Isle of Man
Group Travel Guide
Issued October 2015
Blessed with extensive coastlines, stunning scenery and unspoilt beaches, the Isle of Man is a perfect visitor destination that’s within easy reach of the British Isles.
Introduction

For the thousands of visitors who are welcomed here year after year, the Island is an unforgettable group holiday destination – will you be next to fall under its spell?

Whether you’re into adventure, culture, heritage, motorsport or nature the Isle of Man has something to suit everyone. Plus with a temperate climate, an action packed event calendar, quality accommodation and group discounts, there’s never been a better time to visit the Isle of Man.

We look forward to welcoming you to our beautiful Island.

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Been to the Isle of Man before? Why not pay a return visit and see what’s changed? With a range of new activities, attractions, restaurants and accommodation, you’ll find plenty of things to keep your group occupied whilst not forgetting the old favourites.

The Dining Car Trains: Harking back to the golden age of travel, the beautifully restored Dining Car is the jewel in the Isle of Man Steam Railway’s crown. Its Pullman-style carriages and bar car cater for private bookings plus offer regular ‘Manxman’ dinners, Sunday lunches and afternoon teas throughout the year with mouth-watering menus using the finest of Manx produce. Popular for weddings in the Island’s ancient capital of Castletown, the Dining Car also hosts numerous special events such as murder mysteries and Dining Cars of the World themed dinners. Groups can be accommodated with private hire arrangements or on scheduled specials ranging from haute cuisine to pie and mash suppers. For more information contact David Thornton on +44 (0) 1624 697473.

Heritage open days: A chance to see ‘beyond the usual’ as the Island’s heritage organisations join forces to grant you access to properties, land and displays that are usually closed to the public. Events take place Island wide each October and include guided tours by local historians – what’s better they’re free of charge! For more information visit www.manxnationalheritage.im

Isle of Man Motor Museum: The Motor Museum is located in Jurby, and is the permanent public home for the Cunningham Classic Cars collection. The Museum features a collection of over 250 unique vehicles from around the world, which includes: classic cars and commercial vehicles; rarely seen private motorcycles and the steam collection. The rear yard of the museum features a post-war street scene with a car showroom. For more information visit www.isleofmanmotormuseum.com or telephone +44 (0) 1624 888333.

Milntown Estate and Gardens: This impressive 16th century house is set in 15½ acres of beautifully maintained gardens. Take a tour of the well-preserved property, which belonged to the Christian family. For more information visit www.milntown.org or telephone +44 (0) 1624 812321.

Ramsey Park Hotel: Based in Ramsey this is the newest hotel on the Island and with 30 bedrooms, it’s perfect for groups. With commanding views over Mooragh Park, the hotel is ideally located for the nearby attractions and also has an onsite restaurant. For more information visit www.ramseyparkhotel.com or telephone +44 (0) 1624 818123.

Segway Tours: A chance to explore the Island on these two wheel transporters – they’re easy to use and fun to ride. Try a promenade tour, beachfront experience, or a Segway safari through the forest all while taking in the sites and learning about the Island. For more information visit www.segway.im or telephone +44 (0) 7624 252525.
Do you need assistance in organising a group visit to the Isle of Man? Whether it’s sourcing accommodation, providing literature or simply pointing you in the right direction, Isle of Man Tourism can help.

**Suggested itineraries**

From adrenaline filled days that will really get your blood pumping, to leisurely heritage routes where you can take in the culture and history at a more relaxed pace, we have a wide range of suggested itineraries to suit all group interests and budgets.

**Stock images and copy**

Need material for editorial and promotional purposes? No problem. Delve into our extensive image and copy bank and find the right words and pictures to help showcase your holiday to the Island.

**Visitor information**

Looking for printed literature or maps? Isle of Man Tourism has a wide selection of material which you might find useful before and during your visit.

**Key contacts:**

**Bus Vannin and Isle of Man Railways**

Telephone +44 (0) 1624 697473
heritagerailways@gov.im
www.rail.im and www.bus.im

**Isle of Man Steam Packet Company**

Telephone + 44 (0) 1624 645683
groups@steam-packet.com
www.steam-packet.com

**Isle of Man Tour Guides**

Telephone +44 (0)7624 342951
manxtourguides@gmail.com
www.isleofmantourguides.org

**Manx National Heritage**

Telephone +44 (0) 1624 648017
lynn.mckibbin@mnh.gov.im
www.manxnationalheritage.im

**Tours Isle of Man Coach Operator**

Telephone + 44 (0) 1624 822611
info@tours.co.im
www.tours.co.im

**Villa Marina and Gaiety Theatre Complex**

Telephone +44 (0) 1624 600555
www.villagaiety.com

**Anything else: Questions? Queries?**

Simply contact the team at Isle of Man Tourism by telephone on +44 (0) 1624 686888, or via email at grouptravel@gov.im for assistance when planning your group visit to the Isle of Man. Further information on planning a group visit can also be found at www.visitisleofman.com/groups
Sometimes the best discoveries are right under your nose - you’ll find the Isle of Man situated between the coastlines of England, Scotland, Ireland and Wales, in the middle of the Irish Sea.

Whether you choose to fly or sail to the Island, you’ll be impressed with how easy it is to reach Manx shores.

**By air:** The Isle of Man has direct air links from airports across the UK and Ireland with most airlines operating daily flights. Flying is quick and convenient, with an average flight time of 45 minutes, meaning you’ll have more time to enjoy your visit.

For up-to-date timetables and information on group travel rates please contact the airlines direct. More information can be found at [www.visitisleofman.com/travel/fly.xml](http://www.visitisleofman.com/travel/fly.xml).

**By sea:** Travelling by sea is a popular option with many of our visiting groups. A conventional ferry operates from Heysham all year and fastcraft vessels serve Liverpool, Belfast and Dublin seasonally. The average travel time is three and a half hours. Please note, coach travel is only available on the Ben-my-Chree from Heysham.

For up-to-date route timetables and information on group travel fares, contact the Isle of Man Steam Packet Company by visiting [www.steam-packet.com](http://www.steam-packet.com) or telephone +44 (0) 1624 645683.

For more information on travelling to the Isle of Man visit [www.visitisleofman.com/travel](http://www.visitisleofman.com/travel)

**Did You Know?**

All accommodation on the Island is independently assessed and graded as part of our quality assurance scheme. Look out for Silver and Gold accolades which show the best of the best.
Where to stay

The Isle of Man has an abundance of quality hotel accommodation suitable for groups, where you will be guaranteed excellent value, brilliant service and a warm Manx welcome. All visitor accommodation is subject to compulsory annual registration and independent inspection, which is assessed under the same criteria as the UK to offer peace of mind. There are a variety of properties which can accommodate visiting groups.

