



MASTER'S WEEKEND

# ISLE OF MAN

*Friday 8 July–Monday 11 July 2016*



**Join with me in a voyage of discovery to the Isle of Man, a pearl in the Irish Sea, almost equidistant from England, Scotland, and Ireland, and slightly further from Wales.**



The Island has an ancient history of which it is fiercely proud. Legend says it was protected by the great sea god Manannan Mac Lir, whilst history tells us it was ruled for many years by the Vikings.

The island is steeped in folklore — there is even a fairy bridge where one is exhorted to say “hello” to the fairies for a safe journey.

We will visit the longest continuously running Parliament in the world (Tynwald) and the valley of Laxey where there was a deep lead and zinc mine which was once the most important in the world. There will be either/or visits to Peel and its ancient castle, and the TT course.

Day  
One

FRIDAY  
8TH JULY

## REGENCY HOTEL, DOUGLAS

The hotel is situated on the Queen's Promenade with wonderful views over the bay. Free Wi-fi access, superb service. Eat delicious Manx kippers for breakfast.

1400

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*Visit to Tynwald*

1630–1645

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*return to hotel*

1730

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*in the hotel*

1900

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*meet in foyer for short walk to  
restaurant Regency Hotel, Douglas*

## TYNWALD

Comprises the High Court, the House of Keys (lower house) and Legislative Council (upper). Housed in a modern building in central Douglas, we will be guided by Mr Geoff Corkish, MBE, MLC.

## MANX MINING INDUSTRY VIDEO

Optional video on the Manx mining industry (c1 hr)

## L'EXPERIENCE

One of the premier restaurants in the IOM, this little taste of France is situated at the end of Douglas promenade and is run by Michael and Belinda who will give us a warm welcome.



Day  
Two

SATURDAY  
9TH JULY

## MANX MINING INDUSTRY VIDEO

Optional video on the Manx mining industry (c1 hr)

0900

*Video in the hotel*

c 1030

*walk to Derby Castle*

c 1115

*arrive Laxey for the short walk to the Wheel*

c 1345

*Take the short walk to lunch, Salmon Lake Centre*

c 1815

*Coach to Douglas Station for sparkling wine reception and dinner*

Derby Castle is the southern terminus for Manx Electric Railway — 914 mm gauge. Here we will be catching our tram to Laxey.

### LAXEY

The principal feature of Laxey is its wheel – an impressive piece of Victorian engineering designed to drain water out of the deep mine shafts, using, as its power, diverted rivers and streams. It is the world's largest waterwheel.

At Laxey, wander at will round the heritage site, climb the wheel, visit a mine adit, take a trip (optional) on Ant or Bee.

The Salmon Lake Centre is where we will have a light lunch.

After lunch at leisure to wander round the Laxey valley or go up Snaefell for the views, before returning on the electric tram to Douglas.

### THE DINING CAR

Built around 1904 and lovingly restored, this narrow gauge steam train will carry us along the coast and through the countryside towards Port Erin. We will have a delicious meal on board, returning to Douglas at the end of the evening (about 22.30)

#### The Great Laxey Mine

The Great Laxey Mine was one of the richest metal mines in Britain and one of many mines in the IOM. The principal ores mined were lead and zinc. The mines were more than 300 fathoms deep, and thus well below sea level. It was the continuous seepage of water which lead Robert Casement to create what has become known as the Lady Isabella, or Great Laxey Wheel. The Wheel is 72'6" in diameter, with a circumference of 228'. It has 188 buckets and has 2-4 revolutions per minute. It provides the equivalent of 185-200 horsepower.

#### Ant and Bee

These little steam trains are 2004 replicas of the originals which replaced in 1875 the ponies used hitherto. The trains are run by volunteers most Saturdays in the summer.





SUNDAY  
10TH JULY

*Option 1: Peel Castle and the Boatyard*

## PEEL CASTLE

c 1030

*Coach to Peel Castle*

The castle is set on a small island (St Patrick's Isle) now reached by road (originally only by causeway) just off the coast of Peel Harbour. It was originally a church then a fort under the Vikings. Later there was a cathedral within the See of Sodor and Man. The castle was refortified in the mid 1800s to repel expected French invaders.

We will take our individual hand-held guides and wander at will in this spectacular and ancient site. On good days it is possible to see both the Mull of Galloway and the coast of Northern Ireland.

Our walk back to lunch will let us look at the harbour and lock.

c 1345

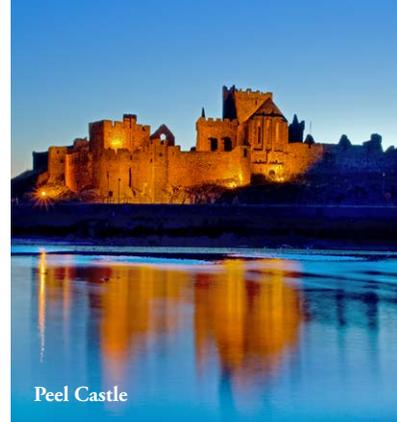
*Short walk to the Boatyard*

## THE BOATYARD

Here the seafood is straight from local fishing boats and the local meat from the IOM's finest butchers.

c 1500

*Coach back to hotel*



c 1230

*Coach to buffet lunch at The British*

c 1400

*Coach around the TT Race Track*

c 1630

*Coach back to hotel*

## *Option 2: The British and Around the TT Race Track*

### THE BRITISH

This well-known hostelry is down by Douglas harbour. It was designed by noted Victorian architect Armitage Rigby. Its beer is the local and excellent Okells.

