



**WALK
THE ISLE
OF MAN**



SUNDAY 24TH - FRIDAY 29TH SEPTEMBER

**2023
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 2023 programme contains a superb choice of six walks on each day along with a choice of supper walks, night hikes and option extra tours, walks cover a mixture of Leisurely/interest, Leisurely/moderate, moderate and moderate strenuous 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 Taring 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 24th September 2023

Your rendezvous will be The Palace Hotel, on the famous promenade in Douglas will be hosting this year's welcome reception. The Palace along with a variety of hotels and B&B's 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 29th September 2023

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

Farewell reception will be at the Palace Hotel and include a hot buffet and entertainment (just what's required 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, Melissa and Poppy 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 2023

THE ROUTES - GENERAL INFORMATION

- Walk the Isle of Man 2023 will take place between Monday 25 September – Friday 29 September. There will be a choice of bookable walks daily, as well as an additional shorter afternoon supper walk on Tuesday and Wednesday. On Tuesday through to Friday there will be a number of optional walks, at a small extra cost, to include night walks, daily self-guided trips to the Calf of Man and also two amazing opportunities of a guided private tour of the Manx Birdlife Point of Ayre Reserve and Ayres National Nature Reserve.
- All walks must be booked in advance with Isle of Man Event Services and there will be a maximum number of 25 people on each walk. Should the walk you wish to do not be available, we will try to offer other alternatives.
- All walks start and finish using public transport. 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 09:00 and 11:00. 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 Palace Hotel on Central Promenade 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 16:00, but the supper walks are expected to finish after that time. An estimated finish time for each walk is given at the end of each walk description. Allowance should be made for subsequent travel time back to Douglas. The approximate timings of each walk from start to finish, including breaks, lunch and sightseeing is noted for every walk.
- The Isle of Man has great 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 is 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, refreshments 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 way-marked footpaths.
- 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 (grade 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 (grade 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 (grade 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 (grade 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 25 September, Tuesday 26 September, Wednesday 27 September, Thursday 28 September, Friday 29 September). In addition, there are 2 afternoon/supper walk on Tuesday and Wednesday, plus optional (at small extra cost) night walks, self-guided Calf of Man Trips, and two trips out to the Ayres Bird and Nature Reserves. Afternoon/supper walks are designed to give visitors the option to explore the island in their own time before attending an organised walk.

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.

MONDAY 25TH SEPTEMBER



Monday A - Leisurely/ Interest (grade 3)

Wobbly Strata and maybe Minkes: Port Soderick to Douglas via Marine Drive

**7.5 km/4.5 miles. Height gained
180m/590 feet. approx.
3-hour walk.**

Description: Linear coastal walk along the east coast of the Island on part of the Raad ny Foillan coastal footpath mostly on quiet country roads from Port Soderick to Douglas.

We take the 11:50 steam train from Douglas Railway Station (booked) to Port Soderick Station, then walk through Port Soderick Glen, one of the Island's National Glens, to Port Soderick Bay. After a steep stepped rise out of the bay we join 'Marine

Drive' and walk back to Douglas Head and Douglas on foot along the line of the former tramway exploring Douglas Head as we return on foot to Douglas harbour.

What we may see: Woodland wildlife, coastal sea birds (choughs, gulls, ravens, peregrine falcons), coastal plants, geology, sea mammals if we are lucky (in 2022 there were Minke whales!), cliff and coastal views, views over Douglas and Douglas Bay, memorials on Douglas Head.

What to expect: After Port Soderick Glen the route is mainly on the tarmac surfaces of Marine Drive with gentle inclines and drops.

Additional info - There is a long flight of steps upwards at Port Soderick. Estimated finish time on foot at Douglas harbour for this walk is 3:00pm.



Monday B – Leisurely/ Moderate (grade 4)

The Albert Tower Amble: Ramsey Glens and Albert Tower

**10 km/6 miles.
Height gained 160 m/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 Market Place 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 15:00.



Monday C – Leisurely/ Moderate (grade 4)

Echoes of a Mining Past: Laxey to Laxey via Agneash

8 km/5 miles.

Height gained 260 m/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 waterwheel 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

cafes 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 14:30.



Monday D – Moderate (grade 5)

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

12 km/7.5 miles.

Height gained 365 m/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 bus from Douglas to Port St Mary (not booked) and walk 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, we continue 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 cliff, 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. Estimated finish time for walk at Port Erin 16:00.



Monday E – Moderate (grade 6)

Waterfalls, Sea Caves, and a Castle: Kirk Michael to Peel via the sea caves of Gob y Deigan

14.5 km/9 miles.

Height gained 394m/1295ft.
Approx. 5-hr walk.

Description: A great day of glen and coastal walking including a trip

down to visit the sea caves and the Spooyt Vane waterfall.