The following hotel accommodation is suitable for group bookings:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Best Western Palace Hotel and Casino – 4* Hotel</th>
<th>Sefton Hotel – 4* Silver Hotel</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Central Promenade, Douglas, IM2 4NA</td>
<td>Harris Promenade, Douglas, IM1 2RW</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Telephone +44 (0) 1624 697070</td>
<td>Telephone +44 (0) 1624 697070</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><a href="mailto:reservations@palacehotel.co.im">reservations@palacehotel.co.im</a></td>
<td><a href="mailto:reservations@seftongroup.co.im">reservations@seftongroup.co.im</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Rooms:</strong> 68 Doubles, 63 Twin, 2 Suites. All rooms can be used as singles with single supplement</td>
<td><strong>Rooms:</strong> 8 Single, 51 Double, 33 Double/Twin, 3 Family, 7 Suite</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Maximum group size:</strong> 250</td>
<td><strong>Maximum group size:</strong> information available on request.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Group rates:</strong> Rates are available, please contact hotel direct.</td>
<td><strong>Group rates:</strong> Rates are available, please contact hotel direct.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Description:</strong> This 133 bedroom four star hotel is located in the heart of Douglas and provides excellent entertainment including the Island’s only licensed casino. Onsite there’s also a cinema, restaurant and nightclub, as well as a health club with indoor swimming pool.</td>
<td><strong>Description:</strong> A 102 bedroom, four star hotel which combines Victorian elegance with a beautiful indoor water garden. Located in Douglas town centre it’s a short walk away from entertainment and retail sites and you’ll also find an onsite gym, library and two restaurants.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Restaurant:</strong> Check with hotel direct</td>
<td><strong>Restaurant:</strong> Check with hotel direct</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hotel Name</td>
<td>Address</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-----------------------------</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ascot Hotel – 3* Hotel</td>
<td>7 Empire Terrace, Douglas, IM2 4LE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Description:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Restaurant:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chesterhouse Hotel – 3* Hotel</td>
<td>Loch Promenade, Douglas, IM1 2LY</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Description:</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Restaurant:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ramsey Park Hotel – 3* Hotel</td>
<td>Park Road, Ramsey, IM8 3AR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Description:</td>
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<tr>
<td>Restaurant:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rutland Hotel – 3* Hotel</td>
<td>Queens Promenade, Douglas, IM2 4NS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Description:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Restaurant:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hotel Name</td>
<td>Address</td>
</tr>
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<td>------------------------</td>
<td>-----------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em><em>The Empress Hotel - 3</em> Hotel</em>*</td>
<td>Central Promenade, Douglas, IM2 4RA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em><em>The Hydro Hotel – 3</em> Hotel</em>*</td>
<td>Queens Promenade, Douglas, IM2 4NF</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em><em>Welbeck Hotel – 3</em> Hotel</em>*</td>
<td>Mona Drive, Douglas, IM2 4LF</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em><em>Falcons Nest Hotel – 2</em> Hotel</em>*</td>
<td>Station Road, The Promenade, Port Erin, IM9 6AF</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em><em>Sefton Express - 4</em> Guest Accommodation</em>*</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>------------------------------------------------</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ronaldsway Airport, Ballasalla, IM9 2SE</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| Telephone +44 (0) 1624 697070
reservations@seftongroup.co.im |
| **Rooms:** 33, all rooms can be used as double, twin or single occupancy |
| **Maximum group size:** 69 |
| **Group rates:** Rates are available, please contact hotel direct. |
| **Description:** Based at Ronaldsway Airport this budget hotel provides a convenient base for group travellers. Its 33 bedrooms are modern and well appointed and there’s the option for evening meals to be prepared on site. |
| **Restaurant:** Check with hotel direct for covers |

For more information on accommodation visit [www.visitisleofman.com/accommodation](http://www.visitisleofman.com/accommodation)
Retail therapy

Whether you’re looking for independent retailers, high street brands or local producers selling delicious homemade wares, you’ll find them during your visit.

**High street:** Head to Strand Street in Douglas which is the Island’s most extensive shopping area. Here you’ll find a number of well-known names in fashion, homeware, technology and beauty. You’ll also find a number of smaller shops that sell Manx gifts and souvenirs.

**Independent retailers:** Looking for something a bit different? Visit the boutique inspired shops in Ramsey and Castletown which sell everything from home furnishings, local crafts, eco-friendly items and clothing. And if you’re looking for antiques and collectables head to Peel and Port Erin where you’re sure to find a bargain.

**Laxey Woollen Mills:** The Isle of Man’s last working woollen mill is a perfect place to pick up some traditional Manx tartan and craft items. The mill was established in 1881 and still uses traditional weaving methods involving Loaghtan wool. For more information visit [www.laxeywoollenmills.com](http://www.laxeywoollenmills.com) or telephone +44 (0) 1624 861395.

**Tynwald Mills:** Situated on the site of a former woollen mills, the Tynwald Mills retail centre offers a variety of outlets selling clothing, furniture, local food, gifts and crafts. There’s also an onsite café and restaurant. For more information visit [www.tynwaldmills.com](http://www.tynwaldmills.com) or telephone +44 (0) 1624 801213.

**Did You Know?**

Laxey Manx Tartan incorporates the blue of the sea, green of the hills, gold of the gorse, purple of the heather and white of the cottages.
The Isle of Man has a variety of organised tours to offer - from an informative trip around the Island’s parliament to a food tour with one of the many local food and drink producers. Choose whatever takes your fancy from fudge, beer, ice cream or the classic Manx dish - Kippers!

**Gaiety Theatre Tours**

Harris Promenade, Douglas, IM1 2HH
Tel +44 (0) 1624 600555
www.villagaiety.com

The Gaiety Theatre is one of the finest examples of work from the legendary theatre architect, Frank Matcham, which was first opened in 1900. With tours every Saturday throughout the summer season, the Gaiety Theatre is an unmissable attraction for visitors to the Isle of Man.

**Open:** Bespoke theatre tours by prior arrangement or public tours taking place each Saturday between Easter and September at 10:00am

**Maximum group size:** 30 people

**Average length of visit:** 2-3 hours

**Group rates:** Contact the Box Office direct

**Additional information:** Coach drop off point, limited disabled access, guided tours available, pre-booking recommended.

**Manx Ices Limited**

The Cregg Mill, Silverdale Café, Ballasalla, IM9 3DS
Tel +44 (0)1624 823474 / +44 (0) 7624 493107
jim@manxices.com
www.manxices.com

Visitors can visually experience the manufacturing of ice cream, powered by a fully restored and operational 18th century water wheel. The ice cream parlour and licensed café provides refreshments, snacks and main meals.

**Open:** April to October daily

**Maximum group size:** 60 people

**Average length of visit:** 2 hours

**Group rates:** Please contact direct

**Leader offer:** Complimentary meal and drink

**Additional information:** Coach drop off point, onsite coach parking, disabled access, onsite café, onsite gift shop, guided tours available, pre-booking required.

**Inside Tynwald**

Legislative Buildings, Finch Road, Douglas, IM1 3PW
Tel +44 (0) 1624 685520
library@tynwald.org.im
www.tynwald.org.im

The Isle of Man’s parliament, Tynwald, is the oldest continuous parliament in the world and continues to debate and pass the Island’s laws today. The branches sit weekly and Tynwald sits once a month.

**Open:** Scheduled tours of the building are held every Monday at 2:00pm and every Friday at 10:00am all year round. Tours are available at other times by prior arrangement.

**Maximum group size:** 60 people (spilt into 2 groups)

**Average length of visit:** 1 hour 15 minutes

**Group rates:** Free admission

**Additional information:** Coach drop off point (pre-arranged), onsite coach parking (pre-arranged with permit), disabled access, onsite gift shop, guided tours available, pre-booking required.

**Manx Macabre Tours**

Douglas and Castletown
Tel +44 (0)7624 466094
www.manxmacabretours.com

Discover for yourself some of the ghostly happenings in Douglas, Castletown and Castle Rushen with Manx Macabre Tours.

