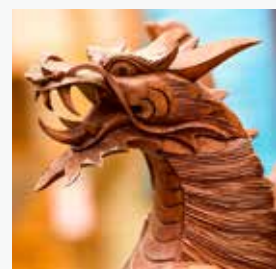
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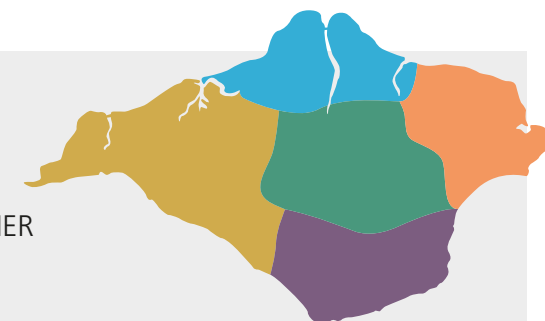
## HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE:

We've tagged everything by area to make it easy for you to navigate. You'll find summary guides for the North, East, South, West and Central in the centre of this guide, along with insider tips. You'll also see the following symbols when we list beaches, places to visit, places to eat and accommodation.

**N** = NORTH      **E** = EAST  
**S** = SOUTH      **W** = WEST  
**C** = CENTRAL

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# ISLE OF WIGHT TOP 12

Just arrived on the Isle of Wight and can't decide where to go first? Here are 12 ideas for things to do to kick start your 2023 Island adventure.



## 1. ISLAND EVENTS

Dates for your holiday diary! **The Isle of Wight Festival** returns in June for three days of music and dancing. Head for the great outdoors with **Walk the Wight for Mountbatten** in May, and the **IW Walking Festival** in both spring and autumn. **Ventnor Fringe** takes over the town in a colourful celebration of comedy, art, and performance in July. Set sail for **Cowes Week** in August, and take in the annual **Garlic Festival**, offering a delicious taste of the Island's produce. A family favourite, the **Chale Show** showcases the best of horticulture, entertainment, food, and fun.



## 2. UK'S OLDEST THEME PARK

Opened in 1843, **Blackgang Chine** on the south coast of the Island is the UK's oldest theme park. Popular with Victorian visitors, the park remains a must visit for holiday makers over 180 years later! Dubbed "a land of imagination", **Blackgang** boasts a series of fantastical 'worlds', including Cowboy Town, Pirate Cove, Underwater Kingdom, Fairyland and Restricted Area 5 – complete with animatronic dinosaurs. You'll also find rides for all the family, places to eat, and spectacular views out to sea.

## 3. EAT WIGHT

Who doesn't love food? And the Island does it so well! Blessed with rich soil and longer hours of sunlight, Isle of Wight produce is some of the best around. A visit to the **Garlic Farm**, **Briddlesford Farm**, and **Harvey Browns** is a must for anyone wanting a taste of the Island. You'll find the best garlic, cheese, gin, mushrooms, tomatoes and asparagus, all grown or made right here, as well as locally reared meats, fresh seafood, flavoursome fruits and veggies, and more!



## 4. APPLEY BEACH

A dream spot for sunbathers, swimmers and sandcastle builders, **Appley Beach** is a stretch of golden sands from Appley Café to Puckpool Park. The sea at high tide is calm and ideal for swimming, while low tide exposes miles of wet sand perfect for paddling, walking and even horse riding. You'll find cafés at either end of the beach, a children's playpark, woodland, public WCs and parking. Appley Tower is a landmark of Ryde: a mock castle that once stood in the gardens of a grand estate.



## 5. FEEL 'GINSPIRED'

The **Isle of Wight Distillery** in Nettlestone produces high quality vodka, rum, and gin right here on the Island, infused with unique local ingredients. A must-sip for gin lovers, **Mermaid** gets its crisp and refreshing flavour from 10 ethically sourced coastal botanicals, lemon zest and a hint of sea air from wild foraged rock samphire from the Island coastline. You'll also find gin from another producer, the **Isle of Wight Gin Company**, available in local produce stores.





## 6. HIKE OR BIKE

With tons of outdoor space, the Island is a haven for walkers and cyclists. Whether you're looking for a relaxing stroll or a leg-burning climb, there are hundreds of routes to suit all abilities. Discover interesting landmarks and spectacular views wherever you go, with great pitstops along the way. Keen walkers can make it east to west across the Island in a day, while strong cyclists can navigate the popular **Round the Island cycle route** in close to 6 hours.



## 7. THE NEEDLES

The familiar rocks of **The Needles** remain a must-visit spot for first-time visitors. For Instagram-worthy photographs, board a pleasure boat or a high-speed RIB, which circles the famous lighthouse. Back on dry land, ride the famous chairlift before walking up to the imposing headland. **The National Trust's Battery** tells tales of rocket launches, wartime defences and shipwrecks. Head for the **Old Battery tearooms** for an unforgettable view or venture into the tunnel, which leads to a windswept outpost overlooking the rocks.



## 8. VITAMIN SEA

Being beside the sea is great for the soul and, whether you're into watching the waves or diving right in, there's no better place for some vitamin sea. A natural playground for the adventurous, the Island is great for swimming, paddleboarding, kiteboarding, surfing, sailing, windsurfing, and more. Bring your passions with you on the ferry or try something new while you're here. Equipment can be hired from **Tackt-Isle** in St Helens, **Wight Waters** in Lake, **Two Elements** in Cowes, to list a few.



## 9. ROARSOME ACTIVITIES

Welcome to the Isle of Wight, otherwise known as 'Dinosaur Island'. Over 25 species of dinosaur have been found on the Island alone, the most recent a Spinosaurus in 2022. From museums to fossil hunts, there's no shortage of dino-based activities to help you learn about our prehistoric history. With 1000 Island fossils on display, the **Dinosaur Isle Museum** is a good place to start. **Island Gem's Fossil Trips** will take you on a guided tour of fossil hunting hotspots, or head out on your own to Compton and Brook beach to see fossilised dinosaur footprints at low tide.



## 11. LOOK TO THE SKIES

Separated from the mainland and characterised by miles of rolling countryside, the Isle of Wight has very little light pollution. This means its skies are some of the darkest in the UK, making the Island an amazing place to stargaze. Head for the West Wight and the coastal road – anywhere between Whale Chine (south) and Freshwater Bay (west) for a clear view of Orion's Belt, Gemini and The Dog Star twinkling overhead. Beginners can learn more about the stars at the **Island Planetarium at Fort Victoria** in Yarmouth.



## 10. NO PRETTIER SPOT

East Cowes plays host to Queen Victoria's beloved holiday retreat **Osborne**, a place she escaped to relax, write, sketch, swim and be a family. Designed by Prince Albert himself with architect Thomas Cubitt, the house is palatial in its Italian Renaissance style, but set up as a practical home for the couple and their nine growing children. One of the most popular attractions on the Island, Victoria's **Osborne** is not to be missed. Explore picturesque grounds, elegant living spaces and learn more about Island life for the royal family.



## 12. PICNIC WITH A VIEW

Did you know that over half of the Isle of Wight is classed as an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty? This makes it one of the most picturesque places to visit. Enjoy spectacular surroundings and breathtaking views with a picnic in the great outdoors. There are many beauty spots to choose from across the Island, but for 360-degree views across the landscape and out to sea, we recommend Brading Down, Culver Down, and Tennyson Down as great places to start.

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## WHAT'S ON *guide*



### IOW Festival

15 – 18 June

[isleofwightfestival.com](http://isleofwightfestival.com) / Newport

Drawing over 500,000 revellers to the Island in 1970, the Isle of Wight Festival was once branded 'Europe's equivalent to Woodstock'. Revived in 2002, the modern era of the iconic event remains a key date in the festival calendar. Spanning 3 days in June, the fun-packed weekend kick-starts the UK festival season – this year with headliners such as George Ezra, Pulp, and Robbie Williams. The Isle of Wight Festival has so much on offer alongside the music, with fairground rides, stalls, themed bars, kids' areas, street food outlets, and more.



### Walk the Wight

14 May

[mountbatten.org.uk](http://mountbatten.org.uk) / Islandwide

Each year, thousands descend on the Island's south coast to hike a hilly 26.5 miles from Bembridge in the east to the iconic Needles in the west. Proceeds raised go to Mountbatten IW, who provide vital support for Islanders. The full walk is a real challenge, but don't be put off if you're not an avid Rambler, as shorter (and flatter!) routes are also available, plus a kids' walk too. Walk the Wight is a great way to explore the Island, take in the views, and connect with nature – and all for a great cause. Not bad for what originally started out as a small team-building exercise at a local firm!



ARTS

### Ventnor Fringe <sup>S</sup>

21 – 30 July  
vfringe.co.uk / Ventnor

Some of the biggest acts in showbiz made their name through the fringe circuit, and these festivals remain one of the best ways to discover the freshest up-and-coming talent. Taking inspiration from the Edinburgh event, the pretty Victorian resort town of Ventnor is transformed for its own Fringe. This event is a celebration of creative arts with over 100 different performances – from comedy to cabaret, and everything in between. If you're not here during the Fringe, don't fret - you can check out Ventnor Exchange for shows all year round.



ACTIVITIES

### Scooter Rally <sup>E</sup>

25 – 28 August  
vfmscoot.co.uk / Ryde

Those with a love of Lambrettas and vintage Vespas will want to visit over the August Bank Holiday, when scores of scooterists take to the Island roads for the Isle of Wight International Scooter Rally. At the centre of the event, Ryde town plays homage to the era of the scooter with decorations and music, with many scooterists decked out in iconic '60s dress. Ryde seafront is the place to be on the Sunday of the event, where the scooters assemble ahead of their traditional ride-out and can be seen on full display, some featuring all manner of modifications!



ARTS

### Wight Proms <sup>N</sup>

11 – 20 August  
wightproms.co.uk / Cowes

Set in the glorious grounds of Grade II listed Northwood House, the festival of open-air picnic concerts returns each year bigger and better than the last, with the event duration doubled in length for 2023! Embrace balmy summer evenings on the lawn as each night takes on a different theme, including opera, comedy, drag, and more, before the event concludes with the traditional finale 'Last Wight of The Proms'.



SPORT / FAMILY

### Cowes Week <sup>N</sup>

30 July – 5 August  
cowesweek.co.uk / Cowes

Dating back to 1826, Cowes Week is the world's oldest annual sailing regatta, and one of the Island's most historic events. Attracting competitors from all over the world, Cowes Week is a rite of passage for any sailing enthusiast and a real celebration of the sport. For the non-sailing population, dedicated event areas and the local town offer a plethora of bars, great places to eat, and live entertainment and music during the week.

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**FAMILY**

## Festival of Heroes **E**

22 – 23 July  
[facebook.com/festivalofheroes1](https://facebook.com/festivalofheroes1) / Brading

Little ones (and those young at heart) will be delighted by the chance to meet their idols in the flesh, as one of the Island's newest events takes over Brading Roman Villa for a weekend in July. Expect to see a myriad of famous colourful characters, including princesses, superheroes, villains, and more, alongside fairground rides and refreshments. Proceeds from the festival go to wonderful local charity Daisy Chains IW, making it a great day out for a great cause.



**FOOD / FAMILY**

## Garlic Festival **C**

19 – 20 August  
[garlicfestival.co.uk](https://garlicfestival.co.uk) / nr Newchurch

Thanks to rich, chalky soils and a micro-climate to rival the Med, the Isle of Wight is the biggest producer of garlic in the UK. Honouring this unique part of Island heritage is a weekend-long celebration of all things garlic, with cooking demonstrations, bars, and vendors offering everything from pickles and chutneys to garlic fudge – with plenty of samples to boot! Along with arts and crafts, live music, and a funfair, the festival is great for families as well as a must for garlic lovers.



**ARTS**

## Isle of Wight Literary Festival **N**

5 – 8 October  
[isleofwightliteraryfestival.com](https://isleofwightliteraryfestival.com) / Cowes

With over 45 speakers, including well-known authors, poets, historians, politicians, and nature writers you're certain to be inspired, entertained, and educated at the Isle of Wight Literary Festival. New for 2023 is the LitFeast – celebrating famous food and wine writers and local chefs offering demonstrations and tastings. The Island, with its rich agricultural pedigree, is the perfect location to launch this event.



**FOOD**

## The Great Wight Bite **N**

9-10 September  
[greatwightbite.co.uk](https://greatwightbite.co.uk)

Foodies are in for a treat at the Island's brand-new food and drink festival! Get ready to sample – and celebrate – some of the famed artisan and local produce the Island has to offer. The two-day event will see leading chefs cooking up a storm in live demonstrations, along with your chance to get hands-on in The Island Kitchen, interactive space hosting cookery masterclasses, wine tastings, kids' activities, and fascinating talks held by some of the producers. Wash it all down with some retail therapy and great live music.

Event	Dates	Type	Location	
Spring Art & Garden Fair	7-8 April	Arts & Culture	Cowes	N
Isle of Wight Challenge	29-30 April	Activities	Islandwide	
IOW Randonnee	30 April	Activities	Islandwide	
Real Ale Festival at IW Steam Railway	29 April - 1 May	Food & Drink	Havenstreet	C
IOW Walking Festival (Spring)	13-21 May	Activities	Islandwide	
Wolverton Folk & Blues Festival	13 May	Music	Shorwell	W
Walk the Wight	14 May	Activities	Islandwide	
Riverfest	20 May	Family	Newport	C
Cowes Fringe	26-28 May	Arts & Culture	Cowes	N
IOW Festival of Running	4-11 June	Sport / Activities	Islandwide	
Isle of Wight Festival	15-18 June	Music	Newport	C
Round the Island Race	1 July	Sport	Islandwide	
Royal IOW County Show	8-9 July	Family	Cowes	N
Cowes Classics	8-14 July	Sport	Cowes	N
Isle of Wight Pride	15 July	Arts & Culture	Ryde	E
Festival of Heroes	22-23 July	Family	Brading	E
Island Highland Gathering	23 July	Family	Havenstreet	C
Ventnor Fringe	21-30 July	Arts & Culture	Ventnor	S
South Island Sevens	22-23 July	Sport	Ryde	E
Cowes Week	29 July - 4 August	Sport / Family	Cowes	N
Chale Show	5-6 August	Family	Chale	S
Jack Up Summer	12-13 August	Music	Newport	C
Knights Tournament	15-17 August	Arts & Culture	Carisbrooke	C
Wight Proms	11-20 August	Arts & Culture	Cowes	N
Garlic Festival	19-20 August	Food & Drink / Family	Nr Newchurch	C
Scooter Rally	25-28 August	Arts & Culture	Ryde	E
Island Steam Fair at IW Steam Railway	25-28 August	Arts & Culture / Family	Havenstreet	C
Cowes Classic Powerboat Race	27 August	Sport	Cowes	N
Wolverton Manor Garden Fair	2-3 September	Family	Shorwell	W
The Great Wight Bite	9-10 September	Food & Drink	Cowes	N
IOW Classic Car Extravaganza	9-10 September	Arts & Culture	Ryde	E
Cider & Cheese Festival	9-10 September	Food & Drink	Havenstreet	C
Isle of Wight Jazz Weekend	14-17 September	Music	Newport	C
Isle of Wight Literary Festival	5 - 8 October	Arts & Culture	Cowes	N
IOW Walking Festival (Autumn)	7-15 October	Activities	Islandwide	

For the latest events listings go to: [redfunnel.co.uk/events](https://redfunnel.co.uk/events)



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# ISLE OF WIGHT BEACH GUIDE

The Isle of Wight is renowned for its diverse collection of beaches, which showcase some of many contrasting landscapes and backdrops that can be found around the coastline. With over 25 to choose from, you're almost guaranteed to find the perfect beach for a day out.

**P** = Parking **FF** = Food & Drink Facilities **TT** = Toilet Facilities **DG** = Dog Friendly (all seasons) **DG\*** = Dog Friendly (winter only)

## 1 ALUM BAY

**P FF TT DG W**

Looking for a beach with a view? Accessed via a long set of steep steps, or the chairlift from The Needles Landmark attraction above, this sand/shingle beach has views straight over the bay to the iconic Needles rocks and lighthouse. The impressive cliffs are famously made up of coloured sands.

## 13 BEMBRIDGE

**P FF TT DG E**

There are three beaches to choose from here. Bembridge Point runs to the edge of the harbour, with a large sandbank at low tide; Under Tyne to the north of the lifeboat station is sandy below the shore line, and good for swimming; and Forelands, which curves around the most easterly point of the Island, has rockpools to explore when the tide is out.

## 18 BONCHURCH MONKS BAY

**TT DG S**

Set in a secluded little bay at the edge of the village of Bonchurch, this beach is a mix of sand and shingle, with rock breakwaters. Formerly a landing spot for smugglers, there are a few houses down by the shore and mainly woodland to the rear. There's no parking at the bay itself, but there is a small car park on Shore Rd in Bonchurch a short walk away. The most scenic way to get here is a mile-long hike along from Ventnor seafront.

## 21 BROOK

**TT DG S**

Dinosaur fans often make a beeline for this sandy beach, for the fossilised dino footprints that appear at low tides. There is also a petrified forest further along the beach at Hanover Point, which is visible at low tides. Swimming and sunbathing are popular at Brook, although care should be taken as it can be rocky in parts.

## 9 APPLEBY - GREAT FOR FAMILIES

**P FF TT DG\***



The wide sandy shores of Appley Beach are a playground for beachgoers. The tide goes right out, leaving loads of space for games, sunbathing and sandcastle building. And the gentle incline makes it a great beach for paddling in the sea. The mysterious Appley Tower stands tall over the sands, and there's a large wooded area and park nearby, with a kids' adventure playground. For ice creams and refreshments, there's a choice of two cafés either end of the beach.

## 22 COMPTON BAY

**P TT DG\* W**

Once considered the "locals' secret", Compton Bay has in recent years found itself as one of the Island's most popular beaches with both visitors and locals. The bay encloses a long long sandy beach, with rugged sandstone cliffs and stunning views of the white chalk cliffs. It boasts great waters for swimming and watersports, and is a good spot for families — just bear in mind that it gets very busy in the summer.

## 6 EAST COWES

**P FF TT DG\* N**

At the edge of East Cowes, along the esplanade, is this shingle and sand beach, with fabulous views back across to West Cowes and its harbour. A good place to visit if you're looking for a quieter beach in the main season, it's great for swimming and has woodland to the rear with some short walks to explore.

## 23 FRESHWATER BAY

**P FF TT DG\* W**

One of the Island's most picturesque beaches, with two impressive rock stacks standing at the eastern end, Freshwater Bay is made up mainly of stone and shingle, with some sand away to the west end. If you're looking for a beach to visit on a grey day, or prefer skimming stones to sunbathing, this is a great choice. A rock ledge appears at low tide, which makes it great for rockpooling, and the steeper inclines lead to some impressive waves on stormy days. The old smugglers' caves at the eastern end of the bay can be reached at very low tides.

## 5 COWES

**P FF TT DG\* N**

Just along from the main parade in Cowes is the town's main beach, which is mostly shingle and pebble. It's safe for swimming; however, this beach tends to be at its busiest in July and August, on account of the fact it's one of the best spots to watch the sailing events.

## 3 COLWELL BAY - GREAT FOR SUNSETS

**P FF TT DG\* W**



Great for swimming and sunsets, Colwell Bay is a sandy beach that is very popular with families and watersports fans. At the back of the beach are rows of brightly decorated beach huts, and a restaurant that attracts many diners by boat in the summer months. It's also one of the best spots on the Island to watch the sun set, so worth a visit in the early evening!



 Freshwater Bay

#### 4 GURNARD



Gurnard Beach is one of the Island's best spots for summer sunsets, with its row of striking beach huts and palm trees providing the perfect foreground for a photo. The beach itself is made up of a short stretch of sand and shingle, and there's a village green behind the huts, with a small adventure playground to keep the kids entertained. On a warm day, grab an ice cream and take the flat walk along the promenade from nearby Cowes, enjoying the setting sun as you wander.

#### 7 OSBORNE



Not many places can boast a "royal" beach, other than the Isle of Wight! You'll have to pay to enter the house and grounds at Osborne to experience this one, but it's a great place for a paddle and picnic. There's a café serving delicious Minghella ice cream at the beach, and they host traditional Punch and Judy shows in the summer.

#### 8 RYDE EAST



As with Ryde's other beaches, the tide goes right out here, leaving lots of open space for relaxing, sunbathing and beach fun. Its golden sands are good for swimming, but we'd recommend waiting for high tide, when you've got less of a walk to the shoreline. To the rear of the beach is a playground, traditional amusements, and boating lake, with the main town just a short walk away.

#### 16 SANDOWN



Long sandy beaches are a feature of the Bay area, and Sandown's is one of the most popular spots. Instantly recognisable for the traditional pleasure pier halfway along, there are plenty of places to eat, shop, and entertain yourself along this stretch of beach and seafront. Deckchairs and sun loungers are available to hire from beach outlets.

#### 11 SEAGROVE




Seagrove has several large seaside properties to its rear and is one of the Island's most exclusive-looking beaches. Whilst it's mainly shingle and stone above the tide line, when the tide is out there's a large expanse of sand, making it popular for bathing, beach activities, and watersports. It's also the main access for neighbouring Priory Bay beach, which is one of the Island's hidden gems.

#### 17 SHANKLIN




There are lots of options around the Island if you're looking to swim in the sea, and the beaches at Shanklin are some of the best. Extensive stretches of golden sands minimise your potential rock encounters, and a steady incline means you don't have to walk for miles before the water reaches above your knees. The seafront at Shanklin is a throwback to traditional "bucket and spade" holidays, with traditional amusements, crazy golf, ice cream parlours, and deckchair and sun lounger hire. The beaches get busy in the summer season, but head to the west of the esplanade, and it's usually quieter.

For beach locations see map on pages 66 & 67



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## 12 ST HELENS - GREAT FOR EXPLORING



### 10 SPRINGVALE



A long stretch of sand and shingle, Springvale links Ryde's beaches to Seaview. Springvale beach is popular for sailing and windsurfing and is a good alternative to some of the busier beaches in the summer if you're looking to do some sunbathing and swimming. There's a nice walk through a nature reserve to the back of the beach.

### 20 STEEPHILL COVE



SteePhill is a charming cove made up of fishermen's cottages, colourful beach huts, cosy eateries and a sheltered sand and shingle beach. The waters are great for swimming, and there are rockpools to explore at lower tides. The easiest way to access Steephill Cove is to park at the western end of Ventnor esplanade, and follow the coast path along for approximately 900 metres.

