

7-Night Isle of Wight Guided Walking Holiday

Tour Style: Guided Walking

Destinations: Isle of Wight, United Kingdom & England

Trip code: FWBOB-7

1 & 2



HOLIDAY OVERVIEW

The Isle of Wight is a world away from the bustle of the mainland. On our Guided Walking holidays you'll discover the best of the island's glorious 85-mile coastline of unspoilt sandy beaches and dramatic white cliffs, as well as panoramic walks over the flower-rich chalk downland.

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- High quality en-suite accommodation in our country house
- Full board from dinner upon arrival to breakfast on departure day
- 5 days guided walking; 1 free day
- Use of our comprehensive Discovery Point
- Choice of up to three guided walks each walking day
- The services of HF Holidays Walking Leaders

HOLIDAYS HIGHLIGHTS

- Head out on guided walks with an experienced leader to discover the varied beauty of the Isle of Wight on foot.
- Admire panoramic views from dramatic cliff top coastal paths or along the lush Undercliff.
- Visit enchanting villages and beautiful unspoilt beaches.
- Look out for wildlife, find secret corners and learn about the Island's history
- A relaxed pace of discovery in a sociable group keen to get some fresh air away from the hustle and bustle of the mainland
- Evenings in our country house where you share a drink and re-live the day's adventures

TRIP SUITABILITY

This trip is graded Activity Level 1 and 2. Explore the beautiful Isle of Wight on our guided walks. We offer a great range of walks to suit everyone - from gentle shorter strolls, to more challenging longer walks with more ascent. You may wish to stroll along scenic coastal paths, discover pristine sandy beaches or beautiful chalk downland. Join our friendly and knowledgeable guides who will bring this stunning island to life.

ITINERARY

Version 1 (Runs 2019/20)

Day 1: Arrival Day

You're welcome to check-in to your room from 2:30 p.m. onwards (upgraded rooms from 1 p.m.) Please join us for afternoon tea.

Day 2: Tennyson Down And Alum Bay

Option 1 - Over Tennyson Down

Distance: 7 miles (11km)

Total ascent: 1,250 feet (380m)

In Summary: A fabulous walk over the chalk cliffs of Tennyson Down to the Needles and the Alum Bay; one of England's finest coastal walks.

Highlight: The commanding view over the Western Solent from the Tennyson Monument. You'll also discover the once secret rocket testing range, and the area's role in the space race.

Option 2 - Headon Warren & Needles

Distance: 8½ miles (13.5km)

Ascent: 1,250 feet (380m)

In Summary: Head to the coast at Totland Bay then soak up glorious sea view as you round the Needles headland and return over Tennyson Down.

Highlight: The heather-clad headland of Headon Warren is a real delight, and offers the best views of the Needles.

Option 3 - West Wight Circuit

Distance: 12 miles (19km)

Total ascent: 1,550 feet (480m)

In Summary: A circuit of the western tip of the island. We'll follow the Yar Valley to Yarmouth, then follow the coastal path to Alum Bay, before a glorious finale over Tennyson Down.

Highlight: The final section atop the chalk cliffs of Tennyson Down is a fitting conclusion to this splendid walk.

Day 3: Walks Around Eastern Wight

Option 1 - St Helens To Sandown

Distance: 7 miles (11km)

Ascent: 550 feet (160m)

In Summary: Cross the causeway at Bembridge Harbour then walk on top of the chalk cliffs of Culver Down, near the eastern tip of the island, and follow the coastal path to Sandown.

Highlight: The working windmill at Bembridge; one of the National Trust's smallest, but most fascinating, properties.

Option 2 - Ryde To Sandown

Distance: 8½ miles (14km)

Ascent: 750 feet (220m)

In Summary: Soak up the sea air and as we follow the coastal path from the outskirts of Ryde to St Helens, then on over Culver Cliff to Sandown.

Highlight: The Yarborough Monument on top of Culver Down commands a wonderful view over the Solent and English Channel.

