

CITY OF PEEL HERITAGE STROLLS



Peel is a part of our magical island. The streets are steeped in the memories of time's past. It has had many lives from the Vikings to military to religious to fishing and many more.

Peel wears its history on its sleeve for all to see. These walks will give you a flavour of what happened here. If you listen carefully Peel may tell you its many secrets. We hope you enjoy these walks and stories.



Walk 4:



BRACING CLIFFTOP STROLL AND VICTORIAN TOURIST HOTSPOTS

Allow 1 to 2 hours



Creg Malin Hotel

- 1 Start: The Creg Malin Hotel, located on Marine Parade at the northern end of the Promenade at the foot of Walpole Road. Parking available here or the Number 6 bus stops here. There is a steep ascent with steps on this walk but lots of benches for contemplation and a rest along the way. There is also a route to avoid these steps.

The Creg Malin Hotel was opened in 1887 by the Peel Land and Development Company and was the first purpose built hotel in Peel. It advertised itself as:

'A First Class hotel and a beautiful situation commanding lovely views of Peel Castle and Bay. There is an excellent 18-hole golf course, open air baths, good boating and fishing with nearby dance hall and cinema'.

We will see most of these features on this walk.

In the Second World War, the Creg Malin became headquarters for the Peveril Internment Camp in Peel. After an escape attempt in 1941 (more about this later), a detachment of Metropolitan Police were brought to the Island to enhance the camp guard and they were billeted here.

After the war, it was reverted back to a successful hotel through it closed some years ago and is currently awaiting a new life.

- 2 Continue along Marine Parade.

Look at this row of Victorian boarding houses from the Promenade side of the road.

They each have different designs and were built at different times by different builders. The two nearest the Creg Malin were built first then the next five were built a few years later. The terrace was finished with two more built by the 'Diamond King' Joseph Mylchreest; a Peel resident who made his fortune in the South African diamond mines in the 19th century. At the end of the Promenade are the remains of the Peel Sandstone Quarry which provided the stone for many of Peel's buildings, such as the Marine Parade boarding houses.

- 3 Go up the stairs past the Bowling Club and tennis courts until you reach the tarmac path, and then turn left. If you would like to avoid the steps, you can backtrack to the end of the Walpole buildings, walk up Walpole Road and turn left behind the boarding houses.

The area around these steps is known as Happy Valley. In the 1880s, it had tennis courts, an open air swimming pool and various seaside activities. Today it provides an open air gym, tennis courts, bowls, a skate ramp, events area and plenty of fresh air on the seafront.

- 4 Follow this path up to the headland.

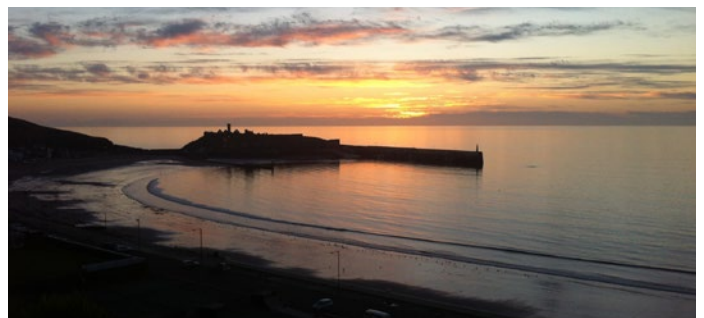
This path will lead you up onto Peel Head where you will find beautiful views over the bay. The information board on your left will tell you all about the views and the sea water baths below.

- 5 Follow the path up past the seating area with the Millennium Stone and Binoculars. Turn left just in front of the Manx Sod Wall.

Look down to see the Traie Fogog baths on your left or if you feel adventurous, you can go down the many steps to see what remains.

These baths opened in the summer of 1896 and were very popular over the years. Located in a small cove, the baths had a retaining wall so that it filled with saltwater during high tide and remained full during low tide.

The pool remained popular until coastal erosion and a series of landfalls in 1950 meant it was deemed unsafe so the pools were later moved next to the tennis courts on Marine Parade, which then closed in the early 1970s.



Peel Promenade



The Leece Museum

- 6 Returning to the headland, turn right at the end of the Manx wall and walk up the headland to the white painted air raid shelter in front of the white house.

The shelter was built for a Miss Robinson during the war, but was never used during a raid. It was moved here in 2016 from the garden of Cliffe Cottage and it is believed to be the only air raid shelter of its kind on the island.

- 7 Return back across the headland to reach the high concrete path in front of the terrace of Victorian houses and go up the steps to reach the furthest row, Victoria Terrace.

Enjoy the view that overlooks Peel Bay and the Castle. Victoria Terrace and the adjoining Peveril Terrace were built as a mixture of boarding houses and private homes in the mid-19th century.

- 8 At the end of Victoria Terrace, turn left towards the main road then turn right onto Peveril Road.

The three white cottages immediately to your right on Peveril Road were part of the Peveril Internment camp in the Second World War.

The alien's internment camp included Marine Parade below and Mount Morrison, Peveril Terrace and Victoria Terrace above. There is more information about the internment camp in the Leece Museum on the East Quay which is well worth a visit.

The Great Escape of 1941

17 Peveril Road, the middle of the three white cottages described above, was used in WWII to house fascists who the local press described as 'most unsavoury'. In August 1941, after four months

there, some of the prisoners decided to build an escape tunnel from the house. It was quiet noisy so they used one of the internees, who was an opera singer, to sing very loudly as a distraction whilst digging was in progress. By September, they were across the road and six inmates escaped, but they were all eventually captured.

- 9 Turn right down Walpole Avenue for a few yards then down Gib Lane immediately to the left.

Halfway down Gib Lane on the left is a white house at a right angle to the lane. This was an original farm cottage that dates back to the early days of the Peel settlement. If you look in the sandstone walls at the bottom of Gib Lane, you can see more old cottages with filled-in doors and windows from times gone by.

- 10 Turn left along the Promenade for seaside treats or turn right to return towards the Creg Malin Hotel.

i Peel is on the Raad ny Foillan (Way of the Gull) Coastal Footpath. The walk information can be downloaded from www.visitisleofman.com/raadnyfoillan

Most of the information for these walks was gleaned from 'Peel: a Slice of Time' by Bill Quine and Vic Bates. Copies of this book are sold in the Leece Museum and the Newsagents in Michael Street.

i There is a condensed history of Peel on the Peel Heritage website: www.peelheritage.net



Peel Castle



We hope you enjoyed this walk!