**Open:** Evening tours only, all year round, private bookings only

**Maximum group size:** 100 people

**Average length of visit:** 2 hours

**Group rates:** £50 for groups of 10 people

**Additional information:** Guided tours available, pre-booking required.

For more information call +44 (0) 1624 686888
### Okell’s Brewery Visits

**Okell’s Brewery, Kewaigue, Douglas, IM2 1QG**  
Tel +44 (0) 1624 699451  
www.okells.co.uk

Visit this award-winning brewery which has been producing local ales for more than 100 years. A great chance to find out about the Isle of Man’s strict brewing laws and an opportunity to taste some speciality beers at the bar.

**Open:** Thursday evenings (7:30 pm), all year round

**Maximum group size:** 20 people  
**Average length of visit:** Over 2 hours  
**Group rates:** Please contact direct  
**Additional Information:** Onsite coach parking, guided tours available, pre-booking required.

### The Original Manx Fudge Factory

**Unit 6, Harmat Court,**  
Balthane Industrial Estate,  
IM9 2AU  
Tel +44 (0) 7624 244201  
info@manxfudgefactory.com  
www.manxfudgefactory.com

Sweet tooth? Pay a visit to the Original Manx Fudge Factory where you’ll learn how traditional fudge, toffee and chocolate is produced using local ingredients. You’ll get a full run down of the different manufacturing processes used and can sample more than 21 different flavours of fudge.

**Open:** Monday to Friday, all year round  
**Maximum group size:** 55 people  
**Average length of visit:** 1 hour  
**Group rates:** Free admission  
**Leader offer:** Complimentary sample bags  
**Additional information:** Coach drop off, onsite coach parking, disabled access, onsite gift shop, pre-booking recommended (over 20 people).

### Moore’s Traditional Curers

**Mill Road, Peel, IM5 1TA**  
Tel +44 (0) 1624 843622  
desmonds@manx.net  
www.manxkippers.com

Step inside this traditional working factory which has been curing Manx kippers for well over 100 years. You’ll have the chance to see the full kippering process which involves smoking the fish in large chimneys. Try some onsite or send some vacuum-packed kippers home afterwards.

**Open:** May to September, scheduled tours each Monday and Friday at 3:30 pm. Tours are available at other times by prior arrangement.  
**Maximum group size:** 50 people  
**Average length of visit:** 30 minutes  
**Group rates:** £2 per person (refundable on purchase of items from onsite shop)  
**Leader offer:** Discounted entry fee, onsite shop discount  
**Additional information:** Coach drop off point, onsite coach parking, onsite gift shop, guided tours available, pre-booking required.

### Isle of Man Ghost Tours

**Douglas, Peel and Castletown**  
Tel +44 (0) 7624 416824  
www.iomghosttours.com

Experience a spine-tingling walk around some of the most haunted places on the Isle of Man and see a different side to some of the most famous landmarks. Venture around Castle Rushen in Castletown, hear about haunted hotels in Douglas and watch out for the black dog – the Moddey Dhoo – in Peel.

**Open:** July to October, Douglas Tours take place each Tuesday at 8:00pm, Peel Tours take place each Wednesday at 8:00pm and Castletown Tours take place each Thursday at 8:00pm.

**Average length of visit:** 2 hours  
**Group rates:** £5 per person, no discounted rates available for groups.  
**Additional Information:** Private tours available all year round, pre-booking required.
Heritage Railways

Step back in time for a journey you’ll never forget and make your way around the Island on some of the most unique railways in the British Isles.

Whether you choose to travel by steam, electricity or horsepower, simply sit back and relax as you journey into the ever-changing Manx countryside.

Steam Railway
Tel +44 (0) 1624 697473 heritagerailways@gov.im
www.rail.im

The Island’s oldest Victorian rail system, dating back to 1874, takes you on a wonderful journey through time – and some of the Island’s loveliest countryside. Running between Douglas and Port Erin, the train stops along with the way are Port Soderick, Ballasalla, Castletown, Colby and Port St Mary, with four further request stops along the way.

Open: March to November, please check rail timetable for operating times
Maximum group size: 240 people
Average length of visit: 1 hour
Group rates: 20% discount for groups of 20 people or more, varying pricing options.
Additional information: Coach drop off points at Douglas and Castletown railway stations, onsite coach parking available at Port Erin railway station, disabled access available on board, onsite café available at Douglas and Port Erin railway stations, onsite gift shop available at Port Erin railway station. Pre-booking recommended.

Manx Electric Railway
Tel +44 (0) 1624 697473 heritagerailways@gov.im
www.rail.im

Dating back over 100 years this railway connects Douglas with Laxey in the east and Ramsey in the north. Acknowledged as the longest narrow gauge vintage electric railway system in the British Isles it still uses its original Victorian and Edwardian rolling stock. There are currently 48 official stations and stops on the line.

Open: March to November, please check rail timetable for operating times
Maximum group size: 76 people per tram (multiple trams available)
Average length of visit: 1 hour
Group rates: 20% discount for groups of 20 people or more, varying pricing options.
Additional information: Coach drop off points at Derby Castle, Laxey and Ramsey railway stations, onsite coach parking available at Laxey station. Disabled access available on board, onsite café at Laxey and Dhoon railway stations. Pre-booking recommended.

Snaefell Mountain Railway
Tel +44 (0) 1624 697473 heritagerailways@gov.im
www.rail.im

Let the only electric mountain railway in Britain transport you to the summit of the Island’s only mountain, Snaefell. Start your journey in Douglas or Laxey and once you’ve reached Snaefell’s summit, at 2,036 feet above sea level, you may be able to see some, or all, of the Seven Kingdoms.

Open: March to November, please check rail timetable for operating times
Average length of visit: 1 hour
Maximum group size: 100 people
Group rates: 20% discount for groups of 20 people or more, varying pricing options.
Additional information: Coach drop off point at Laxey railway station, onsite coach parking at Laxey railway station. Onsite café at Snaefell Summit and Laxey railway station. Pre-booking recommended.
### Grouble Glen Railway

Tel +44 (0) 1624 670543 ggr@ggr.co.uk  
www.ggr.org.uk

Owned and operated entirely by volunteers, this two-foot gauge railway has been fully restored and now runs between the Grouble Glen and the Sea Lion Rocks – it’s the line that goes uphill to the sea! The railway operates steam, diesel and electric engines plus the original 1896 locomotive Sea Lion.

**Open:** May to September  
**Maximum group size:** 150 people  
**Average length of visit:** 1 hour  
**Group rates:** 20% discount available to pre-booked groups of 15 people or more  
**Leader offer:** Free travel  
**Additional information:** Coach drop off point, onsite café, onsite gift shop, pre-booking required.

### Great Laxey Mines Railway

Tel +44 (0) 1624 862007 minerailway@manx.net  
www.laxeymineralway.im

Find out more about the Island’s mining history by riding in tiny carriages along the line which used to carry lead and zinc ores from deep inside the Great Laxey Mine. En route you’ll pass beneath the main Laxey to Ramsey road and through the longest railway tunnel on the Island.

