



6 RYDE ITINERARIES

Isle of Wight

It's easy to explore the Isle of Wight using sustainable transport. Here are a few ideas for fun local days out – no car required!



MONKEY AROUND

1 Ryde bus station is located on the Esplanade next to the pier. Six bus routes depart from here. During the summer months you can catch the Island Coaster open-top service which takes the coastal route all the way to the **Needles** via some of the most picturesque villages on the Island.

If you are keen on animals, then hop on the route 9 bus and visit **Butterfly World**. Next door is TripAdvisor's number one attraction for the Island – **Monkey Haven**, a primate rescue centre and home to a gorgeous collection of monkeys, birds of prey, reptiles and other exotic creatures. Just up the road is **Isle of Wight Lavender**, where you can try delicacies including Lavender Shortbread.

 **The Southern Vectis route 9 has two routes so make sure you check with the driver that you're on the right one!**

theneedles.co.uk | butterfly-world-iow.co.uk | monkeyhaven.org



EXPLORE

2 There's so much to see when you're walking around Ryde. For a gentle stroll you can walk along the Esplanade, passing Appley Tower (pictured), all the way to Seaview. On the way back, cool off with an ice cream at **The Dell Café** which has fantastic views over the bay to Portsmouth.

If you're an adventurous type, head in the other direction, and take a hike out to **Firestone Copse**. This is an attractive area of forest, notable for its wide-ranging tree species, including magnificent Oaks and Grand Firs. It's also a great place to spot Red Squirrels.

 **Visit the Isle of Wight Bus and Coach Museum. There are lots of amazing buses to explore, and it's FREE. The museum is a 10-15 walk from the Esplanade.**

iwbusmuseum.org.uk



SWAN AROUND

3 A visit to the Isle of Wight is not complete until you've experienced a 10 minute jaunt to **Southsea** on the Hovercraft, which is the world's only commercial Hovercraft service. Come straight back again or enjoy some time in Southsea where you can visit the fascinating city of **Portsmouth** with its Historic Dockyard and see the recently restored Tudor warship, the Mary Rose. Gunwharf Quays is also worth a look – home to designer outlets, bars, cafés and the impressive Spinnaker Tower, where you can view the Island from the viewing platform.

Alternatively stay in Ryde and head down to the **Canoe lake** (pictured) where you can hire a swan-shaped pedalo, swim in the open air Waterside Pool or soak up the sun with an ice cream.

 **Look out for the cruise liners that sail past Ryde seafront.**

SUSTAINABLE RYDE



A Nearest bus station: Southern Vectis
Ryde Esplanade
Telephone 01983 827 000
islandbuses.info

C Cycle hire: Tav's Cycles
140-140a High Street, Ryde PO33 2RE
Telephone 01983 812 989
tavcycles.co.uk

B Nearest train station: Island Line
Ryde Pier Head, Ryde Esplanade &
Ryde St John's Road
Telephone 0871 200 4950
southwesttrains.co.uk/island-line

D Hovertravel, Ryde seafront
hovertravel.co.uk



TRAIN IT



4 The Island Line train service runs from Ryde Pier Head to Shanklin. Purchase an Island Liner Day Rover and enjoy a day's unlimited travel on the Island's electric trains as well as Standard Class travel on **Isle of Wight Steam Railway**. Hop out at Brading and visit the **Roman Villa**, which is approximately a 10 minute walk from the station, and see some of the best Roman mosaics in the country. Brading village has some historic buildings that now accommodate antique shops, cafés and cosy pubs. At Brading station you can also take a peek into the signal box and see how the trains operate. You might even be able to have a go! There is a Tourist Information Point at the station too in case you need any help or leaflets.

💡 Visit The Train Story Discovery Centre at Isle of Wight Steam Railway, to see an impressive collection of locomotives and carriages.

iwsteamrailway.co.uk | bradingromanvilla.org.uk

WALKIES!



5 The golden sands at Ryde beach are popular with horse riders. Why not join a guided ride at a nearby stables? The Isle of Wight has its very own Grand National. Taking place in March every year, the Grand National Scurry is held at West Ashe Farm near Ryde.

The beaches are also a favourite with dog walkers – but watch out during high season (1 May to 30 September) as there are some restrictions during the summer. We recommend taking your dog for a walk along the sands at Appley to **The Boat House** (on the outskirts of Seaview) where you can stop off for a bite to eat and admire the views of the Solent from your seat on the outside terrace.

💡 For animal treats, pop into Diamond Pet Supplies on the High Street.

visitisleofwight.co.uk/inspiration/dog-friendly-ideas

BICYCLE ISLAND



6 Ryde is located on the **Taste Round The Island Trail** – an incredible 100km circular tour of the Island that you can blitz in a day or enjoy over a few days. For a quick ride, cycle along the flat paths and roads to Seaview and carry onto Bembridge where you can visit **Bembridge Windmill** and see the Island's houseboats. If you feel the need for a pit stop, take a detour down to The Duver at St Helen's and have a taste of the ocean at **Baywatch on the Beach**.

💡 For 'The Best Dressed Crab in Town' pedal down to Bembridge Harbour to the floating café, where you'll be served the freshest shellfish straight from the boat.

nationaltrust.org.uk/bembridge-windmill