

isle of relaxation



Isle of Man

Angling Guide

Sea and freshwater angling

www.visitisleofman.com/angling



Gone fishing

With fast flowing streams, well-stocked reservoirs and an incredibly accessible coastline the Isle of Man provides a perfect place to fish. Located in the path of the Gulf Stream the Island enjoys mild temperatures and attracts an abundance of marine life associated with the warm-water current.

So, whether you're a keen angler, or a novice wanting to while away a few hours, you'll find a range of locations for both freshwater and sea fishing. And if you're looking for something different why not charter a boat and turn your hand to deep sea fishing where you can try your luck at catching crabs, lobster and even shark?

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What you can catch

A taster of what you could catch during your visit to the Island:

Rock fishing:

coalfish, pollack, ballan wrasse, cuckoo wrasse, grey mullet, mackerel, conger eel

Breakwater fishing:

coalfish, pollack, ballan wrasse, cuckoo wrasse, grey mullet, mackerel, conger eel

Harbour fishing:

grey mullet, coalfish, flounder

Shore fishing:

bass, tope, dogfish, grey mullet, mackerel, coalfish, plaice, dab

Freshwater fishing:

brown trout, sea trout, Atlantic salmon, rainbow trout, eels

Photography by Mark Boyd and James Cubbon



Sea angling

With almost 100 miles of coastline you'll have no trouble finding a harbour, breakwater or rugged rock formation from which to cast off.

Between April and September is the prime time for sea fishing with the plankton population blooming in the warmer months. This attracts sand eels, vast shoals of mackerel, grey mullet, pollack and cod. However, even in the winter months you're likely to find codling, coalfish and dogfish in Manx waters. Although you don't need a licence for saltwater angling please remember to observe the minimum landing sizes for each species. These are displayed in all the main harbours or can be requested from Fisheries at the Department of Environment, Food and Agriculture.

KEY TO COASTAL FISHING LOCATIONS

1. Ramsey
2. Dogmills Beach
3. Point of Ayre
4. Ballaghennie/Smeale and The Lhen
5. Port Soderick
6. Douglas Bay and Douglas Head
7. Laxey
8. Port St Mary Breakwater
9. Perwick Bay
10. Fleshwick Bay
11. The Calf and Sound
12. Port Erin Breakwater and Bradda Glen
13. Scarlett Rocks, Castletown and Derbyhaven
14. Peel and St Patrick's Isle
15. Glen Wyllin
16. Ballaugh



Ramsey and the north

The northern coast affords excellent beach and breakwater fishing locations.

LOCATION: POINT OF AYRE, BALLAGHENNIE/SMEALE AND THE LHEN

Type: Shore fishing

Amenities: These beaches are accessible from Bride, Jurby and Andreas. There are small convenience stores located in Jurby and Andreas as well as a pub in the latter. All villages have public toilets.

LOCATION: DOGMILLS BEACH

Type: Shore fishing

Amenities: You'll find a café and public toilets just a few miles from this beach in Bride village.



LOCATION: RAMSEY

Type: Breakwater fishing and beach fishing

Amenities: Ample free parking and shops, pubs, restaurants, cafes and public toilets in the town centre.

Douglas and the east

The east coast is perfect for anglers who are looking to fish off the rocks or breakwaters.

LOCATION: LAXEY

Type: Breakwater fishing and rock fishing

Amenities: Parking available near to the breakwater and a café, convenience store and public toilets in the village centre.

LOCATION: DOUGLAS BAY AND DOUGLAS HEAD

Type: Breakwater fishing, shore fishing and rock fishing

Amenities: Located around the Island's capital you'll find shops, eateries and public toilets in the town centre. Free car parking is available around the harbour area.

LOCATION: PORT SODERICK

Type: Rock fishing

Amenities: This secluded site offers free parking although nearest amenities, including public toilets, are a few miles away in Douglas.

Port Erin and the south

The southern coast offers an abundance of craggy coastline, and rock formations to cast off from.

LOCATION: PORT ST MARY BREAKWATER

Type: Rock fishing, breakwater fishing and harbour fishing

Amenities: Free car parking near to the harbour and breakwater. You'll also find cafés, pubs, shops and public toilets within the village.

LOCATION: PERWICK BAY

Type: Rock fishing

Amenities: Slightly off the beaten track this bay is a short walk away from a public car park. You'll also find cafés, pubs, shops and public toilets within the village.

