

4-Night Isle of Wight Walking with Sightseeing Holiday

Tour Style: Walks with sightseeing
Destinations: Isle of Wight & England
Trip code: FWWOD-4
Trip Walking Grade: 1



HOLIDAY OVERVIEW

Enjoy a short break on the Isle of Wight for a perfect mix of short, guided walks (4-6 miles) combined with time spent sightseeing. Walks on to the downs provide a wonderful vantage point from which to enjoy sweeping views across the island and across to the mainland – views which would have been enjoyed by the Victorian Poet Laureate and island resident Alfred Tennyson. Ventnor's botanic gardens impress with their array of exotic plants from around the world. The break also includes visiting two of the island's most famous attractions – Alum Bay with its multi-coloured sands - and The Needles, as well as a ride of the Isle of Wight Steam railway..

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- From 01 January 2022, all admission fees to places of interest (including National Trust and English Heritage sites) are included in the price
- All transport to and from walks and places of interest
- High quality en-suite accommodation in our country house
- Full board from dinner upon arrival to breakfast on departure day

- The services of an HF Holidays Leader

HOLIDAYS HIGHLIGHTS

- Visit Carisbrooke Castle, a superb motte-and-bailey castle
- Immerse yourself in the landscape that inspired Tennyson with walks on the downs
- Explore Ventnor Botanic Gardens & Appuldurcombe House
- Take in Alum Bay, The Needles and the Tennyson Monument
- Ride on the island's steam railway
- Enjoy the gardens of Mottistone Manor

TRIP SUITABILITY

This trip is graded Activity Level 1. The walking is on good paths generally. Walks are up to 5½ (9km) with 900 feet (280m) of ascent.

ITINERARY

Day 1: Arrival Day

You're welcome to check in from 4pm onwards.

Enjoy a complimentary Afternoon Tea on arrival.

Day 2: Isle Of Wight Steam Railway And Roman Villa

Distance: 3½ miles (5km)

Ascent: 300 feet (100m)

In Summary: After an exploration of the museum and workshops of the Isle of Wight steam railway at Havenstreet, we take a ride on this heritage line to the beginning of our walk at Ashe station. Quiet countryside trails take us up onto Brading Down for fabulous views, before we drop down and continue to Brading Roman Villa, finishing our day with a visit to one of the best-preserved Roman sites in the UK

Day 3: Godshill, Appuldurcombe House And Ventnor Botanic Gardens

Distance: 5½ miles (8.5km)

Ascent: 800 feet (240m)

In Summary: We start in the village of Godshill with a visit to its model village and garden, before beginning our walk to the romantic Appuldurcombe House, one of the grandest, most elegant houses on the island. Time to explore here before we continue our walk down to the Undercliff and Ventnor Botanic Gardens, with its fabulous collection of exotic and subtropical plants.

Day 4: Alum Bay, The Needles And The Downs

Distance: 4 miles (6.5km)

Ascent: 800 feet (260m)

In Summary: We begin by exploring Alum Bay, with its famous coloured sands, then on to visit The Needles Old Battery and New Battery. We walk onto West High Down, with superb views to the mainland as we gradually descend to the Replica Beacon and up to the Tennyson Monument. We then enjoy the wonderful descent of Tennyson Down, offering magnificent views over the western half of the island.

Day 5: Departure Day

Enjoy a leisurely breakfast before making your way home.

ACCOMMODATION

Freshwater Bay House

Holidaying on the picturesque Isle of Wight doesn't get any better than at Freshwater Bay House. Stood atop the island's classic white cliffs and dominating the bay that it is named after, Freshwater Bay House has a gorgeous location. As well as 43 bedrooms, many decked out in blue and white printed wallpaper featuring foam-tipped waves breaking softly across the walls that act as a promise of the coastal scenery to come, there are three lounges and a friendly bar. Extensive gardens give on to the coast path, with a staircase that drops to the beach one way, while a path leads away across Tennyson Down towards the Needles in the other direction. If you're experiencing some of the island's plentiful sunshine (it averages around 2,000 hours a year), head to Alum Bay for coloured sands or Compton Bay for dinosaur footprints. Explore Carisbrooke Castle, stroll through Ventnor Botanic Gardens and keep an eye out for red squirrels in Borthwood Copse and America Wood.

