

Rambles with a Sketchbook Holiday in the Isle of Wight

Trip style:

Destination: 📍 Isle of Wight

Trip code: FRW07-PDW05

Grades: 1, 2



HOLIDAY OVERVIEW

Develop your artistic skills while drawing inspiration from the Isle of Wight's wonderful coast and countryside landscapes. Perfect for those who've tried our Introduction to Drawing breaks but also open to beginners, this holiday allows you to explore the island on short walks guided by an HF Holidays Leader, using the stunning scenery as your muse. Along the way, you'll stop to sketch the River Yar estuary, the famous Needles, and capture the colours of Alum Bay with the help of an expert art tutor.

WHAT YOU'LL LOVE

- Developing your sketching skills
- Exploring the local area with an HF Holidays Leader
- Having an expert art tutor on hand for advice and guidance
- Building your expertise and trying new techniques
- Small groups of 15 people or fewer

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- Expert tuition with an HF Holidays art tutor
- Loan of wooden A3 art boards
- Guided walking with experienced HF Holidays Leaders
- 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
- Easy-to-follow routes, maps, and information available in our Discovery Point if you want to explore independently

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: The Yar Valley

Our first day takes us north to Yarmouth as we follow the Freshwater Way and River Yar back towards Freshwater. In contrast to the coastal landscapes, the estuary of the River Yar provides an alternative interpretation of the Isle of Wight. Distance: 5.5km (3.5 miles) / Ascent: 30m (100 feet)

Day 3: Compton Bay to Freshwater

Starting at the eastern end of Compton Bay, this clifftop ramble offers wide-open landscapes across the island's southern coast. Towards the end of the walk, we'll also glimpse Freshwater Bay House across the clifftops! Distance: 5km (3 miles) / Ascent: 120m (390 feet)

Day 4: Free Day - Isle of Wight

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

Day 5: Thorness Bay

Following the coastal path around Thorness Bay, today's vista looks over the Solent following slightly rougher paths, so please come prepared for more varied terrain. Distance: 5.5km (3.5 miles) / Ascent: 100m (330 feet)

Day 6: Ventnor

Today's walk takes us towards Ventnor, situated on the island's south coast, before we spend some time sketching at Ventnor's Botanic Garden. Entry fees to the garden are included in the price of your holiday. Distance: 5km (3 miles) / Ascent: 90m (300 feet)

Day 7: The Needles

Saving the island's most recognisable landmark until last, today's ramble follows the cliff paths to the Needles and Alum Bay. Distance: 6km (3.75 miles) / Ascent: 230m (750 feet)

Day 8: 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.

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 - New Rambles with a Sketchbook

What to Bring On our Rambles with a Sketchbook holidays, you will carry all kit with you throughout your walks and will not have access to the coach for the duration of the day. We advise packing light wherever possible. For Sketching H/HB/B pencils Sketchbook with good quality cartridge paper – size to suit (A4 is popular) Pencil sharpener Eraser Portable and lightweight easel and stool (optional) Wider range of pencils or graphite sticks (optional) For Walking To enjoy your walking comfortably and safely, it is essential that your footwear, clothing and equipment are suitable for the conditions likely to be encountered. Britain is famous for its changeable weather, so our advice is to come prepared for all eventualities. Please bring a rucksack, a thermos flask for a hot drink, a water bottle (at least 1 litre) and first aid kit – your leader's first aid kit doesn't contain any medication or blister kits (such as Compeed).
