



MONDAY 21ST - FRIDAY 26TH SEPTEMBER

2026
PROGRAMME



If you enjoy walking, you'll love Walk the Isle of Man! Whether you are a seasoned hiker who knows the Island well, or you are here for the first time to experience our magnificent landscapes and spectacular coastlines, Walk the Isle of Man promises a feast of sights and sounds, experiences, and adventures, to treasure forever.

Our 2026 programme contains a superb choice of five walks on each day – covering a mixture of easy/interest, easy/moderate and moderate routes - designed to appeal to all levels of walker. Simply select one walk per day. You can scale up as the week goes on or take some days more leisurely than others. It's entirely up to you.

Each walk will be led by an experienced guide. Please note, you will be responsible for bringing your own food and refreshments.

ABOUT US

Walk The Isle of Man is organised by the Island's leading events company, Isle of Man Event Services, and **walking.im**, which is run by expert walking guide Ken Harding. Ken is a Hill and Moorland Leader with the Mountain Training Association and specialises in group walking holidays. Ken has a passion for the outdoors and natural environment and has a number of qualifications in ecology and science.

He is supported by an experienced and capable team of Isle of Man-based walking guides, who know the Island intimately. You'll be in safe and knowledgeable hands throughout.



WELCOME

Arrival: 7pm | Sunday 20th September 2026

Your rendezvous will be The Empress Hotel, overlooking the Promenade in Douglas will be hosting this year's welcome reception. The Empress, along with a variety of hotels and B&Bs will provide your accommodation throughout the week.

During an introductory reception, you will have the chance to familiarise yourself with the routes, meet your fellow walkers and chat with the walk leaders and supporters.

A hot buffet will be available on arrival, followed by a detailed introduction from the event director, Ken.

FAREWELL RECEPTION

Arrival: 7pm | Friday 25th September 2026

Our farewell reception will provide the perfect opportunity to reconvene and reminisce.

The farewell reception will also be held at the Villa Marina conference centre on Douglas Promenade, the evening will include a buffet and entertainment (just what's needed after a hard week's walking!)

TO BOOK YOUR PLACE

It couldn't be simpler! Exclusive packages including travel, accommodation and the Walk Isle of Man entry are bookable by the event organiser, Isle of Man Event Services.

Contact the team - Sally and Melissa, who will take care of everything.

Phone **01624 664460** or by email on **info@iomevents.com**

Web: **www.iomevents.com**

Walk the Isle of Man includes a choice of quality accommodation, travel from your preferred port or airport, walks on every day, transport card, guides, welcome & farewell receptions, support from event organisers throughout the week.

For further information speak to the team, or visit our website **www.iomevents.com**

WE LOOK FORWARD TO WELCOMING YOU TO WALK THE ISLE OF MAN 2026

THE ROUTES - GENERAL INFORMATION

- Walk the Isle of Man 2026 will take place between Monday 21 September – Friday 25 September. There will be a choice of bookable walks daily, as well as an additional daily walk to more remote parts of the Island with minibus transportation. There will also be an optional mid-week afternoon fish and chips supper walk around Peel.
- All walks must be booked in advance with Isle of Man Event Services and there will be a maximum number of 18 people on each walk, plus leaders and supporters. The minibus walks will have a limited number of 15 people per walk. Should the walk you wish to do be unavailable, we will try to offer other alternatives, or popular walks could have staggered start times to accommodate all walkers.
- All walks start and finish using public transport (except minibus transportation walks). Use of the Go-Explore Card gives free access to Isle of Man buses, steam trains, the Manx Electric Railway (MER) and the Snaefell Mountain Railway (SMR). Travel outwards on the steam train, MER and SMR at the start of each day has been booked. Outward journeys by bus and all return journeys are not booked (unless stated) and options for those journeys will be provided in advance of the event and communicated to your walk leaders and supporters.
- Most of the walks use public transport with departure times between 0900 and 1030. When a departure is before or after this time, it is noted at the start of the walk description.
- Please meet your walk leaders at the public transport start point for your route in plenty of time for boarding and departure (Lord Street Bus Station, Steam Railway Station, Derby Castle Manx Electric Railway Station).
- The foyer of the Empress Hotel will be the gathering point for those who would like a local walker to escort them to these public transport start points if they are unfamiliar with the area. Gathering times for your walk will be displayed the day before if you wish to take advantage of this service.
- Most walks should reach their finishing points before 1600, but the supper walk is expected to finish after that time. The approximate timings of each walk from start to finish, including breaks, lunch and sightseeing, are noted for every walk and an approx. finishing time.
- The Isle of Man has a great variety of coastal, countryside, glen, and moorland walking. The weather in late September can be very variable. We therefore recommend that you wear walking boots with good ankle support and a good grip. Layers of clothing appropriate for an Island with a dynamic weather system are advised, including waterproofs. Traditional jeans are not recommended. Walking poles can be a real help on some of the more exposed paths and slopes.
- Please bring your own supply of food and drink for each day.
- Some walks take place in remote areas where there are no toilet facilities, refreshment facilities or shelters.
- Participating in a walk is at your own risk. If you feel you do not have enough information about a walk or what to expect, then please ask before booking. Booking a walk is assumed as consent that you are capable and ready to undertake the walk concerned.
- Please always follow the guidance of the walk leaders and supporters, keep behind

the designated walk leader and in front of the designated back marker. If you wish to leave the walk, you must confirm this with the leader or back marker.

- Walk leaders and supporters reserve the right to refuse participation to any walker if, in their opinion, the walker is not safely or suitably attired or would be unsuited to undertake the walk.
- Walk leaders and supporters have the final discretion to change the route of a walk if they feel it is necessary due to weather conditions, road and footpath closures, footpath conditions or other circumstances.
- On public roads, keep to the right (unless safety and the guidance of the walk leaders dictates otherwise). Do not deviate from a way-marked footpath.

