

British Guild of Travel Writers Itinerary

5-9 February 2024

VISIT
ISLE OF MAN



Travel

Inbound options Ferry:

- Heysham to Isle of Man – Departing at 14:15, arriving at 17:45 (hosted by Visit Isle of Man)

Outbound options Ferry:

- Isle of Man to Heysham – Wednesday 7th February – Departing at 08:45, arriving at 12:30
- Isle of Man to Heysham – Thursday 8th February – Departing at 08:45, arriving at 12:30
- Isle of Man to Heysham – Friday 9th February – Departing at 08:45, arriving at 12:30

5th February

Monday

Details

Tours coach 1

Comis Hotel:

- 18:00: Pick up from the Sea Terminal
- 18:30: Drop off at the Comis Hotel
- 19:15: Depart Comis Hotel
- 19:30: Drop off at Cycle 360, Business Park
- 21:15: Pick up at Cycle 360
- 21:30: Drop off at Comis Hotel

Tours coach 2

Claremont, Mannin and Empress:

- 18:00: Pick up from the Sea Terminal
- 18:15: Drop off at the Claremont, Mannin and the Empress
- 19:10: Pick up from Mannin and Empress
- 19:20: Pick up from Claremont
- 19:30: Drop off at Cycle 360, Business Park
- 21:15: Pick up at Cycle 360
- 21:30: Drop off at Claremont, Mannin and the Empress

19:30 – 21:15

Manx Menu Launch at Cycle 360:

Launch Manx Menu and the Island Kitchen Cookbook Volume 3.

Manx Menu is a new initiative launched to celebrate the diverse and innovative ecosystem of Manx chefs, mixologists, waiting-on staff, producers, growers and suppliers who provide the Island with quality produce and service year-round.

The launch of the initiative is at Cycle 360. Cocktails by Outlier Distillery and Extra Fancy.

In conjunction with Business Isle of Man Agency & DEFA.

6th February

Tuesday

Details

08:45	Pickups at the Claremont, Mannin and the Empress.
09:20	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Drop off at Comis Hotel.• Coaches from Hotels to the AGM at Comis Hotel, Santon.
09:30 - 13:30	AGM at Comis Hotel: Coaches from Hotels to the AGM at Comis Hotel, Santon.
13:30 - 14:30	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Lunch following the AGM at the Comis Hotel.• Depart the Comis Hotel at 14:30 (Bus Vannin).
15:00 - 17:00	Manx Museum: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Afternoon 'Introduction to the Isle of Man' at the Manx Museum.• An opportunity to explore the museum, join a guided tour and listen to speakers talking about the Island. Speakers: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 15:00: James Franklin - Folklore Sites of the Isle of Man author• 15:30: Lucy Chapman - Manx Wildlife Trust• 16:00: Joanne Overty - UNESCO Biosphere• 16:30: Nikki Sperring, Ancestry Depart Manx Museum at 17:00 and drop at hotels.
Travel details for the Gala Dinner	Comis Hotel: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 18:40: Pick up from Comis Hotel• 19:00: Drop off at the Villa Marina• 22:45: Pick up at the Villa Marina• 23:00: Drop off at the Comis Hotel Minibus: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 18:40 and 18:50 departure: Pickups from the Claremont and Empress• 22:45: Pick up at the Villa Marina• Drop offs at the Claremont and Empress
19:00 - 23:00	Gala Dinner at Villa Marina: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Reception drinks by Foraging Vintners.• Tables to be hosted by Chief Minister, Ministers, and Board Members attended by the Lieutenant Governor and Lady Lorimer.• Entertainment by The Manx Bard, Erika Kelly, and Skeddan Jiarg accompanied by a Ceili Band.

7th February

Wednesday

Details

Island Tour:

As the only entire nation in the world to be recognised as a UNESCO Biosphere, the Island Tour is designed to allow BGTW to experience awe-inspiring nature, an ancient and compelling 10,000 year history, a vibrant culture and an outdoor natural playground of unrivalled beauty. The Isle of Man is home to a vast array of fascinating history and heritage, from museums and medieval castles to landmarks and vintage railways.

Tour outline:

- Hotel pickups and travel to Laxey Wheel with a knowledgeable blue badge guide on the bus
- MER from Laxey to Ramsey
- The Fynoderee Distillery Tour in Ramsey
- Lunch
- Ramsey to Peel
- Time in Peel to include a stop for coffee at the House of Manannan – guided tours available
- Knockaloe Internment Centre near Peel
- Scenic drive via Tynwald Hill, Foxdale, The Sloc, and Castletown
- Time in Castletown – guided tour available inside of Castle Rushen
- Steam Railway from Castletown to Port Erin
- Port Erin to The Sound
- Scenic view of The Sound
- The Sound to Douglas

08:00 – Pickups from the Comis Hotel

08:30 – Pickups from Claremont, Mannin and Empress

18:15: Hotel drop offs

19:00 – Pickups from the Comis Hotel

19:15 – Pickups from Claremont

19:20 – Pickups from Villa Layby and Empress

22:00 – Pickups from Victory Café to hotels

Victory Café, Mountain Road

Motorsport themed evening at the Victory Café with guest speaker, Milky Quayle, giving insight into a lap of the course as a TT winner.

8th February

Thursday

Familiarisation Trips and Guided Tours

Food and Wellness Tour

**Morning
Pick up at 08:30**

Wellness - Relax, Recharge and Re-motivate

The recharge and re-motivate half day at The Mill House retreat offers a combination of relaxation yoga, fitness, cold water therapy, sauna, jacuzzi and delicious food.

**Afternoon
17:30 - Back to hotels**

Cook Shack Culinary Experience

Cookery school experience promoting all things Manx. The Cook Shack welcomes everyone with open arms with an emphasis on having a really good time whilst cooking delicious dishes and consuming the delights.

History and Heritage Tour

**Morning
Pick up at 08:30**

Isle of Man Motor Museum

Explore the amazing stories behind a collection of over 500 unique exhibits from around the world, including classic cars and motor vehicles, and rarely seen private motorcycles.

**Afternoon
16:30 - Back to hotels**

Gaiety Theatre and Tynwald Tour

Gaiety Theatre:

This tour guides take people back in time and wind their way through the building starting with all the 'pretty' areas and adornments of the front of house and ornate auditorium, to the more practical backstage, then 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.

Tynwald:

Take a guided tour of the historic Tynwald Chambers, the national parliament of the Isle of Man and the oldest continuous parliament in the world with the President of Tynwald, Laurence Skelly.



Eco-Tourism (Nature and Wildlife Discoveries)

The Island's enviable diverse landscape makes it the ideal home to a whole species of extraordinary nature, wildlife and marine life. Reconnect with Mother Nature amidst extraordinary natural beauty.

Morning Pick up at 08:30

Scenic walk in the South of the Island with a guide and beach clean with Beach Buddies.

Lunch

Afternoon

Tree planting with the Woodland Trust.

Evening meals: Manx Menu tastings (restaurants on the Island)

9th February

Friday

Details

Tours coach 1

- 07:30: Pick up from the Comis Hotel
- 07:45: Drop off at the Sea Terminal

Tours coach 2

- 07:35: Pickups at the Claremont, Mannin and the Empress
- 07:45: Drop off at the Sea Terminal

08:45

Departure for members from Isle of Man to Heysham via Ferry.

Itinerary subject to change

