

THE BEAUTIFUL ISLE OF WIGHT
Monday 19th – Friday 23rd April, 2010



The Isle of Wight is a perfect holiday destination with sweeping bays and golden sands, picturesque villages with flower be-decked thatched cottages, historic castles and houses, beautiful gardens and deep tree-lined chine's, craft shops and museums, an island that has it all.

Keats Green Hotel, Shanklin 3*

The hotel is located in an enviable position near the old village and town centre, and offers panoramic views across Sandown Bay. A stroll through the attractive gardens takes you to the beach lift for a ride down to the esplanade. Bedrooms are all en-suite featuring telephone, television, radio and tea/coffee making facilities. The hotel bar, relaxing lounges and an elegant restaurant overlook the gardens with stunning sea views. Meal times are an absolute joy where a full English breakfast and 5 course dinners are served with choice from a varied menu and extensive wine list.



Monday 19th April – Day One:

We depart Nottingham area this morning and travel to one of Britain's most beautiful cathedral cities, Salisbury. The cathedral is early English Gothic with a magnificent spire soaring at 404ft, the tallest in England. Cathedral Close, which is still entered through medieval gateways, contains many notable houses. The town has buildings of all styles and ages, from medieval gabled houses to stately Georgian houses. There are historic inns, olde world tea room's cafes and bars for refreshments along with the Old George Mall which has a wealth of popular high street shops.



We continue to Southampton to board the Red Funnel ferry for our afternoon sailing to the Isle of Wight. We arrive at our hotel and after check in there will be time to relax in your room before our evening meal.

Tuesday 20th April – Day 2:

A day at leisure to discover the delights of Shanklin. Keats Green is set in the midst of an area of breathtaking scenery and natural beauty. Almost on the door step is Shanklin Chine, a dramatic gorge forged in the sandstone cliffs with waterfalls and streams which lead down to the beach. Step back in time and explore Shanklin's old village, charming and picturesque in the warm light of day and nostalgic in the illuminated glow of evening. The shops and entertainment in the town are a short, flat walk away as are the beautiful Rylstone Gardens, a favourite spot for home-made cakes and delicious ice creams. Ventnor Botanical Gardens are well worth a visit, admission free of charge; a local bus is available for transport.



Wednesday 21st April – Day 3:



A scenic island tour travelling via Ventnor, Blackgang Chine and Chale to Brighstone with a visit to the Isle of Wight Pearl Centre. We continue via Freshwater and Yarmouth stopping for a view of the “Needles”, then on through Newport, the capital of the Isle of Wight, to Arreton Barns Craft Village for lunch. This afternoon we travel to Haven Street Station to board the Isle of Wight steam railway train for an enthralling journey. Settle back in beautifully

restored Victorian and Edwardian carriages and enjoy the unspoilt countryside of the island which unfolds before you.

Thursday 22nd April – Day 4:

This morning we visit the grand residence of Osborne House, a great favourite seaside retreat of Queen Victoria, Prince Albert and their family. Enjoy the beautiful views and tranquil surroundings with a splendid Victorian walled garden and the enchanting Swiss Cottage. There is a shop and superb restaurant, with waiter service. We end our day at Godshill one of the most picturesque villages in England, with flower be-decked thatched cottages, colourful gardens and traditional tea-shops built around an ancient church on a little hill. There are lots of attractions including a Model Village, a Toy Museum, an Art Gallery, plus plenty of shops and cafes for refreshments.



Friday 23^d April – Day 5:



We depart Shanklin this morning and travel to Cowes where we board the Red Funnel ferry for our return journey to Southampton. On arrival we continue to the ancient town of Winchester, known as King Alfred’s capital. The magnificent cathedral contains many tombs of Saxon Kings and Queens and the graves of Jane Austen and Isaac Newton. The Great Hall, the only surviving part of the Norman Castle, is home to the legendary Round Table of King Arthur. There are a good selection of restaurants, cafes and bars along with the usual high street shops. We arrive home in the Nottingham area early evening.

Tour includes: Door to door taxi, executive coach travel with hostess service, return Red Funnel ferry crossings, 4 nights dinner, bed and full English breakfast at The Keats Green Hotel, full excursion programme with Island tour visiting the Isle of Wight Pearl Centre, Arreton Barns Craft Village and Godshill. IOW Steam Train ride and admission to Osborne House (English Heritage)

Tour costs from: £347.00 per person

Sea View supplement: £5.00 per person per night

Single room supplement: NIL limited supply

Deposit: £60.00 per person

English Heritage: £ 9.25 per person

NB: English Heritage members, could you please bring your card on tour for proof of membership to qualify for deduction on booking.