We take the bus from Douglas (not booked) to the village of Kirk Michael along the scenic west coast of the island via Peel. Our walk starts in the village of Kirk Michael before heading down to the coastline, passing glacial deposit cliffs before reaching the bottom of Glen Mooar, one of the islands National Glens. Walking up through this pretty glen, passing an old keeill before reaching the spectacular waterfall of Spooyt Vane, meaning 'white spout' in the Manx language. Onwards out of the glen along the Monks Road there are some great viewpoints of the Western Kirk Michael hills before heading inland towards the coast through agricultural fields. Our route joins the former Ramsey to St John's railway line before heading off down on a steep pathway and steps to the sea caves and natural arches of Gob y Deigan. After exploring we head back up the steep pathway and follow the 'Raad Ny Foillan' coastal footpath into Peel with some lovely views of the Castle, interesting rock formations and the reward of the islands largest ice-cream parlour our finish point!

Return to Douglas by bus (not booked)

What we may see: Coastal wildlife, sea birds, cetaceans. Old Keeil, coastal views and Peel Castle, waterfall, interesting geology and sea caves and natural arches.

What to expect: Mostly natural footpaths, including one section of beach walking and small section of road walking.

Additional info - One short steep stairway/pathway down/up to the beach and a 10-metre manageable scramble across rocks to get to the sea cave entrance. Estimated finish time for walk at 16:00.



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

**Quarries, Mines, and an
Old Church: Crosby to
St John's via Snuff the Wind**

17 km/10.5 miles.

Height gained 372 m/1220 feet.

Approx. 5.5-hour walk.

Description: A fantastic day's walk with stunning views back towards the central highlands with interesting sites and ruins along the route.

We take the bus from Douglas to Crosby (not booked) before starting our walk up along a country lane

on the Millennium Way to visit the quaint old St Runius Church. Our walk then takes us along the Rocky Road and through Archallagan Plantation, which is one of the original 3 Crown Plantations of the 1860's, stopping at Cornelly Mines before heading off towards Foxdale with its numerous abandoned mines and quarries. The stunning views over the central highlands will be seen from our lunch stop before exploring a few old mine ruins and then heading back to St Johns via the former disused railway line. A great day out.

Return to Douglas by bus(not booked).

What we may see: Woodland and moorland wildlife, hen harriers, buzzards, abandoned quarries, mine ruins and the pretty St Runius Church.

What to expect: A variety of walking terrain, quiet country lanes, open moorland, plantation tracks and well-maintained countryside pathways.

Estimated finish time for the walk at St Johns 16.00.



TUESDAY 26TH SEPTEMBER



Tuesday A – Leisurely/ Interest (grade 2)

Volcanoes and Vikings: Castletown circular via Scarlett Head

8 km/5 miles. Height gained 29 m/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 bus from Douglas to the historic Castletown Square (not booked) 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 passed 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 13.45.



Tuesday B – Leisurely/ Interest (grade 3)

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

7.5 km/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 Islands 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 Islands oldest pub, the Mitre! Return to Douglas by bus (not booked).

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

What to expect: Well 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 14.00.



Tuesday C – Moderate (grade 5)

Victorian Influences : Crosby to Crosby via Archallagan Plantation

10 km/6 miles.

Height gained 107 m/351 feet.

Approx. 3.5-hour walk.

Description: A walk along the Heritage Trail – the former Douglas-Peel railway line, then up to the Cornelly Mine ruins before heading home through Archallagan Plantation and St Runius Old Church.

We take the bus from Douglas to Crosby (not booked) and follow the line of the former steam railway westwards from Crosby. Passing a few wooden carvings of Manx Fairy tale characters, we then divert off the Heritage Trail to walk up towards the Cornelly Mines. The path up to the mines gives splendid views of Greeba Mountain and beyond before our route takes us through Archallagan Plantation – a popular recreational spot with locals. After a rest beside the

hidden pond we head off along the 'Rocky Road' for more amazing views before reaching old St Runius Church, a delight to walk around before our route takes us back into Crosby.

Return to Douglas by bus (not booked)

What we may see: Inland birds and wildlife, plantations, views over the centre and west of the Island, Cornelly Mine ruins and Old St Runius Church.

What to expect: Low level start on a former railway line track then rising on good footpaths and plantation tracks before returning via quiet country road.

Estimated finish time for walk at Hawthorn Pub 2.30.



Tuesday D – Moderate (grade 5)

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

13 km/8 miles.

Height gained 110 m/360 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 09:50 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 and riverside walking on open ground, footpaths, and quiet country roads mainly on the flat.

Estimated finish time for walk at Castletown 14.45.





Tuesday E – Moderate (grade 6)

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

12 km/7.5 miles.

Height gained 400 m/1312 feet.

Approx. 4.5-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 10:10 MER (Manx Electric Railway) tram (booked) Douglas to Laxey and change to the SMR (Snaefell Mountain Railway) (booked) to travel the easy way to the top of Snaefell (621 m/ 2034 feet). This unusual but rewarding route take 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 passed 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. Estimated finish time for walk on foot at hotel 16:45



Tuesday E – Moderate/ Strenuous (grade 7)

Summits and Waterfalls: St Johns to Peel via Slieau Whallian and Raad ny Foillan

116 km/10 miles.

Height gained 622 m/1975 feet.

Approx. 6-hour walk.

Description: Linear walk from St John's to Peel via Slieau Whallian, Glen Maye and the Raad ny Foillan.