- If you have a relevant medical condition or carry medication with you, please advise the walk leaders and supporters. This can be done in confidence and is important for your own safety on the walk and for the organisers' ability to handle any incident.
- Dogs are not allowed on any of the walks.
- Local walk leaders, supporters, organisers, and participants may wish to take photographs during the walks and share these on social media and as part of future publicity for the Isle of Man. If you do not wish your photograph to be taken, please advise the walk leader on each walk.





WALK DESCRIPTIONS AND GRADINGS:


Located in the middle of the Irish Sea, the Isle of Man has a variable landscape which makes it a real treat for walkers. We have coastal footpaths and trails along 'natural' tracks & footpaths, countryside, and glen walks, as well as hill and moorland paths and the islands iconic coastal footpath. Some of the routes we use include stretches of farm track, quiet country roads or road walking. The ground we will walk on can be rough and uneven and can change quickly during a single walk as can the weather due to our maritime climate.

The walk descriptions below give an idea of where each walk goes, how far it is, how much height is gained along the route, a rough indication of timing, what we may see and what to expect.


The following terms have been used to give a general grading description and are supported with a number to indicate the grading between 2 (leisurely) and 8 (strenuous):

 **Leisurely/Interest (2/3)** – Walks for people with general fitness levels to walk shorter distances with areas of additional interest. Plenty of time for breaks and a slower general pace. Walking boots and clothes to suit the weather are recommended. Bring a drink and snacks or a packed lunch where required. Up to approx. 5 miles/6.5 km at a slower pace, mostly on level (but often unpaved) ground with occasional gentle slopes and stiles/kissing gates. Any additional route grading information will be specifically described.

 **Leisurely/Moderate (3/4)** – Walks for reasonably fit people with some country walking experience. May include unsurfaced rural paths. Walking boots and warm waterproof clothing is recommended, also a drink and packed lunch. Up to approx. 6 miles/10km at a leisurely pace with some ascent or over roughish ground with occasional stiles/kissing gates, coastal cliff walking and steeper slopes. Any additional route grading information will be specifically described.

 **Moderate (4/5/6)** – Walks for people with country walking experience and a good level of fitness. These walks will include some steep paths and open country, and maybe at a steady pace. Walking boots and warm waterproof clothing are essential,

also drinks, snacks and a packed lunch. Up to approx. 10 miles/16 km of moderately demanding walking with steeper or longer gradual ascents, hills, coastal cliff walking and on tracks and upland paths. Any additional route grading information will be specifically described.

 **Moderate/Strenuous (6/7/8)** – Walks for experienced country walkers with an above average fitness level, will include hills and rough country, and maybe at a brisk pace. Walking boots and warm waterproof clothing are essential, also drinks, snacks and a packed lunch. Up to approx. 12 miles/16 km of moderate and in parts demanding walking with steeper or longer gradual ascents, hills, coastal cliff walking and generally on tracks and upland paths. These walks are for walkers confident of their fitness. Any additional route grading information will be specifically described.

We offer a range of leisurely/interest walks, leisurely/moderate walks, moderate walks, and a moderate/strenuous graded walk on each of the walking days (Monday 21 September, Tuesday 22 September, Wednesday 23 September, Thursday 24 September, Friday 25 September).

NB Please be aware that most walks begin and finish on public transport. Additional time should be allowed to walk or travel from your accommodation to the gathering point for public transport and to return to your accommodation after the walk. Please ask for further details or advice if required.

Over the last couple of years, we successfully introduced a daily walk to areas of the Island that are not accessible by public transport, transport is via minibus, these walks are popular and with a limited number of places available.

New for the 2026 are 3 challenges, on the Monday, Wednesday and Thursday of the festival these walks are linear, with one a designated 'National Trail' on the Island, a coast to coast challenge along the Heritage Trail and the tough 3 Peaks Challenge on the Thursday. All these walks are graded as strenuous, due to their distance/ascent, although the Coast to Coast Challenge is moderate/strenuous (grade 6/7) due to its flatter walking on good surfaces.

In addition, there is an afternoon supper walk on Wednesday (graded moderate). The afternoon supper walk is designed to give visitors the option to explore the island in their own time before attending the organised walk.

MONDAY 21ST SEPTEMBER



Monday A - Leisurely/ Interest (grade 2)

Monks and Merry-Go Rounds: Ballasalla to Castletown via Silverdale Glen

6.5km / 4 miles.

Height gained 39m / 127 feet.

Approx. 3-hour walk.

Description: An interesting walk through Silverdale Glen: passing Rushen Abbey, with its ancient tales of monks, a 14th century packhorse bridge and Silverdale Glen, with a Victorian water-driven merry-go-round before following the Silverburn into historical Castletown.

We take the 0950, steam train (booked) from Douglas Railway station to Ballasalla. Our walk takes us through the village past Rushen Abbey and onward to explore Silverdale National Glen, passing the Monks Bridge and stopping at the boating lake and traditional water-driven merry-go-round for a break. Our route continues down the glen and follows the Silverburn River into Castletown and alongside its harbour. The walk finishes in time for you to explore Castletown, visit the Castle, or just enjoy the town square with its cafés and shops. Return to Douglas by bus (not booked).



What we may see: Riverside wildlife, plants and flowers, historic 14th century Monks Bridge, Silverdale Glen, historic Castletown, and Castle Rushen.

What to expect: Mostly well-maintained natural footpaths beside the Silverburn River, numerous toilet opportunities en route and generally flat throughout, 1 stile en route. Pubs, cafés in Castletown.

Estimated finish time for the walk at Castletown 1330.



Monday B – Leisurely/ Moderate (grade 4)

Echoes of a Mining Past: Laxey to Laxey via Agneash

8km / 5 miles.

Height gained 260m / 853 feet.

Approx. 3.5-hour walk.



