



2024
PROGRAMME

SUNDAY 22ND - FRIDAY 27TH SEPTEMBER



If you enjoy walking, you'll love Walk the Isle of Man! Whether you are a seasoned hiker who knows the Island well, or you are here for the first time to experience our magnificent landscapes and spectacular coastlines, Walk the Isle of Man promises a feast of sights and sounds, experiences, and adventures, to treasure forever.

Our 2024 programme contains a superb choice of five walks on each day – covering a mixture of easy/interest, easy/moderate and moderate routes - designed to appeal to all levels of walker. Simply select one walk per day. You can scale up as the week goes on or take some days more leisurely than others. It's entirely up to you.

Each walk will be led by an experienced guide. Please note, you will be responsible for bringing your own food and refreshments.

ABOUT US

Walk The Isle of Man is organised by the Island's leading events company, Isle of Man Event Services, and walking.im, which is run by expert walking guide Ken Harding. Ken is a Hill and Moorland Leader with the Mountain Training Association Association and specialises in group walking holidays. Ken has a passion for the outdoors and natural environment and has a number of qualifications in ecology and science.

He is supported by an experienced and capable team of Isle of Man-based walking guides, who know the Island intimately. You'll be in safe and knowledgeable hands throughout.



WELCOME

Arrival: 7pm | Sunday 22nd September 2024

Your rendezvous will be The Empress Hotel, overlooking the promenade in Douglas will be hosting this year's welcome reception. The Empress along with a variety of hotels and B&B's will provide your accommodation throughout the week.

During an introductory reception, you will have the chance to familiarise yourself with the routes, meet your fellow walkers and chat with the walk leaders and supporters.

A Hot buffet will be available on arrival followed by a detailed introduction from the event director Ken.

FAREWELL RECEPTION

Arrival: 7pm | Friday 27th September 2024

Our farewell reception will provide the perfect opportunity to reconvene and reminisce.

Farewell reception will also be held at the Empress Hotel and include a hot buffet (just what's required after a hard week's walking!)

TO BOOK YOUR PLACE

It couldn't be simpler! Exclusive packages including travel, accommodation and the Walk Isle of Man entry are bookable by the event organiser, Isle of Man Event Services.

Contact the team Sally, Melissa and Poppy who will take care of everything.

Phone **01624 664460** or by email on **info@iomevents.com**

Web: **www.iomevents.com**

Walk the Isle of Man includes A choice of quality accommodation, travel from your preferred port or Airport, walks on every day, transport card, guides, welcome & farewell receptions, support from event organisers throughout the week.

For further information speak to the team or visit our website **www.iomevents.com**

WE LOOK FORWARD TO WELCOMING YOU TO WALK THE ISLE OF MAN 2024

THE ROUTES - GENERAL INFORMATION

- Walk the Isle of Man 2024 will take place between Monday 23 September – Friday 27 September. There will be a choice of bookable walks daily, as well as an additional daily walk to more remote parts of the Island with minibus transportation. There will also be an optional mid-week afternoon fish and chips supper walk around Peel.
- All walks must be booked in advance with Isle of Man Event Services and there will be a maximum number of 20 people on each walk, plus leaders and supporters. The minibus walks will have a limited number of 15 people per walk. Should the walk you wish to do not be available, we will try to offer other alternatives or popular walks could have staggered start times to accommodate all walkers.
- All walks start and finish using public transport (except minibus transportation walks). Use of the Go-Explore card gives free access to Isle of Man buses, steam trains, the Manx Electric Railway (MER) and the Snaefell Mountain Railway (SMR). Travel outwards on the steam train, MER and SMR at the start of each day has been booked. Outward journeys by bus and all return journeys are not booked (unless stated) and options for those journeys will be provided in advance of the event and communicated to your walk leaders and supporters.
- Most of the walks use public transport with departure times between 09:00 and 11:00. When a departure is before or after this time it is noted at the start of the walk description.
- Please meet your walk leaders at the public transport start point for your route in plenty of time for boarding and departure (Lord Street Bus Station, Steam Railway Station, Derby Castle Manx Electric Railway Station).
- Most walks should reach their finishing points before 16:00, but the supper walk is expected to finish after that time. The approximate timings of each walk from start to finish, including breaks, lunch and sightseeing is noted for every walk and an approx. finishing time.
- The Isle of Man has great coastal, countryside, glen, and moorland walking. The weather in late September can be very variable. We therefore recommend that you wear walking boots with good ankle support and a good grip. Layers of clothing appropriate for an Island with a dynamic weather system is advised including waterproofs. Traditional jeans are not recommended. Walking poles can be a real help on some of the more exposed paths and slopes.
- Please bring your own supply of food and drink for each day.
- Some walks take place in remote areas where there are no toilet facilities, refreshments facilities or shelters.
- Participating in a walk is at your own risk. If you feel you do not have enough information about a walk or what to expect then please ask before booking. Booking a walk is assumed as consent that you are capable and ready to undertake the walk concerned.
- Please always follow the guidance of the walk leaders and supporters, keep behind the designated walk leader and in front of the designated back marker. If you wish to leave the walk you must confirm this with the leader or back marker.
- Walk leaders and supporters reserve the right to refuse participation to any walker if, in their opinion, the walker is not safely or suitably attired or would be unsuited to undertake the walk.

- Walk leaders and supporters have the final discretion to change the route of a walk if they feel it is necessary due to weather conditions, road and footpath closures, footpath conditions or other circumstances.
- On public roads, keep to the right (unless safety and the guidance of the walk leaders dictates otherwise). Do not deviate from way-marked footpaths.
- If you have a relevant medical condition or carry medication with you, please advise the walk leaders and supporters. This can be done in confidence and is important for your own safety on the walk and for the organisers ability to handle any incident.
- Dogs are not allowed on any of the walks.
- Local walk leaders, supporters, organisers, and participants may wish to take photographs during the walks and share these on social media and as part of future publicity for the Isle of Man. If you do not wish your photograph to be taken, please advise the walk leader on each walk.





