

# Isle of Wight

9 – 13 July



*You only need to take a short and pleasant ferry ride across the Solent to be transported to a different world. The Isle of Wight is just 23 miles long and 13 miles wide yet full of interesting features including miles of sandy beaches and a stunning coastline. Home to some of the most diverse countryside in the UK, the island generally enjoys milder weather and more sunshine than the mainland, the coastline has lovely views and inland you will find picturesque villages and many places of interest.*

**MONDAY 9 JULY** Departing Oxted we head south taking a scenic ride across the New Forest where we shall have time to find lunch before continuing on to Lymington and our ferry to Yarmouth. From here we make our way across the island to our hotel in Shanklin.

**TUESDAY 10 JULY** Join us this morning as we make our way to Havenstreet to join the Isle of Wight Steam Railway for a nostalgic 10 mile journey back in time through some lovely scenery. Breathe in the evocative smells of a real steam railway, while your eyes and ears thrill to the puffing and hissing of the

steam engine. Settle back in beautifully restored Victorian and Edwardian carriages and enjoy a unique view of some of the Island's unspoilt countryside. Take time to have a look around the railway museum and shop. Following our visit we continue on to Osborne House, Queen Victoria's palace by the sea where she lived with her beloved Prince Albert and their nine children. Trace the footsteps of one of Britain's most popular monarchs as you wander through the Italianate gardens. Visit Swiss Cottage, where the royal children were educated, and discover the wildflower meadow where you can spot rare red



squirrels. Take a horse and carriage ride, or sit back and enjoy the terrace restaurant with its stunning garden and sea views.

**WEDNESDAY 11 JULY** This morning we make our way to Carisbrooke Castle, best known as the place where King Charles I was imprisoned. For a castle that has lived through more than 800 years of service, including resisting a siege by the French and seeing off the Spanish Armada, it's also wonderfully well preserved. The Edwardian style Princess Beatrice Garden is a joy to explore. For hundreds of years the castle's resident donkeys have drawn up water in the well-house. All the donkeys' names begin with the letter 'J'. This tradition was started when Charles I was a prisoner at Carisbrooke. When Charles I wrote letters or was planning his escape route, he always signed his letters with a 'J'. So for 150 years all the donkeys at the castle have had a name beginning with 'J'. This is a tradition that continues to be upheld! After an early lunch we take a scenic tour of the island, returning to our hotel late afternoon.

## What's included

### BOURNE HALL COUNTRY HOUSE HOTEL

#### Shanklin

Bourne Hall is an elegant Country House Hotel and restaurant, set in mature grounds in Shanklin, Isle of Wight.

The hotel has an outdoor swimming pool and an indoor leisure complex featuring a heated swimming pool, a Jacuzzi, a "far" infra red sauna.

All bedrooms are en suite with TV, telephone, hairdryer & hospitality tray.

4 nights Dinner, Bed & Breakfast.

**THURSDAY 12 JULY** After breakfast we drive to the picturesque village of Godshell – the most-photographed village in Britain! Spend the morning admiring the thatched cottages and the 15th century church, or walk around the immaculate model village and gift shops, and maybe treat yourself to a large cream cake from the Old Smithy. Late morning we make our way to Ventnor Botanic Gardens where we shall be at leisure to find lunch and explore. Nestling in the microclimate of The Undercliff, Ventnor Botanic Garden has a subtropical and exotic plant collection unrivalled elsewhere in the UK. Plants which would normally be found in protected glasshouses thrive and naturalise in geographical plantings based on the Mediterranean zones of the world (entry to greenhouse not included). Mid afternoon we return to Shanklin where we shall be at leisure to explore this delightful village.

**FRIDAY 13 JULY** Departing after breakfast we take a scenic drive via Bembridge to Ryde, known as the Gateway to the Island, where we shall be at leisure to browse and find lunch before boarding the ferry to Portsmouth. Arriving home early evening.

- Time to explore Godshell, Ryde & Shanklin
- Scenic drive through the New Forest
- Ride on the Isle of Wight Steam Railway
- Entry to Osborne House
- Entry to Carisbrooke Castle
- Scenic tour of the island
- Visit to Ventnor Botanic Gardens

**£515.00 PER PERSON**

*Single Room Supp: £48.00*

*English Heritage less £14.88, but must bring card*