Isle of Man
Walking Festival
28 April - 1 May 2017
www.visitisleofman.com/walkfest
The Isle of Man Walking Festival is all about fun, friendliness and finding out all about the Island’s fascinating history, culture, geography and wildlife in a beautiful setting made for walkers. Walking in the Island’s rugged and beautiful countryside, combined with the information and stories you’ll hear from our knowledgeable and passionate walk leaders, make for a visit full of memories. Where else could you hear about intriguing folklore and superstition, catch a glimpse of a wallaby or experience a basking shark or dolphin sighting?

The Island’s landscape is a microcosm of the best of the British Isles compacted into 227 square miles in the middle of the Irish Sea. Its variety means that there is a different view around every corner whether of heather moorland, rugged cliffs, sandy beaches, rolling hills, wooded glens or the vista of the flat northern plain.

The four day festival takes place over the early Spring Bank Holiday and offers one guided walk, from a choice of five, each day. There is something for everyone in terms of variety, fitness level and walking experience. And getting around couldn’t be easier as all the walks tie in with local public transport routes.

For a taste of what’s in store for you, take a look at the Isle of Man Walking Festival page on Facebook where you’ll see photos and comments from walkers who’ve taken part in previous years.

**Gradings: Is this walk suitable for me?**

The Isle of Man is a walkers’ paradise, especially in the spring, with a tremendous variety of terrain ranging from cliffs to moors and from glens to beaches. Think of it as being the British Isles in miniature.

When choosing your walks please bear in mind the Isle of Man is hilly and in the middle of the Irish Sea. The ground is rough in places, some of the footpaths are narrow and steep and the weather can change very quickly.

**LEISURELY:** Gentle rolling landscape, walking on paths with average to good surfaces. Some walking on gentle inclines with stiles or steps en-route.

**MODERATE:** Varying landscape with some more challenging slopes. Stiles and steps en-route. Suitable for keen walkers and anyone who is reasonably active.

**FAIRLY STRENUEOUS:** A challenging walk for fit walkers with some experience or for anyone who is quite fit and active. Steep gradients, narrow and difficult paths with stiles and steps are to be expected.

**STRENUEOUS:** Long walk and/or difficult walking terrain such as steep hills and rough country. Suitable for fit and experienced walkers.
**The Walks**

**Friday 28th April**

**FRI1**
- **Castletown, The Ancient Capital of Mann**
- **Distance:** 10miles/16km
- **Pace:** Moderate
- **Summary:** A delightful riverside walk to Silverdale Glen which then doubles back on itself past Rushen Abbey to Castletown harbour. A little quiet road walking then takes you to Langness and Derbyhaven, an Area of Special Scientific Interest noted for its wading and migratory birds, before returning back to Castletown.

**FRI2**
- **The Albert Tower**
- **Distance:** 10miles/16km
- **Pace:** Fairly Strenuous
- **Summary:** This circular walk gives you the opportunity to explore the beautiful countryside surrounding Ramsey. Ballure Glen is very picturesque in the spring and the views from the Albert Tower make the hill climb worth every step of the way.

**FRI3**
- **Western Coast Wonder**
- **Distance:** 6.6miles/10.6km
- **Pace:** Fairly Strenuous
- **Summary:** After a short walk on a quiet road, this section of The Raad Ny Foillan (The Way of the Gull) drops down to the atmospheric Glen Maye. The footpath then follows the coast to Peel Hill before descending to the city and harbour of Peel.

**FRI4**
- **Glens and Coast**
- **Distance:** 7.2miles/11.5km
- **Pace:** Strenuous
- **Summary:** A quiet lane takes you to the magical Ballaglass Glen. The route then takes you to the coast, discovering hidden and tiny coves, before climbing up to Maughold Head. Stunning views surround you as you descend into Ramsey.