LOCATION: THE CALF AND SOUND

Type: Rock fishing

Amenities: Located at the southern tip of the Island you'll find ample free parking plus a café and visitor centre. Further facilities are available in the nearby villages of Port St Mary and Port Erin.



LOCATION: PORT ERIN BREAKWATER AND BRADDA GLEN

Type: Rock fishing

Amenities: Ample car parking near to the breakwater and at Bradda Glen where you'll find a restaurant. Shops, eateries, pubs and public toilets can be found in the village centre.

LOCATION: FLESHWICK BAY

Type: Rock fishing

Amenities: Limited car parking at this secluded bay with the nearest amenities a few miles away in nearby Port Erin.

LOCATION: SCARLETT ROCKS, CASTLETOWN HARBOUR AND DERBYHAVEN

Type: Rock fishing, breakwater fishing, shore fishing and harbour fishing

Amenities: Ample car parking plus a wide range of amenities in the ancient capital including shops, public toilets, pubs and eateries.



Peel and the west

Head to the west coast where you'll find some of the best angling spots the Island has to offer.

LOCATION: PEEL AND ST PATRICK'S ISLE

Type: Breakwater fishing and rock fishing

Amenities: Free parking available on the breakwater and near to the promenade. There's also a wide range of shops and eateries, as well as public toilets, in the town.

LOCATION: GLEN WYLLIN

Type: Shore fishing

Amenities: Parking for this secluded spot is available near to the beach and you'll find the nearest amenities on the Glen Wyllin campsite. A convenience store and pub are nearby in Kirk Michael.

LOCATION: BALLAUGH

Type: Shore fishing

Amenities: Car parking is available along with a shop and a pub in the nearby village.

Charter fishing

For a different experience why not charter a boat and try your hand at fishing the fantastic reefs and offshore wrecks? It's also a great opportunity to spot some of the marine life which inhabits Manx waters including dolphins, seals and basking sharks.

Boat fishing is mainly concentrated around the rocky south west coast. Experienced skippers and on-board crew will use their extensive local knowledge to find the best spots and most will provide you with bait and equipment. Most charters operate all year round but trips will be dependent on sea and weather conditions.

BOAT NAME:	HOME PORT:	TELEPHONE:
Shona Elizabeth	Peel	01624 843814
Pegasus	Peel	07624 428948
Manx Sea Quest	Peel	07624 450688
Hannah Louise	Port Erin	07624 457994
Gemini	Port St Mary	07624 483328
Endeavour	Port St Mary	01624 833008

Events

Why not try your hand at one of the many events which attract anglers from near and far who want to experience the top class fishing opportunities which Manx waters provide.

The Ramsey Festival:

Held in the spring this competition sees anglers line the northern beaches in pursuit of bass, tope, coalfish and dogfish. Cash prizes are up for grabs in a number of competition categories. For more information visit www.ramseyanglingclub.co.uk.

Mannin Angling Club Festival:

The largest angling event on the Island's calendar – this festival has been running since 1951. It takes place for a week at the end of July and is primarily a small boat-fishing competition although some shore competitions are included. For more information please visit www.manninanglingclub.co.uk.

Other:

A number of local angling clubs also hold competitions and events throughout the year which visitors are welcome to join in with. For more information please visit www.douglasanglingclub.com and www.peelanglingclub.com.

Top tips

- Check the minimum landing sizes before you fish – you'll find these displayed in the main harbour areas.
- Be aware of limitations on bait digging around marine nature reserves and areas of scientific interest. More information on these areas can be found online at www.gov.im/defa.
- If you do intend to dig your own bait please backfill your holes.
- Catch and release is encouraged – take only what you intend to eat and handle fish with care, returning to the sea as soon as is practical.
- Always tell someone where you are intending to fish before you start. Check tide times, wear appropriate clothing and always carry a mobile phone. Detailed tide predictions can be found at: www.gov.im/doi.
- Before fishing make sure your equipment is clean and sterile to help keep diseases out of Manx waters.

Freshwater angling

With picturesque reservoirs and an abundance of beautiful rivers and streams the Island offers wonderful opportunities for freshwater fishing amid stunning scenery.

Wild brown trout can be found in most of the streams as well as in the reservoirs, six of which are regularly stocked with rainbow trout. Sea trout start running the rivers as early as June, while the main salmon run starts late summer. Most Manx salmon are grilse, although larger multi-winter fish are sometimes caught in the major rivers. Please note that fishing for eels is catch and release only.

