

120

ideas of things to do
in Port Erin and the
Isle of Man



Welcome



Seaside Cottages

Holiday Cottages | By the beach | Dog friendly | Self catering

The Isle of Man is a fantastic place to spend time and has so many options for things to do. I understand that finding the time to put together an itinerary for a holiday is never easy, and it's sometimes nice to have a list of activities in front of you that you can pick and choose from without having to spend hours researching.

That is why i have created this guide, to make your life easier, whether you live on the Isle of Man and find yourself with some spare time at the weekend or school holidays, or you are visiting the Isle of Man for the first time.

Take a look for some inspiration for your stay in Port Erin, and experience for yourself how fantastic the Isle of Man is.



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01

CHAPTER

Family time and activities with the kids

When we enjoy beautiful weather in the Isle of Man, we head for the beach, countryside or the water. Even if the sun doesn't shine every day, why let the rain dampen the fun on your Isle of Man holiday.

Here is a tried and tested list of fantastic family activities ideal for adults, teens and children.

Family time and activities with the kids

01

Victorian steam train

Jump on the train from Douglas and Port Erin. For train times www.iombusandrail.im/

02

Cupcake decorating

The Cupcakery, Castletown. Call 07624 492773

03

Pottery painting

Craftworks Studio in Castletown. Tel 01624 823244 to book

04

Hover Karting

Indoor Hover Kart Racing now in Ramsey, Call 07624 322832

05

Indoor Axe Throwing

Mad Jack's Axe Throwing, Douglas. Jump on the train from Port Erin. Call 07624 327003

06

Indoor Golf

iGolf Isle of Man simulator, plus target shooting, table football and Pool
Call 07624 292926

07

Scuba diving and snorkelling

Discover Diving Port St Mary. Call 01624 822422

08

Pool and Snooker

The Cue Zone IOM, Ballasalla
Call 07624 566350 to book

09

Roller Skating

Indoor roller skating disco arena, Funbarn, Onchan
Call 01624 673710

10

Ten Pin Bowling

Funbarn Onchan
Call 01624 673710

Family time and activities with the kids

11

South Barrule Park

Laser Mayhem, outdoor axe throwing, quad biking, mountain bike hire 07624234555

12

Trip around The Calf of Man

Wildlife trip and seal spotting from Port Erin or Port St Mary 07624 322765/480682

13

Explore Colby Glen

Identify Ash, Beach, Sycamore and Elm trees using a Tree identification app then a picnic. Map [here](#)

14

Geocaching

A treasure hunt using an app and your phone GPS to navigate to find the hidden Geocache [here](#)

15

Look for a Basking Shark

Port Erin between May and August and write a short story for the Manx Basking Shark Watch website

16

Orienteering

Map reading, checkpoints using a compass, and enter the Orienteering championships as a family [here!](#)

17

Scarlett Nature Trail

See the geology and fossil remains of the Scarlett Peninsula, limestone pavements, and volcanic rocks. Details [here](#)

18

Cregneash Village

Tiny thatched cottages, Loghtan sheep, Manx cats, and watch thatching, weaving and spinning Details [here](#)

19

Seal spotting at the Sound

Watch grey seals playing on the Calf of Man and Kitterland, and maybe a Porpoise or Dolphin. Details [here](#)

20

Wallaby Spotting

See them roaming the Curraghs after escaping 40 years ago! Read our blog for likely sighting areas. Details [here](#)

Family time and activities with the kids

21

Stargazing

Try the Sloc carpark or Cregneash Dark Sky Discovery Sites to view the Orion Nebula or the great Andromeda Galaxy. More details [here](#)

22

High ropes

Set in South Barrule, whiz down the long zip-lines www.apemann.info/

A trip around The Calf of Man on The Shona



High ropes



Craftworks Pottery Painting



02 CHAPTER

Something sporty and active

Either on your own, or with the family, there are so many outdoor activities to try



Being surrounded by water means that there is never a shortage of exciting adventures. The beautiful hills, glens and plantations mean you can hike a different type of terrain every weekend, and if you like to cycle we have included many routes.

There is a choice of family team activities and sports you can try together or on your own, or indulge your favourite hobbies.

Read on and you certainly won't get bored...

Outdoor activities in the Isle of Man

01

Yoga on the headland

Summer classes on Bradda Head, overlooking the bay
www.facebook.com/yogawithharryandemily/

02

Gorge scrambling

Through waterfalls, short climbs, having fun and getting wet;
www.adventurousexperiences.com/gorge-scrambling/

03

Kayaking

Hire in Port Erin to experience the beautiful coast.
www.7thwave-iom.com/kayaking/

04

Stand up paddle boarding

Lessons, Adventure Tours, Board Rentals, SUPYoga Classes, SUPHoop Classes, SUPFit Classes and 'Twilight Glo-Paddleboarding
www.porterinpaddleboards.com

05

Open water swimming

Enjoy Port Erin's excellent bathing water quality for tremendous health benefits and fun.
Read this [blog](#) for top tips

06

Sailing and Powerboating

Learn to sail with RYA Recognised Training Centre in Port Erin Bay
www.7thwave-iom.com/

07

Coasteering in Port Erin

Scrambling, swimming and exciting challenges through natural features
www.adventurousexperiences.com/coasteering/

08

Surfing in Port St Mary and Gansey

Mixture of high tide breaks, mid and low right handers, crazy barrels, and hollow left handers. Some [waves](#) reaching 10 feet, not for faint hearted!

09

Abseiling

Abseil 110ft down a dramatic sea cliff to the beach below.
www.venturecentre.im

10

Raft building

Build your own raft and race it on the Lake
www.venturecentre.im

Go for a cycle

11

Cycling

A perfect family activity holiday should always include some action on two wheels, and mountain biking in the Isle of Man is the perfect way to spend a few days.

Looking for an activity for a day or two of your holiday where you can spend time touring the beautiful island, forests and mountains? The Isle of Man offers some of the best cycling routes in the UK, and mountain biking is no exception.

They will be able to take you through bike setup and cycling gear tips, and guide you through plantations and exciting routes.