### 2 TOTLAND BAY



Often a quieter beach than some of its neighbours, due to its predominantly shingle makeup. Totland Bay has all the great views of neighbouring Colwell and, if you can wait for the tide to recede enough to reveal the sandier parts, is just as good for swimming. The end of the small pier is (at the time of writing) still in the process of being refurbished.

A long stretch of sandy beach and dunes can be found at St Helens, which runs to the entrance of Bembridge Harbour. The old church overlooks the beach, with the former golf course of the "Duver" supplying lots of green outdoor space to explore, and the causeway at the back of the harbour leading into the village. Watersports and adventure activities are popular here, with an activity centre at the edge of the harbour.

### 19 VENTNOR



Another of the Island's traditional seafronts and beaches can be found in Ventnor albeit with a more recently built bandstand and small harbour for fishing boats at the eastern end. The beach is made up of shingle and sand and has rows of former Victorian bathing machines, which are now converted to beach huts. It's great for swimming, and there are plenty of places to grab an ice cream or snack during a visit.

### 14 WHITECLIFF BAY



One of the Island's most beautiful beaches, but is also one of the toughest to access. Guests of the holiday park above can take advantage of a shuttle service, but otherwise you'll have to walk from either Bembridge or Culver, then navigate the very steep slope down to the beach. Aim to go at low tide, as the beach all but disappears when it's high.



## 15 YAVERLAND - GREAT FOR SWIMMING



Curving round from the southern edge of Culver Down, until it meets Sandown's main beach, Yaverland is a complete contrast to its more traditional neighbour. With chalk cliffs at one end, and sandstone cliffs to the rear, this sandy beach is more alike to those found on the west side of the Island. Along with being a popular beach for swimming and watersports, it's also good for fossil hunting.

## OTHER BEACHES TO EXPLORE

### CHILTON CHINE

Adjacent to Isle of Wight Pearl on the Military Road you'll find Chilton Chine and beach. This shingle and sand beach offers similar features to the more popular beaches further west. There's a small car park and quite a steep access to the beach itself, but it's worth the effort.

### PLAYERS BEACH

Players Beach in Ryde is one of the quieter beaches you'll find, largely due to its less than obvious access. A small passageway off the side of a mainly residential road on the seafront takes you through to the beach. Avoid visiting at high tide, as the beach all but disappears.

### PRIORY BAY

The sandy beach at Priory Bay is simply stunning. Backed by 7.5 acres of woodland, and only accessible from the coast path, or the neighbouring beaches of St Helens or Seagrove Bay at lower tides, its picturesque setting makes it unlike any other beach on the Island.

### SANDHARD BEACH

Sandhard is a mainly shingle beach, accessed via a short walk along the coast path from either Yarmouth Harbour or Fort Victoria. It has beautiful views out across the Solent, and its lack of car park tends to limit the number of visitors, even in the summer months.

### WATCOMBE BAY

If you're a keen kayaker, or have access to a boat, make sure to explore Watcombe Bay on a calm day. Pretty much only accessible from the sea, round to the west of Freshwater Bay, this beach has tall chalk cliffs to the rear and a fabulous outlook into the channel.



📍 Priory Bay

# FREE DAYS OUT

The Isle of Wight is filled with free activities for an affordable family holiday. We asked Robbie Lane from Isle of Wight Guru ([isleofwightguru.co.uk](http://isleofwightguru.co.uk)) to choose some of his favourites.



## FOR YOUNGER KIDS

Parents of toddlers are likely to spend a lot of time pushing a swing whilst on holiday – so you might as well find one with a good view!

In the South Wight, we like the small Seabreeze playground, which sits high up overlooking Ventnor's seafront. Gurnard and East Cowes in the North Wight both have good-sized play areas with views of the Solent. If you want to combine a playground with sandcastle building, go for Appley in Ryde or **Sandham Gardens** in Sandown/Yaverland.

Our children also love a trip to the **Isle of Wight Donkey Sanctuary**. You can easily fill a couple of hours wandering round and meeting the animals.



## FOR OLDER KIDS / TEENAGERS

A day out at the seaside is the obvious choice for children and teens – but you need to pick the right beach!

For swimming and sandcastles, try Sandown or Shanklin. If your children enjoy a bit of rockpooling, head for Bembridge at low tide. Confident swimmers and bodyboarders will enjoy the crashing waves which can often be found at Compton Bay or Dunroamin Beach in Lake.

Older children and teenagers may enjoy exploring the Island's isolated southern coastline around Castlehaven, Blackgang Beach, and Binnel Bay.

If you're visiting in summer, pop along to one of the Island's carnivals, which take place in most of the main towns.

## FOR THE ADULTS

**Where to start?!** - There's the **Bus and Coach Museum** in Ryde; the world-famous **Garlic Farm**; Bembridge's lifeboat station; the impressive ruins of **Appuldurcombe House**; the working Benedictine monastery of **Quarr Abbey** at Fishbourne; a free museum in Cowes (the **Max Aitken Museum**); the Needles New Battery and so on!

There are also several fascinating churches, including the tiny St Lawrence Old Church, Queen Victoria's church in Whippingham, and the thatched St Agnes Church in Freshwater Bay.

Visit [isleofwightguru.co.uk](http://isleofwightguru.co.uk) for the full list of free days out – there are 45 in total!





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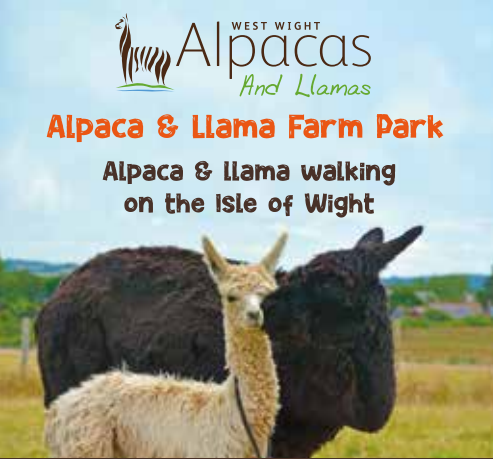
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(We advise pre-booking for all of our treks)

THINGS TO DO



The Island has over 50 attractions and activities to keep you busy during your visit. These include adventurous days out with water sports, go karting, and theme parks, as well as more relaxed pastimes such as visiting landmarks, strolling through parks and gardens, and browsing boutique shops. There's less than an hour's drivetime between almost anywhere on the Island, so you can literally fit more into your holiday!

## ACTIVITIES

**Adgestone Vineyard** E  
 Upper Road, Adgestone  
 (Nr Brading), PO36 0ES  
[adgestonevineyard.co.uk](http://adgestonevineyard.co.uk)

The UK's oldest vineyard and producer of the only blue sparkling Cuvée. Take an audio tour of the vineyard and subterranean cellars, then enjoy a wine-tasting lesson sampling their wines and liqueurs. Browse the local produce shop. Dine alfresco and listen to live music every daytime throughout summer.

**Freshwater Bay Coasteering** W  
 Gate Ln, Freshwater Bay,  
 Freshwater, PO40 9RA  
[fbciow.com](http://fbciow.com)

Guided adventures along one of the Island's most beautiful and secluded stretches of coastline. Coasteering treats the natural features of the coast as a giant aquatic playground via sea swimming, caving, rock climbing, cliff jumping and belly flopping! Aged 12 or over? Can swim and have a fair level of fitness? You're ready to coasteer! Book at [fbciow.com](http://fbciow.com)

**Goodleaf Tree Climbing** E  
 The Goodleaf Tree, Appley Park,  
 Ryde, PO33 1ND  
[goodleaf.co.uk](http://goodleaf.co.uk)

Using rope and harness, climb up to 15 metres into the branches of a majestic oak tree guided by friendly, experienced instructors. Join a small group, book a private climb, or bring a group. Ages 8 and over. Near Appley Beach. Pay and display parking nearby. 5% sustainable travel discount.

**Isle of Wight Aqua Park at Tapnell Farm** W  
 Newport Rd, Yarmouth, PO41 0YJ  
[tapnellfarm.com/play](http://tapnellfarm.com/play)

The Island's only outdoor Aqua Park! Over 20 obstacles to tackle, with plenty of giant free-fall slides and fun (but challenging) elements to explore. Great fun for confident swimmers aged 7 and over. One hour session includes safety briefing. Wetsuits and buoyancy aids provided. Showers, toilets, and refreshments. Online bookings only at [tapnellfarm.com/play](http://tapnellfarm.com/play)



📍 Quarr Abbey, Nr Ryde

### iSurf <sup>W</sup>

**Main teaching area – Military Rd, Compton, Newport, PO30 4HB, [iowsurf.com](http://iowsurf.com)**

iSurf is the Island's only fully mobile surf school, offering anything from private to group surf lessons or water based activity sessions for schools and groups to anyone aged 8 years upwards. Book online at [iowsurf.com](http://iowsurf.com)

### Needles Pleasure Cruises <sup>W</sup>

**Alum Bay Pier, The Needles, PO39 0JD [needlespleasurecruises.co.uk](http://needlespleasurecruises.co.uk)**

Boat trips to view Needles rocks and lighthouse. Choose from a slow 20-minute cruise boat, with stunning scenery and commentary, or 15-minute fast RIB ride, a little further to the south side of the lighthouse for unique views of Scratchells Bay. Boats leave from the beach at Alum Bay; no booking required.

### Quarr Abbey <sup>N</sup>

**Quarr Rd, Ryde, PO33 4ES [quarrabbey.org](http://quarrabbey.org)**

Working Benedictine monastery with a Grade I listed church, visitor centre, monastery book shop and farm shop with local products, plants and produce for sale. Weekly changing exhibits in the art gallery by local artists. Tea shop set in the beautiful walled garden. Feed the resident pigs and piglets. Visitors may attend church services.

### Strings Bar & Venue <sup>C</sup>

**9 Bowling Green Lane, Newport, PO30 1RR [stringsbarandvenue.com](http://stringsbarandvenue.com)**

Strings Bar & Venue is a 300-capacity live music and performing arts venue in Newport, an iconic geographical location within popular music history. Founded and run by musicians for music lovers, Strings is the Island's premier live venue, hosting a wide variety of bands, DJs and comedians. Cool decor, extensive bar menu and a great atmosphere.

### Wight Karting <sup>E</sup>

**Westridge Centre, Brading Rd, Ryde, PO33 1QS [wightkarting.co.uk](http://wightkarting.co.uk)**

Motorsport for the young, old, and everyone in between – awesome fun in all weathers. Wight Karting's friendly team of professionals guide you, entertain you and keep you safe. Book online for individuals, families or groups (age 8 upwards). Junior Track Days during school holidays (8-15 years). Free parking & spectators. Comfortable clubhouse with fully-licensed snack bar.



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## ARTS & CRAFTS

### Arreton Barns C

Main Road, Arreton, Newport, PO30 3AA  
arretonbarns.co.uk

The Isle of Wight's largest arts and crafts centre. Nestled in the beautiful countryside, Arreton Barns is home to a vast array of arts and crafts studios, showcasing some of the best local artisans and craftspeople. There's ample free parking onsite so you can browse the shops at your leisure.

### Thomas P Cochran C

Arreton Barns, PO30 3AA  
thomaspcochran.com

Bespoke creations of sterling silver and gold jewellery, inspired by the ocean – made to be worn anywhere, and taken from moulds of real shells, then cast in solid sterling silver. Handmade and finished in their workshop at Arreton Barns, sustainability is important to this family-run business, who use recycled silver. Tom's Jewellery Workshop courses available.

## FAMILY FUN

### Blackgang Chine S

Blackgang, Ventnor, PO38 2HN  
blackgangchine.com

NEW thrill-seeking ride Extinction! Brave a drop tower on the cliff edge; round-up dinosaurs in Restricted Area 5; hold up outlaws in Cowboy Town; climb aboard galleons at Pirate Cove; cast spells from Fairyland's castle or dive into the Underwater Kingdom. Be part of history and join them for their 180th Anniversary.

### Breezer Buses W E

Newport Bus Station, Newport, PO30 1LL  
islandbuses.info/days-out-bus

The Needles Breezer, an open-top bus ride boasting breathtaking views on a cliff-hugging climb from Alum Bay to Needles Battery. Circular Downs Breezer enjoys views across the Island, the English Channel and the Solent, and open-top Downs Breezer links Ryde Esplanade with Ryde town, Wootton, Robin Hill, Sandown seafront, Wildheart Animal Sanctuary, Dinosaur Isle and Bembridge.

### Shanklin Seafront S

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

Family fun with modern seaside attractions and eateries, including Toppings Ice Cream Parlour and Bayside fish and chips. Amusement arcade, 18-hole indoor crazy golf, and two outdoor 18-hole adventure golfs – Pirates Cove Adventure and Jurassic Bay. Pirates Cove Fun Park has rides, go karts and games for younger children.

### Robin Hill C

Downend Rd, Downend,  
Newport, PO30 2NU  
robin-hill.com

Discover acres of rolling parkland, natural woodland and countryside gardens for exploration, adventure, and entertainment. Adventure across treetop walkways, bouncy adventure nets, epic rides and the exhilarating quarter-mile downhill toboggan ride! As well as a brand-new water pillow for lots of fun and fantastic shows from stunning birds of prey in the Falconry Centre.



### Summer Buses

Newport Bus Station, Newport, PO30 1LL  
islandbuses.info/days-out-bus

The Island Coaster links Ryde, Sandown and Shanklin with the West Wight via Ventnor, Blackgang and Alum Bay, with spectacular coastal views from the upper deck. The Summer Links route follows the middle road for visits to Tapnell Farm, Chessell Pottery or Calbourne Water Mill. The Shanklin Shuttle connects the town with the seafront.



Isle of Wight Aqua Park, Tapnell Farm

### Tapnell Farm W

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

Home to the Island's only Farm Park, Aqua Park and Football Golf course, plus new Archery & Axe Throwing ranges, and clay pigeon shooting. Something for all members of the family to enjoy. Age restrictions apply. Free Parking and restaurant onsite. Mix 'n' match the fun. Online bookings only.

### The Needles Landmark Attraction W

Alum Bay New Rd, Alum Bay,  
Totland Bay, PO39 0JD  
theneedles.co.uk

Think of the Isle of Wight, and the iconic image of the world-famous chairlift taking you to see the Needles rocks and coloured sands, springs to mind. The Island's most famous landmark attraction has so much more to enjoy than stunning views and is a destination not to be missed.

## HISTORY & HERITAGE

### Bembridge Windmill E

High Street/Mill Road, Bembridge, PO35 5SQ  
nationaltrust.org.uk/bembridge-windmill

This picturesque, 300-year-old windmill – the last remaining on the Island – inspired JMW Turner to paint it in 1795. Explore its four floors to learn how the windmill would have worked. The windmill is open on selected days through the spring, summer and autumn, check online for times.

### Brading Roman Villa E

Morton Old Rd, Brading,  
Sandown, PO36 0PH  
bradingromanvilla.org.uk

Brading Roman Villa is one of the finest Roman sites in the UK. The Museum offers a unique insight into Roman life with beautifully preserved mosaic floors and an extensive collection of artefacts. There is a café, shop, and plenty of outside space with free parking and fantastic views over Sandown Bay.

### Carisbrooke Castle C

Castle Hill, Newport, PO30 1XY  
english-heritage.org.uk/carisbrooke

Visit this ancient motte-and-bailey castle above Carisbrooke village, with panoramic views from the high walls. Find Charles I's bowling green and the window from which he tried to escape. Enjoy Princess Beatrice's Garden, and meet the donkeys who work the 16th-century treadmill raising water from the 161ft well.

### Dinosaur Isle Museum E

Culver Parade, Sandown, PO36 8QA  
dinosaurisle.com

Next to Sandown's beautiful beach, the museum is home to the Island's world-renowned dinosaur collection. Our 130 million-year-story is told with life-sized reconstructions and real fossils. Talk to the experts for advice and identifications. Open all year round, the museum offers field trips within the bay area.



## IW Steam Railway

Havenstreet, PO33 4DS  
iwsteamrailway.co.uk

A multi award-winning railway to charm, engage, and captivate families and adults alike. Settle back in beautifully restored carriages as majestic steam engines take you on a ten-mile round trip. Friendly, knowledgeable staff in traditional Southern Railway uniforms recreate the era of steam travel. Train rides, train history, café, and gift shop. Themed events all year.

## Newport Roman Villa

Cypress Rd, Newport, PO30 1HA  
iwight.com/museums

An all-weather attraction, Newport Roman Villa has well-preserved remains including baths, mosaics, and underfloor heating along with a Roman garden and a museum display. Go back in time in the Interactive Activity Room to make a mosaic, repair a pot or weave a blanket. Free guide notes and a photo hunt for families.

## Newtown Old Town Hall

Newtown, Newport, PO30 4PA  
nationaltrust.org.uk/newtown-national-nature-reserve-and-old-town-hall

Visit the former Council Chamber and Mayor's Robing Room and discover the area's political past – this town was a bustling community with two MPs. Saved by Ferguson's Gang, and donated to the National Trust; learn more about this philanthropic gang downstairs. Open selected days through the spring, summer and autumn – check online for details.

## Osborne

York Ave, East Cowes, PO32 6JX  
english-heritage.org.uk/osborne

The former palatial holiday home of Queen Victoria and Prince Albert opens a unique window on the couple's private family life. Enjoy sumptuous state rooms, beautiful garden terraces and acres of ground and gardens, including Victoria's private beach. There's lots of entertainment for visitors of all ages.

## Shanklin Chine

Shanklin, PO37 6BW  
shanklinchine.co.uk

Shanklin Chine has long been at the forefront of countless childhood holiday memories. Wander the pathways and stop off for refreshments at the Tea Room. Fast becoming a destination attraction for things to do with the family throughout the year from evening illuminations, Easter Egg Hunts and Halloween Spooktaculars.

## The Needles Old Battery

West High Down, Alum Bay, PO39 0JH  
nationaltrust.org.uk/the-needles-old-battery-and-new-battery

This cliff-top fort is dramatically brought to life with exhibitions and displays detailing its use from Victorian times through both world wars. Original guns on the parade ground, dramatic views of the sea and the Needles Lighthouse, plus tea room. Parking at Needles Landmark Attraction, then walk or bus. See online for opening times.

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## The Shipwreck Centre & Maritime Museum <sup>C</sup>

Arreton Barns, Main Road,  
Arreton, PO30 3AA  
[shipwreckcentre.co.uk](http://shipwreckcentre.co.uk)

Discover relics of shipwrecks and treasures from the deep, including pieces of eight and Spanish gold, at this exciting, well-stocked museum at Arreton Craft Village. Items salvaged from wartime ships and submarines, antique diving equipment, and a display of Isle of Wight prehistory. DVD room and children's activities.

## The Wight Military & Heritage Museum <sup>N</sup>

Northwood Camp, 490 Newport Rd,  
Cowes, PO31 8QU  
[wmahm.org.uk](http://wmahm.org.uk)

The museum has a range of interesting objects to entertain the family. A 1940s street scene, military vehicles, civilian memorabilia, weapons – some for handling – uniforms, and much more plus an Islander aircraft. For an extra charge, an air rifle range is available on certain days. Churchill's tea rooms open daily.

## Yarmouth Castle <sup>W</sup>

Quay St, Yarmouth, PO41 0PB  
[english-heritage.org.uk/visit/places/yarmouth-castle/](http://english-heritage.org.uk/visit/places/yarmouth-castle/)

Once one of Henry VIII's most sophisticated coastal fortresses, Yarmouth Castle provides one of the best picnic spots on the island with breathtaking views across the Solent. Discover atmospheric recreations of the castle in the 16th century and an exhibition of the historic shipwrecks in the treacherous sea overlooked by the castle.

## PARKS & GARDENS

### Model Village Godshill <sup>C</sup>

High St, Godshill, Ventnor, PO38 3HH  
[modelvillagegodshill.co.uk](http://modelvillagegodshill.co.uk)

This unique vintage attraction takes you back to halcyon days of Island life. An RHS Partner Garden showcasing a large collection of conifers. Faithful recreations of local buildings, painstakingly crafted with little Islanders adding a touch of humour! Airfield, working railway and mind-bending model of the model of the model.

## Mottistone Gardens <sup>W</sup>

Mottistone, Newport, PO30 4ED  
[nationaltrust.org.uk/Mottistone-gardens-and-estate](http://nationaltrust.org.uk/Mottistone-gardens-and-estate)

Set in a sheltered valley with sea views these magical gardens are full of surprises, with shrub-filled banks, hidden pathways and herbaceous borders, bursting with bright reds, purples, and oranges, surrounding an ancient manor house. Small kitchen garden stocked with seasonal fruit and veg and attractive tea garden. See online for opening times.

## Sandham Gardens <sup>E</sup>

Culver Parade, Sandown, PO36 8AT  
[sandhamgardens.com](http://sandhamgardens.com)

On the northern side of Sandown, Sandham Gardens is the ideal place to relax and enjoy quality time with friends and family. A great day out for all ages including 'Skynets - The Big Bounce', Sandham Karts and 'Dino Islands - A Golf Adventure', with backdrop of stunning sea views.



## Ventnor Botanic Garden <sup>S</sup>

Undercliff Drive, Ventnor, PO38 1UL  
[botanic.co.uk](http://botanic.co.uk)

Enjoy 6,000 species of subtropical plants. The Plantation Room Café serves baguettes and foodie options like vegan risotto. Organic wine list. Puya Boutique offers gifts, children's toys and more. Kid's/Champion Tree Trails & Climate Wall. Make a day of it — stroll the Garden, walk to Steephill Cove and return for tea!

## SHOPPING

### Doreshill Farm Emporium <sup>N</sup>

Briddlesford Rd, Wootton Bridge, Ryde, PO33 4RX  
doreshillfarmemporium.co.uk

In rustic barns, Doreshill Farm Emporium has a wide range of antiques, collectables, jewellery, vinyls, furniture (antique, retro, painted and up-cycled), china, tools, curios, militaria and gardenalia from 25+ dealers. They are dog friendly with free parking and a warm welcome. Open Thursdays to Sundays 10:30am - 4:30pm

### Oasis <sup>E</sup>

Carpenters Road, Brading, PO36 0QA  
oasis-iow.com

Looking for something unique and exciting? Oasis is a very large shopping emporium, all on one level, with many rooms and passages, displaying their exciting collection of home gifts and furniture from around the world. Designed by Oasis, and at 'direct import prices'. Coffee shop and large free car park.