We take the bus from Douglas to St John's (not booked) and after a quick tour of Tynwald Hill we head off up 'Witches Hill' through woodland to eventually make our way out onto the open ridge with fantastic views of the west of the island. Our vista continues to open up to panoramic views from this little visited summit that is only open on foot with the kind permission of the landowner. Our route then takes us down towards Glen Maye, via Arrasey Plantation and through this National Glen where we will take in the impressive Waterfall and its viewing platform, before following the river all the way to the sea. Climbing up again we walk this spectacular section of the coastal footpath to Peel Hill before descending into the town with some impressive views of the Viking Castle.

Return to Douglas by bus (not booked)

What we may see: Coastal wildlife,

sea birds, cetaceans. Inland birds and wildlife. Panoramic views from summit, waterfall, riverside walking, Corrin's Folly and Peel Castle.

What to expect: Walk starts with a steep but gradual climb through woodland, good pathways throughout with several stiles to cross. Coastal pathways are exposed in some sections to long drops on the seaward side.

Estimated finish time for walk at Peel 16:30.



Tuesday Afternoon / Supper Walk – moderate (grade 6)

The TV Glen, Wild Goats, and an Italian!: Dhooon Glen to Laxey Promenade via Ballarragh moorland and King Orry's Grave.

10km/6 miles.

Height gained 245m/808 feet.

Approx 3.5-hour walk.

We take the 1340 Manx Electric Railway (booked) from Derby Castle to Dhooon Glen and follow in the footsteps of Julia Bradbury down through this delightful National Glen, which she featured in her 'Britain's Best Walks' television programme. We follow the glen to the secluded beach passing waterfalls to Dhooon Bay with its stunning rock formations before heading back up the glen on a different path. Our route then takes us up on the Coastal footpath to the hamlet of Ballarragh, high



above Bulgham Bay offering great views of the Lake District on clear day. Diverting inland, we walk through open moorland before heading down to towards Laxey, passing King Orry's Grave. Our walk finishes on the bridge that crosses the 'Salmon River' which Laxey takes its name from, before we have a lovely supper in the popular 'Mona Lisa' restaurant.

What we may see: Coastal wildlife, sea birds, waterfall, rock formations, wild goats, moorland wildlife and birds and King Orry's Grave.

What to expect: Walk down to Dhooon Glen is steep and so is the return but the paths are good underfoot. Quiet country road walking and open moorland 'greenway' tracks and footpaths. Return to Douglas by bus (not booked).

Additional info - All the ascent for this walk is in the first half of the walk. There is also a 1 km walk to the bus stop after the meal.



Tuesday Optional Trips

Self-Guided Trip to the Calf of Man – leisurely/moderate (grade 4)

**Approx. 7.5km/4 miles
with approx. 100m/320 feet
depending on route taken.**

Explore this amazing little Island by foot with a brilliant 45-minute boat ride and 3 hours on the Calf.

Your 'day out' will start by travelling by bus to Port St Mary Harbour in time for your boat

departure. The 45-minute boat journey to the Calf is a highlight itself, with an amazing up-close experience with the spectacular coastline before crossing the Sound to view the 'Drinking Dragon' and land on the Calf. A Bird Sanctuary since 1958, the Calf of Man is memorable place to visit with its flora and fauna, heritage lighthouses, and truly magical atmosphere. However you spend your time on the Calf it will be truly memorable before you head back to the harbour for the boatman to pick you up.

What you may see: Coastal wildlife, sea birds and Cetaceans. Heritage lighthouses, old tholtans and spectacular views back to the mainland.

What to expect: good pathways throughout, small boat trip with a sailing time of 45-minutes each way.

Additional info - The boat trip costs £20 per person and the boat can only hold 12 persons + crew per daily trip. Pre-booking is essential. Start times will vary due to tide conditions and boat skippers decision is final in the event of inclement weather.



Night Hike: Spooky Tholtans of Tholty-y-Will – Leisurely/Moderate (grade 4)

Cost £10 pp to include minibus travel and Hot Chocolate and Marshmallows - limited to 12 people. Head torches will be provided.

5 km/3 miles. Height gained 102m/334 feet.

Approx 2.5-hour walk.

Fancy something completely different – Then why not join one of our Island's Qualified Walking Guides for a night hike exploring the mysterious Tholtans in the dark.

This 2.5-hour walk will start at 6.30 from the hotel with a 25-minute private minibus ride to deep in the Manx countryside where we will explore 3 different sets of 'Tholtans' including the Man National Heritage Site of Killabregga. Night walks in the area are frequently accompanied

by glimpses of wild wallabies going about their night-time foraging. The island is also famous for its amazing Dark Skies and if clear the skies are spectacular.

What we might see: Spooky tholtan ruins in darkness, wild wallabies, nocturnal wildlife and dark skies.

What to expect: Woodland tracks and pathways throughout the walk including two stiles to cross.

Estimated finish time back to the hotel 10pm.

WEDNESDAY 27TH SEPTEMBER



Wednesday A - Leisurely/Interest (grade 2)

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

6.5 km/4 miles.

Height gained 39 m /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 toilets opportunities enroute and generally flat throughout, 1 stile enroute. Pubs, cafes in Castletown.

Estimated finish time for the walk at Castletown 13:30.





