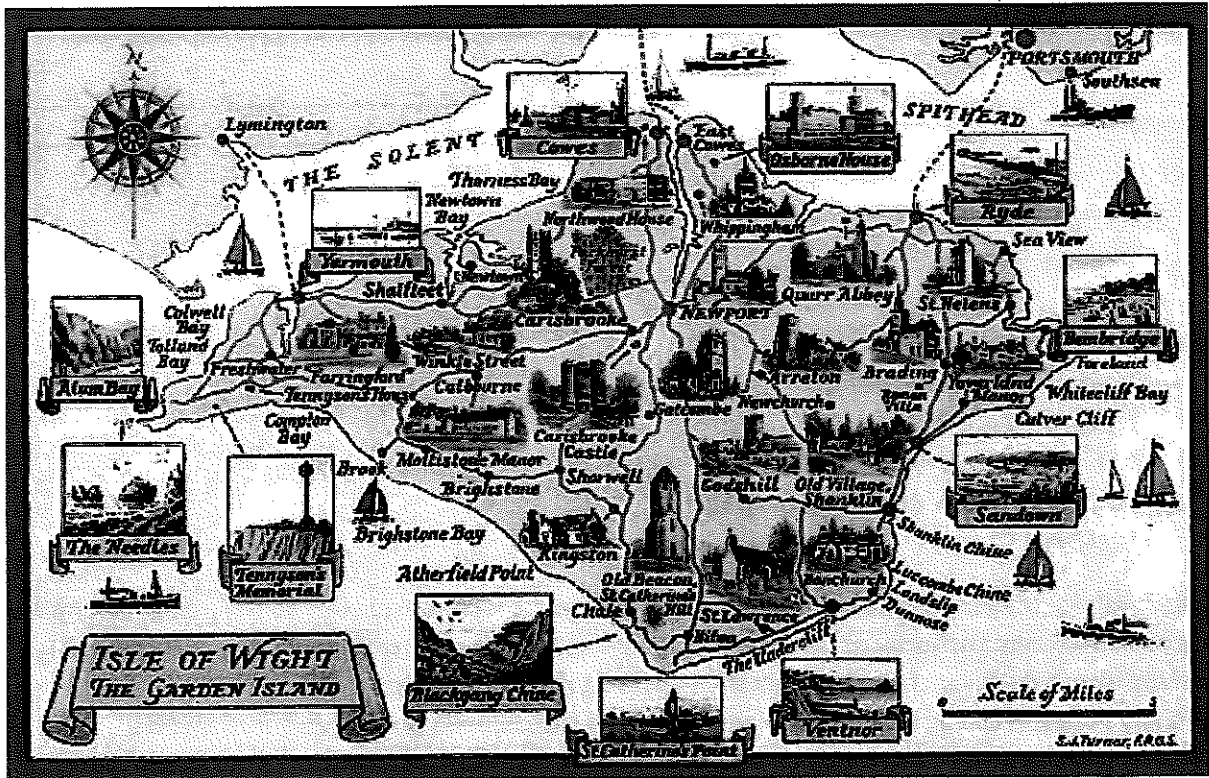


WELCOME

TO THE ISLE

OF WIGHT



Isle of Wight Towns

The capital of the Isle of Wight, Newport, lies at the heart of the island and is the main shopping centre and location for the Isle of Wight Festival.

Known as the "Town on the Beach", Ryde is the largest of the Isle of Wight towns and boasts boutique and independent shops and cafes set on an expanse of sandy beach.

South of Ryde is one of the Isle of Wight's oldest towns, Brading, set in an area of outstanding natural beauty and perhaps best known for its roman villa.

The popular Isle of Wight town of Sandown is a traditional seaside resort with long stretches of beach and a Victorian pier, ideal for families with young children and home to Dinosaur Isle.

Shanklin lies to the south of Sandown and is famed for its beautiful beaches and sub-tropical gardens alongside years of seaside tradition.

On the south coast lies the charming town of Ventnor, a Victorian health resort set on a hill with vintage shops and a sheltered beach.

The west coast of the island is known as West Wight and includes the ancient port town of Yarmouth.

Last but not least, Cowes on the north coast, an historic town split by the River Medina and internationally famed for its sailing events.

