

Chapter 1 : THE 10 BEST Restaurants & Places to Eat in Isle of Wight - TripAdvisor

Situated just off England's South coast and less than 2 hours from London via the Isle of Wight Ferry, the UK's Holiday Island and Dinosaur Capital of Great Britain, the Isle of Wight is the perfect destination at any time of year.

This large Italianate style seaside house was designed by Prince Albert and built between and The new house replaced a 3-story Georgian mansion that was on the property when they purchased the estate. Victoria spent a lot of time here throughout her life, especially after the death of Albert, as it offered a less formal private retreat away from the public eye. The sea was so blue and calm that the Prince said it was like Naples. I thought it delightful till I put my head under water, when I thought I should be stifled. It would later be a naval college and eventually opened up more and more to the public. Visitors can tour the inside of the house and see the state rooms the Durbar Room is an architectural highlight , family rooms, and special exhibitions. Outdoors visitors can explore the Swiss Cottage a playhouse for the royal children and now a museum , gardens, playgrounds, and beach. There are several spots selling food and drinks on the grounds so you can easily grab a snack or meal while you are here although note that many are closed during the winter. Desserts are particularly popular here as so many are associated with Victoria and Osborne House such as the Victoria sponge, the Battenberg cake, Beatrice cakes, and Osborne pudding. Winter is a nice time to tour the house as there are fewer visitors and special holiday decorations and events such as Victorian Christmas festivities. There are picnic tables and areas available if you want to bring along your own food. If you are visiting during summer, you may want to bring along beach gear to spend time enjoying the beach. This church is a short distance away from Osborne House and was the main place of worship for Queen Victoria and the royal family on the Isle of Wight. Visitors to the church can learn about the architecture, history, and royal family associations here. We highly recommend purchasing something from the little shop, buying a coffee, or leaving a donation to help support the church and its upkeep. During our visit, we bought a detailed map guide which was really informative. The small museum has been recently renovated and includes a series of displays that tell the history of the island from prehistoric time to present. The museum shows a collection of artifacts and photos, and has several hands-on exhibits and activities. A section of the collection covers the Victorian period and gives a good overview of life on the island at that time. The neoclassical building the museum is housed in is also notable for having been designed by famous British architect John Nash. In , the Whippingham station was opened as a private railway station near Osborne House for the private use of the Queen, the royal family, and visitors and staff coming and going from the house. From the station, arriving passengers would be transferred to horse and carriage to reach Osborne House. The Queen is known to have used the station and Isle of Wight railway on at least one occasion, the first and perhaps only being on February 13, from Whippingham to Ventnor. The Queen eventually opened up the infrequently used royal station to the public. Villagers were likely quite happy to use such a grand station. However, it was never a busy station given its isolated location and it eventually closed in Today the station has been converted into a private residence. Although Victoria may not have used the Isle of Wight railway much, she did use the railway for getting to Osborne House. After purchasing Osborne House, the royal family had its own private station at Gosport built called the Royal Victoria Station. Today visitors can visit the Isle of Wight Steam Railway to ride and learn about the railway system on the island. There are also restored carriages, a workshop, a museum, and a gift shop at the Havenstreet station to see here. There is food and snacks available during normal operating hours. Trains do not run every day, so be sure to check the schedule and it is best to book ahead if you can to avoid disappointment. Thomas Church, is one of the primary Anglican churches on the Isle of Wight. The Queen heard the story of Princess Elizabeth , the daughter of Charles 1 who was executed in , who spent much of her life as a prisoner and died probably of pneumonia at age 14 at Carisbrooke Castle. The young princess had been buried at Newport Minster in a poorly marked grave. The Queen and Prince Albert did not feel that the church at the time was in good shape or fit to house the remains of the unfortunate princess. Elizabeth Stuart died in at Carisbrooke Castle so it was over years later that Queen Victoria decided to rebuild the church in her honor. Prince Albert was there to lay the foundation stone for the

