# Isle of Man Guided Walking with Sightseeing Holiday



| Trip style: | Destination: | Walking Grade | Carbon Footprint: |
|---|---|---|---|
| Walking with sightseeing | Isle of Man | 3 | 237kg CO2 |

## HOLIDAY OVERVIEW

Almost equidistant from England, Ireland, Scotland, and Wales, the Isle of Man is the world's only entire-nation UNESCO Biosphere. This holiday combines leisurely walks with free time in Castletown and Peel, an exploration of the island's Celtic and Viking past, and journeys on the vintage transport network. We'll also visit Britain's oldest open-air folk museum to find out how islanders once lived and worked before rounding off the trip with a tour and tasting session at the Fynoderee Distillery where local botanicals are used to craft gin, vodka, and whisky.

## WHAT YOU'LL LOVE

- Exploring the only entire-nation UNESCO Biosphere Region
- Riding on the heritage railways and tramways that criss-cross the island
- Learning about the island's history and Viking heritage
- Visiting two well preserved medieval castles.
- Summitting the island's only mountain, Snaefell
- A stop by the world's largest working water wheel at Laxey
- The gardens and woodlands on the Milntown estate

- Sampling typical Manx products at the Fynoderee Distillery
- A more personalised experience thanks to small group sizes (maximum 16 people)

## WHAT'S INCLUDED

- Comfortable en-suite rooms in our partner accommodation
- Cooked or continental breakfast every morning
- Daily packed lunches
- Three-course evening meals, plus tea & coffee
- Guided walks with experienced HF Holidays Leaders
- All transport during your holiday, as well as entrance to The Isle of Man Museum, Castle Rushen, The Great Laxey Wheel, Peel Castle, The House of Mannanan Museum, Cregneash and tour of Fynodderee Distillery

## ITINERARY - YEAR-ROUND DEPARTURES

### Day 1 **Arrival day**

Check in at the Mannin hotel is available from 3pm. Your leaders will be at reception at 18:30 to meet the group and to give you a quick introduction to the holiday before dinner.

### Day 2 **Douglas & Castletown**

**Distance:** 3 miles (5km)

**Ascent:** Minimal

Our first day begins with an introduction to the history of the Isle of Man at Manx Museum. Bursting with artefacts and unique treasures, the museum takes us from the stone age through to the modern era. We'll discover the island's Viking and Celtic heritage and get up to speed with the world-famous TT races which take place on the Island every year.

We'll board the Isle of Man Steam Railway and journey from Douglas to Castletown on a line that has been running since 1874. We'll pass through beautiful farmland and enjoy coastal views as we make our way south.

In Castletown we'll visit Castle Rushen, one of the best-preserved medieval castles in the British Isles. Built 800 years ago for a Viking King, the castle has been a Civil War fortress and the island's Victorian prison.

### Day 3 **Steam Trains, Traditional Manx rural life and The Sound**

**Distance:** 6 miles (10.5km) split over two walks (easy urban walk to station and Cregneash peninsular)

**Ascent:** 750 ft (240m)

**Descent:** 1,150 ft (340m)

After a walk to the station, we start today with another journey on the Isle of Man Steam Railway as we head to Port Erin on the south of the Island. From here we follow the undulating Raad ny Foillan coast path to The Sound. Found at the Island's very southern tip, The Sound is abundant with wildlife and natural wonders. A hotspot for seals sunbathing, the area is also frequented by dolphins and basking sharks. You'll enjoy views across to the Calf of Man, a 600-acre islet, which is home to 33 species of seabirds including the Manx Shearwater.

After lunch we'll visit Cregneash, the oldest open-air folk museum in Britain. Here you can step back in time to see how crofters used to live and work in the farming community. You may even spot a Manx cat!

After ample time to explore we'll ascend Mull Hill, the site of a chambered cairn called Meayll Circle before descending to Port Erin where we'll end our day.

