

4 Night Isle of Wight Christmas & New Year Self-Guided Walking Holiday

Trip style: Self-guided walking

Destination: 📍 Isle of Wight

Trip code: FRW04-PXA03

Grades: ul 1, 2 & 3

Carbon Footprint: 🌱 84kg CO2



HOLIDAY OVERVIEW

Celebrate the festive season on the Isle of Wight where milder weather makes winter walks along the famous chalk cliffs all the merrier. And when you're not out enjoying all the island's delights, get cosy in our sea-facing country house at Freshwater Bay. We pull out all the stops at this time of year and our houses welcome you with a sprinkling of festive cheer, fresh, seasonal food, and plenty of yuletide treats. So wrap up warm and step into Christmas with

HF Holidays.

WHAT YOU'LL LOVE

- Getting into the festive spirit with a self-guided walking holiday
- Staying in our clifftop country house overlooking Freshwater Bay
- Heading out on your choice of winter walks
- The easy-to-follow routes and maps available in our Discovery Point
- Discovering the stunning landscapes of Isle of Wight on foot
- A celebration dinner with all the trimmings on Christmas Day and New Year's Eve

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- En-suite accommodation in our 4-star country house
- Cream tea on arrival day
- Cooked or continental breakfast every morning
- Daily packed lunches
- Three-course evening meals, plus tea & coffee
- Easy-to-follow routes, maps, and information available in our Discovery Point if you want to explore independently

TRIP SUITABILITY

This trip is graded Activity Level 1, 2 and 3.

Get to know the area using our **Discovery Point** at Freshwater Bay -the starting point for your outdoor adventure. You'll find:

- Our recommended walking and cycling routes - detailed route notes for you to borrow
- Comprehensive library of local maps and guidebooks
- Ideas and contacts for more active options such as watersports and mountain biking
- A daily weather forecast

When you're not walking, there's plenty to do locally. Why not explore the island by bike, visit Queen Victoria's Osborne House, or just spend the day at the beach. See the 'Local Area' tab for further ideas.

Detailed walking notes: all our walking notes contain detailed directions, route maps, and information about the places of interest on the route.

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.

Day 2-4: Laid-back walks (Walking Grades 1-2)

Our easiest selection means walking at a relaxed pace, often stopping and spending time at places of interest along the way. Some are circular walks that start and end on the doorstep of our country house; others make use of local transport whilst remaining close to the property. The walks you'll find in our Discovery Point at Freshwater Bay range from 2.5 to 4 miles and visit popular areas such as Yarmouth, Alum Bay, and St Catherine's Down.

Day 2-4: Leg-stretcher walks (Walking Grades 3-4)

These are a selection of longer walks on well-graded paths that allow you to discover local highlights and viewpoints. These routes are often further from the house but still offer walks that start and end on the doorstep of the property, plus options for guests travelling by public transport or car. The walks you'll find in our Discovery Point at Freshwater Bay range from 5 to 7 miles and visit popular areas such as Compton Bay, the Needles, and West Yar Valley.

Day 2-4: Full-on walks (Walking Grades 5-6)

These walks are ideal for those with more stamina who can push themselves to go that extra mile. Some routes will start from the house, but some may require the use of a car. Public transport may not be possible for every route in this category due to remote locations. The walks you'll find in our Discovery Point at Freshwater Bay range from 7.5 to 15 miles and visit popular areas such as Shorwell and follow sections of the Tennyson Trail and the West Wight Circuit.

Day 5: Departure Day

Enjoy a leisurely breakfast before making your way home.

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.