

BEACHES BY BUS

We are blessed with some of the finest beaches in the country – from sand to shingle, seaside town to rural retreat. Many are really easy to get to by bus, so you'll be spoiled for choice. We've only included beaches that have a public toilet close by and are reasonably close to the bus stop. There are many more beaches that we didn't have space to include so even once you've exhausted our list you'll still have new places available to explore.



Image © Southern Vectis

All the sites listed in this leaflet are free to access!

Disclaimer: All information is believed to be correct at the time of going to print, however we strongly recommend you check details of bus times, routes and attraction opening times before travelling.



Image © Visit Isle of Wight

Southern Vectis runs the local buses on the Isle of Wight with frequent services between the main towns and many of the villages around the Island.

For occasional travel you can buy single tickets onboard, but many visitors find the 24 and 48 hour Rover or seven day Freedom tickets are a better bet, offering unlimited travel for one price. You can buy them on any bus or from the Newport Travel Shop.

During the summer months additional services run in popular locations, including three open-top buses and the Island Coaster route which runs round the coast from Ryde to Yarmouth.

For full timetable information, latest travel information and details of current fares visit www.islandbuses.info or scan the QR code with your smartphone.



BEST BY BUS BEACHES BY BUS



Image © Visit Isle of Wight

A guide to some of the best beaches to visit on the Isle of Wight



ST. HELENS

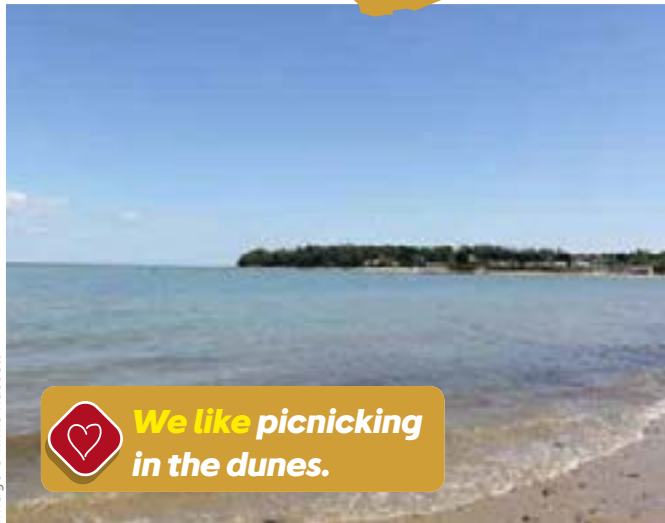


Route: 8

Stop: Guildford Road/Medical centre



Walk from stop: Ten minutes



We like picnicking in the dunes.

Image © Mike Russell

Backed by 'The Duver' – an area of sand dunes, the beach is a mixture of sand and shingle and is a great place to watch boats go by, from huge container ships and cruise liners on the Solent to smaller boats close to shore coming into Bembridge Harbour. The sand dunes behind are great for walking and are a haven for wildlife – the whole area is owned and managed by the National Trust. Paths criss-cross the dunes and take you to Bembridge Harbour – in fact you can even walk across the harbour atop the old mill causeway. There are toilets by the beach and a café/restaurant with fantastic sea views. St Helens village with its pub and village green is a ½ mile walk away.

Image © Visit Isle of Wight



RYDE



Routes: 2, 3, 4, 8, 9, 37, Downs Breezer, Island Coaster

Stop: Ryde Esplanade bus station



Walk from stop: Two minutes



Other travel options: Island Line (Ryde Esplanade), Hovertravel, Wightlink Fastcat



The best connected beach the Island has to offer. The beach provides a huge length of sand backed by an Esplanade walkway. At low tide the sea retreats a long way providing a huge area of sand to explore. It affords fantastic views of the Solent, with the Spinnaker Tower in Portsmouth Harbour clearly visible across the water.

Puckpool and Appley parks lie behind much of the beach, offering playparks and lots of green open space. There are cafés at Puckpool and Appley and various places to eat and drink along the beach closer to the pier and bus station. Public toilets are located at various points along the seafront. The main shopping streets of Ryde run up the hill from the bus station offering a wide range of local and national retail outlets, pubs, cafés and restaurants.



We like rock-pooling under Ryde Pier.

Better by bus

Hopping on a bus is a great way to see the Isle of Wight, whether you're popping over as a foot passenger on one of the fast-ferries, looking for a car-free holiday or just fancy leaving the car behind for a relaxed day out. You can get to some great places and see plenty on the way, with some of the best views you'll find from the top deck of a bus.

Get on board

Bus stops outside ferry terminals at Yarmouth, Cowes, East Cowes and Ryde Hoverport. From Fishbourne there is a ten minute walk to the nearest stop. If you arrive at Ryde Pier Head you can either stroll down the pier or catch the train to the bus station. Wightlink, Red Funnel and Hovertravel sell combined ferry and bus tickets from their mainland ticket offices. Pick up a bus timetable from Yarmouth, Newport or Ryde bus stations or download one at islandbuses.info

Extra summer services

During the summer Southern Vectis runs a number of visitor-focused extra services; three open-top buses – Downs Breezer, Shanklin Steamer and Needles Breezer plus the Island Coaster bus which runs along most of the Island's coasts. Check timetables for the dates these services run.

Try the train

Some destinations in the leaflet are accessible by train, look out for the train icon.

Visitor information

Visit visitisleofwight.co.uk 01983 813813 or drop into the Visitor Information Centre, Guildhall, Newport.

This leaflet is one of a series, look out for **Beasts by Bus**, **Birds by Bus** and **Beauty by Bus**. They have been produced by Natural Enterprise to help you explore the Island by sustainable means. Find out more at naturenterprise.co.uk.

