

Itinerary: Hidden Heritage Treasures of the Isle of Man in 4 Days

The Island may be known for its racing history, majestic Castle Rushen and the gigantic waterwheel but these are some of the off the beaten track experiences that new and returning clients can explore to uncover the unique spirit of the Island and treasured collections as well as some of the most momentous times in history.



Tynwald Hill



Versa



Groudle Railway

Day 1

MORNING

Tynwald Hill

The first day takes you to the heart of the Island and to one of our most distinctive landmarks, [Tynwald Hill](#). A symbol of the Island's independence and where our oldest Norse traditions still take place, a knowledgeable guide or a visit the [Culture Vannin and Tynwald Cultural Exhibition Centre](#) opposite (open weekdays) to reveal its history and connection to Viking Thing (ping) sites around the world. Admission is free. Arrange a [Blue Badge Guide](#) to accompany your visit. A tour of this area and the nearby Royal Chapel could take 30 minutes to 1 hour.

[Centre for WWI Internment at Knockaloe](#)

A short journey of 5 minutes by vehicle you can visit the fascinating exhibition dedicated to the story of the Camp, its staff and 30,000 internees. This area was the site of the largest Internment Camp and includes an audio visual exhibition, mapped walk of the camp and a database of stories captured. Group visits are available by appointment from April to September and can take 1 to 2 hours. Group visits are £5 per person payable in advance or upon arrival, email info@knockaloe.im.



LUNCH

Niarbyl Bay Café

Set in one of the most beautiful locations on the Island for its south-westerly outlook of the coast and great for spotting wildlife. The area also has an incredible geological fault line. The menu offers fresh fish dishes and a great selection of lunches, coffee and cakes. Pre-booking is advised for groups +44 (0) 1624 843300

AFTERNOON

Manx Transport Heritage Museum

At 60 square metres it is small but holds a treasured original Peel P50 micro car, made just 300 yards away in the 1960s! Across the road see the remaining end of the line of the Peel Railway. The volunteers will open specially for visiting groups and donations are welcome.

Cathedral Isle of Man

The Island's only Cathedral has fascinating and intriguing treasures discover including the highly-detailed stained glass windows depicting the Bible and expansive gardens that tell the story of Christianity in Mann. On display are the last three pieces of silver that Archibald Knox commissioned to the unique murals by artist John Nicholson made from Caen stone. Arrange a group tour in advance by emailing admin@cathedral.im or on 01624 844830.

Allow free time in Peel to explore the characterful streets and walks along the promenade, Castle or up to Corrin's Folly to panoramic views of the town. The town boast's many antique shops and is a great stop for an ice cream.

Day 2

MORNING

Military Museum

The second day takes you to the south of the Island. Highly rated by previous visitors, this museum is bursting with cherished collections dedicated to aviation and military stories also told by the passionate volunteers that run the museum. Its WWI exhibition is particularly poignant. The museum is open seasonally but a group tour would be gladly arranged in advance, email airmuseum@manx.net or call 01624 829294.

Bradda Head and Cronk ny Arrey Laa

One of the Island's most photographed scenes, this bay and the overlooking landmark is a must visit. Take in the scenery from the bay or take a short walk to Bradda Head (approx. 30 minutes to 1 hour). Scenic hikes can also be taken from the headland northward to the highest point on the Island's coastal path known as Cronk ny Arrey Laa, meaning Hill of the Day Watch, and was used to spot Viking invaders. Note this is a challenging section of the coastal path and can take up to 4 hours.



LUNCH

Bradda Glen

From afternoon teas or a Sunday roast, enjoy comforting food in one of the most picturesque settings on the Island. Whether from our outdoor decking or the contemporary setting inside, you can enjoy panoramic views of Port Erin Bay and the coast, all the way down to the Calf of Man. Book in advance at bookings@braddaglen.im or call 01624 837713.

Versa

For a completely Manx experience, this restaurant is focused on sustainability is open from Thursday to Sunday. Menus change weekly to truly reflect the season, and if it's not Manx, it won't be coming through their door. If the ingredients they use are not foraged, they have been sourced from a very local supplier. They offer a relaxed brunch during the day and tasting menus by night. Email infoversa@gmail.com or call +44 7624 326349.