KEY TO RIVERS

1. Sulby River
2. Glen Auldyn River
3. Cornaa River
4. River Glass
5. River Dhoo
6. Colby River
7. Silver Burn
8. Santon Burn
9. River Neb
10. Glen Maye River

KEY TO RESERVOIRS

1. Clypse & Kerrowdhoo
2. Sulby
3. West Baldwin
4. Ballure
5. Block Eary
6. Eairy Dam
7. Cringle



Stocked reservoirs

Anglers must hold an Isle of Man Government Reservoir Licence to fish these six reservoirs which are regularly stocked with high quality rainbow trout from March to October. With the exception of Clypse and Kerrowdhoo, spinning as well as fly fishing is allowed.

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Sulby (154 acres):

The Island's largest and deepest reservoir lying in the shadow of the Island's only mountain, Snaefell. Surrounded by wild and rugged heathland you'll be spoilt for choice when casting off. On-site car park off the A14 Snaefell to Sulby Road.

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West Baldwin (41.4 acres):

The remote reservoir is located on the site of a small hamlet, the remains of which can be seen when water levels are very low. When the levels are high, you can take advantage of specialist angling platforms. Parking available along the roadside.

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Ballure (3.5 acres):

Situated just south of Ramsey the Ballure offers a smaller more intimate fishing experience with fly-fishing and spinning possible from the dam wall and the west bank. Parking is available at the top of the 'zig-zag footpath' found a short way down the hill from the 'Gooseneck' on the Mountain Road.

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Cringle(4.5 acres):

Located within the Cringle Forestry Plantation about 5 miles northwest of Ballasalla. With the exception of the top corner, the entire perimeter is fishable with good fly clearance on most banks, and there is a wheelchair-accessible platform close to the disabled users' car park. On-site car park off the B39 Ronague Road. A key to access the disabled users' car park can be obtained from the Manx Utilities Authority (tel. 687687).

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Clypse (6.3 acres) and Kerrowdhoo (11.4 acres):

Located near Onchan these reservoirs offer traditional fly-fishing only waters. They're open to the elements so anglers are not hindered by trees and bushes, although casting may be tricky on windy days! On-site car park.

Other stillwaters

If you're still stuck for choice about where to fish, why not try these secluded waters.

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Block Eary:

This tiny reservoir lies off the beaten track to the east of the Sulby River and can be fished (fly and spinning only) with an Isle of Man Government Other Waters licence. You'll face a 30-40 minute hike up a steep track to get there but when you do you'll be rewarded with a secluded and peaceful brown trout fishing adventure.

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Eairy Dam:

This contains mostly perch along with some brown trout. It can be fished for trout with an Isle of Man Government Other Waters Licence or for coarse fish (catch & return only) with an Isle of Man Government Coarse Fish Licence. Fly, spinning and bait fishing are allowed.

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Rivers

Most of the Island's rivers and streams hold good populations of brown trout, while the best rivers for sea trout and salmon are the Neb, Glass, Dhoo and Sulby.

Anglers must hold an Isle of Man Government Other Waters Licence to fish any watercourse on the Island. Access to watercourses is at the discretion of the landowner and anglers are responsible for ensuring that they do not commit trespass. Please respect 'No Fishing' and 'Private Fishing' signs.

Unless requested not to by an Isle of Man Government Officer, licensed anglers may assume they have permission to fish at the following locations:

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National Glens (see www.gov.im for details): Mostly brown trout. Salmon also run Laxey Glen, Glen Helen and, to a lesser extent, Silverdale Glen. Sea trout, and occasionally salmon, run several of the other glens accessible to migratory fish.
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Garey ny Cloie (Foxdale River): Brown trout, sea trout, salmon.
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Right bank of Sulby Claddagh Recreational Area (Sulby River): Brown trout, sea trout and salmon.
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The Raggatt (River Neb): Brown trout, sea trout and salmon.
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Right bank of River Neb from Glenfaba Road to West Marine Footbridge, Peel: Brown trout, sea trout and salmon.
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Within the grounds of the National Sports Centre between Quarterbridge and Pulrose Power Station, Douglas (Rivers Glass, Dhoo and Douglas): Brown trout, sea trout and salmon. Please note that access may be restricted during some NSC events and anglers must cease fishing if requested to do so by NSC staff.
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Steam Heritage Trail bank, River Dhoo, between Braddan Bridge and Main Road Bridge, Union Mills: Brown trout, sea trout and salmon.
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Streams within Public Land Open to Ramblage as defined in the Isle of Man Outdoor Leisure Map 1:25,000: Brown trout. Please note that anglers need to take great care April-July (inc) to avoid disturbing ground-nesting birds e.g. hen harriers, as to do so is an offence under the Wildlife Act 1990.

