

# 7 Night Isle of Wight Walking with Sightseeing Holiday

**Trip style:** Walking with sightseeing

**Destination:** 📍 Isle of Wight

**Trip code:** FRW07-WOD01

**Grades:** 1

**Carbon Footprint:** 🌱 160kg CO2



## HOLIDAY OVERVIEW

These holidays offer a perfect mix of short, guided walks (4-5 miles), combined with time spent sightseeing. Visit a selection of standout highlights in the Isle of Wight with hassle-free coach travel and the help of an HF Holidays Leader.

## WHAT YOU'LL LOVE

- Visiting Carisbrooke Castle, a superb motte-and-bailey castle
- Discovering Brading Roman Villa
- Exploring Ventnor Botanic Gardens
- Riding the Isle of Wight Steam Railway
- The views over Alum Bay and The Needles
- Staying in our seafront country house on Freshwater Bay

## WHAT'S INCLUDED

- Ride on the Isle of Wight Steam Railway
- Comfortable en-suite accommodation in our country house
- Cream tea on arrival day
- Cooked or continental breakfast every morning
- Daily packed lunches
- Three-course evening meals, plus tea & coffee
- Guided walks and sightseeing visits with an experienced HF Holidays Leader
- All transport to and from walks and sites of interest
- Easy-to-follow routes, maps, and information in our Discovery Point if you want to explore independently
- Get 15% off car travel and 20% off foot travel via [www.wightlink.co.uk/HFHolidays](http://www.wightlink.co.uk/HFHolidays)

**Please note** - Entrance fees are not included. See Essential Info tab for details.

## TRIP SUITABILITY

This trip is graded Activity Level 1. The walking is on good paths generally. Walks are up to 5½ (9km) with 900 feet (280m) of ascent.

## ITINERARY

### **Day 1:** Arrival Day

Check-in at the hotel is available from 16:00. If you are a member you can arrive at the house from 14:00. Enjoy a complimentary cream tea at 16:30 and meet other guests.

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### **Day 2:** Compton Down and Mottistone Manor

Distance: 5 miles (7.5km) Ascent: 700 feet (220m) In summary: Our walk takes us along part of the Isle of Wight Coast Path, to join the Tennyson Trail up on Compton Down. Fantastic views as we follow the chalk ridge, the backbone of the island. Our walk ends at the enchanting gardens at Mottistone Manor. The beautiful gardens here make the perfect place to enjoy the afternoon.

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### **Day 3:** Carisbrooke Castle

Distance: 4 miles (6.5km) Ascent: 400 feet (120m) In summary: A start high on Bowcombe Down, gives us fine views out to the north and over to the mainland. Our walk takes us to the romantic Carisbrooke Castle, once the prison of Charles I. We've the afternoon to walk the battlements, explore the Princess Beatrice Garden, maybe enjoy a cream tea, and to take in a demonstration by the castle's famous residents - the donkeys, as they work the ancient waterwheel.

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### **Day 4:** Free Day

Discover more about Freshwater Bay House and the local area for ideas on how to fill your free day.

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### **Day 5:** Godshill, Appuldurcombe House and Ventnor Botanic Gardens

Distance: 5½ miles (8.5km) Ascent: 800 feet (240m) In Summary: We start in the village of Godshill with a visit to its model village and garden, before beginning our walk to the romantic Appuldurcombe House, one of the grandest, most elegant houses on the island. Time to explore here before we continue our walk down to the Undercliff and Ventnor Botanic Gardens, with its fabulous collection of exotic and subtropical plants.

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### **Day 6:** Isle of Wight Steam Railway and Roman Villa

Distance: 3½ miles (5km) Ascent: 300 feet (100m) In Summary: After an exploration of the museum and workshops of the Isle of Wight steam railway at Havenstreet, we take a ride on this heritage line to the beginning of our walk at Ashley station. Quiet countryside trails take us up onto Brading Down for fabulous views, before we drop down and continue to Brading Roman Villa, finishing our day with a visit to one of the best-preserved Roman sites in the UK

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### **Day 7:** Alum Bay, the Needles and the Downs

Distance: 4 miles (6.5km) Ascent: 800 feet (260m) In summary: We begin by exploring Alum Bay, with its famous coloured sands, then on to visit The Needles Old Battery. We walk onto West High Down, with superb views to the

mainland as we gradually descend to the Replica Beacon and up to the Tennyson Monument. We then enjoy the wonderful descent of Tennyson Down, offering magnificent views over the western half of the island.