FRESHWATER BAY



Routes: 12, Needles Breezer, Island Coaster
Stop: Freshwater Bay



Walk from stop: Two minutes

A shingle beach on the south-west of the Island. It shelves steeply giving quick access to deep water for swimming or watersports, but it is less suitable for a quick paddle! The cliffs around the bay offer some shelter from the wind and provide a stunning backdrop to this beautiful spot. There are public toilets adjacent to the beach and a number of cafés close by.

If you're feeling adventurous then Isle of Wight Adventure Activities provide kayaking, paddle-boarding and other activities.

Combine the beach with fantastic walks onto the surrounding downland with panoramic views, and into Afton Marsh nature reserve, managed by Gift to Nature. isleofwightadventureactivities.co.uk/freshwater
www.gifttonature.org.uk

Image © Visit Isle of Wight



We like popping into nearby Dimbola Lodge for cakes.



Image © Visit Isle of Wight

VENTNOR



Routes: 3, 6, Island Coaster
Stop: Boots or Albert Street



Walk from stop: Ten minutes



Ventnor's beach is fine red shingle with some sandy patches. It is the most southerly holiday beach on the Island. The town provides a spectacular backdrop with its attractive Victorian buildings nestling into the steeply rising hills above the bay. Ventnor still maintains its tradition for fishing with Ventnor Haven offering the latest catch from local waters. The Esplanade is home to a range of places to eat and drink, while the town centre itself with an interesting mix of shops is a short but steep stroll away. There are public toilets on the Esplanade.



We like eating locally caught fish and chips sold from the harbour.

COLWELL AND TOTLAND

For Colwell



Routes: 7, Needles Breezer, Island Coaster
Stop: Colwell Common/Colwell Bay Inn



Walk from stop: Ten minutes

These adjoining bays are linked by an attractive coastal walk so you can easily visit both beaches on one trip.

Colwell is a picturesque sandy bay with views across the Solent to Hurst Castle. Bright beach huts add a classic seaside feel to the beach and beachfront cafés, restaurants and beach hut shops provide for your needs from ice creams to inflatables. There are public toilets right by the beach.

Just to the south is Totland Bay, where the beach is mostly sand with some shingle areas by the sea wall. There are toilets right on the esplanade and a water front bar and restaurant which has had a fascinating previous life as a church and then a reading room!

Both beaches are quite restricted at high tide, so you might want to check on tide times before you visit, or use the time around high tide to explore the coastal path and surrounding villages.

For Totland

Routes: 7, 12, Needles Breezer, Island Coaster
Stop: Totland War Memorial

Walk from stop:
Five minutes



Image © Martin Gibson

We like watching the fantastic sunsets.



COMPTON



Routes: 12, Island Coaster
Stop: Hanover Point



Walk from stop: Two minutes – involves a series of steps or a scramble!

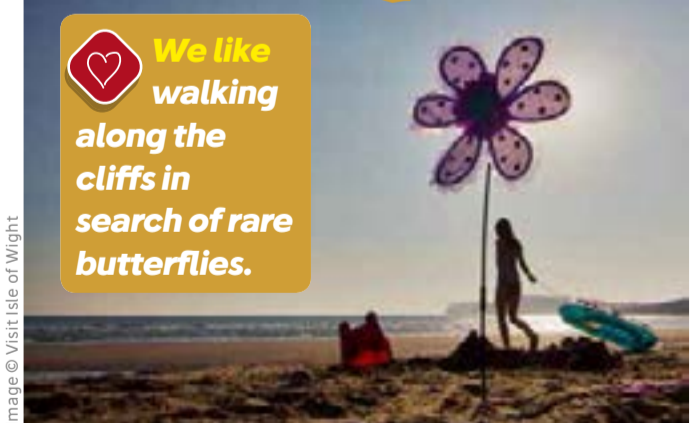


Image © Visit Isle of Wight

We like walking along the cliffs in search of rare butterflies.

SANDOWN BAY

For Shanklin



Routes: 2, 3, Shanklin Steamer
Stop: Shanklin Bus Station



Walk from stop:
Ten minutes



Other travel options: Island Line (Shanklin, Lake or Sandown stations)

NB: The Shanklin Steamer also stops along Shanklin Esplanade for direct beach access

Stunning Sandown Bay provides a four mile long arc of sandy beaches which are easily accessible and really easy to reach by bus. Shanklin Esplanade is served by the open-top 'Shanklin Steamer' bus during the summer, giving you the chance to get between the town and the beach with some great views along the way. At Lake you can access the beach via steps at various points from the cliff path and at Sandown buses stop right by the beach.

Sandown and Shanklin provide a range of seaside attractions. An esplanade links the two with cliffs rising above topped with a cliff path, providing the opportunity for a circular walk along the coast between the two towns.

At the eastern end of the bay lies Yaverland beach with its distinctive red cliffs giving way to the towering white cliffs of Culver Down. This beach is a great spot for finding dinosaur fossils, and across the esplanade you can visit Dinosaur Isle museum.

Toilets are located at various points along the bay, and Shanklin and Sandown have a range of shops and places to eat. You'll find more food and drink opportunities along the seafront itself as well as deckchairs and beach huts to hire.

Image © Martin Gibson



We like traditional seaside amusements on Sandown Pier.

Loved by many, but particularly surfers and fossil hunters, Compton Bay has a lot to offer. The sweeping sandy bay is great for sunbathing, paddling or swimming. If you feel like getting more active bring along a bodyboard and enjoy the great surf on offer (weather dependent!). At low tide you can find dinosaur footprints in the sandstone ledge and the crumbling cliffs continually deposit new fossils onto the beach.

Compton Bay is surrounded by stunning countryside, much of it owned by the National Trust. Facilities are limited, but there are public toilets in the main car park at Hanover Point and you will normally find an ice cream van there too.