WALK DESCRIPTIONS AND GRADINGS:


Located in the middle of the Irish Sea, the Isle of Man has a variable landscape which makes it a real treat for walkers. We have coastal footpaths and trails along 'natural' tracks & footpaths, countryside, and glen walks, as well as hill and moorland paths and the islands iconic coastal footpath. Some of the routes we use include stretches of farm track, quiet country roads or road walking. The ground we will walk on can be rough and uneven and can change quickly during a single walk as can the weather due to our maritime climate.


The walk descriptions below give an idea of where each walk goes, how far it is, how much height is gained along the route, a rough indication of timing, what we may see and what to expect.

The following terms have been used to give a general grading description and are supported with a number to indicate the grading between 2 (leisurely) and 8 (strenuous):

 **Leisurely/Interest (2/3)** – Walks for people with general fitness levels to walk shorter distances with areas of additional interest. Plenty of time for breaks and a slower general pace. Walking boots and clothes to suit the weather are recommended. Bring a drink and snacks or a packed lunch where required. Up to approx. 5 miles/6.5 km at a slower pace, mostly on level (but often unpaved) ground with occasional gentle slopes and stiles/kissing gates. Any additional route grading information will be specifically described.

 **Leisurely/Moderate (3/4)** – Walks for reasonably fit people with some country walking experience. May include unsurfaced rural paths. Walking boots and warm waterproof clothing is recommended, also a drink and packed lunch. Up to approx. 6 miles/10km at a leisurely pace with some ascent or over roughish ground with occasional stiles/kissing gates, coastal cliff walking and steeper slopes. Any additional route grading information will be specifically described.

 **Moderate (4/5/6)** – Walks for people with country walking experience and a good level of fitness. These walks will include some steep paths and open country, and maybe at a steady pace. Walking boots and warm waterproof clothing are essential, also drinks, snacks and a packed lunch. Up to approx. 10 miles/16 km of moderately demanding walking with steeper or longer gradual ascents, hills, coastal cliff walking and on tracks and upland paths. Any additional route grading information will be specifically described.

 **Moderate/Strenuous (6/7/8)** – Walks for experienced country walkers with an above average fitness level, will include hills and rough country, and maybe at a brisk pace. Walking boots and warm waterproof clothing are essential, also drinks, snacks and a packed lunch. Up to approx. 12 miles/16 km of moderate and in parts demanding walking with steeper or longer gradual ascents, hills, coastal cliff walking and generally on tracks and upland paths. These walks are for walkers confident of their fitness. Any additional route grading information will be specifically described.

We offer a range of leisurely/interest walks, leisurely/moderate walks, moderate walks, and a moderate/strenuous graded walk on each of the walking days (Monday 23 September, Tuesday 24 September, Wednesday 25 September, Thursday 26 September, Friday 27 September). In addition, there is an afternoon supper walk on Wednesday (graded moderate). The afternoon supper walk is designed to give visitors the option to explore the island in their own time before attending the organised walk.

NB Please be aware that most walks begin and finish on public transport. Additional time should be allowed to walk or travel from your accommodation to the gathering point for public transport and to return to your accommodation after the walk. Please ask for further details or advice if required.

MONDAY 23RD SEPTEMBER



**Monday A - Leisurely/
interest (grade 2)**

Monks and Merry-Go Rounds: Ballasalla to Castletown via Silverdale Glen

6.5 km/4 miles.

**Height gained 39 m /127 feet.
approx. 3-hour walk.**

Description: An interesting walk through Silverdale Glen: passing Rushen Abbey, with its ancient tales of monks, a 14th century packhorse bridge and Silverdale Glen, with a Victorian water driven merry-go-round before following the Silverburn into historical Castletown.

We take the 0950, steam train (booked) from Douglas Railway station to Ballasalla. Our walk takes us through the village past Rushen Abbey and onward to explore Silverdale National Glen, passing the Monks Bridge and stopping at the boating lake and traditional water driven merry-go-round for a break. Our route continues down the glen and follows the Silverburn River into Castletown and alongside its harbour. The walk finishes in time for you to explore Castletown, visit the Castle, or just enjoy the town square with its cafés and shops. Return to Douglas by bus (not booked).



What we may see: Riverside wildlife, plants and flowers, historic 14th century Monks Bridge, Silverdale Glen, historic Castletown, and Castle Rushen.

What to expect: Mostly well-maintained natural footpaths beside the Silverburn River, numerous toilets opportunities enroute and generally flat throughout, 1 stile enroute. Pubs, cafes in Castletown.

Estimated finish time for the walk at Castletown 1330.



**Monday B - Leisurely/
moderate (grade 4)**

Echoes of a Mining Past: Laxey to Laxey via Agneash

8 km/5 miles.

**Height gained 260 m/853 feet.
Approx. 3.5-hour walk.**

Description: Explore the rich mining and farming landscape on quiet country roads and footpaths around Laxey in the east of the Island on this circular walk with views to the hills and over Laxey Bay.

We take the bus (not booked) from Douglas to Laxey and then walk by the river past the Great Laxey Wheel (the largest working waterwheel in the world) with its industrial archaeology of lead and zinc mining. The steep (in places) country footpath leads to Agneash village and more mining heritage and then over open fields and quiet country tracks to the two Neolithic chambered tombs of King Orry's Grave. We then walk down to Laxey Harbour and Laxey Bay, with its cafes and up alongside the river back to Laxey Station.

Return to Douglas by bus (not booked).

What we may see: Industrial archaeology, mining heritage, Neolithic chambered tombs, woodland wildlife, inland and coastal views.

What to expect: Most of the route is on quiet country roads, footpaths, and tracks.

Additional info - Two steepish rises.

Estimated finish time for walk at Laxey 1430.