Description: Explore the rich mining and farming landscape on quiet country roads and footpaths around Laxey in the east of the Island on this circular walk with views to the hills and over Laxey Bay.

We take the bus (not booked) from Douglas to Laxey and then walk by the river past the Great Laxey Wheel (the largest working water wheel in the world) with its industrial archaeology of lead and zinc mining. The steep (in places) country footpath leads to Agneash village and more mining heritage

and then over open fields and quiet country tracks to the two Neolithic chambered tombs of King Orry's Grave. We then walk down to Laxey Harbour and Laxey Bay, with its cafés and up alongside the river back to Laxey Station.

Return to Douglas by bus (not booked).

What we may see: Industrial archaeology, mining heritage, Neolithic chambered tombs, woodland wildlife, inland and coastal views.

What to expect: Most of the route is on quiet country roads, footpaths, and tracks.

Additional info - Two steepish rises. Estimated finish time for walk at Laxey 1430.



**Monday C – Moderate
(grade 5/6)**

Southern Coastal Splendours: Port St Mary to Port Erin via the Sound

12km / 7.5 miles.

**Height gained 365m / 1198 feet.
Approx. 5-hour walk.**

Description: One of the Island's favourite linear coastal walks in the southwest of the Island and rated as one of the best coastal walks around the Irish Sea as walked by Clare Balding in 'Ramblings' and featured on numerous television programmes. Your opportunity to explore this part of the Raad ny Foillan coastal footpath.

We take the 0950 steam train from Douglas Railway Station to Port St Mary (booked). Our walk takes us along the spectacular coastal cliffs and bays round the southwest corner of the Isle of Man, past the geological fissures known as the Chasms and by two Iron Age promontory forts to the Sound, overlooking the Calf of Man and Kitterland. After lunch at the Sound our route continues up the west coast to Port Erin.

Return to Douglas by bus (not booked).

What we may see: Coastal wildlife, sea birds, gulls, choughs, ravens, grey seals at the Sound. Geology. Iron Age promontory forts and the Calf of Man.

What to expect: Mostly natural footpath along the coast and cliffs, moorland areas, rocky surfaces. Café and toilets at the Sound.

Additional info - One short very steep downhill section and gradual ups and downs along the route. A regular bus service now operates from the Sound Café, so it is possible to finish this walk at lunchtime. Estimated finish time for walk at Port Erin 1600.



**Monday D – Moderate/
Strenuous (grade 7)**

CHALLENGE WALK The Bayr ny Skeddan 'The Herring Road' – National Trail

Description: Known as 'Bayr ny Skeddan' in Manx, the 14 mile Herring Way walk extends from the harbour at Castletown to the harbour in Peel, via South Barrule, where the trail rises to a height of 1000ft at the



Round Table, it was once the route taken by Manx fishermen as they journeyed between the two ports.

23.5km / 14.6 miles.

Height gained 641m / 2102 feet.

Approx. 7.5-hour walk.

We take the bus from Douglas Promenade (not booked) to Castletown Harbour and start our challenge from the Captain Quilliam statue. Our route takes us out of the ancient capital and follows the path of the Silver Burn, passing through pretty Silverdale Glen. South Barrule, the highest peak in the south of the Island comes into view and we pass through farmers' fields and tracks towards the whiskey run. Passing the Round Table, the highest point on the walk, with South Barrule on our right, we have great views all around as we head down the Glen Rushen Valley towards the pretty waterfall of Glen Maye. Our route then takes us along a spectacular section of the coastal footpath as we head into Peel in time for a refreshment in one of the harbour side pubs or get on the bus back to Douglas after our tough but rewarding day out.

Return to Douglas by bus (not booked).

What we may see: Coastal wildlife, sea birds, gulls, choughs, ravens, Peregrine Falcons. Silverdale and Glen Maye National Glens and great views.

What to expect: A broad variety of terrains including natural, woodland and coastal footpaths, agricultural paths and tracks, greenways and



quiet country roads and urban footpaths.

Additional info - One section of road walking (approx. 800m), general ascents and descents throughout the route. (early start with the bus leaving Douglas approx. 0830).

Estimated finish time for walk at Peel 1800.



**Monday E – Moderate
(grade 5/6)**

Spectacular Western Summits: Sartfell, Slieau Freoaghane, Slieau Curn and Slieau Dhoo summits

13km / 8 miles.

Height gained 364m / 1194 feet.

Approx. 4.5-hour walk.

Description: Circular walk in the western hills taking in four manageable summits with fantastic views over the north and west of the Island and Scotland.

Our minibus journey will take us

from the Island's capital on the TT Course with impressive views of the valleys below and summits above. Our route starts from the base of Sartfell, the first of our summits on this circular route. The landscape is dominated by the results of the last Ice Age, and this enjoyable route explores four of the Island's western summits, that are well over 1000 feet. The views of the Island are impressive from each peak, with each summit offering a different perspective. Our route finishes with Slieau Dhoo and its great view of Snaefell before our route back looks over the beautiful Druidale Valley and back to the minibus.

Return to Douglas by minibus.

What we may see: Moorland and hill wildlife, Hen Harriers, Buzzards, and an Ice Age landscape.

What to expect: Mainly upland and moorland paths and tracks. Greenway tracks on a number of sections, which contain occasional loose stones underfoot.

Additional info - One short, steep downhill section on a grass path. Estimated finish time for walk 1530.



TUESDAY 22ND SEPTEMBER



Tuesday A – Leisurely/ Interest (grade 3)

In the Bishops footsteps: Bishopscourt to Kirk Michael via Glen Trunk

7.5km / 4.5 miles.

Height gained 91m / 299 feet.

Approx. 3-hour walk.

Description: An interesting walk through a wooded glen, open farmland, quiet country roads, out onto the northwest coast before returning to Kirk Michael via the trail along the former railway line.