church in Queen Victoria commissioned a marble memorial to Princess Elizabeth that was made by sculptor Carlo Marochetti. Victoria presented it to the church in and two stained glass windows were also commissioned above the memorial to provide more light. There is a plaque on the memorial that reads: To the memory of The Princess Elizabeth, daughter of King Charles I, who died at Carisbrooke Castle on 8 September, and is interred beneath the chancel of this church, this monument is erected as a token of respect for her virtues and of sympathy for her misfortunes, by Victoria R. Visitors to Newport are welcome to explore the church which houses several historical items as well as the memorials to the princess and Albert. Regular worship services are held here each Sunday as well as on holidays. Her residence and frequent visits here helped increase interest in the island as well as tourism and commerce. After her death in , an elaborate memorial made by Percy Stone was erected in front of the County Club in Newport in The memorial is tall with three bronze lions near the bottom, three human figures above them, and then a Gothic tabernacle and slender spire at top. The memorial still stands in St James Square off St. James Street near the corner of High Street. Free entry for English Heritage Pass holders. It was used as a defensive castle, a royal prison Charles I was famously imprisoned here, a royal residence, and as a home for the Governors of the Isle of Wight. Queen Victoria visited the castle, and her youngest daughter Princess Beatrice used it as a part-time residence as the Governor of the Isle of Wight from until her death in Before moving into the castle, Princess Beatrice had already been involved with the castle and she helped collect much of the material for the Carisbrooke Castle Museum which opened in The museum is the only public museum in the UK founded by a member of the Royal family. We saw the very deep well ft: It is above the old gateway. August 11, The castle is now owned and operated by English Heritage and open to the public. Visitors can walk around the Norman Keep and climb the ramparts to take in the views, visit the Chapel of St. Nicholas, learn about King Charles I imprisonment, meet the resident donkeys, explore the gardens, and visit the Carisbrooke Castle Museum inside the castle. There is a tea room on site if you get hungry open seasonally and there is also a picnic area for those who want to enjoy a picnic outside. This is one of the most popular attractions on the island, so the best times to visit are in the morning near opening or later in the afternoon, especially in the summer. Great place for families as there is a lot to keep children interested and lots of outdoor spaces for them to enjoy. Starting in it was opened as a paid tourist attraction after William Colenutt excavated the present path and opened it to the public so they could walk along the ravine. It became a popular attraction in the Victorian and Edwardian eras as the Isle of Wight became known as a wellness and resort destination, bolstered in popularity by Queen Victoria taking residence on the island. I could not find any evidence that Queen Victoria walked through Shanklin Chine, but she definitely visited Shanklin. Today you can still walk along almost the same route as the Victorians and the views have not changed too much since that period. The walk is scenic and full of lush foliage probably at its best in Spring and the history here is interesting. At one end is a viewpoint where you can peer down at the main waterfall. The heritage center and exhibitions along the path give you information about the geology, the local fishing industry, smuggling, the coming of the railway, the building of the pier, Shanklin as a Victorian spa town, and the WW2 Operation PLUTO a section of the pipe is on display. The upper entrance is preferred by many visitors because then you are walking down rather than walking up. There are steep inclines and stairs, so it is not recommended for those with mobility difficulties. Open seasonally so check the opening dates and times before visiting. The sandy beach below, Shanklin Beach, is free to visit and is a good place to spend an afternoon with the family. The hotel was originally a coaching inn called Fishers Hotel and was named after its original owner John Fisher. The hotel is one of the oldest hotels on the island and is one of only about 30 establishments in the world to be listed in all of the Michelin Guides since they were first published in The hotel has an outdoor swimming pool and garden area and is within walking distance of Ventnor Beach. Today guests can stay in one of the 51 well-appointed rooms, eat at its award-winning restaurant, or have a snack or afternoon tea in the conservatory like Queen Victoria. Laurence and I had to stop for the aptly named Royal Tea which came with sandwiches, scones, and cakes served in their sunny conservatory. It was an enjoyable and yummy break in our day, and the service here was great. If you are not a guest of the hotel but would like to have afternoon tea or dinner, be sure to make a reservation in advance. Ventnor Botanic Garden Address: The hospital was visited by several

members of the royal family, including Queen Victoria at least once in Victorian times and was visited by the royal family even prior to the building of the hospital. The hospital closed in and most of the buildings were later demolished. It is so beautiful along the Undercliff, with the high rocks above. Had not been there since !! A footman had been sent on before, to prepare everything. We were received by Mr. Saunders Chairman , Mr. Coghill the chief Physician a native of Aberdeenshire. February 11, The Ventnor Botanic Garden opened in and started as an extension of the original hospital garden. Today, visitors can visit the large garden and see hundreds of plant and tree species, which include Red Hot Pokers, magnolia trees, and cacti. There is also a cafe, restaurant, plant shop, and gift shop located at the garden. In Victorian times, it was more of a scenic pleasure park and site of curiosities. It was named for the now gone coastal ravine lots of land and the beach have been lost to landslides. She noted the following in her journal about her visit: We amused ourselves picking up pebbles.

