

Itinerary: Wonders of the Way of the Gull in 3 Days

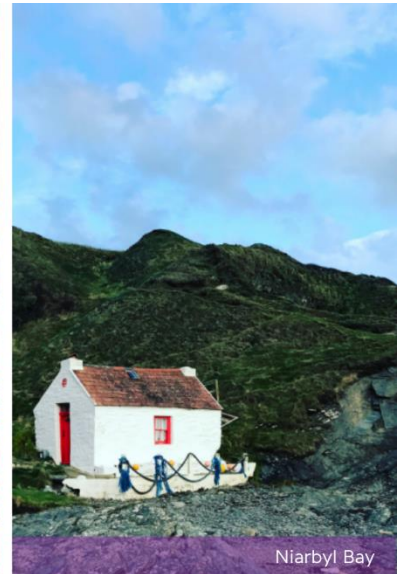
Places to visit along the best of the Island's coastal route the *Raad ny Foillan*



Castle Rushen Credit: MNH



Cronk ny Arrey Laa Credit: Paul Marriot



Niarbyl Bay

From the ancient capital Castletown to the sunset city of Peel, this 3 day itinerary offers sublime walking trails, viewpoints of outstanding natural beauty, fascinating geological wonders, extraordinary history and a taste of the Island's best delicacies.

Whether your clients love a long day's hike, cycle or prefer to sightsee and take a more leisurely visit by car, coach or minibus – they can enjoy some of the best attractions and diverse scenery on the Island's outstanding coastline with this itinerary.

[Specialist walking guides](#) or [cycling guides](#) can accompany your clients on this tour. Cyclists can take [2. Raad Daawheeyl](#) route from Douglas to explore the many attractions on this route.

Day 1

MORNING

Castle Rushen

Start in the ancient capital Castletown, the location of one of the best kept fortresses in Europe, [Castle Rushen](#). Take time to visit to explore the furnished chambers and prison cells.

The town also offers many other architectural treasures and has a wealth of royal, maritime and political history. The [Nautical Museum](#) with its secret trap doors and stories of the ingenious George Quayle is not one to miss if time allows. Group tours can take up to 2 hours at Castle Rushen and 1 hour at the Nautical Museum. For group visits and rates to any Manx National Heritage (MNH) attractions contact lynn.mckibbin@mnh.im, +44 (0) 1624 648017.



AFTERNOON

Scarlett Nature Trail

On the edge of Castletown you can commence the Nature Trail at Scarlett. Visitors can learn about volcanic past of the area in the [Manx Wildlife Trust Discovery Centre](#) (seasonal opening) or view in the limestone and rock formations and the incredible natural beauty of this stretch which attracts a variety of sea birds and is carpeted with flowers of spring squill, thift and stone crop in the spring.

Follow a walking guide along this leisurely route that forms part of the Raad ny Foillan and contact [Manx Wildlife Trust](#) to arrange a visit to the centre before exploring the trail.

Walkers making their way to Gansey can stop off at [The Shore](#) public house for refreshment or venture via the coastal path to the quaint harbour town for local gourmet sandwiches and cakes in [The Sugarloaf Café](#) before exploring the bay and the Port St Mary [Blueway Trail](#).

EVENING

Returning in Castletown for the evening? Castletown's food offerings range from fine Italian and Japanese dining, artisan pizzas (seek out [Secret Pizza](#)) or wholesome pub food can be found at [The George](#).

Isle of Man Ghost Tours

With the backdrop of the Castle, an old school house and Witches Mill nearby - the ancient capital is full of ghostly stories shared by the engaging and entertaining Isle of Man Ghost Tours. Tours are also offered in the other towns and even in the Castle's or historic houses on the Island by arrangement. Call +44 (0) 7624 416824.

Day 2

MORNING

Cregneash & Chasms

Nestled in the countryside [Cregneash](#) village is the last strongholds of Manx crofters who spoke the Manx language and practiced traditional customs. Step inside thatched cottages to see crafts in action and take in the beauty of the area spotting cats with no tails, Shire horses and four-horned Loagtan sheep.

Group tours and workshops can be booked in advance (up to 1.5 hours) and car and coach parking is available. To arrange a group visit to any MNH attractions contact lynn.mckibbin@mnh.im, +44 (0) 1624 648017.

