

# DISCOVER HERITAGE & CULTURE

A rich history that echoes through the ages. The Isle of Man has a unique and varied heritage which covers many thousands of years.



VISIT  
ISLE OF MAN





ISLE OF MAN / DISCOVER HERITAGE & CULTURE



# CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION TO THE ISLE OF MAN

PRODUCT OVERVIEW

TREASURES OF A KINGDOM

VICTORIAN AGE WONDERS

ISLAND AT WAR

HOME OF ROAD RACING

THE STORYTELLERS

CULTURAL FESTIVALS

ACCOMMODATION

PRODUCT LIST

FUN FACTS

ASSETS



# ISLE OF MAN

The Isle of Man is fiercely proud of its unique heritage and culture.

On a visit your clients can discover its extraordinary 10,000 history, from its rule of a maritime kingdom and the Viking and Celtic age to the glamour and nostalgia of the Victorian holiday era touring on vintage railways. The Island played a remarkable part in the World Wars and museums and exhibitions reveal the poignant story.

The outstanding natural landscapes of the Island are full of rich history and legendary stories. Your clients can explore by foot, or driving routes, many capturing the racing motorsport heritage. Cultural events mark ancient and folklore traditions.

The Isle of Man's UNESCO Biosphere celebrates our sense of place and our commitment to securing the past of our heritage and culture for the future.





# PRODUCT OVERVIEW



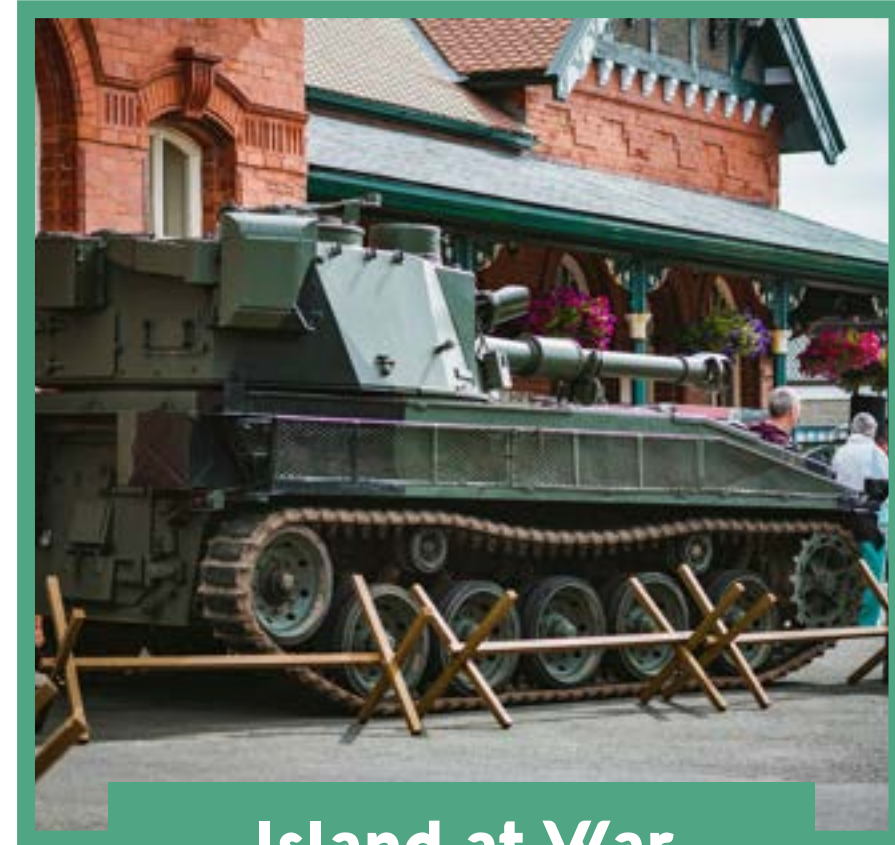
## Treasures of a Kingdom

Etched in the landscape find castles, archaeological sites, stone crosses and museums holding treasured relics of our strong Celtic and Viking past and 10,000 years of history.



## Victorian Wonders

Ride on the impressive network of Victorian heritage railways, powered by electricity, steam and horsepower and see fascinating Victorian attractions and architecture.



## Island at War

Trace the Island's heroic poignant war story through museums and guided tours. Few people are aware of the extraordinary role the small island played in assisting the allied war effort and the largest internment camp of WWI.



# PRODUCT OVERVIEW



## Home of Road Racing

Uncover the illustrious 100 year history of motorsport on the Isle of Man at the Isle of Man Motor and official TT Museum or discover the 37.75 mile Mountain course on a exhilarating Trike tour.