AFTERNOON

Port Erin Railway Museum

Back in Port Erin town and before you step on board the railway, this museum sits right on the track opposite the station and can be easily missed. It houses vintage locomotives and the Queen's carriage as well as a virtual experience where you can drive the steam train. It's exceptionally well stocked with gifts and souvenirs of the Island to take home. Admission is £2. Group visits can take 1 hour and be booked by emailing HireMe@gov.im.

Steam Railway

Take a return journey to Douglas (1 hour) via Steam Railway allowing your clients to experience the grandeur of travelling on a Victorian railway perfectly frozen in time. It is the longest narrow gauge steam line in Britain that still uses its original locomotives and carriages. The Railway also boasts a Pullman style dining car and bar car. Talk to their group bookings officer at HireMe@gov.im to book, and for trade and group rates and ask about their Go Explore Cards – for multiple journeys or heritage site visits.

Day 3

MORNING/ LUNCH

Groudle Glen Railway & the Little Isabella

Enjoy a mini coastal train trip to the Sea Lion Rocks tearooms and visitor centre to learn about the heritage behind Groudle Glen as a former Victorian pleasure grounds. Refreshments can be enjoyed from their cliff top patio with breath-taking coastal scenery. You can also spot the remains of the zoo that kept sea lions and polar bears! Don't miss the opportunity for a riverside walk through the glen to find the charming waterwheel recently fully restored.



Take the Manx Electric Railway from the station at Groudle onto Ballaglass Glen Halt.

AFTERNOON

Ballaglass Glen to Port Cornaa

Enjoy views of mountains and remnants of glacial valleys, see a spectacular river cliff and a deep gorge, discover waterfalls, flood meadows and a pebbled cove. The route links up with a small part of the Raad Ny Foillan. You will re-join the Manx Electric Railway at Glen Mona.

If time allows from Port Cornaa walk to Kirk Maughold Church, one of the largest church yards in the British Isles. Find a cross house in the churchyard containing a third of the pre-Norse and Celtic crosses found on the Island.

Day 4

The Old House of Keys

The Old House of Keys in Castletown was once the centre of 19th century political life on the Isle of Man. The building has been restored to its former appearance of 1866 but animated portraits of Keys members and a simulated model of Mr Speaker bring the debating chamber to life. The Secretary of the House welcomes you to join in the debates on law setting in this participatory experience.

LUNCH

Café Bar Two Six

A café beside the sea at Derbyhaven and near the airfield serves brunch, lunches and afternoon tea. Email cafebartwosix@manx.net to pre-book.

The Abbey Restaurant

Situated next door to the ancient monastery, and in a building steeped in history, the restaurant menus feature an ever evolving feast of local delicacies, afternoon teas and Sunday lunches.

AFTERNOON

Rushen Abbey

A Norse King gave land for an Abbey over 900 years ago and thought to be connected by tunnels to the ancient Castle Rushen, this is where the oldest ever storybook on the Isle of Man was written - now a treasured collection in the British Library. The Chronicles of the Kings of Man and the Isles recorded by monks, in addition to other topics, extraordinary events in Manx history from 1000 A.D. to 1316 A.D. The attraction also draws on its popularity for strawberry tea-dances in the early 1900s and even 1980s disco. Nowadays, the medieval Abbey ruins enchant, with large gardens with blossom trees and wildflowers. For group visits and rates to any Manx National Heritage (MNH) attractions contact lynn.mckibbin@mnh.im, +44 (0) 1624 648017.



Grenaby Studios

Located in an old farmhouse that dates from the 1700s, the studios are located in the tranquil countryside that provides beautiful views and endless inspiration to the resident artists. The studio shop offers lots of beautiful and unique gifts all locally made. Find fine art, jewellery and wood turned bowls as well as regular pop-up shops by local creatives.

More experiences

[Gaiety Theatre Guided Tours](#)

If you cannot book an evening performance, a tour is a must of this ornate theatre. The Gaiety is one of the finest and last surviving theatre examples by legendary theatre architect, Frank Matcham. First opened in 1900 the theatre has since undergone extensive historical restoration.

The 2 hour 15 min tour takes you under the stage into the amazing 'trap house', one of the Gaiety's best kept secrets, displaying the famous Corsican Trap, the only one of its kind in the world, and via the costume display. Tours are every Saturday or can be booked by arrangement.

Contact

Speak with the Travel Trade team at Visit Isle of Man for more information or for a bespoke itinerary for your group or tour to the Isle of Man:

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