



Quality living on the Isle of Wight

Residing approximately three miles from the South Coast of mainland Britain, the Isle of Wight is a uniquely beautiful community. Recognised as the host of some of the most iconic activities in the European summer event catalogue, the Island, as it is known to residents, offers a wealth of opportunities for people of all ages, to live and work where 'quality of life' really means something. With a low crime rate, accessible housing costs and excellent transport links between major towns and villages you'll wonder why you never made the move sooner!

Towns and villages

The Isle of Wight measures 23 miles by 13 miles and is littered with picturesque villages and bustling small towns, as you can see on the map above. The capital of the Isle of Wight, Newport, lies at the heart of the island and is the main shopping centre and location for the Isle of Wight Festival.

Known as the 'town on the beach', Ryde is the largest of the Isle of Wight towns and boasts boutique and independent shops and cafes set on an expanse of sandy beach. South of Ryde is one of the Isle of Wight's oldest towns, Brading, set in an area of outstanding natural beauty and perhaps best known for its Roman villa.

The eastern side of the island is dotted with beautiful coastal villages including Seaview, a popular yachting centre; the small village of Bembridge, best known for its large harbour; and St Helens with its large village green.

The popular Isle of Wight town of Sandown is a traditional seaside resort with long stretches of beach and a Victorian pier, ideal for families with young children and home to Dinosaur Isle. Shanklin lies to the south of Sandown and is famed for its beautiful beaches and sub-tropical gardens alongside years of seaside tradition.

Between Shanklin and Newport sits Godshell, one of the prettiest villages on the Isle of Wight, awash with thatched cottages and a medieval church. On the south coast lies the charming town of Ventnor, a Victorian health resort set on a hill with vintage shops and a sheltered beach.

The west coast of the island is known as West Wight and includes the ancient port town of Yarmouth and the Victorian village of Freshwater.

Last but not least, Cowes on the north coast, an historic town split by the River Medina and internationally famed for its sailing events.

Excellent accommodation and dining

As you can see above, there are many towns and villages to visit on the Isle of Wight, each with their very own unique character and heritage.

Some of these places have unique restaurants that use their local produce to create some amazing dishes that you will be glad you tried!

Once you've settled here you'll find yourself host to repeated visits from friends and family. If you can't quite cope with this frequent influx then the great thing is the Island has lots of excellent

accommodation to offer. This includes luxury and budget hotels, holiday cottages, B&Bs, holiday/ caravan parks and campsites, many located within proximity to the towns and villages above and the ferry and hovercraft ports.

Isle of Wight beaches

Isle of Wight beaches are recognised as being some of the best in Europe.

With 57 miles of varied coastline the Island yields a fantastic array of beaches, which were awarded a combined total of 17 Blue Flag and Seaside Awards in 2013 – more than any other destination in England!

With miles of award winning sand and shingle beaches, rugged cliffs, hidden coves and clear waters, a trip to the beach is an essential part of any visit to the Island. One of the advantages of being surrounded by water is that wherever you are the beach is never too far away.

As one of the UK's best known seaside resorts the Isle of Wight effortlessly delivers the traditional beach holiday experience of deck chairs, sandcastles and seafront amusements.

The award-winning beaches of Shanklin, Sandown and Ventnor all have very popular esplanades with a great selection of cafes, shops and facilities to enhance your 'day at the beach'.

Ryde and Appley offer the largest stretch of open sands, perfect for games and activities, with great views back across the Solent to the mainland.

During the autumn and winter months walks along our rural beaches are especially popular, as they provide some of the best landscapes and views of the Isle of Wight's heritage coastline areas. Neighbouring beaches Compton Bay and Brook both offer sandy shores with easy access to the coastal paths, and further round the West Wight coast is the picturesque Colwell Bay.

Please note some of our beaches have restrictions on dogs at certain times of the year.

Summer events

The Isle of Wight's event season kicks off in May with the annual walking festival that attracts walkers from across the world to tramp through the incredible footpath network and history of the Island. The Old Gaffers Festival brings locals and visitors to the harbour town of Yarmouth, celebrating all things nautical.

The Isle of Wight Festival, the internationally-renowned music festival attracting over 65,000 visitors a year as well as headline acts. Expect to bump into celebrities and their entourage as Newport becomes party capital for a long weekend. The Round the Island Race brings both professional and amateur sailing crews to circumnavigate the Island in the best time possible. Viewing the race from a high vantage point is a truly memorable experience.

As the summer moves on we host the Rhythm Tree festival, a world music weekend held under canvas and this is followed by the internationally-recognised Cowes Week sailing regatta that adds an injection of cosmopolitan glamour as members of the royal family and multi-millionaires rub shoulders with racing crews and local residents. At the other end of the scale is the two day Garlic Festival that has become a 'foodies' must-visit event.

As the summer draws to a close we host another massive music event, Bestival, curated by local residents Rob and Josie Da Bank and regularly voted the best large scale music event in the UK.

For those inclined to get on their bikes, the annual cycling festival has a range of activities for all ages and fitness levels to get out in the beautiful Isle of Wight countryside.

Various literary, arts and craft festivals and shows run throughout the year so there is always something happening.