Country House Accommodation

Accommodation Info

Need To Know

We appreciate that COVID-19 continues to impact the nations. The English, Scottish and Welsh governments are not always in sync, so measures in our country houses may vary between the nations. We thank all guests for adhering to the measures we have introduced to keep our guests, leaders and team members safe.

You can see our latest FAQs and guarantees at <https://www.hfholidays.co.uk/coronavirus-travel-advice>

Ventilation, Physical Distancing Measures and Group Sizes around the Houses

We will keep our public areas well ventilated; for your comfort you might want to pack an extra layer to keep you comfortable.

With the relaxation of physical distancing, we will be allowing larger groups to dine and relax in the bar together.

Hand sanitiser stations will be made available in frequently used public areas for guests and staff use. It is advisable to bring additional hand sanitiser for whilst you are out walking.

We always follow the latest regional government advice, but our one recommendation is don't forget your face mask! There is no requirement to wear a face covering in communal areas, but you may of course choose to. Some places throughout the UK may still require you to wear a mask even if the government legislation does not. With this in mind we suggest you bring a personal supply of face coverings for the duration

of your stay.

Servicing Bedrooms:

At this stage we are not reintroducing our daily room servicing. Extra tea, coffee, milk, towels and toiletries will be available on request from our team. Bins can be left outside your door for emptying.

COVID-19 Symptoms or Cases

If a guest has symptoms of COVID-19 then they should inform the house team and immediately self-isolate to minimise any risk of transmission and make arrangements to request a COVID test. If a guest receives a positive test result, they should return home if they reasonably can. They should where possible use private transport but only drive themselves if they can do so safely. If a guest cannot reasonably return home, they should discuss their circumstances with the House Manager. Additional charges may be levied if a guest needs to self-isolate for longer than their planned holiday.

What can you do to help keep everyone safe?

- Wear a face mask/covering where required and please bring plenty of face coverings for the duration of your stay
- Carry/use hand sanitiser
- Wash your hands frequently with soap and water when possible
- Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue or your sleeve when you cough or sneeze
- Avoid passing round objects such as cameras & phones
- If you are displaying symptoms of Coronavirus, please do not travel to an HF Holidays House

Rooms

Tea & coffee-making facilities, TV, Hairdryer, Toiletries, Wi-Fi

Stay in one of the main building's bright, beautifully presented rooms, many that come with sea views. They're mostly spacious and chic, styled to acknowledge the house's nautical connections but with a modern twist of dove greys, clean whites and contemporary furniture. With 43 bedrooms, Freshwater Bay House has plenty of space and there's a range of Classic, Premium and Superior Rooms to choose from: Rooms 19 and 20 on the first floor come with spectacular sea views out over the English Channel; Rooms 18 and 22 are sumptuous corner rooms with expansive views over both the bay and Tennyson Downs. If it's a room with a view you're after, ask for Room 24, a superb, spacious corner space with five large windows all overlooking the gardens and bay, with its own private sitting room to relax in. Request Room 39 on the second floor and you'll get an attractive corner room complete with a bath to soak in after a day of coastal walking.

All 'Classic' rooms are en-suite and furnished to a high standard. There are also several 'Premium' and 'Superior' Rooms that are either larger or have a desirable view, a more luxurious mattress and larger television – upgrade your stay for just an extra £15-25 per person per night. You can choose a specific room for an extra £30 per room, subject to availability. Upgrade supplements still apply.

Check in:

Check in opens at **4pm** for all guests. Guests will be unable to access any of the Country House facilities, including leaving luggage before 4pm.

We are delighted to invite you to enjoy a complimentary Afternoon Tea on arrival. Relax and meet your fellow guests and leaders.

Check out:

Check out time: **10am**

Please note, you will need to settle your bill before departure and payment will only be possible by card. Gratuities and donations to the Pathway Fund can also be made by card.

