



6 VENTNOR 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!



1 Ventnor is based on the sunny South side of the Island, with a warm micro-climate and spectacular views out over the Channel. Why not hop on the No.3 bus and meet new friends at **The Donkey Sanctuary**? Or on the same route, jump off at Godshill and feel like a giant at **Godshill Model Village**.

Take the No.6 bus to **Blackgang Chine** where dinosaurs and pirates play together at a children's theme park. Or go on a short walk from Niton to the striking **St. Catherine's Lighthouse** (which is reputedly haunted!).

 **Purchase a 24hr Rover Ticket from the bus driver, which allows you to hop on and off all day – buses leave from Ventnor every 20 minutes.**

thedonkeysanctuary.org.uk | modelvillagegodshill.co.uk
blackgangchine.com | trinityhouse.co.uk



2 Stroll through the centuries with **Time Travel Ventnor**, a free heritage trail that stops off at nine historic hotspots around this Victorian resort. Look out for the distinctive yellow and green information boards at each of the locations. If you fancy a challenge, then start climbing, because one of the boards is at the top of St Boniface Down (the highest point on the Island). It's located by the former radar station that played a key role in the Battle of Britain. This is also the site of a secret nuclear bunker and Bronze Age barrows.

Another board is at **Ventnor Botanic Garden**, which was previously the site of an enormous Victorian hospital that specialised in diseases of the chest.

 **Pick up a free leaflet to accompany the heritage trail from Tourist Information Points, including Seasons on Ventnor High Street.**

timetravelventnor.co.uk | botanic.co.uk



3 Try a sea safari, Ventnor style. Head down the Esplanade to Besty and Spinky's café at **Ocean Blue Quay**. You can book a range of sea charters including Lobster 'Sea-faris' and Mackerel Fishing Trips.

Afterwards, enjoy one of Besty and Spinky's legendary all day breakfasts. Your little ones will enjoy splashing around in the Isle of Wight shaped paddling pool right outside.

 **Try Ventnor Crab on Chips from The Haven Fishery – it's a local speciality.**

oceanbluequay.co.uk

SUSTAINABLE VENTNOR



A Nearest bus station: Southern Vectis
Ventnor Boots, High Street PO38 1RY
Telephone 01983 827 000
islandbuses.info

C Nearest electric vehicle charging point: Ventnor Botanic Garden
Undercliff Drive, Ventnor PO38 1UL
Telephone 01983 855397
botanic.co.uk

B Cycle hire: Church Street Motorcycles
Church Street, Ventnor PO38 1SW
Telephone 01983 852232
churchstreetmotorcycles.co.uk



STEAMY



4 Go back to the golden age of steam. At the beginning of the 20th century, Ventnor had two railway stations. One was situated just north of the town centre, where the industrial estate is now, and remained open until 1966. A tunnel was blasted through St Boniface Down, and the south entrance can still be seen from the end of Old Station Road. The other station, which closed in 1953, was originally named Ventnor Town but was later renamed Ventnor West. Despite the platform no longer existing, you can still walk up to **Castle Close** – which is a short stroll from **Ventnor Park** – to see the old station building.

 Find out more about Ventnor's fascinating history and transformation from a sleepy fishing village into a fashionable Victorian resort at the **Ventnor Heritage Museum**.


ventnorheritage.org.uk

TIME FOR A PINT



5 Many places welcome dogs in Ventnor, including **The Spyglass Inn** on the seafront, and the **Bonchurch Inn** situated in historic Bonchurch (the former home of Charles Dickens).

Between May and October, dogs aren't allowed on Ventnor beach, but they are free to roam on Bonchurch beach all year round. It's a gorgeous walk from Ventnor to Bonchurch. Head for the Esplanade and turn east – a wide flat path will take you along the coast to Bonchurch. It takes about 20 minutes. The Seapot is conveniently situated half way along, in case you and your dog need a drink or a snack (open during good weather).


 The first weekend of October is the **Annual Golden Retriever Meeting on Ventnor beach** – pooches of all breeds are welcome too!

BICYCLE ISLAND



6 Built on a series of terraces, Ventnor is notoriously steep in places, but many cyclist love the challenge – and it's nothing that an electric bike couldn't handle.

Spend the day exploring sections of the circular **Taste Round the Island Cycle Route**, which stops off at gourmet hotspots along the way. Join the route at Upper Gills Cliff Road in Ventnor. Alternatively head to Wroxall and join the **Red Squirrel Trail** for a flat and easy route to Newport.

 Hire electric cycles from the **Visitor Centre at the Guildhall in Newport**, and conquer the Island's hills – they can be delivered to your accommodation.

nutsnotto.co.uk