Option 3 - Havenstreet To Sandown

Distance: 11 miles (18km)

Ascent: 1,150 feet (360m)

In Summary: Enjoy panoramic views on our walk from Havenstreet over Brading Down. We'll pass Bembridge Windmill and Culver Down, then along the coastal path to Sandown.

Highlight: Views over the Solent where vessels ranging from hovercraft to huge container ships complete this

bustling scene.

Day 4: Free Day

Day 5: Shorwell And Carisbrooke Castle

Option 1 - To Carisbrooke Castle

Distance: 6 miles (10km)

Ascent: 700 feet (210m)

In Summary: Cross the island's central hills from the picturesque village of Shorwell to the impressive castle at Carisbrooke.

Highlight: Take time to explore this well-preserved castle. Walk around the walls, and watch the donkeys turn the treadmill to raise water from the well.

Option 2 - Shorwell & Carisbrooke

Distance: 9 miles (14km)

Ascent: 1,150 feet (360m)

In Summary: Walk from the south coast to Shorwell village, then continue over the downs to Carisbrooke Castle.

Highlight: Explore picturesque Shorwell with its thatched cottages and historic church. There's also plenty of time to visit Carisbrooke Castle.

Option 3 - Tennyson Trail

Distance: 12½ miles (20½km)

Ascent: 1,600 feet (480m)

In Summary: Challenge yourself to this fantastic walk along the spine of the island from Carisbrooke Castle to Freshwater Bay. We'll cross the hills to Shorwell then pick up the Tennyson Trail which runs along the top of the chalk downs.

Highlight: This is one of our most popular walks. After several ups and downs, your celebratory pint at the end of the walk will be well deserved!

Day 6: Over The Downs To Ventnor Botanic Garden

Option 1 - Through The Undercliff

Distance: 6 miles (10km)

Ascent: 600 feet (200m)

In Summary: Follow the coast along the Undercliff from St Catherine's Point to Ventnor's Botanic Gardens.

Highlight: Walking through the lush vegetation of this natural suntrap

Option 2 - Godshill To Ventnor

Distance: 9 miles (14km)

Ascent: 1,300 feet (400m)

In Summary: Cross the downs from Godshill to Ventnor, passing the grand ruins of Appuldurcombe House and its surrounding parkland laid out by 'Capability' Brown.

Highlight: Enjoy great views right across the island from the top of Stenbury Down.

Option 3 - Woods & Downland

Distance: 10½ miles (16½km)

Ascent: 1,350 feet (420m)

In Summary: Walk through the woods near Sandown, then admire the widespread views as we cross the downs to Ventnor.

Highlight: Our path through Borthwood Copse and America Wood take us to one of the best places in England to spot Red Squirrels.

Day 7: Calbourne To Freshwater Bay

Option 1 - Calbourne To Freshwater

Distance: 6½ miles (10.5km)

Total ascent: 800 feet (240m)

In Summary: Walk from Calbourne to Freshwater Bay via the Downs.

Highlight: The much photographed 'chocolate box' cottages at Winkle Street in Calbourne. There's plenty of time to relax in the pool or gardens at the end of today's walk.

Option 2 - Mottistone Down

Distance: 8½ miles (14km)

Ascent: 1,100 feet (340m)

In Summary: From Winkle Street ascend over the Downs, descending Mottistone Down to the south coast. You then follow the coastal path back to Freshwater Bay.

Highlight: The final section over Compton Down enjoys splendid views over Freshwater Bay, and back along the island's southwest coast.

Option 3 - Hanover Point

Distance: 11 miles (17.5km)

Ascent: 1,250 feet (380m)

In Summary: Cross over the downs to Brighstone, then follow the coast path along the island's southwest coast to Freshwater Bay.

Highlight: Tides permitting, look out for the fossilised forest at Hanover Point.

Day 8: Departure Day

Enjoy a leisurely breakfast before making your way home.

Version 2 (Runs 2019/20)

Day 1: Arrival Day

You're welcome to check-in to your room from 2:30 p.m. onwards (upgraded rooms from 1 p.m.) Please join us for afternoon tea.

