

THE ISLE OF MAN TOUR

(A UNIQUE STARS 6 DAY HOLIDAY)

Monday 30th August to Saturday 4th September, 2010

ALL INCLUSIVE FARE. - £489.00

Hotel Single Room Supplement - £90 (Optional)

*(Single Rooms are very limited and will be allocated
on a strict 'first come, first served' basis)*

Sea View Supplement - £60 (Optional)

**In Order to Qualify for Members' Loyalty Discount on this Tour –
You must book by 22nd January, with a Minimum Deposit of £50.**

**An Interim Deposit of £75 must be paid by 18th June, and
the final balance must be paid by 16th July.**

For many years STARS Members, who are overwhelmingly of the male gender, have said a fond farewell to wives and partners before taking themselves off for weeks at a time to pursue a hobby that the 'abandoned' spouses have little interest in, but tend to tolerate! Understandably, very few ever accompany their 'other halves' abroad. This tour is aimed at altering all that. The tour is probably the nearest to a 'normal' holiday that STARS is ever likely to get, and in offering it we score yet another '*first*'. It is incredible that an Island so small could contain so much to interest the rail enthusiast, but during the week we will explore the workings of 4 railways, a miniature railway, a mine railway, and a horse-drawn tramway, at a leisurely and unhurried pace. Even then there will be ample free time for the participant to turn attention to other non-railway attractions of which the Island has in abundance. So 'civilised' is this tour that it becomes the first ever to include evening meals throughout.

So Ladies, can we tempt you to come along? During the day we can guarantee no ultra early starts and no late night finishes. You can enjoy the rides on trains and trams, taking in all the sights and scenery. Involve yourself as much or as little in the rail activity as you please, safe in the knowledge there is plenty more to see and enjoy. There are no long journeys to endure and no dirty depots to be 'dragged' around. No language difficulty.

Obviously the rail element forms the 'core' of the activity, but we feel that it is in the best interests of all participating to 'hold fire' on a firm itinerary until we have identified the preferences of all who have booked and draw up an itinerary commensurate with such preferences.

WHAT IS INCLUDED IN THE COST?

- ❖ 6 night's accommodation in our quality Hotel on Loch Promenade Douglas, overlooking the sea. Rooms with a sea view are available on request, on payment of a supplement (see above). Accommodation is inclusive of Breakfast, and **Evening meal**.
- ❖ Live evening entertainment at the Hotel on two nights.
- ❖ All rail, tram and bus fares during the entire holiday (except Manx Express Bus services).
- ❖ Admission and guide charges at the Railway Museum, Works and Depots (wherever appropriate).
- ❖ All other ancillary charges, taxes and administration.

WHAT IS NOT INCLUDED IN THE COST?

- ❖ Meals other than breakfast and evening meal.
- ❖ **Travel to and from the Island, including Air Travel. We cannot book flights on your behalf**, you must arrange your own, or a ferry crossing. However, we are able to give advice which will point you in the right direction (See below).

GETTING THERE

The cost of taking a Coach or Mini Bus to the Island would be horrendous, particularly as it would be virtually idle for the whole week, and add too much to the cost of the Holiday. For this reason, and that we are also unable to arrange air fares, we are asking you to make your own arrangements, and suggest:

By Air into Ronaldsway Airport:

When we checked in early December, the low cost airline Flybe were quoting £71.98 (all inclusive) return fare from London Gatwick. Can you beat that?

By Ferry from Heysham or Liverpool to Douglas:

Also in early December, the Isle of Man Steam Packet Company was quoting the cost for one foot passenger at £40.50 return. Quotes for a car on the same date ranged between £278 & £325.

OUR 'CORE' ITINERARY DURING THE WEEK WILL BE:

Isle of Man Steam Railway

Opened in 1874, this 3ft narrow gauge railway still runs with its original locomotives and carriages, through an ever changing countryside, to a choice of destinations in the south of the island. At 15 and a half miles, from Douglas to Port Erin, via Castletown and Ballasalla, it is the longest narrow gauge steam line in Britain. Loco No. 4 'Loch', one of the original engines, is still in service today.

We will also visit **Port Erin Museum**, and arrange visits to **Douglas Depot** and **Carriage Shed**.

Manx Electric Railway

Is a unique vintage railway over 100 years old. Open and closed tramcars take passengers on an unforgettable journey along the east coast from Ramsey to Douglas, via Laxey. From the breathtaking heights of Bulgham Rocks to the pretty Maughold countryside, there is no better way to appreciate the Isle of Man's beautiful Scenery.

We will also arrange visits to the **Depots** at **Douglas** and **Laxey**.

