



Isle of Man Festive
Walking
Festival 2020

18th December – 4th January 2021

Welcome to the Island's first ever Festive Walking Festival.

Whether you want a peaceful stroll, a challenging hike, a family outing or more in-depth sightseeing and adventure, this festival is sure to add something special to your Christmas holidays. There are walks to suit all ages and interests.

We'd love you to join us in the winter wonderland of the Manx Countryside, with our rugged cliffs, rolling hills and picturesque glens, you won't be disappointed. These are just a few of the reasons why the Isle of Man is a walker's paradise.

We know the festive season can leave many of us feeling overwhelmed, stressed and disconnected from nature. So, our winter walks can help you unwind and connect with new people. Our varied timetable of walks are offering an array of guided festive walks for you to try. From heart-racing hikes to serene strolls, we've got a winter wander for everyone.



Key to symbols



Packed lunch: Please bring a packed lunch.



Café: We will stop at a cafe for light refreshments during walk.



Family Friendly: These walks will include games, stories or treasure hunts to help children engage with the natural world and local history.



Dogs welcome. Well behaved dogs on leads are welcome.



Transport: Transport available.



Wheelchair friendly.

How do I book?

Please book in advance so that we can place a limit on the numbers attending each walk and avoid over-large groups on popular walks. This helps to improve the safety and enjoyment of everyone taking part. Booking is quick and easy. Simply decide on the walks you want to join and email the allocated Guide to reserve your spot.

The festival programme has been put together to include walks to suit people of all abilities. We have graded each walk as follows:

Easy gentle slopes (1-4 miles)

Moderate gentle slopes (1-6 miles)

Hard some difficult terrain and hilly sections (1-9 miles)

Very Hard longer walks with varied terrain (10+ miles)

What to bring on the walk:

Please wear suitable footwear and clothing for outdoor walking. The Island's weather can be wet so please bring waterproofs. It's important to remember to bring food and plenty of water. More information on walking safely is available from www.ramblers.org.uk under the advice section.

Facebook - You can also keep up to date with walking festival news on our Facebook page; IOM Walking Festival

If you would like any more information regarding this event, contact Kate Bergquist katebergquist@iomc.ac.im

Friday 18th December
10:00 – 3:00pm

North Barrule and the Corrary Valley



7 miles – moderate/hard
Guided hill walk up what is possibly the finest hill on the Island. Ascending steeply from the Hibernian things get easier as we traverse the ridge to Clagh Ouyr and then return by the Corrary valley. On this walk expect rich wildlife, isolated ruins and spectacular views.
Walk Leader: **John Barker**
£15
For more details and booking go to www.mountainactivities.im

Saturday 19th December
10:00 – 4:00pm

Trail of the Christmas Ale



Depart from **Castletown Square** at 10am and walk out to Scarlett and follow the Raad ny Foillan via Balladoole, Gansey Bay and Chapel Beach using the footpaths.

Arrive Albert Hotel, Port St Mary from 12pm for festive refreshments (not included in the price)

Depart Albert Hotel 1pm.

Continue on Raad ny Foillan footpath via Perwick to The Chasms. Then follow the footpath to Cregneash Village. Arrive Bay Hotel from 3pm for a Hot Pot Beef Stew (included in the price)

Leader: **Ian Dunbar**
£20 per person



Photo by Andy North

Sunday 20th December
9:30 – 3:30pm

Coast to Cairns for Christmas



7 miles – moderate/hard (850 metres ascent)

Meet at **Ballaugh Parish Hall - IM7 5EJ**

Tradition has it that if you carry a stone to the top of a mountain and place it on top of a Cairn you will have good luck. We will take our stones from Sea level and follow a beautiful forest and moorland scenery trail as we wind our way up this juicy climb (which will help justify that

extra Christmas pudding!) to gradually reach Snaefell summit cairn. We can take in some pure mountain air and the views of all 7 Nations (8 if you include below!) and then stroll down to fill our hollow legs up with a festive feast and a hot chocolate (not included in the price) from the wonderful Pie Hole café down at the Bungalow. Minibus back to start.