## The Storytellers

Our specialist tour guides, many with a Blue Badge accreditation, can provide and reveal the Island's hidden treasures, local folklore, myths and legends.



## Cultural Festivals

Discover Island folklore, traditions and song that are at the heart of our unique identity. Cultural festivals bring together our Celtic nations or mark momentous days in the Manx calendar.



# TREASURES OF A KINGDOM

Etched in the landscape find castles, archaeological sites, stone crosses and museums holding treasured relics of our strong Celtic and Viking past and 10,000 years of history.

- Discover Tynwald and its Viking roots - the oldest continuous parliament in the world
- Manx National Heritage portfolio of museums, attractions and landscapes
- Ancient and sacred sites and experiences



ISLE OF MAN / DISCOVER HERITAGE & CULTURE

# TYNWALD

A symbol of our Crown Dependency, the distinctive and ancient site of **Tynwald Hill** lies at the geographical heart of the Island. Once a year it plays host to an open air meeting of the Island's parliament, a tradition established by Norse Viking settlers over a thousand years ago.

Visit the **Culture Vannin Tynwald & Cultural Exhibition Centre** opposite to learn more and see a depiction of the National Day made in LEGO, or **tour 'Inside Tynwald'** the new Chambers in Douglas to learn about the unique political heritage.

For a more immersive experience your clients can have a lively political debate and vote at **The Old House of Keys** in the ancient capital.

"Our little nation is the only Norse nation now on earth that can shake hands with the days of the Sagas, and the Sea-Kings."



ISLE OF MAN / DISCOVER HERITAGE & CULTURE

# MANX NATIONAL HERITAGE SITES

Visit up to 11 historic experiences, including two iconic Castles, [Peel Castle](#) - a former Viking stronghold and dominating the ancient capital, the finely preserved [Castle Rushen](#), former home to the Kings of Mann.

The [Manx Museum and National Art Gallery](#) is a great starting point for the journey through the Isle of Man's vibrant history or marvel at the iconic water-powered [Great Laxey Wheel](#), a feat of Victorian engineering.

In their portfolio is also ancient sites and landscapes including [Balladoole Viking Ship burial](#) and [Niarbyl](#), a coastal beauty spot of great geological interest.

Manx National Heritage provide information and rates for travel trade operators looking to visit their properties.







Credit: Culture Vann

# ANCIENT & SACRED PLACES

## Highlights

- Meayll Hill for the Neolithic period chambered tomb, and far-reaching views across Port Erin
- Located in the heart of Peel, a tour at [Cathedral Isle of Man](#) reveals Knox silverware and unique murals in Caen stone by famed Manx artist Nicholson. Follow the story of Christianity in Mann in the gardens from 5th century to present day.
- John Nicolson's murals cover the gothic [St Thomas' Church](#) in Douglas and are an outstanding feature to behold.
- Discover stories in the stones [Maughold churchyard](#) which holds Norse and Celtic cross slabs.
- [Praying the Keeills](#) - an event touring Christian chapels at places of great peace and beauty







# VICTORIAN AGE WONDERS

With just one ticket your clients can discover the Island on the impressive network of vintage railways, powered by electricity, steam and horsepower. Each one is finely preserved using original rolling stock taking you back to a bygone era. Your clients can revel in nostalgic journeys, discover the myriad of attractions for transport enthusiasts and tour beautiful buildings of the age.

- Travel on Heritage Railways network
- Original Pullman style Dining car
- Multiple museum tributes to heritage transport
- The Great Laxey Wheel and smaller wheels
- The Gaiety Theatre
- Stay on the Victorian promenades and characterful era properties



# HERITAGE RAILWAYS

## Highlights

- The [Manx Electric Railway](#) winds along the north east coast from Douglas to Laxey and Ramsey
- Join the [Snaefell Mountain Railway](#) at Laxey, climbing 2,000ft to the summit for unrivalled scenery, unless the sea god Manannan has cloaked the Island in mist!
- The [Steam Railway](#) provides country and coastal views and fantastic links to the historic towns, best beaches and coastal walks.
- Dine on the Pullman style [Dining Car](#) or join the themed foodie events each month.
- The [Groudle Glen Railway](#) to see remains of its Victorian amusements and a cliff top zoo and take a glen walk to the 'Little Isabella waterwheel'
- Miniature [Laxey Mine Railway](#) and the [Snaefell Wheel and Washing Floors](#)