### The Christmas Imaginarium <sup>E</sup>

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

Visit Ryde and discover the world-famous Christmas shop, The Christmas Imaginarium! Handcrafted to ensure that Christmas lovers leave the everyday world behind as they step through the door. Be transported to a festive realm filled with the wonderment of the most magical time of year.

### The Old Smithy <sup>C</sup>

High St, Godshill, Ventnor, PO38 3HZ  
theoldsmithy.com

Stroll through The Old Smithy's beautiful gardens and browse their shops, choosing from a wide range of gifts; from cards to collectables, books, pictures, candles, pens, pottery, glassware and jewellery. Top clothing lines such as Masai, Seasalt and Soya Concept. Coffee shop with delicious home-made pastries, cakes and light meals.

### Isle of Wight Pearl <sup>W</sup>

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

Isle of Wight Pearl's historic Brighstone venue is not only home to a vast and unmissable collection of pearl jewellery, but there are spectacular, panoramic cliff-top views over the English Channel, a butterfly meadow, and a café where you can enjoy delicious food for a day like no other.

## ZOOS & ANIMALS

### Amazon World Zoo Park <sup>C</sup>

Watery Lane, Newchurch,  
Sandown, PO36 0LX  
amazonworld.co.uk

The Island's largest collection of exotic animals, including cats, meerkats, anteaters, tapirs, parrots and free-flying birds. Riverbank with fish and crocodiles; nocturnal area with armadillo, loris, kinkajou, sloth and owl monkeys. Learn about the effect of deforestation on our planet. Jurassic playground, Monkey Madness soft play area and Adventurers Café.



 Amazon World Zoo Park, Newchurch

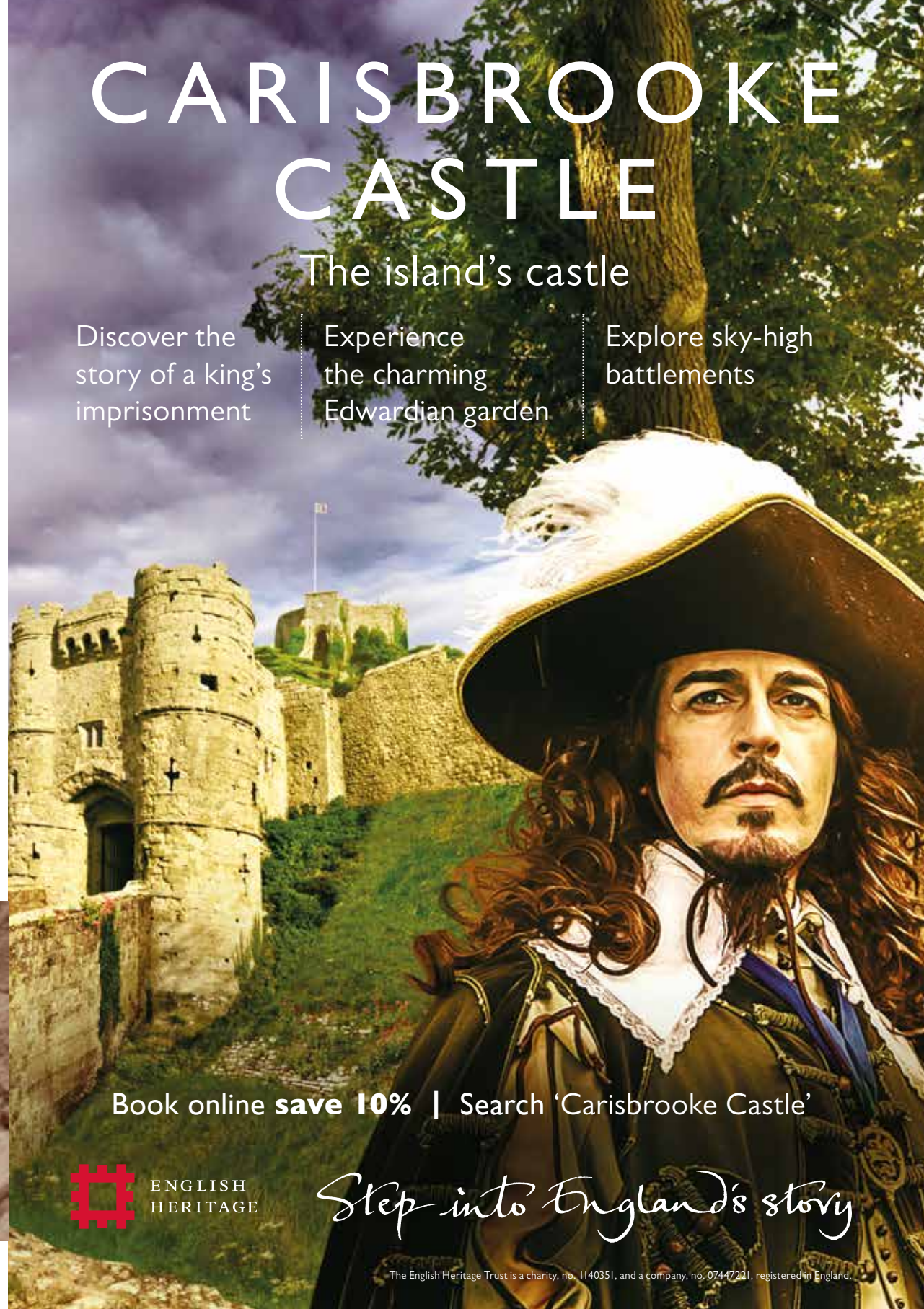
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ENGLISH  
HERITAGE

Step into England's story

The English Heritage Trust is a charity, no. 1140351, and a company, no. 07447221, registered in England.

## Briddlesford N

Briddlesford Rd, Wootton Bridge,  
Ryde, PO33 4RY  
[briddlesford.co.uk](http://briddlesford.co.uk)

2023 is the Centenary year of Briddlesford Farm, home to a herd of beautiful, pedigree Guernsey cows, farm shop, Bluebells Café, heritage centre and a dairy, where the golden milk and cream is bottled and made into five cheeses, butter and clotted cream. Book a Welly Wednesday Farm Tour in the school holidays.

## Isle of Wight Donkey Sanctuary S 🏆

Lower Winstone Farm, Ventnor, PO38 3AA  
[iowdonkeysanctuary.org](http://iowdonkeysanctuary.org)

With over 100 donkeys and a number of Shetland ponies, the Donkey Sanctuary invites you to get up close and personal with the donkeys and discover its welfare and rescue work. Donkey information trail, wildlife area, Donkey Grooming, Care for a Donkey packages, and half-day Donkey Experiences. Gift shop, café, free parking — entry by donation.

## Monkey Haven C 🏆

Five Acres Farm, Staplers Rd,  
Newport, PO30 2NB  
[monkeyhaven.org](http://monkeyhaven.org)

Swing on by to the award-winning primate rescue centre making animals and people happy! Meet rescued gibbons, monkeys, meerkats, owls and reptiles. New arrivals for 2023 and a fancy new home for our Capuchins! Fun for everyone, including wonderful keeper talks, free app, children's trail, tearoom, gift shop. Free return within a week.

## Newtown Nature Reserve N

Town Lane, Newtown, PO30 4PA  
[nationaltrust.org.uk/newtown-national-nature-reserve-and-old-town-hall](http://nationaltrust.org.uk/newtown-national-nature-reserve-and-old-town-hall)

Newtown National Nature Reserve – wildlife and nature. Quiet paths wind through woods and meadows, and down to the natural harbour. The creeks and waterways are filled with the sounds of native and visiting birds, making Newtown one of the best sites on the Island for birdwatching.

## Tapnell Farm Park W

Newport Rd, Yarmouth, PO41 0YJ  
[tapnellfarm.com/play](http://tapnellfarm.com/play)

Award-winning, all-weather family attraction with so much to see and do, indoors and outdoors! Two large straw adventure barns, go-karts, jumping pillows, sledge slides and soft play fun. Plus, meet the wallabies, meerkats and other animals in the paddocks and barn. Daily animal activities. Open daily. Online bookings only.

## The Wildheart Animal Sanctuary E 🏆

Yaverland Rd, Yaverland,  
Sandown, PO36 8QB  
[wildheartanimalsanctuary.org](http://wildheartanimalsanctuary.org)

On the shores of Sandown Bay, the multi-award-winning Wildheart Animal Sanctuary is a safe space for animals rescued from suffering to thrive in their forever home by the sea. From lions, tigers and servals to primates, reptiles and farm animals. Daily encounters and talks get you closer to each and every animal.

## West Wight Alpacas W

Main Rd, Yarmouth, PO41 0SZ  
[www.westwightalpacas.co.uk](http://www.westwightalpacas.co.uk)

Alpaca and Llama walking centre and farm park with rare breed Wensleydale sheep, Kune Kune pigs, miniature donkeys, pony Frankie, plus friendly goats, poultry and ducks, which you can feed. In rural West Wight in Wellow, on the number 7 bus route. Try the café, with all the old faithfuls plus loads new for 2023, including breakfasts!



# Sandham Gardens

## Sandown Bay

## [Sandhamgardens.com](http://Sandhamgardens.com)





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Isle of Wight  
 AWARDS 2022  
**GOLD AWARD**

# ISLAND ADVENTURE BUCKET LIST



The Island's unique and varied landscape makes it a natural playground for outdoor activities. Whether you're looking for a challenge or to try something new, the Isle of Wight is a dream destination for adventurers and those looking to tick something off their bucket list.

## PADDLEBOARDING

Whether you're a first-timer or a well-balanced boarder, the Isle of Wight is a haven for SUP. The Island's many calm-watered beaches are the perfect place for learning to stand on a paddleboard; Colwell Bay, Sandown, Shanklin, and St Helen's beaches are all great spots for beginners. Seasoned SUP boarders can enjoy venturing bay to bay around the Island, or why not take a trip down the River Yar, an area of outstanding natural beauty between Freshwater and Yarmouth? Paddleboards are available for hire across the Island, as well as guided tours and SUP yoga. Contact **Tackt-Isle** ([tackt-isle.co.uk](http://tackt-isle.co.uk)), **Wight Paddleboard Hire** ([wightpaddleboardhire.com](http://wightpaddleboardhire.com)), **iSurf** ([iowsurf.com](http://iowsurf.com)) or **SupDog Rentals** ([supdogrentals.co.uk](http://supdogrentals.co.uk)) for hire.

## KAYAKING

With over 25 beaches and bays to explore, a kayak is the perfect way to discover the Island by sea. Popular spots for an on-the-water adventure include St Helens, Bembridge, and Priory Bay on the east side, with calmer waters and beaches for picnics. For the more accomplished kayaker, Freshwater Bay is a top choice with waves to surf, hidden coves and caves to discover. For something a little different, a paddle along the glassy waters of Newtown Creek is a must. For kayak hire, contact **Tackt-Isle** ([tackt-isle.co.uk](http://tackt-isle.co.uk)) and **Wight Water** ([wightwaters.com](http://wightwaters.com)) or bring your own on the ferry.





## WALKING

With over 500 miles of pathways to explore, the Island is a must for walkers and lovers of the great outdoors. Whether you're out for a relaxing stroll or a high energy ramble, discover a variety of routes through unspoiled countryside or by the sea to suit all abilities. Keen walkers can feel the burn marching up the Island's many hills and downs, while those looking for a gentle meander can do so along the coastal path. Along the way you'll find a plethora of great pubs and cafés for a pitstop. Historic landmarks with spectacular views and picturesque picnic spots are also guaranteed.



## SURFING

Seasoned surfers should head straight to the south of the Island for the big waves and swell of Compton Bay. Yaverland, Shanklin and Ventnor beaches are good spots for confident beginners looking to perfect their technique, with small waves and more shallow waters. Never surfed before? No problem. Book a lesson with mobile instructors **iSurf** ([iowsurf.com](http://iowsurf.com)) or **Eddie's Surf Academy** ([surflessonsio.w.com](http://surflessonsio.w.com)) at one of the Island's less gnarly beaches. For board hire, contact **Wight Water** ([wightwaters.com](http://wightwaters.com)) or **Sandown Bicycle & Beach Hire** ([sandownbikeandbeach.co.uk](http://sandownbikeandbeach.co.uk)).



## CYCLING

Named one of the top 10 cycling destinations by Lonely Planet, the Island's diverse terrain offers a natural playground for road cycling, touring, mountain biking, and gravel riding. Discover rides across the landscape to suit all disciplines and abilities, from a 64-mile round Island cycle route to the Red Squirrel Trail, which is perfect for families. The Isle of Wight Mountain Bike Centre is a must-visit for keen bikers. For hire and route info contact **Wight Cycle Hire** ([wightcyclehire.co.uk](http://wightcyclehire.co.uk)), **routeifty7 Bike Hire** ([routeifty7.com](http://routeifty7.com)) or **South Island Cycle Hire** ([southislandcyclehire.co.uk](http://southislandcyclehire.co.uk)).

## COASTEERING

If rock hopping and cliff diving sound like your kind of fun, sign up for a coasteering session while here on the Isle. One of the most hands-on ways to explore the coast, you'll be privy to caves, rock faces and bays that are usually off-limits to general beachgoers. This is not an activity for the fainthearted but is an exhilarating experience you'll never forget. Knowledge of tides and safety equipment is essential, so we recommend signing up for coasteering with the experts at **Freshwater Bay Coasteering** ([fbciow.com](http://fbciow.com)).



## HORSE RIDING

What better place to get in the saddle than on the beach? Whether you're a novice or an experienced equestrian, the Island's friendly riding centres cater to all. Paddle through the shallows with your four-legged friend at **Sally's Riding School** ([sallysridingschool.com](http://sallysridingschool.com)) in St Helens, or hack to the beach with **Hill Farm Stables** ([hillfarmstables.com](http://hillfarmstables.com)) in Freshwater. For a gallop along Appley Beach at low tide, contact **Island Riding Centre** ([islandriding.com](http://islandriding.com)) or **Trotters Riding** ([trottersriding.co.uk](http://trottersriding.co.uk)).



## PARAGLIDING

Take to the skies and explore the Island from above. The ultimate holiday experience for thrill seekers, sign up for a tandem flight with **High Adventure Paragliding** ([highadventureparagliding.co.uk](http://highadventureparagliding.co.uk)). Learn the ropes with your instructor before leaping from the clifftop to glide high above the Island's stunning west wight landscape. For keen paragliders, check into "para-dise" at **Butterfly Paragliding & B&B** ([paraglide.uk.com](http://paraglide.uk.com)) – and take off from the garden!



## TREE CLIMBING

This unique activity combines the skill of rock climbing with the thrill of high ropes, as you climb branch to branch into the canopy of a great tree overlooking Appley Beach. Once at the top admire the view or relax in a hammock with a flapjack, before heading back to ground. An experience open to adults and children, see **Good Leaf** ([goodleaf.co.uk](http://goodleaf.co.uk)) for more info.



# RAINY DAYS OUT

Wondering what to do when one of the sunniest places in the UK decides to drop a rainy day during your holiday? Don't worry; we have plenty of all-weather ideas guaranteed to keep the entire family happy should the odd rainy day occur!



## EMBRACE THE ELEMENTS

No matter your age, it's always fun to get out in the elements with the family and have some outdoor adventures in the rain. So, grab your wellies (and maybe a wetsuit) and give these a try...

**Woodland Walks** - explore the Island under the shelter of tree canopies. Firestone Copse, Parkhurst Forest and Bouldnor Forest are all beautiful spots, with a good network of paths to explore.

**Watersports** - you're already getting wet, so why not head out to sea and tackle some watersports? Try stand-up paddleboarding or surfing with **iSurf**.

**Beach Walks** - wrap up warm and get out to explore some of the Island's beaches. Look out for easy walks along the sea walls from Ventnor to Bonchurch, and Sandown to Shanklin.

## FOR OLDER KIDS / TEENAGERS

Leave the phones behind and have a go at some of these Isle of Wight adrenaline-filled activities perfect for older kids and teenagers...

**Go Karting** - according to **Wight Karting's** customers, whizzing around the 520m floodlight track is even more fun in the rain!

**Laser Quest & Bowling** - have a go at one or both boredom-busting activities all under one roof at **Ryde Superbowl!**

**Go for a Skate** - get your skates on and have a go at retro roller skating! Beginner, advanced, disco, and family sessions are available at **Skates the Quay!** For the skateboarders, head to award-winning **John Cattle's Skate Club**, suitable for all ages!

**Wipeout at the Aqua Park** - fans of Total Wipeout will love the 20+ obstacles course at the **Isle of Wight Aqua Park**. Great fun for confident swimmers aged 8 and over.



## FOR THE ADULTS

It's time to explore the local area, learn about the heritage, try something new and get a real taste of Island produce. Here are a few ideas to get you started...

**Retail Therapy** - there are plenty of boutique stores in the main towns, with lots of local treats to explore. **The Garlic Farm** and **Isle of Wight Distillery** are perfect places to pick up gifts and just relax with your partner or friends.

**Get Crafty** - learn to make something with a 'hands-on' workshop. Book in at **The Jewellery Cabin**, near Newport, to create a unique pendant or set of earrings. **The Quay Arts** also runs regular workshops and courses for anyone looking to get creative.

**Take a Trip Back in Time** - the Island boasts some fantastic indoor heritage attractions, including Queen Victoria's palace by the sea at **Osborne**, and one of the UK's finest Roman sites, **Brading Roman Villa**.

**Play Games!** - Board Games aren't just for kids, at **Snacks & Ladders Board Game Café** you can choose from hundreds of board games (both child and adult themed) whilst enjoying something tasty from their food menu, including a delicious cocktail! For next-level fun and to test your puzzle-solving skills, why not try **Random-Rooms** and pick from five unique escape room challenges!

## FOR YOUNGER KIDS

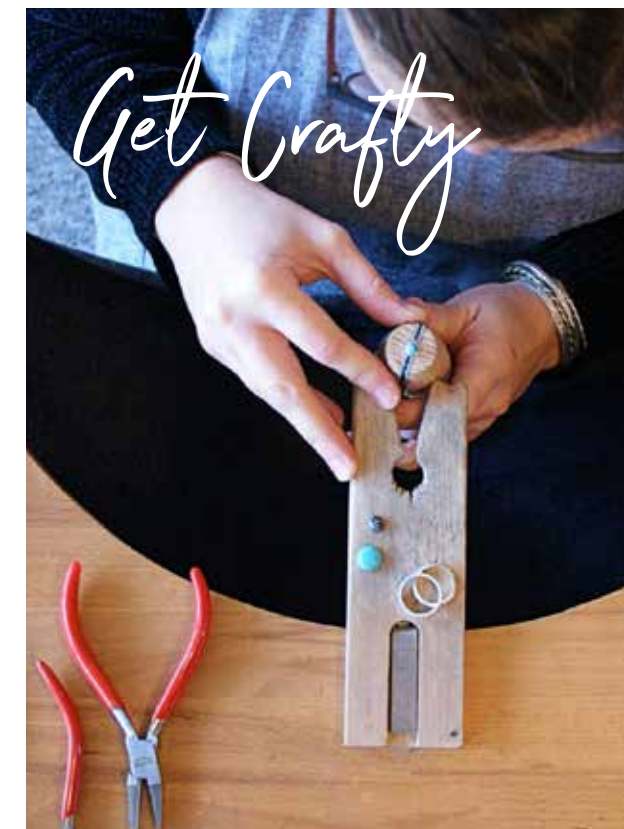
Beat the boredom and bring on the fun with these all-weather ideas for little legends who love to keep busy...

**Indoor Soft Play** - there are plenty of options for indoor fun, including **JR Zone**, **Monkey Mansion at Amazon World**, and **Kingdom Play at Aspire Ryde**, all perfect for little ones who want to run wild and let off some steam.

**Meet the Animals** - spend the day at a part-covered animal attraction, such as **Tapnell Farm Park** or **Amazon World**, and meet some new furry friends and exotic creatures.

**Seaside Amusements** - the tried and tested way to have fun on a rainy holiday, there are good-sized traditional amusements at **Shanklin Seafrost** with indoor mini-golf and more to enjoy.

**Get Arty** - paint your own pottery at **Fired Art Ceramic Studio** in Ryde. Choose from any pre-made pottery design and have fun decorating. The perfect rainy-day art project.



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<-->  
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# EXPLORE THE ISLAND



Some of the Isle of Wight's greatest assets are the contrasting landscapes and surroundings that spread across its length. This means you can enjoy a very different experience simply by journeying a few miles east to west. But you won't waste too much time travelling if you don't want to. At just under 23 miles wide and 14 miles from top to bottom, the Island's compact size means you're never more than an hour's drive from your next destination.

Whether you're staying locally, visiting for the day, or just passing through, our Explore guide breaks the Island up into areas to give you a flavour of each of them. Let us take you for a quick hop around the Island to explore the main towns, villages, and areas, with a decent helping of recommendations for places to go, things to look out for, and top tips, to help you get the most out of your Isle of Wight stay!

## Key:

**N** = North (P 53-56)

**E** = East (P 71-76)

**S** = South (P 79-85)

**W** = West (P 87-91)

**C** = Central (P 61-65)



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Tel: 01983 298439

# EXPLORE NORTH



The North of the Island is extremely popular for sailing and boating, encompassing a shoreline that stretches along the Solent channel, the wider parts of the River Medina and Wootton Creek.

You'll also discover some of the Island's most significant history here, with the world's largest sailing regatta at Cowes, and Queen Victoria's royal palace by the sea at Osborne.

## GURNARD

**Why Go?** Less than a mile to the west of Cowes is the village of Gurnard. The waters here are very popular for sailing and watersports, but undoubtedly one of the most striking features of Gurnard is its jaw-dropping sunsets. Park along the esplanade on a clear evening, find yourself a great spot to watch (behind the beach huts is a great photo spot), and kick back and enjoy the show. Locals and dog walkers often head to the back of the village's sailing club towards a hidden beach that backs onto woodland.

## WEST COWES

**Why Go?** The vibrant streets of West Cowes contain a mixture of boutique-style shops, traditional pubs and inns, and trendy cafés and restaurants. During the sailing season, the harbour and waterfront are a hive of action. **Cowes Week**, which takes place every year in

early August, draws large crowds to watch the competition out on the water. Enjoy the festival atmosphere in the town, with entertainment and live music. If sailing is not your thing, there's still plenty to explore.

