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Curious Carisbrooke



Meander from historic Newport to centuries-old Carisbrooke Castle, where King Charles I was imprisoned before his execution in 1648

Curious Carisbrooke

Description Starting in the heart of Newport, you’ll soon emerge into the countryside surrounding the town, crossing open fields on the approach to Carisbrooke Castle. **Distance** 5.3 miles. **Start** Newport Bus Station. **Access information** This is a mainly gentle walk, but hilly near the castle. Some of the walk is along lanes and, whilst most of these are fairly quiet, it is best to walk on the right – facing traffic – and in single file. There are several stiles to cross. **Refreshments** A wide range of cafés pubs and restaurants in town. Ramblers’ Walker Friendly pubs include *The Castle Inn* in Newport and *The Waverley* and *The Eight Bells* in Carisbrooke. **Toilets** In Newport Bus Station and in Carisbrooke High Street. **Internet** All walks in this series can be downloaded from www.iowramblers.com/page44.htm.

Pictured Looking north-east towards Carisbrooke’s 14th century St Mary’s Church, from the Castle (*this page*); The Great Hall at Carisbrooke Castle, gaol of Charles I, as seen from the Gatehouse (*front cover*)



Countryside Code Respect Protect Enjoy

Respect other people

- Consider the local community and other people enjoying the outdoors
- Leave gates and property as you find them and follow paths unless wider access is available

Protect the natural environment

- Leave no trace of your visit and take your litter home
- Keep dogs under effective control

Enjoy the outdoors

- Plan ahead and be prepared
- Follow advice and local signs



Curious Carisbrooke

Although Newport, the Island’s county town, is by far the larger settlement, Carisbrooke’s origins are much older. There are historic links between the two, and the Curious Carisbrooke walk highlights this relationship, passing attractive countryside on the way.

Carisbrooke Castle

There has been a fortress at Carisbrooke since before the Norman Conquest, but the massive earthworks and keep were built in 1100 and then turned into a magnificent residence in the late 13th century.

In 1377 a raiding force of French and Castilians invaded the Isle of Wight and burnt Yarmouth and Newtown. They laid siege to Carisbrooke Castle during which Peter de Heyno, Lord of Stenbury, killed their leader with an arrow from his “silver bow” fired through a loophole in the battlements known as “De Heyno’s Loop”. The French were defeated in a sally by the defenders led by the commander Sir Hugh Tyrell and withdrew after payment of a bribe.

In 1588, during the reign of Queen Elizabeth I, there was a threat from Spain – culminating in the Armada – and the castle was re-fortified at this time. Towards the end of the Civil War King Charles I fled to the Isle of Wight to take refuge in the castle but was taken prisoner by the Roundheads. He was incarcerated in the Great Hall, and during the first of two failed escape attempts became wedged between the metal bars at his window.

Charles was taken to Newport on 6th September for final, desperate negotiations with Parliament. These negotiations failed, and the King was removed to London, where he was tried and beheaded at Whitehall on 30th January 1648.

King Charles’ daughter, Princess Elizabeth, was also imprisoned at Carisbrooke Castle. She died there at the age of 14 after developing a chill while playing bowls just weeks after her arrival. Her tomb is in the Newport Minster. Charles’ third young son, Henry, Duke of Gloucester, was imprisoned before going into exile in France with his family.

Latterly, the Castle became the residence for Governors of Isle of Wight, the most prominent of whom was Princess Beatrice, Queen Victoria’s youngest daughter. She used the Castle as a summer residence until 1938. Princess Beatrice’s garden was designed in the Edwardian style to reflect that time.

The Chapel of St Nicholas was completely rebuilt to mark the 250th anniversary of Charles I’s death. It is now a memorial to the Island’s dead of the Great War. This includes Princess Beatrice’s son Maurice who lost his life in 1914. She gave an altar painting to commemorate this loss.

St Dominic’s Priory

Originally the home of a catholic community of nuns, St. Dominic’s Priory was built in 1866 in the Gothic style

with some influences by the English architect Pugin.

In 1993 the priory was purchased by the Carisbrooke Priory trust and is now a house of prayer and Christian healing. The priory’s vision is to offer to anyone a place to find peace of mind, to relieve and prevent sickness and distress, through listening and prayer, and to advance the Christian faith.

Mount Joy

Mount Joy rises to the south of Newport, affording good views north along the Medina valley. During World War II, an observation post existed on the hill, to give warning of enemy aircraft. The nuns from St Dominic’s Priory brought hot soup to the observers.