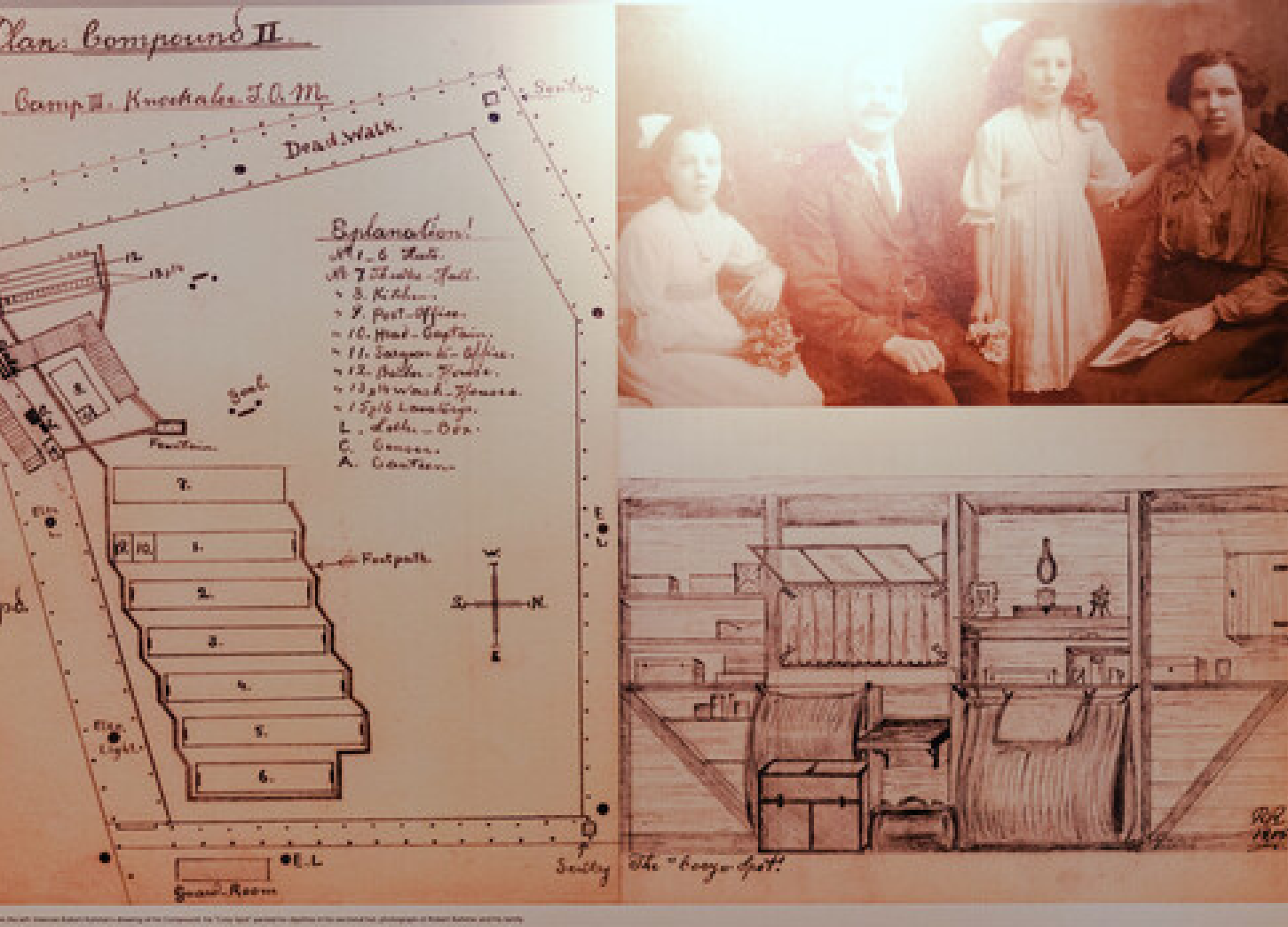
# VICTORIAN AGE ARCHITECTURE

## Highlights

- Tour the [Gaiety Theatre](#), a jewel in the heritage crown, taking your clients from the adornments of the front of house and ornate auditorium, to the more to under the stage and the famous Corsican Trap
- Book tickets to attend a top performance on the Gaiety Theatre Stage
- Tour the historic estate of [Milntown](#) and its acres of gardens
- Visit the small historic country home at [The Grove Museum](#) perfectly preserved in time
- Sight the [Queen's Pier](#) at 'Royal' Ramsey and see its significant restoration in action