Wednesday B - Leisurely/ Moderate (grade 4)

Glens all the Way: Groudle Glen circular via Molly Quirks Glen

10km/6 miles.

Height Gained 142m/465 feet.

Approx. 3.5 hr walk.

Description: A lovely woodland walk through the popular Victorian glens of Groudle and Molly Quirks passing the renovated miniature waterwheel and house and taking a walk out to the Sea Lion Cages!

We take the 1040, 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 until we reach Little Mill Bridge. 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, before 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. 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 and good pathways out to view the Sea Lion Cages.

Estimated finish time for the walk 2.30pm.



Wednesday C – Moderate (grade 5)

Castle of the Heights! – Glen Mona circular via Ballaglass Glen, Port Cornaa and Cashtal ny Ard.

10km/6 miles.

Height gained 234m/770 feet.

Approx. 4-hour walk.

Description: A varied and interesting walk with a Neolithic chambered tomb, a stunning wooded glen, an abandoned explosives factory and lunch sat watching the waves on a quiet beach and some lovely views of this quieter part of the Island.

We take the scenic bus route from Douglas (not booked) along the east coast to Glen Mona and walk down to the beautiful Ballaglass Glen, one of the islands most popular glens with its lovely setting often being the subject matter for the islands photographers and

artists. The glen contains some of the most mature trees on the island, a real delight to explore. Our route then takes us down to the coast, passing an experimental explosives factory from 120 years ago before we get to Port Cornaa for our lunch overlooking the sea. After lunch we head up on a quiet country track to Cashtal yn Ard, stopping on route to take in the views of our lunch stop in the distance. We visit Cashtal yn Ard, translated in Manx as 'Castle of the Heights' which is a well-preserved Neolithic Chambered Tomb in the most magnificent setting. Our route then takes us back to Ballaglass Glen and eventually back to Glen Mona for our return to Douglas by bus (it could be possible to catch the Manx Electric Tram back to Douglas, but this has not been booked)

Return to Douglas bus or Manx Electric Railway (not booked).

What we will see: Woodland flora and fauna, pretty woodland glen, mature tree examples, coastal wildlife, interesting buildings, great views of North Barrule and Cumbria, Neolithic chambered tomb, and coastal wildlife.

What to expect: An undulating scenic walk, through a wooded glen on natural wooded footpaths including a few stepped sections, quiet country roads and tracks and riverside walking.

Estimated finish time of walk in Glen Mona 15.00.



Wednesday D – Moderate (grade 5)

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

12 km/7.5 miles.

Height gained 365 m/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 demonstrated 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 bus from Douglas to Port St Mary (not booked) and walk 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, we continue 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 cliff, moorland areas, rocky surfaces. Café and toilets at the Sound.



Additional info - One short steep downhill section and gradual ups and downs along the route.

Estimated finish time for walk at Port Erin 16:00.



Wednesday E – Moderate (grade 5)

Rugged Rocks and Forts: Santon to Ballasalla via Raad ny Foillan coastal footpath.

15 km/9.5 miles.

Height gained 146 m/479 feet.

approx. 5-hour walk.

Description: A linear walk along the spectacular coastline passing ruins of promontory forts, quiet coastal glens and a hidden keeill.

We take the 09:50 steam train (booked) from Douglas Railway Station to Santon. Our walk starts along a quiet country lane before passing through the spectacular grounds of Aragon

House and then heading off over open countryside passing the 'Peoples Wood' down to the Raad ny Foillan (RNF) coastal footpath. Passing promontory forts and quiet glens, this stretch of spectacular coastline is beautifully rugged and you will be taking a different picture around every headland. At the Santon Gorge our path briefly takes us inland alongside the babbling Santon Burn to explore the ruins of an old chapel and burial ground before heading back to the coastline. We walk back to Ballasalla to catch our bus to Douglas.

Return to Douglas by bus (not booked).

What we may see: coastal wildlife, ravens, choughs, cetaceans, ruins of promontory forts, pretty glens, burial ground, ruined chapel, and peacocks!

What to expect: Open coastal walking along the Islands RNF coastal footpath. A few sections are along cliff tops with steep drops

but away from the edges. This route involves several stone stiles. Estimated finish time for the walk at Ballasalla 15.30.



**Wednesday F – Moderate/
Strenuous (grade 7)**

The 7 Mysterious Tholtans – Bungalow to Ballaugh via Tholt-y-Will Plantation and Glen Shoggle.

18km/11 miles.

Height gained 246m/807 feet.

Approx. 5.5-hour walk.

Description: A demanding but enjoyable linear walk on natural and plantation tracks exploring a selection of Tholtans in the Sulby Valley and eventually making our way to the small village of Ballaugh on the TT course.

We take the 0920 Manx Electric Railway (booked) from Derby Castle to Laxey and transfer on the Snaefell Mountain Railway to the Bungalow on the TT Course. Our route takes us down to the entrance of Tholt-y-Will Glen, where we start to explore the valley and its old, abandoned farmsteads 'Tholtans'. Our route takes us through woodland with some amazing views, whilst seeing the remnants of these old farming communities and imagine how hard it must have been for their inhabitants. Descending to the bottom of the Valley alongside the Sulby River our route then takes us back above the valley



to explore more tholtans before visiting the Manx National Heritage site of Killabregga and viewpoint overlooking the whole valley. We then work our way across open moorland, reaching Ballaugh Plantation and passing through Glen Shoggle before walking down the road to finish in the village centre and the Raven Pub beside the 'famous' TT Ballaugh Bridge to wait for our bus to return to Douglas.