We take the bus from Douglas to Kirk Michael (not booked) via Peel and start our walk towards Bishopscourt, the impressive old residence of the Island's Bishops. Across the road is one of the National Glens with its babbling streams and stunning mature trees, which we explore. Our walk then takes us alongside the mansion gardens and Deemsters walk before heading off along countryside tracks to Glen Trunk on the Island's northwest coast for an unusual view of Peel castle in the distance. Our walk then takes us back to Kirk Michael along the former railway line trail where there might be time for a quick refreshment at the Island's oldest pub, the Mitre!

Return to Douglas by bus (not booked).

What we may see: Woodland biodiversity, Bishopscourt and gardens, coastal views, historical and heritage area.

What to expect: Maintained woodland and countryside tracks and refurbished heritage steam railway line. Café, pub, and toilets in Kirk Michael.

Estimated finish time for walk in Kirk Michael is 1400.



Tuesday B – Leisurely/ Interest (grade 4)

Glens all the Way: Groudle Glen circular via Molly Quirks and St Adamnan's Church

9.4km / 5.8 miles.

Height Gained 142m / 465 feet.

Approx. 3.5-hour walk.

Description: A lovely woodland walk through the popular Victorian glens of Groudle and Molly Quirks passing the renovated miniature waterwheel before visiting the beautiful St Adamnan's Church and taking a walk out to the Sea Lion Cages!

We take the Manx Electric Railway (booked) from Derby Castle to Groudle Glen. Our walk takes us through the pretty Groudle Glen



and alongside the river under impressive Victorian Bridges to Molly Quirks Glen. Our route then takes us back on ourselves for a section of the glen before turning off and walking another part of this peaceful area. Our route then takes us out to visit the beautiful 900 year old St Adamnan's Church, with its rich history and 5th century Celtic crosses. Making our way back towards the glen we head out onto the headland to the Sea Lion Cages. The remains can clearly be seen of this Victorian tourist attraction that housed a Polar Bear and Sea Lions, along with a popular café and a miniature railway (that still runs today thanks to a team of enthusiastic volunteers) taking tourists to this beautiful spot. Our route then takes us back, passing the water wheel, water house and bandstand before catching the Manx

Electric Railway (not booked) back into Douglas.

Return to Douglas by Manx Electric Railway (not booked).

What we may see: Riverside and woodland wildlife, plants, and deciduous woodland, ancient church. Coastal wildlife and plants but no Polar Bear or Sea Lions!

What to expect: Mostly well-maintained natural footpaths or boardwalks beside the Groudle River, very quiet country road to St Adamnan's Church and good pathways out to view the Sea Lion Cages.

Estimated finish time for the walk 1430.



Tuesday C – Moderate (grade 5)

A Fort, A Lighthouse, and a Castle: Ballasalla to Castletown via Langness

13km / 8 miles.

Height gained 74m / 242 feet.

Approx. 4.5-hour walk.

Description: Linear coastal walk in the south of the Island mostly following part of the Raad ny Foillan coastal footpath and some riverside walking.

We take the 0950 steam train (booked) from Douglas Railway Station to Ballasalla and then head through the outskirts of the village to reach the coast next to Ronaldsway airport. The route then follows the coast through Derbyhaven onto

the long peninsula of Langness and the little rocky outcrop of St Michael's Isle with its chapel and Civil War fort. We head south on the rugged east side of Langness and back through the bird reserve and ASSI at Sandwick around the bay to Castletown, the Island's former capital.

Return to Douglas by bus or steam train (not booked).

What we may see: Limestone and volcanic rock, coastal wildlife, sea birds, gulls, choughs, ravens, salt marsh species, ducks, waders, herons, grey seals, 12th/13th century chapel, Civil War fort, Langness lighthouse, Castle Rushen.

What to expect: Coastal route on open ground, footpaths, and quiet country roads mainly on the flat.

Estimated finish time for walk at Castletown 1500.



Tuesday D – Moderate (grade 6)

Downhill all the way home (nearly)!: Snaefell to Douglas

16km / 10 miles.

Height gained 221m / 693 feet.

Approx. 5-hour walk.

Description: Mainly a downhill linear walk from the Island's summit back to the hotel, a brilliant hill walk with some fantastic views, and a stop en route at the famous 'Creg ny Baa' Pub on the TT course.

We take the 0940 Manx Electric Railway (booked) Douglas to Laxey and change to the Snaefell Mountain Railway to travel the easy way to the top of Snaefell (621m / 2034 feet). This unusual but rewarding route takes us down the side of Snaefell



to the Bungalow before walking up one of our two uphill sections to the summit of Mullagh Ouyr, the Island's 5th highest peak for an amazing viewpoint. Our route takes us along the hilltops down to Windy Corner on the TT course before another short climb to Slieau Lhost and more amazing views towards the West of the Island and beyond. Our finishing point of the nation's capital Douglas first comes into view before we head down and stop off at the famous 'Creg ny Baa' Pub on the TT course. Our route then takes us down past the Clypse Reservoirs and onwards to Molly Quirks Glen, a beautiful, wooded glen. Our final stage of the walk brings us through Onchan and along Douglas Promenade to the hotel and our finish point.

What we may see: Moorland and upland wildlife, ravens, buzzards, hen harriers, wooded glen, great views of the whole island. Stop at the famous 'Creg ny Baa' pub en route.

What to expect: Open moorland walking on natural paths, well-maintained pathways through countryside and woodland tracks through the wooded glen, small section of quiet country lanes. Urban footpaths and Promenade to finish the walk.

Additional info - The walk has two steeper sections of approx. 200m in length to ascend and total descent 807m / 2649 feet.

Estimated finish time for walk on foot at hotel 1630.



**Tuesday E – Leisurely/
Moderate (grade 4/5)**

Wallabies and Waterfalls: The Curraghs wetlands and Glen Helen National Glen

11.3km / 7 miles.

Height gained 121m / 399 feet.