**FRI5**
- **The Port Erin Loop**
- **Distance:** 4.6miles/7.4km
- **Pace:** Strenuous
- **Summary:** Leaving Port Erin the route soon climbs up to Milner’s Tower and Bradda Head with its magnificent views. The descent into Fleshwick Bay is very steep. Typical Manx countryside walking then returns you to Port Erin.
### The Walks

**Saturday 29th April**

#### SAT1 Manx Wallabies
- **Distance:** 9.5 miles/15.2 km
- **Pace:** Moderate
- **Summary:** Yes, there really are wild wallabies living on the Isle of Man and this walk gives you some of the best opportunities to see them. After strolling through Bishopscourt Glen the route takes you along the remote and sandy beaches of the west coast. You then turn inland heading towards The Curragh, an Area of Special Scientific Interest, home to the winter roost site of Hen Harriers and the wallabies.

#### SAT2 Valleys and Hills
- **Distance:** 5.9 miles/9.5 km
- **Pace:** Fairly Strenuous
- **Summary:** From St John’s the route takes a steady climb through a plantation and then skirts Slieau Whallian hill offering stunning views. The path then descends to the River Neb and the Heritage Trail, which you follow to the harbour and City of Peel.

#### SAT3 Eastern Coast
- **Distance:** 13.7 miles/22 km
- **Pace:** Fairly Strenuous
- **Summary:** This beautiful section of The Raad Ny Foillan (The Way Of The Gull) takes you along cliffs, through glens and down to hidden coves. Some sections of the footpath are narrow and rocky, whilst other sections are along very quiet lanes which are abound with wild flowers in the spring. The route takes you through Maughold Church with its collection of Celtic and Manx Crosses.

#### SAT4 The Walk That Has It All
- **Distance:** 7.2 miles/11.5 km
- **Pace:** Strenuous
- **Summary:** A stunning circular walk which encompasses most of the Island’s walking terrain including; the coast, glens, woodlands and rivers, surrounded by amazing views. Peace and solitude rolled into one walk.

#### SAT5 Southern Coast Splendour
- **Distance:** 7.8 miles/12.5 km
- **Pace:** Strenuous
- **Summary:** Arguably, Port St Mary to Port Erin is one of the best coastal walks in the British Isles. In places the footpath is steep and narrow but there are also many sections on springy down-land turf. Wildlife abounds, there is a feeling of remoteness and everywhere you look the views are breathtaking.
# The Walks

**Sunday 30th April**

## SUN1

**Time to Relax**
- **Distance:** 3.6 miles/5.8 km
- **Pace:** Leisurely
- **Summary:** An ideal Sunday stroll giving you plenty of time for a leisurely breakfast and an opportunity to find out some information about Tynwald (the oldest continuous parliament in the world). After a gentle walk along the Heritage Trail alongside the River Neb you’ll be able to explore Peel with its castle, harbour and numerous eateries.

## SUN2

**Greeting the Little People**
- **Distance:** 8 miles/12.8 km
- **Pace:** Moderate
- **Summary:** No visit to the Isle of Man is complete without greeting The Little People at the original Fairy Bridge. Some very pleasant tracks take you to The Fairy Bridge. After saying hello and making a wish, quiet lanes take you to the historical bay of Port Soderick. Stunning views accompany you as you return to Douglas along the geological wonder of Marine Drive. Before descending into Douglas there will be an opportunity to take in the views from the unique Victorian Camera Obscura.

## SUN3

**Glens and Coasts**
- **Distance:** 7.2 miles/11.5 km
- **Pace:** Strenuous
- **Summary:** A quiet lane takes you to the magical Ballaglass Glen. The route then takes you to the coast, discovering hidden and tiny coves before climbing up to Maughold Head. Stunning views surround you as you descend into Ramsey.

## SUN4

**Manx Heritage**
- **Distance:** 7.6 miles/12.2 km
- **Pace:** Strenuous
- **Summary:** Starting with a very steep lane walk to Agneash, with plenty of view stops to admire the Great Laxey Wheel, this walk then follows a track on the flanks of the Sliëu Lhean. With views to Snaefell and the Laxey River the route continues to climb as you walk past a number of tholtans and miners’ cottages. The walk then takes you to the beautiful and remote hilltops before descending to farmland and King Orry’s Grave and before returning to Laxey.