### AROUND THE TT RACE TRACK

This is for the biking enthusiasts. “Milky” Richard Quayle, the legendary and engaging TT winner from 2002, will take us on a guided tour of the 37.73m course. The track is on public roads, which are prepared each year for the races. We are taken through the towns and villages, and over the mountains. Milky gives graphic descriptions of how to prepare for the corners, the bumps, the ups and the downs. It is a thrilling experience. His talks are given for charity to help those who have suffered serious TT biking injuries. Hear how he sped at well over 200 mph and drove unbelievable lap speeds. Milky is one of the few Manxmen who have won the TT.

[http://www.liveleak.com/view?i=1f3\\_1220817044](http://www.liveleak.com/view?i=1f3_1220817044)  
shows Milky’s spectacular 2003  
160 mph crash.

The 1911 average speed was  
47.63mph, the record is 128.943,  
fastest lap 132.701!



TT race track

1915

*Reception in the hotel*

1945-2000

*Celebration dinner*

*Day  
Four* MONDAY  
11TH JULY

*Leave at leisure, after breakfast.*



Douglas harbour

## OPTIONAL EXTRAS AND IDEAS

Why not take a trip on the horsedrawn trams along the promenade at Douglas? These are usually running everyday in the summer. The stables are close to Derby Castle. The gauge is 3', the trip is approximately 1.6 miles, and it was built and run by Thomas Lightfoot from 1876 and now operated by Douglas Borough Council.

Take a TT experience tour on luxurious German motor trikes. It takes about 90 minutes and costs (2015) £100 pp. Sitting on the trike in the wind and weather gives you the real experience of moving much faster than you really are (alas not at 200 mph). Arranged through the Master, these can pick you up from the hotel. Windproof clothing is provided. Best IOM attraction award winner in 2011.

Learn to drive an historic steam train or electric tram — the Ultimate Driving Experience. Very limited places. Lasts a full day. Book via Marieanne Bridges on 01624 697419.

### **Travel**

The Manx authorities run a good bus service, and there are regular hourly buses which will take you to and from the airport to a stop just outside the hotel (Queen's Promenade). (Pay on the bus. Cost about £2. Your bus pass will not work here!)

Taxis cost about £20–25 from the airport to the hotel — try sharing with others to reduce the price so it is similar to the buses.

### *Travel to and from the UK mainland to the IOM*

Flights are available from many airports to Ronaldsway but make sure you get direct flights (which should take little more than an hour).

Providers are Aer Lingus, British Airways, Citywing, easyJet, and Flybe and, from Ireland, Dublin and Belfast. Ferries are available from Liverpool, Birkenhead, Heysham, Larne to Douglas.

### **Museums and historic sites**

These are mainly run by an arm of the Manx Government. Entry is free to people carrying up-to-date equivalent membership from England Ireland Scotland and Wales, such as the National Trust. If you have told me you have such a card, please bring it with you!

### **Money and phones**

UK notes and coins are fully acceptable in the IOM, which also has its own currency running *pari passu*. However, you will find it difficult to cash in your Manx notes in the UK, so either take plenty of UK cash or only draw the exact Manx money you need should you run out whilst over there.

Mobile phones are (currently) treated as not being within the EU so that charges are swingeing unless using wi-fi. You have been warned!

### **Overstaying**

You want a longer stay? — the hotel is delighted to offer you accommodation at the room rate I have negotiated for the tour. Please let me know when booking so that rooms can be reserved before the hotel fills up.

### **Weather — not guaranteed!**

Please ensure you have suitable clothes and footwear. The Manx weather is unpredictable so come prepared. You will need sensible walking shoes and casual wear during the day, smart casual for Friday and Saturday evening meals and jacket and tie for Sunday.

## BOOKING INSTRUCTIONS

The total cost of the trip is **£565** including VAT (@20%) per person.

### Price includes:

- Hotel accommodation, including full English breakfast, Wi-fi and newspapers
- Coach and train trips
- Walking tours
- Meals and drinks

### Price does not include:

- Travel to and from the hotel
- Insurance — please ensure you have your own travel and health insurance
- Incidental drinks at the hotel
- A ride on Ant or Bee if available
- A trip up Snæfell

Places are limited, so early booking is advisable if you wish to be with us on this exciting weekend.

To book please fill in the enclosed form and return it with a deposit of £200 per person. Ideally payment should be by bank transfer to:

E F M Stary no 2  
account number 69467040  
sort code 159900.  
Reference “[Surname Initials] Plumbers”

Please return your completed form (which you can complete in Word) to:

Erica Stary, Woodthorpe, Hamm Court,  
Weybridge, KT13 8YB

Or scan and email to [efmstary@live.co.uk](mailto:efmstary@live.co.uk)

Or email direct having changed its name [choose File, Save As] to “[Surname initials] Plumbers”