Monday C – Moderate (grade 5)

Southern Coastal Splendours: Port St Mary to Port Erin via the Sound

12 km/7.5 miles.

Height gained 365 m/1198 feet.

Approx. 5-hour walk.

Description: One of the Island's favourite linear coastal walks in the southwest of the Island and rated as one of the best coastal walks around the Irish Sea as walked by Clare Balding in 'Ramblings' and featured on numerous television programmes. Your opportunity to explore this part of the Raad ny Foillan coastal footpath.

We take the 0950 steam train from Douglas Railway Station to Port St Mary (booked). Our walk takes us along the spectacular coastal cliffs and bays round the southwest corner of the Isle of Man, past the geological fissures known as the Chasms and by two Iron Age promontory forts to the Sound,



overlooking the Calf of Man and Kitterland. After lunch at the Sound our route continues up the west coast to Port Erin.

Return to Douglas by bus (not booked).

What we may see: Coastal wildlife, sea birds, gulls, choughs, ravens, grey seals at the Sound. Geology. Iron Age promontory forts and the Calf of Man.

What to expect: Mostly natural footpath along the coast and cliff, moorland areas, rocky surfaces. Café and toilets at the Sound.

Additional info - One short very steep downhill section and gradual ups and downs along the route.

Estimated finish time for walk at Port Erin 1600.



Monday D – Moderate/ Strenuous (grade 7)

Summits and Waterfalls: St Johns to Peel via Slieau Whallian and Raad ny Foillan

16 km/10 miles.

Height gained 622 m/1975 feet.

Approx. 6-hour walk.

Description: Linear walk from St John's to Peel via Slieau Whallian, Glen Maye and the Raad ny Foillan.

We take the bus from Douglas to St John's (not booked) and after a quick tour of Tynwald Hill we head off up 'Witches Hill' through woodland to eventually make our way out onto the open ridge with fantastic views of the west of the island. Our vista continues to open up to panoramic views from this little visited summit that is only open on foot with the kind permission of the landowner. Our route then takes us down towards Glen Maye, via

Arrasey Plantation and through this National Glen where we will take in the impressive Waterfall and its viewing platform, before following the river all the way to the sea. Climbing up again we walk this spectacular section of the coastal footpath to Peel Hill before descending into the town with some impressive views of the Viking Castle.

Return to Douglas by bus (not booked)

What we may see: Coastal wildlife, sea birds, cetaceans. Inland birds and wildlife. Panoramic views from summit, waterfall, riverside walking, Corrins Folly and Peel Castle.

What to expect: Walk starts with a steep but gradual climb through woodland, good pathways throughout with several stiles to cross. Coastal pathways are exposed in some sections to long drops on the seaward side.

Estimated finish time for walk at Peel 1630.



**Monday E – Moderate
(grade 5/6)**

Spectacular Western Summits: Sartfell, Slieau Freoaghane, Slieau Curn and Slieau Dhoo summits

13 km/8 miles.

Height gained 364m/1194 feet.

Approx. 4.5-hr walk.

Description: Circular walk in



the western hills taking in four manageable summits with fantastic views over the north and west of the Island and Scotland.

Our minibus journey will take us from the Islands capital on the TT Course with impressive views of the valleys below and summits above. Our route starts from the base of Sartfell, the first of our summits on this circular route. The landscape is dominated by the results of the last Ice Age, and this enjoyable route explores four of the Islands western summits, that are well over 1000 feet. The views of the Island are impressive from each peak, with each peak offering a different prospective. Our route

finishes with Slieau Dhoo and its great view of Snaefell before our route back looks over the beautiful Druidale Valley and back to the minibus.

Return to Douglas by minibus.

What we may see: Moorland and Hill wildlife, Hen Harriers, Buzzards, and an Ice Age landscape.

What to expect: Mainly upland and moorland paths and tracks. Greenway tracks on a number of sections, which contain occasional loose stones underfoot.

Additional info - One steep downhill section on a grass path. Estimated finish time for walk 1530.

TUESDAY 24TH SEPTEMBER



Tuesday A – Leisurely/ Interest (grade 3)

In the Bishops footsteps:
Bishopscourt to Kirk
Michael via Glen Trunk

7.5 km/4.5 miles.

Height gained 91m/299 feet.

Approx. 3-hour walk.

Description: An Interesting walk through a wooded glen, open farmland, quiet country roads, out onto the Northwest coast before returning to Kirk Michael via the trail along the former railway line.

We take the bus from Douglas to Kirk Michael (not booked) via Peel and start our walk towards

Bishopscourt, the impressive old residence of the Island's Bishops. Across the road is one of the National Glens with its babbling streams and stunning mature trees, which we explore. Our walk then takes us alongside the mansion gardens and Deemsters walk before heading off along countryside tracks to Glen Trunk on the Islands Northwest coast for an unusual view of Peel castle in the distance. Our walk then takes us back to Kirk Michael along the former railway line trail where there might be time for a quick refreshment at the Islands oldest pub, the Mitre!

Return to Douglas by bus (not booked).

What we may see: Woodland biodiversity, Bishopscourt and gardens, coastal views, historical and heritage area.

What to expect: Well maintained woodland and countryside tracks and refurbished heritage steam railway line. Café, pub, and toilets in Kirk Michael.

Estimated finish time for walk in Kirk Michael is 1400.



Tuesday B – Leisurely/ Moderate (grade 4)

Glens all the Way: Groudle
Glen circular via Molly
Quirks Glen

10km/6 miles.

Height Gained 142m/465 feet.

Approx. 3.5-hr walk.

Description: A lovely woodland walk through the popular Victorian glens of Groudle and Molly Quirks passing the renovated miniature waterwheel and house and taking a walk out to the Sea Lion Cages!