## SUN5

**Kipper Canter**
- **Distance:** 14 miles/22.5 km
- **Pace:** Strenuous
- **Summary:** A variation of The Herring Way, once used by fishermen to walk from Peel to Castletown, this is a spectacular walk. After a coastal section following the Raad Ny Foillan, the route takes you through glens, forests and open moorland before a gentle few miles as you walk along the river into Castletown, the ancient capital of Mann.
The Walks
Monday 1st May

**A Glimpse Into The Past**
Distance: 8.3 miles/13.3km
Pace: Moderate
Summary: The walk follows the gentle Silverburn River from Ballasalla to Castletown harbour passing through typical farmland. The route then takes you along the coast to Scarlett Point and Poyllvaaish with its many interesting geological features and opportunities to spot a great variety of seabirds. Turning inland you will have the opportunity to explore a Viking Ship Burial site and Keeill Vael before returning to Castletown.

**Spring Delights**
Distance: 9.1 miles/14.6km
Pace: Moderate
Summary: Wild flowers abound during the Spring in the Isle of Man and this walk is an excellent opportunity to view them in glens, on sod banks and along the lanes. A delightfully quiet and interesting walk on the outskirts of Douglas.

**May Day Celebrations**
Distance: 6.8 miles/10.9km
Pace: Fairly Strenuous
Summary: After admiring the sweeping bay of Port Erin, you join the coastal footpath (Raad Ny Foillan) to Spanish Head. Magnificent views abound as you then explore Meayll peninsular. There will be an opportunity to see the Manx May Day Celebrations in Cregneash, the Manx Folk Village before returning to Port Erin.

**Eastern Coast**
Distance: 13.7 miles/22km
Pace: Fairly Strenuous
Summary: This beautiful section of The Raad Ny Foillan (The Way Of The Gull) takes you along cliffs, through glens and down to hidden coves. Some sections of the footpath are narrow and rocky whilst other sections are along very quiet lanes which are abound with wild flowers in the spring. The route takes you through Maughold Church with its collection of Celtic and Manx Crosses.

**Southern Coast Splendour**
Distance: 7.8 miles/12.5km
Pace: Strenuous
Summary: Arguably, Port St Mary to Port Erin is one of the best coastal walks in the British Isles. In places the footpath is steep and narrow but there are also many sections on springy turf. Wildlife abounds, there is a feeling of remoteness and everywhere you look the views are breathtaking. Time permitting, there may also be an opportunity to visit Cregneash to see the Manx May Day Celebrations.
The Isle of Man is undoubtedly one of my favourite places for walking in the British Isles. Despite its size, I find something new every time I visit. The last time it was the delights of the Herring Way. The time before, the part of the Coast Path between Port St Mary and Port Erin. Every time different. Where else can you walk from the coast, through woods, dales and glens before reaching a mountain – all within a 3 hour walk?

And what better time to experience walking on the Island than the Walking Festival? Because here, you’re not just visiting for the walking, you’ve got entertainment laid on too. A complete package holiday with walking as its theme.

Stunning scenery, fascinating history and the most friendly of people – it’s certainly time for another visit to the Isle of Man.

Andrew White
Senior Editor/Producer - Walks Around Britain

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<th>Welcome/Social Events</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Thursday 27th April</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Registration</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Where:</strong> Sea Terminal between 19.00 and 21.00</td>
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<td>Registration at the Welcome Centre in the Sea Terminal. It is very important you register as we need to know you are here! Up-to-date information about the walks will be available, including transport details as sometimes last minute changes are necessary. Walking guides will be on hand to assist with any questions you may have.</td>
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| **Monday 1st May** |
| **The Blister Ball** |
| **Where:** The Villa Marina, Doors open at 20.00 with the fun starting at 20.30 |
| Time to let your hair down and relax with friends old and new at The Villa Marina. An evening of great music, fun and perhaps some dancing if you have some energy left after your walking holiday. Informal dress - ball gowns are not required! |
Important Notes

1. All walks should be booked in advance using the attached booking form.

2. It is important that you check in between 19.00 and 2100 on the Thursday evening at the registration desk in the Sea Terminal, Douglas.