**Please note this walk is +1 grade higher than the overall grade of the holiday as a whole**

## Day 4 Tynwald Hill to Peel

**Distance:** 6.5 miles (10.5km) split over two walks (easy urban walk to bus stop and Tynwald Hill to Peel)

**Ascent:** 750 ft (220m) on Tynwald Hill to Peel walk

**Descent:** 850 ft (260m)

After a walk from the hotel to Douglas bus station, we journey to the village of St Johns, home to Tynwald Hill one of the Island's most distinctive landmarks. Established by Norse Vikings over a thousand years ago, it still plays host to an open-air meeting of the Island's parliament, Tynwald, once a year.

After time to explore Tynwald Hill and The Royal Chapel, we'll follow a disused railway track heading towards Peel, before ascending Corrin's Hill to view Corrin's Tower. Built around 1806 by Mr Thomas Corrin in memory of his wife Alice, the tower was entrusted to Trinity House who used it for coastguard duties until the 1920's.

Descending into Peel we'll take a small orientation tour before free time allows you to explore as you wish.

There is plenty to see and do, with Peel Castle and The house of Mannanan Museum within easy walking distance.

## Day 5 The Great Laxey Wheel and Snaefell

**Distance:** 5 miles (8km)

**Ascent:** 1,050 ft (320m)

We start our day with a ride on the Manx Electric Railway as we head north along the coast to Laxey where we'll take the Snaefell Mountain Railway to the top of Snaefell, the Island's only mountain. At 621m above sea level, on a clear day the summit offers views to England, Scotland, Ireland and Wales.

After a breather at the top of Snaefell we'll descend using the Mountain Railway to return to Laxey for the start of a circular walk which includes a visit to The Great Laxey Wheel. This is one of the Isle of Man's most iconic landmarks, it is the largest working water wheel in the world and was built in 1854 to pump water from the Glen Mooar part of the Great Laxey Mines Industrial Complex. There will be time to visit the wheel and ascend the viewing platform, with an optional walk to the mines.

## Day 6 Milntown Gardens and Ramsey

**Distance:** 4 miles (6.5km)

**Ascent:** 550 ft (160m)

On our final day of exploration we'll take the Manx Electric Railway from Douglas to Ballure, enjoying views of the rolling countryside and coastal waters as we go. From there we'll walk to Glen Auldyn, passing the Albert Tower and the infamous TT hairpin en-route. We spend part of the afternoon at Milntown, the island's only historic estate with 15

acres of gardens and woodland to explore. Throughout the gardens you can find rhododendrons, magnolias, camellias, with the kitchen gardens boasting a wide range of traditional, heritage and modern varieties of vegetables, herbs and flowers. To finish the day, we'll head back to Ramsey to enjoy a short tour of the Fynoderee Distillery. Their premium spirits feature Manx grown and hand foraged botanicals and are distilled, bottled and served at the Distillery – a fitting way to toast a fantastic few days of everything Manx.

### Day 7 **Departure Day**

Enjoy a leisurely breakfast before making your way home.

## DAILY WALK OPTIONS




**Gentle walking grade 3**

Slightly longer walks, mostly on well-trodden paths, with some gentle gradients plus stiles and steps possible. Typically, 5-6 miles (8-10km) with around 650ft (200m) of ascent.

## ACCOMMODATION

### Mannin Hotel

Situated in the heart of Douglas, the 4-star Mannin Hotel offers a modern and comfortable base from which to explore the Island. The Lounge Bar is the perfect place to relax after a day of walking and sightseeing, with a great selection of drinks available, whilst Liberties restaurant offers comfortable laid-back dining, overlooking the Broadway and Villa Marina and prides itself on providing a menu sourced from the finest Manx ingredients. All rooms feature Air conditioning, free Wi-Fi, Ironing facilities, Tea & Coffee making facilities, hair dryer, fridge and flat screen tv.

## FOOD & DRINK

### Dining at the Mannin Hotel

Your stay is full-board. This includes daily breakfasts, packed lunch options, and evening meals. Vegetarian choices and dietary requirements can be catered for (please give advance notice when booking).

### Packed lunches

Our packed lunches will be too much food for some and not enough for others; if you feel you might need more food during the walk, please bring a supply of snacks to supplement this – it won't always be possible to buy these on the route. Your packed lunches will include: a bread sandwich or roll with a choice of filling; some fresh fruit; fruit cake/flapjack or similar, crisps and/or biscuits. For those of you tackling a level 4 or above holiday, we would highly recommend bringing some trail mix or something similar to ensure you've some fuel in reserve should you need it.

