

Peel Harbour

# Isle of Man

## The Extraordinary Isle

Welcome to the Isle of Man – a captivating gem in the Irish Sea, where timeless charm meets modern adventure. Perfectly positioned in the heart of the British Isles, the island offers cruise visitors a rare blend of accessibility and authenticity. Nestled between England, Ireland, Scotland, and Wales, the Isle of Man is

a natural stopover on British and Northern European itineraries, with seamless port access and efficient tendering options.

Despite its compact size—just 30 miles long by 10 miles wide—the Isle of Man delivers a rich tapestry of experiences. Cruise visitors can explore rugged coastlines, lush countryside, and vibrant towns steeped in Celtic and Viking heritage. From ancient castles and the world's largest working waterwheel, vintage steam railways, artisan distilleries, every excursion offers a glimpse into the island's unique character.

As the world's first entire nation designated a UNESCO Biosphere, the Isle of Man is committed to sustainability and preserving its natural beauty. With engaging shore excursions, a calendar full of cultural events, and the warm welcome of the Manx people, the island promises cruise visitors unforgettable memories and a truly distinctive destination experience.

The Island has long been a popular port of call for cruise liners, with a choice of anchorages on our picturesque coastline, from the sweeping Victorian promenade of Douglas to a dock alongside the ancient fortress, Peel Castle.

We have an experienced and dedicated team in place with a wealth of local knowledge to co-ordinate your arrangements and ensure your passengers and crew have an unforgettable experience in the Isle of Man.

## Top Five Facts Extraordinary Facts About the Isle of Man

1. The Isle of Man is home to the oldest continuous parliament in the world – Tynwald. Dating back over 1,000 years, Tynwald is a living symbol of the island's deep-rooted democratic tradition. Its annual open-air sitting on takes place on Tynwald Day (July 5th).
2. The Isle of Man has many hills but only one mountain – Snaefell, standing at 2,036 feet (621 metres). From its summit, on a clear day, visitors are said to see seven kingdoms: the Isle of Man, England, Ireland, Scotland, Wales, the sea, and Heaven.
3. The Isle of Man is home to the largest working waterwheel in the world – the Great Laxey Wheel, also known as Lady Isabella. Built in 1854 to pump water from the Laxey Mines, this iconic engineering marvel has a diameter of 22 metres (72 feet 6 inches).
4. The Isle of Man TT Races – short for Tourist Trophy – are world-famous motorcycle races held annually on the island. The races are over 100 years old and the course spans 37¾ miles (60.7 km) of public roads, which are closed for the event. The fastest competitors complete the circuit in just 18 minutes, reaching speeds of up to 200 mph (322 km/h).
5. The Royal National Lifeboat Institution (RNLI) was founded in 1824 by Sir William Hillary, a resident of the Isle of Man.

## Experience Isle of Man

### Douglas City Centre

The Isle of Man's capital, offers cruise passengers a vibrant and easily walkable city centre just moments from the port. With its elegant Victorian architecture, charming quayside and scenic promenade, Douglas blends seaside charm with modern convenience. Visitors can stroll or ride the historic horse-drawn tram along the seafront, visit the Bee Gees statue, explore the Manx Museum and Gaiety Theatre, and shop along the main retail street—all within close proximity. The city also features a wide selection of cafés, bars, and restaurants serving fresh local produce. As a transport hub, Douglas connects passengers to the island's heritage railways, public bus network, and cultural landmarks.
**Link:**

## Castletown

Step back in time with a visit to Castletown, the Isle of Man's ancient capital. Cruise visitors can travel to the south of the island aboard a Victorian steam train, enjoying a scenic journey through the countryside. At the heart of Castletown lies Castle Rushen, one of the best-preserved medieval castles in Europe, where interactive exhibits bring centuries of history to life. The town is also home to the Nautical Museum, Old House of Keys and Old Grammar School. With its cobbled streets, charming harbour, and welcoming cafés, Castletown offers a rich and authentic Manx experience just a short ride from Douglas.
**Link:** https://www.visitisleofman.com/experience/a-walk-around-castletown-p1316911