Private fishing and events

Manx Game Fishing Club

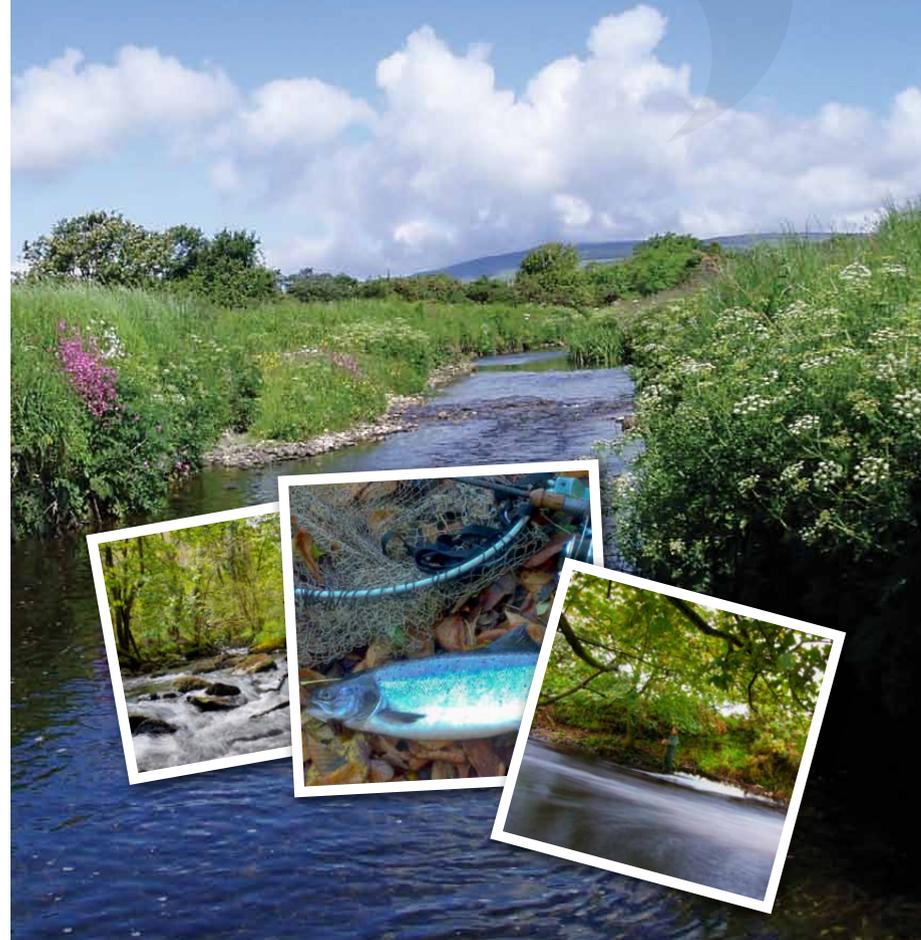
Manx Game Fishing Club has beats at: Nunnery Estate, Douglas River; Kirby Park, River Dhoo; Port E Chee, River Glass; Union Mills, River Dhoo. For more information telephone 01624 843456 or 01624 621632

Douglas Angling Club

Douglas Angling Club has a beat at Tromode, River Glass, and also organises events for members. For more information telephone 01624 628954.

Isle of Man Fly Fishers

Isle of Man Fly Fishers also organise angling events and are a further source of advice for local and visiting anglers. For more information visit www.iomff.co.uk or find Isle of Man Fly Fishers on Facebook.