Patient and encouraging, they help you come away feeling that you can tackle most terrain.

www.pedaltoprogression.com/

12

Mountain bike guide

Hire a guide for mountain bike tours and instruction for the family

A cycle to Peel



Cycle to The Sound and see The Calf of Man 25km

13

Highlights: The Sound, with its views over to the Calf of Man. Spotting seabirds and Grey Seals

Cycle from Port Erin beach up to Bradda Head and past Spaldrick and the turning for Bradda Glen Café. Turn left onto Bradda East, staying north of Rowany Golf Club, continuing along the road and straight on at the roundabout.

Continue to Colby, past the Colby Glen. Continue through Ballabeg and past Ballabeg Steam Railway station. At the junction with the A5 turn right, then sharp left. On reaching the coast turn right and follow round the

beautiful Gansey Bay to Port St Mary. Cycle along the The Howe to the historical sight of Cregneash then left down towards The Sound with its views over the Calf of Man, spotting seabirds and grey seals.

This is a perfect spot for lunch at The Sound Cafe to preserve some energy ready for the climb back to the Darragh junction, which is steep but rewarding.

Turn left cycling past the Meayll Stone Circle Archaeological site, dropping back into Port Erin.

Under 2 hours



Grey seals on The Calf of Man

Cycle to Castletown 33km

14

Highlights: Watching surfers and exploring Langness

Cycle from Port Erin to Castletown via Gansey Bay, where you will see that this is a favourite for surfing, kite surfing and windsurfing.

Pass Castletown Harbour, passing the Nautical Museum and head towards the gorgeous Langness, viewing Herons and Swallows. Backtrack to St Michaels Isle along the narrow causeway to view the ancient ruins.

Take in the lovely beach of Derbyhaven, turning back towards Poulson Park and Bull Ring Bike Park, and towards the airport.

At Ballasalla turn left towards Ballabeg and Colby. Next a right past Ballakilpheric, left back to the main road and a loop around Rowany Golf Course back to Port Erin.

Under 2 hours



*The spectacular
Castle Rushen*

Cycle around Foxdale and Crosby 53km

15

Highlights: Steep climbs and fast descents

From Port Erin pass through Colby via Ballafesson Road and continue towards Colby Railway Station. Continue past Grenaby Art Studios and on reaching Grenaby Road turn left crossing the Silverburn River. At the junction turn right and continue cycling adjacent to South Barrule Forest Park. A pit stop at The Coffee Cottage is always a treat, before continuing on the A3 to Foxdale, with the Isle of Man Observatory on your right, towards Slieau Whallian Plantation. At the crossroads turn right, and pass Archallagan Plantation on your left.

Continue to the junction with Garth Road, taking a left turn at the crossroads leading to Crosby. Take care crossing the main road. Directly opposite start the steep meandering climb up Eyerton Road and following this road to the right where it levels off. Continue through the beautiful scenery, and at the roundabout turn right down Strang Road, continuing left briefly onto the main road before taking a right turn at the Railway Inn. Follow Cronk Road and climb Lhergy Cripperty before turning right onto the A24 then left towards St Marks. Enjoy the fast descent towards Rushen Abbey, past the Castletown Railway station and along the Southern 100 race circuit, along Castletown Road back to Port Erin.

Around 3 hours



Archallagan Plantation with a Junior cycling facility

Cycle over The Sloc 64km

16

Highlights: Rewarding climb over the Sloc, and views from Niarbyl Bay

One of our favourites: From Port Erin, cycle along the south side of Rowany Golf course, take a left to travel past the Ballachurry Nature Reserve then continue along Ballakillowey to start the climb over The Sloc.

Pass the carpark where the Dark Sky Discovery Site popular with astronomers.

Continue climbing, and take a left at Round Table along Dalby Road through Glen Rushen, then to Niarbyl Bay where a tasty refuel maybe in order at

Niarbyl Café whilst taking in the scenery.

Carry on through the village of Glen Maye, to Peel and continue north past Glen Moore and Glen Wyllin to Kirk Michael. Taking a right turn on the TT course back towards Glen Helen, pass Eairy Beg Plantation and at Ballacraigne junction continue straight on, and pass the Isle of Man Observatory.

Cycle alongside South Barrule Forest Park, down the speedy Ballamodha straight, and at Cross Four Ways take a right turn back to Port Erin.

Around 4 hours

Photo Visit Isle of Man



Cycle The big one (for the experienced) 100km

17

Highlights: Cycling around the Islands' coast

From Port Erin To Kirk Michael along the coast, then pass Curraghs Wildlife Park to Ramsey.

After a pit stop at the Boathouse Café in Mooragh Park, continue along the coast road towards the Venture Centre and Ballaglass Glen, and pass Dhoon Glen.

Drop through Laxey where you can see the Great Laxey Wheel and the home of King Orry's Grave, and continue towards Garwick Beach. Taking a left on King Edward Road will take you to Groudle Glen, and

loop around King Edward Bay Golf Course, to drop down to Douglas Promenade where you can cycle alongside the beach rather than the road.

Once you reach Douglas Quay, climb up towards Douglas Head to take in the glorious scenery and continue along the historical Marine Drive , towards Port Soderick, and back to back towards Ballasalla Railway Station and the airport.

Continue past the Manx Aviation and Military Museum to Castletown and the beautiful Gansey Bay, before heading back to Port Erin

All day!

Photo Isle of Man Steam Packet



Marine Drive



Walking in the Isle of Man

What better way to have family time and make the most of what we have on our doorstep, without leaving the Island or spending a penny.

Whether it is one hour climb, or a seven hour day out, with these exciting walking options and challenges there is something to suit everyone, especially with the rewards of the stunning views and Manx history we can see in return.



Walks over several days

The Island's marked out footpaths make the most of the gorgeous scenery and nature.

How about selecting parts of these routes to complete in sections?

18

Raad-ny-Foillan

The ultimate long distance coastal footpath

The way of the Gull. 98 miles around the Island's coast, different sections can be tackled over a few weeks or throughout a staycation summer including quiet beaches and dunes, cliff footpaths, over farmland through wooded glens.

The footpath is never far from the sea. It is suitable for the gentle walker to do in short day-walk sections over the course of a holiday, or over several weekends.