**Open:** March to September  
**Maximum group size:** N/A  
**Average length of visit:** 30 minutes  
**Group rates:** 10% discount available for pre-booked groups of 10 people only  
**Additional information:** Onsite coach parking, onsite gift shop.
Suggested itineraries

Unfamiliar with the Isle of Man? Or just need some more inspiration? No problem – Isle of Man Tourism has a number of suggested itineraries which will point you in the right direction and help you make the most of your visit.

**HERITAGE AND CULTURE**

An itinerary packed full of heritage sites from Neolithic burial grounds to civil war forts, medieval castles and a wealth of museums – it will be the start of a journey you’ll never forget.

**Key attractions:** Castle Rushen, Grove Museum, Tynwald Hill, Manx Aviation Museum, Manx Museum, Milntown Estate and Gardens

**ARTS AND CULTURE**

This itinerary takes you and your group to cultural hotspots and sites of artistic importance. With a year round programme of entertainment, and some excellent venues, the Isle of Man has a vibrant arts scene whether you want to watch a play at the prestigious Gaiety Theatre, experience some traditional Manx music in an intimate venue or while away, an hour or two at an art exhibition.

**Key attractions:** Erin Arts Centre, Gaiety Theatre, Manx Museum, Maughold Church, Silverdale Craft Works Studio, Steam Railway

**NATURE AND WILDLIFE**

A nature lover’s itinerary taking you to some of the Island’s wildlife hotspots and areas of natural beauty. The Islands rich landscape is home to a wide array of wildlife from magnificent marine creatures, to a huge population of visiting and migrant birds. There’s a wealth of vantage points, where you can spot the animals in their natural habitats. Don’t forget your binoculars!

**Key attractions:** Ayres Visitor Centre, Home of Rest for Old Horses, Milntown Estate and Gardens, Scarlett Visitor Centre

For more information call +44 (0) 1624 686888
# OUTDOOR AND ACTIVE

An itinerary highlighting the range of outdoor activities on offer on the Island. With fantastic landscapes and an extensive coastline, the Isle of Man is a true adventure playground for lovers of the great outdoors. It’s great for walking, cycling, horse riding and golf – a true breath of fresh air.

**Key attractions:** Adventurous Experiences, Ape Mann Adventure, Hot Rocks, The Venture Centre

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# HERITAGE RAILWAYS

An itinerary linking the Island’s charming and unique heritage railway network, which attracts enthusiasts from across the world to Manx shores. Whether you choose steam or electric, you’ll find all five railways preserved in time and operating with some original rolling stock.

**Key attractions:** Great Laxey Mine Railway, Groudle Glen Railway, Manx Electric Railway, Snaefell Mountain Railway, Steam Railway

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# FOOD AND DRINK

Eat, drink and relax with your group. The Isle of Man is fiercely proud of its local food and drink and what better way to experience it than to visit some of our local producers. Being an Island, we’re renowned for our scrumptious seafood including the local delicacy, Queenies.

**Key attractions:** Manx Ices, Manx Farmers Union, Moore’s Kipper Curers, Okell’s Brewery, Original Manx Fudge Factory

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# MOTORSPORT

Home to the world famous TT races, the Isle of Man is somewhat of a mecca for motorsport fans. This is your chance to see some of the most famous landmarks in motorcycling which have captivated racers and spectators for hundreds of years.

**Key attractions:** Isle of Man Motor Museum, Jurby Transport Museum, Manx Museum, Trike Tours

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For more ideas and detailed itineraries go to [www.visitisleofman.com/groups](http://www.visitisleofman.com/groups)

If you need more help organising the perfect day out contact Isle of Man Tourism by emailing [grouptravel@gov.im](mailto:grouptravel@gov.im) or telephone +44 (0) 1624 686888.
The Isle of Man is 33 miles long and 13.5 miles wide meaning it’s easy to get around once you’re here.

The Island is well served by an extensive public transport network – including buses and heritage railways - meaning groups travelling without their own transport are well catered for.

**Buses:** Bus Vannin operates a comprehensive bus service which serves the whole Island on a regular basis including Ronaldsway Airport and the Sea Terminal. Late night services also run on weekends.

**Railways:** The Isle of Man boasts five heritage railways – the Manx Electric Railway, Steam Railway, the Snaefell Mountain Railway, Laxey Mine Railway and the Groudle Glen Railway which will transport you to your chosen destination in style.

**Tickets and timetables:** Multi journey smart cards will help you travel around the Island in the most cost effective manner. Go cards allow unlimited travel on scheduled bus services. Go explore heritage cards allow the same benefits as Go explore cards with the added benefit of free access to all Manx National Heritage sites. Multi journey smart cards, tickets and timetables are available from main bus and railway stations and the Welcome Centre at the Sea Terminal. For group bookings and availability contact Transport Headquarters on +44 (0) 1624 697473 or e-mail heritagerrailways@gov.im.

**Private hire:** The buses and the railways are also available for private hire. Costs depend on specific requirements. For more information contact Transport Headquarters on +44 (0) 1624 697473 or e-mail heritagerrailways@gov.im. Tours Isle of Man Ltd can offer private hire for groups ranging from 16 seat minibuses through to 49 seat executive coaches. For more information contact +44 (0) 1624 822611 or email info@tours.co.im.

Getting around
Whether you’re looking to immerse yourself in the Island’s diverse culture and heritage, travel in style on our historic transport network or find out more about some of the Island’s delicious local food and drink. You’ll find plenty to keep your group entertained.

Why not start by discovering our brilliant Manx National Heritage attractions which are suitable for groups of all sizes?

Remember, it’s best to book all attractions in advance to secure the best group rates.

**Douglas and the East**

Visit the Island’s capital, Douglas, for a unique blend of traditional seaside resort, thriving finance centre and busy working harbour. Set against the two mile sweeping bay, you’ll find a wealth of things to see and do including shopping, museums, galleries and horse trams, which run along the promenade. If you’re interested in the Island’s heritage, the Manx Museum is a great place to start.

**Manx Museum**

Kingswood Grove, Douglas, IM1 3LY
Tel +44 (0) 1624 648017
lynn.mckibbin@gov.im
www.manxnationalheritage.im

The Manx Museum will help guide you around the Island’s most prestigious heritage attractions. With interactive displays, films and a wide range of exhibits, there’s something to appeal to everyone. The museum is also home to the national art gallery and library.

**Open:** Monday to Saturday 10:00am to 5:00pm all year round

**Maximum group size:** 200 people

**Average length of visit:** 2 hours

**Group rates:** Free admission, donations welcome

**Additional information:** coach drop off point, disabled access, onsite café, onsite gift shop, pre-booking recommended.
**Great Laxey Wheel and Mine Trail**

Wheel Hill, Laxey, IM4 7NL  
Tel +44 (0) 1624 648017  
lynn.mckibbin@mnh.gov.im  
www.manxnationalheritage.im

The world’s largest working waterwheel stands at over 72 feet high. The wheel, which is also known as The Lady Isabella, has been one of the Island’s most popular attractions for well over 150 years. Climb to the top where you’ll be rewarded with panoramic views across the valley.

**Open:** February half term onwards until Easter open weekends only. Open daily from Easter onwards from 9:30am until 5:00pm

**Maximum group size:** 60 people

**Average length of visit:** 1 hour

**Group rates:** Available to groups over 15 people from £4 per adult if booked a week prior.

**Leader offer:** Guide and driver entitled to free admission when accompanying a group.

**Additional information:** Coach drop off point, limited disabled access, onsite gift shop, pre-booking recommended.

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**Great Union Camera Obscura**

Douglas Head  
ruth.kelly@manx.net

This Victorian curiosity has entertained visitors for over a hundred years, offering a unique way to see the local surroundings. The camera, which was built in 1892 is unique amongst obscuras in the world. It gives moving colour pictures of the 360-degree view including Douglas Harbour.