Return to Douglas by bus (not booked).

What we will see: 7 different tholtan ruins, woodland and moorland flora and fauna. buzzards, hen harriers, and peregrine falcons. Far reaching views especially towards the island's Northwest coast and the Mull of Galloway.

What to expect: A mixture of terrain including woodland, plantation and moorland paths and tracks, undulating route with small sections of quiet country

road walking. This route includes a number of stiles to cross and a steep track to ascend for approximately 20 minutes.

Additional info - Please note that height descent for this route is 622m/2400 feet.

Estimated finish time of walk in Ballaugh 16.00.



**Wednesday Afternoon /
Supper Walk – Moderate (5)**

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

8 km/5.5 miles.

**Height gained 183 m/600 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 and Taroo Ushtey' 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 World War. 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 footpath to the museum with natural coastal footpaths and moorland tracks on return to Peel. The route from 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 18:00.



Wednesday Optional Trips

Self-Guided Trip to the Calf of Man – Leisurely/ Moderate (grade 4)

Approx. 7.5km/4 miles with approx. 100m/320 feet depending on route taken.

Explore this amazing little Island by foot with a brilliant 45-minute boat ride and 3 hours on the Calf. Your 'day out' will start by



travelling by bus to Port St Mary Harbour in time for your boat departure. The 45-minute boat crossing to the Calf is a highlight itself, with an amazing up-close experience with the spectacular coastline before crossing the Sound to view the 'Drinking Dragon' and land on the Calf. A Bird Sanctuary since 1958, the Calf of Man is a memorable place to visit with its flora and fauna, heritage lighthouses, and truly magical atmosphere. However you spend your time on the Calf it will be truly memorable before you head back to the harbour for the boatman to pick you up.

What you may see: Coastal wildlife, sea birds and Cetaceans. Heritage lighthouses, old tholtans and spectacular views back to the mainland.

What to expect: good pathways throughout, small boat with a sailing time of 45-minutes each way.

Additional info - The boat trip costs £20 per person and the boat can only hold 12 persons + crew per daily trip. Pre-booking is essential. Start times will vary due to tide conditions and boat skippers decision is final in the event of inclement weather.

Trip to the Ayres National Nature Reserve and guided Birdwatching tour of the Manx Birdlife Point of Ayre Reserve – leisurely/moderate (grade 3)

Approx walking total distance is 8km/5 miles – Approx 4-hour walk.

Travel is by private minibus. This trip is limited to 12 people.

A real treat for bird fans with added flora and fauna for this bespoke trip around the Point of Ayre reserve with members of the

Manx Birdlife team who are aiming to create a very special place for birds, with potential to grow to more than 450 acres. The reserve offers a mix of freshwater and dry heathland habitats.

*The reserve is not accessible to the public, and this is a real unique opportunity to visit this amazing space.

Strategically located at the northernmost tip of the Isle of Man, the reserve provides refuge and acts as a way-marker to migrant birds each spring and autumn. It hosts an assemblage of breeding and wintering birds and other wildlife that will be unique within the Island's landscape.

After our guided tour we will have our packed lunch followed then by a guided walk around the Ayres



National Nature Reserve. The Ayres is a habitat unlike any other on the island from its lichen heath and rare species to its expansive low lying marram grass dunes. It will be a memorable day out.

Returning back to Douglas via the 'Famous TT Mountain Road' at approx. 4pm.

Pack lunch required and cost is £20 pp.

THURSDAY 28TH SEPTEMBER



**Thursday A - Leisurely/
Interest (grade 2)**

**Volcanoes and Vikings:
Castletown circular via
Scarlett Head**

**8 km/5 miles. Height gained 29
m/95 feet. Approx. 3-hour walk.**

Description: An exploration of coastal geology and archaeology in a 'Volcanoes and Vikings' circular walk in the southeast of the Island. We take the bus from Douglas to

historic Castletown Square (not booked) 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 and around 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 13.45.



Thursday B – Leisurely/ Interest (grade 3)

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

7.5 km/4.5 miles.

Height gained 35 m/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, cafes or just relax at the Islands 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 14:30.



Thursday C – Moderate (grade 4)

'Where's Wallaby?': Wildlife Park circular via Ballaugh Curragh

13 km/8 miles.

Height gained 100 m/328 feet.

Approx. 4.5-hour walk.

Description: Circular walk exploring the Ballaugh Curraghs: a RAMSAR convention wetland area and home to Red-Necked Wallabies living wild. For those that like a bit of a view there's a hillfort thrown in as well!