We take the 1040 Manx Electric Railway (booked) from Derby Castle to Groudle Glen. Our walk takes us through the pretty Groudle Glen and alongside the river under impressive Victorian Bridges to Molly Quirks Glen until we reach Little Mill Bridge. Our route then takes us back on ourselves for a section of the glen before turning

off and walking another part of this peaceful area, before we head out onto the headland to the Sea Lion Cages. The remains can clearly be seen of this Victorian tourist attraction that housed a Polar Bear and Sea Lions, along with a popular café and a miniature railway (that still runs today thanks to a team of enthusiastic volunteers) taking tourists to this beautiful spot. Our route then takes us back, passing the water wheel, water house and bandstand before catching the Manx Electric Railway (not booked) back into Douglas.

Return to Douglas by Manx Electric Railway(not booked).

What we may see: Riverside and woodland wildlife, plants, and deciduous woodland. Coastal wildlife and plants but no Polar Bear or Sea Lions!

What to expect: Mostly well-maintained natural footpaths or boardwalks beside the Groudle

River and good pathways out to view the Sea Lion Cages.

Estimated finish time for the walk 1430.



Tuesday C – Moderate (grade 5)

A Fort, A Lighthouse, and a Castle: Ballasalla to Castletown via Langness

13 km/8 miles.

Height gained 74 m/242 feet.

Approx. 4.5-hour walk.

Description: Linear coastal walk in the south of the Island mostly following part of the Raad ny Foillan coastal footpath and some riverside walking.

We take the 0950 steam train (booked) from Douglas Railway Station to Ballasalla and then head through the outskirts of the village to reach the coast next to Ronaldsway airport. The route then follows the

coast through Derbyhaven onto the long peninsula of Langness and the little rocky outcrop of St Michael's Isle with its chapel and Civil War fort. We head south on the rugged east side of Langness and back through the bird reserve and ASSI at Sandwick around the bay to Castletown, the Island's former capital.

Return to Douglas by bus or steam train (not booked).

What we may see: Limestone and volcanic rock, coastal wildlife, sea birds, gulls, choughs, ravens, salt marsh species, ducks, waders, herons, Grey Seals, 12th/13th century chapel, Civil War fort, Langness lighthouse, Castle Rushen.

What to expect: Coastal and riverside walking on open ground, footpaths, and quiet country roads mainly on the flat.

Estimated finish time for walk at Castletown 1500.



Tuesday D – Moderate (grade 6)

Downhill all the way home (nearly)!: Snaefell to Douglas

16 km/10 miles.

Height gained 221 m/693 feet.

Approx. 5-hr walk.

Description: Mainly a downhill linear walk from the Island's summit back to the hotel, a brilliant hill walk with some fantastic views, and a stop en route at the famous 'Creg ny Baa' Pub on the TT course.





We take the 0920 MER (Manx Electric Railway) tram (booked) Douglas to Laxey and change to the SMR (Snaefell Mountain Railway) (booked) to travel the easy way to the top of Snaefell (621 m/ 2034 feet). This unusual but rewarding route take us down the side of Snaefell to the Bungalow before walking up one of our two uphill sections to the summit of Mullagh Ouyr, the Island's 5th highest peak for an amazing viewpoint. Our route takes us along the hilltops down to Windy Corner on the TT course before another short climb to Slieau Lhost and more amazing

views towards the West of the Island and beyond. Our finishing point of the nation's capital Douglas first comes into view before we head down and stop off at the famous 'Creg ny Baa' Pub on the TT course. Our route then takes us down past the Clypse Reservoirs and onwards to Molly Quirks Glen, a beautiful, wooded glen. Our final stage of the walk brings us through Onchan and along Douglas Promenade to the hotel and our finish point.

What we may see: Moorland and upland wildlife, ravens, buzzards, hen harriers, wooded glen, great

views of the whole island. Stop at the famous 'Creg ny Baa' pub en route.

What to expect: Open moorland walking on natural paths, well maintained pathways through countryside and woodland tracks through the wooded glen, small section of quiet country lanes. Urban footpaths and promenade to finish the walk.

Additional info - The walk has two steeper sections of approx. 200m in length to ascend and total decent 807m/2649 feet.

Estimated finish time for walk on foot at hotel 1630.



**Tuesday E – Moderate/
Strenuous (grade 6/7)**

Quartz Quarries and Iron Age Forts: South Barrule summit via Stoney Mountain and Corlea Plantations

16 km/10 miles.

Height gained 622m/2041 feet.

Approx. 5.5-hr walk

Description: A varied and interesting walk visiting an abandoned Quartz quarry, tholtans and summiting the Island highest peak in the South of the Island.

Leaving Douglas in the minibus

takes us along the 'Plains of Heaven' route, a lovely view of the hills and mountain to the north. Our route takes us to Stoney Mountain and to view the interesting disused quartz quarry before doubling back on ourselves for a short section and walking down to see the abandoned tholtan of Clough Willey. Our route then takes us towards South Barrule Plantation, with some spectacular views of the South of the Island. Cutting through Corlea Plantation to the Round Table, we slowly ascend South Barrule, at 485m, the highest peak in the south. The summit used to be an Iron Age fort, with visible sign still remaining today, and on a good day we will

be able to see the '7 Kingdoms'. Descending through the heather on a lovely path with great views looking north, our route then takes us across the moorland and back to our start point.

What we may see: old quartz quarry, tholtans, plantation and moorland wildlife, Hen Harriers and Iron Age fort.

What to expect: Plantation paths and tracks, footpaths, upland paths, and a short section of open moorland walking through heather.

Estimated finish time of walk at South Barrule 1630.

WEDNESDAY 25TH SEPTEMBER



**Wednesday A – Leisurely/
Interest (grade 2)**

Volcanoes and Vikings: Castletown circular via Scarlett Head

8 km/5 miles.

Height gained 29 m/95 feet.

Approx. 3-hour walk.

Description: An exploration of coastal geology and archaeology on a 'Volcanoes and Vikings' circular walk in the southeast of the Island.

