



time
for us



48 hours in...

...The Isle of Wight with Wightlink

Unspoiled countryside, miles of golden beaches and dramatic cliffs are just some of the delights to discover on the Isle of Wight. Walkers, cyclists, dog walkers and people of all ages with an interest in history, heritage, wildlife and scenery will find a treat in store. Well known as the location for Queen Victoria's home, Osborne House, the Island's history includes dinosaurs, Romans, inventors and rock heroes, as well as writers like Tennyson who found inspiration in the Wight landscape.

Getting to the Island by car

The Isle of Wight is easily accessible by car – with two Wightlink ferry routes linking the Island to the mainland. Vehicle ferries cross the Solent from Portsmouth Gunwharf to Fishbourne in the east of the Island and from Lymington to picturesque Yarmouth in West Wight. The fleet of seven car ferries provides a regular shuttle service, half-hourly at peak times and with more than 200 sailings a day. Journey time is 35 minutes from Lymington to Yarmouth and 40 minutes between Portsmouth and Fishbourne.

Top 5 must see places

Osborne House
Queen Victoria's palace by the sea with ornate Renaissance-inspired interiors and extensive gardens.
www.english-heritage.org.uk/osbornehouse

Carisbrooke Castle
The fortress where King Charles I was imprisoned before his trial and execution.
www.english-heritage.org.uk/carisbrookecastle

The Needles
The Isle of Wight's most iconic landmark, best viewed from Headon Warren or The Needles Park at Alum Bay.
www.theneedles.co.uk

Blackgang Chine
Learn about local shipwrecks and the cliff erosion around Blackgang at this top Island attraction.
www.blackgangchine.com

South Coast beaches
The Isle of Wight is Europe's most important site for dinosaur remains. Explore the beach and cliffs to find relics of a pre-historic age.

the Beautiful South

48 hours in the Isle of Wight

Day one

To fully appreciate the variety of the Isle of Wight's landscape, set out on foot on day one to discover rolling hills, dramatic downland, ancient woodland, sandy beaches and chalk cliffs.

With 60 miles of beaches to explore around the Island's coastline, you'll be spoilt for choice. Aside from the famous sands at Sandown and Shanklin, there are secluded coves with rock pools, picturesque bays and long expanses of virgin sand, often reached only by an adventurous climb down cliffs.

Head to Compton Bay on the south coast and explore the beach and cliffs to find relics of a pre-historic age. The Isle of Wight is Europe's most important site for dinosaur remains and continuing erosion has made these cliffs a treasure-trove for dinosaur hunters.

Away from the beaches, there is an unspoiled green landscape – more than half of it classified an *Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty*, with over 500 miles of footpaths across some of the UK's most varied countryside. Follow in Alfred, Lord Tennyson's footsteps and walk along the cliffs overlooking Freshwater Bay in the south, where the striking Tennyson Memorial stands, or climb to Headon Warren's flat-topped summit in West Wight for spectacular views of The Needles.



Day two

The Isle of Wight also has a host of man-made attractions to compliment its natural beauty. So whether the sun is shining or you're looking for an undercover option, step back in time on day two at a historic house, steam railway or theme park with an educational twist.

No trip to the Island is complete without a visit to Queen Victoria's favourite home, Osborne House. The memory of Britain's longest serving monarch lives on at the house, which was designed by Prince Albert and became the Queen's countryside retreat. Take a tour of Osborne House for a glimpse at royal family life then explore the Victorian Walled Garden and Osborne Parkland.

To add variety to your visit, round off the day with a nostalgic trip in an elegant Victorian carriage at the Isle of Wight Steam Railway, or visit Blackgang Chine, where interactive educational areas contrast with thrilling rides.

Where to stay

The Hambrough
Gourmet bolthole.
www.thehambrough.com
01983 856333

The Seaview
Boutique hotel by the sea.
www.seaviewhotel.co.uk
01983 612711

Northcourt
Jacobean manor house.
www.northcourt.info
01983 740415

Gotten Manor
Romantic rural B&B.
www.gottenmanor.co.uk
01983 551368

Niton Barns
Luxury self-catering.
www.nitonbarns.co.uk
01983 731506

Yurts
Eco-friendly glamping.
www.thereallygreenholidaycompany.com
07802 678591

Where to eat

The New Inn Shalfleet
Local fish and real ales.
www.thenew-inn.co.uk
01983 531314

Garlic Farm Café
Lunches and light snacks.
www.thegarlicfarm.co.uk
01983 867333

The Hambrough
Michelin-star dining.
www.thehambrough.com
01983 856333

The Taverners
Country pub serving locally-sourced food.
www.thetavernersgodshill.co.uk
01983 840707

Sentry Mead
Fine dining and traditional Sunday lunch.
www.sentrymead.co.uk
01983 753212