Walks around this area offer some of the best scenery on the Island, taking in the dramatic Chasm's followed by walks down to The Sound where you can spot the drinking dragon or alternatively from Cregneash trek up [Meayll Hill](#) an ancient stone circle offers magnificent vistas over Port Erin Bay.

The Sound and Calf of Man

Captivating scenic views of the [Calf of Man](#) islet can be taken in from The Sound – the Island’s southernmost tip. Sea watch from the shore to spot the grey seals, birds and other marine life and see the racing tidal races popular with kayakers and boat trips to the Calf that often depart from nearby Port St Mary or Port Erin.

Stay for lunch in The Sound Café or outside on the terrace.

AFTERNOON / EVENING

Spend an evening around Port Erin with a walk towards Bradda Head, the headland popular with photographers. The sheltered beach is great for relaxing with huts to hire or a dabble in watersports with [7th Wave](#) and [Port Erin Paddleboards](#) in the vicinity. For more adventurous sports the coastline at Gansey Bay is a great spot for surfing – try [Dave’s Waves](#).

Foraging Vintner’s

Overlooking the bay, this working and unique craft winery specialise in sparkling wines, mead and wine infused ciders and cocktails, made from freshly home-grown produce from the Island’s countryside. They have a sumptuous parlour bar, warehouse diner and outdoor terrace to enjoy their libations and partner food-pop up. Arrange a group tour and tasting experience (4 to 25 people) by emailing celebrate@foragingvintners.com.

Versa

For a completely Manx experience, this restaurant is focused on sustainability is open usually from Thursday to Sunday. Menus change weekly to truly reflect the season, and if it's not Manx, it won't be coming through their door. If the ingredients they use are not foraged, they have been sourced from a very local supplier. They offer a relaxed brunch during the day and tasting menus by night. Email infoversa@gmail.com or call +44 7624 326349.

Day 3

Niarbyl Bay

Take a coastal drive from the south up the west coast for outstanding scenery, or for keen hikers [walking from Port Erin to Niarbyl](#) is one of the most challenging sections but also the most rewarding taking you to the highest point on the coastal footpath, Cronk ny Arrey Laa. Arriving at [Niarbyl Bay](#) you’ll see the magnificent south westerly outlook. Its rolling hills and changing colours bring serenity at this former holiday resort. This beautiful spot is also has evidence of a major fault line where two continents collided 400 million years ago.

Niarbyl also has connections to fairy folklore and smuggling and a knowledgeable guide can share such tales and uncover its geological past. More time can be spent exploring the footpaths and walk to the White Beach and Lag ny Keeiley – an old 8th century chapel.

Stay for lunch in the onsite Niarbyl Café call to book +44 (0) 1624 843300



Glen Maye

Further west and with relics of an ancient forest – this fern filled glen features a bridged gorge and racing waterfall and a revitalising walk down to a stony cove, keen walkers could follow the walk on the coastal path to Peel from here.

Peel - Museums and Attractions

Renowned for glowing sunsets along its long stretching sandy beach, giving a fantastic silhouette of Peel Castle ruins standing on St. Patrick's Isle.

Before sundown wander the grounds of [Peel Castle](#) (MNH), enjoy panoramic views and let the informative audio guide help you unlock its stories from its once wooden Viking fortress. The coastal walks surrounding Castle is great for spotting marine life such as basking sharks and seals in the summer months and even a rare Puffin.

Peel is also home to a varied range of museums including the [House of Manannan](#) (MNH) – showcasing treasures found at the Castle and the Island's Viking past and the nearby [Manx Heritage Transport Museum](#) (home to the P50 minicar). The townscape is full of hidden gems including the Cathedral Isle of Man (for tours contact admin@cathedral.im or on 01624 844830), antiques shops and the Manx Wildlife Trust flagship shop.

Get a taste of the freshest seafood delicacies at the kiosks, quayside bistros or a local beverage and home cooked food in one of the many traditional pubs. The town also has the largest Ice Cream shop on the Island – Davidson's - selling award-winning local ice cream in countless flavours.

EVENING

The Boatyard Restaurant

With marina views and a warm ambience - this seafood restaurant offers local produce and beverages, and a choice Manx seafood delicacies alongside a larger menu to suit a range of tastes.

[Book here.](#)

Contact

Speak with the Travel Trade team for more information or for a bespoke itinerary for your group or tour:

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