**Approx. 4.5-hour walk
(combined details).**

Description: A two-stage walk taking in the Curraghs wetlands for some Wallaby spotting and then a lovely walk around Glen Helen National Glen with its stunning trees and the Rhenass Waterfall.

Our minibus leaves Douglas at 0930 for the journey to the Curraghs, an internationally recognised wetland site in the North of the Island. The site has boardwalks and raised paths, which allow us to walk around looking for Wallabies... Yes, Wallabies!. The area has a population of Red-Necked Wallabies, and your leader will guide you around to spot a few of these bouncy characters! The wetlands themselves are lovely to walk with the willow and royal ferns creating a 'Jurassic' type of appearance – It does feel like a step back in time!

A short minibus journey then takes us to have our picnic lunch beside the sea. After which we jump back into the minibus to Glen Helen. One of the Island's National Glens, we will walk on a loop to see the stunning Rhenass Waterfall and then walk back with a view of the Neb River below, carving its way through

the glen. Glen Helen has a superb variety of flora including Sequoias planted over 150 years ago!

What we may see: Internationally recognised wetlands site, Red-Necked Wallabies, Rhenass waterfall, and a variety of flora and fauna.

What to expect: A mixture of quiet country tracks and lanes, woodland footpaths, and boardwalks.

Additional info - The walk through the Curraghs is along a mixture of raised paths and boardwalks, these are uneven and narrow in places but quite manageable. This walk is popular and will run on the Tuesday and Friday – numbers are limited.

Estimated finish time for the walk is 1530.





WEDNESDAY 23RD SEPTEMBER



**Wednesday A – Leisurely/
Interest (grade 2)**

Volcanoes and Vikings: Castletown circular via Scarlett Head

8km / 5 miles.

Height gained 29m / 95 feet.

Approx. 3-hour walk.

Description: An exploration of coastal geology and archaeology on a 'Volcanoes and Vikings' circular walk in the southeast of the Island.

We take the 0950 steam train (booked) from Douglas Railway Station to Castletown Station for the short walk to the historic Castletown Square beside the medieval Castle Rushen and Castletown Bay. As we head west onto Scarlett Head, we move from limestone rocks to ones of volcanic origin then round a headland with WWII defences, Iron Age and early Christian sites and the place where stone for the steps in St Paul's Cathedral was quarried. At Chapel Hill, Balladoole we see the sites of a Bronze Age burial, an Iron

Age fort, an early Christian chapel, and a Viking ship burial before returning to Castletown past the 'Witches Mill'.

Return to Douglas by bus or steam train (not booked).

What we may see: A wealth of geology, archaeology, coastal and limestone plants, and birdlife. Cafés, pubs in Castletown.

What to expect: Coastal track, stiles, footpaths, open fields with a quiet country lane.

Estimated finish time for walk at Castletown 1345.



Wednesday B – Moderate (grade 6)

Summit to Sea: Snaefell to Laxey Beach via Slieau Lhean

11.5km / 7 miles.

Height gained 68m / 223 feet.

Approx. 4-hour walk.

Description: Downhill linear walk over open moorland, with stunning views in the northeast of the Island starting at the Island's highest peak and then on moorland paths and tracks to Laxey beach.

We take the 1010 Manx Electric Railway (booked) from Douglas to Laxey and then change to the Snaefell Mountain Railway to travel the easy way to the top of Snaefell (621m / 2037 feet). We then cross open rough grazing and moorland on tracks down the side of Snaefell to cross the Mountain Road (route of the famous TT motor racing course). Our route then takes us over the hills near Clagh Ouyr as we head onto a track which skirts Slieau Lhean and gives us fantastic views of the North Barrule ridge line and Corran Valley. Descending into Laxey, we pass King Orry's Grave before dropping down to Laxey Promenade for a rewarding cake or ice cream. A day for spectacular views.

Return to Douglas by bus or MER.

What we may see: Hill and moorland wildlife, Ravens, Hen Harriers and Mountain Hares.

What to expect: Mainly hill and

moorland walk over rough grazing and moorland, track walking through pastureland. Pavements in Laxey upon arrival. There is a 1 mile walk to the bus and MER station from Laxey Promenade.

Additional info - The total descent for this walk is 669m / 2195 feet.

Estimated finish time of walk at Laxey 1500.



Wednesday C – Moderate (grade 6/7)

CHALLENGE WALK COAST TO COAST VIA STEAM HERITAGE TRAIL

Description: Walk along the Old Railway line from Peel to Douglas (coast to coast) along the route of the central valley, so with easy walking throughout on good pathways with interesting sites along the route.

20.8km / 12.9 miles. Height gained 101m / 334 feet.

Approx. 5-hour walk.

We take the bus from Douglas to Peel Harbour and start our challenge from the Promenade beach. Our route takes us out of the pretty fishing harbour and past the old Peel Railway Station before heading off on the revamped Steam Heritage Trail. Following the river Neb, we might catch sight of a Kingfisher or Dipper before the trail stops at St Johns for a refreshment break and an opportunity to visit Tynwald Hill. Our route then takes us back onto the trail, passing old

stations and villages before reaching the outskirts of Douglas. Our route takes us along the TT Access Road (only open when there are no races) passing the National Sports Centre and Bowl Stadium, we take the path alongside the river Douglas following the Quay to our finish point on the beach, opposite the Tower of Refuge.

Walk finishes in Douglas.

What we may see: Riverside wildlife, kingfishers, old steam railway heritage, Tynwald Hill and folklore statues.

What to expect: The majority of the route is on the refurbished old railway line with good pathways underfoot and urban footpaths into Douglas.

Estimated finish time for walk at Douglas 1600.



Wednesday D – Leisurely/ Moderate (grade 4)

The Sunny North: Point of Ayre National Nature Reserve and Point of Ayre Bird Reserve

13.5km / 8 miles.