We take the 0950 steam train (booked) from Douglas Railway

Station to Castletown Station for the short walk to the historic Castletown Square beside the medieval Castle Rushen and Castletown Bay. As we head west onto Scarlett Head, we move from limestone rocks to ones of volcanic origin then round a headland with WWII defences, Iron Age and early Christian sites and the place where stone for the steps in St Paul's Cathedral was quarried. At Chapel Hill, Balladoole we see the sites of a Bronze Age burial, an Iron Age fort, an early Christian chapel, and a Viking ship burial before returning to Castletown passed the 'Witches Mill'.



Return to Douglas by bus or steam train (not booked).

What we may see: A wealth of geology, archaeology, coastal and limestone plants, and birdlife. Cafés, pubs in Castletown.

What to expect: Coastal track, stiles, footpaths, open fields with a quiet country lane.

Estimated finish time for walk at Castletown 1345.



Wednesday B – Moderate (grade 6)

The TV Glen, Wild Goats, and a Wheel: Dhoon Glen to Laxey via Ballaragh moorland, Agneash and the Laxey Wheel

10km/6 miles.

Height gained 245m/808 feet.

Approx. 4-hour walk.

We take the 1040 Manx Electric Railway (booked) from Derby Castle to Dhoon Glen and follow in the footsteps of Julia Bradbury down through this delightful National Glen, which she featured in her 'Britain's Best Walks' television programme. We follow the glen to the secluded beach passing waterfalls to Dhoon Bay with its stunning rock formations before heading back up the glen on a different path. Our route then takes us up on the Coastal footpath to the hamlet of Ballaragh, high above Bulgham Bay offering great views of the Lake District on clear day.



Diverting inland, we walk through open moorland before heading down to towards the old mining hamlet of Agneash, passing old mine structures. Walking down the valley toward Laxey, we have fantastic views up to the Mountain and then stop and view the Laxey Wheel – The worlds largest working water wheel' before finishing our walk in the centre of Laxey village.

What we may see: Coastal wildlife, sea birds, waterfall, rock formations, wild goats, moorland wildlife and birds, old mine buildings and the Laxey Wheel.

What to expect: Walk down to Dhoon Glen is steep and so is the return but the paths are good underfoot. Quiet country road walking and open moorland 'greenway' tracks and footpaths.

Return to Douglas by bus (not booked).

Additional info - All the ascent for

this walk is in the first half of the walk.

Estimated finish time of walk in Laxey 1530.



Wednesday C – Moderate (grade 5)

Southern Coastal Splendours: Port St Mary to Port Erin via the Sound

12 km/7.5 miles.

Height gained 365 m/1198 feet.

Approx. 5-hour walk.

Description: One of the Island's favourite linear coastal walks in the southwest of the Island and rated as one of the best coastal walks around the Irish Sea as walked by Clare Balding in 'Ramblings' and featured on numerous television programmes. Your opportunity to explore this part of the Raad ny Foillan coastal footpath.

We take the bus from Douglas to

Port St Mary (not booked). Our walk takes us along the spectacular coastal cliffs and bays round the southwest corner of the Isle of Man past the geological fissures known as the Chasms and by two Iron Age promontory forts to the Sound, overlooking the Calf of Man and Kitterland. After lunch at the Sound our route continues up the west coast to Port Erin.

Return to Douglas by bus (not booked).

What we may see: Coastal wildlife, sea birds, gulls, choughs, ravens, grey seals at the Sound. Geology. Iron Age promontory forts and the Calf of Man.

What to expect: Mostly natural footpath along the coast and cliff, moorland areas, rocky surfaces. Café and toilets at the Sound.

Additional info - One short very steep downhill section and gradual ups and downs along the route.

Estimated finish time for walk at Port Erin 1600.



**Wednesday D –
Moderate (grade 6)**

Summit to Sea: Snaefell to Laxey beach via Slieau Lhean

11.5 km/7 miles.

Height gained 68m/223 feet.

Approx. 4-hour walk.

Description: Downhill linear walk over open moorland, with stunning views in the northeast of the Island starting at the Island's highest peak and then on moorland paths and tracks to Laxey beach.



We take the 1010 MER (Manx Electric Railway) tram (booked) from Douglas to Laxey and then Change to the SMR (Snaefell Mountain Railway) (booked) to travel the easy way to the top of Snaefell (621m/2037 feet). We then cross open rough grazing and moorland on tracks down the side of Snaefell to cross the Mountain Road (route of the famous TT motor racing course). Our route



then takes us over the hills near Clagh Ouyr as we head onto a track which skirts Slieau Lhean and gives us fantastic views of the North Barrule ridge Line and Corrans Valley. Descending into Laxey, we pass Kling Orry's Grave before dropping down to Laxey Promenade for a rewarding cake or ice cream. A day for spectacular views.

Return to Douglas by bus or MER.

What we may see: Hill and moorland wildlife, Ravens, Hen Harriers and Mountain Hares.

What to expect: Mainly hill and moorland walk over rough grazing and moorland, tracking walking through pastureland. Pavements in Laxey upon arrival. There is a 1 mile walk to the bus and MER station from Laxey promenade.

Additional info - The total decent for this walk 669 m/2195 feet.

Estimated finish time of walk at Laxey 1500.



Wednesday E – Leisurely/ Moderate (grade 4)

The Sunny North: Point of Ayre National Nature Reserve and Point of Ayre Bird Reserve

13.5 km/8 miles.

Height gained 4 m/13 feet.

Approx. 4.5-hr walk.

Description: A flat walk in the far north of the Island, including a trip around the Manx Birdlife Point of



Ayre Reserve and a walk through the Ayres National Nature Reserve.

Our drive in the minibus takes us to along the Mountain Road and through the northern town of Ramsey. Our walk starts from the impressive Point of Ayre Lighthouse with a walk around the newly created Manx Birdlife Point of Ayre Reserve, which is a long term project to the landscape after the site being used as a gravel pit for 30 years.