# ISLAND AT WAR

## Highlights

- The [Manx Military & Aviation Museum](#) is a bursting with memories and artefacts and is one of the best reviewed museums on the Island.
- At the site of the largest ever WW1 Internment Camp is the [Knockaloe Centre for WW1 internment](#) dedicated to telling the story of 30,000 German, Austro-Hungarian and Turkish civilian men who were held as 'enemy aliens'
- [Man at War gallery at the Manx Museum with Island](#) tells stories in a world wide events context
- WW1 bunkers and war history tours in the [Heritage Open Days](#) programme each October

### Creating a Life

At first, internment had focussed around the 'necessary community' of the huts where... They talked, they read, they quarrelled, they played cards... As soon as it rained the clay soil became impassable, everyone sheltered inside the hut and there was quarrelling going on between some people or other nearly all the time. They had nothing else to do, poor things, but quarrel or quarrel!

In the early months the belief had remained that internment would only be a temporary arrangement for the short duration of the war. Activities outside the accommodation huts and compound yards had mainly involved route marches to St John's or Glen Hays, but with the sinking of the Lusitania and increased hostility towards the 'enemy aliens', activities had to be restricted to within the Camp.

The first theatre had been built in Camp I in February 1915. Over the course of 1915, at the request of the internees, the large dining halls built in each compound were transformed into theatres, classrooms, workshops and offices. Recreation areas outside the compounds were also developed.

With the appointment of Colonel Flanders in early 1916, the Camp started to become a place to live and not just to exist. Two internee journals were appointed per compound to deal with improvements to the hastily erected huts and the internees had started to create a life within the barbed wire. As Hermann Schütze wrote:

'My dear Parents! Today is the second Easter I've spent here and still no prospect we'll see each other soon. Despite this, we're happier than in previous years, as we are now gradually grown so accustomed to our life here...'

1. The first theatre was built in Camp I in February 1915. Over the course of 1915, at the request of the internees, the large dining halls built in each compound were transformed into theatres, classrooms, workshops and offices. Recreation areas outside the compounds were also developed.





# HOME OF ROAD RACING

The Island is steeped in over 100 years of motorsport heritage not only boasting a world-famous road racing circuit but a wide range of dedicated attractions and spectacular driving routes for your clients who like to journey by car, making it an unforgettable experience.

- Tour the demanding and thrilling Mountain Course circuit
- TT experiences from trike tours to helicopter rides
- Scenic driving routes taking in historic courses, outstanding scenery and attractions
- Motorsport and car collections, legendary bikes and memorabilia housed in the many museums
- Vehicle friendly accommodation



# HOME OF ROAD RACING

## Highlights

- Tour the Mountain circuit by an exhilarating TT [Trike Tour](#).
- The [Isle of Man Motor Museum](#) holds over 500 unique bikes and vehicles from the Island and around the world
- Tour several scenic [self-drive routes](#)
- Treasured bike and car collections at the [Murray's Motorcycle Museum](#) and the [Milntown Estate](#).
- See the Peel P50 micro car at the [Manx Heritage Transport Museum](#)
- Attend one of the many motorsport events which take place year round
- Take a pitstop for pies and local refreshments at the [Victory Cafe](#) - a prime stop on the TT racing circuit
- A dedicated TT gallery at the [Manx Museum](#)





ISLE OF MAN / DISCOVER HERITAGE & CULTURE



# THE STORYTELLERS

Our tour guides, many with a specialist accreditations, can provide and reveal the Island's hidden treasures, local folklore, myths and legends.

Some offer unique experiences, or transport options and can tailor tours to your clients requirements.



- Blue Badge qualified guides
- Specialist walking and Mountain leaders
- Cycling guides
- Boat trips
- Ghost tours in historic towns, castles and houses
- Manx Wildlife Trust tours and events programme
- Astronomer's talks and dining events





# CULTURAL FESTIVALS

July

**Yn Chruinnaght - Celtic Gathering**

Celebrating the music, song, language, dance and culture of the Isle of Man, Ireland, Scotland, Wales, Cornwall and Brittany. A lively festival week bringing together top Celtic acts as well as dance, workshops and great ceilidhs.



**Tynwald Day**

The Tynwald Court meet once a year on July 5th at an open air ceremony at Tynwald Hill. This day is a national holiday for the Island, and laws that are passed during the year are proclaimed in both Manx Gaelic and English complete with traditional procession parade, fair and evening entertainment.



ISLE OF MAN / DISCOVER HERITAGE & CULTURE

# CULTURAL FESTIVALS

October

Hop tu Naa Festival

From wholesome autumnal family events to spooky experiences, this festival celebrates our Celtic past, superstitions and folklore on 31 October predating Halloween.