Height gained 4m / 13 feet.

Approx. 4.5-hour walk.

Description: A flat walk in the far north of the Island, including a trip around the Manx Birdlife Point of Ayre Reserve and a walk through the Ayres National Nature Reserve.

Our drive in the minibus takes us along the Mountain Road and through the northern town of



Ramsey heading north. Our walk starts from the impressive Point of Ayre Lighthouse with a walk around the newly created Manx Birdlife Point of Ayre Reserve, which is a long term project to restore the landscape after the site was used as a gravel pit for 30 years.

After lunch we continue on a walk in the Ayres National Nature Reserve, a unique environment on the Island where gorse and heather meet a lichen heath, which merge with sand dunes to create a habitat for rare wildflowers. A stop at the Manx Wildlife Trust Nature Centre will give us an opportunity to see why this area is so carefully managed. A walk back close to the ever-changing shingle beach will be watched all the way by grey seals, who gather in large numbers either on the beach or in the water. A really interesting and easy day's walking.

What we may see: Point of Ayre Lighthouse, northern tip of the Island, Point of Ayre Bird Reserve, unique flora and fauna, grey seals, numerous bird species and Manx Wildlife Nature Visitor Centre.

What to expect: Low level walking throughout on good natural



pathways and possibly a walk on shingle beach.

Estimated finish time for the walk 1500.

Wednesday Supper Walk – Moderate (5)

Fish and chip supper by the sea in Peel: Peel Castle, Peel Hill and back to Peel Promenade

8km / 5.5 miles.

Height gained 169m / 554 feet.

Approx. 3-hour walk.

Description: A circular walk from Peel Castle to visit the internment

camp museum, returning via the coastal footpath and Corrins Folly on Peel Hill in time for fish and chips!

We take the bus from Douglas to Peel (not booked) / or meet in Peel on the end of the Promenade near the Harbour. Our route initially takes us around the outside of Peel Castle before leaving Peel alongside the Harbour out onto the Heritage trail. After passing the carvings of the 'Moddey Dhoo' our route takes us over the river and onwards to the brilliant WWI Internment Museum in Patrick. This museum is a must visit site and tells the story of camp life for the 23,000 internees during the First World War (opening times of the museum are limited, so



unfortunately this part of the walk may be unavailable). Our route then takes us through the site of the camps and out onto the coastal footpath for some amazing views of the West coast looking south. After a stop to chat with the 'Happy Hikers'

we pass Corrin's Tower and down Peel Hill with its fine views before our fish and chip supper on the Promenade.

What we may see: Peel Castle, Peel Hill, Corrin's tower, coastal and

upland birds and plants, Knockaloe Farm and former internment camp and museum, Glenfaba Mill, Peel Promenade.

What to expect: Quiet country tracks and paths alongside the river and urban footpaths to the museum with natural coastal footpaths and moorland tracks on return to Peel. The route across Peel Hill is undulating with short sections of steeper ascents and descents.

Return to Douglas by bus (not booked).

Estimated finish time for walk at Peel Promenade 1800.

THURSDAY 24TH SEPTEMBER



Thursday A – Leisurely/ Interest (grade 3)

Roll Down the Barrel: St John's to Peel Hill via Tynwald Hill

7.5km / 4.5 miles.

Height gained 35m / 115 feet.

Approx. 3.5-hour walk.

Description: Inland low-level linear walk in the west of the Island leading to the west coast and to Peel Harbour and Peel Castle.

We take the bus (not booked) from

Douglas to St John's and have time to explore the Royal Chapel of St John's and Tynwald Hill – the Norse outdoor assembly site used for over a thousand years. We follow the Heritage Trail, which is the line of the former railway track and the River Neb westwards passing 'Lost Wives' and 'Black Dogs!'. We walk alongside Peel Harbour and around the outside of the Castle with its fabulous views of the coastline, before finishing our walk on Peel Promenade. This walk gives you time to explore and relax in the 'Sunset City' with its quaint little streets, Cathedral, Museums, cafés

or just relax at the Island's biggest ice cream parlour.

Return to Douglas by bus (not booked).

What we may see: St John's and Tynwald historic sites, riverside and wetland wildlife, coastal wildlife, grey seals near Peel Castle, Peel harbour, Cathedral, and museums.

What to expect: Easy walking on the flat route of the Heritage Trail to Peel harbour before a slight rise to finish the walk around the outskirts of Peel Castle.

Estimated finish time for walk at Peel Promenade 1430.



Thursday B – Moderate (grade 5)

Celtic Crosses and Victorian Piers: Ballajora to Ramsey via Raad ny Foillan

10km / 6 miles.

Height gained 179m / 587 feet.

Approx. 4-hour walk.

Description: Linear walk following this delightful section of the coastal footpath, stopping off to explore the Celtic crosses at Maughold Church before heading towards Ramsey. Enjoying amazing views of the northern coastline and Ramsey Bay and finishing off by walking on the beach under the Victorian pier.

We take the Manx Electric Railway (booked) from Douglas to Ballajora and then head off on the Raad ny

Foillan coastal footpath towards Port Mooar. Our coastal route soon brings the impressive Maughold lighthouse into view as we slowly climb away from the coast towards Maughold Church. After exploring some of the best-preserved Celtic and Norse crosses on the Island our route takes us out to Maughold Head and our onward journey along this stunning section of our walk. The route brings us down into Ramsey through the pretty Port e Vullen before we walk out onto the beach for our final section of the route. The walk finishes in Ramsey with plenty of pubs, ice cream parlours and cafés to relax after your walk.

Return to Douglas by Bus or MER electric tram (not booked).

What we may see: Coastal wildlife, sea birds, cetaceans, Celtic crosses,

lighthouse, and fantastic views throughout the walk.

What to expect: Mainly natural coastal footpath with a few small quiet road sections and beach into Ramsey. The route has a couple of sections which are steeper ascents and descents but are well-maintained.