For a dedicated backpacker or fell-runner, great personal challenges can be set on this beautiful circuit of the Isle of Man.

If you are a keen Geocacher, 230 Caches can be found along the way.

For the route, look at this link www.gov.im/categories/leisure-and-entertainment/walking/raad-ny-foillan-coastal-walk/



Walks over a couple of days

Looking for something strenuous with an option to complete in a day or more? Here's one for experienced country walkers and a very good level of fitness. Some hills and rough country. Walking boots needed.

The Millenium Way

19

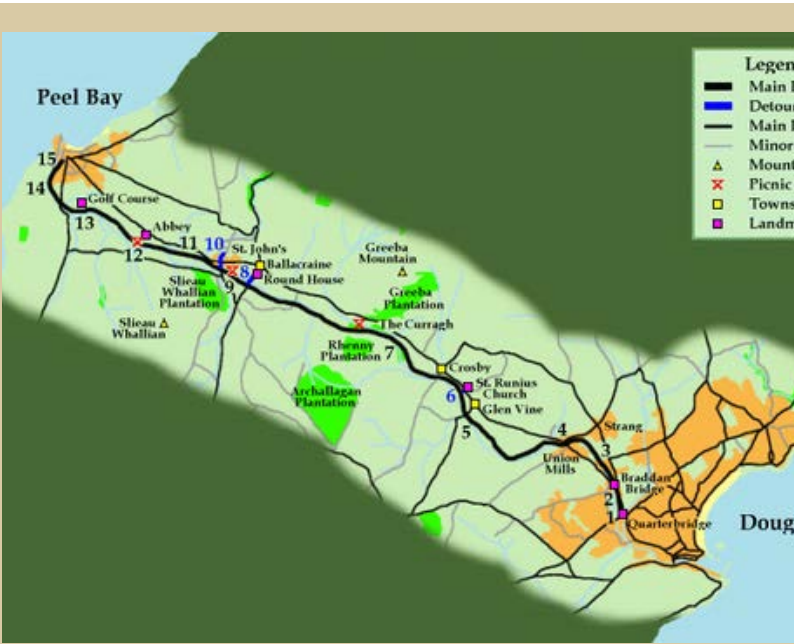
28 miles from the north to the south. It can be completed in a day by a fit walker, or split into sections. For the full journey, start in Ramsey, climb Sky Hill, and continue to West Baldwin across open moorland with stunning views past the beautiful church of St Lukes. Continue to Crosby and start the climb towards Marown old church.

Head towards St Marks and continue to Rushen Abbey and the Silverburn River before you arrive at Castletown.

A lovely way to do this walk in sections from Palm Villa or Seaview is to take the Steam train or bus from Port Erin to Castletown, and enjoy the pleasant walk from Castletown to Crosby which takes around three hours.

A map can be found here:

www.visitisleofman.com/experience/millenium-way-p1299171



Perhaps in a day

A great day out or split into a couple of days if preferred. A great one for the family to enjoy together.

20

The Heritage Trail

10.5 miles, a flat easy walk along disused railway lines, from Douglas to Peel. This is a wonderful family walk along a quiet path, with plenty of resting areas and picnic benches along the way, and the luxury of an ice cream at the end.

A favourite for dog walkers, Fenella beach in Peel is a great opportunity for your dog to have a splash in the waves after a long walk.

For details of the route, click below:
www.iomguide.com/heritagetrail.php



Hills and Mountains

If a short sharp climb is what you have in mind, with glorious rewarding views from the summits, the Island's hills and mountains are a perfect and accessible way to enjoy your daily exercise.

21

Snaefell

Snaefell is the Island's only mountain, 2036 ft above sea level.

Park at The Bungalow or take the tram from Laxey on the Snaefell Mountain Railway and alight at the Bungalow, to tackle the mountain on foot.

The moderate ascent to the summit can be tackled in half an hour.

The saying goes that once at the summit, on a clear day, you can see seven kingdoms: Mann, Scotland, Ireland, Wales, England, Neptune and Heaven!

On the way down, if you have come by tram, cross the mountain road at the Bungalow, and continue on to Laxey through Agneash Valley, taking in the Snaefell mines, the village of Agneash and the Laxey Wheel on the way. A great family hike.

For details of the route, click below:

www.visitisleofman.com/experience/snaefell-mountain-p1295771



22 Climb North Barrule

The Island's second highest peak. Park at Black Hut, and across the road is a signposted footpath. First ascend the peak of Clagh Ouyr, a short 20 minute climb, then walk along the ridge of hills to the summit of North Barrule, a peaceful 2 hour walk.

From the summit, you will be able to see the north of the Isle of man, and Cumbria, Ireland, Wales and Scotland on a clear day.

23

Climb South Barrule

For a climb closer to Port Erin, South Barrule rises to 1585 ft. From Round Table Road, there is a small area of parking on a rough track by the A36 Sloc Road.

The path to the summit is around half an hour's walk.

From the summit, the coastline of Ireland, Scotland, England and Wales can be seen on a clear day, plus much of the Isle of Man.

To the south, the view is over the beautiful Cringle plantation and Reservoir, and the view North is the gorgeous central hill range. Perfect for a dog walk, the summit is a perfect spot to reward yourself with a picnic.



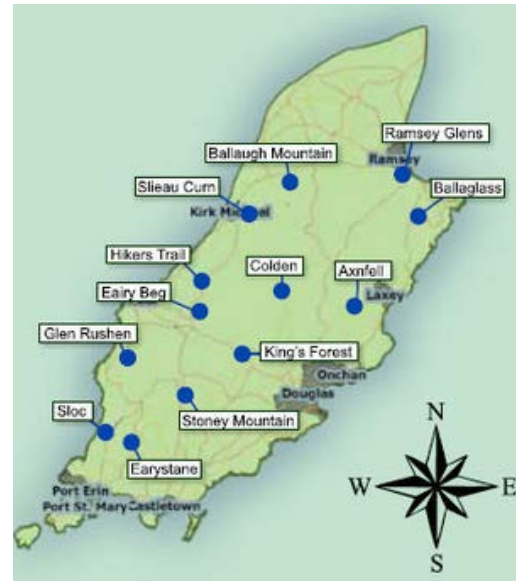
Walking...