**Open:** May to Mid September, Saturdays (1:00pm to 4:00pm), Sundays and Bank Holidays (11:00am to 4:00pm) when the flag is flying!

**Average length of visit:** 30 minutes

**Group rates:** General admission charges apply, £2 per person, £1 per person for senior citizens and students. Accompanied children free.

**Additional information:** Coach drop off point, limited disabled access available.

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**For more information call** +44 (0) 1624 686888
Port Erin and the South

Offering historical attractions, glorious beaches and excellent walking and nature trails, you’ll soon discover why the southern part of the Island really is the Beautiful South! The sunny seaside town of Port Erin is home to a beautiful secluded bay and the southern most stop on the Steam Railway. Castletown – the ancient capital of Mann - plays host to the magnificent medieval fortress, Castle Rushen.

Castle Rushen

Castle Street, Castletown, IM9 1LD
Tel +44 (0) 1624 648017 lyn.mckibbin@mnh.gov.im
www.manxnationalheritage.im

One of the best preserved castles in Europe Castle Rushen was once home to the Kings and Lords of Mann. In its lifetime it’s been used as a royal residence, a mint and even a prison. Take a trip high up onto the castle walls where you can see for miles.

Open: February half term onwards until Easter weekends only. Open daily from Easter onwards from 10:00am. Closes at 4:00pm in low season, 5:00pm in high season

Maximum group size: 60 people
Average length of visit: 1 hour 30 minutes
Group rates: Available to groups over 15 people from £5 per adult if booked a week prior.
Leader offer: Guide and driver entitled to free admission when accompanying a group.
Additional Information: Limited disabled access, onsite gift shop, pre-booking recommended.

Rushen Abbey

Mill Road, Ballasalla, IM9 3DB
Tel +44 (0) 1624 648017 lyn.mckibbin@mnh.gov.im
www.manxnationalheritage.im

Rushen Abbey is one of the most substantial and important religious sites on the Isle of Man. Developed, under Cistercian control, as the seat of religious power the abbey housed the main body of knowledge and literacy for the Island. See the archaeological discoveries made on site, or simply stroll through the Abbey Gardens to the Monk’s Bridge.

Open: February half term onwards until Easter weekends only. Open daily from Easter onwards from 10.00am. Closes at 4:00pm in low season, 5:00pm in high season

Maximum group size: 50 people
Average length of visit: 1 hour
Group rates: Available to groups over 15 people from £4 per adult if booked a week prior.
Leader offer: Guide and driver entitled to free admission when accompanying a group.
Additional information: Coach drop off point, onsite coach parking, disabled access, onsite café, onsite gift shop, pre-booking recommended.

Nautical Museum

Bridge Street, Castletown, IM9 1AX
Tel +44 (0) 1624 648017 lyn.mckibbin@mnh.gov.im
www.manxnationalheritage.im

For more than 200 years the Nautical Museum in Castletown was home to the Peggy, the earliest example of a British yacht. The Peggy has recently been removed for long term conservation work. It was built by the elusive Captain George Quayle, who in his time was a businessman, banker, soldier and alleged smuggler. The new ‘Quayle Gallery’ tells the personal story of George Quayle and his family as well as the Peggy, showcasing previously unseen objects uncovered in the recent archaeological excavations.

Open: March to November 10:00am to 4:00pm daily

Average length of visit: 1 hour
Maximum group size: 20 people
Group rates: Available to groups over 15 people from £4 per adult if booked a week prior.
Leader offer: Guide and driver entitled to free admission when accompanying a group.
Additional information: Limited disabled access available, onsite gift shop, guided tours available, pre-booking recommended.
### Old Grammar School

Chapel Lane, Castletown, IM9 1LE  
Tel +44 (0) 1624 648017  
lynn.mckibbin@mnh.gov.im  
www.manxnationalheritage.im

Uncover some of the oldest surviving architecture on the Island in the Old Grammar School which dates back to 1200AD. Built as Castletown’s first church, in the settlement that grew up around Castle Rushen, it became a school in 1570.

**Open:** March to November 10:00am to 4:00pm daily

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### Old House of Keys

Parliament Square, Castletown, IM9 1LA  
Tel +44 (0) 1624 648017  
lynn.mckibbin@mnh.gov.im  
www.manxnationalheritage.im

Take your seat in the former home of the Manx parliament for an insight into the political life and times of the Isle of Man. During your visit you’ll see how democracy developed in the Island. Enter the debating chamber where you can help set the laws of the land.

**Open:** Open March to November. Daily sittings held at 11.00am and 2.45pm. Additional sessions are available on request

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<td><strong>Additional Information:</strong></td>
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### National Folk Museum at Cregneash

Cregneash Road, Cregneash, IM9 5PX  
Tel +44 (0) 1624 648017  
lynn.mckibbin@mnh.gov.im  
www.manxnationalheritage.im

The picturesque village of Cregneash is a living, working illustration of life in a typical 19th century Manx upland crofting community. Experience the traditional crafts and skills which characterised the Manx crofters way of life including ploughing, weaving and cooking over an open fire.

**Open:** March to November daily from 10:00am onwards. The site closes at 4:00pm in low season, 5:00pm in high season

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<td><strong>Additional Information:</strong></td>
<td>Coach drop off point, onsite coach parking available, onsite café, onsite gift shop, pre-booking recommended</td>
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For more information call +44 (0) 1624 686888
Railway Museum, Port Erin

Station Road, Port Erin, IM9 6AD
Tel +44 (0) 1624 697473
heritagerailways@gov.im

Located quite literally at the end of the line this museum will take you back in time to when train travel on the Isle of Man was a regular occurrence and not just a day out. Discover steam engines, carriages - including one that carried Her Majesty The Queen - and a large collection of memorabilia. First opened in 1975, the museum houses a collection of railwayana, posters, handbills and interpretive displays, as well as locomotives and items of rolling stock.

**Open:** Open 10:00am to 4:30pm on days the steam railway operates, please see the latest railway timetable for dates.

**Maximum group size:** 100 people  
**Average length of visit:** 45 minutes

**Group rates:** £2 adults, £1 children

**Additional Information:** Coach drop off point, onsite coach parking available, limited disabled access available, onsite café, onsite gift shop, guided tours available, pre-booking recommended.

Manx Aviation and Military Museum

Ronaldsway Airport, Ballasalla, IM9 2AT
Tel +44 (0) 7624 454596
airmuseum@manx.net
www.maps.org.im

The Manx Aviation and Military Museum is situated at Ronaldsway Airport in Ballasalla and provides a great close up view of passing aircraft. The museum isn’t just about flying; visitors will also discover fascinating stories about the involvement of the Island and its people in all the armed forces in both world wars with photographs and memorabilia bringing the stories to life.

**Open:** Daily from TT Practice Week until the end of September, open weekends the remainder of the year from 10:00am to 4:30pm. Tours are available at other times by prior arrangement.