Estimated finish time for walk at Ramsey 1515.



Thursday C – Moderate (grade 5/6)

Southern Coastal Splendours: Port St Mary to Port Erin via the Sound

12km / 7.5 miles.

Height gained 365m / 1198 feet.

Approx. 5-hour walk.



Description: One of the Island's favourite linear coastal walks in the southwest of the Island and rated as one of the best coastal walks around the Irish Sea as walked by Clare Balding in 'Ramblings' and featured on numerous television programmes. Your opportunity to explore this part of the Raad ny Foillan coastal footpath.

We take the 0950 steam train from Douglas Railway Station to Port St Mary (booked). Our walk takes us along the spectacular coastal cliffs and bays round the southwest corner of the Isle of Man, past the geological fissures known as the Chasms and by two Iron Age promontory forts to the Sound, overlooking the Calf of Man and Kitterland. After lunch at the Sound our route continues up the west coast to Port Erin.

Return to Douglas by bus (not booked).

What we may see: Coastal wildlife, sea birds, gulls, choughs, ravens, grey seals at the Sound. Geology. Iron Age promontory forts and the Calf of Man.

What to expect: Mostly natural footpath along the coast and cliffs, moorland areas, rocky surfaces. Café and toilets at the Sound.

Additional info - One short very steep downhill section and gradual ups and downs along the route. A regular bus service now operates from the Sound Café, so it is possible to finish this walk at lunchtime.

Estimated finish time for walk at Port Erin 1600.



Thursday D – Strenuous (grade 7/8)

CHALLENGE WALK 3 Peaks Challenge

Description: Summit the Island's 3 highest peaks, for amazing views, on this strenuous challenge, North Barrule, Clagh Ouyr and Snaefell before catching the SMR back down to Laxey from the summit of Snaefell or the Bungalow Station.

11km / 6.8 miles.
Height gained 718m / 2356 feet.
Approx. 5-hour walk.

We take the bus (not booked) from Douglas to the Hibernia in the shadow of North Barrule. Our route takes us to start the steep ascent of North Barrule (565m), the views over Ramsey and the north of the Island are fantastic. We continue along the

ridge with ever-changing views before reaching Clagh Ouyr (550m), with the imposing Snaefell dominating the view. Descending across the TT Course at the Black Hut, we start our



final climb to the summit of Snaefell, the highest point on the Island. Once at the summit, the whole of the route we have just taken comes into view and we get the reward of hopefully viewing the '7 Kingdoms'.

Return to Douglas via Snaefell Mountain Railway and MER or Bus from Laxey.

What we may see: Mountain Hares, Buzzards, upland birds and wildlife. Spectacular views throughout the walk.

What to expect: Mainly natural upland pathways with steep ascents at the start and finish of the walk, small section of country track at the start of the route. This is a challenging but rewarding route.

Estimated finish time for walk 1530.



**Thursday E – Moderate
(grade 6)**

Tholtans and Ravens: Sulby Reservoir circular via Tholt-y-will, Ravensdale and Druidale Valley.

12km / 7.5 miles.

Height gained 381m / 1250 feet.

Approx. 4.5-hour walk.

Description: Interesting and undulating walk, taking in some brilliant views, plantations, pretty glens and visiting some old tholtan ruins to see how the Manx farming community lived in days gone by.

We take the minibus at 1000 from Douglas along the TT Course, turning off at the Bungalow before



driving to the Sulby Reservoir. Our route takes us down the Tholt-y-Will National Glen amongst the impressive ruins of abandoned Manx Tholtans, before a slow climb through the plantation and to the ruins of Craigmooar, nestled high in the woods. Our route then takes us through the trees to the Manx National Heritage site of Killabregga, the Island's largest Tholtan farmstead. Although the site itself is a real insight into the past of the Manx farming community, the view is also amazing. Our route then takes us up over moorland tracks for yet more great views before

dropping down to the tholtan of Montpellier. Our route then takes us through the Druidale Valley with the view of our finish in the distance and a gentle walk alongside the reservoir to finish.

Return to Douglas by minibus.

What we may see: Plantation wildlife (possibly an elusive wallaby!), Peregrine Falcons, Hen Harriers, Buzzards and old tholtan ruins.

What to expect: An undulating walk on mainly paths and tracks and open moorland walking with superb views.

Estimated finish time for walk at Sulby Reservoir 1500.



FRIDAY 25TH SEPTEMBER



Friday A – Leisurely/
Interest (grade 2)

The Dunkirk Spirit: Gansey to Dunkirk Memorial via Chapel Bay

5.5km / 3.5 miles.

Height gained 70m / 229 feet.

Approx. 2.5-hour walk.

Description: Interesting low-level coastal linear walk around the pretty seaside town of Port St

Mary including the WWII Dunkirk commemorative site.

We take the 0950 steam train from Douglas to Port St Mary where we start our walk. Our route takes us around the headland of Gansey Point before sweeping back around Chapel Bay and walking along the catwalk-style raised walkway over the sea! This little harbour always has something going on and our route takes us past the seaside cottages and towards Kallow Point with its interesting limestone rock formations

and now disused lime kilns, as well as the WWII memorial commemorating the help from the Manx during the Dunkirk evacuation. The walk then works its way back into the centre of Port St Mary, via a view of Perwick Bay for a refreshment at one of the lovely cafés – We can recommend the cakes!

Return to Douglas by bus or steam train (not booked).

What we may see: Coastal wildlife and sea birds, pretty harbour, WWII commemorative site, interesting

coastal geology, and great cakes to finish!

What to expect: Good pathways throughout, catwalk section over sea water, slight rise on way back into the village centre and 500m walk to train station after walk finish point.

Estimated finish time for walk at 1330.



Friday B – Leisurely/ Moderate (grade 4)

The Albert Tower Amble: Ramsey Glens and Albert Tower

10km / 6 miles.