## Cregneash

Discover the charm of Cregneash and the natural beauty of The Sound, two unforgettable highlights in the south of the Isle of Man. Cruise visitors can travel by Victorian steam train, coach, or taxi to this picturesque region, where Cregneash village offers a living illustration of traditional Manx life. Visitors can explore thatched cottages, meet rare native animals like four-horned sheep and tailless Manx cats. Just a short walk away, The Sound provides breathtaking views across the Irish Sea and the Calf of Man, a nature reserve teeming with seals, seabirds, and marine life. With coastal footpaths and a welcoming café, this area offers a peaceful and enriching experience for nature lovers and culture seekers alike.
**Link:** https://manxnationalheritage.im/our-sites/cregneash/

## Snaefell

The Snaefell Mountain Railway offers cruise visitors a truly unique journey to the Isle of Man's highest point, Snaefell, at 2,036 feet above sea level. Operating since 1895, this is the only electric mountain railway in the British Isles, running from Laxey to the summit over a scenic 5-mile route. Along the way, passengers enjoy panoramic views of the Laxey Valley, the Great Laxey Wheel, and even cross the famous TT racecourse at The Bungalow. At the summit, on a clear day, it's said you can see seven kingdoms: the Isle of Man, England, Ireland, Scotland, Wales, the sea, and heaven. With onboard guides, summit café facilities, and connections to the Manx Electric Railway, this experience offers a blend of heritage, nature, and breathtaking vistas.
**Link:**
https://www.iombusandrail.im/heritage/events-and-experiences/isle-of-man-year-of-the-railways-2023/

## Peel

Peel, located on the west coast of the Isle of Man, is a charming seaside town rich in history and culture. Cruise visitors can explore the impressive Peel Castle, perched dramatically on St Patrick's Isle, and enjoy a self-guided tour through its medieval ruins. The town's House of Manannan museum offers an immersive journey through the island's Celtic, Viking, and maritime heritage. Peel's picturesque harbour, bustling promenade, and sandy beach make it a perfect spot for a relaxing stroll, a seafood lunch at one of its local cafés or to enjoy a locally produced ice cream. With nearby attractions like Corrin's Tower and the Island's only Cathedral, Peel offers a rewarding and authentic Manx experience just a short journey from Douglas.
**Link:** https://www.peelonline.net/whats-on/museums/

## Laxey

Laxey is a picturesque village nestled in a deep valley on the Isle of Man's east coast, offering cruise visitors a rich blend of heritage, engineering marvels, and scenic beauty. The village is home to the iconic Great Laxey Wheel—the largest working waterwheel in the world—built in 1854 to pump water from the local mines. Visitors can climb to the top for panoramic views of the Laxey Valley and explore the Laxey Mines Trail for a glimpse into the island's industrial past. The Woollen Mills, a thriving hub of creativity and heritage producing sustainable artisan tweeds and Manx wool, is a perfect opportunity to pick up gifts and keepsakes. Laxey is also the starting point connection for the Snaefell Mountain Railway, which takes passengers to the island's highest peak. With charming cafés, artisan shops, stunning beachfront, and easy access via the Manx Electric Railway, Laxey makes for a memorable experience.