We take the bus from Douglas to the Wildlife Park (not booked), then follow the route of the former Northern Manx Railway eastwards to Sulby to climb Cronk Sumark/Primrose Hill, which is a hillfort with great views over the north of the Island. Using quiet country roads, we head for Ballaugh Curragh, a unique wetland environment on the Isle of Man, recognised as being of international importance. Boardwalk trails lead through this extraordinary landscape and our route provides the opportunity to look for Red-Necked wallabies who

now live wild in this area. Our walk returns us to the Wildlife Park.

Return to Douglas by bus (not booked).

What we may see: Wetland plants, birds and animals, red-necked wallabies, hill fort and views over the north of the Island.

What to expect: Mostly on flat ground on quiet country roads, tracks, and boardwalks, with one steep rise to the top of Cronk Sumark.

Estimated finish time for walk at Wildlife Park 15:00.



Thursday D – Moderate (grade 5)

Waterwheels, Glens and A Little Church: Groudle Glen circular via St Adamnan's Church, Ballanette, Conrhenny, Honey Hill, Ballakilmartin, Molly Quirks and Groudle Glen.

16km/10 miles.

Height gained 277m/912 feet.

Approx. 4.5 hr walk.

Description: Inland route walking through wooded glens, visiting the

ancient St Adamnan's Church and walking to Conrhenny Plantation for great views over Douglas.

We take the 10.40 Manx Electric Railway to Groudle Glen and start our walk passing the refurbished Victorian miniature waterwheel before heading off to visit St Adamnan's church. This beautiful site dates back over 1500 years with 5th century Celtic crosses from the site on display in the church yard. Our walk then takes us through Ballanette Nature Reserve and Baldrine before heading up to Conrhenny Plantation for some great views Douglas. We make our way back towards our start point via the Clypse Reservoir, Ballakilmartin Farm and Molly Quirks Glen. Our walk finishes by catching the Manx Electric Railway back to Douglas. Return to Douglas on Manx Electric Railway (not booked).

What we may see: Woodland and riverside flora and fauna, St Adamnan's Church, Ballanette Nature Reserve, coastal birds, buzzards, waterfowl species, Victorian Architecture, and heritage.

What to expect: good pathways throughout, boardwalk and small sections of steps in the wooded glens, quiet country road walking, greenways and a well-maintained board walk sections through wet moorland areas and several stiles. Estimated finish time for the walk at Groudle Glen 15.00.



**Thursday E – Moderate
(grade 6)**

Cairns, Chasms and Cregneash: Port St Mary to Port Erin via Spanish Head, Cregneash and Meayll Hill.

12 km/7.5 miles.

Height gained 299 m/981 feet.

Approx. 4-hour walk.

Description: An interesting linear route from Port St Mary to Port Erin following the coastal footpath before turning inland and visiting Cregneash and Meayll Hill with its WWII remains and Meayll Stone Circle.

We take the bus from Douglas to Port St Mary harbour (not booked) and walk around Kallow Point to join the Raad Ny Foillan coastal footpath beside the golf course. Leaving Port St Mary behind we look back on our route so far, onwards over Perwick Bay and take in the fantastic views eastwards towards the Langness Peninsula in the distance. Our route slowly climbs towards the Chasms, where deep fissures in the cliffs run down to the sea! Our route then passes Cronk Karran, an Iron Age hut circle before taking us onwards

towards Spanish Head where the Calf of Man will come into view. This island is a bird sanctuary separated from the main Island by the 'Sound' waterway. This view is a photographer's dream. Our walk then goes inland to the traditional Manx heritage village of Cregneash before heading onto Meayll Hill to visit the WWII remains of a barracks and the spectacular Meayll Stone Circle. Our route then takes us down into Port Erin to finish a great walk before returning to Douglas by bus or steam train.

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

What we may see: fantastic geology, dramatic views, Iron Age hut circle, Calf of Man, choughs, hen harriers, sea birds, cetaceans, WWII building remains, Neolithic Stone Circle and a traditional Manx village.

What to expect: open coastal natural footpaths, farmland tracks, well maintained boardwalk section and generally good footpaths throughout. One short steeper climb with a few longer gradual ups and downs with a number of stiles. Estimated finish time for walk at Port Erin 15.30.



Thursday F – Moderate (grade 7)

Across the Roof of the North: Snaefell to Ramsey via North Barrule

12 km/7.5 miles.

Height gained 243 m/799 feet.

Approx. 4.5-hour walk.

Description: Undulating linear hill walk over open moorland in the northeast of the Island taking in the Island's highest peaks along a rounded ridge.

We take the 09:20 MER (Manx Electric Railway) tram (booked) from Douglas to Laxey and change to the SMR (Snaefell Mountain Railway) (booked) to travel the easy way to the top of Snaefell (621 m/2034 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) and then up Clagh Ouyr and on to North Barrule along a rounded ridge. If the weather allows, we shall be able to see not only the Northern Plain and hills, but also the 'Seven Kingdoms' – Ireland, Scotland, England, Wales, Mann, Heaven, and the Sea! We head down North Barrule to Ballure Plantation and Reservoir to our finishing point in Ramsey, the largest town in the north of the Island.

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

What we may see: hill and

moorland wildlife, ravens, hen harriers, mountain hares.

What to expect: mainly hill and moorland walk over rough grazing and moorland, steep slopes down and up and walk along an exposed but rounded ridge. Cafes and Pubs in Ramsey.

