

Itinerary: Capture the Culture of Douglas in 2 days

Two days of discovery can be spent in the Isle of Man's capital, which provides a great starting point to uncover the Island's history, Victorian curiosities and a taste of local artisan food and drink. It even offers opportunities to spot marine and birdlife.



Day 1

Douglas is the largest town and recently given city status. Lined with hotels and restaurants, its signature sweeping two mile promenade is popular with locals and visitors, and great to explore a glimpse of the Island in the Victorian age with new influences from the recent contemporary Promenade refurbishment.

In the bay is the **Tower of Refuge**, a small castle like structure built by founder of the RNLI Sir William Hillary to house shipwrecked sailors. The sunken gardens are worth walking through at the south end of the promenade, with one tribute garden to famed artist, Archibald Knox featuring engravings of his art-nouveau designs in paving stones.

Arriving at the Cultural Area (located outside the Sefton Hotel and Gaiety Theatre) which features artistic paving depicting the Manx National Anthem "O Land of Our Birth" and The Dancers sculpture. Outside the Sefton too is the much-loved seated sculpture of Sir Norman Wisdom. A new popular addition along the way near the sunken gardens is the BeeGees statue.

From March to October the **Douglas Bay Horse Tram** operates along the promenade from Derby Castle (northern end) to the Cultural Area, see www.rail.im for timetables or contact hireme@gov.im to arrange a trip for your group.

MORNING



Manx Museum

A museum bursting with artefacts and treasures unique to the Isle of Man, including hoards of Viking silver and relics from all over the Island. A great introduction to the Island's extraordinary heritage and featuring Mann at War and natural history galleries. The onsite Gallery Shop also offers a selection of Manx souvenirs and handcrafted artisan products. If you would like a tour or arrange a group visit to any Manx National Heritage attractions contact lynn.mckibbin@mnh.im, +44 (0) 1624 648017.

Coach drop off points are adjacent to the Cultural Area and coach parking is available on Finch Road (at the foot of the hill) near the Manx Museum.

LUNCH

NOA Bakehouse

On the quayside and in the Old Market Hall, this local bakery and coffee roaster champions local produce and serves up brunches, sandwiches, pastries and gourmet doughnuts. For large groups call +44 (0) 7624 309689.

AFTERNOON

Inside Tynwald

Tour the Isle of Man's parliament current Chambers, Tynwald and its branch The House of Keys. Of Norse origin the assembly is the oldest continuous parliament in the world. Scheduled tours take 1hr 30 min on Mondays 2pm and Friday 10am but also at other times on request +44 (0) 1624 685520 or emailing library@tynwald.org.im.

Great Union Camera Obscura

Make your way up to Douglas Head along the historic Marine Drive where your clients can be rewarded with the best views over the city. Here, you will find the famous Great Union Camera Obscura, perched upon the hillside. Built in 1890's the curious building is one of only four still in use in the British Isles, and was originally used to spy on tourists! It is open when the flag flies between May and September. Call +44 (0) 1624 621733 to arrange a private group visit.

A walk further along to **Marine Drive** overlooks a Little Ness marine nature reserve – well known for sighting Risso's and bottlenose dolphins and minke whales. Choughs and peregrine falcons nest around the towering cliffs can also be spotted.

EVENING

Coast Bar and Brasserie

Dine in the harmonious surroundings of this top hotel's restaurant. From freshly-caught seafood to Manx-reared beef, Coast is proud to use locally-sourced, seasonal ingredients in all their menus. They also host Jazz nights, twice a month. [Book here.](#)

Day 2

[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.

LUNCH

The Tea Junction

The Island's first true tea shop is open 7 days a week serving many lunch options and indulgent cakes, speciality teas, cream teas and tea infused gins with tonic in decadent surroundings. [Book here](#).

Douglas Quayside Pub Walk

The Isle of Man is award-winning breweries, including Okell's who initiated the Isle of Man Pure Beer Act in 1984. Discover this history which makes Manx ales famous for their purity and flavour and taste a 6 half pints as part of the two hour tour. Your chosen date can be accommodated on request.

EVENING

Little Fish Café

Returning to the harbour for an evening of quayside dining, head to this small but vibrant café at sundown for freshly caught local seafood and refreshing cocktails. They have a large selection of specials on the board for evening diners. Tables are limited to 8 people unless you hire the venue, and [pre-booking is recommended](#). Nearby and in their portfolio is also their flagship restaurant **14North** for fine dining.

Stay

A number of 4 and 5 star hotels are situated on the Promenade and seafront as well as guest accommodation and quayside guest and self-catering accommodation.

More experiences and itineraries that depart from Douglas

TT Experience Tour with [Isle of Man Trike Tours](#)

Departing from Douglas Ferry Terminal or your Douglas accommodation, this 1 hour 30 min tour takes you on some thrilling sections of the famous TT circuit, including the start line at the TT Grandstand, Ballaugh Bridge jump and a ride over the spectacular Mountain section. If booked in advance they could accommodate a group of 8 people over 4 of their trikes.



Day Trip on the Steam Railway

Board the Steam Railway – the longest narrow gauge railway taking you from Douglas to the ancient capital of Castletown with its cobbled streets and finely preserved Castle. Or stay on board to alight at the end of the line – the picturesque Port Erin Bay for the beach, coastal walks or a visit to the Port Erin Railway Museum. Contact HireMe@gov.im for group bookings.

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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