Height gained 160m / 525 feet.

Approx. 3.5-hour walk.

Description: Mainly woodland and upland circular walk on footpaths, starting and finishing in the town of Ramsey.

We take the bus to Ramsey (not booked) and then walk along part of the famous TT course through Parliament Square and parts of the northern town. We continue onwards through Milntown estate before enjoying some woodland walking up through Elfin Glen and to the Albert Tower, stopping en route for panoramic views of the North of the Island, in the same spot as Prince Albert back in 1847. From the Albert Tower we drop down to the Ballure Reservoir, through woods to the coast at Ramsey Bay. From here we follow the beach under the Queen's Pier or along the Promenade



depending on the tide, back to Marketplace in Ramsey for a beer, ice cream or cuppa.

Return to Douglas by bus (not booked).

What we may see: Ramsey town, TT course, wooded glens, woodland birds and plants, Albert Tower (built 1848) and views over the north of the Island. Sandy beach and sea birds, Queen's Pier, working and historic harbour.

What to expect: Glen and woodland walks, with a steepish rise near the beginning through Elfin Glen. Starting and finishing on urban roads and a sandy beach.

Estimated finish time for the walk at Ramsey 1500.



Friday C – Moderate (grade 6)

Downhill all the way home (nearly)!: Snaefell to Douglas

16km / 10 miles.

Height gained 211m / 693 feet.

Approx. 5-hour walk.

Description: A mainly downhill linear walk from the Island's summit back to the hotel, a brilliant walk to

end the week, with some fantastic hill walking, views, and a stop en route at the famous 'Creg ny Baa' Pub on the TT course.

We take the Manx Electric Railway (booked) Douglas to Laxey and change to the SMR Snaefell Mountain Railway (booked) to travel the easy way to the top of Snaefell (621m / 2034 feet). This unusual but rewarding route takes us down the side of Snaefell to the Bungalow before walking up one of our two uphill sections to the summit of Mullagh Ouyr, the Island's 5th highest peak for an amazing viewpoint. Our route takes us along the hilltops down to Windy Corner on the TT course before another short climb to Slieau Lhost and more amazing views towards the West of the Island and beyond. Our finishing point of the nation's capital Douglas first comes into view before we head down and stop off at the famous

'Creg ny Baa' Pub on the TT course. Our route then takes us down past the Clypse Reservoirs and onwards to Molly Quirks Glen, a beautiful, wooded glen. Our final stage of the walk brings us through Onchan and along Douglas Promenade to the hotel and our finish point.

What we may see: Moorland and upland wildlife, ravens, buzzards, hen harriers, wooded glen, great views of the whole island. Stop at the famous 'Creg ny Baa' pub en route.

What to expect: Open moorland walking on natural paths, well-maintained pathways through countryside and woodland tracks through the wooded glen, small section of quiet country lanes. Urban footpaths to finish the walk.

Additional info – The walk has two steeper sections of approx. 200m in length to ascend.

Estimated finish time for walk on foot at hotel 1600.



**Friday D – Moderate
(grade 5/6)**

Southern Stone Circles and Towers: Port Erin to Meayll Hill and Bradda Head

10km / 6 miles.

Height gained 257m / 846 feet.

Approx. 4-hour walk.

Description: Interesting coastal and countryside walk, with stunning panoramic views of the southwest of the Island.

We take the 0950 steam train from Douglas Railway Station to Port Erin. Our route takes us gently up through the fields towards the summit of Meayll Hill, where we find the Meayll Stone Circle overlooking fantastic views up the Island and of Port Erin and the remains of a WWII Chain Home Low RDF station. Walking back to Port Erin, our route takes



us around the bay on the Raad ny Foillan towards the headland of Bradda Head. Why not climb Milner's Tower or just stare out at the amazing panoramic views before we walk back to Port Erin.

Return to Douglas by Bus (not booked).

What we may see: Countryside and coastal birds and wildlife, Meayll Stone Circle, WWII Radar Station ruins, pretty seaside village, Milner's Tower and spectacular panoramic views.

What to expect: Mainly open countryside paths and farm tracks, well-maintained coastal footpaths.

Estimated finish time for walk in Port Erin 1500.



**Friday E – Leisurely/
Moderate (grade 4/5)**

Wallabies and Waterfalls: The Curraghs wetlands and Glen Helen National Glen

11.3km / 7 miles.

Height gained 121m / 399 feet.

**Approx. 4.5-hour walk
(combined details).**

Description: A two stage walk taking in the Curraghs wetlands for some Wallaby spotting and then a lovely walk around Glen Helen National Glen with its stunning trees and the Rhenass Waterfall.

Our minibus leaves Douglas at 0930 for the journey to the Curraghs, an internationally recognised wetland site in the North of the Island.



The site has boardwalks and raised paths, which allow us to walk around looking for Wallabies... Yes, Wallabies!. The area has a population of Red Neck Wallabies, and your leader will guide you around to spot a few of these bouncy characters! The wetlands themselves are lovely to walk with the willow and Royal Ferns creating a 'Jurassic' type of appearance – It does feel like a step back in time!



A short minibus journey then takes us to have our picnic lunch beside the sea. After which we jump back into the minibus to Glen Helen. One of the Island's National Glens, we will walk on a loop to see the stunning Rhenass Waterfall and then walk back with a view of the Neb River below, carving its way through the glen. Glen Helen has a superb variety of flora including Sequoias planted over 150 years ago!

What we may see: Internationally recognised wetlands site, Red Necked Wallabies, Rhenass waterfall, and a variety of flora and fauna.

What to expect: A mixture of quiet country tracks and lanes, woodland footpaths, and boardwalks.

Additional info - The walk through the Curraghs is along a mixture of raised paths and boardwalks, these are uneven and narrow in places but quite manageable.

WALK THE ISLE OF MAN



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