Day 2: Tennyson Down And Alum Bay

Option 1 - Over Tennyson Down

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In Summary: A fabulous walk over the chalk cliffs of Tennyson Down to the Needles and the Alum Bay; one of England's finest coastal walks.

Highlight: The commanding view over the Western Solent from the Tennyson Monument. You'll also discover the once secret rocket testing range, and the area's role in the space race.

Option 2 - Headon Warren & Needles

Distance: 8½ miles (13.5km)

Ascent: 1,250 feet (380m)

In Summary: Head to the coast at Totland Bay then soak up glorious sea view as you round the Needles headland and return over Tennyson Down.

Highlight: The heather-clad headland of Headon Warren is a real delight, and offers the best views of the Needles.

Option 3 - West Wight Circuit

Distance: 12 miles (19km)

Total ascent: 1,550 feet (480m)

In Summary: A circuit of the western tip of the island. We'll follow the Yar Valley to Yarmouth, then follow the coastal path to Alum Bay, before a glorious finale over Tennyson Down.

Highlight: The final section atop the chalk cliffs of Tennyson Down is a fitting conclusion to this splendid walk.

Day 3: Godshill And Appuldurcombe House

Option 1 - Godshill & Appuldurcombe

Distance: 5 miles (8km)

Ascent: 800 feet (240m)

In Summary: A delightful circuit from the village of Godshill takes us to the Worsley Monument and the ruined shell of Appuldurcombe House.

Highlight: There's plenty of time to explore Godshill and admire its quintessential thatched cottages and historic church.

Option 2 - Over The Downs

Distance: 8½ miles (13½km)

Ascent: 1,300 feet (400m)

In Summary: Walk from the charming village of Godshill onto the Stenbury and St Boniface Downs.

Highlight: The grand ruins of Appuldurcombe House and its surrounding parkland laid out by 'Capability' Brown.

Option 3 - Eight Downs Horseshoe

Distance: 10½ miles (16.5km)

Ascent: 1,450 feet (440m)

In Summary: Our 'eight Downs horseshoe' is a grand circuit that takes in the tops of Stenbury Down and St Boniface Down; the highest point on the island.

Highlight: Walking on top of the Downs is a real delight, with great views across the island, and across the Solent to the mainland.

Day 4: Free Day

Day 5: Shorwell And Carisbrooke Castle

Option 1 - To Carisbrooke Castle

Distance: 6 miles (10km)

Ascent: 700 feet (210m)

In Summary: Cross the island's central hills from the picturesque village of Shorwell to the impressive castle at Carisbrooke.

Highlight: Take time to explore this well-preserved castle. Walk around the walls, and watch the donkeys turn the treadmill to raise water from the well.

Option 2 - Shorwell & Carisbrooke

Distance: 9 miles (14km)

Ascent: 1,150 feet (360m)

In Summary: Walk from the south coast to Shorwell village, then continue over the downs to Carisbrooke Castle.

Highlight: Explore picturesque Shorwell with its thatched cottages and historic church. There's also plenty of time to visit Carisbrooke Castle.

Option 3 - Tennyson Trail

Distance: 12½ miles (20½km)

Ascent: 1,600 feet (480m)

In Summary: Challenge yourself to this fantastic walk along the spine of the island from Carisbrooke Castle to Freshwater Bay. We'll cross the hills to Shorwell then pick up the Tennyson Trail which runs along the top of the chalk downs.

Highlight: This is one of our most popular walks. After several ups and downs, your celebratory pint at the end of the walk will be well deserved!

Day 6: Walks Through The Undercliff

Option 1 - Ventnor To Shanklin

Distance: 5½ miles (9km)

Ascent: 950 feet (300m)

In Summary: Walk through the lush Undercliff. Our walk takes us from Ventnor's Botanic Gardens along the coastal path to Shanklin Old Village.

Highlight: Discover the Undercliff; a natural sun trap, rich with verdant vegetation, created by a series of landslips over the centuries.

Option 2 - Niton To Shanklin

Distance: 8½ miles (13½km)

Ascent: 1,200 feet (360m)

In Summary: Soak up the sea air and views of the English Channel on a walk through the Undercliff from Niton to Shanklin Old Village.