After Lunch we continue on a walk in the Ayres National Nature Reserve, a unique environment on the Island where gorse and heather meet a lichen heath, which merge with sand dunes to create a habitat for rare wildflowers. A stop at the Manx Wildlife Trust Nature Centre will give us an opportunity to see why this area is so carefully managed. A walk back close to the ever changing shingle beach will be watched all the way by grey seals, who gather in large numbers either on the beach or in the water. A really interesting and easy days walking.

What we may see: Point of Ayre Lighthouse, northern tip of the Island, Point of Ayre Bird Reserve, unique flora and fauna, grey seals, numerous bird species and Manx Wildlife Nature Visitor Centre.

What to expect: Low level walking throughout on good natural pathways and possibly a walk on shingle beach.

Estimated finish time for the walk 1500.



Wednesday Supper Walk – Moderate (5)

Fish and chip supper by the sea in Peel: Peel Castle, Peel Hill and back to Peel Promenade

8 km/5.5 miles.

Height gained 169 m/554 feet.

Approx. 3-hour walk.

Description: A circular walk from Peel Castle to visit the internment camp museum, returning via the coastal footpath and Corrans Folly

on Peel Hill in time for fish and chips!

We take the bus from Douglas to Peel (not booked) / or meet in Peel on the end of the Promenade near the Harbour. Our route initially takes us around the outside of Peel Castle before leaving Peel alongside the Harbour out onto the Heritage trail. After passing the carvings of the 'Moddey Dhoo and Taroo Ushtey' our route takes us over the river and onwards to the brilliant WWI Internment Museum in Patrick. This museum is a must visit site and tells the story of

camp life for the 23,000 internees during the World War. Our route then takes us through the site of the camps and out onto the coastal footpath for some amazing views of the West coast looking south. After a stop to chat with the 'Happy Hikers' we pass Corrin's tower and down Peel Hill with its fine views before our fish and chip supper on the promenade.

What we may see: Peel Castle, Peel Hill, Corrin's tower, coastal and upland birds and plants, Knockaloe Farm and former internment camp and museum,

Glenfaba mill, Peel Promenade.

What to expect: Quiet country tracks and paths alongside the river and urban footpath to the museum with natural coastal footpaths and moorland tracks on return to Peel. The route from across Peel Hill is undulating with short sections of steeper ascents and descents.

Return to Douglas by bus (not booked).

Estimated finish time for walk at Peel Promenade 1800.



THURSDAY 26TH SEPTEMBER



Thursday A – Leisurely/Interest (grade 3)

Roll Down the Barrel: St John's to Peel Hill via Tynwald Hill

7.5 km/4.5 miles.

Height gained 35 m/115 feet.

Approx. 3.5-hour walk.

Description: Inland low-level linear walk in the west of the Island leading to the west coast and to Peel Harbour and Peel Castle.

We take the bus (not booked) from Douglas to St John's and have time to explore the Royal Chapel of St John's and Tynwald Hill – the Norse outdoor assembly site used for over a thousand years. We follow the Heritage Trail, which is the line of the former railway track and the River Neb westwards passing 'Lost Wives' and 'Black Dogs!'. We walk alongside Peel Harbour and around the outside of the Castle with its fabulous views of the coastline, before finishing our walk on Peel promenade. This walk gives you time to explore and relax in the 'Sunset City' with its quaint little streets, Cathedral, Museums, cafes or just relax at the Islands biggest ice cream parlour.

Return to Douglas by bus (not booked).

What we may see: St John's and Tynwald historic sites, riverside and wetland wildlife, coastal wildlife, grey seals near Peel Castle, Peel harbour, Cathedral, and museums.

What to expect: Easy walking on the flat route of the Heritage Trail to Peel harbour before a slight rise to finish the walk around the outskirts of Peel Castle.

Estimated finish time for walk at Peel Promenade 1430.



Thursday B – Moderate (grade 5)

Celtic Crosses and Victorian Piers: Ballajora to Ramsey via Raad ny Foillan

10 km/6 miles.

Height gained 179 m/ 587 feet.

Approx. 4-hour walk.

Description: Linear walk following this delightful section of the coastal footpath, stopping off to explore the Celtic crosses at Maughold Church before heading towards Ramsey. Enjoying amazing views of the northern coastline and Ramsey Bay and finishing off by walking on the beach under the Victorian pier.

We take the 1010 Manx Electric Railway (booked) from Douglas to Ballajora and then head off on the Raad ny Foillan coastal footpath



towards Port Moar. Our coastal route soon brings the impressive Maughold lighthouse into view as we slowly climb away from the coast towards Maughold Church. After exploring some of the best-preserved Celtic and Norse crosses on the Island our route takes us out to Maughold Head and our onward journey along this stunning section of our walk. The route brings us down into Ramsey through the pretty Port e Vullen before we walk out onto the beach for our final section of the route. The walk finishes in Ramsey with plenty of pubs, ice cream parlours and cafes to relax after your walk. Return to Douglas by Bus or MER electric tram (not booked).

What we may see: Coastal wildlife, sea birds, cetaceans, Celtic crosses, lighthouse, and fantastic views throughout the walk.

What to expect: Mainly natural coastal footpath with a few small quiet road sections and beach into Ramsey. The route has a couple of sections which are steeper ascents and descents but are well maintained.

Estimated finish time for walk at Ramsey 1515.



Thursday C – Moderate (grade 5)

Over the fields and far away: Ballsalla to Santon via Grenaby, Ballamodha and St Mark's

15.5 km/9.5 miles.

Height gained 275m/905 feet.

Approx. 5-hr walk

Description: Pleasant linear walk through Glens and rolling countryside including a visit to the pretty St Mark's church.