**Maximum group size:** 50 people  
**Average length of visit:** 1 hour

**Group rates:** Free admission, donations welcome.

**Leader offer:** Free admission and free refreshments.

**Additional Information:** Coach drop off point, onsite coach parking available, onsite gift shop, pre-arranged guided tours available. Disabled access.
Peel and the West

Aptly named “Sunset City”, the thriving fishing port of Peel has a marine heritage that spans hundreds of years and is renowned for its beautiful sunsets and delicious ice cream. The magnificent ruins of Peel Castle dominate the landscape.

**House of Manannan**

East Quay, Peel, IM5 1TA  
Tel +44 (0) 1624 648017  
lynn.mckibbin@mnh.gov.im  
www.manxnationalheritage.im

This interactive museum uses state of the art displays to take you on a journey through the Isle of Man’s rich Celtic, Viking and maritime past. The mythical sea god Manannan will be your tour guide as you discover life size Celtic roundhouses, a Viking longship and a traditional kipper’s yard.

**Open:** All year round daily, 10.00am to 5:00pm  
**Maximum group size:** 60 people  
**Average length of visit:** Over 2 hours  
**Group rates:** Available to groups over 15 people from £5 per adult if booked a week prior.  
**Leader offer:** Guide and driver entitled to free admission when accompanying a group.  
**Additional Information:** Coach drop off point, onsite coach parking available, disabled access available, onsite café, onsite gift shop, pre-booking recommended.

**Manx Transport Heritage Museum**

Mill Road, Peel, IM5 1TB  
Tel: +44 (0) 1624 842448  
m.knight@manx.net

This diminutive museum in Peel is packed to the rafters with a huge variety of transport exhibits and artefacts. From a model train to an electric motorbike, you will find much to surprise and delight. The museum is also home to the P50, the world’s smallest road legal car which was manufactured in Peel in 1964.

**Open:** Easter to end of September weekends only from 1:00pm to 5:00pm  
**Maximum group size:** 30  
**Average length of visit:** 1 hour  
**Group rates:** Free admission.  
**Leader offer:** Free admission.  
**Additional Information:** Coach drop off point, limited disabled access available, guided tours available, pre-booking recommended.

**Cathedral Isle of Man**

Derby Road, Peel, IM5 1HH  
Tel +44 (0) 1624 844830

Visitors are encouraged to visit the Island’s Cathedral to enjoy its beautiful interior, including silver held on behalf of other churches on the Island and 3 pieces of Archibald Knox silver. The Cathedral plays a role in faith tourism for the Island where pilgrims and history lovers take the ‘Bead Walk’ between the old and the new – from the ruins of the ancient Cathedral on St Patrick’s Isle, to the modern day Island Cathedral in Peel.

**Open:** Open all year round daily, 9:00am to 6:00pm  
**Average length of visit:** 40 minutes  
**Maximum group size:** 100 people  
**Group rates:** Free admission, donations welcome.  
**Additional Information:** Coach drop off point, disabled access available, refreshments available, pre-arranged guided tours available, pre-booking recommended.

For more information call +44 (0) 1624 686888
### Peel Castle

**West Quay, Peel, IM5 1TB**  
Tel +44 (0) 1624 648017  
lynn.mckibbin@mnh.gov.im  
www.manxnationalheritage.im  

Situated on St Patrick’s Isle, Peel Castle was originally a place of worship before becoming the fort of an 11th century Viking King of Mann. The castle wall encircles the ruins of many buildings which are testimony to the site’s religious and secular importance.

**Open:** March to November daily from 10:00am. Site closes at 4:00pm in low season, 5:00pm in high season  

**Maximum group size:** 60 people  
**Average length of visit:** 1 hour  

**Group rates:** Available to groups over 15 people from £4 per adult if booked a week prior.  
**Leader offer:** Guide and driver entitled to free admission when accompanying a group.  

**Additional Information:** Coach drop off point, onsite gift shop, pre-booking recommended.

### Leece Museum

**The Old Courthouse, East Quay, Peel, IM5 1AR**  
Tel +44 (0) 1624 845366  
leecemuseum@manx.net  
www.peelonline.net/leece  

Dedicated to telling the story of the busy fishing port of Peel, you’ll find artefacts, photographs and records from fishermen of days gone by. The Leece also focuses on the prisoner of war camps that were built in the area during the world wars.

**Open:** Tuesday to Sunday (10:00am to 4:00pm) from July to September the remainder of the year Tuesday to Saturday (10:00am to 4:00pm). New for 2015 the Leece Museum has an extensive display of TT and MGP winning machines, vintage bikes and on and off road bikes. Guided town walks on Peel industrial history available by arrangement.

**Maximum group size:** 50 people  
**Average length of visit:** 30 mins - 1 hour or more  
**Group rates:** Free admission, donations welcome  
**Additional Information:** Disabled access available, onsite gift shop, guided tours available, pre-booking recommended.

### A.R.E Motorcycle Collection

**The Old Vicarage, Main Road, Kirk Michael, IM6 2HD**  
Tel +44 (0) 1624 878242  
tonyeast@manx.net  
wwwaremuseum.com  

An exemplary private collection of vintage motorcycles – you’ll find over 100 bikes, many rare and valuable, on display with a particular focus on machines from the 1930s. Guided tours of the Old Vicarage, where the collection is housed, can also be arranged.

**Open:** March to September, Sundays only 2:00pm to 5:00pm  
**Average length of visit:** 45 minutes  
**Maximum group size:** 40 people  
**Group rates:** Free admission, donations welcome.  
**Leader offer:** Free admission, donations welcome.  
**Additional Information:** Coach drop off point, guided tours available, pre-booking required.
Ramsey and the North

The second largest town on the Island is set against the magnificent backdrop of the North Barrule hills. Ramsey boasts an impressive working harbour, masses of sand and shingle beach and is the most northern stop on the Manx Electric Railway. In the north you’ll also find museums, nature reserves and a 40-acre recreational park, which is a hotspot in the summer.

Grove Museum of Victorian Life

Andreas Road, Ramsey, IM8 3UA
Tel:+44 (0) 1624 648017
lynn.mckibbin@mnh.gov.im
www.manxnationalheritage.im

This beautifully preserved house provides an insight into life in the Victorian and Edwardian eras. Work your way through a series of period rooms and outbuildings and don’t miss the bees making honey and the chance to have a game of croquet on the lawn.

Open: March to November daily from 10.00am onwards. Closes at 4:00pm in low season and 5:00pm in high season

Maximum group size: 50 people
Average length of visit: 1 hour
Group rates: Available to groups over 15 people from £4 per adult if booked a week prior.
Leader offer: Guide and driver entitled to free admission when accompanying a group.
Additional Information: Coach drop off point, onsite coach parking, limited disabled access available, onsite café, onsite gift shop, guided tours available, pre-booking recommended.

Jurby Transport Museum

Hangar 230, Jurby Industrial Estate, Jurby, IM7 3BD
jtminfo@manx.net

Jurby Transport Museum is based in a World War II aircraft hangar and houses a collection of road transport vehicles and artefacts of predominantly local relevance. As well as restored exhibits visitors can also view vehicles stored awaiting attention and see on-going restoration and maintenance with staff on-hand to offer guidance and explanation.

Open: Sat, Sun, Tuesdays and Bank Holidays from Easter until end of October. Open Sundays only the remainder of the year from 10:00am to 4:00pm

Maximum group size: 100 people
Average length of visit: 1 hour
Group rates: Free admission, donations welcome.
Additional Information: Coach drop off point, onsite coach parking, disabled access available, onsite gift shop.