Highlight: Stop to explore the Victorian resort of Ventnor midway through the walk, and see the 11th Century St Boniface Church in nearby Bonchurch.

Option 3 - Chale Green To Shanklin

Distance: 11½ miles (19km)

Ascent: 1,750 feet (540m)

In Summary: A journey along the length of Undercliff. We head over St Catherine's Down from Chale Green, with fantastic views down to the coast, where we join the coast path all the way to Shanklin.

Highlight: The cliff-top section above St Catherine's Point is particularly impressive, with views down to the lighthouse far below.

Day 7: The Yar Valley Or The Tennyson Trail

Option 1 - Yar Valley

Distance: 7 miles (11km)

Ascent: 350 feet (120m)

In Summary: Walk beside the tidal River Yar to the historic town of Yarmouth with its bustling harbour and Tudor castle. We'll return on the opposite side of the river back to Freshwater Bay.

Highlight: The salt marsh, reedbeds and mud flats of the Yar Estuary are a great place to see wildfowl and waders.

Option 2 - The Longstone

Distance: 8½ miles (13.5km)

Ascent: 1,050 feet (320m)

In Summary: Walk on top of the Downs from Shorwell to the ancient Longstone and along the Tennyson Trail back to Freshwater Bay.

Highlight: The Neolithic Longstone on Mottistone Down; according to legend this 13ft stone was thrown here by a giant!

Option 3 - Downland & Coast

Distance: 11½ miles (18.5km)

Ascent: 1,250 feet (380m)

In Summary: Walk over the Downs to the Neolithic Longstone, then descend to the coast and follow the coastal path back to Freshwater Bay .

Highlight: Enjoy the sweeping views along the island's south-west coast, as you walk over the chalk cliffs of Compton Down.

Day 8: Departure Day

Enjoy a leisurely breakfast before making your way home.

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Option 1 - Godshill & Appuldurcombe

Distance: 5 miles (8km)

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In Summary: A delightful circuit from the village of Godshill takes us to the Worsley Monument and the ruined shell of Appuldurcombe House.

Highlight: There's plenty of time to explore Godshill and admire its quintessential thatched cottages and historic church.

Option 2 - Over The Downs

Distance: 8½ miles (13.5km)

Ascent: 1,300 feet (400m)

In Summary: Walk from the charming village of Godshill onto the Stenbury and St Boniface Downs.

Highlight: Explore the beautiful rolling downs before passing by the grand ruins of Appuldurcombe House.

Option 3 - Eight Downs Horseshoe

Distance: 10½ miles (16.5km)

Ascent: 1,450 feet (440m)

In Summary: Our 'eight Downs horseshoe' is a grand circuit that takes in the tops of Stenbury Down and St Boniface Down; the highest point on the island.

Highlight: Walking on top of the Downs is a real delight, with great views across the island, and across the Solent to the mainland.

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Highlight: The commanding view over the Western Solent from the Tennyson Monument. You'll also discover the once secret rocket testing range, and the area's role in the space race.

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Highlight: The final section atop the chalk cliffs of Tennyson Down is a fitting conclusion to this splendid walk.

Day 4: Free Day

Day 5: Walks Through The Undercliff

Option 1 - Through The Undercliff

Distance: 6 miles (10km)

Ascent: 600 feet (200m)

In Summary: Starting above St Catherines Point with fantastic views from the cliffs over St Catherines Lighthouse. You then head inland to the quaint village of Whitwell, before returning to the coast and the Undercliff from St Lawrence to Ventnor's Botanic Gardens.

Highlight: The vast collection of exotic and subtropical plant species at Ventnor Botanic Gardens.

Option 2 - Niton To Shanklin

Distance: 8½ miles (13.5km)

Ascent: 1,200 feet (360m)

In Summary: Soak up the sea air and views of the English Channel on a walk through the Undercliff from Niton to Shanklin Old Village.

Highlight: Stop to explore the Victorian resort of Ventnor midway through the walk, and see the 11th Century St Boniface Church in nearby Bonchurch.