For a one-off souvenir, visit **Kendall's Fine Art** ([kendallsfineart.co.uk](http://kendallsfineart.co.uk)) or **Bath Road Gallery** ([bathroadgallery.co.uk](http://bathroadgallery.co.uk)). Both galleries offer originals from local artists with a strong coastal influence.

Spare a few minutes to explore the **Sir Max Aitken Museum** ([sirmaxaitkenmuseum.org](http://sirmaxaitkenmuseum.org)). Its former owner was a Battle of Britain pilot and newspaper publisher who amassed a fascinating collection of antiques and oddities – including Napoleon's cradle and a letter signed by Nelson! History fans should also explore the **Wight Military & Heritage Museum** ([wmahm.org.uk](http://wmahm.org.uk)) which is on the road that links Newport and Cowes.



**Gurnard Bay**

## Feeling Hungry?

Many of the best pubs and restaurants in Cowes are around the pedestrianised town centre, which has a lovely buzz to it during summer evenings.

Foodies after a memorable dining experience should book a table at **Call It What You Want** (ciwyw.co.uk) or **Moocow** (moocowstuff.com). For sea views and sunsets, try the **New Holmwood Restaurant** (newholmwoodhotel.co.uk), which is located right on the seafront, just out of the main town. For something less formal, catch some live music at **The Anchor** (theanchorcowes.co.uk) or get a fish and chip takeaway from **Corries Cabin**. Walk for five minutes to the benches on The Parade for the best views.

For lunch or breakfast, try **Jolliffes Eatery** (facebook.com/jolliffeseatery), which sits within a Grade II-listed building on the high street. **Richmonds Bakery** (iowbakery.com) has an outstanding reputation and a daily selection of showstoppers.

## EAST COWES

**Why Go?** East Cowes is perhaps best known for Queen Victoria's royal palace at **Osborne** (english-heritage.org.uk/osborne). If you're on the West side of the town, catch the 'floating bridge' which runs from early morning to late at night. On reaching East Cowes, if you're on foot, catch the number four bus or walk for about one mile to the Osborne entrance. Osborne offers something for almost any visitor, with the house and its many collections, and extensive grounds and gardens. During the warmer months, head for the royal beach to watch a traditional Punch and Judy show.

For a free alternative, visit **St Mildred's Church** (whippinghameastcowes.org.uk) in Whippingham. Queen Victoria was a regular worshipper, and the church has several royal artefacts to discover.

The beach at East Cowes isn't the sort of place that you'll be building sandcastles. However, it is a pleasant spot for a wander whilst watching yachts and ferries in Cowes harbour.



## Top Tip - Investing in History

Visitors to **Osborne House** might consider signing up for English Heritage membership (english-heritage.org.uk/join) rather than paying one-off entrance fees. Family visits to the charity's three ticketed Isle of Wight attractions total almost £100 to include **Osborne House**, **Carisbrooke Castle** and **Yarmouth Castle**. For a small additional cost, you could purchase annual membership to English Heritage, which gives you access to around 400 other mainland attractions.



West Cowes Town

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— 2023 —



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📍 Firestone Copse, Wootton

## Feeling Hungry?

East Cowes doesn't have as many places to eat out as West Cowes, but there are a few standout options.

**Prego** ([pregoiow.uk](http://pregoiow.uk)) offers excellent quality and straightforward Italian dining, and is less than a minute's walk from our terminal.

Good-quality pub food is available at

**The Lifeboat** ([thelifeboatcowes.co.uk](http://thelifeboatcowes.co.uk)), which is hidden away on the River Medina, a five-minute drive from our East Cowes terminal.

For a tasty treat call into **SLAB Artisan Fudge** ([slabfudge.co.uk](http://slabfudge.co.uk)), which recently relocated from the West side of the river. Sample a resident favourite such as rocky road fudge, or go for a limited edition flavour.

A less well-known spot for foodies in the area is the **Artisan Café** ([instagram.com/artisancafeby\\_rusticcrust](https://www.instagram.com/artisancafeby_rusticcrust)) on York Avenue, which serves up organic sourdough, croissants, and Island Roasted coffee.



## Top Tip - Meet the Minibeasts

One of the Isle of Wight's longest-established animal attractions is

**Butterfly World** ([butterflyworldiow.com](http://butterflyworldiow.com)), which sits between Newport and Wootton Bridge. The collection of butterflies is stunning, but many visitors are unaware of the attraction's other residents, which are lovingly cared for by staff. A highlight for many is the chance to handle a tarantula or a snake – although it's not obligatory! Feeding the Koi fish is another experience not to be missed. Stop for a quick refreshment at Butterfly World's Hungry Caterpillar café.

## WOOTTON BRIDGE

**Why Go?** The village of Wootton is found midway between the two major towns of Ryde and Newport and is most recognisable for its tidal creek, and large mill pond, which sit either side of its namesake bridge. There are several great walks in this area, one of which takes you through to Woodside Bay, the location of the 1969 Isle of Wight Festival. Over 100,000 festival-goers descended on the village for this event, which was headlined by Bob Dylan.

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# COWES

## AMAZING FOOD & DRINK ON ONE STREET!

Cowes offers a diverse range of dining experiences that cater to all tastes and budgets. From traditional seafood restaurants to award-winning burgers, there is something for everyone...



### HARBOUR KITCHEN

#### Gold Award-winning Burgers & more

[harbourkitchen.co.uk](http://harbourkitchen.co.uk)

With a multi-award-winning menu that caters for all diets and tastes, this relaxed family run bistro is one of the most popular destinations in Cowes. Burgers are their speciality, with a range that includes their "Classic" and "Avocado Cuddle" recently scooping a Gold award for being the best on the Island! But it's not all about the burgers – Harbour Kitchen is also renowned as one of the top coffee houses and drinks spots in Cowes, with speciality coffees, cocktails and delicious milkshakes on the menu.



### COMPASS BAR

#### Coffee - Cocktails - Good Company

[compassbar.co.uk](http://compassbar.co.uk)

Do you love a cocktail? Then the Compass bar is the place for you. They offer a laid back environment to drink some of the best cocktails on the Island, all made to order using premium spirits and freshly squeezed juices. There's also an extensive wine list, great beer selection and delicious light bites. Book for a night out on the town or pop in for a cocktail before or after your dinner at Smoking Lobster, The Garden or Harbour Kitchen.



### DOCKSIDE DINING

#### Bespoke boat-to-boat seafood dishes

Visiting Cowes Harbour by boat? Try Smoking Lobster's "Dockside Dining" for chef selection sushi platters and bespoke takeout. Including oysters and champagne, sushi and sashimi, Asian cold seafood platters, prepared and delivered to your boat. For more details and to pre-order, contact [events@smokinglobster.co.uk](mailto:events@smokinglobster.co.uk) or 07563 388700.

### THE SMOKING LOBSTER

#### Award-winning Restaurant & Seafood

[smokinglobstercowes.co.uk](http://smokinglobstercowes.co.uk)

The Smoking Lobster is Cowes' newest seafood hotspot! Nestled in the heart of the town, they offer an unrivalled dining experience, with signature smoked lobster dishes taking centre stage in the restaurant's four characterful areas, that include a Chef's table. Their team of culinary experts prepare each dish using only the freshest ingredients, ensuring a taste sensation that will leave you craving more. Located at the heart of Cowes, The Smoking Lobster is perfect for a romantic dinner or a meal with family and friends.



### THE GARDEN

#### The Finest for Al Fresco

[thegardencowes.com](http://thegardencowes.com)

With a fabulous walled garden offering a summer sun trap for diners, and plenty of cover for the warmer winter days, this newly opened Cowes' restaurant is a real highlight for anyone looking to dine al fresco. Tasteful décor is very much the theme indoors and out, with an ever-changing menu of contemporary Italian and English food served 7 days a week for breakfast, brunch, lunch and dinner. There's also an extensive drinks menu with barista coffee and cocktails available throughout the day.



### THE SUMMER GARDEN

#### Sea views - Pizzas & more

[captaintakeout.com](http://captaintakeout.com)

The Summer Garden is the perfect summer time venue. It's one of the only spots in Cowes that caters for waterside drinking and dining, with uninterrupted views across the Solent and a large 200-seater waterside terrace. They offer amazing sourdough pizzas hand stretched to order and the very best in BBQ catering – using some of the best locally produced meat from the IOW Meat Co. Join them for live music and cocktails while watching the boats go by.





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# EXPLORE CENTRAL

In the middle of the Island you'll find the county town of Newport, which is surrounded by a series of smaller villages with impressive downland stretching away to the south and east.

## NEWPORT

**Why Go?** Shopping in Newport offers less of a distraction from mainland life than other Isle of Wight towns, but it has its own charm.

Homeware and hardware store **W Hurst & Sons** ([hurst-iw.co.uk](http://hurst-iw.co.uk)) is something of an Island icon and was named as the UK's favourite local business in a recent competition.

Enjoy a tasty treat whilst playing one of the 600+ board games at **Snacks + Ladders** ([snacksandladders.co.uk](http://snacksandladders.co.uk)). It was a deserved winner at the Red Funnel Isle of Wight Awards in 2022. Pop culture and great coffee can be found at **Comicoffee** on Pyle Street ([comicoffee.uk](http://comicoffee.uk)).

For a bit of family fun, sign up for a session at **Skates** ([4dsportsclubs.co.uk](http://4dsportsclubs.co.uk)), the Isle of Wight's roller disco! Nearby, you'll find the small Museum of Island History, and Watchbell Lane, which must be the Island's narrowest shopping street.

Meanwhile, **Quay Arts** ([quayarts.org](http://quayarts.org)), has galleries to visit, a craft shop selling locally made gifts and a café bar with riverside terrace. Return in the evening for theatre and live music.

This side of Newport is also home to the **Isle of Wight Festival** in June ([isleofwightfestival.com](http://isleofwightfestival.com)). Outside of festival time, you can explore the park and arboretum or walk along the banks of the River Medina to see the remains of paddle steamer ship "Ryde Queen".

A short drive from Newport is the imposing **Carisbrooke Castle** ([english-heritage.org.uk](http://english-heritage.org.uk)), where Charles I was imprisoned before his execution. A free alternative is the one-mile walk around the Castle's grounds. Children will love running up and down the dry moat.

From the Castle, walk through to **Carisbrooke Priory** ([carisbrookepriory.org.uk](http://carisbrookepriory.org.uk)), which is a less well-known historic gem on the Island. The former nunnery is now a house of prayer which is free to visit. Explore the atmospheric cloisters, chapel and courtyard garden or stop for a coffee in the tea rooms. Call ahead, as it's not open every day.



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RED FUNNEL  
Isle of Wight  
AWARDS  
2022  
GOLD AWARD  
BEST SMALL  
ATTRACTION



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♥ Our fab new Capuchin house is powered by solar energy. All the timber we use throughout the Haven is from sustainable forests. The cedar roofs are energy efficient and help to prevent heat loss.

♥ Rainforests are being destroyed to make way for palm oil plantations. We always try to avoid palm oil in our shop, tearoom and cleaning products.

♥ We grow fruit and vegetables around the Haven for our primates. We also grow herbs – the Capuchins love smearing them over their bodies as a natural insect repellent.

♥ We love recycling. The soft floor of the under 5s and over 5s play areas are made from 100% recycled aircraft tyres. Safe landing guaranteed!



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## Feeling Hungry?

Foodies looking for a tasting menu should try **Thompson's** (robertthompson.co.uk) in Newport town centre. For a more conventional fine dining experience, book a table at **Hewitts** (hewittsrestaurant.com) or sample **Da Vinci's** Mediterranean menu (davinciow.co.uk).

St Thomas' Square is the place for al fresco lunch, with cafés and restaurants including **French Franks** (frenchfranks.co.uk) and **Toto** (totoiow.co.uk). "Zero waste" store **Peach** (peach-veganzerowaste.co.uk) caters for vegan diners in its cosy café.

If dining with a view is your priority, head out of town to **The Blacksmiths** (blacksmithsiow.co.uk), which was crowned best pub at the Isle of Wight Awards in 2021 and was runner-up in 2022.

## GODSHILL

**Why Go?** The picturesque village of Godshill is home to much of the Island's older architecture and the "chocolate box" cottages that have adorned the front of many postcards. Take a wander up to **All Saints Church**, which overlooks the famous village.

Explore the emporium of shops at the **Old Smithy**, which links up with the large free car park. Children will enjoy the small detour through the model-filled Old Smithy Gardens. You'll then emerge onto Godshill's main street, which is furnished with traditional tearooms and quirky shops.

Check out the delightful **Godshill Model Village** (modelvillagegodshill.co.uk), which depicts Godshill, and the nearby resort of Shanklin, in perfect miniature, surrounded by award-winning gardens.



## Top Tip - A Villa Worth a Visit

The Isle of Wight's largest Roman Villa can be found in Brading, but Newport Roman Villa is a charming curiosity (iow.gov.uk/Visitors/Where-to-go/Newport-Roman-Villa). Visitors can see well-preserved mosaics and even an early attempt at underfloor heating! It sits in an unassuming spot on the pleasant residential streets of Shide. The third-century home was discovered in 1920 and is thought to be just one part of a grand estate. That leaves the tantalising possibility that several surrounding houses sit on top of Roman remains.



The Old Smithy, Godshill

  
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**ALL-WEATHER  
ATTRACTION**

## THE DOWNS AND SURROUNDING AREA

**Why Go?** When you hear reference to "The Downs" on the Isle of Wight, it usually refers to the central area of Arreton, Mersley, Ashey and Brading downs. Southern Vectis's open top bus tours will show you the best views during the warmer months. Travel as a group or buy a Rover + Breezer ticket for the best value. It's valid for 24 hours, so canny visitors spend one afternoon on The Downs tour and the next morning on The Needles open top bus tour.

The valleys surrounding the downland are known for farming and local produce. Isle of Wight tomatoes, produced in Arreton, can be found in most supermarkets.



### Top Tip - Join the Treasure Hunters

Several of the Isle of Wight's towns and villages have their own Treasure Trails (treasuretrails.co.uk), including Newport and Godshill. Each set of clues provides a neat way to discover local history whilst adding a bit of motivation to a family walk! Newport's trail is 1.5 miles long and is themed around some cheeky gremlins who have been causing trouble in the Island's county town. Meanwhile, the Godshill trail turns walkers into detectives trying to crack a case whilst completing a one-mile route.

At **Arreton Barns** (arretonbarns.co.uk) you'll discover resident artists and craftspeople, as well as a farm shop, a shipwreck heritage centre and a popular pub (dairymansdaughter.co.uk). Further east, along the Arreton Valley, is the famous **Garlic Farm** (thegarlicfarm.co.uk). Entry is free but it's worth paying a few pounds for the tractor trailer tour of the farmland.

Active families will love a day out at **Robin Hill** (robin-hill.com) with its toboggan run, treetop bouncy nets, falconry, and late-night summer shows. Tickets entitle you to free returns for seven days, so don't wait until the last day of your holiday!



 Robin Hill, Downend

The Needles



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**Osborne  
House**

## Appley Tower

## The Needles

## BEACHES

- |    |             |    |                |
|----|-------------|----|----------------|
| 1  | Alum Bay    | 12 | St. Helens     |
| 2  | Totland Bay | 13 | Bembridge      |
| 3  | Colwell Bay | 14 | Whitecliff Bay |
| 4  | Gurnard     | 15 | Yaverland      |
| 5  | Cowes       | 16 | Sandown        |
| 6  | East Cowes  | 17 | Shanklin       |
| 7  | Osborne     | 18 | Monks Bay      |
| 8  | Ryde East   | 19 | Ventnor        |
| 9  | Appley      | 20 | Steephill Cove |
| 10 | Springvale  | 21 | Brook          |
| 11 | Seagrove    | 22 | Compton Bay    |
|    |             | 23 | Freshwater Bay |

← FULL BEACH GUIDE ON PAGE 22

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# EXPLORE EAST



The Isle of Wight's eastern towns and villages include a mix of traditional seaside resorts, historic villages, picturesque harbours and rolling downland. They are linked by the Island's only modern train line, making it a convenient area for car-free exploration.

## RYDE

**WHY GO?** Ryde combines traditional seaside fun, Victorian architecture and unexpected hidden gems. Enjoy a long spacious sandy beach, a thriving independent shopping scene and a whole host of great places to eat out.

Shop vintage clothes at **The Velvet Pig** (thevelvetpig.com), designer interiors at **Bou Chic** (bouchic.co.uk) or combine coffee with fashion at **House of Zabre** (facebook.com/zabreiw).

The vintage theme continues at the **Isle of Wight Bus and Coach Museum** (iwbusmuseum.org.uk), which is free to visit thanks to its army of dedicated volunteers. If trains are more your thing, visit the **Isle of Wight Steam Railway** (iwsteamrailway.co.uk), which connects at Smallbrook Station with the East Wight's modern railway.

Local history can also be discovered at **The Lost Crypt Escape Room** (thelostcrypt.co.uk), which is the UK's first escape room in a real church crypt. It combines real history with a series of challenging puzzles.

The golden sands of Appley in Ryde are the home of beach sports on the Island. The sprawling seafront provides much entertainment with two playgrounds and a boating lake. If a swim in the sea doesn't appeal, visit the **Waterside Swimming Pool** (watersidepool.co.uk) which retracts its roof on sunny days.

Continue along the seafront until you reach the **Dell Café** (dellcafe.com) for a coffee by the beach huts of Appley. Behind you is **Goodleaf** (goodleaf.co.uk), where you can sign up for a tree climbing lesson, complete with harnesses and helmets.



## Top Tip - The Studio by the Sea

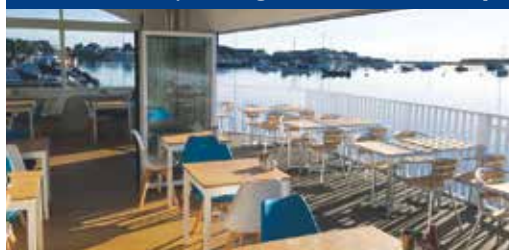
Ryde's **Monkton Arts** (facebook.com/monktonarts) is a melting pot for creatives in the East Wight with its mix of studios, live music, and good food. During the day, pop into Monkton's Lounge Café for a flat white and a visit to the two galleries. Exhibitions change every fortnight and often reflect the town's relationship with the sea. In the evening, you can expect to be entertained by a live jazz band or a bit of rhythm and blues.



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## Feeling Hungry?

Ryde has an abundance of places to satisfy most appetites.

For lunchtime meze, book a table at **Ada Mediterranean Kitchen** ([adamediterraneanryde.co.uk](http://adamediterraneanryde.co.uk)). Popular cafés include **No.64** ([no64ryde.com](http://no64ryde.com)) and **The Wonky Goat** ([thewonkygoat.co.uk](http://thewonkygoat.co.uk)).

For an evening out, spread your wings and try **The Duck** ([theduckiow.co.uk](http://theduckiow.co.uk)) or **Heron** ([heroniow.co.uk](http://heroniow.co.uk)), which now holds two AA Rosettes. Both offer modern cuisine near the seafront. A meal with a view can be enjoyed at the **Cadet Beach Club** ([cadetbeachclub.co.uk](http://cadetbeachclub.co.uk)) seafood restaurant near Appley Tower.

Meanwhile, **Michelangelo's** ([ristorantemichelangelo.co.uk](http://ristorantemichelangelo.co.uk)) combines authentic Italian food with an integrated delicatessen.

## SEAVIEW

**WHY GO?** Much of Seaview's reputation as an upmarket Edwardian resort was built on its panoramic sea views and sandy beaches. These are still two of its biggest assets. In August, the village regatta ([seaviewvillageregatta.co.uk](http://seaviewvillageregatta.co.uk)) brings locals out onto the water for yacht races and tug-of-war competitions.

The beach of Springvale offers some of the best views, straight across to Portsmouth's Spinnaker Tower and the famous Solent forts. Following the coast path takes you around the village and onto the more sheltered Seagrove Bay. Venture through the woods to Priory Bay for an idyllic sandy beach with a woodland backdrop.

## Feeling Hungry?

**The Old Fort** ([theoldfortseaview.co.uk](http://theoldfortseaview.co.uk)) is a popular choice for seafront dining in a lively setting. Round the corner is Aquitania within the **Seaview Hotel** ([seaviewhotel.co.uk](http://seaviewhotel.co.uk)), which has a Michelin Bib Gourmand award.

For a snack in the sunshine, walk from Seaview to Puckpool Park. This Victorian-era battery hums with the sound of children enjoying the playground whilst grown-ups relax at the **Old Barracks Café** ([theoldbarracks.co.uk](http://theoldbarracks.co.uk)). After you've recharged, pick up a club from the café and take on the old-fashioned minigolf course.



### Top Tip - Simply the Zest

**Mermaid Gin** ([isleofwightdistillery.com](http://isleofwightdistillery.com)) has become a familiar sight in up-market bars around the world, thanks to its emphasis on sustainability – and its exquisitely designed bottle. Eagle-eyed fans even spotted it behind 007 in a scene of No Time To Die! Their new zesty flavour can be sampled in bars across the Island and beyond. It combines grapefruit and rosemary with locally foraged rock samphire.



# Discover

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## ST HELENS

**WHY GO?** The biggest draw in St Helens is its mostly sandy beach, in the shadow of a ruined church. Head to **Tackit-Isle Adventures** ([tackit-isle.co.uk](http://tackit-isle.co.uk)) to explore the sheltered bay on a paddleboard.

Dogs are welcome at St Helens all year round and will have plenty of space for exercise at low tide. National Trust members should drive past the main seafront and park for free slightly further along. Spare a few minutes for a walk around the former Victorian golf course behind the beach, which is known as The Duver.



### Top Tip - Horsing Around

**Sally's Riding School**

([sallysridingschool.com](http://sallysridingschool.com)) picks up reviews of 5/5 on TripAdvisor for its expert-led rides along the East Wight's sandy beaches. You'll be equipped with safety gear and riding boots before setting off to enjoy the wide-open sandy beaches at low tide. Outings take place on St Helens Beach and Bembridge Beach and are open to beginners or more experienced riders.

## BEMBRIDGE

**WHY GO?** Bembridge must be the UK's only village with an airport, a windmill and a lifeboat station. It is also home to a museum, several churches, a harbour, three beaches, a small high street and half a dozen pubs and cafés.