3. All walks can start and finish using public transport. Detailed information regarding public transport will be available during check in on the Thursday evening. The cost of public transport is not included in the festival package cost. Walk start times and starting points will be published ahead of the Festival on www.visitisleofman.com/walkfest once the Spring/Summer Isle of Man bus timetable is available.

4. Walking boots or stout shoes with good grips must be worn for all walks, together with suitable clothing, jeans are not suitable. The weather on the Isle of Man can change very quickly, it is recommended that a waterproof jacket is carried together with water and a snack. Some of the walks are in remote areas of the Island with no refreshment or toilet facilities.

5. Walk Guides reserve the right to refuse participation to any walker if they are not suitably attired, or if the Guides feel they would be unsuited to undertake the walk.

6. Walks are undertaken at your own risk. UK residents visiting the Island will receive free NHS treatment if they become ill whilst here. However, anyone visiting the Island should ensure they have adequate insurance in place in the event of repatriation being required.

7. It is at the Guides’ discretion to change the route of a walk should the weather conditions or other circumstances make it necessary. It is important that the advice of the Guides is followed at all times.

8. If you have any relevant medical problems please let the Guides know about your condition and advise of any medication you are carrying. This information is required in case of an incident.

9. Please note that dogs are not allowed on any walks due to the proximity of farmland and livestock.

10. Isle of Man Tourism will occasionally send a photographer to accompany walkers for use in future promotion of walking on the Island. If you do not wish to be included in these photographs, please indicate this to the photographer who will ensure you are not in any of the pictures taken.
Walk leaders were excellent!

I had a wonderful time. I have learned so much about this enchanting island.

The enthusiasm of those involved as volunteers was infectious.

Thank you so much for helping us feel so welcome here.

I had a brilliant time and I learned so much.

We had an amazing time. Thanks to all for perfect arrangements!

I wish we could spend far more time here!

### Booking Form - Person 1

Please complete one form per person. Cost is £30 per person. Cheques should be made payable to:

**ISLE OF MAN GOVERNMENT**

Please post the completed booking form and cheque to: Walking Festival Director, 1 Ballanoa Meadow, Santon, Isle of Man, IM4 1HQ

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#### Ref Walk Tick your choice (one per day)

##### FRIDAY 28th April
- FR1 Castletown, The Ancient Capital of Mann
- FR2 The Albert Tower
- FR3 Western Coast Wonder
- FR4 Glens and Coast
- FR5 The Port Erin Loop

##### SATURDAY 29th April
- SA1 Manx Wallabies
- SA2 Valleys and Hills
- SA3 Eastern Coast
- SA4 The Walk That Has It All
- SA5 Southern Coast Splendour

##### SUNDAY 30th April
- SU1 Time To Relax
- SU2 Greeting The Little People
- SU3 Glens and Coast
- SU4 Manx Heritage
- SU5 Kipper Canter

##### MONDAY 1st May
- MO1 A Glimpse Into The Past
- MO2 Spring Delights
- MO3 May Day Celebrations
- MO4 Eastern Coast
- MO5 Southern Coast Splendour
- BB Blister Ball - (Taking place on Monday evening)

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Name - please print: 
Address: 
Town/City: 
How did you hear about the Isle of Man Walking Festival? 
Mobile phone number: 
E-mail: 

Tick here if you would like to receive the visitisleofman newsletter

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Information provided will be used by the Isle of Man Department of Economic Development in accordance with the Data Protection Act 2002 for the purposes of administration, research, analysis and to inform you of relevant marketing information. We will not share your details with third parties.
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