Facilities

Free Wi-Fi, boot room and drying room, extensive garden, outdoor swimming pool, multi-purpose activity room, lounges, library and board games to borrow

After a day walking on the coast, come back to the house and its specially tailored walkers' facilities. Relax by sitting in the extensive gardens or challenge a fellow guest to a game of croquet. If you're visiting with children, turn them loose in the outdoor playground area or watch them splash in the large heated alfresco pool (open in summer season) – there's seating with sea views for you to enjoy a drink in too on a hot English summer's day. For something less strenuous, snag a comfy chair in one of the three cosy lounges to read a book, play a board game or just hideaway; there's a grand piano in one if you're feeling musical. Head to the bar before dinner to perch on a tall stool with a perfect gin and tonic made with the Isle of Wight's very own Mermaid Gin and a chance to catch up with your companions.

Welcome Information

A Welcome Information Pack providing details about the Country House and your holiday will be available in each bedroom. This personal pack of information will detail what to expect during your stay in the house, the menu for the duration of your stay, dinner & picnic lunch order forms and the guest registration form for completion.

Our houses are locked at night-time and accessible with a door code which is available in the Welcome Pack. However, we also recommend making a note of the Duty Manager number on arrival, in case of an emergency or getting locked out.

Evenings

Join our team after dinner on Wednesday evenings to see if you've got the knowledge to triumph in the HF Big Pub Quiz! There will also be another evening of entertainment at the beginning of the week which will vary depending on the house you are visiting.

If there are leaders resident, they will be available to chat to guests about self-guided walks. You can borrow walking route notes and maps from our Discovery Point.

Walks Talks – Guided Walking Information Briefings

Self-Guided guests are always welcome to join our Guided Walking briefings to hear about the local conditions.

Our leaders will deliver a Guided Walking Information Briefing on each arrival day before and after dinner followed by a group Walks Talk to let guests know about the following day's walks. Walks Talks are usually before and after dinner prior to each walking day. The information is repeated so you can join whichever time suits you.

If you are undecided which walk to do, our leaders will be available in the bar or lounge to answer any questions you might have. Our website contains up-to-date information about the walks for each holiday.

Before you leave for your walk your leader will run through a short safety briefing for the day.

Each day, the latest weather forecast will be displayed for all guests to check to ensure appropriate clothing is worn for the walks.

Please note, if you decide to do your own walks, or you are on a self-guided walking holiday, you must complete an Independent Walker Card each day. These can be found near the Discovery Point in the house.

Food & Drink

As at all our country houses, holidays are full board, from afternoon tea served as a welcome treat through that evening's meal to a hearty breakfast on the day of departure. Food at Freshwater Bay House is varied

with a strong emphasis on the use of seasonal British produce. Our experienced chefs create each dish using only the freshest ingredients and, when in season, use home grown herbs and vegetables taken from our own gardens to give a true taste of the local area.

Along with many hospitality business across the UK we are presently experiencing disruption to our food and drink supply chain. COVID continues to limit the ability of suppliers to deliver and the war in Ukraine (along with several other global challenges) is impacting availability of many basic products. We are working hard to ensure that these challenges do not negatively impact your holiday but ask for your understanding should we need to make last minute changes to dishes or menus.

Accessibility

For accessibility and assistance information, please contact our expert team on [020 3974 8865](tel:02039748865) or view the accessibility information online for [Freshwater Bay House](#)

TRAVEL DETAILS

Our address is: Freshwater Bay House, Freshwater Bay, Isle of Wight PO40 9RB
Tel: [01983 753854](tel:01983753854)

By Taxi:

It is possible to get a taxi to Freshwater Bay House from Yarmouth ferry port. The 5-mile journey takes approximately 15 minutes. You can pre-book a taxi from our recommended taxi company, Bay Taxi. As a guide price, it costs £12 per 4-seat taxi in 2022. 8-seat taxis are also available at a higher rate. Please pre-book your taxi at least 7 days in advance by contacting:

Bay Taxi*

Tel: [+44 \(0\) 7475 662350](tel:+4407475662350)

Email: info@baytaxi.co.uk

The return taxi journey can be arranged on your behalf by the Freshwater Bay House Manager.

*Bay Taxi is not owned or managed by HF Holidays

By Train:

The nearest railway station is Lymington Pier on the mainland. This is immediately adjacent to the ferry terminal. For train times and route planning by train visit www.nationalrail.co.uk or phone [03457 48 49 50](tel:03457484950).