Newport

Newport was literally a *new port* designed and built on a grid pattern by Richard de Redvers, Lord of Carisbrooke, in 1180. Its location near the River Medina meant it was a convenient transport hub. The town was sacked, as were Newtown and Yarmouth, by the French in the 14th century but was prospering by the 17th century. It now remains essentially an 18th century brick market town.

The Old Grammar School, dating from 1614 – one of its oldest buildings – can be seen in Lugley Street. Charles lodged here for ten weeks while the failed Treaty of Newport – intended to bring an end to the hostilities of the English Civil War – was being negotiated.

Main picture Looking south west from the Norman keep at Carisbrooke Castle, on the southern edge of Carisbrooke
Inset The drum tower gatehouse, dating from the 14th century (top); decorative arch at the entrance to St Dominic’s Priory (bottom)

a Norman fortress
Carisbrooke Castle re-fortified by Elizabeth I
and where Charles I was imprisoned

Curious Carisbrooke

Information

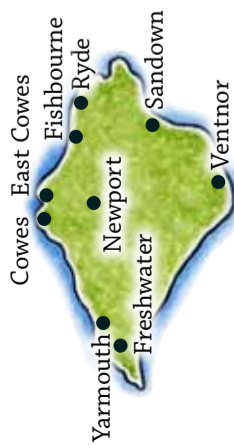
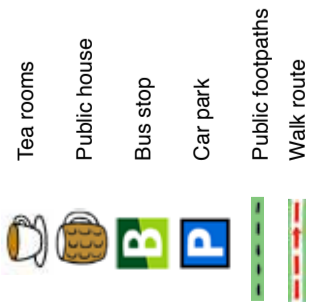
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Key



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Pictured Inset (Left) Climbing to the castle keep (Right) Information panels chronicle the castle's close royal associations

Route Start at Newport Bus Station. **1** With the Bus Information office behind you, turn left and left again into South Street. Turn right towards St. James' Square. Turn left into Pyle Street. Take a turn right along Castlehold Lane, cross the High Street and carry on into an alleyway called Post Office Lane. Turn left into Lugley Street. At the Travelodge, turn right and follow the footpath to the side of Sainsburys **2**, take N221 Petticoat Lane leftwards. A little way along the road turn right at a sign *Private Vehicle Access to Gatehouse Cottage*. You can then continue on N221 by turning left. When footpath turns right at N47, continue on along a track by a gate. Pass houses and a road to a kissing gate and into a field with houses on the left.

At the far side of the field pass through another kissing gate. Follow the path, now with chestnut fencing on the right. Go through a gate and follow the path with a hedge on the right. Pass through a hedge gap and over a wooden footbridge. Follow the left hand side of a field with a hedge

on the left. Go through another hedge gap and follow the right hand path into a field. Follow the left hand side of this field with a hedge on the left.

Go through another hedge gap and along the path with a small brook on the left. By houses and at the road, turn left at footpath sign N57 into Gunville Road **3**. Turn right into Ash Lane. At road end go over a stile. Cross the field veering left. At the corner of the field, turn left over a stile at N151 **4**. Follow field edge and track up to Alvington Manor Farm **5**. Go left onto a track which emerges onto a road with houses and allotments. Follow this to a main road on a hill **6**.

Turn left and then right into Nodgham Lane. Follow this quiet lane to the main road overlooking the castle **7**. Cross main road into Clatterford Shute. Follow this lane to cross two fords with footbridges and at a T-junction with a grass triangular island **8**, turn left onto Froglands

Lane. When you reach a main road, turn left, and opposite Carisbrooke Priory car park, turn right into Nunney Lane **9**, passing to the right of the priory. Turn left onto footpath N26, **10**, towards Mount Joy. At T-junction of paths **11**, turn right and follow the path around the edge of the cemetery. Follow the fenced path through fields towards Newport. The path emerges at a track - turn right to reach a road, **12**. Turn left and then right opposite the Tack Shop. Pass Elm Park barrier gate and turn right along the road **13**. Turn left onto a tarmac footpath following the edge of the sports field **14**.

Continue past Nine Acres Primary School and on along the road, East View. Continue into West Street. Turn right into Cross Street. Turn left into New Street. Turn right along Scarrots Lane at side of New Street car park, past a bakery to arrive back near where you began. The bus station is then half right.



Newport has a wide choice of pubs, cafés, tea rooms and restaurants



The best way to see the Island

Ramblers by Bus