Start with the dog-friendly beach by **Bembridge Lifeboat Station** ([bembridgelifeboat.org.uk](http://bembridgelifeboat.org.uk)). Take a walk along the pier to see the lifeboat, which hangs at a 45-degree angle, ready to launch into the Solent.

The beach at Bembridge is perhaps the best on the Island for rockpooling. Check the tide times, pick up a bucket and net from the RNLI shop and compete to find the biggest crab.

### Feeling Hungry?

Waterside dining doesn't get much closer than **The Best Dressed Crab** ([thebestdressedcrabintown.co.uk](http://thebestdressedcrabintown.co.uk)), which serves seafood on a floating restaurant in Bembridge Harbour. Craft beer fans should visit the **Pilot Boat Inn** ([pilotboat.co.uk](http://pilotboat.co.uk)), which is home to the **Wight Knuckle Microbrewery** ([wightknucklebrewery.com](http://wightknucklebrewery.com)).

**WW Woodford & Sons** ([woodfordandsons.co.uk](http://woodfordandsons.co.uk)) delicatessen in the centre of the village is famous for its sausage rolls, which were described as the "best ever" by TV chef James Martin.

## BRADING

**WHY GO?** Park up at the top of town near the Norman church of St Mary's and take a wander along the main street to appreciate some of Brading's interesting heritage, including the slightly gory remnant of the Bull Ring in front of the town hall. Just outside the town you'll find **Brading Roman Villa** ([bradingromanvilla.org.uk](http://bradingromanvilla.org.uk)), which offers a comprehensive history of the days of Roman occupation on the Island.

Nearby is **Adgestone Vineyard** ([adgestonevineyard.co.uk](http://adgestonevineyard.co.uk)), the oldest of its kind in the country and the perfect place to pick up a unique souvenir. Start with a self-guided audio tour where you can learn about the wine-making process. Then, treat yourself to a bottle of 'Something Blue' – the only blue sparkling wine made in the UK.

### Feeling Hungry?

**The Yarbridge** ([theyarbridgeinn.co.uk](http://theyarbridgeinn.co.uk)) is a popular pub on the outskirts of Brading with an excellent reputation for good quality food. On Sundays, order a 'roast platter' for four from the **Hungry Bear** ([hungrybear.online](http://hungrybear.online)) in the high street. The restaurant prides itself on generous portion sizes and freshly produced food.



## CULVER DOWN

**WHY GO?** Culver Down is accessible by car or foot for picturesque walks or a pub meal at the **Culver Haven Inn** ([culverhaven.com](http://culverhaven.com)). There are spectacular views from Culver across Sandown, Shanklin, Whitecliff Bay and Bembridge.

There are still some remnants of Culver's military history with the substantial **Bembridge Fort** ([nationaltrust.org.uk](http://nationaltrust.org.uk)), and a World War II anti-aircraft battery.

## SANDOWN

**WHY GO?** Sandown is famed for its long stretches of sandy beach and traditional pleasure pier with soft play, amusements, and bowling. Hotels, apartments and restaurants line the esplanade which links the town with Lake and Shanklin.

Towards the Yaverland end is **Sandham Gardens** (sandhamgardens.com), with its excellent playground, go karts, bouncy nets and dinosaur-themed minigolf course – complete with smoking volcano. Combine the visit with a trip to the pterosaur-shaped museum of **Dinosaur Isle** (dinosaurisle.com) or meet the lions and tigers of **Wildheart Animal Sanctuary** (wildheartanimalsanctuary.org). The Sanctuary now has two giant bamboo domes, which make it even easier to get up close with some of nature's most amazing primates.

### Feeling Hungry?

The sea view draws most diners to Sandown's seafront, but there are also a handful of stand-out restaurants within the town centre. **Bellamy's Bistro** (facebook.com/bellamysbistro) in the High Street has a strong local reputation for offering an unfussy and hearty meal. Cocktails are served a few doors up in the **Cellar Bar** (thecellar.bar).



### Top Tip - Crafty Night Out

Sandown is famed for its traditional seaside fun, but it's also home to **Boojum & Snark** (boojumandsnark.co.uk) – one of the Island's most creative and unusual venues. Throw some shapes at the monthly silent disco or sit down with a drink at one of their storytelling nights. You might even like to discover your inner orc and join the Dungeons & Dragons inspired role playing night called Snarks & Dragons. If all that sounds too much, just pop in for a pint of lovingly curated craft beer!



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# EXPLORE SOUTH



On the Isle of Wight's southern side, the traditional resort towns meet the more rugged landscapes of the West Wight. At one end you'll find Shanklin's long stretch of esplanade and beach. At the other, you can gaze out at the striking St Catherine's Lighthouse surrounded by nothing but the Island's outstanding natural beauty.

## SHANKLIN

**Why Go?** The resort town of Shanklin is split into two distinct areas: the Old Village, with its pretty streets and thatched roofs, and the newer town, from which the road to the esplanade snakes down the hill to the seafront and sandy beaches. The main beach gets busy in the summer, but it quietsens down as you walk towards Lake, past Small Hope Beach. Low tide is the best time to visit if you want to ensure you have plenty of space for building sandcastles.

A short walk away is **Rylstone Gardens**, which has a traditional minigolf course and café. Visit on a Sunday afternoon and you might hear a local brass band performing in the park.

Rylstone Gardens is by the entrance to one of the Isle of Wight's oldest, and most understated attractions, **Shanklin Chine** ([shanklinchine.co.uk](http://shanklinchine.co.uk)). The Chine is beautiful

at any time of day, but really comes into its own after dark, when its stunning landscapes, waterfalls, and plant life are brought to life by magical illuminations. The ticket price includes entry for seven days, so it is best value to visit at the start of your holiday.

Take a look at the What's On guide for **Shanklin Theatre** ([shanklintheatre.com](http://shanklintheatre.com)) if you fancy a night out during your holiday. This charming 600-seat venue hosts big name comedians and performers, as well as showcasing local theatre groups.

**Shanklin Seafront** ([shanklinseafront.co.uk](http://shanklinseafront.co.uk)) is the place for last-minute bucket and spade purchases or a trip to the arcades. Dinosaur fans will enjoy Jurassic Bay minigolf, or there's an indoor course called Caddyshack, which provides a good challenge for competitive siblings.



Shanklin Seafront

# Britain's Hottest Garden

## Feeling Hungry?

Shanklin's Old Village is the place for a cream tea on a sunny afternoon. Visit the fairy garden at the **Old Thatch Teashop** ([oldthatchteashop.co.uk](http://oldthatchteashop.co.uk)) or tuck into an Isle of Wight-shaped scone at **Vernon Cottage** ([vernoncottage.co.uk](http://vernoncottage.co.uk)).

Shanklin's Esplanade is your best bet for relaxed dining with a sea view. **The Waterfront** ([waterfront-inn.co.uk](http://waterfront-inn.co.uk)) and **The Steamer** ([thesteamer.co.uk](http://thesteamer.co.uk)) are two adjacent restaurants that have a lively atmosphere on a summer's evening. Keep walking to the end of the esplanade to discover the **Fisherman's Cottage** ([shanklinchine.co.uk/fishermans-cottage](http://shanklinchine.co.uk/fishermans-cottage)), which is a thatched pub right on the beach.

For an elevated coastal view, try **Blueberry's Café** ([facebook.com/BlueberrysCafeLOW](https://facebook.com/BlueberrysCafeLOW)). This friendly café overlooking Shanklin Beach won gold at the Red Funnel Isle of Wight Awards 2022 in the Best Café or Tearoom category.



## BONCHURCH

**Why Go?** The village of Bonchurch has a certain magical air to it thanks to its notable history and weaving landscape. At the centre of Bonchurch is a large spring-fed pond, with a selection of beautiful old cottages and buildings running along the main village road.

**St Boniface Church** is nearby, parts of which date back to the 11th Century. A short walk down from here brings you to Monk's Bay, a small sand and shingle beach with rockpools to explore at low tide. **The Bonchurch Inn** ([bonchurch-inn.co.uk](http://bonchurch-inn.co.uk)) further up the village is a delightful old pub, with a courtyard garden and an extensive menu of home-cooked Italian cuisine.



### Top Tip - Dickens in Bonchurch and Ventnor

Bonchurch and Ventnor are home to the Charles Dickens Literary Walks ([havilandcottage.com/dickens](http://havilandcottage.com/dickens)), which explore key locations which helped shape the author's work. Highlights include the house in which Dickens stayed whilst writing some of David Copperfield. The trails also explore the possibility that several of Dickens' characters were based on local residents that he met during his time on the Island. The grave of the 'real Miss Havisham' can be found in Ventnor Cemetery!

### Monks Bay, Bonchurch



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Ventnor Beach

## VENTNOR

**Why Go?** Ventnor's steep incline and isolated coastal location give it a feel like nowhere else on the Isle of Wight. A tall hillside looms over the town, giving it shelter and creating a "microclimate" where Mediterranean plants grow in the famous **Botanic Gardens** ([botanic.co.uk](http://botanic.co.uk)).

A free alternative is **Ventnor Park** ([ventnorpark.co.uk](http://ventnorpark.co.uk)), which offers live music in the summer, a putting green, and an outdoor gym overlooking the sea.

Ventnor's seafront is a charming spot. Toddlers will enjoy the Isle of Wight-shaped paddling pool, which is backed by the cascade gardens. Grown-ups can enjoy the views and order breakfast from **Besty & Spinky's Café** ([facebook.com/BestyandSpinkys](https://facebook.com/BestyandSpinkys)).

Ventnor has become a cultural hotspot on the Island, with events such as **Ventnor Fringe** ([vfringe.co.uk](http://vfringe.co.uk)). Expect to see clifftop shows, live music around the town, and comedians trying out new material.

The festival is curated by **Ventnor Exchange** ([ventnorexchange.co.uk](http://ventnorexchange.co.uk)), a theatre, craft beer bar, and record store housed in the old Post Office.



Ventnor's vintage clothing stores have been known to draw celebrity shoppers, whilst there is a great collection of independent boutiques to browse, such as bespoke jewellers **Honeybourne Jewellery** ([honeybournejewellery.com](http://honeybournejewellery.com)). Pop round the corner to try one of the home-made ice creams at **The Ventnorian** ([craveicecream.co.uk](http://craveicecream.co.uk)).

There are two popular coastal walks that start from Ventnor's Esplanade. To the east is the wheelchair-accessible one-mile walk to Bonchurch. Stop off at **The Seapot** ([facebook.com/seapotcafe](https://facebook.com/seapotcafe)) for a bite to eat if the sun is shining. To the west is the more challenging coastal path to Steephill Cove, which is a picture-perfect bay with thatched cottages, deck chairs, and ice creams.

### Feeling Hungry?

Ventnor has recently transformed into something of a foodie destination, with several of the Island's top-rated restaurants on the seafront and main streets. **The Royal Hotel** ([royalhoteliow.co.uk](http://royalhoteliow.co.uk)) is renowned for its afternoon tea, but it has also gained much attention for its experimental new tasting menu called Se7en.

Meanwhile, the seafront **Smoking Lobster** restaurant ([smokinglobster.co.uk](http://smokinglobster.co.uk)) featured on Best of Britain by the Sea on More 4. Grace Dent declared their lobster to be the best she had ever tasted!

For live music and crashing waves, try the **Spyglass Inn** ([thespyglass.com](http://thespyglass.com)).



### Top Tip - Walking with Dinosaurs and Planets!

Two of the Isle of Wight's finest coastal walks start from Ventnor – and both offer something of an extra twist! The coastal path to Bonchurch includes a scale model of the Solar System, with the planets marked out over about 1000 paces. Meanwhile, the undulating walk from Ventnor to Steephill Cove offers a Diplodocus Labyrinth. The maze-like outline is shaped onto the hillside overlooking the sea and is great fun for little ones.



Ventnor Botanical Gardens



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## ST LAWRENCE & NITON

**Why Go?** The Undercliff area around St Lawrence and Niton is where you will find the Island's most isolated and rugged beaches.

A landslip in between the two has made access tricky. However, by following the coast path from Ventnor you will discover the small bays of Woody and Binnel. You may have these beaches all to yourself, even on a summer's day.

On the Niton end, there are several walks that take you around **St Catherine's Lighthouse** (another photographer's favourite). From here you can walk back to Castlehaven and Reeth Bay.

A short drive from Niton is **Blackgang Chine** ([blackgangchine.com](http://blackgangchine.com)): the UK's oldest theme park, and maker of many childhood memories. Park up at the nearby Blackgang Viewpoint car park and walk up to St Catherine's Oratory for spectacular views on a clear day.



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# EXPLORE WEST

The West Wight's rolling landscape and crumbling cliffs offer perhaps the Island's greatest escape. It was largely undeveloped during the 20th century tourism boom and has retained its unspoilt coastline. The beaches of the West Wight often require a little more effort to reach, but you are rewarded with spectacular backdrops.

## BRIGHSTONE & SURROUNDING AREA

**WHY GO?** One of the bigger villages in the west is Brighstone with its 12th century church and traditional farmhouses.

The area around North Street has a similar charm to Godshill but without the crowds. Make your way round the tiny Brighstone village museum and library before visiting the thatched newsagents and village shop. Nearby is an excellent tea rooms ([wolveseyhouse.com](http://wolveseyhouse.com)), which is a popular stopping point for cyclists. Bicycles and e-bikes can be hired from **Brighstone Newsagents** ([brighstonenewsagents.co.uk/bike-hire](http://brighstonenewsagents.co.uk/bike-hire)).

If you have a few minutes spare, pop on a pair of wellies to visit **Brighstone's Dragon Tree**. This ancient oak can be found on a footpath off New Road and appears to be growing sideways over a stream.

Nearby, you'll find **Mottistone Manor Gardens** ([nationaltrust.org.uk](http://nationaltrust.org.uk)), where children will enjoy

the flowerpot trails and den building area. From here, it's just a short walk onto the downs to the mysterious "Longstone" monument. The larger of the two stones is nearly four metres tall and is thought to have been erected thousands of years ago.

### Feeling Hungry?

Many villages and hamlets in this part of the West Wight have their own traditional pub.

Curiously, Hulverstone and Calbourne both have a local pub called **The Sun** ([characterinns.co.uk/the-sun-inn](http://characterinns.co.uk/the-sun-inn) and [sun-calbourne.co.uk](http://sun-calbourne.co.uk)). Whilst in Calbourne, take a walk past the riverside thatched cottages of Winkle Street.

On warm evenings, sit by the trout stream in the beer garden of **The Crown** at Shorwell ([facebook.com/CrownShorwell](https://facebook.com/CrownShorwell)), which is now under new ownership. For one of the Island's most sought after afternoon teas call in at **Chessell Pottery Café** ([chessellpotterycafe.co.uk](http://chessellpotterycafe.co.uk))



### Top Tip - A Night with the Stars

The coastal road near Atherfield in the West Wight is one of the best places in southern England for stargazing. Light pollution is minimal, so there's an opportunity for some spectacular sights on a clear night. Keen photographers can produce some magnificent slow-exposure work with the help of a tripod. During the summer, stargazers looking south should get a good view of the so-called Summer Triangle. This is made up of Deneb, Altair, and Vega. To the north, clear nights will show off The Plough, Polaris, and Cassiopeia.



📍 Freshwater Bay

## FRESHWATER

**WHY GO?** The inland half of Freshwater is a busy village with a modest selection of shops and cafés. **Freshwater Coffee House** ([freshwatercoffeehouse.co.uk](http://freshwatercoffeehouse.co.uk)) is a local favourite for pancakes and pastries.

As you head towards Freshwater Bay, take a moment to admire the Island's only thatched church – **St Agnes**.

Freshwater Bay itself is split into two beaches. The main section consists of a pebble beach, with chalk cliffs and impressive rock stacks at the eastern end. At low tide, head round to the right as you face the sea, and you'll find a secluded bay that is good for paddling and rockpooling.

Before you leave the Bay, buy an ice cream to support the beach shop, which raises money for the village's **lifeboat station** ([freshwaterlifeboat.org.uk](http://freshwaterlifeboat.org.uk)).

If you fancy a climb, walk up towards the Tennyson Monument, which overlooks Freshwater Bay. From here, you'll get a distant view of Compton Bay, which was named as one of the world's best beaches by The Sunday Times. For a shorter walk to the viewpoint, park at the National Trust's Tennyson Down Car Park. You can also visit Alfred, Lord Tennyson's former home of **Farringford** ([farringford.co.uk](http://farringford.co.uk)) to discover the Poet Laureate's love for the Island.

The 1970 Isle of Wight Festival took place on farmland around Freshwater. **Dimbola Lodge** ([dimbola.co.uk](http://dimbola.co.uk)) hosts an exhibition about the time that more than half a million people descended on the West Wight to watch Jimi Hendrix, Joni Mitchell, and The Doors.

### Feeling Hungry?

**The Piano Café** ([thepianocafe.co.uk](http://thepianocafe.co.uk)) sits between the village of Freshwater and the Bay. It gained its name as the former residence of Queen Victoria's piano tuner. Most visit for lunch, but come back on a summer's evening for dinner with musical accompaniment.

**The Red Lion** ([redlion-freshwater.co.uk](http://redlion-freshwater.co.uk)) is a traditional pub with a good reputation near to Freshwater's attractive causeway. Meanwhile, good views and great burgers can be found at **The Cow** ([thecowco.com](http://thecowco.com)) which won silver in the 'Best Burger' category at the Red Funnel Isle of Wight Awards 2022.

## THE NEEDLES

**WHY GO?** The Needles is the Isle of Wight's most famous landmark, made up of a row of striking chalk stacks that rise up from the sea beneath. The red and white striped lighthouse protects seafarers from the rocks.

Families can ride the carousel and the chairlift at **The Needles Landmark Attraction** ([theneedles.co.uk](http://theneedles.co.uk)). The chairlift leads to Alum Bay with its famous multicoloured cliffs.

From the beach, take the **Needles Pleasure Cruise** ([needlespleasurecruises.co.uk](http://needlespleasurecruises.co.uk)) for the perfect "up-close" view of the lighthouse. Thrill-seekers can switch to a high-speed boat which will take you right round the lighthouse, to discover a hidden cove on the other side.

Finish with a round of minigolf and a sand-filled souvenir back in the amusement park.

The **Needles Old Battery** ([nationaltrust.org.uk](http://nationaltrust.org.uk)) offers the historic side of the headland's story. Head down the tunnel to the windswept lookout or visit the tea rooms for a cream tea with a view that is hard to beat. For a free alternative, visit the **New Battery** with its unusual past as a rocket testing base.



### Top Tip - The Wild West Wight

Explorers looking for a wild day out should sign up for a session with **Freshwater Bay Coasteering** ([fbciow.com](http://fbciow.com)). You'll be equipped with wetsuits, lifejackets and helmets before setting off towards a hidden bay. Expert guides will have you swimming, rock climbing and traversing your way round the rugged cliffs before stepping inside caves once used by smugglers. The activities are run by fully qualified lifeguards and are suitable for ages 12+.

📍 Alum Bay



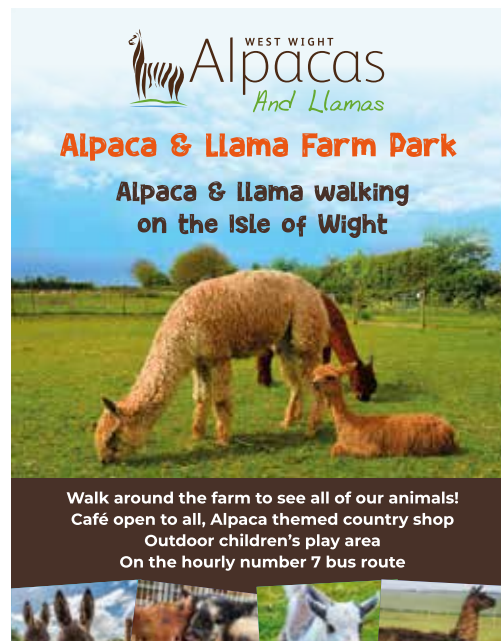


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## YARMOUTH

**WHY GO?** The historic port town of Yarmouth sits at the entrance of the River Yar and includes some of the oldest architecture on the Island. It is popular for sailing, with a busy harbour located at the mouth of the river estuary. Walk along the pier for great views of the Solent or get a window seat at **Gossips Café** ([facebook.com/thegossipscafe](https://facebook.com/thegossipscafe)).

Yarmouth is one of the smallest towns in the country, but it has pretty streets and a modest selection of gift shops, galleries, and antique shops. Anne Toms' **Yarmouth Gallery** is worth a visit to admire its West Wight seascapes and artworks from local sculptors.

English Heritage members should take a look at 16th century **Yarmouth Castle**. What it lacks in size it makes up for in setting and it is a great place to sit for a picnic and enjoy sea views on a warm day.

Just a short drive from Yarmouth, **Tapnell Farm** ([tapnellfarm.com](http://tapnellfarm.com)) plays host to a much-loved farm park and restaurant. Older children will enjoy the Total Wipeout-style antics at the Isle of Wight Aqua Park. Younger children can meet animals, ride zip wires and pedal on the go karts at the farm park. Other on-site activities include football golf, axe throwing, and archery. The farm's events barn has a busy schedule including a pumpkin festival and cinema nights.

Close up animal encounters are also available at **West Wight Alpacas** ([westwightalpacas.co.uk](http://westwightalpacas.co.uk)) in Wellow and **Hill Farm Stables**

([hillfarmstables.com](http://hillfarmstables.com)) in nearby Freshwater. Another hidden gem is **Fort Victoria** ([fort-victoria.co.uk](http://fort-victoria.co.uk)) to the west of Yarmouth. In addition to a 1km-long stretch of beach and woodland to explore, you'll also find attractions including a home for reptiles ([reptilium.org](http://reptilium.org)).

A short distance along the coast are the popular beaches of **Colwell Bay** and **Totland Bay**. Both are best at low tide when the gorgeous sand is exposed.