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**Day 8:** Departure Day

Enjoy a leisurely breakfast before making your way home.

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## Freshwater Bay House

Chalky white cliffs and eyebrow-arching sea views set the tone for the delights that follow at this county house on the Isle of Wight - Queen Victoria's favourite island that's just a ferry hop from the South Coast. The location is as gorgeous as it gets; to the south of the village of Freshwater, within pebble-throwing distance of its namesake bay, and just a skip from Tennyson Down. You'll also be within easy reach of the area's showstoppers, including the imposing Stag and Mermaid rocks, the multi-coloured sands of Alum Bay, the remarkable Ventnor Botanic Gardens, and the 125-million-year-old dinosaur footprints at Compton Bay. And then, of course, there's the Needles Old Battery for the ubiquitous photo opportunity and the best views of The Needles.

### A warm welcome

We want you to feel comfortable from the moment you arrive. You'll find a welcome pack in your room with guest registration forms, menus, order forms for dinners and picnic lunches, the Wi-Fi password, and the front door code. Our houses are locked at night, so we recommend noting the Duty Manager's number on arrival in case of an emergency (or getting locked out).

### Evening entertainment

While evening entertainment varies from house to house, HF Holidays Inter-House Quiz night held after dinner on Wednesdays is a weekly staple. Your HF Holidays leader may be around for tips on guided and self-guided walking routes as well as visit-worthy local attractions.

### Walks talks

Our HF Holidays walk leaders host guided walking information briefings before dinner on guided walking holiday arrival days. This is followed by a group Walks Talk for information on the following day's guided walks (held before dinner every evening). Self-guided walking guests are, of course, welcome.

### The walking day

Prior to setting off on guided walks, your HF Holidays Leader will run you through a short safety briefing. There's also an up-to-date weather forecast on display at the house to ensure you have appropriate clothing and footwear. If you choose to do your own walks or are on a self-guided walking holiday, we ask that you please complete an Independent Walker Card each day. These can be found near the Discovery Point in the house.

### Walking safety - SHARED WITH ALL

Walks may be changed for safety reasons and are subject to a maximum and minimum number of guests. Leaders always consider the safety of the group as a whole, and may need to alter or curtail the walk if the conditions dictate. Your leader may refuse to accept a guest where clothing, equipment or behaviour is unsuitable. In the event of a problem all leaders carry a mobile phone, first aid kit, group shelter, spare maps and a compass. Please note: If you choose to leave the group your leader is no longer responsible for you. If you have a particular health condition or disability please put this on your guest registration form. This information will be confidential to your leaders and the house manager, but leaders do need to take account of any issues when planning walks. Please carry a copy of these trip notes with you, or note down the contact phone number for your accommodation (details in the travel section) should you need them in case of emergency.

## Packing list - UK Guided Walking

The UK has a famously unpredictable climate so it's best to be prepared for weather that's sunny one minute and raining the next. To make it easier, here's a list of items you should consider packing. Essentials Suitable footwear such as waterproof walking boots that provide ankle support and good grip Waterproof and windproof jacket Comfortable clothing (jeans & waterproof capes are not suitable) Mid-layer(s) to keep you warm. Fleeces make a good choice Waterproof overtrousers Gloves and a warm hat Rucksack with waterproof liner Flask for hot drinks Water bottle (at least 1 litre capacity) Sunscreen UV sunglasses For holidays operating October through to the end of March, please also bring the following on your walks: spare warm clothing spare high energy food head torch and spare batteries please note for the October to March season your waterproof jacket needs to offer a high level of waterproofing and wind resistance, and a hood. Look for a waterproof jacket with sealed/taped seams and a minimum HH (hydrostatic head - this is the rating given on waterproof jackets) of 10,000mm+ Recommended Several base layers (long-sleeve or short-sleeve) Cushioned walking socks to avoid blisters First aid kit, including plasters and insect repellent Sit mat Waterproof pouch for valuables Rubbish bag (remember to always leave no trace) Wallet/purse Camera Walking poles

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