24

Forestry Wardens Walks

For self-guided walking routes, try one of the The Forestry Warden walks which are 1.5 to 3 hour walks off the beaten track, split into easy, moderate and strenuous.

www.gov.im/categories/leisure-and-entertainment/walking/forestry-wardens-walks/



A family hike up South Barrule



Walking in the Isle of Man...

25

Some suggestions from Manx Walks

www.manxwalks.im

From Port Erin, walk south along Ballafurt road and continue this way on the coastal footpath around the Meayll Peninsular, then three choices.

Either walk to the beautiful Chasms, Cregneash, or the Sound depending on preference (and appetite), then back towards Port St Mary along the Howe Road.

Once you have wandered along the promenade, loop back towards Port Erin, or take the steam train.



*The Chasms Visit
Isle of Man*

26

A Port Erin loop

For something more strenuous, Catriona of Manx Walks suggests walking from Port Erin around the Rowany Golf course and Bradda Head, down to Fleshwick Beach.

Then climb, heading left, and take the coastal footpath back around to Port Erin via Bradda Head.



*Milers Tower
Outandabout IOM*

Fancy some competitive action and combining these races with your Isle of Man holiday?

28

27

Race the sun

One of the best team events the Island has to offer.

Starting at sunrise in May, a relay team has to complete the 100 mile clockwise circuit of the Isle of Man coastal footpath before the sun sets.

Teams are of 10, sections are demanding with the course following the Raad ny Foillan, with significant height gain and steep descents.

The scenery is stunning in every section, running along beaches, through glens, across hills and cliff tops.

Enter [here](#)

Parish walk

85 miles of walking, visiting every parish on the Isle of Man, an event dating back to 1852. This is a test of both mental and physical stamina.

With the record held of 14hrs 40, starting at 8am, many competitors can be seen going through the finish line in the early hours of the next morning, some just before the 24 hour cut-off.

This is a popular event for locals, and shorter stages can be attempted but the feeling of community and tremendous crowd support for this event makes it a special part of the Isle of Man calendar in June.

Enter [here](#)



*Parish Walk
Isle of Man.com*

Fancy some competitive action and combining these races with your Isle of Man holiday?

29

No rest for the wicked

For keen runners, this a serious test of endurance. 6 races over 6 days starting with a marathon/ half marathon on the first day. The following days cover a hill race, an undulating 10k road run, a killer mile uphill, a 6 mile road race then a trail run.

Enter [here](#)

30

Mountain marathon

Superbly organised and marshalled, and compulsory to carry waterproof body covers, map, compass, whistle and emergency food rations.

This is a 50km marathon with a 2600m ascent, or a 22km half marathon with an 800m ascent.

A one day endurance race from the north of the Island to the South, via spectacular Snaefell Mountain and northern fells, over the South's stunning cliffs.

Held in April, the winner will usually complete the full marathon in around 5 hours, and 2019 saw around 78 finishers

Enter [here](#)



Race the Sun, Visit Isle of Man

More outdoor activities in the Isle of Man....

33

Windsurfing lesson

In Port Erin Bay, starting with on-land tuition and simulation, then getting out on the water, from absolute beginner level to experienced, an amazing day of fun in the lovely bay.

www.daveswavesiom.com/



34

Canoeing

Canoe down the Sulby River at high tide.

Hire a canoe from Mooragh Park and enjoy a flat water river trip exploring the lower reaches of the Sulby river. Instructors will tailor the journey to suit you and can give tuition on paddling.

www.venturecentre.im/



More outdoor activities in the Isle of Man....

35

Archery

Have a go under cover or out on the field archery ranges. Qualified instructors will give you an introduction to the equipment used and teach you the basics before you are guided through different games and are offered coaching tips

www.venturecentre.im/



36

Assault course

Try a commando style assault course, balance on ropes, crawl through underground tunnels, and have lots of fun!

www.venturecentre.im/



03 CHAPTER

Hungry?



Looking for somewhere to eat? Here are some great Isle of Man Restaurants and cafes in the South of the Isle of Man

Restaurants in Port Erin & Port St Mary

01

The Bay Hotel

For a gorgeous Sunday Lunch or a casual family meal with a cosy log fire, right on the beach

02

Versa

Everything foraged. In an exciting new location, "The little green door" on Station Road

03

Foraging Vintners

Featuring pop-up restaurants each year and great for a sunset drink

04

Breagle Glen

Mouth-watering Indian Cuisine for lunch and dinner in a beautiful setting in Port Erin

05

The Station Port Erin

Traditional pub food in a setting combining charm and comfort, always busy right opposite the railway station

06

The Boat House Port St Mary

Atmospheric, fun, great service and fabulous food.

07

Bradda Glen

A fabulous lunch, evening meal, a beautiful carvery, and incredible view over the bay

08

The Shore

A warm genuine welcome, happy locals, delicious food, always busy on Gansey promenade

09

Port St Mary Golf Pavillion

Light lunches, breakfast on a Friday and Saturday, Sunday carvery and open some evenings

10

Andreas Italian Restaurant

Port St Mary village. Try the homemade arancini, the Sicilian way, bliss.

Restaurants in Castletown & Ballasalla

11

Secret Pizza Castletown

A brilliant night out, combining incredible pizzas, great cocktails, live music, dancing, and a party atmosphere

12

Leonardos Castletown

A view of Castle Rushen, where the warmth of the med is reflected in the delicious food

13

The Garrison

Imaginative sharing plates and some old favourites back on the menu

14

The George

Bar Food in a great atmosphere, sit outside in the Square for Castletown at it's best.

15

The Abbey

A very special restaurant set in the beautiful grounds of Rushen Abbey, with unique and interesting tastes and a warm comfortable ambience

16

Kitzuna

New to Castletown, Japanese Restaurant where you can watch chefs prepare food sitting at the bar.

Cafes in Port Erin & the South

17

Whistlestop Coffee Shop

Sit in the coffee shop, the original Victorian waiting room with a roaring fire, or the railway platform in the sun

18

Café Red

Welcoming, just what community is all about with coffee, breakfast, lunches and cakes

19

Cornerhouse Coffee

Great quiche, sausage rolls, sandwiches, Ross Bakery bread and fab coffee.