Chapter 2 : Visit Isle of Wight - Official Tourism Site

Isle of Wight Guide Things to see and do on the Isle of Wight - For an Island just 13 miles from north to south and 27 miles from east to west, the Isle of Wight offers an incredible range of things to do.

Over independent reviews of places to eat on the Island - not written by the proprietors either. The New Inn , Shalfleet is an excellent place to go for fresh, locally caught fish. It has a relaxed, traditional pub ambience and friendly service. Local ales and a wide range of wines are available to accompany your meal. You will need to book for the Baywatch at St. The other restaurants in St. Helens are good but pricey. The Pilot Boat is fine and you will not usually need to book. Vernon Cottage in Shanklin Old Village is good for lunches. Visit The Garlic Farm in Newchurch. There is a brilliant restaurant there, plus a large shop for anything garlic related! Drink[edit] The Isle of Wight has many country pubs selling food and local real ale. Adgestone Vineyard produces white wine which is used in Government state banquets when English wine is required to show off to foreign diplomats etc. Historically the local breweries were Mews, Langton at Newport and Burts at Ventnor, now both closed. Most of the ex-Mews pubs were taken over by Whitbread, but local breweries have re-opened as Goddards and Yates. There are a few Gales pubs such as the Castle in Ryde. Isle of Wight tap water is generally very good for making tea. Bottled mineral water is produced under the name "Wight Spring" from Whitwell, where it was formerly a holy well. Country pubs with food: Also any rustic character has been diluted by unsightly back extensions. The White Lion at Arreton provides a good alternative. If you want a pub with sea views and freshly cooked seafood in the middle of an estate of bungalows, try the Crab and Lobster Inn in Bembridge. Sleep[edit] There is a Travel Lodge at Newport. There are hotels at all budget levels. The Isle of Wight Tourist Board maintains a vacancy list. There are a number of farms that provide accommodation and holiday cottages. Holiday cottages are often quite difficult to book late and relatively expensive compared with the rest of England. Many pubs also provide accommodation. Saturday night in Newport Town Centre is apt to be quite rowdy and not a good place to sleep near. Budget - "Xoron" is a houseboat converted from a wartime gun-boat. It is moored at Bembridge Harbour. Helens , Farringford [Totland]. Farms- Newnham Farm, near Ryde. The Meadows offers plentiful extras including a complimentary mini bottle of wine on arrival.

Chapter 3 : Isle of Wight Travel Guide: Following the Queen Victoria Trail

The Isle of Wight enjoys its highest temperatures and lowest rainfall in the summer months, the best time for long walks and alfresco lunches. The best month to visit is July. Tourist information for Isle of Wight.