Option 3 - Whale Chine To Shanklin

Distance: 11½ miles (18.5km)

Ascent: 1,800 feet (540m)

In Summary: A journey along the length of Undercliff. Starting at Whale Chine we'll round St Catherine's Point before picking up the coastal path through Ventnor to Shanklin.

Highlight: The cliff-top section above St Catherine's Point is particularly impressive, with views down to the lighthouse far below.

Day 6: Carisbrooke And Shorwell To The Coast

Option 1 - Brighstone And The Isle Of Wight Pearl

Distance: 6 miles (10km)

Ascent: 660 feet (200m)

In Summary: From Compton Farm we walk to Brighstone, passing the Longstone (a neolithic long barrow and ancient meeting point) and on to the coast and the Isle of Wight Pearl.

Highlight: Excellent views to the South coast of the Island and the Isle of Wight Pearl - claimed to be the largest collection of pearls under one roof.

Option 2 - Carisbrooke & Shorwell

Distance: 9 miles (14km)

Ascent: 1,050 feet (320m)

In Summary: Walk from Carisbrooke Castle over the downs via the pretty villages of Shorwell and Brighstone to the coast and the Isle of Wight Pearl.

Highlight: Explore picturesque Shorwell with its thatched cottages and historic church.

Option 3 - Tennyson Trail

Distance: 12½ miles (20.5km)

Ascent: 1,600 feet (480m)

In Summary: Challenge yourself to this fantastic walk along the spine of the island from Carisbrooke Castle to Freshwater Bay. We'll cross the hills to Shorwell then pick up the Tennyson Trail which runs along the top of the chalk downs.

Highlight: This is one of our most popular walks. After several ups and downs, your celebratory pint at the end of the walk will be well deserved!

Day 7: Calbourne To Freshwater Bay

Option 1 - Yar Valley

Distance: 7 miles (11km)

Ascent: 350 feet (120m)

In Summary: Walk beside the tidal River Yar to the historic town of Yarmouth with its bustling harbour and Tudor castle. We'll return on the opposite side of the river back to Freshwater Bay.

Highlight: The salt marsh, reedbeds and mud flats of the Yar Estuary are a great place to see wildfowl and waders.

Option 2 - Mottistone Down

Distance: 8½ miles (14km)

Ascent: 1,100 feet (340m)

In Summary: From Winkle Street ascend over the Downs, descending Mottistone Down to the south coast. We then follow the coastal path back to Freshwater Bay.

Highlight: The final section over Compton Down enjoys splendid views over Freshwater Bay, and back along the island's southwest coast.

Option 3 - Hanover Point

Distance: 11 miles (17.5km)

Ascent: 1,250 feet (380m)

In Summary: Cross over the downs to the pretty village of Brighstone, then follow the coast path along the island's beautiful southwest coast past the Isle of Wight Pearl and Hanover Point back to Freshwater Bay.

Highlight: Tides permitting, look out for the fossilised forest at Hanover Point.

Day 8: 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.

Matchless Country House Accommodation

Accommodation Info

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 Good, Better and Best 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 'Good' rooms are ensuite and furnished to a high standard. There are also several 'Better' and 'Best' Rooms that are either larger or have a desirable view, a more luxurious mattress, larger television, enhanced toiletries and a fluffy bathrobe & slippers – upgrade your stay for just an extra £15-20 per person per night. You can choose a specific room for an extra £30 per room, subject to availability. Upgrade supplements still apply.

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 – 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 Mermaids Gin and a chance to catch up with your companions.

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. Lunch is a chance to stock up on our famous picnic snacks. Food at Freshwater Bay House is hearty and has a strong emphasis on ingredients from the area and seasonal produce. Once a week the light-filled dining room hosts a Local Food Night, when, over a sociable evening, you might try a five-course feast of local flavours.

Accessibility

For accessibility and assistance information, please contact our expert team on 020 3974 8865

Travel Details

Our address is: Freshwater Bay House, Freshwater Bay, Isle of Wight PO40 9RB

By Ferry & Transfer - Great Value!