For more information call +44 (0) 1624 686888
**Milntown Estate and Gardens**

Milntown Estate and gardens
Milntown, Lezayre, IM7 2AB
Tel +44 (0) 1624 812321 (House Tours and general enquiries)
Tel +44 (0) 1624 818091 (Café bookings) www.milntown.org

Set in 15 ½ acres of beautifully maintained gardens this impressive historic house is the former home of the Christian family who lived here from the 16th century. Visit the Gardens or take a tour of the House and stop off for coffee, lunch or afternoon tea in the café.

**Open:** Café (all year round daily from 10:00am to 5:00pm except Tuesday), Gardens – March to end of October daily (10:00am to 5:00pm), House Tours - Easter to September every Wednesday and Saturday at 2:30pm

**Maximum group size:** 20 people per house tour

**Average length of visit:** Garden 1 hour - 1 hour 30 minutes, House Tour 1 hour 15 minutes

**Group rates:** 10% discount for groups of 10 people or more visiting the gardens, no discount available for house tours.

**Leader offer:** Free admission to Garden and House Tour when accompanying a group.

**Additional Information:** Coach drop off point, onsite coach parking available, disabled access, onsite café, guided tours available, pre-booking required.

**Curraghs Wildlife Park**

Curraghs Wildlife Park
Ballaugh, IM7 5EA
Tel +44 (0) 1624 897323
www.gov.im/wildlife

The park is a haven for wetland animals and is home to around 100 species – many of which are endangered in the wild. Animals are grouped together with other wildlife from the same country so you can travel the park continent by continent. Follow the nature trail with wild wallaby spotting opportunities. Excellent play facilities for Children.

**Open:** 7 days a week 10:00am - 6:00pm from the 1st of April-30th September, 7 days a week 10:00am-5:00pm from 1st October to the 31st October, Friday, Saturday and Sunday from 1st November to 31st March

**Maximum group size:** 80 people

**Average length of visit:** Over 2 hours

**Group rates:** Available for groups of 10 people or more, £5.80 for Adults, £4.20 for Children.

**Leader offer:** Free admission and lunch voucher up to a value of £5 for leader to redeem in the onsite café.

**Additional Information:** Coach drop off point, onsite coach parking, disabled access, onsite café, onsite gift shop, pre-booking recommended.

**Isle of Man Motor Museum**

Isle of Man Motor Museum
Jurby Road, Jurby, IM7 3BD
Tel +44 (0) 1624 888333
info@isleofmanmotormuseum.com
www.isleofmanmotormuseum.com

Explore the amazing stories behind over 250 unique vehicles from around the world, including classic cars and commercial vehicles, rarely seen private motorcycles and the steam collection. Dine in The Guard House Café next door to the museum.

**Open:** Summer season - 10:00am to 5:00pm, check website for winter opening

**Maximum group size:** 800 people

**Average length of visit:** 3-4 hours

**Group rates:** £8.50 per person for groups of over 15 people, £9.50 for Adults, £4.50 for Children.

**Leader offer:** Free admission into the Motor Museum.

**Additional Information:** Coach drop off point, onsite coach parking, disabled access, onsite café, onsite gift shop.
Eat, drink and relax. Whether its fish and chips on the seafront, afternoon tea in a quaint café or an evening sampling some of the finest local produce the Isle of Man can offer, you’re guaranteed to find something to tempt your taste buds during your visit.

The Island is fiercely proud of its local fare – much of it award winning - from succulent meat, freshly caught seafood, creamy cheeses, locally grown vegetables and home brewed ales. Local delicacies include Manx kippers, which are herring fillets smoked over hot oak chips and queenies – queen scallops, which are sourced sustainably from Manx waters.

A national quality assurance scheme operates on the Island called Taste Isle of Man – it means that establishments displaying the Taste accolade have been benchmarked by Isle of Man Tourism. For more information on this scheme visit www.visitisleofman.com/taste
Events

Each year the Isle of Man plays host to a wide range of events, festivals, exhibitions and shows that celebrate everything from Manx culture and heritage to motorsport, music, food and drink and local theatre.

Group visits are welcomed but you’re advised to book in advance. For more information visit our ‘What’s On’ guide at www.visitisleofman.com/events

Highlighted events

Bowling Festival
The Island plays host to two crown green bowling festivals each year, which are recognised as the best in the UK bowling calendar.
www.visitisleofman.com/bowlsfestival

Darts Festival
This three day festival attracts some of the top names in the sport including a number of world champions – it’s also a chance for entrants to win more than £22,000 in prize money.
www.visitisleofman.com/dartsfestival

Isle of Man Festival of Choirs
Held bi-annually this festival has established itself as a major musical event which attracts choirs from across the UK and Ireland. Although competition is at the heart of the festival, its main aim is supporting and nurturing choirs and choral groups – all while having a great time.
www.visitisleofman.com/festivalofchoirs

Railway Events
Numerous events take place on the Island’s three heritage railways. Whether you choose steam or electric, you’ll find amongst others the popular Island at War weekend, Rush Hour on the Railways, Pie in the Sky astronomy evenings and rare photography sessions.
www.rail.im

Did You Know?
The TT Races have been run on public roads for more than 100 years and see racers travelling at speeds of up to 200mph in pursuit of the prestigious Tourist Trophy.
For those days when your group are going it alone you’ll find plenty of things to see and do and with the Island’s excellent public transport network they will soon see how easy it is to get around.

Why not try something different and get off the beaten track and into the countryside? Hire a bike, go on a trike tour or just take a stroll along the coastline in the fresh sea air. And if that sounds too strenuous sit back and enjoy a trip along Douglas promenade on the horse trams – still a favourite with visitors.

Here’s some more inspiration…

1. **Isle of Man Trike Tours:**
   Experience a guided tour of the world famous TT Mountain Circuit in comfort and safety on one of our three chauffeur driven trikes. Each trike takes two passengers so the enjoyment can be shared with friends. Check out the website for other scenic tours on our Island paradise.
   www.iomtriketours.co.uk or telephone +44 (0) 7624 492444

2. **Silverdale Craftworks Studio:**
   Craftworks Studio is within walking distance of Ballasalla Railway Station and nearby bus stops and is open all year round.
   Make your selection from the wide range of ceramic bisque available and everything you need to decorate it is available within the studio. Glazing and firing is done on the premises and should your time on the Island be limited arrangements can be made to post your items back to you.
   www.craftworks-studio.co.uk or telephone +44 (0) 1624 823244

3. **Horse Trams:**
   Take a nostalgic journey along Douglas promenade on the world’s oldest horse drawn tramway. A testimony to Victorian engineering and endurance they’re still carrying passengers today. Trams operate between May and September.
   www.douglas.gov.im

4. **Wildlife Tours:**
   The knowledgeable team at Isle of Man Wildlife Tours guarantee a personal introduction to the Isle of Man’s nature highlights.
   www.iomtours.co.uk or telephone +44 (0) 1624 678788

For more information call +44 (0) 1624 686888
Dark Skies: The Isle of Man has become the best place to stargaze in the British Isles, as the Dark Sky Discovery Network has announced. The Island now has a total of twenty six designated “Dark Sky Discovery Sites”, making it the largest concentration of Dark Skies sites in the British Isles. Why not take a visit to some of the Island’s best beauty and heritage sites such as Cregneash village, Rushen Abbey and Peel Castle. www.visitisleofman.com/darkskies