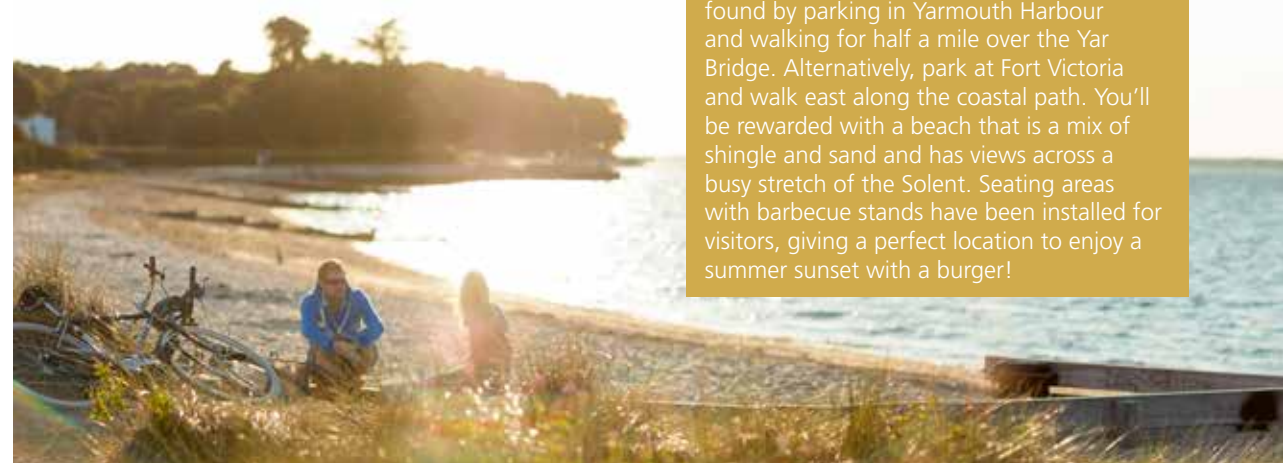
### Feeling Hungry?

Yarmouth has several excellent places for light bites, including **PO41 Coffee House** ([facebook.com/PO41CoffeeHouse](https://facebook.com/PO41CoffeeHouse)) and **Grace's Bakery** ([gracesbakery.uk](http://gracesbakery.uk)). Cyclists and dog walkers should stop at **Off the Rails** ([offtherailsyarmouth.co.uk](http://offtherailsyarmouth.co.uk)), which is housed in the former railway station. Modern fine dining with a harbourside view is available at **The Terrace** ([theterraceiow.co.uk](http://theterraceiow.co.uk)). It is one of two Yarmouth restaurants to feature in the Michelin guide – the other being the Conservatory at **The George** ([thegeorge.co.uk/conservatory](http://thegeorge.co.uk/conservatory)).

Along the coast, Totland Bay has casual beachside eateries with sunset views. Seaside dining is offered at **The Waterfront** ([waterfrontiow.com](http://waterfrontiow.com)), which serves a Mediterranean-inspired menu along with some traditional British classics.

### Top Tip - Yarmouth's Hidden Beach

Most visitors to Yarmouth enjoy its harbour and pier – but it also has an attractive and secluded beach. Sandhard Beach can be found by parking in Yarmouth Harbour and walking for half a mile over the Yar Bridge. Alternatively, park at Fort Victoria and walk east along the coastal path. You'll be rewarded with a beach that is a mix of shingle and sand and has views across a busy stretch of the Solent. Seating areas with barbecue stands have been installed for visitors, giving a perfect location to enjoy a summer sunset with a burger!



# SHOP LOCALLY

## FOR ISLAND TREASURES

The Isle of Wight offers a unique shopping experience thanks to independent shops, local artists and crafters, and food producers. From stylish fashion to a taste of the Wight, we've compiled a list of unique Island shops for you to look out for during your stay. Because who doesn't leave a holiday with more than they arrived with?!

### FASHION & STYLE

Whether you're in need of glad rags for a date night or flip flops for the beach, these shops have you got you covered.

**Mia & Mia Men:** Your one-stop-shop for classic styles and casual wear, **Mia** owner Maria prides herself on offering timeless and affordable clothing for everyone. From summer dresses and well-cut shirts to cosy knitwear and jackets, shop the **Mia** collection in Ryde and Cowes.

**Velvet Pig:** Inspired by owners Zach and Connor's love of vintage and sustainable clothing, **The Velvet Pig** is an Aladdin's cave of fashion treasure. A carefully curated collection of designer and unique vintage pieces, **The Velvet Pig** is a celebration of style and individuality. Look out for the shop's creative window display in Union Street, Ryde.

**Visual Impact:** The Island's original independent style boutique, open since 1985. At **Visual Impact** you'll find the latest trends from premium brands such as *Levi's*, *Barbour*, *Farah Vintage*, *Ralph Lauren*, and more. As important as quality garments is customer service, with a style-conscious team on hand to dress you to impress. Find them at Holyrood Street, Newport.

**Skintrade:** Named after a Duran Duran song over 20 years ago, **Skintrade** is THE Island outlet for men's casual cool garments and footwear. Stockists of *Vans*, *Converse*, *Nike SB*, and more, **Skintrade** offers everything you need for Saturday nights out through to a comfy chilled Sunday. The shop also has its own café serving **Jaspers Coffee**, which is roasted in Brading, as well as sandwiches made from homemade bread, and more.



### LOCALLY MADE

Discover a community of talented artists, crafters, artisans and photographers, all inspired by the local landscape and Island life.

**Quay Arts:** The Island's leading gallery showcasing local art and performance. You'll also find a great craft shop stocking jewellery, ceramics, textiles, and one-off pieces by local artists for a unique Island memento or gift.

**Arreton Barns:** In the heart of the countryside, you'll find this great craft village full of independent shops run by local artisans. You'll find leathercraft, glass works, crafts, collectibles, jewellery, photography, art, and more.

### TASTE OF WIGHT

For a unique flavour of the Island, try...

**Mermaid Gin:** You're probably familiar with the beautiful sea blue bottle, but did you know **Mermaid Gin** was created and distilled right here at the **Isle of Wight Distillery** – taking its unique flavour from local sea botanicals?

**Tomatoes:** The "sunshine fruit", The **Tomato Stall's** Island grown tomatoes are the most flavourful and colourful you'll ever taste, thanks to more hours of sunlight intensified by the sea – making for perfect ripening conditions.

**Cheese & Dairy:** Family-run since 1923, **Bridlesford Farm's** herd of Guernsey Cows produces a range of high-quality dairy products, from fresh creams and butters to delicious cheeses – we highly recommend the halloumi. For devoted cheese lovers, see the **Isle of Wight Cheese Company**, which creates handmade cheeses unique to the Island: *Gallybagger* and *Isle of Wight Soft/Blue*.

**Honey & Jam:** A beautiful and serene spot, **Quarr Abbey** is home to a small group of Benedictine Monks who lovingly care for the grounds and grow their own produce for sale – **Quarr Abbey** ale, honey, jam, and chutney.

**Farm Shops:** You'll find the finest Isle of Wight tomatoes, mushrooms, garlic, asparagus, cheese, meat, gin, preserves, and more at farm shops and kitchens across the Wight, perfect for taking a flavour of the Island home. See **The Garlic Farm**, **Bridlesford Farm**, **Harvey Browns** and **Isle of Wight Farm Shop**.



### GIFTS & SOUVENIRS

Ideas for taking a little piece of the Isle of Wight home with you.

**Coloured Sand:** For the ultimate Island souvenir, head for the **Needles Landmark Attraction** and try your hand at "Marmotinto" – the layering of 21 unique coloured sands from the Alum Bay cliff in a glass ornament. A souvenir for tourists since Victorian times, the tradition remains as popular as ever today.

**Red Squirrels:** Our most famous resident, the Red Squirrel, is a muse for many local artists and crafters. From plush toys to intricate line drawings, you'll find cute squirrel-themed gifts across the Island supporting the **IOW Red Squirrel Trust**.

**Garlic:** A trip to the Island wouldn't be complete without sampling our garlic. Head to the **Garlic Farm** to see how it's grown, why it grows so well here, and sample the crop. For something a little special, we recommend a large *Iberian Wight Garlic Bulb* – perfect for Mediterranean dishes – or giant *Elephant Garlic* cloves to take home for family and friends.

**Fossils:** The UK's Dinosaur Capital, over 20 species of dinosaur have been identified as living on the Island in the prehistoric period. There are plenty of 'roar-some' activities to do while here, like looking for dino footprints at Compton Bay, fossil hunting tours, and the **Dinosaur Isle Museum**. So, what better Island keepsake than a fossil? Check out **Island Gems** for tours and the fossil shop.

# VISIT THE ISLE OF WIGHT DISTILLERY

*Home of Mermaid Gin*

COCKTAILS & REFRESHMENTS

RELAXED ATMOSPHERE

MERMAID BAR & SHOP



## FOOD & DRINK



In recent years the Isle of Wight's foodie scene has been creating quite a stir. With its towns and villages remaining largely untouched by big brands and chains, a vibrant scene of independent cafés, restaurants and takeaways has evolved on the Island, resulting in a wealth of choice for places to eat, all offering their own unique spin on tasty food and warm hospitality.



## RESTAURANTS

### Aquitania Restaurant <sup>E</sup>

The Seaview Hotel, High Street,  
Seaview, PO34 5EX  
[seaviewhotel.co.uk/aquitania](http://seaviewhotel.co.uk/aquitania)

The Aquitania is an intimate restaurant located at the front of the Seaview Hotel that combines good food with modern unfussy service. The restaurant pays homage to The Aquitania, which was known as the ship beautiful and has a razzle-dazzle camouflage feature wall alongside images of the jet-set.

### Crepe Lovers Restaurant & Café <sup>E</sup>

21 High Street, Ryde, PO33 2HW  
[crepelovers.uk](http://crepelovers.uk)

Top-rated creperie, serving a huge range of delicious savoury and sweet crepes, waffles, toasties, and other meals. Great milkshakes, smoothies, coffees, ice cream and cocktails. Vegan and gluten-free options are available. Live music and karaoke events for a fun evening. Take away and deliveries on Uber Eats.



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

01983 613653 | [WWW.ISLEOFWIGHTDISTILLERY.COM](http://WWW.ISLEOFWIGHTDISTILLERY.COM)

@IOWDISTILLERY | @MERMAIDGIN

DIVE IN



## Drunken Lobster S

2 Pier St, Ventnor, PO38 1ST  
drunkenlobster.co.uk

Ventnor town's wine, sake and cocktail bar, featuring a Japanese Yakatori grill and private dining room. The Izakaya style bar offers fine wines, sakes, and cocktails alongside a concise Japanese small-plates menu. Drunken Lobster is the new sister restaurant to Smoking Lobster on Ventnor beach and Cowes High Street. New Drunken Lobster opens in Cowes shortly...

## GGS Bar & Restaurant C

Island Riding Centre, Staplers Road,  
Newport, PO30 2NB  
ggsiow.com

Centrally located family restaurant in acres of countryside, large indoor/outdoor seating, all-weather children's play area, outdoor games for all ages, farm animals, and horse-riding. Breakfast, lunch, and dinner serving freshly prepared pasta dishes and sourdough pizzas from 12-24", daily fish and grill specials, light bites, and cooked breakfasts too!

## Harbour Kitchen N

B117 High St, Cowes, PO31 7AX  
theharbourkitchen.co.uk

Family run bistro, with a relaxed, welcoming atmosphere, conveniently located on the pedestrianised High St at the heart of Cowes. Their speciality is burgers, which regularly scoop them awards, and their menu also features a range of other mains and light bites, plus barista coffees and delicious milkshakes.

## Heron E

2 Castle St, Ryde, PO33 2EP  
heroniow.co.uk

Heron are striding confidently into 2023 and presenting you an intricate menu designed to delight your imagination as well as your palate. Furnished with the very best ingredients the Isle of Wight has to offer, their dishes showcase incredible local tastes and flavour.

## New Holmwood Hotel N

BEST WESTERN New Holmwood Hotel,  
Queens Road, Egypt Point,  
Cowes, PO31 8BW  
newholmwoodhotel.co.uk/

The new Holmwood hotel restaurant offers a great choice of freshly cooked cuisine, using locally sourced produce where possible, to be enjoyed with the panoramic views of the Solent and all the ships that sail it. Sea-facing lounge and restaurant and two outdoor terraces with views of the stunning sunset over Gurnard.


## Ocean Deck E

50 High St, Sandown, PO36 8AE  
oceandecksandown.co.uk

One of the best sea views you'll find on the Island, with a panoramic perspective of the beautiful Sandown Bay. The views from this nautical beachside bar/restaurant are complemented by a varied menu of light and larger bites.



 Ocean Deck, Sandown



ESTD 1984


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

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

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

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

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



The Waterfront Bar and Restaurant  
The Beach, Madeira Road, Totland Bay, Isle of Wight, PO39 0BQ  
www.eatbythesea.com



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The Kings Head, Quay Street, Yarmouth, PO41 0PB Open 10am for Brunch - 12 noon for Lunch - 5pm for Dinner

### Prego <sup>N</sup>

28 Castle St, East Cowes, PO32 6RD  
[pregoiow.uk](https://pregoiow.uk)

Contemporary Italian-style restaurant, serving delicious pizza, pasta, paninis and more. Open Monday to Saturday, you'll find Prego right next to the ferry port, so they're ideally located if you're just arriving on the Island, or waiting for your ferry home.

### Smoking Lobster <sup>N S</sup>

127 High St, Cowes, PO31 7AY; Esplanade, Ventnor, PO38 1JT  
[smokinglobster.co.uk](https://smokinglobster.co.uk)

The two Smoking Lobsters on Ventnor seafront, with panoramic sea views, and in Cowes's bustling High Street, have become a firm favourite with locals and visitors alike. Pan-Asian cuisine, using local ingredients where possible such as exquisite local lobster and wild sea bass, complemented by quality sakes and a carefully selected wine list.

### The Best Dressed Crab <sup>E</sup>

Fishermans Wharf, The Embankment, Bembridge, PO35 5NS  
[thebestdressedcrabintown.co.uk](https://thebestdressedcrabintown.co.uk)

Specialising in the freshest and finest crabs and lobsters, caught locally, The Best Dressed Crab is the Island's only floating restaurant – in picturesque Bembridge Harbour. Beautiful local dressed crabs served ready to eat in their shells. Fresh local lobsters and local Bembridge prawns, a local delicacy, when in season.

### The Cow at Tapnell Farm <sup>W</sup>

Newport Road, Yarmouth, PO41 0YJ  
[tapnellfarm.com/eat/the-cow](https://tapnellfarm.com/eat/the-cow)

Situated at the heart of Tapnell Farm in a converted Swiss barn, The Cow champions the finest home-grown and locally sourced produce and is renowned for its delicious award-winning burgers – including gluten-free, vegetarian, and vegan choices. The views across the Island from the mezzanine and terrace are stunning. Dogs welcome. Booking advised.

### The Garlic Farm <sup>C</sup>

Mersley Ln, Newchurch, Sandown PO36 0NR  
[thegarlicfarm.co.uk](https://thegarlicfarm.co.uk)

The UK's home of all things garlic, with award-winning restaurant serving garlic-inspired dishes and a shop full of the farm's garlic and garlicky products with a huge range of local artisan products. Walk around the certified organic farm and see native breed cattle, chickens, peacocks and red squirrels in a beautiful natural setting. Parking and entrance free.



### The Waterfront <sup>W</sup>

The Beach, Madeira Rd, Totland Bay, PO39 0BQ  
[waterfrontiow.com](https://waterfrontiow.com)

Experience some of the finest sunsets in Europe over a drink, or The Waterfront's freshly prepared delicious Mediterranean cuisine. Specialising in seafood and locally caught fish, crab & lobster (when available) local ingredients are used when possible, and daily specials are available. Drinks on offer include Island Brewed Ales and award-winning Isle of Wight Gins and Vodka.

### Waterfront Inn <sup>S</sup>

19 Esplanade, Shanklin, PO37 6BN  
[waterfront-inn.co.uk](https://waterfront-inn.co.uk)

Friendly, family-run pub, restaurant and hotel, right on Shanklin seafront. A free house offering a wide selection of local ales, lagers, wines and cocktails, together with a straightforward, homely menu featuring vegan dishes, gluten free options and seafood in addition to the usual seaside favourites. Seven en-suite bedrooms, four have sea views. Charles Darwin stayed here!

## CAFÉS

Caffé Isola C

85A St James St, Newport, PO30 1LG  
[islandroasted.co.uk/caffe-isola](http://islandroasted.co.uk/caffe-isola)

The home of Island Roasted Coffee, this artisan café and roastery serves speciality coffees, freshly prepared food, and a range of locally sourced products. Visit the first floor of this impressive historic building to watch the coffee roasting process from start to finish!

Comicoffee N C ☕

7-8 The Arcade, Cowes, PO31 7AR  
 59 Pyle St, Newport, PO30 1UL  
[comicoffee.uk](http://comicoffee.uk)

Award-winning hybrid coffee shop and comic bookstore, selling a range of memorabilia alongside delicious barista coffee, shakes, waffles, paninis and more, with plenty of vegan options. Both of their cafés are unique in their own ways, with the Cowes branch handily located right next to the Red Jet terminal in Fountain Yard.

Harbour View Beachside Café E

Embankment Rd, Bembridge, PO35 5NR  
[facebook.com/pages/Harbour-View/](https://facebook.com/pages/Harbour-View/)  
 1195149300614112

Sunset views over Bembridge Harbour, overlooking the sand dunes, with inside seated area and outside tables for al fresco dining. Breakfast, lunches and evenings in July and August; barbecues and themed evenings with locally sourced ingredients when possible. Vegan and veggie options with cakes, including gluten-free, baked daily, plus specials board. Dog friendly.

Quarr Abbey Tea Shop N

Quarr Rd, Ryde, PO33 4ES  
[quarrabbey.org](http://quarrabbey.org)

Cosy and welcoming tea shop selling drinks, sandwiches, and cakes, in the grounds of a spectacular Benedictine monastery. Much of the organic produce is grown on site, and the peaceful garden is a must on warmer days when you can often see red squirrels hopping around on the lawns.

## PUBS

Bargeman's Rest C

Little London Quay, Newport, PO30 5BS  
[bargemansrest.com](http://bargemansrest.com)

Famed for good honest home-cooked food and amazing beer. Pubs do not get more traditional than The Bargeman's Rest. Set on the riverside of the Isle of Wight's county town of Newport this family run, freehouse pub is popular with visitors and locals year round due to tasty home-cooked food.

Compass N

10 High St, Cowes, PO31 7RZ  
[compassbar.co.uk](http://compassbar.co.uk)

Indulge in premium cocktails and wines, with tasty antipasti style food at Compass bar in Cowes. With an extensive range of spirits and mixers, their skilled mixologists will craft the perfect cocktail to tantalize your taste buds. The contemporary surroundings, and upscale atmosphere, make this one a great destination for a drink and bite to eat.

Isle of Wight Distillery E ☕

Pondwell Hill, Ryde, PO33 1PX  
[isleofwightdistillery.com](http://isleofwightdistillery.com)

The Island's first and only distillery, producing Mermaid Gin, Mermaid Pink Gin, Mermaid Zest Gin, Mermaid Salt Vodka, and HMS Victory Navy Strength Gin and Rum, using wild-foraged ingredients. Sample and shop their spirit range, view the stills in action, and enjoy food and drink in The Mermaid Bar with views over picturesque countryside.

New Inn W

Main Road, Shalfleet, PO30 4NS  
[newinnshalfleet.co.uk](http://newinnshalfleet.co.uk)

Uniquely positioned to take advantage of Shalfleet Quay and the breathtaking Newtown Estuary, with easy day-mooring and a gentle stroll to the pub. The New Inn is on the Round the Island Cycle Trail and the Coastal Footpath and offers an exciting menu of 'home cooked from scratch' dining. Newly redesigned garden.

The Boathouse E

Springvale Road, Seaview, PO34 5AW  
[theboathouseiow.co.uk](http://theboathouseiow.co.uk)

The Boathouse, Seaview is an idyllic beachside venue offering quality dining and accommodation by the sea. They pride themselves on superb ales and an extensive wine selection to complement their amazing food. Staff will welcome you to share their unique ambience and beach-side setting. The AA's recent inspection has confirmed them a 4\* Inn for 2023.

The Buddle Smuggler's Inn S

St Catherine's Road, Niton, PO38 2NE  
[characterinns.co.uk/the-buddle-inn](http://characterinns.co.uk/the-buddle-inn)

A sixteenth century cliff top freehouse pub and restaurant set in an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty with fine views across the English Channel, the Buddle Smuggler's Inn is a great base for walkers and nature lovers. Follow the path opposite down to St Catherine's Lighthouse. Real ales and extensive menu featuring homemade dishes and specialities.

The Bugle Coaching Inn W

The Square, Yarmouth, PO41 0NS  
[characterinns.co.uk/the-bugle-coaching-inn](http://characterinns.co.uk/the-bugle-coaching-inn)

A charming sixteenth century freehouse inn right in the very heart of Yarmouth's market square, The Bugle Coaching Inn is a stone's throw from the harbour. With great hospitality, food and real ales, plus seven en-suite rooms with many having exceptional views of the market square. Non-residents welcome to the popular bar and eatery.

The Caulkheads E

42-44 Avenue Road, Sandown, PO36 8AY  
[characterinns.co.uk/the-caulkheads](http://characterinns.co.uk/the-caulkheads)

A popular family pub, very close to the beach in Sandown, The Caulkheads specialises in looking after your little ones, with indoor and outdoor play areas, ice cream factory and silent cinema! They serve homemade stone-baked pizzas alongside traditional dishes and well-kept ales. Huge beer garden and large car park.

**Discover THE SUN INN**  
A HAVEN FOR ADVENTURERS

A 400 year old thatched pub situated in an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty between Brighthstone Down and Compton Bay – we're the perfect pitstop for families, walkers, cyclists and surfers – The Longstone and Mottistone Gardens are nearby and there's plenty of trails to explore on foot or by bike – a warm welcome awaits.

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[www.seaviewhotel.co.uk](http://www.seaviewhotel.co.uk)

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- 01983 531416 -  
[www.newinnshalfleet.co.uk](http://www.newinnshalfleet.co.uk)

### The Cedars <sup>N</sup>

2 Station Road, Wootton, PO33 4QU  
[cedarsisleofwight.co.uk](http://cedarsisleofwight.co.uk)

Newly refurbished cosy village pub just a short walk from the Isle of Wight Steam Railway and 5 minutes' drive from Fishbourne ferry terminal. Serving locally sourced homemade food and great cask ales. Dog and family-friendly with a large garden and play area. Regular live music and monthly quiz night.