CENTRAL WIGHT

Newport

- St Thomas Church
- Valentine Gray's walk
- Carisbrooke Castle
- Robin Hill Country Park
- Museum of Island History
- Quay Arts Centre
- Newport Roman Villa
- Newport: Farmer's Market on Friday
- Godshell

Newport is the shopping centre of the Isle of Wight and considered by most to be the Islands capital. Here you will find the majority of the large high street shops and supermarkets as well as some local boutique shops, delis, butchers and craft shops. The town square holds a regular **farmers market on a Friday** where you can pick up Island produce from cheese and relishes to salad, fruit and vegetables.

As well as being a great place for shops the town is packed with interesting places to visit such as the **Quay Arts Centre**, **Museum of Island History** and the **Newport Roman Villa** all of which are within

walking distance of the town centre, dotted around the town you will also find some places of historical interest and modern sculptures.

For those wanting to enjoy the lively town for a holiday or simply over on business there are a number of Bed and Breakfasts in Newport along with Hotels and some great self-catering town houses and cottages.

The town is also home to the Isle of Wight Music Festival which takes place every year in Seaclose park attracting thousands of visitors over the course of 4 days. The town is also full of some great bars and restaurants making it a great destination for the evening. For entertainment you will find a multi-screen cinema, two thriving theatres the **Medina** and **Apollo** and host a number of fairs and events throughout the year.

Further out from the town you will find the **Owl & Monkey Haven** and towards the East you will find **Robin Hill Adventure Park and Gardens** both of which are great places to take the kids for a day out.

The Islands main bus station can be found on Nelson Road, from here you can catch a bus to almost anywhere on Island making it a great base from which to explore the many attractions the Isle of Wight has to offer.

Part of the 8 Wonders of the Isle of Wight originally found on a series of postcards 'Newport you cannot bottle'

Newport Tourist Information Point

- **Isle of Wight Tourist Information Centres**

IW County Press Shop 123 Pyle Street

Newport

Isle Of Wight

PO30 1ST

Open All Year

- **Quay Arts Centre**

15 Sea Street

Newport Harbour

Newport

Isle Of Wight

PO30 5BD

Open All Year

Shanklin. The largest town on the Isle of Wight and its shops are some of the most varied, with plenty of pubs, cafes and restaurants to choose from when you finish your long day's shopping.

There are a number of great hotels to choose from as well as some smaller friendly bed and breakfasts and boutique guest accommodation, along the front and in the main town you will find a number of apartments and town houses for those looking for a self-catering holiday in Ryde.

Situated just outside of Ryde is **Quarr Abbey** which is home to a small group of Benedictine monks who strive to dedicate their lives to the glory of God, the Abbey is open to visitors and has a lovely cafe with picturesque gardens to enjoy as well as a gallery showing local artistry.

Appley beach is one of the Island's most popular sandy beaches. Its wide expanse of fine golden sand is backed by small cafes, beach shops, play areas and a 9-hole pitch and putt course. A road train takes visitors from the Esplanade to Puckpool park, passing Appley Tower, a 19th Century folly and one of the most famous landmarks. In recent years Appley beach has become a popular venue for the sport of beach football.

Ryde Fact File

Ryde Pier is a listed structure which is the fourth longest pier in the United Kingdom, and also the oldest • The church of St. Mary's was built in 1846 and was designed by Joseph Hansom, inventor of the hansom cab • Ryde is noted for its carnivals, and its main procession is the oldest in England. There are five throughout the year – an Arts Parade in June; Children's, Main and Illuminated processions at the end of August and a Lantern Parade in December • Ryde Carnival remains the Island's largest, with local crowds and mainland visitors totalling in excess of 50,000 spectators • The movie director Anthony Minghella was born in Ryde in 1954. The Island's Minghella Film Festival is named in his honour.

Part of the 8 Wonders of the Isle of Wight originally found on a series of postcards 'Ryde where you walk.'

Ryde Tourist Information Point

Isle of Wight Tourist Information Centres

Kollective Gifts

10 Esplanade

Ryde

Isle Of Wight

PO33 2DY

Open All Year

South East

- Sandown
- Shanklin
- The chine in Shanklin
- Ventnor
- Bonchurch
- St Lawrence
- Whitecliff Bay
- Walk from Ventnor to Bonchurch
- Walk from Bonchurch to Shanklin
- Walk from Shanklin to Sandown (or vice versa)
- Walk from Sandown Bay to Yaverland

Sandown

Sandown sits on the Southern coast of the Isle of Wight, sheltered in a beautiful bay, and is famed for its long stretches of golden sandy beach and the traditional British seafront and pier.

