

ENGLAND – ISLE OF WIGHT

8-day / 7-night one-hotel GUIDED walking tour based at Freshwater Bay with a choice of walks daily



The Isle of Wight is a delightful haven away from the bustle of the mainland, easily reached by ferry. Its size, 25 miles long by 15 miles wide, makes it perfect for a week of exploration on foot. On this holiday we walk on chalk downs and beautiful coastal paths. We follow in the footsteps of writers Tennyson, JB Priestley and Lewis Carroll and also trace Queen Victoria's long connection with the island. Freshwater Bay is an idyllic seaside cove beneath the stunning chalk cliffs of Tennyson Down and provides beautiful coastal and downland walks right on the doorstep of Freshwater Bay House.

Cost from: **\$2655** per person twin share Single room supplement on request.

Departs: 2, 16, 30 March, 13, 27 April, 4, 18, 25 May, 8, 22, 29 June, 13, 20 July,
3, 31 August, 7, 21 September, 5, 19 October, 9 November

Includes: 7 nights in comfortable room with ensuite bathroom, full board (breakfast, picnic lunch and dinner), experienced walks leader, 5 guided walks, transport to/from the walks, evening social activities.

Not Included: Transport to/from the house, drinks, personal expenses, transport or activities on your free day.

Accommodation: Freshwater Bay House is a comfortable country house in a premier coastal location beneath the cliffs of Tennyson Down. Dating back to the 1790s, this prominent local landmark sits in extensive gardens, with steps down to the beach, and has a seasonal heated outdoor pool, putting green, and croquet lawn, badminton and tennis courts in the grounds. Inside the house you will find comfortable lounges, a bar, café, painting studio and games room. The country house has 43 bedrooms, each with its own bathroom, in the main house and in a cottage on the grounds. A limited number of **Premium rooms** are available for a small surcharge (please ask when booking).



Call OUTDOOR TRAVEL on 1800 331 582 for details or reservations

Trip Grading: Easy to moderate distances, with some sections over rough or steeper terrain. Some walking on undulating coastal footpaths requires reasonable fitness. Easier walks 10-12km with up to 360m of ascent, medium walks 14-17km with up to 400m of ascent, harder walks 17-21km with up to 480m of ascent in a day.

Suggested itinerary (routes are determined each day by walks leaders – subject to change):

Day 1: Arrival day

Plan to arrive at your accommodation mid-afternoon. Ask about ferry and transfer options to Freshwater Bay.

Day 2: Tennyson Down and Alum Bay

From various starting points we walk over the chalk cliffs of Tennyson Down and see the multi-coloured sand cliffs at Alum Bay. Glorious coastal and sea views abound.

Day 3: Godshill and Appuldurcombe House

Starting from the charming village of Godshill, with its thatched cottages and historic church, we walk a delightful circuit past the Palladian ruins of Appuldurcombe House and its surrounding parkland, laid out by Capability Brown. The harder walk also takes in the tops of Stenbury Down and St Boniface Down, the highest point on the island, for expansive views across the Solent to the mainland, as well as across the island.

Day 4: Free day

There are no organised walks on this day. Perhaps visit the historic seaside town of Yarmouth, with its eponymous 16th century castle guarding the western entrance to the Solent. Or simply relax at the hotel.

Day 5: Shorwell and Carisbrooke Castle

These walks take in picturesque Shorwell and Carisbrooke Castle, a fine medieval castle where King Charles I was imprisoned after the English Civil War. The harder route follows the spine of the island from the castle to Freshwater Bay via the Tennyson Trail which runs atop the chalk downs.

Day 6: Eastern Wight

We soak up the sea air walking on the eastern tip of the isle. We pass by Bembridge Windmill, a working windmill owned by the National Trust, and walk atop the chalk cliffs of Culver Down, then follow the coastal path to Sandown. The Yarborough Monument on Culver Down commands wonderful views over the Solent and English Channel, where we may see vessels ranging from hovercraft to enormous container ships.

Day 7: The Downs and South Coast Path

A gentle climb on the Tennyson Trail to cross the Downs, then traverse rolling farmland to the south side of the island and follows the South Coast Path back to Freshwater Bay. The Downs are famous for endangered flora and fauna including several species of moths and butterflies. Or, cross Compton and Brook Downs, passing The Longstone, a 13-foot-high iron sandstone megalith marking the entrance to a Neolithic long barrow.

Day 8: Departure day

Tour ends after breakfast.



Outdoor Travel offer walking holidays in many parts of the United Kingdom, Ireland and across Europe including the challenging **Coast-to-Coast** trail, the rugged coast of Cornwall, Scotland's **West Highland Way** or the **Ring of Kerry** in Ireland. In France see the Dordogne, Alps, Provence or Riviera Coast, walks too in Austria, Germany, Spain, Greece, Croatia, Turkey or in the Cinque Terre or Amalfi Coast in Italy.

Contact OUTDOOR TRAVEL for more details and reservations

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