By Ferry:

The Wightlink Lymington to Yarmouth ferry is the most convenient for Freshwater Bay - see www.wightlink.co.uk

Alternatively, the Red Funnel Southampton to East Cowes ferry is often the cheapest option if you want to take your car to the Isle of Wight - see www.redfunnel.co.uk

HF MEMBER DISCOUNT

HF Holidays' Members receive **15% off their car travel and 20% off foot travel with Wightlink Ferry**. For full details and to book your crossing visit www.wightlink.co.uk/HFHolidays

By Car:

From Yarmouth turn right out of the ferry terminal onto the A3054 and over the bridge across the River Yar. After 1 mile turn left down Pixley Hill, signposted to Freshwater Bay. Turn left at Freshwater Garage and continue along Afton road. At the Lifeboat station turn right and follow the road round passing the Albion Hotel on the left. The entrance to Freshwater Bay House is the next driveway on your left.

From East Cowes: follow signs for Newport, taking the A3021 and then A3054. Continue through Newport and Carisbrooke. Turn left onto the B3401 through Calbourne. At the T junction with Afton Road (A3055) turn left and then right by the Lifeboat station and follow the road round passing the Albion Hotel on the left. The entrance to Freshwater Bay House is the next driveway on your left.

Alternatively leave your car on the mainland and travel to the Isle of Wight as a foot passenger (see above for HF Member discount with Wightlink). There is a pay and display car park at Lymington Pier - price approximately £11/£12 per day.

Travelling From Overseas

If you're travelling from Europe the most convenient airport is at Southampton. From Southampton Airport Parkway station (adjacent to the airport terminal) there are regular trains to Lymington Pier - journey time 40 minutes). See www.nationalrail.co.uk for details. From Lymington take the ferry to the Isle of Wight (see above).

For most guests, travelling to either London Heathrow or London Gatwick airport is the best option. See www.nationalrail.co.uk for onward connections by train to Lymington Pier.

LOCAL AREA

Just off the coast of Southern England, the Isle of Wight is a delightful haven away from the bustle of the mainland, easily reached by ferry or even the world's only commercial hovercraft service (foot passengers only). Broadly diamond shaped, the island is 25 miles long and 15 miles wide. This makes it ideally sized for a week's walking and exploration.

Freshwater Bay

Freshwater Bay is a small semi-circular cove at the foot of the garden of Freshwater Bay House. There is a pebble beach here and sandy beaches approximately 3 miles away at Totland Bay or Colwell Bay. Shops and banks are located in Freshwater village, about 30 minutes' walk away. The house is located at the foot of Tennyson Down, a popular walking route which leads to The Needles and Alum Bay.

Yarmouth

The small harbour town of Yarmouth is located three miles north of Freshwater Bay; either a 10-minute drive or a pleasant 1-hour walk away, following the path of the River Yar. It can also be reached using the 'Needles Breezer' open-top bus. Yarmouth has a selection of small shops and pubs, and there's always a bustle of activity around the harbour. [Yarmouth's Tudor castle](#) is also worth a visit.

Osborne House

Queen Victoria's island residence, managed by English Heritage, is located near East Cowes at the north of the island. Enjoy the lavish interiors and take time to explore the extensive grounds which slope down to the Solent. [Osborne House](#) is about 40 minutes drive from Freshwater Bay.

Carisbrooke Castle

A fine medieval castle situated near Newport in the heart of the island. The castle's most famous 'resident' was King Charles I, who was imprisoned here after the English Civil War. Walk around the impressive walls and visit the castle's famous well where donkeys are used to raise the water using a large treadmill. [Carisbrooke Castle](#) is around 20 minutes' drive from Freshwater Bay and can also be reached direct using the number 12 bus. Alternatively, it is possible to walk here right from the door of Freshwater Bay House by following the Tennyson Trail (approx. 9.5 miles).

Alum Bay

[Alum Bay](#) is world-famous for its multi-coloured sand cliffs where 21 different shades of sand have been naturally created from various minerals. There is a chairlift down the cliff to the beach which gives amazing views of the sands and across the Solent. On the cliff top there are various other visitor attractions including a glass-blowing workshop and obligatory sand shop where visitors can fill glass ornaments with their choice of sand. Alum Bay can be reached on foot directly from Freshwater Bay house or on a 15-minute ride by public bus.

