

Isle of Man Guided Walking with Sightseeing Holiday

Trip style: Walking with sightseeing

Destination: 📍 Isle of Man

Trip code: XIM06-WOD11

Trip Walking Grade: 1 of 2



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.
- Submitting 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 Fynoderee Distillery

WALKING GRADES AND OPTIONS

This Guided Walking/Hiking Trail has walks graded level 2

Your fitness Having a solid base of fitness before your holiday will ensure you've the best chance of completing the holiday and enjoying it to boot. Here's a few simple tips to help you get fit and ready for your challenge:

- Get out walking – whether the weather, get out there, and start building your fitness months before your holiday
- Build your distance gradually and get a number of 6-8hr hill days in
- Ideally, try and do two consecutive days training if possible
- Take the stairs every time
- Train on different terrain
- Train with your day pack and your walking boots too, to ensure they're well worn in before your holiday
- Other sports help improve your walking fitness too. The best ones are jogging, cycling, swimming, which will build your stamina, and yoga which will help strengthen your core and improve balance
- Time training will help ensure you enjoy your holiday to the max.

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.

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



Easier Walks

Good paths but walks are a bit longer. Some walks, particularly in mountain areas, may have sections over rough or steeper terrain.

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.

Useful Holiday Information

The UK has a famously unpredictable climate so it's best to be prepared for weather that's sunny one minute and raining the next. To make it easier, here's a list of items you should consider packing.

Essentials

- Suitable footwear such as waterproof walking boots that provide ankle support and good grip
- Waterproof and windproof jacket
- Comfortable clothing (jeans & waterproof capes are not suitable)
- Mid-layer(s) to keep you warm. Fleeces make a good choice
- Waterproof overtrousers
- Gloves and a warm hat
- Rucksack with waterproof liner
- Flask for hot drinks
- Water bottle (at least 1 litre capacity)
- Sunscreen
- UV sunglasses

For holidays operating October through to the end of March, please also bring the following on your walks:

- spare warm clothing
- spare high energy food
- head torch and spare batteries
- please note for the October to March season your waterproof jacket needs to offer a high level of waterproofing and wind resistance, and a hood. Look for a waterproof jacket with sealed/taped seams and a minimum HH (hydrostatic head - this is the rating given on waterproof jackets) of 10,000mm+

Recommended

- Several base layers (long-sleeve or short-sleeve)
- Cushioned walking socks to avoid blisters
- First aid kit, including plasters and insect repellent and tick remover tool
- Sit mat
- Waterproof pouch for valuables
- Rubbish bag (remember to always leave no trace)
- Wallet/purse
- Camera
- Walking poles

Trip Information

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.

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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