Sandown also has a great selection of attractions, including a Zoo housed in an old fort and a purpose built interactive Dinosaur Museum.

Things to Do in Sandown

Sandown has lots of things to do for people of all ages and interests.

You can relax and spend quality time strolling along Sandown Beach followed by an ice cream or refreshments at one of the licensed beach cafés.

The main town beach stretches all the way along the Esplanade where it meets with Yaverland Beach, which is regarded as one of the Isle of Wight's best beaches.

Yaverland is very popular for watersports, and there are a number of local water sports centres from which you can test your skills at windsurfing, kayaking or many other activities.

With one of the highest concentrations of dinosaur fossils anywhere in the world, the Isle of Wight has been dubbed "Dinosaur Island". You can also visit the Dinosaur museum to explore more of the Isle of Wight's dinosaur history.

One of the town's most well-known features is the traditional Sandown Pier.

There is a range of traditional amusements and arcade games, with bowling, crazy golf and cafes to keep adults and children entertained for hours.

Further along the seafront the Isle of Wight Zoo is one of the Island's leading animal attractions, with everything from Lions and Tigers to Meer Kats and Monkeys, and a short distance outside of Sandown town is Amazon World which also has a huge range of animals.

Places to Eat in Sandown

There are some good pubs and restaurants selling a range of different cuisines, and if you travel just outside of the town there are also a number of highly respected eateries, such as the Garlic Farm Café at Newchurch

Events in Sandown

Sandown hosts one of the oldest carnivals which dates back to 1889, and it is also one of the most well-known on the Isle of Wight.

With day processions and an illuminated evening event the Sandown carnival usually takes place during the months of July and August.

With its rich dinosaur and fossil hunting territories there are also a number of Fossil Hunts taking place regularly at Sandown.

West Wight and South West

- Westover Downs

Westover Down is a chalk down on the Isle of Wight. It is located close to the village of Brook, in the southwest of the island, and rises to 205 metres at its highest point, northeast of the village

From Yarmouth to Freshwater

- Yarmouth Castle
- Tapnell Farm Park
- The Needles Breezer. The Needles
- Totland Bay for swimming and incredible sunsets, and Colwell Bay
- Tennyson's walk: Tennyson Monument
- The Old and New Batteries
- Fort Victoria Model Railway
- Sunken Secrets
- Island Planetarium
- Fort Victoria Marine Aquarium
- Yarmouth Pier
- Yarmouth to Freshwater Estuary Walk
- Coastal walk from Yarmouth to the Needles
- Yarmouth Carnival
- Dimbola Museum and Gallery
- Freshwater Bay
- Walk from Brighstone to Niton
- St Catherine's point
- Mottistone Manor

Yarmouth

Yarmouth town is located on the North-West of the Isle of Wight, and acts as one of the gateways to the Island with one of the main ferry services operating from its harbour.

The historic port town sits at the mouth of the River Yar and contains some of the oldest architecture on the Isle of Wight, including a 16th Century castle.

Things To Do in Yarmouth

The harbour at Yarmouth is always very busy with both ferries and smaller boats, and the town itself offers a good variety of things to do for visitors.

The history of the town is very evident as you walk round and a trip along the Grade 2 listed pier is highly recommended for views across The Solent, and is also known locally for being a great spot for fishing.

Yarmouth Castle, which is tucked away to the side of the ferry dock, is also a great place for sea views and family picnics during the warmer months.

Other popular pastimes are walks and exploring in the local area with two "Sites of Special Scientific Interest" nearby, the estuary of the River Yar and Bouldnor and Hamstead to the East of the town.

There is a road bridge over the river estuary which heads out of the town, and a short distance along is Fort Victoria, a Victorian gun battery which now houses a number of local attractions.

It is also set in a beautiful country park, with some spectacular coastline, making it another good spot to explore.

Events in Yarmouth

The Yarmouth Gaffers Festival is one of the longest running events on the Isle of Wight, and celebrated its 50th anniversary in 2013.

Just to the East of Yarmouth the Rhythmtree World Music Festival takes place at Shalfleet. During July. Rhythmtree is quickly establishing itself as one of the best new music festivals in the UK and attracts artists from all over the globe.