Weekly

Trad Music Sessions

Many historic pubs host toe-tapping treat of live trad music. Every session is unique with musician influences and instruments varied in style from Manx, Irish or folk, but will give you a flavour of our vibrant Gaelic culture which we share with other Celtic nations.





# ADDED EXTRAS

## Heritage Passes & Group Rates

Go Explore Heritage card entitles the holder to 5 days of unlimited bus and rail journeys and admission to Manx National Heritage sites. Alternatively there is a Holiday Pass for admission to MNH sites to 14 days with group passes and group and trade rates also are available across numerous attractions.

## Food, Drink and Foodie Tours

Queenies, kippers and Loaghtan lamb are special Manx delicacies to sample together with award-winning Manx ales and craft spirits. In 1874, anything other than the use of natural ingredients became prohibited by breweries, making them famous for their purity and flavour. Arrange a tour and tasting for your clients with Okell's Brewery or the Fynoderee Distillery.

Surrounded by the ocean and with a small population, locally-grown produce and freshly caught produce is second to none.

Farm tours are experiences that can be added to your clients itinerary.





ISLE OF MAN / DISCOVER HERITAGE & CULTURE



Self Catering



Hotels



B&B and Guest Accommodation



Camping and Glamping









# PRODUCT LIST

## Castles & Historic sites

-  [Great Laxey Wheel & Mines Trail](#)
-  [Balladoole Viking Ship burial](#)
-  [Cashtal yn Ard](#)
-  [Castle Rushen](#)  
[Jurby Church](#)  
[King Orry's Grave](#)  
[Kirk Maughold Church](#)
-  [Peel Castle](#)
-  [The Old House of Keys](#)  
[St Thomas' Church](#)
-  [Meayll Hill](#)  
[St Luke's Church & Old Tynwald](#)  
[Cathedral Isle of Man](#)
-  [Rushen Abbey](#)  
[Snaefell Wheel & Washing Floors](#)  
[Kirk Malew Church](#)

## Museums & Visitor Centres

-  [Manx Museum](#)
-  [House of Manannan](#)
-  [Cregneash](#)
-  [Nautical Museum](#)
-  [Grove Museum](#)  
[Culture Vannin Tynwald & Cultural](#)  
[Exhibition Centre](#)  
[Knockaloe Centre for WW1 Internment](#)  
[Manx Aviation and Military Museum](#)  
[Jurby Transport Museum](#)  
[Railway Museum Port Erin](#)  
[Manx Electric Railway Museum](#)  
[Leece Museum](#)  
[Isle of Man Motor Museum](#)  
[Murray's Motorcycle Museum](#)
-  [Ayres Visitor Centre & Nature Trail](#)  
[Scarlett Visitor Centre and Nature Trail](#)

## Heritage Railways

- [Isle of Man Steam Railway](#)
- [Manx Electric Railway](#)
- [Snaefell Mountain Railway](#)
- [Groudle Glen Railway](#)
- [Laxey Mine Railway](#)

## Driving Routes

## Tours and Experiences

- [Inside Tynwald](#)
- [Isle of Man Trike Tours](#)
- [Gaiety Theatre Guided Tours](#)
- [Milntown House Tours](#)
- [Isle of Man Ghost Tours](#)

## Tours and Sightseeing

- [Go Explore Heritage Card](#)

Some attractions may be closed to the public on certain days or in the winter months, but will open specially for groups by appointment. Check with them directly for more information.





# IOM FACTS

- The history of the Three Legs of Mann goes as far back as Pagan times and was originally a symbol of the sun and of power and life. It was adopted in the 13th Century as the royal coat of arms for three kings of Mann whose realm at the time also included the Hebrides in the Western Isles of Scotland.
- Although English speaking, the Manx people also have their own language, Manx Gaelic. You might hear people using some common Manx phrases like Traa dy liooar – time enough.
- The Isle of Man was the first place in the world where women could vote.
- The Bee Gees - Maurice, Robin, and Barry were all born on the Isle of Man and a statue of them by the internationally acclaimed artist and sculptor Andy Edwards is situated on Douglas Promenade between Marine Gardens 1 and 2 opposite Regent Street.





# ASSETS

## Video

- [Extraordinary is..an island for the culturally curious](#)
- [The Believers](#)
- [The Explorers](#)
- [Our Islanders - Manx National Heritage](#)
- [The Manx Year - Culture Vannin \(various videos\)](#)

## Imagery

- [Heritage Culture Isle of Man Image Library](#)

## Brochures and Guides

- [One Stop Guide](#)
- [Explore with Manx National Heritage](#)
- [The Dining Car Events](#)