### The Crab and Lobster Inn <sup>E</sup>

32 Forelands Field Road,  
Bembridge, PO35 5TR  
[characterinns.co.uk/crabandlobsterinn](http://characterinns.co.uk/crabandlobsterinn)

Tucked away above Bembridge Ledge with its garden overlooking the sea, you can dine with breathtaking views at the Crab and Lobster, or cosily inside its vintage interior. Known for serving locally sourced seafood and Island-reared meats, the inn has five en-suite B&B rooms with many boasting astonishing sea views.

### The Dairyman's Daughter <sup>C</sup>

Arreton Barns, Main Road, Arreton,  
Newport, PO30 3AA  
[dairymansdaughter.co.uk](http://dairymansdaughter.co.uk)

The Dairyman's Daughter is a traditional countryside pub at the heart of Arreton. Offering fabulous real ales and a delicious menu of traditional home cooked food. It's the perfect pit stop after visiting the shops and artisans at Arreton Barns, the Island's largest arts and crafts centre.

### The Fishbourne <sup>N</sup>

111, Fishbourne Lane,  
Fishbourne, PO33 4EU  
[thefishbourne.co.uk](http://thefishbourne.co.uk)

The Fishbourne is in a picturesque, wooded enclave between the towns of Ryde and Newport. Situated close to the Wightlink Fishbourne to Portsmouth ferry terminal, this makes them the ideal entry point to the Island to experience their quality dining. They have five newly refurbished en-suite rooms, each tastefully furnished to provide a relaxing break.

### The Fisherman's Cottage Inn <sup>S</sup>

Shanklin Esplanade, Shanklin, PO37 6BN  
[shanklinchine.co.uk/fishermans-cottage](http://shanklinchine.co.uk/fishermans-cottage)

Nestled beneath Shanklin Chine, the Fisherman's Cottage is the pub on the beach. Open from 2nd February, Thursday - Sunday from 12 noon. From 23rd March it will be open 7 days a week from 10am. Serving home cooked food alongside a great selection of real ales, fine wines and soft drinks.

### The King's Head <sup>W</sup>

Quay Street, Yarmouth, PO41 0PB  
[characterinns.co.uk/the-kings-head](http://characterinns.co.uk/the-kings-head)

With beamed interior and open fires in the winter, The King's Head is nestled in the heart of the picturesque coastal port of Yarmouth, popular with the sailing community. This historic pub, dating from the sixteenth century, is well-known by locals and tourists alike for its great atmosphere and superb food and drink.



The Buddle Inn, Niton



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### The Spyglass Inn

Esplanade, Ventnor, PO38 1JX  
thespyglass.com

The Spyglass Inn has one of the best locations of any pub in the UK. It sits right on the water's edge in Ventnor Bay with spectacular views out across the English Channel. The pub itself is full of character, and its well-deserved reputation is founded on good grub, great beer, and a fantastic atmosphere.

### The Steamer Inn

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

The Steamer Inn prides itself on the freshest food, a great selection of beers and wine, and of course a warm and friendly welcome. Set on Shanklin Esplanade the views are amazing year-round. The pub is open daily from 10am serving breakfast with the main menu available from noon.

### The Sun Inn

Hulverstone, Newport, PO30 4EH  
characterinns.co.uk/the-sun-inn

A stunning sixteenth century thatched freehouse pub set in beautiful countryside close to Compton and Brook beaches on the south-west of the Isle of Wight. The Sun Inn has a huge beer garden and dining areas with outstanding views of rolling countryside to Tennyson Down. The perfect stop-off for walkers, cyclists, nature lovers and beach visitors.

### The Vectis Tavern

103 High St, Cowes, PO31 7AT  
vectistavern.co.uk

Closing at 2am, The Vectis Tavern brings the night life to Cowes, and has featured in The Times Newspaper. Live music, karaoke and DJ entertainment. Sport on 10ft screen. VIP area which includes priority table service, complimentary drink, and comfy sofas. Cocktails & shots, beer and ales, and the Island's first Bottoms Up system. Events and private parties catered for.

## LOCAL PRODUCE FARM SHOPS

### Briddlesford Farm Shop & Bluebells

Briddlesford Rd, Wootton Bridge,  
Ryde, PO33 4RY  
briddlesford.co.uk

Briddlesford's Farm Shop and café, 'Bluebells', showcase world-class dairy products made with the delicious creamy milk from the herd's 150 pedigree Guernsey cows. These include fresh milk, cream, butter, and five cheeses. Enjoy a taste of 'Briddlesford' along with seasonal fresh food from other Isle of Wight Farmers and growers.



**Discover THE CAULKHEADS**  
THE FAMILY'S FAVOURITE PUB

**KIDS EAT FOR £2**  
With the Character Inns App. See website for T&Cs.

**ICE CREAM FACTORY**  
UNLIMITED ADS ICE CREAM

A warm welcome awaits at The Caulkheads, serving up tasty pub classics and fun for all the family. Relax and unwind while the kids enjoy indoor soft play, an outdoor obstacle course, silent cinema and our ice cream factory. Just a stone's throw from the beach and Sandown's top attractions.

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Book Online at: characterinns.co.uk, Character Inns App or call 01983 405080  
The Caulkheads Family Pub, Avenue Road, Sandown, PO36 8AY Open from 12 noon until late, 7 days a week



**The Farm Shop Bembridge** E  
 8 High St, Bembridge, PO35 5SD  
[facebook.com/TheFarmShopandNo.8Cafe](https://www.facebook.com/TheFarmShopandNo.8Cafe)

Well stocked farm shop and café, with seasonal fruit and veg, local produce, and a growing range of wholefood and healthfood products. The café upstairs has a relaxed and friendly atmosphere, with plenty of choice on offer for breakfast and lunches.

**Harvey Browns** C  
 Hale Common, Newport, PO30 3AR  
[harveybrowns.co.uk](https://www.harveybrowns.co.uk)

One of the Island's largest ranges of local, regional and international food and drink produce, with an extensive deli counter, wide selection of breads from local bakers, and their very own butchery. The lakeside café is a great place to stop off for breakfast or lunch, with plenty of locally sourced seasonal treats.

**The Rock Shop** S E  
 91-93 High Street, Shanklin, PO37 6NR  
 1 High Street, Sandown, PO36 8LX  
[therockshopiow.co.uk](https://www.therockshopiow.co.uk)

A unique shop, not to be missed when on holiday. This family-run business celebrates its 75th anniversary this year with rock, sweets, liquorice, chutneys and hand-made confectionery, fudges and their Isle of Wight-shaped shortbread. Watch their in-store video to see how the rock was originally made on the premises.



Harvey Browns, Arreton

## TAKEAWAYS

**Corries Cabin** N   
 17 Shooters Hill, Cowes, PO31 7BG  
[facebook.com/CorriesCowes](https://www.facebook.com/CorriesCowes)

One of the Isle of Wight's finest Fish & Chip shops, which regularly scoops an award for "Best Fish & Chips". Located just off Cowes High St, you'll occasionally find seasonal specials on their menu – they also run a regular gluten-free night for anyone with an intolerance.

**Crave** S  
 5 Spring Hill, Ventnor, PO38 1PE  
[craveicecream.co.uk](https://www.craveicecream.co.uk)

Easily some of the finest looking (and tasting) ice creams you'll find on the Island. Check out their regularly changing menu, and you'll know you need to get involved. Special themed flavours appear throughout the season, and they can even cater for some requests with advanced notice!

# ASPIRE RYDE

Every year, Red Funnel customers and staff select a new charity to focus our fundraising efforts on. This year we're delighted to be working with the fantastic **Aspire Ryde**

**Aspire** is a local charity based in Ryde and was formed eight years ago. Initially, **Aspire** was created to repurpose a redundant church building for community use. Since then, the charity has grown considerably and is a vital hub that supports the community in several ways, particularly providing spaces and groups in which people can meet, grow and enhance their friendships and social networks.



The original building now incorporates a large café and soft play, a creative hub with recording and rehearsal studios, commercial kitchens serving food to the community and even an escape room, 'The Lost Crypt', which is not only great fun but generates income for other projects.

**Aspire** moved into a second building in 2019 providing the community with a shop, bike and paint recycling projects and numerous groups both in its buildings and out in the wider community. Future plans see this second property developed to include supported housing.



In the eight years **Aspire** has been in existence it has grown from small beginnings to now offering services across the island and is working in partnership with the Isle of Wight Council and other voluntary sector partners to ensure that the whole Island community is supported.

**Aspire's** ethos is to bring the whole community together to support each other and its work is of benefit to those experiencing poor mental or physical health, people who are isolated or lonely and those living on low incomes. Their free food project, community meals and easy to access groups are a lifeline to many and are seeing increasing demands in the current cost of living crisis.

You can support Aspire and enable them to continue helping the local island community by donating when making a ferry booking online or by visiting [redfunnel.co.uk/coty](https://www.redfunnel.co.uk/coty). Thank you for your generosity.



# DOG FRIENDLY *guide*



It really is a pooch's paradise on the Isle of Wight! Forget the stress of leaving your canine companion behind and treat them to their very own holiday, with a whole new world of sights (and smells!) for them to discover. You'll be spoilt for choice with walking trails, ranging from rolling downs and pretty woodlands to stretches of sandy coastline, with calm waters that are ideal for letting your four-legged friend splash in the surf.

## DOGGIE DAYS OUT

The Isle of Wight is renowned for its list of attractions, and a whole host of them welcome happy hounds. The **IW Steam Railway** is one of the highlights, where you can step back in time and take your dog for a steam train ride! If you're into your history, **Fort Victoria Country Park** in Yarmouth boasts an 19th century gun battery with walks offering cross-Solent views, or you can explore the grounds of medieval **Carisbrooke Castle** in the centre of the Island. Head to **Isle of Wight Donkey Sanctuary** in Yarmouth with free admission and the chance for your dog to make some furry friends, or to **Godshill Model Village** for plenty of hilarious "giant dog" photo opportunities.

## WALKS

After some inspiration? Here are some ideas to get you out and about – complete with a paw-fect pitstop for refreshments:

**River Yar Loop & Off The Rails** – follow the old railway path through to Freshwater for a scenic route with a gentle incline, making Off The Rails your start and end point.

**St Catherine's Oratory & The Buddle Inn** – discover the former 14th century lighthouse known locally as 'the Pepperpot' before meandering through the former smugglers' village of Niton on your way to the Buddle Inn.

**Brighstone Forest & Sun Inn/Crown Inn** – head up onto Brighstone Down to discover a vast area of trees and trails. Various walking routes drop down into nearby villages to access traditional country pubs such as the Sun Inn at Hulverstone, and The Crown at Shorwell.

These suggestions are by no means exhaustive, so when planning your trip, make sure to check online or directly with the venue to see if your dog can join you!



## BEST BEACHES

The Island has over 25 beaches in total, but some limit access for dogs during the main season. Year-round restriction-free beaches include Yaverland Beach, with its endless golden sand is perfect for building sandcastles or digging holes – just make sure to head left from the car park. Luccombe Bay, nestled in the cliffs by Shanklin, is a lesser-known spot where your dog can scamper around or even sniff out a secret cave. Venture beyond grassy sand dunes to uncover the unspoilt St Helens Beach – the main beach is restricted for dogs in the summer, but everything to the left of the old church is fine, and the "Duver" to the rear of the beach is great for walks. Seagrove Beach near Seaview is a picturesque, secluded spot at low tide with smooth sand and crystal-clear waters.

## DOG-FRIENDLY DINING

There are loads of places you can dine in with your dog, perfect for when you want to go out for a meal with all the family! **Character Inns** have charming dog-friendly pubs dotted throughout the Island – great for cosying up by a roaring fire after a long walk. **The Lifeboat** in East Cowes is highly recommended and offers views of the Medina, while across the river **The Coast Bar & Dining Room** in Cowes serves up delicious food in contemporary surrounding. **Off The Rails** in Yarmouth's former railway station also boasts a mouth-watering menu, even featuring a selection of delectable doggy meals - *bone appetit!*

## GETTING HERE



Travelling with Red Funnel is hassle-free – there's no need to buy a ticket for your dog, and the holiday begins the moment you step inside the dedicated pet lounge onboard the ferry. Comfortable seating, fresh water, and tasty treats are available, as is the option to stretch your legs on the outside decks, letting your pup feel the wind in their ears as you both take in the views.

# One Breathtaking Location



Luccombehall.co.uk Winner of Best Hotel Experience on the Isle of Wight

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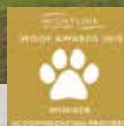
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- Grand View Restaurant
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- Pool Table, Air Hockey, Table Football, Basketball Game, Table Tennis
- Electric Charging Point
- Dog-friendly Hotel

**We can't wait to welcome you!**

**Luccombe Hall Hotel** Luccombe Road Shanklin PO37 6RL  
**Luccombe Manor** Popham Road Shanklin PO37 6RG



# ACCOMMODATION

The Isle of Wight has plenty of choice when it comes to accommodation, with a wide range on offer to suit all budgets and styles of traveller. Whether you're hunting for family-friendly holiday parks, hotels with sea views, a traditional B&B experience, or a unique glamping retreat, you'll find loads of options available at locations across the Island.

## HOTELS

### Albert Cottage

York Avenue, East Cowes, PO32 6BD  
albertcottagehotel.com

Once the home of Princess Beatrice, this beautiful Grade II Listed Cottage backs on to Osborne House and is surrounded by 2 acres of beautiful gardens. The award-winning hotel offers charming en-suite rooms and indulgent food at the restaurant all while being just a short walk from Queen Victoria's private Osborne bay.

### Luccombe Hotel

Luccombe Road, Shanklin, PO37 6RL  
luccombehall.co.uk

Fall asleep to the sounds of the waves and wake up to the sunrise from the Isle of Wight's award winning and most beautifully located clifftop hotel. Savour delicious meals in the Grand View Restaurant and be as active or relaxed as you please with a wide range of indoor and outdoor leisure facilities.

### New Holmwood Hotel

BEST WESTERN New Holmwood Hotel,  
Queens Road, Egypt Point,  
Cowes, PO31 8BW  
newholmwoodhotel.co.uk

With the enchanting town of Cowes only a 15-minute walk along the waterfront, the New Holmwood Hotel is the perfect base for exploring the beautiful Isle of Wight. Offering their clientele the warmest of welcomes, the New Holmwood has 26 en-suite rooms, some with sea views, Freeview TV, Sky Sports 1 & 2 and free Wi-Fi.

### The Royal Hotel

Belgrave Road, Ventnor, PO38 1JJ  
royalhoteliow.co.uk

Steeped in history and known for its elegance and charm, The Royal delivers a high standard of service, luxury rooms with fantastic views, and delicious food in the award-winning restaurant. Located in the Victorian seaside town of Ventnor, you are just minutes from the beach and in a good spot for exploring the Island.



# Island Holiday Homes

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and save up to 20%\*  
on your next holiday  
on the Isle of Wight**

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

## The Seaview Hotel E

High Street, Seaview, PO34 5EX  
[seaviewhotel.co.uk](http://seaviewhotel.co.uk)

The Seaview Hotel is one of the oldest hotels on the Island. Built in the early 19th century, it has been welcoming guests for hundreds of years. Located in the north-east of the Isle of Wight in the picturesque sailing village of Seaview that neighbours the Historic Victorian town of Ryde.

## B&Bs

### The Clifton S

1 Queens Road, Shanklin, PO37 6AN  
[thecliftonshanklin.co.uk](http://thecliftonshanklin.co.uk)

An ideal hideaway for those in search of tranquillity, with incredible cliff top views, award-winning gardens and comfortable rooms. Perfectly located in Shanklin, a popular destination that offers a beautiful beach with nearby treasures such as Shanklin Old Village and Shanklin Chine.

### The Boathouse E

Springvale Road, Seaview, PO34 5AW  
[theboathouseiow.co.uk](http://theboathouseiow.co.uk)

The perfect beachside place to stay located in the quirky village of Seaview. The Boathouse offers beautifully presented seaside-themed rooms and a mouth-watering breakfast menu for the mornings. Sit out on the patio or take a stroll along the front and be mesmerised by the calming sea views.

## Grange Bank House S U

Grange Road, Shanklin, PO37 6NN  
[grangebank.co.uk](http://grangebank.co.uk)

Ideally located in the heart of Shanklin Old Village is the award-winning Grange Bank House, offering a comfortable stay and very warm welcome. Start each day with a delicious breakfast before heading off to explore the picturesque thatched cottages in the Old Village with Shanklin Chine and beach just a short walk away.

### The St Leonards Guest House S U

22 Queens Road, Shanklin, PO37 6AW  
[thestleonards.co.uk](http://thestleonards.co.uk)

Nestled in the seaside resort of Shanklin, this guest house offers a warm welcome, comfortable surroundings and delicious breakfast. Head out to explore Shanklin Chine, beach and old Village nearby or go further afield to discover more of the Island, knowing you have a relaxing and inviting base to return to night after night.

### The Chequers Inn C U

Rookley, Ventnor, PO38 3NZ  
[chequersinn-iow.co.uk](http://chequersinn-iow.co.uk)

This award-winning B&B is surrounded by rolling countryside and is ideally located for walkers and hikers looking for non-stop breathtaking views. Three beautifully decorated en-suite rooms with far-reaching views across the fields sit above the local family pub serving delicious food and a mouth-watering breakfast.



The Boathouse, Seaview

## Grange Farm

Grange Farm, Brightstone Bay, PO30 4DA



Come & stay at this beautiful farm on the stunning south west coast - the perfect base for cycling, walking and fishing.

Choose from either centrally heated static caravans, camping pods or converted barns. Family-run with unusual, friendly, farm animals

Campsite | 01983 740296  
grangefarmholidays.com

## Borthwoodcottages



Originally a milking parlour rebuilt to form three individual cottages Elm, Oak and Rose set in a lovely tranquil location of outstanding natural beauty. The spacious and airy cottages are the perfect base for exploring the Island, walking, cycling or just relaxing. Each cottage has two parking spaces. Barbecue facilities and outdoor seating also come as standard. Nearby is Laurel a lovely large stand alone cottage although not graded is of similar design. All cottages are accessible to guests with disabilities.

Sandown Isle of Wight PO36 0HH  
tel 01983 403967  
anne@borthwoodcottages.co.uk  
www.borthwoodcottages.co.uk



📍 Borthwood Cottages, Sandown

## COTTAGES

### Borthwood Cottages <sup>E</sup>

Borthwood Lane, Sandown, PO36 0HH  
borthwoodcottages.co.uk

Borthwood Cottages offers a range of spacious and relaxing self-catering cottages in a picturesque location, ideally located just 2 miles from Sandown and Shanklin. Tucked away in Borthwood, you can explore the nearby National Trust Bluebell Meadow and even meet the resident highland cows.

### Garlic Farm Cottages <sup>C</sup>

Mersley Lane, Sandown, PO36 0NR  
thegarlicfarm.co.uk

Pick from seven beautifully converted cottages full of rustic charm and look forward to a comfortable and characterful stay. As a guest you'll also have access to tennis courts, a football pitch and games room as well as enjoying delicious meals at the renowned Garlic Farm Restaurant.

### Island Holiday Homes

37 Regent Street, Shanklin, PO37 7AF  
island-holiday-homes.net

Hand-picked collection of great value, character, cosy cottages and well-equipped family-friendly homes with a wide range of quality touches and amenities. Choose a romantic weekend break, some calm in the country, or an exciting seaside escape with the family — they are all at Island Holiday Homes.

### Nettlecombe Farm <sup>S</sup>

Nettlecombe Lane, Whitwell, Ventnor, PO38 2AF  
nettlecombefarm.co.uk

Nestled in rolling countryside on a working farm you'll really be able to get back to nature if you stay in one of the nine award-winning, dog-friendly cottages. Why not try your hand at coarse fishing on one of the three lakes or try a farm feeding experience? All available at the family-favourite Nettlecombe Farm.

## APARTMENTS

### Dove Court Holiday Apartments <sup>S</sup>

2 Crescent Road, Shanklin, PO37 6DH  
vectisholidayhomes.co.uk

Five spacious one and two-bedroom deluxe holiday apartments for couples and families, on a large corner plot, enjoying an open aspect in all directions, with views of the charming seaside town of Shanklin to the downs. Each apartment has its own terrace, allocated parking, free WIFI, and they offer a discount on your ferry travel.

### Highlands <sup>S</sup>

Priory Road, Shanklin, PO37 6RE  
shanklinholidayhomes.co.uk

Formerly a cliff top Victorian residence, this wonderfully restored manor house has been renovated into five fantastic holiday apartments, each one owning quirky features of the past. With impressive views across Shanklin and a prime location for exploring. These self-catering apartments are the perfect home away from home.

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## HOLIDAY PARKS

### Cheverton Copse

Scotchells Brook Lane, Sandown, PO36 0JP  
[chevertoncopse.co.uk](https://chevertoncopse.co.uk)

Hidden away among unspoilt countryside is the family-run Cheverton Copse Holiday Park offering a traditional caravan holiday. Kids will love the three outdoor play parks, private games field, clubhouse & games room. You'll be in the perfect location for accessing cycle paths and walking trails and positioned nicely between a choice of Sandown or Shanklin Beach.

### St Helens Holiday Resort

Field Lane, St Helens, Ryde, PO33 1UX  
[awayresorts.co.uk](https://awayresorts.co.uk)

Let pure tranquillity and relaxation just wash over you, as you sink into your hot tub at this coastal Island retreat. Or if you want to explore further afield, it is perfectly located to experience the true essence of the Isle of Wight.

### The Bay Colwell Holiday Resort

Fort Warden Road, Freshwater, Totland Bay, PO39 0DA  
[awayresorts.co.uk](https://awayresorts.co.uk)

A relaxing retreat: sink into your hot tub, head to The Bayside Lounge for a coffee, or head to the beach which is right on your doorstep. Or if you want to explore further afield, The Bay Colwell Holiday Resort is perfectly located to experience the true essence of the Isle of Wight.

### The Lakes Rookley Holiday Resort

Main Road, Rookley, Ventnor, PO38 3LU  
[awayresorts.co.uk](https://awayresorts.co.uk)


A leafy lakeside hideaway, nestled in the countryside with plenty to do; from heading to the lake for some water sports, sinking into your private hot tub or heading to the restaurant for your favourite tipple and a bite to eat. Or head out to explore – you're a 20-minute drive from some of the island's best beaches.