Additional info – The walk descent from the summit of Snaefell and also North Barrule is steep in places.

Estimated finish time for walk at Ramsey 15:30.



Thursday Optional Trips

Self-Guided Trip to the Calf of Man – leisurely/ moderate (grade 4)

**Approx. 7.5km/4 miles
with approx. 100m/320 feet
depending on route taken.**

Explore this amazing little Island by foot with a brilliant 45-minute boat ride and 3 hours on the Calf. Your 'day out' will start by travelling by bus to Port St Mary Harbour in time for your boat departure. The 45-minute boat crossing to the Calf is a highlight itself, with an amazing up-close experience with the spectacular coastline before crossing the Sound to view the 'Drinking Dragon' and land on the Calf. A Bird Sanctuary since 1958, the Calf of Man is memorable place to visit with its flora and fauna, heritage lighthouses, and truly magical atmosphere. However you spend

your time on the Calf it will be truly memorable before you head back to the harbour for the boatman to pick you up.

What you may see: Coastal wildlife, sea birds and Cetaceans. Heritage lighthouses, old tholtans and spectacular views back to the mainland.

What to expect: good pathways throughout, small boat with a sailing time of 45-minutes each way.

Additional info - The boat trip costs £20 per person and the boat can only hold 12 persons + crew per daily trip. Pre-booking is essential. Start times will vary due to tide conditions and boat skippers decision is final in the event of inclement weather.

Night Hike: Full Moon Summit South Barrule – moderate (grade 6)

**Cost £10 pp to include minibus
travel and Hot Chocolate and
Marshmallows - limited to 12
people and head torches will be
provided.**

**9 km/5 miles. Height gained
102m/334 feet. approx. 2.5-hour
walk.**

Fancy something completely different – Then why not join one of our Island's Qualified Walking Guides for a full moon night hike summiting South Barrule under the light of the full moon.

This 3-hour walk will start at

6.30 from the Palace Hotel with a 20-minute private minibus ride to South Barrule Plantation. Our route takes us through South Barrule Plantation and onward towards the base of the path to the summit. We start our ascent, which will take about 25 minutes to the summit, where in the dark we get a perspective of other UK borders, which your guide will point out. The top of the summit is also the site of an Iron Age Fort and remains of the

ramparts are still visible. The route then takes us down the shoulder of the hill with great view under moonlight, your guide will then take you across open moorland heather to join the top of South Barrule Plantation and return to the minibus. A really rewarding and different way to see the island.

What we might see: Panoramic views of the Island in darkness and the visible lights of the UK's

other coastlines, Iron Age Fort, and nighttime wildlife.

What to expect: Woodland tracks and natural moorland paths. One section of open moorland (heather).

Estimated finish time back to the hotel 10pm.

FRIDAY 29TH SEPTEMBER



Friday A - Leisurely/Interest (grade 2)

The Dunkirk Spirit: Gansey to Dunkirk Memorial via Chapel Bay

5.5 km/3.5 miles.

Height gained 70 m/ 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 bus 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 catwalks 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 cafes – 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 13.00.



Friday B – Leisurely/ Moderate (grade 4)

Echoes of a Mining Past: Laxey to Laxey via Agneash

8 km/5 miles.

Height gained 260 m/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 10:40 MER (Manx Electric Railway) (booked) from Douglas to Laxey and then walk by the river past the Great Laxey Wheel (the largest working waterwheel in the world) with its industrial archaeology of lead and zinc mining. The steep country road 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 cafes and

along by 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 14:30.





Friday C – Moderate (grade 5)

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

10 km/6 miles.

Height gained 212 m/ 695 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 1010 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 cafes 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 15:15.



Friday D – Moderate (grade 5)

St Johns from below and above! – St Johns circular via Slieau Whallian Summit

13km/7.5 miles.

Height gained 376m/1233 feet.

Approx. 4.5 hr walk.

Description: Hilly circular walk with fantastic views from St John's via Foxdale Heritage Trail, Gleneedle and Slieau Whallian Summit.

We take the bus from Douglas to St John's, the small village that holds the annual Tynwald Ceremony, where we will have a chance to explore Tynwald Hill before heading off towards 'Witches Hill'. Our route takes us along the old Foxdale railway line before we walk across the fields towards the tiny hamlet of Gleneedle and onwards towards the track that leads us towards the summit path of Slieau Whallian. The summit path is a permissive footpath on private farmland with access kindly agreed by the farmer and the views from the top are superb in every direction, especially looking towards South Barrule and over to the Mountains of Mourne on a clear day. Our route then takes us down via the woodland trails of Slieau Whailian Plantation before we arrive back at our start point for a satisfying cuppa in Greens Café or something stronger in the Tynwald Pub! Before catching the bus back to Douglas.

Return to Douglas by bus (not booked).

What we will see: Tynwald Hill and site of the annual ceremony, woodland flora and fauna, Buzzards, Hen Harriers, Island wide panoramic views.

What to expect: Mainly good natural footpaths throughout, Heritage trail has been renovated in places with smooth stone, very quiet country road section, open moorland paths and woodland tracks.