Qualified Leaders: **Kate Bergquist/Andy North**

To reserve a place email katebergquist@iomc.ac.im
Or ring 07624 330539
Max numbers: 22
£12 per person



Sunday 20th December
12 - 4:00pm

In the path of the Vikings
(Battle of Skyhill - Walk and
Canoe Journey)



Meeting at **Conrods Pizzeria**
(Boathouse Café) at the
Mooragh Park, we will start

with a minibus journey to the beginning of our walk (provided in price of walk). The exact location of the start of the walk will be weather dependent but will include a journey on foot through Skyhill plantation and the surrounding areas before reaching our first destination, the site of the battle of Skyhill. Famously this is where Godred Crovan successfully battled with Manx forces in 1079 taking the Island from the ruling King, after he and his forces ascended the Sulby river in boats.

Once we have explored the area we will walk to the Sulby river to join our canoes and retrace the journey of Godred Crovan and his forces back down the Sulby river to Ramsey. We will journey in stable rafted canoes along this flat and scenic part of the Sulby river.

This is a maximum 8km walk, followed by approximately 1hr canoe journey.
£30pp (£20pp if booking 3 or more).

To book online visit
www.venturecentre.im
or phone 814240



Monday 21st December
10:30 - 12:30

Carols around Cregneash

3km/2 miles - Moderate -
Gentle Pace

Meet at **Cregneash car park for**
departure at 10:30am

NGR SC 190 674; [https://
what3words.com/reversed.
dozes.gulls](https://what3words.com/reversed.dozes.gulls)

A stroll around Cregneash
village and the area around it
with stops for carol singing.
Route chosen will depend on
the weather!

Leader: **Andrew Foxon**
gomannadventures@gmail.com
07624 480129

Max number of places 20
Booking essential £5 per person

Tuesday 22nd December
10:00am - 1:00pm

Christmas wander in the
woods



5 miles/8km Moderate - Gentle
Pace

Explore the woods and fields
at the top of Sulby Glen, with
plenty of opportunities to take
Christmassy photos among
the moss-covered trees and
tholtans. A moderate 5-mile
walk at a gentle pace. The route
will come back to the cars after
3 miles for a hot drink and snack
(bring your own) and you have
the option of not continuing for
the remaining 2 miles.

Leader: **Catriona Livingstone**

To reserve a place and for
details about where to meet,
email catriona@manxwalks.im or
ring 07624 303273.

£10pp payable on the day.
No charge for accompanied
children.

Should the weather forecast
on the day reduce safety or
enjoyment of participants,
a decision on cancellation
will be made at the earliest
convenience and contact
will be made with all booked
participants.





Wednesday 23rd December
10:00 - 12:30

The Bradda Head Christmas tree hunt



7km/4.5 miles - Hard - Faster
Paced

Meet at **Bradda Glen car park**
for departure at **10:00am**
Post code IM9 6PJ

<https://what3words.com/>

chiming.sugared.shaming

Walk through Bradda East
and West towards Fleshwick
then hike up the steep slope
of Bradda Head to find the
Christmas tree! Return via
Milner's Tower to Bradda Glen
and café. Bring walking poles.

Leader: **Andrew Foxon**

gomannadventures@gmail.com
07624 480129

Max number of places 12
Booking essential £10 per
person

Sunday 27th December
2:00 - 4:30pm

Lonan walk with Praying the Keeills



3km/2 miles - Easy/Gentle Pace
Meet at St Adamnan's (Old Kirk
Lonan) at 2pm.

**NGR SC 427 793; Post code IM4
6AQ** <https://what3words.com/>

unrelated.filled.kneeling
Celtic prayer at St Adamnan's
followed by a short afternoon
walk around Ballanette nature
reserve.

Leader: **Phil Craine**
philcraine44@gmail.com
07624 437248

Monday 28th December
1:30pm (approx 45 minutes walk)

Shepherding the Sheep Walk



Let's wrap up and go with
Meg the working dog to check
the sheep at Smeale Farm
then warm up with festive
refreshments in the barn. Meet
in **Smeale Farmyard, Andreas,
IM7 3EB.**

Wellingtons essential.
Refreshments and toilet
available.

1.5 miles, moderate- gentle pace.
Price £10 adult, £7.50p child
(includes refreshments)

Age 5+

Leader: **Steve and Beth Martin**
Booking: Smealecott@manx.net
Ring 880888



Tuesday 29th December
10:30am - 1:00pm

Family Bushcraft at Dhoon Glen



Meeting at the car park at the
top of Dhoon Glen we will walk
down through the glen past
beautiful waterfalls and old
ruins before emerging on one
of the most scenic beaches on
the Island. Once on the beach
we will learn basic bushcraft
skills and construct fires using
primitive techniques before
cooking tasty food on our open
fires. Campfire food, and hot
drinks provided. After finishing
on the beach we will return up



through the coastal path and back to the car park.
£15pp
To book online visit www.venturecentre.im or phone 814240

Wednesday 30th December
10.30am - 12pm

Mindfulness in the Glen - with Mike Kewley

Join Mindfulness teacher Mike Kewley for this Winter walk through one of the Islands most beautiful Glens and discover how awareness, silence and presence can help train our minds to be happier and heighten our experience of the natural world.

