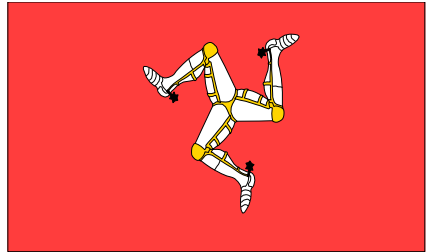


THE MAGICAL ISLE OF MAN

11th to 16th May



You will be amazed by the beauty of the island and the variety of its landscape; there can be few places on earth where nature has distributed her gifts more extravagantly; the wild and the gentle; the rugged and the soft, the moors and the meadows, the wilderness of gorse, heather and bracken and the mildness of the fragrant, flower-decked country lanes.

Tuesday 11th May Making an early start we drive to Heysham and board our ferry to Douglas, Isle of Man, arriving late afternoon at the Empress Hotel.

Wednesday 12th May A day at leisure to explore the grand Victorian resort of Douglas, the Island's lively capital, set in a wide bay with a sweeping promenade, fascinating quayside and yacht haven. Take a stroll along the promenade or enjoy a ride on one of the world's oldest surviving horse trams, dating from 1876, with many of the original cars still in use. The horses, known as 'trammers', begin to pull when they are about four years old, pull for no more than two hours a day and have an average working life of 15 years.

Thursday 13th May Today we take a full day guided tour taking in part of the TT course to Tynwald Hill, home of the Manx Parliament. We continue on to nearby Peel, considered to be the most Manx of all towns with the historic St Patrick's Isle, then on to "Royal" Ramsey, set on the coast with a magnificent backdrop of North Baarrule at the northern tip of the island. Here you will find a long promenade, busy harbour and a wealth of specialist shops.

Friday 14th May After breakfast we make our way to Castletown the ancient Capital of Man, which still retains much of its former splendour. Take a look at the harbour, wander through the narrow streets and maybe visit Castle Rushen, an ancient fortress, dominating the town and harbour. The Nautical Museum and Old Grammar School are also well worth a visit. We continue on to the National Folk Museum at Cregneash, a living museum showing what life was like in a 19th century Manx crofting community. Set up as a living museum in 1938, when Harry Kelly's Cottage was restored and opened to the public, Cregneash Village has since expanded and the Manx National Trust now owns over 300 acres and over 10 buildings, preserving the area as a site of Manx traditions and way of life. The people living in Cregneash today play an important role in preserving an old and important way of life. Living in traditional cottages and houses, village life continues as it



Cregneash Village

has for hundreds of years. Farms are maintained with horsepower, much of the livestock roams free and traditional crafts and trades are practised and used in everyday life. After our visit we continue on to Port Erin from where we take a picturesque ride back to Douglas by steam train enjoying the stunning countryside and coastal views along the way.

Saturday 15th May After breakfast we visit Laxey, an historic mining village, where set high on the hillside looking out over the village is the 'Lady Isabella', perhaps the island's best known landmark. Built in 1854 to pump water from Laxey's lead and zinc mines, it is a testament to engineering ingenuity that it's still the largest working water wheel in the world, with a diameter of 72½ft and a circumference of 228ft. In its heyday the wheel was capable of pumping 250 gallons of water a minute from the mines 1,500ft below. If you wish you can climb the steep spiral staircase to the viewing platform above the wheel, walk the picturesque trails and even enter a section of the mine (cost not included). Or why not take a journey on the century old mountain railway (cost not included) for a breathtaking, but gentle ride to the summit of the Island's highest mountain, Snaefell and enjoy the magnificent view of the seven kingdoms – Mann, England, Ireland, Scotland, Wales, the Sea and Heaven.

Sunday 16th May Following an early breakfast we return to the port and our ferry to Heysham, thereafter making our way home, arriving back mid-evening.

What's included:

Empress Hotel, Douglas

5 nights Dinner, Bed & Breakfast.

Enjoying panoramic views across Douglas Bay, this elegant hotel has an air of sophistication amid comfortable surroundings. The hotel has a swimming pool, steam room, spa pool and sauna.

All bedrooms have private facilities, TV, telephone & hairdryer.

Time to explore Douglas

Full day guided tour

Entry to the National Folk Museum, Cregneash

Ride on steam railway

Visits to Castletown, Port Erin & Laxey

COST: £555.00 per person

Single Room Supp: £50.00

Club Class Seat on Ferry: £27.00



Laxey Wheel