



The Isle of Man is one of the most beautiful locations in the British Isles and it's stunning and varied coastline is home to an amazing array of sea creatures, birds and mammals. Whether you are relaxing amongst the delicate dunes in the north or hiking around the dramatic cliffs in the south, the Manx coast has it all.

## THE NIARBYL CAFE AND VISITOR CENTRE

Niarbyl Cafe & Visitor Centre is set in one of the most beautiful stretches of coastline in the Isle of Man and is the starting point to exploring the beauty of the surrounding area. Along with a series of specially made presentations about the area, high quality refreshments are available for the enjoyment of visitors. Bus services 7 Peel to Dalby, then a 10 minute walk.

Open every day till the end of October. Limited opening from November. Phone for details. Free admission. Tel: 01624 843300.

## SOUND VISITOR CENTRE

The striking glass walls of the Sound Visitor Centre on the southern tip of the Island offers visitors an uninterrupted 180 degree view of the surrounding scenery. It's a modern building that simultaneously reflects a 2,000 year old Iron Age building with its turf roof and rounded lines. The ideal lookout towards the Calf, the Visitor Centre features information displays explaining the history and ecology of the local landscape and seascape. Or you can simply visit the café, sit back and enjoy the view. Bus service 1 from Douglas.

Open year-round. Free admission. Tel: 01624 838123

## THE NAUTICAL MUSEUM

Situated on the harbourside in Castletown this fascinating building originates from the discovery in 1935 of the 18th century armed yacht, the 'Peggy', walled up in her contemporary boat cellar. The 'Peggy' is now seen as being of 'extraordinary' maritime importance on the National Historic Ships Register. The boathouse over the cellar houses a replica stern cabin from a naval warship of the 'Nelson' period whilst the loft houses the reconstruction of a sail-maker's workshop. Boat models, equipment and photographs reflecting the importance of the fishing industry can all be found in the fishing gallery. Bus services 1, 1c & 2 from Douglas or IoM Railway

Open for the season from April. Tel: 01624 648000

## RAAD NY FOILLAN

Created in 1986, the Island's 'Heritage Year', the Raad ny Foillan is a coastal footpath 95 miles in length and is clearly marked with the gull on a blue sign.

This path follows the coast wherever it can and crosses terrain which varies from shingle beaches at the Ayres, 600ft cliffs above the Sloc, and the coastal sward at Scarlett. Walking can easily be divided into sections between towns and villages or from one mode of public transport to another.

## SPOTTING BASKING SHARKS AND SEALS

### **Competition**

The Department of Tourism & Leisure is running a photography and video competition for marine life spotted in the waters around the Isle of Man, particularly whales, sharks and dolphins.

The closing date for entries is 30th September 2007. For full details see [www.visitisleofman.com](http://www.visitisleofman.com).

The Island's coast is probably the best place on the planet to spot the awesome Basking Shark - the world's second largest fish. Able to grow to a size of a bus, these gentle giants love the Manx waters which have high concentrations of plankton. Although Basking Shark sightings occur Island-wide they are more common on the southwest and west coast starting from from Castletown and working clockwise around the Island to Peel.

Seals are another favourite with locals and tourists alike. These nosey mammals are seen all around the coast, but the best places to watch seals are the waters around the Calf of Man, Peel Castle and Maughold Head.

**Important Information:** While watching marine creatures please keep your distance and maintain a steady direction and slow 'no wake' speed. Spend no longer than 15 minutes near the animals and never try to swim with them. Do not move between groups of marine animals and avoid mothers and their young. Never dispose of any rubbish into the sea.

## CRUISES AND BOAT TRIPS

### **M.V. Karina**

Enjoy the relaxing atmosphere of another era by cruising the Manx coastline aboard the Island's largest coastal passenger vessel - the traditional M.V. Karina. View many species of birds in flight and nesting on the impressive cliffs, varied sea life, shipwrecks, historic buildings and, of course, spectacular scenery.

The Karina normally sails from the Villiers Steps on Douglas Promenade, opposite the Jubilee Clock near the Sea Terminal. At low tide the Karina sails from the Battery Pier ferry steps near the lifeboat station.

For up-to-date sailing details and departure times, please see the notices on the blackboards displayed adjacent to the Villiers Steps.

Tel: 07624 493592 / 01624 617436 / 01624 861724.

### **The Pleasure Steamer Balmoral**

The Pleasure Steamer Balmoral visits Manx waters in May. The steam ship, built in 1949, offers special cruises around the south coast and Calf of Man or up the east coast to Ramsey. Departures from Douglas, 26th - 28th May.

For booking information and sailing times telephone 0845 130 4647, or visit [www.waverleyexcursions.co.uk](http://www.waverleyexcursions.co.uk).

### **Calf Island Cruises**

Summer departures from Port Erin to the Calf of Man.

For booking information and sailing times telephone 832339.