### The Orchards

Main Rd, Newbridge, Yarmouth, PO41 0TS  
[orchardsholidaypark.co.uk](https://orchardsholidaypark.co.uk)

Nestled in the rolling countryside with stunning panoramic views over an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and the Solent, The Orchards is the ideal spot to make memories. Among the old apple orchards in fifteen acres of tranquil parkland, with indoor and outdoor swimming pools; beaches are just a 10-minute drive away.



 The Lakes Rookley Holiday Resort




Waverley Park is within walking distance of mainland ferry connections, local bus routes and Osborne House, Queen Victoria's favourite home. The internationally renowned yachting centre of Cowes with its many shops, pubs, cafes and restaurants is a comfortable stroll away via a chain bridge. A gate at the foot of the park gives access to the unspoilt esplanade, popular for fishing, sailing, crabbing and water sports. Bar and restaurant available from 6pm in high season.

- NIGHTLY ENTERTAINMENT • CHILDRENS PLAY AREA
- OUTDOOR POOL • SHOWERS AND WASHROOMS

51 Old road, East Cowes, IOW PO32 6AW  
[www.waverleypark.co.uk](http://www.waverleypark.co.uk) Tel 01983 293452



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[www.tapnellfarm.com/rf](http://www.tapnellfarm.com/rf)  

## Waverley Park

51 Old Rd, East Cowes, PO32 6AW  
[waverleypark.co.uk](http://waverleypark.co.uk)

Within walking distance of mainland ferry connections, local bus routes and Osborne House, Waverley Park Holiday Centre is also perfect for exploring the yachting centre of Cowes. The unspoilt esplanade, popular for fishing, sailing, crabbing, and water sports is through a gate from the foot of the park. Bar and restaurant open May to September.

## Whitecliff Bay Holiday Park

Hillway Road, Bembridge, PO35 5PL  
[awayresorts.co.uk](http://awayresorts.co.uk)

Prepare for a true seaside holiday with your buckets and spades and a picnic on the beach. Take a dip in the pool, play some crazy golf or enjoy some evening entertainment. With so much to do, you might not have the time to explore the delights that the rest of the island has to offer.

## CAMPING

## Appuldurcombe Gardens

Wroxall, Ventnor, PO38 3EP  
[appuldurcombegardens.co.uk](http://appuldurcombegardens.co.uk)

This tranquil, relaxed and peacefully idyllic family-run holiday park is located within the small village of Wroxall, situated within 14 acres of lush, secluded grounds, surrounded by open countryside, only a few minutes by car to the glorious beaches of Shanklin, Sandown and Ventnor. Appuldurcombe welcomes tents, motorhomes, campers and caravans, offering a variety of pitches.

## Whitefield Forest Touring Park

Brading Road, Brading, Ryde, PO33 1QJ  
[whitefieldforest.co.uk](http://whitefieldforest.co.uk)

Escape to the woodland for a relaxed and tranquil stay at this award-winning family run touring park. You can bring your caravan, motorhome or tent and set up home among the Whitefield woodland and spend your days exploring the Island's towns, attractions and beaches, or simply sit and watch the red squirrels pass by.

## Whitecliff Bay Holiday Park





Tapnell Farm Holidays

## GLAMPING & UNIQUE

### Glamping the Wight Way

Off Copse Lane, Freshwater, PO40 9DE  
[glampingthewightway.co.uk](http://glampingthewightway.co.uk)

Go off-grid in style and stay in a luxury Safari Tent situated in a quiet meadow overlooking the River Yar. Surrounded by stunning countryside and within walking distance of the local pub, you are perfectly located for walking trails and visits to the nearby towns and beaches of Freshwater and Yarmouth.

### Grange Farm Holidays

Brighstone Bay, Military Road,  
Brighstone, PO30 4DA  
[grangefarmcamping.co.uk](http://grangefarmcamping.co.uk)

A family-run site in a stunning southwest coastal location, just a short walk down to the sea, Grange Farm has animals including alpacas, pigs, goats and chickens. Grass pitches for tents, hard standing pitches, and power hook-ups for caravans and motorhomes and camping pods. Fully furnished and centrally heated static caravans and self-catering cottages.

### Poem 25

Embankment Road, Bembridge, PO35 5NR  
[wightcoastholidays.com](http://wightcoastholidays.com)

Beautifully unique and positioned at Bembridge Harbour, guests of all ages will love to explore and sleep in this spacious and modern floating home. Just a short walk from the award-winning village of Bembridge where you'll enjoy the local pubs, restaurants and shops. Not to mention a pick of three picturesque beaches.

### Tapnell Farm Holiday Destination

Newport Road, Yarmouth, PO41 0YJ  
[tapnellfarm.com](http://tapnellfarm.com)

Set in beautiful unspoilt countryside with stunning sea views, Tapnell Farm is home to a unique collection of accommodation, from luxury glamping to farm cottages and the Manor. With space to roam, attractions and award-winning restaurant onsite, plus beaches nearby, it's the perfect farm stay for an adventurous family holiday, relaxing get-together, or romantic hideaway.

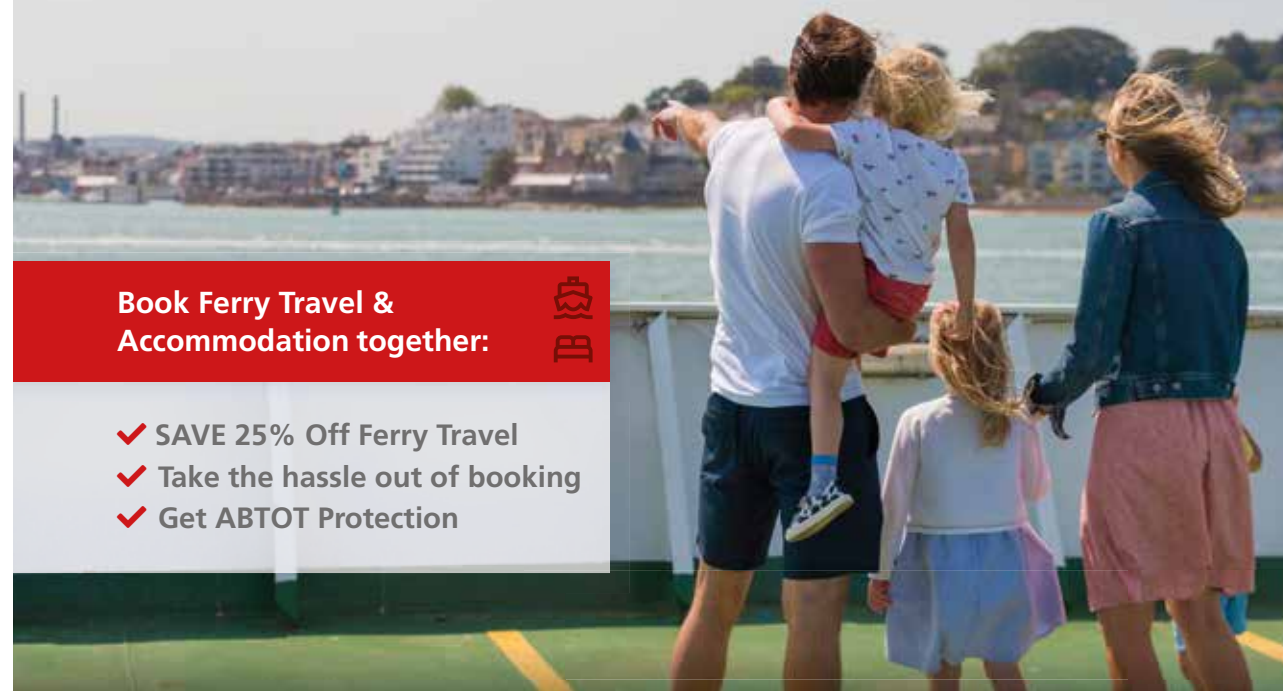
# ISLE OF WIGHT HOLIDAYS

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\*Please note that a £5 handling fee applies to telephone bookings.



Spending his time exploring the Island's many beaches, caves, forests, and countryside, Go Pro Ambassador & Travel Creator The Cam of Sam discovered his talent for outdoor photography through his love for the Isle of Wight's unique and varied landscape. Read on for some of Sam's top spots for photography worthy of your grid!

“The Island is a great place to grow up, with BBQs on the beach all summer long, water sports on your doorstep, and natural beauty at every turn. When the wind and waves were down, my friends and I would venture out and explore every corner of the Island, looking for places to build dens and discovering the best skate spots – which saw us stumbling upon the most spectacular views and hidden gems the Island has to offer.

This appreciation for my home really drove my passion for photography. I first started taking photos when I was learning to surf, but soon started capturing all my adventures across the Island. A plethora of beaches, sea caves, and epic landscapes make for the perfect backdrop, complemented by wonderful weather and longer hours of sunlight. The Isle of Wight is a mecca for all types of photography, whether you're shooting with a phone, Go Pro, or camera.

Here are some of my favourite places to photograph around the Island...”



I call it Mermaid Bay, and it's accessible only via kayak or paddleboard but viewable from the cliff tops. This is a perfect little beach just by Freshwater Bay. Private, south facing, and catching sun all day long makes it a perfect shooting spot, but watch out for the tide and the conditions so you don't get stuck!



A wonderful beach with a whole range of features such as rock pools, groynes, and Bembridge Lifeboat Station. Get shots of the sea fort from here and see a wealth of wildlife living in the rocks and seaweed. It can also make for some very interesting underwater shots when the water is clear, and the pools make for great reflections at low tide.



The coastal path along to Freshwater Bay offers 360-degree views, creating amazing backdrops for portraits, and wonderful panoramas of the cliff tops. The winding cliff edges and sea stacks create great depth for wide-angle shots too, acting as midground elements to complement the horizon in the background.



The Needles is a must-visit location, boasting huge cliffs and a unique line of sea stacks punctuated by its iconic lighthouse. This is a great spot for big impact shots using the big cliff drop-offs, amazing for sunset shots with lots of nautical traffic, and the Needles themselves act as an interesting background element whether you're shooting from the cliff tops or from the water.



Seagrove Bay, Seaview



Seagrove Bay is a great spot for a shoot in the water with lovely water clarity in the right conditions, and lots of boats moored up for points of interest. However, there's limited parking, so prepare to walk a little.



Borthwood Copse, Sandown



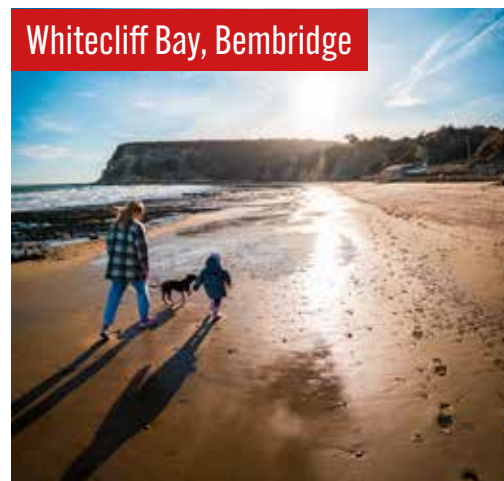
Borthwood Copse is perfect for an autumn shoot. With tall trees and large clearings, the sunshine pours through, casting some wonderful light on your subject. Perfect for nature walk vibes all year round.



Hidden Caves, Freshwater



This one is a bit of a hidden gem. Located near Freshwater Bay, you'll find a lovely little cave that perfectly frames the view out to the cliffs. If you time it right, you'll get a little rock pool just like this one you can swim in, but be wary of the tide and the conditions, and don't attempt unless you're confident in water.



Whitecliff Bay, Bembridge



Whitecliff Bay is a beautiful beach to visit all year round. A long curving beach with Culver Cliff in the background, it makes for a very picturesque spot to shoot. During the summer it's often full of boats and paddleboarders, so make sure to use those features as background elements, and in winter the low sun will cast lovely long shadows which can be used to great effect!

FOR MORE IMAGES AND TO FOLLOW SAM ON HIS ADVENTURES: @TheCamofSam

# RED FUNNEL

## recommends



**LEWIS GRANT**  
F&B Retail Operations Manager

### What do you love about the Isle of Wight?

I've lived on the Island all my life, and to me, the Island is timeless. Our quaint towns and villages retain many of their historical features, and provide idyllic locations for socialising, browsing, and escaping the norm. The outstanding areas of natural beauty are also eternal – I love to explore hidden locations, both inland and coastal, and still find places I've never been!

### Where's your favourite place to visit?

This is tricky. I'd have to say anywhere in the West Wight, especially Colwell, Totland, and Freshwater Bay – and of course, The Needles! The journey to that side of the Island is wonderful, and you can take in the breath-taking views of the surroundings as you travel.

### What beach do you visit the most?

Without a doubt, Compton! There's lots of space to relax by the sea, and you get a feeling of seclusion and "being away from it all". The backdrop to the beach is stunning, especially as the sun sets and the glow reflects off the cliffs. The walk between Hanover Point and Brook Chine is also perfect for dog walks with my two Jack Russells!

### If you could recommend one thing to a visitor, what would it be?

Definitely the open-top Breezer buses. These give people the most amazing opportunity to see the best parts of the Island, with panoramic views, and connections to attractions and historic places of interest such as The Needles Batteries, Alum Bay, Dinosaur Isle, and Wildheart Animal Sanctuary.

### What's it like sailing visitors to the Island?

Our ferry is the start of visitors' holidays to the Island, and I really enjoy answering their questions and recommending things to do and places to eat. At the halfway point of the journey, the look on people's faces as the Island comes into view is always a delight.

For more Red Funnel Recommendations follow our social channels:

[f Red Funnel Isle of Wight Ferry](#)  
[@RedFunnelFerry](#)  
[@RedFunnelFerry](#)  
[@redfunnelferry](#)



# SIGHTS OUT AT SEA

The ferry ride across to the Isle of Wight is the start of everyone's holiday. And you don't have to wait until you arrive to start sightseeing! Here are just some of the things to keep an eye out for as you make the journey over to the Island from Southampton:

## THE ROYAL PIER PAVILION

This one's easy to spot as you arrive at our Southampton ferry terminal, particularly at night when it's lit up in purple lights! When Red Funnel was first formed, we ran a fleet of paddle steamers that operated excursions to destinations around the Island, and along the south coast. These departed from "Royal Pier", and the impressive pavilion building is still in use as a restaurant.



## OCEAN CRUISE TERMINAL

This striking landmark on Southampton's waterfront is where you'll find some of the world's largest cruise ships docking. See if you can spot some of the famous Cunard and P&O Cruises vessels as you depart for the Island, and if you're travelling in the late afternoon/early evening you might even get to sail alongside them as they depart Southampton for their global destinations.



## HYTHE PIER

The Hythe pier is difficult to miss, as at 640 metres in length, it's the 7th longest in Britain. It is also the home of the world's oldest working pier train, which links the village of Hythe and its marina to a small ferry that runs a regular service to the City of Southampton.



## NETLEY CHAPEL

This striking chapel, on the eastern side of the river, is all that now remains of one of Britain's first purpose-built hospitals. Constructed for veterans of the Crimean War, the original 220-acre site was the largest of its time but was demolished after a fire in 1966. The site is now open to the public as part of Royal Victoria Country Park.



## COWES CASTLE / ROYAL YACHT SQUADRON

As you approach the Island and arrive at Cowes Harbour, you'll see another of Henry VIII's forts, Cowes Castle. The castle is now home and clubhouse to the Royal Yacht Squadron, whose Club organises yacht racing as a principal feature of the now globally famous Cowes Week regatta. Look carefully at the front and you might see the cannons that are used for starting races.



## OTHER RED FUNNEL FERRIES

Southampton's waters and the Solent are always busy with shipping movements, not least with our very own Red Funnel fleet. At peak time we will often have our three vehicle ferries, two Hi-Speed passenger ferries, and our freight ferry all out on the water – so watch out for them, and don't forget to give our other passengers and crew a customary wave!



## CALSHOT CASTLE

The picturesque Calshot Castle was originally built by Henry VIII to defend the entrance to Southampton waters. As our ferry reaches the Solent, the castle is easily visible at the end of Calshot Spit, which extends from the west into the main waters, with Calshot beach and its long row of beach huts visible further along.



## COLUMBINE BUILDING

The striking Columbine building on the East Cowes waterfront has been a central point of Island industry for many years. Starting with Saunders Roe, which was involved in everything from sea planes, hovercrafts, and rockets, it is currently home to Wight Shipyard, which built two of Red Funnel's Red Jet fleet. When you spot the iconic Union Jack doors, you've arrived on the Island!

# GETTING TO THE ISLE OF WIGHT



Red Funnel's 1-hour vehicle ferry service operates 365 days a year between Southampton and East Cowes — the northern tip of the Isle of Wight.

## TRAVELLING WITH RED FUNNEL FERRIES

Our three accessible vehicle ferries run throughout the day (and night!) with more frequent sailings during the main holiday season — between April and October. We'd always advise to book ahead for the best rates, especially if you're planning on visiting during the peak season.

If you fancy a bite, or even a pint, we serve a range of hot meals, snacks, and refreshments on all three vehicle ferries, with a fully licensed bar on board. Don't forget to take in the views from the sundeck, and if you're travelling with pets, we have a dedicated lounge for your furry friends.

## HANDY POSTCODES

### Southampton:

Red Funnel Ferry Terminal: SO14 2AR  
Red Jet Hi-Speed (foot passenger only)  
Terminal: SO14 2AQ

### Isle of Wight:

Red Funnel Ferry Terminal, East Cowes: PO32 6RA  
Red Jet Hi-Speed (foot passenger only)  
Terminal, West Cowes: PO31 7AR

## TRAVELLING OVER ON FOOT?

You can also get to the Island via hi-speed catamaran, on the Red Jet — just a swift 30-minute crossing from Southampton to West Cowes.



## SAIL IN STYLE

On the Vehicle Ferry you can upgrade to the relaxing Signature Lounge for a more adult-oriented atmosphere, with complimentary drinks and snacks included in the cost. See [redfunnel.co.uk/signature](https://redfunnel.co.uk/signature)

For timetables, fares, and to book your ferry travel go to: [redfunnel.co.uk](https://redfunnel.co.uk)

# USEFUL INFORMATION

## BUSES:

The Island's bus provider is Southern Vectis. These buses travel to all corners of the Island, with stops right at, or very near, the ferry terminals. They offer a variety of ticket types including group and period fares. There are two major bus stations on the Island – in Newport and Ryde. The Newport bus station is the bigger of the two and has a useful travel shop. Paying for the bus is easy; the buses accept cash and contactless payments via card or mobile phone. For some of the best views on the Island, check out the open top buses on the Needles & Downs Breezer tours. [islandbuses.info](https://islandbuses.info)

## CARS:

Most of the Island is made up of narrow country roads (all accompanied by amazing views!) so for safety and enjoyment, take it easy when driving them. Whilst not prohibitive, the narrow roads are a challenge for larger vehicles, so it is highly advisable to plan your arrival and departure from the Island during daylight hours if you're bringing a motorhome or towing a caravan. You will often encounter horse riders and cyclists on the Island's roads.

## ACCESSIBILITY:

For wheelchair users or people with additional needs who are travelling to the Island you can find out more about accessible travel, places to stay, visit and eat by heading to [isleaccess.co.uk](https://isleaccess.co.uk), a user-led charity committed to encouraging and promoting greater accessibility and inclusion on the Isle of Wight for people with disabilities.

## TRAINS:

The Island's main train line operates between Ryde and Shanklin. The train stops at: Ryde Pier head, Ryde Esplanade (where the bus station is), Ryde St John's Road, Smallbrook Junction (connecting with Isle of Wight Steam Railway), Brading, Sandown, Lake and Shanklin. Tickets for the Island Line can be purchased online or via ticket machines at the stations. For times and more information, see [southwesternrailway.com/IslandLine](https://southwesternrailway.com/IslandLine)

## TAXIS:

The Island has several taxi services, which tend to operate locally around the bigger towns and areas. There's no Uber network on the Island at the time of writing, but there is a recently launched app called **Go Taxi**, which looks to offer a similar service. It's crucial to book taxis in advance on the Island, as they get very busy, especially when demand increases at peak visitor season. The Island also has several water taxi terminals, with popular departures from Cowes, Bembridge and Yarmouth.

## ELECTRIC TRAVEL:

There are lots of places to hire bicycles, including e-bikes, through providers such as [wightcyclehire.co.uk](https://wightcyclehire.co.uk). You'll also find e-scooters and e-bikes available to hire in some of the main towns, which are available through the **Beryl** app. Driving an electric vehicle? You'll find several charging points around the Island. For charge point locations, visit [iow.gov.uk](https://iow.gov.uk).

## EMERGENCY CONTACTS:

### Hospital (Urgent Treatment Centre and A&E):

Address: St Mary's Hospital, Parkhurst Road, Newport, Isle of Wight, PO30 5TG Tel: **01983 822099**

**Dentist:** Call NHS 111 if you have a dental emergency and they will advise on the next steps and nearest dental practice.

**Out of Hours Isle of Wight Emergency Vet** Tel: **01983 550135**

# WIN A HOLIDAY TO THE ISLE OF WIGHT



We've teamed up with Orchards Holiday Park to offer you the chance to win a 7-night family stay on the Isle of Wight in 2024.

## THE PRIZE

Bring the family and look forward to a week of fun in Opal or Cameo, one of two spacious, family-friendly caravans for up to 6 people at Orchards Holiday Park. Enjoy two swimming pools, two playparks and the beautiful countryside that's waiting to be explored.

Return vehicle ferry travel from Southampton with a car and up to 6 passengers.



## HOW TO ENTER:

Simply head to [redfunnel.co.uk/iowguidecomp](https://redfunnel.co.uk/iowguidecomp) and complete the form to be entered into the prize draw. **Closing date is 31 December 2023.**



T&Cs: This prize is subject to availability, and all elements of the prize must be redeemed within one month of closing date. The prize is valid throughout 2024 with no date restrictions, however arrival date must be on a Friday or Saturday and ferry travel must be for the same days as holiday. Prize has no cash alternative. Red Funnel Ferries reserves the right to substitute the prize with another prize at its discretion. Entry is free, and open to residents of the UK aged over 18. Employees of Orchards Holiday Park, Red Funnel Ferries and their family members are not eligible to win. Only one entry per person. The first entry drawn after the closing date will win, and the winner will be notified within 28 days. If our winner fails to respond after 3 days, a new winner will be drawn.

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