Ventnor

- Ventnor Botanic Gardens
- Ventnor Heritage Museum
- Owl and Falconry Centre
- Isle of Wight Donkey Sanctuary
- Blackgang Chine
- Ventnor beach
- Steephill Cove
- Ventnor Fringe
- Appuldurcombe House
- St Lawrence Old Church

- St Boniface Down
- Bonchurch to Ventnor walk
- The Pepperpot
- St Catherine's Lighthouse
- Ventnor Country Market on Friday

Ventnor - Gateway to the Undercliff

Ventnor is a Victorian seaside town situated on the southern side of the Isle of Wight, right in the heart of the famed Undercliff, much of which is designated as an area of outstanding natural beauty.

Sheltered from the north by the national trust owned St Boniface Downs, Ventnor benefits from its own micro climate. This climate provides an ideal haven for a variety of flora and fauna, many species of which are only found in Mediterranean countries.

Ventnor town's crest bears the figure of Hygeia, the goddess of health, who serves to remind us that, since Victorian times, many visitors have benefited from the revitalizing and restorative properties that this micro climate offers.

Visitors to Ventnor will find a great variety of established local shops, restaurants, public houses and holiday accommodation. All provide a friendly service both to their local community and its visitors. Many serve local freshly caught fish and locally brewed ales. The town is currently undergoing a revival with exciting developments including its harbour and off-shore deep sea moorings and a range of new accommodation, restaurants and retail outlets.

To the east of the parish of Ventnor lies the village of Bonchurch renowned for its literary connections. Writers and poets such as Dickens, Stackpole and Swinburn all resided here for a time.

To the west lies St. Lawrence nestling in the Undercliff. Here there are many miles of coastal walks, bays and places of interest to explore.

For excellent bed and breakfast accommodation overlooking the beach and boat haven, one of the best hotels in Ventnor is the Harbour View Hotel. The hotel has seven rooms, all with sea views, including some rooms with spectacular views over the sea.

..."the prettiest place I ever saw in my life, at home or abroad" - Charles Dickens

North Wight

- Cowes
- Osborne House
- Gurnard and Gurnard Bay
- Thorness Bay
- Newtown National Nature Reserve
- Newtown Wetlands and Bird Hide

Cowes

- Northwood Park
- St Mary's Church
- Floating Bridge
- The Wight Military and Heritage Museum
- Cowes Ale House
- Sir Max Aitken Museum
- Royal Yacht Squadron Castle (only from outside)
- Rosetta Cottage

Cowes Town & East Cowes

Famed for its professional [sailing](#), stunning Victorian architecture and vibrant festival atmosphere, Cowes is one of the most popular [towns](#) on the Isle of Wight. As the summer arrives and sailors migrate to this sailing capital, [Cowes](#) bursts to life with holidaymakers, sailors from across the globe and local people looking to enjoy to friendly, summer atmosphere of the Island's northernmost town.

But it's not just the summer time when Cowes is a great place to visit. There are [events](#) and [attractions](#) open throughout the year that will keep the whole family entertained. In East Cowes lies Queen Victoria's favourite holiday home, [Osborne House](#). Take a short trip from West Cowes to East via the floating bridge (chain ferry) and make your way up through the town to witness Prince Albert's stunning garden design and architecture that influenced the rest of Cowes' designers and builders.

Start your Isle of Wight holiday in Cowes and enjoy the relaxed, Island atmosphere of this nautical town.

Keep scrolling to find out about some great things to do whilst you're here, beautifully presented [accommodation](#) and places to enjoy a bite to eat by the sea.

Cowes maritime museum

This small maritime museum is packed with local maritime history – everything from shipbuilding to sailing. Consistently popular with visitors of all kinds, it's well worth a visit.

Northwood park

The grounds of the beautiful and historic Northwood House, which is now a function and wedding venue, are available to wander through all year round. Dog walkers, picnickers and ramblers are welcome to stroll through the gorgeous gardens and take a break from the hustle and bustle of the town centre.

Sailing & beyond

For those wanting to join in the sailing buzz, there are plenty of charter companies that hire out ribs, boats and yachts. Cowes is also one of the most popular shopping destinations on the Isle of Wight, thanks to its plethora of boutique stores, specialist nautical shops and quirky gift shops along the pedestrianised High Street. The Parade is a fabulous place to take a stroll along to the nearby beautiful village of Gurnard. **Gurnard is a great place to take a picnic and watch the sunset over the rows of beach huts into the sea.**