We take the 09:50 steam train from Douglas Railway Station to Ballasalla. Our route takes us up through Silverdale National Glen, following the Silverburn River before reaching open countryside and farmland. From the tiny hamlet of Grenaby, we walk towards South Barrule in the distance before turning off across fields to cross the Ballamodha straight, famed for its stunning wild Fushia hedges. Our route follows the Islands

'Millenium Way' National trail before heading off at the pretty village of St Mark's, where we will have a break and chance to visit the church, which is at the heart of this farming community. Our route then takes us along farming paths and tracks before reaching Santon to catch the bus back to Douglas. A lovely days walking.

Return to Douglas by Bus (not booked).

What we may see: Countryside bird's and wildlife, Silverdale National Glen, riverside plants and wildlife and St Mark's Church built in 1772.

What to expect: Mainly open countryside paths and farm tracks, riverside walking, and quiet country roads.

Estimated finish time for walk at Santon 1600.



Thursday D – Moderate/ Strenuous (grade 7)

Across the Roof of the North: Snaefell to Ramsey via North Barrule



12 km/7.5 miles.

Height gained 243 m/799 feet.

Approx. 4.5-hour walk.



Description: Undulating linear hill walk over open moorland in the northeast of the Island taking in the Island's highest peaks along a rounded ridge.

We take the 09:20 MER (Manx Electric Railway) tram (booked) from Douglas to Laxey and change to the SMR (Snaefell Mountain Railway) (booked) to travel the easy way to the top of Snaefell (621 m/ 2034 feet). We then cross open rough grazing and moorland on tracks down the side of Snaefell to cross the Mountain Road (route of the famous TT motor racing course) and then up Clagh Ouyr and on to North Barrule along a rounded ridge. If the weather allows, we shall be able to see not only the Northern Plain and hills, but also the 'Seven Kingdoms' – Ireland, Scotland, England, Wales, Mann, Heaven, and the Sea! We head down North Barrule to Ballure Plantation and Reservoir to our finishing point in Ramsey, the largest town in the north of the Island.

Return to Douglas by Manx Electric Railway or bus (not booked).

What we may see: hill and moorland wildlife, ravens, hen harriers, mountain hares.

What to expect: Mainly hill and moorland walk over rough grazing and moorland, steep slopes down and up and walk along an exposed but rounded ridge. Cafes and Pubs in Ramsey.

Additional info - The walk descent from the summit of Snaefell and also North Barrule is steep in places.

Estimated finish time for walk at Ramsey 1530.



**Thursday E – Moderate/
Strenuous (grade 6/7)**

Tholtans and Ravens: Sulby Reservoir circular via Tholt-y-will, Ravensdale and Druidale Valley

16 km/10 miles.

Height gained 651 m/2139 feet.

Approx. 5.5-hr walk.

Description: Interesting and undulating walk, taking in some brilliant views, plantations, pretty glens and visiting some old tholtan ruins to see how the Manx farming community lived in days gone by.

We take the minibus from Douglas along the TT Course, turning off at the Bungalow before driving to the Sulby Reservoir. Our route takes us down the impressive Tholt-y-will National Glen before a slow climb through the plantation and to the ruins of Craigmooar, nestled



high in the woods. Our route then takes us through the trees to the Manx National Heritage site of Killabregga, the Island's largest Tholtan site. Although the site itself is a real insight to the past of the Manx farming community, the view is also amazing. Our route then takes us up over open moorland for yet more great views before dropping down through Ballaugh Plantation and Ravensdale. Our route then takes us back up through the plantation before heading back to the head of the

Druidale Valley with the view of our finish in the distance and a gentle walk alongside the reservoir to finish.

Return to Douglas by minibus.

What we may see: Plantation wildlife (possibly an elusive wallaby!), Peregrine Falcons, Hen Harriers, Buzzards and old tholtan ruins.

What to expect: An undulating walk on mainly paths and tracks and open moorland walking.

Estimated finish time for walk at Sulby Reservoir 1630.

FRIDAY 27TH SEPTEMBER



Friday A – Leisurely/Interest (grade 2)

The Dunkirk Spirit: Gansey to Dunkirk Memorial via Chapel Bay

5.5 km/3.5 miles.

Height gained 70 m/ 229 feet.

Approx. 2.5-hour walk.

Description: Interesting low-level coastal linear walk around the pretty seaside town of Port St Mary including the WWII Dunkirk commemorative site.

We take the bus from Douglas to Port St Mary where we start our walk. Our route takes us around the headland of Gansey Point before sweeping back around Chapel Bay and walking along the catwalks raised walkway over the sea! This little harbour always has something going on and our route takes us past the seaside cottages and towards Kallow Point

with its interesting limestone rock formations and now disused lime kilns, as well as the WWII memorial commemorating the help from the Manx during the Dunkirk evacuation. The walk then works its way back into the centre of Port St Mary, via a view of Perwick Bay for a refreshment at one of the lovely cafes – We can recommend the cakes!

Return to Douglas by bus or steam train (not booked)

What we may see: Coastal wildlife and sea birds, pretty harbour, WWII commemorative site, interesting coastal geology, and great cakes to finish!!

What to expect: good pathways throughout, catwalk section over sea water, slight rise on way back into the village centre and 500m walk to train station after walk finish point.

Estimated finish time for walk at 1300.



Friday B – Leisurely/ Moderate (grade 4)

The Albert Tower Amble: Ramsey Glens and Albert Tower

10 km/6 miles.

Height gained 160 m/525 feet.

Approx. 3.5-hour walk.

Description: Mainly woodland and upland circular walk on footpaths, starting and finishing in the town of Ramsey.

We take the bus to Ramsey (not booked) and then walk along part of the famous TT course through Parliament Square and parts of the northern town. We continue onwards through Milntown estate before enjoying some woodland walking up through Elfin Glen and to the Albert Tower, stopping en route for panoramic views of the North of the Island, in the same spot as Prince Albert back in 1847. From the Albert Tower we drop down to the Ballure Reservoir, through woods to the coast at Ramsey Bay. From here we follow the beach under the Queen's Pier or along the promenade depending on the tide, back to Marketplace in Ramsey for a beer, ice cream or cuppa.