20

Roots at The Bay

Spacious and comfortable, serving bagels, cakes and coffee.

21

The Sound Café

Spectacular views of the Calf of Man with floor to ceiling glass frontage to enjoy the views no matter what the weather.

22

Bowling Green Café Castletown,

A tea-room in a beautiful setting for homemade cakes and scones, afternoon teas, hot baps and Sunday roast

23

Bay Green

Seasonal dishes in surroundings of Castletown Golf Links. Lovely salads or home bakes with Noa coffee

24

Café Bar 26, Derbyhaven

Close to the airport, Cafe Bar 26 serving brunch, bakes, bubbles and bites.

25

Silverdale Café, Balasalla

Set in Silverdale Glen serving teas, coffees, ice creams, cakes and light lunches overlooking the lake.

26

Time Out Noodle House

Asian spices and recipes, friendly service and something for everyone

04 CHAPTER

Bringing your dog to the Isle of Man, and dog friendly places to go

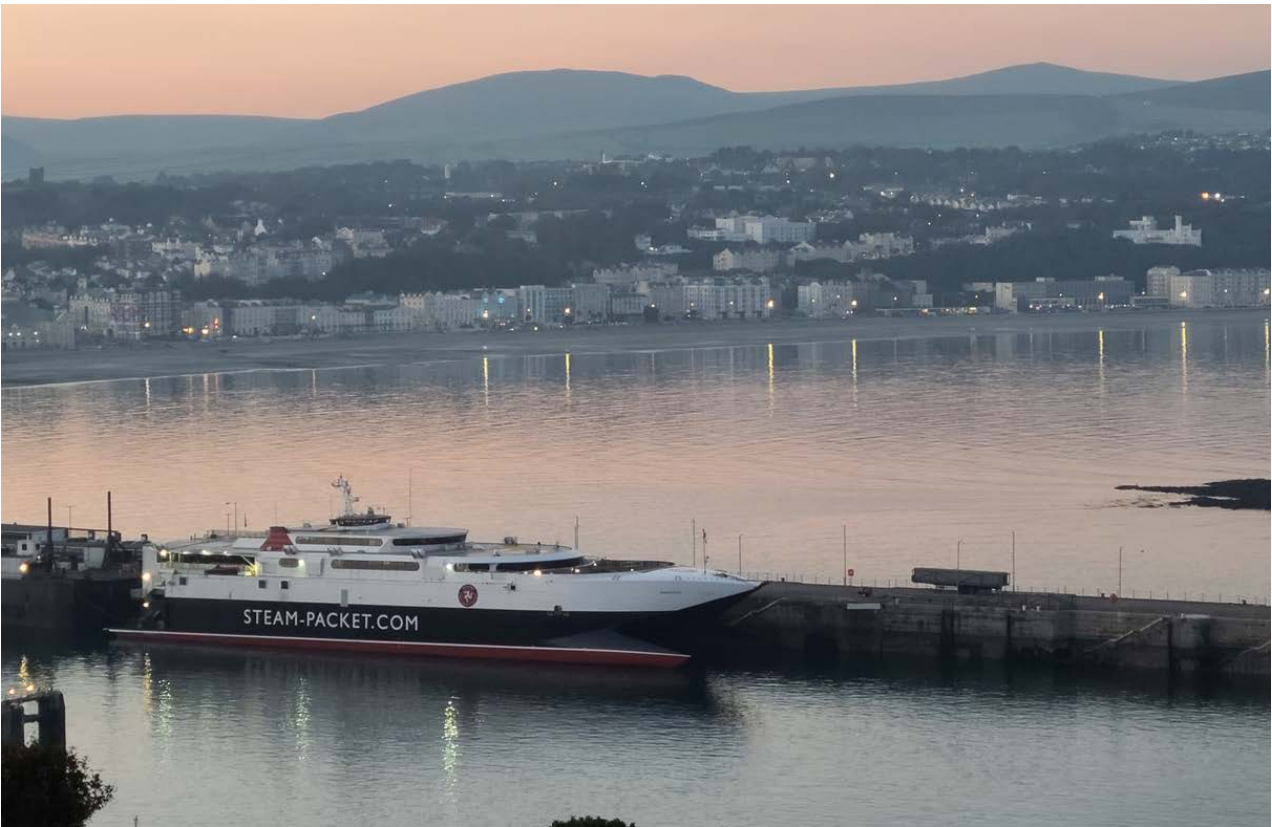
The Isle of Man is a haven for dogs and dog lovers, and it couldn't be easier to travel here with your dog with no need for a dog passport. You are invited with a warm welcome.



With open beaches, beautiful scenic glens and woodlands where your four-legged friend can explore run and enjoy, you can really see the beauty that the Island has to offer. Gorgeous country walks with welcoming dog- friendly attractions and eateries make for a perfect holiday for all of you. Forward planning will help the holiday go smoothly, so check what your accommodation can supply.

Choosing self catering accommodation with cottage-owners who go the extra mile for you is key to a successful holiday with your dog.

Ensure that food bowls and water bowls are supplied. Most dog-friendly cottage owners understand the needs because they are dog lovers themselves, and know what goes into packing for a holiday with a dog.



01

Bringing your dog by ferry

If you travel to the Isle of Man by Steam Packet Ferry from Heysham they can be booked into the Dog lounge, in a Dog Cabin or, if preferred in your vehicle which is free of charge but they must stay in the vehicle for the duration of the journey.

If you are pre booked into the pet lounge or one of two pet cabins, the charge is £10 per pet. Space is restricted so this needs to be booked early. You need to keep pooch on a lead at all times, and they can be exercised on the outside passenger deck, of course taking responsibility yourself.

Pet kennels are available on board the fast craft from Liverpool if booked prior to travelling, for around £5.00. You are required to provide your pets own bedding and water bowl, but water can be provided once on board, and cleaning is be carried out by the dog owner after use. Kennel Dimensions - Length 88cm, Width 60cm & Height 74cm

Pet passports

02

From 1st January 2021 it became more complicated to travel with your dog abroad to any EU country from the UK, and a pet passport is required.