Isle Of Wight Steam Railway

Step back in time and ride this vintage steam railway from Wootton to Smallbrook Junction. The railway has a particularly historic collection of locomotives and rolling stock, including many wooden 4-wheeled carriages dating from the 19th Century. The main station is at Havenstreet where you'll also find a museum and the line's workshops. [The Isle of Wight Steam Railway](#) is about 45 minutes' drive away from Freshwater Bay. It can also be reached by local bus, via Newport.

Blackgang Chine

The [Blackgang Chine fantasy theme park](#) is a big hit with children of all ages. Attractions include Cowboy village, 'Fantasyland', maze and the giant snakes and ladders. Adults may also enjoy the maritime exhibition and working sawmill. Blackgang is 20 minutes' drive from Freshwater Bay and in summer can be reached using the 'Island Coaster' bus.

Ventnor Botanical Gardens

The island's rich climate enables Mediterranean and sub-tropical plants to prosper. Enjoy magnificent floral displays and relaxing gardens based on geographical parts of the world at [Ventnor's Botanical Gardens](#) and keep an eye out for the garden's resident wall lizards. Ventnor is 30 minutes' drive from Freshwater Bay and in Summer can be reached using the 'Island Coaster' bus.

Bembridge Windmill

This [Grade I listed windmill](#) is the only surviving windmill on the Isle of Wight, now managed by the National Trust. It was built around 1700 and closed in 1913. It has four floors to explore and most of its original machinery is still in situ. The windmill was famously painted by JMW Turner in 1795. There are some lovely countryside walks near the windmill which sits on the Bembridge and Yar River Trail in the east of the island about a 45-minute drive away from Freshwater Bay House.

USEFUL HOLIDAY INFORMATION

Essential Information

"There's no such thing as bad weather, just the wrong type of clothing!" goes the adage. Come prepared for all eventualities and you'll walk in comfort as well as safety. Britain's famous for its changeable weather, so here's our advice on what to wear and bring.

Essentials

- Waterproof walking boots providing ankle support and good grip.
- A waterproof jacket and over-trousers
- Gloves and a warm hat (it can be chilly at any time of the year)
- Rucksack
- Water bottle (at least 1 litre capacity)
- A small torch (everywhere in winter, year round in mountains)

- Sun hat and sunscreen
Denim jeans and waterproof capes are not suitable on any walks.

Recommended

- Several layers of clothing, which can be added or removed
- Specialist walking socks to avoid blisters.
- A first aid kit inc plasters– your leader's first aid kit doesn't contain any medication
- Sit mat (insulated pad to sit on when you stop for a break)

You Might Also Want

- Walking poles, particularly useful for descents.
- Insect repellent
- Flask for hot drinks
- Rigid lunch box
- Gaiters
- Blister kit (eg Compeed) just in case
- Waterproof rucksack liner

Safety On Your Holiday

Walks may be changed for safety reasons and are subject to a maximum and minimum number of guests.

Leaders always consider the safety of the group as a whole, and may need to alter or curtail the walk if the conditions dictate. Your leader may refuse to accept a guest while clothing, equipment or behaviour is unsuitable. In the event of a problem all leaders carry a mobile phone, first aid kit, group shelter, spare maps and a compass.

Please note: If you choose to leave the group your leader is no longer responsible for you.

If you have a particular health condition or disability please put this on your guest registration form. This information will be confidential to your leaders and the house manager, but leaders do need to take account of any issues when planning walks. Please carry a copy of these trip notes with you, or note down the contact phone number for your accommodation (details in the travel section) should you need them in case of emergency.

HOW TO BOOK

When you're ready to book, you can choose to **book online** or book **over the phone**. Our website offers secure online booking for our holidays, is available 24/7, and offers more in-depth information about all our holidays. If you prefer to call us, our experienced and knowledgeable team are available to answer any specific questions you have and can offer guidance as to which holiday is best suited to your needs.

Our office is open: Monday to Friday: 9am – 5.30pm, Saturday: 9am – 1pm, Sunday & Bank Holiday Monday: closed

PAYING YOUR DEPOSIT

To secure the holiday of your choice, you will need to pay a deposit: UK & European Holidays: £150 per person and Worldwide Holidays: £250 per person. You can pay your deposit by debit or credit card with no additional card fees charged or make an online BACS payment directly into HF's bank account, please see details under BACS payments. You can also pay your deposit by cheque within seven days of booking. Cheques should be made payable to 'HF Holidays Ltd' with your booking reference / Order ID on the back.