Return to Douglas by bus (not booked).

What we may see: Ramsey town, TT course, wooded glens, woodland



birds and plants, Albert Tower (built 1848) and views over the north of the Island. Sandy beach and sea birds, Queen's Pier, working and historic harbour.

What to expect: Glen and woodland walks, with a steepish rise near the beginning through Elfin Glen. Starting and finishing on urban roads and a sandy beach.

Estimated finish time for the walk at Ramsey 1500.



Friday C – Moderate (grade 6)

Downhill all the way home (nearly)!: Snaefell to Douglas

16 km/10 miles.

Height gained 211 m/693 feet.
Approx. 5-hour walk.

Description: A mainly downhill linear walk from the Island's summit back to the hotel, a brilliant walk to end the week, with some fantastic hill walking, views, and a stop en route at the famous 'Creg ny Baa' Pub on the TT course. We take the 09.20 MER (Manx Electric Railway) tram (booked) Douglas to Laxey and change to the SMR (Snaefell Mountain Railway) (booked) to travel the easy way to the top of Snaefell (621 m/ 2034 feet). This unusual but rewarding route take us down the side of Snaefell to the Bungalow before walking up one of our two uphill sections to the summit of Mullagh Ouyr, the Island's 5th highest peak

for an amazing viewpoint. Our route takes us along the hilltops down to Windy Corner on the TT course before another short climb to Slieau Lhost and more amazing views towards the West of the Island and beyond. Our finishing point of the nation's capital Douglas first comes into view before we head down and stop off at the famous 'Creg ny Baa' Pub on the TT course. Our route then takes us down past the Clypse Reservoirs and onwards to Molly Quirks Glen, a beautiful, wooded glen. Our final stage of the walk brings us through Onchan and along Douglas Promenade to the hotel and our finish point.

What we may see: Moorland and upland wildlife, ravens, buzzards, hen harriers, wooded glen, great views of the whole island. Stop at the famous 'Creg ny Baa' pub en route.

What to expect: Open moorland walking on natural paths, well maintained pathways through countryside and woodland tracks through the wooded glen, small section of quiet country lanes. Urban footpaths to finish the walk.



Additional info - The walk has two steeper sections of approx. 200m in length to ascend.

Estimated finish time for walk on foot at hotel 1600.



Friday D – Moderate/ Strenuous (grade 8)

Southern Hills Stomp: Colby to Port Erin via Cronk ny Arrey Laa

16km/10 miles.

Height gain 807m/2650 feet.
Approx. 6-hr walk.

Description: A strenuous hill walk in the south of the Island starting in Colby taking in a variety of peaks and summits, including Cronk ny Arrey Laa before walking this stunning section of coastal footpath to Port Erin .

We take the bus from Douglas to Colby and gradually make our way up towards Eary Stane Plantation through a variety of footpaths, quiet country roads and farm tracks. Walking up through the plantation we will be rewarded with fantastic views whilst we make our way to the summit of Cronk ny Arrey Laa, the highest point on both our walk and on the 'Raad ny Foillan' coastal footpath. The views are incredible, especially looking north, so this will be a fitting place for our lunch stop. Our route then takes us down to the Sloc, through open heather clad moorland before ascending again to walk along the various summits of the Carnanes...



the views just keep on coming. Our route then takes us to Fleshwick Bay, and we have a welcome break at this peaceful place before we climb steeply towards the summit of Bradda Head. The Calf of Man and Milner's Tower come into view as we make our way towards Port Erin to catch our bus back to Douglas. A tough days walking but the reward is high with views that are breath-taking and certainly worth the effort.

What we may see: Moorland flora and fauna, coastal birds including choughs, hen harriers, and moorland bird species. Milner's Tower and a variety of far-reaching views throughout the walk.

What to expect: A variety of pathways throughout the walk including natural coastal footpath and plantation tracks. Urban footpaths and quiet country roads for the start of the walk from Colby.

Additional info - This walk has a number of steep sections to both

ascend and decent and you should be confident of your fitness.

Estimated finish time for walk in Port Erin 1630.



**Friday E – Leisurely/
Moderate (grade 4/5)**

Wallabies and Waterfalls: The Curraghs wetlands and Spooyt Vane Waterfall at Glen Mooar

13 km/8 miles.

Height gained 121m/399 feet.

**Approx. 4.5-hr walk (combined
details)**

Description: A two stage walk taking in the Curraghs wetlands for some Wallaby spotting and then a lovely walk around Cooldarry Nature Reserve and Spooyt Vane waterfall.

Our minibus leaves Douglas for the journey to the Curraghs, an internationally recognised wetland

site in the North of the Island. The site has boardwalks and raises paths, which allow us to walk around looking for Wallabies.. yes Wallabies!. The area has a population of Red Neck Wallabies, and your leader will guide you around to spot a few of these bouncy characters! The wetlands themselves are lovely to walk with the willow and Royal Ferns creating an 'Jurassic' type of appearance.

A short minibus journey then takes us to Kirk Michael on the West Coast for the second half of our walk. After lunch beside the sea, we walk up though the Manx Wildlife Trust Cooldarry Nature Reserve before everything opens up to some lovely views of the hills. A short walk down a quiet country lane brings us to Glen Mooar and a visit to Spooyt Vane waterfall, before heading off down the Glen towards the coast and back to the minibus.

What we may see: Internationally recognised wetlands site, Red Neck Wallabies, Spooyt Vane waterfall, and a variety of flora and fauna.

What to expect: A mixture of quiet country tracks and lanes, woodland footpaths, and boardwalks.

Additional info - The walk through the Curraghs is along a mixture of raised paths and boardwalks, these are uneven and narrow in places but quite manageable.

Estimated finish time for the walks is 1530.

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