As sea levels rose, the river valley became flooded, and the chalk ridge line west of the Needles breached to form the island. At that time the sea level was much lower and carts of tin were brought across the Solent at low tide [10] [11] for export, possibly on the Ferriby Boats. Anthony Snodgrass [12] [13] suggests that a shortage of tin, as a part of the Bronze Age Collapse and trade disruptions in the Mediterranean around BC, forced metalworkers to seek an alternative to bronze. Trade however continued as evidenced by the remarkable local abundance of European Iron Age coins. From then onwards, there are indications that the island had wide trading links, with a port at Bouldnor , [22] [23] [24] evidence of Bronze Age tin trading, [11] and finds of Late Iron Age coins. The Romans built no towns or roads on the island, but the remains of at least seven Roman villas have been found, indicating the prosperity of local agriculture. In it was invaded by Caedwalla , who tried to replace the inhabitants with his own followers. In Arwald was defeated and the island became the last part of English lands to be converted to Christianity , [29] [30] [31] added to Wessex and then becoming part of England under King Alfred the Great , included within the shire of Hampshire. It suffered especially from Viking raids, [32] and was often used as a winter base by Viking raiders when they were unable to reach Normandy. Carisbrooke Priory and the fort of Carisbrooke Castle were then founded. Allegiance was sworn to FitzOsbern rather than the king; the Lordship was subsequently granted to the de Redvers family by Henry I, after his succession in For nearly years the island was a semi-independent feudal fiefdom, with the de Redvers family ruling from Carisbrooke. The final private owner was the Countess Isabella de Fortibus , who, on her deathbed in , was persuaded to sell it to Edward I. Thereafter the island was under control of the English Crown [36] and its Lordship a royal appointment. The island continued to be attacked from the continent: The French invasion on 21 July famous for the sinking of the Mary Rose on the 19th was repulsed by local militia. During , with a planned French invasion imminent , a large force of soldiers was stationed there. The French called off their invasion following the Battle of Quiberon Bay. When queen she made Osborne House her winter home, and so the island became a fashionable holiday resort, including for Alfred, Lord Tennyson , Julia Margaret Cameron , and Charles Dickens who wrote much of David Copperfield there , as well as the French painter Berthe Morisot and members of European royalty. During the Second World War the island was frequently bombed. With its proximity to German-occupied France, the island hosted observation stations and transmitters, as well as the RAF radar station at Ventnor. It was the starting-point for one of the earlier Operation Pluto pipelines to feed fuel to Europe after the Normandy landings. The show was notable both as one of the last public performances by Jimi Hendrix and for the number of attendees, reaching by some estimates , These are all variant forms of the same name, possibly Celtic in origin. It may mean "place of the division", because the island divides the two arms of the Solent. Its landscapes are diverse, leading to its oft-quoted description as "England in miniature". West Wight is predominantly rural, with dramatic coastlines dominated by the chalk downland ridge, running across the whole island and ending in the Needles stacks. The southwestern quarter is commonly referred to as the Back of the Wight , and has a unique character. The island has three principal rivers. Without human intervention the sea might well have split the island into three: The north coast is unusual in having four high tides each day, with a double high tide every twelve and a half hours. This arises because the western Solent is narrower than the eastern; the initial tide of water flowing from the west starts to ebb before the stronger flow around the south of the island returns through the eastern Solent to create a second high water. The geological structure is dominated by a large monocline which causes a marked change in age of strata from the northern younger Tertiary beds to the older Cretaceous beds of the south. This gives rise to a dip of almost 90 degrees in the chalk beds, seen best at the Needles. The northern half of the island is mainly composed of clays , with the southern half formed of the chalk of the central eastâ€”west downs, as well as Upper and Lower Greensands and Wealden strata. The chalky ridges of Wight and Purbeck were a single formation before they

were breached by waters from the River Frome during the last ice age , forming the Solent and turning Wight into an island. All the rocks found on the island are sedimentary , such as limestones , mudstones and sandstones. They are rich in fossils; many can be seen exposed on beaches as the cliffs erode. Lignitic coal is present in small quantities within seams, and can be seen on the cliffs and shore at Whitecliff Bay. The island is one of the most important areas in Europe for dinosaur fossils. The eroding cliffs often reveal previously hidden remains, particularly along the Back of the Wight. As a result, the island has been nicknamed "Dinosaur Island" and Dinosaur Isle was established in The area was affected by sea level changes during the repeated Quaternary glaciations. The island probably became separated from the mainland about , years ago, during the Ipswichian interglacial.

Chapter 4 : Isle of Wight Guide to Hotels, B&B's, Attractions and Everything Else

BOOK ON-LINE NOW Isle of Wight visitor guide on Hotels, Bed and Breakfast deals, attractions, events and places to visit. See what attractions are worth visiting, best restaurants and pubs on the Isle of Wight and much more.

Chapter 5 : Isle of Wight Ferry | Red Funnel

Why the Isle of Wight is the hottest seaside getaway right now Less of a schlep than Cornwall but hard enough to get to that it feels like a holiday, the Isle of Wight is a Londoner's summer-holiday staple.

Chapter 6 : Isle of Wight " Travel guide at Wikivoyage

Isle of Wight County is a county located in the Hampton Roads region of the U.S. state of Virginia. It was named after the Isle of Wight, in the English Channel, from where many of its early colonists had come.

Chapter 7 : Maps & Guides - Visit Isle Of Wight

Explore Isle of Wight holidays and discover the best time and places to visit. | On the Isle of Wight these days there's something groovy in the air. For decades this slab of rock anchored off Portsmouth was a magnet for family holidays, and it still has seaside kitsch by the bucket and spade.

Chapter 8 : City Guide: Isle of Wight, VA

For an island just 13 miles from north to south and 27 miles from east to west, the Isle of Wight offers an incredible range of things to do. Check out our events listing and detailed guide of places to visit and things to do to suit all ages.

Chapter 9 : Isle of Wight Food and Drink Guide - Great British Chefs

Visit the Isle of Wight The Isle of Wight is beautiful all year round. Whether its a walk in the countryside or along a beach, the Island is great for family breaks and weekend getaways to England's Garden Isle.