We offer a reduced price ferry and transfer ticket - just £29 return for adults and £15 for children. This includes a foot passenger ticket for the Wightlink Lymington to Yarmouth ferry, plus a connecting taxi/coach transfer to Freshwater Bay.

Our transfers operate every Saturday and Tuesday (Friday and Monday in the low season). These connect with the 1500 or 1600 ferries from Lymington. On departure day the transfer will get you back to Yarmouth in time to catch the 0845 or 1005 ferries to the mainland.

Book your tickets at least 14 days in advance by calling our Reservations team on 020 8732 1220.

By Train:

The nearest train 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.

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

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 following 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. There is a pay and display car park at Lymington Pier - price approximately £8.50 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.

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

The Isle of Wight is a delightful haven away from the bustle of the mainland, easily reached by ferry. 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, or better 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.

Yarmouth

The small harbour town of Yarmouth is located 3 miles north of Freshwater Bay; either a 10 minutes drive, a pleasant 1 hour walk, or 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. www.english-heritage.org.uk/visit/places/yarmouth-castle/

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. During the main season (May to Sept) we offer an excursion to Osborne on most Wednesdays. www.english-heritage.org.uk/visit/places/osborne/

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. The castle is around 20 minutes' drive from Freshwater Bay, and can also be reached direct using the number 12 bus. www.english-heritage.org.uk/visit/places/carisbrooke-castle/

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 the 19th Century. The main station is at Havenstreet where you'll also find a museum and the line's workshops. The steam railway is about 45 minutes' drive away, but can also be reached by local bus, via Newport. www.iwsteamrailway.co.uk

Blackgang Chine

This 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. www.blackgangchine.com

Ventnor Botanical Gardens

The island's rich climate enables Mediterranean plants to prosper. Enjoy magnificent floral displays and relaxing gardens. Ventnor is 30 minutes' drive from Freshwater Bay and in Summer can be reached using the 'Island Coaster' bus. www.botanic.co.uk

About

Coastal Country House • 43 Bedrooms • Open March to November & Festive Period • Standard check-in from 2.30pm • Free Parking on site • Free Wi-Fi throughout • Walkers' Facilities including Boot Room & Drying Room • Discovery Point with route guides and maps • Heated Outdoor Swimming Pool

USEFUL HOLIDAY INFORMATION

What To Bring

Essential Equipment

To enjoy walking/hiking comfortably and safely, footwear, clothing and equipment needs to be suitable for the conditions. Safety is our priority and Britain is famous for its changeable weather, so our advice is to come prepared for all eventualities.

- Footwear with a good grip on the sole (e.g. Vibram sole) is the key to avoiding accidents
- Walking/hiking boots providing ankle support and good grip are recommended (ideally worn in), and specialist walking socks to avoid blisters
- Several layers of clothing, which can be added or removed, are better than a single layer (include spares)
- Fabrics (lightweight and fast drying) designed for the outdoors are recommended
- Waterproof jacket and waterproof over trousers
- Warm hat and gloves. Gaiters are an optional but useful extra
- Denim jeans and capes are not suitable on any walks
- Rucksack with a waterproof liner
- Thermos flask for hot drink
- Water bottle (at least 1 litre)
- Spare high-energy food such as a chocolate bar
- Small torch
- First aid kit – your leader's first aid kit doesn't contain any medication or blister kits (such as Compeed)

Optional Equipment

- Walking poles are useful, particularly for descents
- Insect repellent
- Sun hat
- Sunglasses
- Sun cream
- Camera

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 – 7pm Saturday & Sunday: 9am – 1pm Bank Holiday Monday: 9am – 1pm

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.

ASSOCIATE'S FEE

Non-members can join our holidays by paying an Associate's fee of £10 per person per holiday. Alternatively, full life 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: Svenska Handelsbanken AB (publ) Account Name: HF Holidays Ltd Account Number: 35923304 Sort Code: 40-51-62 IBAN: GB92HAND40516235923304 Swift / Bic Code: HANDGB22

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

The balance is due 10 weeks before departure. 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 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.

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