### Dietary requirements

Our partner hotels can cater for most dietary requirements, but it is important you advise us of any allergies and dietary restrictions you have at the time of booking.

## TRAVEL DETAILS

**Travel Details:**

### Flight:

If you have booked a flight inclusive holiday, you will arrive at Ronaldsway airport from the UK mainland. There are no transfer arrangements in place, however there are busses every 20 minutes from the Airport to Douglas. The fair costs approx. £3.30 (2025). Request to stop at the Central Promenade and you'll find the Mannin Hotel is a short walk from the bus stop. Alternatively, you can take a Taxi direct from Ronaldsway Airport to the Mannin Hotel. This will be approx. £40 (2025 prices).

### Ferry

The ferries from Heysham and Liverpool dock at Douglas Ferry Terminal in the heart of Douglas. From there it is a 15-minute walk along the promenade, or 5-minute taxi journey to the Mannin Hotel.

Mannin Hotel
8-16 Broadway
Douglas
IM1 2LX
Isle of Man
Tel: 01624 625408

Check in at the Mannin Hotel is from 3pm. If you arrive earlier than 3pm, the hotel will happily store your luggage until your room is ready.

## SAFETY ON YOUR HOLIDAY

### Walking safety

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 where 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.

## ESSENTIAL INFORMATION

### Packing list

Weather conditions in the UK can vary throughout the day, and conditions in the mountains may be cold and windy even in summer. Use the following list as a guide when preparing for your holiday.

**Essentials**

- Suitable waterproof walking boots with ankle support and good grip
- Waterproof, wind-resistant jacket with a hood, taped seams and a hydrostatic head rating of at least 10,000 mm
- Waterproof overtrousers
- Spare warm clothing, such as a synthetic insulated jacket
- Comfortable walking clothing (jeans & waterproof capes are not suitable)
- Warm mid-layers, such as fleeces
- Gloves and a warm hat, even in summer
- Rucksack with a waterproof liner
- Water bottle with a capacity of at least 1 litre
- Flask for hot drinks
- Sunscreen
- UV-protective sunglasses
- Spare high-energy food
- Head torch and spare batteries for holidays between October and March
- Passport (if applicable)
- Visa (if applicable)
- Copy of your travel insurance policy

**Recommended**

- Several base layers, with long or short sleeves
- Cushioned walking socks to avoid blisters
- First-aid kit, including plasters, insect repellent, a midge net and a tick-removal tool
- Sit mat
- Waterproof pouch for valuables
- Rubbish bags
- Wallet or purse

- Camera
- Walking poles
- Sun hat
- Gaiters
- Mobile Phones
- Swimwear (please see accommodation information for hotel facilities)
- Membership cards for English Heritage, the National Trust or similar heritage organisations in Scotland and Wales, if you are a member. These may be useful when visiting attractions during your itinerary or on your free day.

## USEFUL INFORMATION

### Useful information

Our experienced and knowledgeable volunteer leaders undergo a thorough assessment to lead you on your holiday and are delighted to share their knowledge and enthusiasm with you. Please ensure you complete and hand in your registration form on arrival and let the leader know about any medical problems you may have. This may be useful in the event of a problem on the walk and will be treated confidentially by the leader.

**In The Event Of A Problem**

If you become separated from your group, please stay where you are. Your leader will retrace their steps to find you.

All our leaders carry a mobile phone, group shelter, spare maps and a compass. In the unlikely event your leader is incapacitated, please use any emergency kit in their rucksack and call the emergency services (call 999 in the UK, or 112 overseas).

Please then try to call the hotel where you are staying to let them know there is a problem.

If you have any cause for complaints regarding accommodation, you should notify your leader who can then attempt to rectify the problem.

**Ticks**

Ticks are tiny creatures that live in vegetation and can attach themselves to passing animals or walkers and may carry a risk of Lyme Disease. Please refer to NHS advice and guidelines for information prior to your holiday.

## TRIPNOTE VALIDITY

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.

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