Location: Ballglass Glen

Price: £10.00

Register: hello@mikekewley.com
(Number limited to 25)
(Adults and teens only)

Friday 1st January 2021
7:00 - 11:00am

Move your mountains Sunrise Walk - Mount Karrin (set your intentions for the year ahead)

6 miles - moderate - gentle pace.

Meet at **Tholt-y-will plantation car park - IM7 2BF**

Intentions remind us of the kind of person we want to be and they allow us to be mindful of our full potential without demanding perfection. This beautiful scenic walk through Tholt-y-will plantation and taking in Mount Karrin will allow us to make space for the new challenges ahead. We will watch the sunrise on Mount Karrin before descending into the Sulby valley to set our intentions in the stunning Sulby stone circle - followed by fresh coffee and croissants.

Leader: **Kate Bergquist**

To reserve a place email katebergquist@iomc.ac.im
Or ring 07624 330539
Max numbers: 15
£10 per person

Saturday 2nd January
10:00am

The Isle of Play "Wish Stick Walk"



Meeting at **Rushen Abbey car park** and walking along the Silver Burn River to Silverdale Café. Once at the café, indulge in a hot chocolate (included) and decorate a "Wish Stick" to race before heading home. This short but enjoyable and puddle filled walk is an ideal way to start the New Year, start a new tradition and support your favourite children's charity. Tickets £5/head (under 2's free) Email: info@isleofplay.im to book your place.



Sunday 3rd January
8:00 - 4:00pm

From bottom to top - Snaefell Mountain



7 miles - moderate/hard - fast paced

Meet on **Laxey Promenade - IM4 7DD**

Ever wanted to walk our very own mountain from the bottom to the top?

Do you want to start the New Year as you mean to go on?

This walk is mainly uphill and goes from the lowest point, Laxey, just a few feet above sea level, up to Snaefell, the highest peak on the Island at 2037 feet. The route will skirt the valley taking in some challenging walking with some juicy climbing. The sweeping valley from Laxey provides a view of one of the largest and most attractive valleys on the Island.

There will be transport at the bungalow to return everyone back to their cars in Laxey

Leader: **Kate Bergquist**
To reserve a place email katebergquist@iomc.ac.im
Or ring 07624 330539

Max numbers: 15
£12 per person



Photo by Andy North

Sunday 3rd January
10:00am - 1:30pm

Coasts and Cliffs – Coastal walk and 110ft Cliff Abseil



Meeting at the **Venture Centre in Maughold** we will begin with some abseil training on our on-site training walls. After we have got to grips with abseiling we will begin our walk from the centre down towards Port-E-Vullen beach before taking the scenic coastal path along the Maughold broughs. On the way we will pass old mine workings, spectacular coastal scenery and view the birdlife that make these cliffs their home. Once in Maughold village we will pass through the Village churchyard with its collection of ancient crosses and carry on our journey to the Cliff Abseil. The abseil itself will take us down a spectacular 110ft sea cliff to a secluded beach. Once we have all completed the abseil we will carry on our journey to Port



Moar beach where we will keep an eye out for seals and meet our minibus to transport us back to The Venture Centre. 6.5km walk- Plus 110ft abseil (some of the coastal path can be undulating you should be happy walking across rough ground).

£35pp

To book online visit www.venturecentre.im or phone 814240

Sunday 3rd January
10:30 – 12:00pm

Beach Buddies Walk and Clean



BEACH BUDDIES

South Barrule walk and clean up with our Beach Buddies team who will start their first event of the New Year at South Barrule plantation. This event will include a walk around the plantation, litter picking and lots of tasty free cakes at the end. Dogs with well-behaved owners are very welcome, and we always like to see families. Everyone is welcome. We provide all the equipment – gloves, bags and litter pickers – and we move the rubbish afterwards and recycle as much as we can.

Meet at South Barrule plantation car park - IM4 3ES
(No booking necessary)



Photo by Nick Shimmin