However a pet passport is not required when travelling from the UK to the Isle of Man or vice versa, and you will not need to travel on approved routes or endure complications with designated points of entry.

This avoids potential lengthy and lonely quarantines that may occur when travelling abroad.

It is therefore easy to make a last minute decision to holiday in the Isle of Man without the need to go through the administrative and expensive process of obtaining a pet passport.



Dog friendly walks

03

The South of the Isle of Man- Port Erin, Port St Mary and Castletown, have some fantastic walks on which you can take your dog.

Dogs adore beaches, so check any restrictions on the area such as any beach times that are off limits depending on the time of year.

Port Erin's sandy beach curves around the bay and faces west which is perfect to capture the magnificent sunset when dogs can run freely after 6pm in high season, and with no restrictions in low season.

Gansey Bay and Port St Mary Harbour Beaches are a 30 minute walk or 5 minute drive from Port Erin with no day time restrictions through the year.



Dog-friendly attractions and eateries

Dogs can travel on the Isle of Man Steam Railway for 30p, and £5 for a season ticket, and also the Manx Electric railway. Dogs are also welcomed on buses all over the Island. The Isle of Man has a Registered Dogs Welcome Scheme for eateries, water and feeding bowls provided, plus dog treats and toys.

Ideas for a dog walk and a pub

Summer or winter, getting out for brisk energetic walk in the Isle of Man will always be enjoyable.

Whether it's a two hour march, or a half hour meander, isn't it lovely to know that you can plan your route to end with a roaring fire, a pint or a glass of red, perhaps something to eat and a big welcome for your dog.

We love the south, so here are our favourite dog friendly walks in the south of the Isle of Man with a pub at the end that are good for the heart and soul-mate, all starting in Port Erin.

The Bay Around 7km

04

Starting point and ending point is The Bay Hotel. Walking with the beach to your right, take a sharp left up the sliproad straight after The Bay Hotel. Follow up and veer left, then at the junction turn left then left again onto Ballafurt Road.

Second right onto St Marys Road, and follow the road to Port St Mary. Join up at the junction with Howe Road, then follow the descent to your left onto the main road turning right at the School.

Walk through the village past the Post Office, and you will see a slip road on your left heading towards Chapel Beach .

Your dog will enjoy some time off the lead here. Follow the beach and head towards the end of the promenade. Back on the lead, enjoy a walk around the coast and towards Gansey. Enjoy watching windsurfers, and take a left onto Castletown Road towards the Four Roads roundabout, straight on and through to Port Erin. Back to the beach, and back to The Bay for a well earned sit down, roaring fire and a good chat to the locals!

Colby Glen Around 2.5 km

05

Hop on a bus from Port Erin to Gansey Take a left straight after The Shore Hotel following the Colby River.

Second left onto The Level and follow the road along to the junction. Take a right and walk along the road, reaching The Colby Glen for some delightful refreshments. When you are ready for home, either bus back all the way to Port Erin or, if the season is right, head towards Colby steam railway station and travel back to Port Erin in Victorian grandeur.

The Shore, 6km

06

Take the bus to Castletown and a walk to Scarlett, but carry on along the coast until you reach Balladoole Heritage Site and continue to Strandhall, then reach Gansey.

A quick run on the beach to tire out your four-legged friend, and a beautiful glass of Malbec in the bar area where your dog will be welcomed in one of the most vibrant pubs in the Isle of Man.

The Shore isn't too far to walk home to Port Erin and is a lovely way to end the day.

The Station, 6km

07

A beautiful walk with incredible views via Cregneash, Meayll Circle and The Howe.

From Port Erin beach, take a left after the Bridge Bookshop and just before Seaview along Ballafurt Road.

Continue straight along this road, and pass the Meayll Circle. Reach the junction with Sound Road, then turn left.

Third right will then take you to Cregneash for an explore. A left turn guides you parallel to Howe Road, where you then meet it again. Stay on Howe Road, and enjoy views over Port St Mary.

Before reaching Port St Mary, take a left on Truggan Road, which then leads to St Marys Road, and takes you back to Port Erin where The Station will be waiting to serve you a fabulous bowl of chips, an ice cold beer, and something special for pooch.

If you fancy taking a bus from Port St Mary or the train, continue along the Howe Road to the roundabout, take a left on the main road, and you will get to the Railway Station.

The Sidings, 5km each way

08

For this one, first hop on a bus to Castletown. Jump off at the Co-op and walk around the Castle towards the harbour.

Turn right and over the footbridge, along Bridge Street and past the Nautical Museum. Continue along Douglas Street with the harbour on your right, along College Green and onto The Promenade.

Continue to Derbeyhaven Road, past the vast Castletown beach where your dog can run free all year round. At the southern point of the beach, back on lead walk along Fort Island Road and towards Langness where you can walk right to the end.

Circle the Island, and walk back via College Green towards the main road, and cross over Victoria Road towards Castletown Railway Station and Poulson Park where you will find The Sidings.

The George, 3km

09

Another bus trip to Castletown, and to Scarlett, then back to the George for coffee, a lovely cosy dog friendly pub.

Starting at the square, walk south along The Parade and Queen Street. With the wild coast on your left, enjoy the beautiful waves and brisk wind as you pass gorgeous houses and scenery.

Continue to Scarlett for a quick meander, and enjoy walking back the way you came for a lovely 30 minute jaunt before being welcomed into The George for some cosy refreshments, and hop on the bus back to Port Erin.



Foraging Vintners, 2.5km

10

This one involves being dropped off at the top of Tower Road, where you first climb up to the picturesque Milner's Tower before descending back down past Bradda Head.

After taking your incredible photographs from the top, walk down Tower Road, and take a left along Bradda East. Take the third right turn and follow the signs to Bradda Glen.

Have a pit stop here, or walk around the building to take in the views, and descend through the Glen. On the way, you can walk down to Spaldrick Beach where dogs are welcome all year round, before following the path nearest to the coast until reaching Bradda Head and eventually Port Erin beach.

Along the beach to the end, and some off-lead time if restrictions permit, then past Seaview and at the far end Port Erin beach past the lifeboat station.

You will then reach the one and only Foraging Vintners. If the weather is behaving, there's no better way to spend an hour sat outside this lovely bar with your dog.