**Link:** https://www.visitlaxeyvalley.com/

### Walking
The Isle of Man is a walker's paradise! Whether cruise guests are stepping ashore for a few hours or spending the day, the island offers a rich tapestry of scenic trails, coastal paths, and charming towns—all within easy reach of the port. A highlight for walking enthusiasts is the Raad ny Foillan (Manx for "Way of the Gull"), a 100-mile coastal footpath that encircles the island. While completing the full trail takes several days, visitors can enjoy selected sections as part of an excursion or a self-guided walk. From gentle strolls along Douglas promenade to invigorating hikes with panoramic views, walking is one of the best ways to experience the Isle of Man's natural beauty.
**Link:**

### Heritage
Cruise visitors will step ashore into a land rich with history and tradition—where ancient castles, Victorian railways, and Celtic roots come together to tell the story of the Isle of Man. From the moment passengers arrive, they're invited to explore a unique cultural heritage shaped by Norse settlers, maritime trade, and centuries of independence. Whether visiting the medieval fortress of Castle Rushen, riding the Manx Electric Railway, Steam Train, Horse Tram, or discovering the island's folklore at the Manx Museum and House of Manannan, the Isle of Man offers a unique journey through time.
**Link:**

### Golf
The Isle of Man offers cruise visitors a rewarding golfing experience with nine scenic and well-maintained courses across the island. Among them, Castletown Golf Links stands out as a premier championship links course, set on a dramatic peninsula surrounded by the sea. Visiting players can hire equipment, including clubs, trolleys, and buggies, making it an ideal activity for golf enthusiasts of all levels.
**Link:**

### Political History
Cruise Visitors can discover the Isle of Man's fascinating political heritage—home to Tynwald, the oldest continuous parliament in the world. With roots dating back over 1,000 years to Viking times, the island's unique system of self-governance has shaped its identity and independence through the centuries. Visitors can explore this rich legacy through visits to historic sites like Tynwald Hill, where laws are still proclaimed annually, and the Legislative Buildings in Douglas. The Isle of Man's political story offers a compelling glimpse into a proud tradition of democracy, resilience, and cultural distinctiveness.
**Link:**

## Port Info

**Time zone :** GMT
**Operational Hours :** 24hrs
**Latitude and Longtitude :** 54° 08′.7N – 04° 28′.2W
**Prevailing weather :** Winds: SW
**Anchorage position :** Douglas Head: 212° x 0.8′ 14mtr depth.
**Distance to landing stage :** Max 15mins by ship's launch
**Berth information :** Victoria Pier outside – protected with vertical & Yokohama fenders
**Vessel length :** 140mtr up to 155mtr in certain cases
**Vessel width :** No restriction
**Air draft :** No restriction

**Vessel draft :** 6.0mtr depending on size of the vessel
**Depth on berth :** 5.5m – tidal range 8.3m above ACD
**Pilotage :** Available but not complusory
**Tugboat :** An 8T bollard pull tug is available
**Security facilities :** Fully ISPS compliant
**Gangway :** Shore gangways available
**Fresh water :** Connection on Victoria Pier
**Power supply :** No
**Hot works / painting/ lifeboats :** With prior approval of port authority
**Waste handling :** Yes – Garbage skips can be provided at the pier

## Facilities

**Cruise Terminal Building :** There is a passenger lounge with comfortable seating, rest rooms, Costa Coffee outlet, WH Smith, retail pods, Cruise Welcome Pod and Tourist Information Welcome Desk with advisers who can assist with maps, advice, ticket sales, transport etc.
**Currency exchange :** The Isle of Man Post Office branches in Douglas, Ramsey, Port Erin and Peel offer currency exchange and are open Monday to Saturday.
**Internet access :** Free WiFi at sea terminal building
**Telephones :** Not available
**Mailbox :** There is a letter post box and parcel drop point in the terminal building.
**Taxi rank :** A taxi rank is located outside the terminal building. Private taxis can also be booked at the Welcome Centre in the terminal building.
**Distance to railway station :** The Steam Railway station and nearest Horse Tram stop is a 15 minute walk from the terminal building whilst the Electric Tram station is 2700m (36 minute walk).
**Banks / ATM machines :** There are bank branches in Douglas city centre (10 min walk) and two ATM machines outside the terminal building.
**Restaurant / Cafe :** There is a Costa Coffee (café) inside the terminal building and numerous bars, restaurants and cafes nearby in the city centre and on the quayside which are within walking distance from the terminal building.

## Further Information & Contacts

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