Douglas Horse Tramway

A colourful summer sight on Douglas Promenade since 1876, this sedate mode of transport is a testimony to Victorian engineering and endurance – and just as popular with today's visitors. The 2 mile route from Derby Castle at one end of the prom to the sea terminal at the other, is served by the original rolling stock – the world's oldest working trams.

We will also arrange visits to the **Depot**.

Groulle Glen Railway

Operated entirely by volunteers and owned by the 'Isle of Man Steam Railway Supporters' Association'. It is a true narrow gauge railway, originally built in the 1890's. 2007 had a special significance for today's volunteers as 25 years have now passed since the signing of an agreement with the then landowners, which allowed the restoration work to begin. Over

the years that followed, a new railway was built which has included some of the original buildings.

Orchid Line Miniature Railway

Runs on a half mile track through the heart of the Curraghs Wildlife Park. Trains run, weather permitting, most Sundays and Bank Holidays. Manx Steam and Model Engineering Club volunteers run this very special miniature steam railway.

Snaefell Mountain Railway

Over 100 years old, this Electric mountain railway runs from Laxey to the summit of Snaefell at 2,036 feet. The line is 5 miles long, built to a 3ft 6in (1067mm) gauge, and uses a fell centre rail for braking on the steep gradients. It is electrified using overhead wires at 550 volts DC, with bow collectors. Services operate at regular intervals between April and September, taking 30 minutes for a one-way journey. From the line you can view the six kingdoms: England, Ireland, Scotland, Wales, Mann and Heaven.

Great Laxey Mine Railway

In 1999, the Laxey and Lonan Heritage Trust began the restoration of the surface section of the former tramway. The restored Great Laxey Mine Railway was officially opened on 25th September, 2004. Passengers can now ride in a tiny carriage along the line where loaded wagons of ore were once hauled from the mine. The railway, a quarter of a mile in length, runs up the valley from the former Washing Floors, now the valley Gardens, to the main adit entrance where there is a picnic site, footpath and information boards explaining the mining features. The line runs beneath the main Laxey to Ramsey road and the Manx Electric Railway through the longest railway tunnel on the Island.

The descriptions of these attractions listed above are taken from the Official Isle of Man Government website: <http://www.visitisleofman.com>

OTHER ATTRACTIONS WHICH YOU MAY CONSIDER MERITS YOUR ATTENTION DURING FREE TIME:

The Manx Grand Prix & Junior T.T.

Is taking place during our stay. Thirty-seven and three-quarter miles of thrills, and spills, as the riders, and their high powered motor cycles, get to grips with the tricky Island circuit. Ramsey, Ballacraine Corner, Ballaugh Bridge, and anywhere in the Mountains are spectacular viewing points.

Curraghs Wildlife Park.

Here the animals roam free in large enclosures designed with their natural habitat in mind, and situated in some 26 acres of land.

Motor Cycle Museum.

Situated near the top of Snaefell, no other location better charts the history of two wheel motor sport on the Island.

Around Douglas

Nobles Park. Acres of open parkland and landscaped gardens, incorporating a modern leisure complex.

Gaiety Theatre & Opera House. Key heritage building on the Island and centre for the performing arts

Regimental Museum. Dedicated to the 15th (Isle of Man) Light AA Regiment, formed in 1939 to defend the Island from attack, but later distinguished itself in many theatres of the Second World War.

Around Peel

Peel Castle. Built in 1392.

House of Manannan. Built in 1997 on part of the old Peel Railway Station. One of its prize exhibits is a Norse Long ship, sailed to the Island from Norway in 1979.

Corrin's Tower. Built in 1806 by Thomas Corrin. Later, he had his family were buried on the hill next to it.

Leece Museum. The Municipal Museum of Peel.

Manx Transportation Museum.

The Kipper Factory. A plaice on the Island where they encourage smoking!!

For every attraction above, there is at least another three and we would need a separate brochure to do everything justice. However, there is a very good website which lists and describes all other places of interest.

<http://www.iomguide.com> Enjoy.

Important Note:

So popular is the Isle of Man, the choice of dates for this tour was all that remained available to us, and the reason we were compelled to alter our preferred date from July. In order to keep our hotel booking we must confirm the tour as running, and send a deposit, by the end of January. Failure to do so will result in cancellation, and there is no shortage of groups waiting for such an eventuality. It is for this reason that we require your booking and deposit so early. However, due to the timescale we have decided to ask for a modest initial deposit, in the form of £50, and then an interim payment, followed by the final balance, 10 and 6 weeks prior to the tour.

This will be an outstanding tour but if we do not confirm it by the end of January, it will be lost. Please ensure that you send your bookings by the January deadline. On the positive side, early confirmation allows you over 6 months to find the lowest air fare.

**Remember - Do Not Book Your Flight
Until We have Confirmed The Tour As Running**