Additional info - The ascent sections of this walk are gradual but the section of decent from the summit is steep in places.

Estimated finish time for walk in St John's is 15:00.



Friday E – Moderate (grade 5)

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

12 km/7.5 miles.

**Height gained 400 m/1312 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 09.20 MER (Manx Electric Railway) tram (booked) Douglas to Laxey and change to the SMR (Snaefell Mountain Railway) (booked) to travel the easy way to the top of Snaefell (621 m/ 2034 feet). This unusual but rewarding route take 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 16:00



**Friday F – Moderate/
Strenuous (grade 8)**

Southern Hills Stomp: Colby to Port Erin via Cronk ny Arrey Laa.

16km/10 miles.

Height gain 807m/2650 feet.

Approx. 6 hrs walk.

Description: A strenuous hill walk in the south of the Island starting in Colby taking in a variety of peaks and summits, including Cronk ny Arrey Laa before walking this stunning section of coastal footpath to Port Erin .

We take the bus from Douglas to Colby and gradually make our way up towards Eary Stane Plantation through a variety of footpaths, quiet country roads and farm tracks. Walking up through the plantation we will be rewarded with fantastic views whilst we make our way to the summit of Cronk ny Arrey Laa, the highest point on both our walk and on the 'Raad ny Foillan' coastal footpath. The views are incredible, especially looking north, so this will be a fitting place for our lunch stop. Our route then takes us down to the Sloc, through open heather clad moorland before ascending again to walk along the various



summits of the Carnanes...the views just keep on coming. Our route then takes us to Fleshwick Bay and we have a welcome break at this peaceful place before we

climb steeply towards the summit of Bradda Head. The Calf of Man and Milner's Tower come into view as we make our way towards Port Erin to catch our bus back to

Douglas. A tough days walking but the reward is high with views that are breath-taking and certainly worth the effort.

What we may see: Moorland flora and fauna, coastal birds including choughs, hen harriers, and moorland bird species. Milner's Tower and a variety of far-reaching views throughout the walk.

What to expect: A variety of pathways throughout the walk including natural coastal footpath and plantation tracks. Urban footpaths and quiet country roads for the start of the walk from Colby.

Additional info - This walk has a number of steep sections to both ascend and decent and you should be confident of your fitness.

Estimated finish time for walk in Port Erin 16.30.



Friday Optional Trips

Self-Guided Trip to the Calf of Man – leisurely/moderate (grade 4)

Approx. 7.5km/4 miles with approx. 100m/320 feet depending on route taken.

Explore this amazing little Island by foot with a brilliant 45-minute boat ride and 3 hours on the Calf.

Your 'day out' will start by travelling by bus to Port St Mary Harbour in time for your boat departure. The 45-minute boat crossing to the Calf is a highlight itself, with an amazing up-close experience with the spectacular

coastline before crossing the Sound to view the 'Drinking Dragon' and landing on the Calf. A Bird Sanctuary since 1958, the Calf of Man is memorable place to visit with its flora and fauna, heritage lighthouses, and truly magical atmosphere. However you spend your time on the Calf it will be truly memorable before you head back to the harbour for the boatman to pick you up.

What we may see: Coastal wildlife, sea birds and cetaceans. Heritage lighthouses, old tholtans and spectacular views back to the mainland.

What to expect: good pathways throughout, small boat with a sailing time of 45-minutes each way.

Additional info - The boat trip costs £20 per person and the boat can

only hold 12 persons + crew per daily trip. Pre-booking is essential. Start times will vary due to tide conditions and boat skippers decision is final in the event of inclement weather.

Trip to the Ayres National Nature Reserve and guided Birdwatching tour of the Manx Birdlife Point of Ayre Reserve – leisurely/moderate (grade 3)

Approx walking total distance is 8km/5 miles – Approx 4-hour walk.

Travel is by private minibus. This trip is limited to 12 people.

A real treat for bird fans and flora and fauna with this bespoke trip





around the Point of Ayre reserve with members of the Manx Birdlife team who are aiming to create a very special place for birds, with potential to grow to more than 450 acres. The reserve offers a mix of freshwater and dry heathland habitats.

*The reserve is not accessible to the public, and this is a real unique opportunity to visit this amazing space.

Strategically located at the

northernmost tip of the Isle of Man, the reserve will provide refuge and act as a way-marker to migrant birds each spring and autumn. It will host an assemblage of breeding and wintering birds and other wildlife that will be unique within the Island's landscape.

After our guided tour we will have our packed lunch followed by a guided walk around the Ayres National Nature Reserve. The Ayres is a habitat unlike any other on the island from its lichen heath

and its many unusual and rare species to its expansive low lying marram grass dunes. It will be a memorable day out.

Returning back to Douglas via the 'Famous TT Mountain Road' at approx. 4pm.

Pack lunch required and cost is £20 pp

A group of hikers is seen from an aerial perspective as they ascend a grassy hillside. A wooden fence runs along the path. A large, semi-transparent map of the Isle of Man is overlaid on the left side of the image. The sky is blue with some clouds.

**LEAVE ONLY FOOTPRINTS,
TAKE ONLY MEMORIES**

WALK THE ISLE OF MAN



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