NON-MEMBER FEE

Non-members can join our holidays by paying a Non-Member's fee of £30 per person per holiday.

Alternatively, full membership is available from £100 – visit hfholidays.co.uk/membership for details.

BACS PAYMENTS

Please quote your booking reference / Order ID when you make your payment online: Bank Name: National Westminster Bank, Account Name: HF Holidays Limited, Account Number: 48904805, Sort Code: 60-00-01, IBAN: GB90NWBK60000148904805

Once we have received your booking and deposit, we will send a confirmation invoice to the lead name. Please check this carefully. For bookings 'with flights' it is essential that the names on your booking confirmation invoice match those on your passport for bookings overseas. Please advise us immediately of any errors. Any name changes after the balance of your holiday has been paid will be subject to a fee levied by the airline.

MANAGE MY BOOKINGS

Payments can also be made through the [Manage My Booking](#) function on our website. Click on the link at the top of our homepage. This is available to all customers who provide an email address at the time of booking.

YOUR FINAL BALANCE

Your final balance payment is due 6 weeks before departure if you are staying in an HF Holidays UK country house, 8 weeks before departure if you are travelling on one of our holidays in Europe and 10 weeks before departure if you are on a Guided Trail staying in one of our partner hotels or are travelling on a Worldwide holiday. As with paying your deposit, you can pay your final balance by debit or credit card, make an online BACS payment directly into HF's bank account or pay by cheque.

TRAVEL INSURANCE

Travel insurance is an important part of any booking and essential for one of our holidays. HF Holidays works with specialist. Insurance Brokers Campbell Irvine Direct. For more information or to obtain a quote call them on [01702 427 236](tel:01702427236) or visit hfholidays.co.uk/insurance

PEACE OF MIND

ATOL:

The air holidays and flights in this brochure are ATOL-protected, since we hold an Air Travel Organiser's Licence granted by the Civil Aviation Authority. Our ATOL number is ATOL 710. In the unlikely event of our insolvency, the CAA will ensure that you are not stranded abroad and will arrange to refund any money you have paid us for advance bookings. For further information visit the ATOL website atol.org.uk

MEMBER OF ABTOT:

HF Holidays is a member of ABTOT (The Association of Bonded Travel Organisers Trust Limited) which provides financial protection under the Package Travel, Package Holidays and Package Tours Regulations 1992 for HF Holidays Ltd and in the event of their insolvency, protection is provided for the following: 1. non-flight packages commencing in and returning to the UK; 2. non-flight packages commencing and returning to a country other than the UK; 3. flight inclusive packages that commence outside of the UK and Republic of Ireland, which are sold to customers outside of the UK and Republic of Ireland. 1, 2 and 3 provides for a refund in the event you have not yet travelled. 1 and 3 provides for repatriation. Please note that bookings made outside the UK and Republic of Ireland are only protected by ABTOT when purchased directly with HF Holidays Ltd.

TRIP NOTE VALIDITY

These Trip Notes are valid based on the date printed at the bottom of the page. They will occasionally be updated post booking and pre-departure. We will send you the latest trip notes prior to departure through a link in your pre departure documents or we can send you a copy in the post if preferred.

In booking this trip you should be confident in your ability to participate in all activities described in these Trip Notes. If you have any doubt about your suitability you should call HF Holidays and ask to speak to one of the

team about this itinerary.

The information in these Trip Notes is given in good faith. Where differences exist between the Trip Notes and our current brochure, the Trip Notes supersede the brochure. All holidays can be subject to unexpected changes; so please be prepared to be flexible where necessary. At times, it may not be possible to follow the itinerary as planned due to weather conditions, political, physical or other factors. In these circumstances we will make the best possible alternative arrangements to maintain the integrity of the original itinerary.

PRICE GUARANTEE

We promise that our earliest published prices will always be the best and if we reduce our holiday price after your booking has been confirmed, we will pass this reduction on to you. Our price promise applies if any subsequent offer price is for an identical holiday, duration, location and date and does not cover any optional extras, flights or additional services.

Document produced: 01-07-2022

