

# Isle of Man

19 – 24 June



*You will be amazed by the beauty of the island and the variety of its landscape; there can be few places on earth where nature has distributed her gifts more extravagantly; the wild and the gentle; the rugged and the soft, the moors and the meadows, the wilderness of gorse, heather and bracken and the mildness of the fragrant, flower-decked country lanes.*

**TUESDAY 19 JUNE** Departing Oxted early morning we make our way northwards to Heysham for our early afternoon ferry crossing to Douglas, arriving late afternoon at the Rutland hotel.

**WEDNESDAY 20 JUNE** After breakfast we visit Laxey, an historic mining village, where set high on the hillside looking out over the village is the 'Lady Isabella', the largest working water wheel in the world and perhaps the island's best known landmark. If you wish you can climb the steep spiral staircase to the viewing platform above the wheel, walk the picturesque trails and even enter a section of the mine. Following our visit we take a journey on the

century old mountain railway for a breath-taking, but gentle ride to the summit of the Island's highest mountain, Snaefell, where we can enjoy the magnificent view of the six kingdoms – Mann, England, Ireland, Scotland, Wales and Heaven. We drive to "Royal" Ramsey, a thriving market town, set on the coast with a magnificent backdrop of North Baarrule. Here you will find a long promenade, busy harbour and a wealth of specialist shops.

**THURSDAY 21 JUNE** Today we enjoy a full day guided tour taking in part of the TT course to Tynwald Hill, home of the Manx Parliament. Established by the Vikings over 1000 years ago, it is the oldest in the

world. We continue on to nearby Peel, considered to be the most Manx of all towns with the historic St Patrick's Isle with many tiny lanes full of character leading out from the working harbour.

**FRIDAY 22 JUNE** Today we visit Castletown, the ancient Capital of Mann – which still retains much of its former splendour. Take a look at the harbour, wander through the narrow streets and maybe visit Castle Rushen, an ancient fortress, dominating the town and harbour. We continue on to Cregneash Village Folk Museum, one of the last strongholds of the traditional skills and customs which characterised the crofter's way of life. Since the mid 17th century a small community of Manx men and women have prospered in this harsh environment by combining small-scale farming with other occupations: some were fishermen, others combined their agricultural tasks with specialist craft skills such as weaving, joinery or work at the forge. At the Museum evidence of this rugged and self-sufficient lifestyle is again brought to life in the original buildings. We make the short journey to the Sound Visitor Centre where we

shall have a chance to enjoy the spectacular panoramic views, see if you can recognise the birds that pass by, watch the currents racing through the Sound or simply take in one of the best views in the British Isles. In the Centre are displays telling the story of the Sound and the Calf of Man and watch the seals hauled out on Kitterland. We then continue on to Port Erin.

**SATURDAY 23 JUNE** A day at leisure to explore the grand Victorian resort of Douglas, the Island's lively capital, set in a wide bay with a sweeping promenade. Take a stroll along the promenade or enjoy a ride on one of the world's oldest surviving horse trams, dating from 1876, with many of the original cars still in use. The horses, known as 'trammers', begin to pull when they are about four years old, pull for no more than two hours a day and have an average working life of 15 years. On retirement, trammers spend the rest of their life at The Home of Rest for Old Horses on the outskirts of Douglas.

**SUNDAY 24 JUNE** Following an early breakfast we return to the port and our ferry to Heysham, thereafter making our way home, arriving back mid-evening.

## What's included

### RUTLAND HOTEL

#### Douglas

With a premium location and facilities, the Rutland offers an individual style and luxury that ranks amongst the best offered on the island. Renowned International Designers have added a touch of class to one of the island's finest venues.

All bedrooms have private facilities, colour tv, radio, telephone, hairdryer, trouser press and hospitality tray.

5 nights Dinner, Bed & Breakfast

Entry to Laxey Wheel & mines

Ride on mountain railway

Time to explore Douglas, Ramsey & Castletown

Full day guided tour of Tynwald, the Manx Parliament and the northern part of the Island

Entry to Cregneash Village Folk Museum

**£542.00 PER PERSON**

*Single Room Supp: £50.00*

*Sea View (limited number) £50/room*