Top tips

- Before fishing check the rules and regulations which relate specifically to the Isle of Man at www.gov.im/defa.
- Freshwater anglers must be in possession of the appropriate valid fishing licence, which, except for concessionary reservoir season licences, can be purchased online from www.gov.im/onlineservices. With the exception of coarse fish licences, they may also be bought at the Department of Environment, Food and Agriculture's headquarters, St Johns during office hours (Mon-Fri 9am to 5pm exc. Bank Holidays). Concessionary reservoir season licences are also available at most Island Post Offices (proof of eligibility required).
- A 'reservoir licence' is valid for fishing for trout and rainbow trout in reservoirs and private and commercial fisheries.
- An 'other waters' licence allows fishing for salmon, trout, sea trout, rainbow trout and eels in any waters other than the specified reservoirs.
- A 'coarse fish' licence allows fishing in any private or commercial coarse fishery or in Eairy Dam.
- Before going fishing please make sure your equipment is clean and sterile to help keep fish diseases out of the Isle of Man.
- Angling licences only authorise an angler to fish with rod and line. Access to rivers and privately-owned stillwaters requires permission of the landowner.
- If you fish the rivers for brown trout, sea trout or salmon, please ensure that you submit your catch return at the end of the season.



Key contacts

You'll find bait and tackle at the following places:

Manx Fish Producers Organisation (tackle only)

The Heritage Centre, The Quay, Peel, IM5 1TA
Tel: 01624 842144

Kelvin's Tackle (tackle only)

Ballabrooie, Patrick Road, St Johns, IM4 3BR
Tel: 07624 478224 Web: www.kelvinstackle.co.uk

All Round Fishing

1 Ballaquayle Road, Douglas, IM2 5DA
Tel: 01624 629599

The Ramsey Warehouse

37 Parliament Street, Ramsey, IM8 1AT
Tel: 01624 813092 Web: www.jacstores.co.uk

Hobbytime

8 Castle Street, Douglas, IM1 2EU
Tel: 01624 625720

Rods 'N' Reels

19 St Paul's Square, Ramsey, IM8 1LE
Tel: 01624 813798 Web: www.rodsnreels.biz

Helpful contact details during your visit:

Department of Environment, Food and Agriculture – Fisheries

Thie Slieau Whallian, Foxdale Road, St Johns IM4 3AS
Tel: 01624 685857 Web: www.gov.im/defa Facebook: DEFA - Fisheries

Ronaldsway Met Office

Tel: 0900 624 3300 Web: www.gov.im/weather

Isle of Man Welcome Centre

Sea Terminal, Douglas, IM1 2RF
Tel: 01624 686766 Web: www.visitisleofman.com

Noble's Hospital

Strang, Douglas, IM4 4RJ
Tel: 01624 650000 Web: www.gov.im/dhss

Ramsey Cottage Hospital

Cumberland Road, Ramsey, IM8 3RH
Tel: 01624 811811 Web: www.gov.im/dhss



Planning your visit

Travel here

With direct air links from airports across the British Isles, and a reliable year-round ferry service, travelling to the Island is quick and convenient. Whether you sail or fly you'll get the best prices if you book in advance. Check with individual operators for timetables, fares and booking conditions.

There are no restrictions on bringing fishing tackle via sea but airline policies vary so check before travelling. For more information on travelling to the Island visit www.visitisleofman.com/travel.

Getting around

At just 33 miles long and 13 miles wide you'll find getting around the Isle of Man easy. The Island has a comprehensive public transport network, which includes the steam railway and electric tram, as well as a reliable and regular bus service.

Multi-journey tickets are available on all public transport offering excellent value for money. For more information visit www.iombusandrail.info.

You'll find some of the best fishing spots off the beaten track so why not bring your own car or hire one? There is a range of hire companies to choose from with the majority based at the airport. For more information on getting around the Island visit www.visitisleofman.com/travel.

Where to stay

Whether you choose a hotel, bed and breakfast or guesthouse you'll be assured of a warm welcome and good service. That's because all accommodation has been independently assessed and graded – even our campsites.

Not all accommodation providers will have places to store your fishing equipment so please check before booking.

If you're looking to get back to nature you'll find some of the best fishing spots near to the campsites – you can even hire a tent. Motorhomes are also welcome but towing caravans will need prior permission.

For more information on accommodation, and to order your free Isle of Man Visitor Guide, visit www.visitisleofman.com.

Eating out

Eat, drink and relax – you're never too far from somewhere good to eat on the Isle of Man. Whether you're looking for a café, restaurant or a country pub you'll find some of the finest local produce the Island can offer.

Pick up a free copy of the Taste Isle of Man Directory – a national quality assurance scheme which shows you where to find accredited eating out establishments sure to tempt your taste buds. For more information visit www.visitisleofman.com/taste.