The Glue Pot Around 7.5km

11

Walk from Port Erin along Castletown Road, over Four Roads roundabout and straight to Gansey beach. Enjoy letting pooch off the lead on Gansey beach, then back on the lead briskly walk along the coast following the A5 all the way to Castletown via Ballalough Reedbeds Nature Reserve and the Southern 100 race circuit.

At the junction with Malew Street turn right and follow the road as you walk past the junction with The Crofts and approaching the centre of the ancient capital. Enjoy the sight of Castle Rushen as you veer left taking care of traffic, and you will arrive at Costa Coffee and the Castle Arms, fondly known as The Glue Pot. Take a seat inside or outside, next to the beautiful harbour.

The Whitestone, 9.6km or 5.3km

12

This 2 hour walk takes you from Port Erin through Colby and Ballabeg to reach Ballasalla, but can easily be made shorter by taking a bus or train to Colby as a starting point.

Enjoy a flat walk from Port Erin beach along Bay View Road taking a left along Ballafesson Road.

Continue past Rowany Golf Course, and veer right still on Ballafesson Road towards the roundabout. Straight over, and along Ballagawne Road, past Colby Railway station and The Colby Glen, and straight through the lovely Ballabeg.

Reach Cross Four Ways roundabout and continue straight towards Rushen Abbey. At the next roundabout turn right and you will see the Whitestone at the junction with the A5 before Ballasalla railway station.

Plenty of lovely home cooked food will be waiting for you here, and the railway station and bus stop aren't too far for you to catch a lift home to Port Erin.

05 CHAPTER

Sightseeing in the Isle of Man

Heritage sites that can't be missed



Explore castles, churches, forts, ancient monuments, Celtic and Viking crosses, burial sites, Neolithic tombs and fascinating museums that tell the story of the Isle of Man's rich past and show how its 10,000 year history is preserved magnificently.

Get yourself a 5 day Heritage and Transport Card, and enjoy. You get access to all Manx National Heritage sites along with Isle of Man Transport and it is valid for 5 consecutive days from first use

A Go Explore child pass is £32 , www.manxnationalheritage.im/shop/product/go-explore-child-pass/

A Go Explore adults pass is £65, www.manxnationalheritage.im/shop/product/go-explore-adult-pass/

Isle of Man Heritage sites that can't be missed...

01

Castle Rushen

One of the best preserved medieval castles in the world, it was once the home to the Kings and Lords of Mann. Originally built in the 12th century the castle has been a royal residence, a mint and a prison. You can explore its chambers and visit the gardens

www.manxnationalheritage.im/our-sites/castle-castletown/



02

Peel Castle

Overlooking Peel Marina, the Island's majestic fortress. It was originally constructed by Vikings in the 11th century.

www.manxnationalheritage.im/our-sites/peel-castle/



03

Cregneash

Living illustration of a farming and crofting community in the 19th and early 20th century. Enjoy guided tours where the traditional houses are opened up for you to learn Manx history, then enjoy a lovely cup of tea

www.visitisleofman.com/experience/cregneash-p1291891



04

Rushen Abbey

A monastery from 1134, learn it's story when you visit

www.manxnationalheritage.im/our-sites/Rushen-Abbey

Isle of Man Heritage sites that can't be missed...

05

Great Laxey Wheel

The largest working waterwheel in the world, with a wonderful climb to the top.

www.manxnationalheritage.im/our-sites/Rushen-Abbey



06

House of Manannan

The Island's mythological sea god, Manannan, welcomes you to his fascinating kingdom of Viking, Celtic and maritime past.

www.manxnationalheritage.im/our-sites/house-of-manannan/



07

Manx Museum

The Island's 10,000 year history presented through galleries, film and interactive displays.

www.manxnationalheritage.im/our-sites/manx-museum/



08

Grove Museum

Built as a summer retreat for a wealthy merchant family from Liverpool in Victorian times. An insight into the lives of the family

www.manxnationalheritage.im/our-sites/grove-museum-of-victorian-life/



Click on the links for the opening times as they change seasonally. For festivals, events and open days see

www.manxnationalheritage.im



BBC

06

CHAPTER

Spectate something special!

The TT races are something pretty spectacular to watch and the atmosphere brings the Island alive.

But how about watching some unusual, crazy and hilarious races as part of a day out, or whilst you are here on holiday.

You won't be short of entertainment!

Meet the dedicated fans and participants, and enjoy the best atmosphere that competition brings...

01

World Tin Bath Championships

Paddling decorated tin baths across Castletown harbour. Almost in its 50th year, attracting 100 competitors from New Zealand, Australia, South Africa and USA in regulation tin baths with one wooden outrigger and two buoyancy aids.

The winner is the one who manages to cover the greatest distance before sinking! And if that gets boring, enjoy a zipwire into the harbour.

Held in July



Photo credit John Phipp

02

World Championship Viking Long Boat Races

Starting in 1963, challenging strength and power of teams of 10 rowing authentic 400 m long Viking longboats with a skipper.

No easy task, every single oar must be absolutely in tandem with the next, but once a rhythm is established, the boats really travel.

With cash prizes and a great day out in Peel, it's a regular on the Isle of Man calendar for locals and visitors



Visit Ilse of Man



03

Manx TT Races and Classic TT Races

How can we discuss unusual races without finishing with the ultimate “must experience” event of them all, motorcycle racing on open roads, past the crowds, houses, pubs and through the amazing countryside.

As fans and riders descend on the Isle of Man, it turns into a motorcycle nirvana, with an exciting and breath-taking atmosphere, film crews, opportunities to meet the riders and a festival like no other.



07

CHAPTER

Entertainment, pubs and live music

The Isle of Man live music scene is incredible and you will never be less than impressed with the quality of our local artists.

Here are the best live music venues in Port Erin and the south

Live music venues in the south.....