Gaiety Theatre Tours: Go behind-the-scenes in this Frank Matcham theatre which is home to the only surviving Corsican Trap in the British Isles. Tours are led by knowledgeable staff and ghost tours are also available - watch out for the lady said to haunt seat B14. www.villagaiety.com or telephone +44 (0) 1624 600555

Walking: Rugged cliffs, gentle rolling hills, picturesque glens, hidden coves and stunning views. These are just a few of the reasons that make the Isle of Man a walker’s delight. Whether you enjoy a gentle stroll or a challenging hike, there is a range of footpaths and tracks for you to enjoy. www.visitisleofman.com/walking

Bike hire: Hire a bike on the birthplace of two of the greatest cyclists of the modern generation - world champion Mark Cavendish and Olympic gold medallist Peter Kennaugh. Explore the quiet country lanes taking in the varied countryside and spectacular views or try one of six cycle tracks. www.visitisleofman.com/cycling

Outdoor Activities: Feeling brave? Try an adventurous experience - from coasteering, gorge walking, kayaking or abseiling, these activities are guaranteed to get your heart racing and are suitable for groups of varying sizes and levels of experience. www.visitisleofman.com/active

Pleasure Cruises: A wonderful way to see the Island’s stunning coastline and abundant marine wildlife in all its glory is by taking an organised boat trip. And remember the only way to visit the Calf of Man at the very southern point of the Isle of Man is by boat. www.visitisleofman.com/thingstoseeanddo/wildlife/boats
Information for the disabled:

The Isle of Man offers a warm welcome to visitors with disabilities. A DisabledGo guide which provides information on accessing attractions, restaurants and local businesses is available from: www.disabledgo.com/en/org/isle-of-man-government

Extra help is available for visitors when travelling to and from the Island. Please check with your chosen airline or the Steam Packet Company before booking your visit. It’s also advisable to check with your accommodation provider before booking if you have special requirements to ensure they can be fulfilled.

Wheelchair access is available on public transport. Please book in advance if using the Steam Railway or Electric Railway and note there is no wheelchair access on-board the Snaefell Mountain Railway.

Group tour operators:

Please find below a selection of Isle of Man based companies which can help you arrange group holidays to the Isle of Man:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Group Tour Operator</th>
<th>Website</th>
<th>Telephone Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Isle of Man Event Services</td>
<td><a href="http://www.iomevents.com">www.iomevents.com</a> or Tel +44 (0) 1624 664460</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Regency Travel</td>
<td><a href="http://www.regencytravelholidays.com">www.regencytravelholidays.com</a> or Tel +44 (0) 1624 694456</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Steam Packet Holidays</td>
<td><a href="http://www.steampacketholidays.com">www.steampacketholidays.com</a> or Tel +44 (0) 1624 645777</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Visit IOM</td>
<td><a href="http://www.visitiom.co.uk">www.visitiom.co.uk</a> or Tel +44 (0) 1624 628574</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Coach hire information:

You can hire buses or coaches during your time on the Island. Prices are available on application.

Tours Isle of Man offers 16, 32, 49 and 68 seat coaches to hire. For more information telephone +44 (0) 1624 822611 or e-mail info@tours.co.im

Bus Vannin offers single and double decker buses to hire. For more information telephone +44 (0) 1624 663366 or e-mail heritagerailways@gov.im

Isle of Man Tour Guides

Isle of Man Tour Guides can help you make the most of your time on the Island. All guides on the Island are members of the Guild of Registered Tourist Guides and are trained to guide groups on foot or aboard coaches. Guides can offer itineraries based on specific interests and to suit differing time frames. Prices start at £65 for a half-day tour and £110 for a full day. For more information go to www.isleofmantourguides.org or email manxtourguides@gmail.com
Information for coach drivers

**Coaches:** Coaches of up to 13.5 metres in length are permitted on the Isle of Man providing they meet the EU directive for UK coaches. For more information contact the Highways division at enquiries@highways.gov.im

**Parking:** Coach parking is available in most of the major towns. Additional coach parking is available in Cregneash, St Johns and at the Sound.

**Emergency breakdown service:** An emergency 24 hour recovery service for coaches is available from Mann Recovery. For more information telephone +44 (0) 7624 498048.

**Coach cleaning and servicing:** For a small fee coaches can be cleaned and serviced at Bus Vannin’s depot, which is located at Banks Circus in Douglas. For more information telephone +44 (0) 1624 663366.

**Advice and assistance:** Tours IOM Coach Hire also provides assistance and advice to coach drivers ranging from itinerary planning to route advice. For more information telephone +44 (0) 1624 822611 or email info@tours.co.im

Information for visitors

There are a number of visitor information points located around the Island offering advice and help to visitors as well as printed literature which you can take away.

Your first port of call should be the Welcome Centre at the Sea Terminal in Douglas. It’s open all year between Monday and Saturday from 8:00am to 6:00pm. For more information telephone +44 (0) 1624 686766.

You’ll also find information points located at the following places:

- Castletown Civic Centre: +44 (0) 1624 825005
- The Laxey and Lonan Heritage Trust (seasonal opening): +44 (0) 1624 862007
- Manx Wildlife Trust Shop: +44 (0) 1624 844432
- Port Erin Commissioners’ Office: +44 (0) 1624 832298
- Ramsey Town Hall: +44 (0) 1624 810146
- Ronaldsway Airport: +44 (0) 1624 821600
Douglas

There are four overnight parking spaces at the Sea Terminal (by prior arrangement), three on King Edward Road, two on Queen’s Promenade and two on Harris Promenade which can all be used both day and night.

For more information call +44 (0) 1624 686888
Parking is available for five coaches at Dumbells Terrace car park and two coaches at the Fire Station. Coaches over 12 metres in length are advised not to enter Lower Laxey and the Promenade, coach drivers are advised to make two stops, one as they enter Mines Road (Dumbells Terrace end) and one further down by the fire station to drop off closer to the Laxey Wheel. This would allow those passengers wanting to visit the MER station and village to get off first and the rest to continue on to be dropped nearer to the Wheel. Coaches can then return to the Mines Road parking area if they so wish and reverse park into the bays provided.

The Laxey shuttle bus service operates every day during the summer months. The new service 15 route runs in a loop around the village each half an hour, starting at Mines Road, calling at the Salmon Centre, Laxey Wheel access road and Minorca Hill en route to the promenade and return to Mines Road via Glen Road and Laxey Woollen Mills. For more information go to www.iombusandrail.info
Parking is available at the Grove Museum and at Mooragh Park, as well as two parking spaces on Dale Street. Parking is also available at Milntown Estate and Gardens.
There are six spaces in the Creg Mallin car park on Marine Parade, as well as parking spots at the House of Manannan and on Peel Breakwater.
Castletown

Year round parking available on Farrants Way.

Coach Parking is available at Rushen Abbey at the adjacent Abbey Restaurant.

Coach parking is also available year round at Silverdale Glen.

Port Erin

Up to 10 coaches can park day and night in the Station Road car park.

For more information call +44 (0) 1624 686888
Map of the Isle of Man

- The TT Course
- ‘A’ Roads
- ‘B’ Roads
- Railways