

### **The Isle of Wight**

The Isle of Wight is the smallest county in Britain, shaped like a diamond, 13 miles deep and 23 miles wide.

The beaches are superb, the seaside towns have piers, and shows and all the entertainment you could desire. The Downs, cliffs and seascapes are breath taking. The woods, fields and natural habitats are varied.

There are excavation sites where dinosaurs bones dating back over 120 million years have been uncovered.

Evidence of Roman occupation can be found at several locations including the remains of two villas in Newport and Brading, featuring well preserved baths and the famous Medusa mosaic floor.

The Isle of Wight is like a condensed chronicle of England. Key amounts of history are brought vividly to life through a wealth of historical buildings. In Carisbrook Castle you can almost feel the despair of an imprisoned Charles 1, rounding the battlement on his daily constitutional.

There are also centuries old Manor houses, working water mills and a wealth of religious buildings. There are places where Tennyson wrote poems, Capability Brown created spectacular gardens and Marconi worked on his inventions. Of course no trip would be complete without seeing Queen Victoria's favourite residence, the magnificent Osborne House.

#### **Wightlink Ferry**

Within five minutes walk of the Resort is the Lymington to Yarmouth ferry terminal. The crossing is one of the most scenic and shortest routes to the Island, taking approximately 30 minutes. The car and passenger ferry has a bar and buffet services and observation decks to enjoy the view.

Ferry times vary throughout the year, but in general during the winter season there is a crossing once an hour and every half-hour during the summer months. Prices for a car vary depending on season, but out of peak times a ticket can be purchased for approximately £35.00, which includes four passengers – advance booking recommended. Foot passengers cost approximately £8.50 for a day return.

For further information and reservations please telephone 0870 582 7744

#### **Exploring the Island**

The port of Yarmouth, with its ferry link to Lymington, is packed with maritime history. There are some excellent shops, many catering for the yachting community. There are also several cafes, restaurants and traditional pubs. Wander through the narrow streets and be transported back in time. The Tourist Information Centre is approximately 50 metres from the ferry terminal, overlooking the harbour.

**Motoring** – Island roads are well sign posted, though most are minor roads with speed restrictions. Save time and money by purchasing an Island wide parking permit from Tourist Information Centres.

**Walking** - The Isle of Wight covers 147 square miles and features a varied coastline; much of it designated a Heritage Coast, along with beautiful, unspoilt countryside. There are over 500 miles of well-signed and maintained footpaths and bridle ways. The tourist Information Centres can supply you with maps and route guides, including information on accessibility for wheel chairs and pushchairs.

**Cycling** – The Island is a treasure trove of well sign posted routes for mountain biking, touring and family cycling. Tourist Information Centres have details of all hire and repair services and cycling routes – the latter includes some attractive off road cycle ways and a “Round the Island” cycle route.

**Buses** – Southern Vectis operates an Island wide service that will take you to all major towns and resorts, as well as numerous villages, leisure attractions, places of interest and sight seeing tours. Timetables and Rover tickets for unlimited travel on buses are on sale at Tourist Information Centres.

Telephone: 01199983 827005

#### **Useful Telephone Numbers**

Carisbrook Castle	018983 522107
Osborne House	01983 200022
Isle of Wight Glass	01983 855400
Needles Park	01983 752401
Ventnor Botanic Gardens	01983 855397
Isle of Wight Steam Railway	01983 884343