01 Secret Pizza

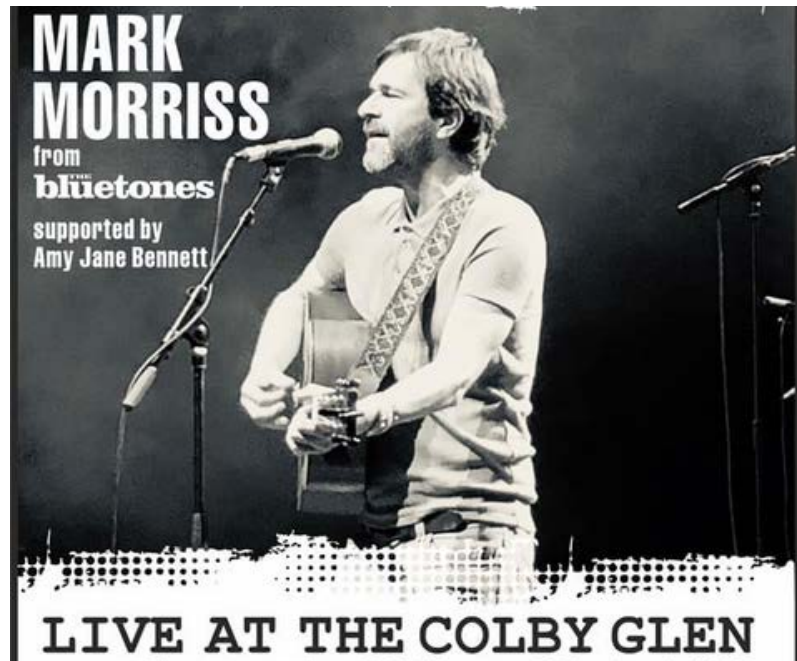
The ultimate gig venue, and a favourite according to the bands we know, and the punters, is Secret Pizza.

The brilliant Sunset Jet are regulars here, and love it. They tell me "Its hard to combine great food with a decent performance space and an engaging crowd but the guys at Secret Pizza have smashed it".

From our own experience (we frequent this place), its never long before there is a crowd dancing, and this is the ultimate party venue every single weekend.

What a way to devour Artisan Street Pizza

Plus now Chilli Jam nights on a Thursday, where anyone is welcome to get up and play with the house band, or just go down to watch some awesome musicians.



02 Colby Glen

Going to gigs at the Colby Glen, close to Colby steam train station, is special.

Not only will you get a welcoming atmosphere in this lovely pub, but its a favourite for those wanting to listen purely and exclusively to the act in their gig room.

Here, well known and well loved acoustic acts are brought to the Island, think Mark Morriss of The Bluetones. Romeo Stodart of The Magic Numbers, Nigel Clarke of Dodgy...

A huge treat for music fans

Live music venues in the south.....



03

The Riddler Under the Nest

On Station Road, Port Erin, an intimate venue created with live music in mind.

A regular for Penthouse Dive, it has a great vibe, where the musicians feel part of the crowd, and it's never long before everyone is up dancing.

This new establishment has a mixture of live music every weekend.



Stay with us at Seaside Cottages by Port Erin beach.

Each cottage sleeps six and has a mixture of twins and doubles. Dog friendly too!

www.seasidecottages.im to book

04

The Bay Hotel

On Port Erin promenade, The Bay Hotel is open each day with a great quiz night on a Sunday, and you can catch the occasional band inside.

But in the summer things really hot up at the Port Erin beach stage opposite The Bay.

Catch live music with a festival atmosphere and sunshine every Friday and Saturday night in the summer. It's definitely worth a trip down South, or even better, just stay down there to make the most of the weekend.

When the weather has other ideas The Bay Hotel is a great cosy venue with bands playing inside either by the bar or tucked into a corner in the restaurant. Intimate and our idea of gig heaven here at Seaside Cottages, right on our doorstep.

Live music in Port Erin & the south

05

The Haven

A lively pub, The Haven is located next to the train & bus station on the main street of Port Erin, known for its great range of ales, genuine community spirit and its friendly staff.

A favourite spot for the mighty Voodoo Bandits, there is always a class crowd who love to get stuck into the music.

06

The Railway Station Port St Mary

A traditional family Pub with regular bands.

The Railway Station is set in a beautiful rural location and is walkable from Port Erin.

07

Foraging Vintners

If you are looking for a mixture of entertainment, this is where you need to be.

Band nights, comedy nights, movie nights, even burlesque nights, get down to Port Erin to make the most of their events.

08

Erin Arts Centre

Situated off the upper promenade in Port Erin, Erin Arts Centre is a former chapel rescued from dereliction.

It was transformed into one of the UKs premier venue for performing arts.

From opera to piano concertos to live screenings of UK gigs, this offers a huge variety for every taste in music

09

The Union

Laid-back, friendly, and rich in history, The Union has been a pub since 1853, on Arbory Street in Castetown.

Brown Sugar love playing this venue because of its warm atmosphere and character, the great staff and say it never fails to be a fun night.

08 CHAPTER

Shopping in Port Erin



Hop on the Victorian steam train to Port Erin, perhaps on the dining carriage with a fireman's brunch or an afternoon tea on the way.

Once you get there, take some time to have a browse of these lovely stores before a glass of Elderflower fizz at Foraging Vintners

Shopping in Port Erin

01

The Papered Nest

Selcouth Art and interior delights

Church Street , Port Erin
www.thepaperednest.co.uk

02

Trend Port Erin

Gifts and stockists for Ashleigh and Burwood fragrance lamps and oils, Aviv Silver, Yankee Candle, and WoodWick

Church Road, Port Erin
www.facebook.com/TrendPortErin

03

Castaway Vintage

Antiques, vintage items and curiosities

Church Road, Port Erin
www.castawayvintage.co.uk

04

Bridge Bookshop

Art equipment, scrap booking and screen painting

Shore Road, Port Erin
www.bridge-bookshop.com/

05

Soaral Candle Workshop

Create and buy beautiful candles at this luxurious studio

Church Road, Port Erin
www.soaral.im



A refreshing beverage after some relaxing shopping

Thankyou

LIKE TO STAY?



I hope you find this guide useful. As you can see from the photos, we love the Isle of Man!

Read our weekly blog to keep up to date with what's happening
www.seasidecottages.im/blog

If you are looking for self catering accommodation, our beautiful Port Erin holiday cottages sleep six, are dog friendly and are close to the beach.

Email me at : seasidecottagesiom@gmail.com

[BOOK NOW](#)

