

Reading



The Isle of Wight

The Isle of Wight, on the south coast of England, is the country's largest island and has become a popular tourist destination. So what can you find there?

First, the island is popular with cyclists and the public has voted it one of the 'Top 10' cycling destinations in the world. It has got a wide variety of landscapes to enjoy, from green hills and valleys to narrow paths and, most importantly, the island's famous white cliffs. This chalk rock goes across the middle of the island from Culver Cliff in the east to The Needles in the west. The Needles are a curious line of individual white chalk rocks that come out of the sea, and are so extraordinary-looking that they are one of the most photographed rock formations in the world.

If you are not keen on cycling but still want to see all the areas of natural beauty, the island has over 500 kilometres of footpaths, including a 107 km path which goes around the whole island. Every year there is a walking festival, the biggest in the UK and one of the biggest in Europe. Many tourists come here to study the wildlife and enjoy the natural environment. Local cyclists and walkers have been enjoying the Isle of Wight for many years, but recently the island has begun to attract more visitors from London and tourists from abroad.

One of the biggest current attractions is the Isle of Wight Festival, which takes place at the beginning of June, and is the first of the UK's major summer festivals. The festival

was first held in 1968 with some famous music groups playing there, but it stopped between 1970 and 2002.

Today it is one of the largest music festivals in Europe. There is a dedicated kids' zone with live music, comedy and theatre plus workshops where you can learn circus skills. Students and teens have a reduced price for entry, and children under 12 go free. There is a large campsite where you can stay in tents of all sizes and colours, which is great for backpackers! If you want something more comfortable and larger you can stay in a yurt – a traditional tent from Mongolia – or a Podpad, which has electricity so you can charge your mobiles!

Finally, the island is one of the best places in Europe to find dinosaur bones, footprints and fossils. You can visit Dinosaur Isle Museum which has over 1,000 of the best fossils on display, with many more stored away for future research. It also has reconstructions of life-sized dinosaurs which are pretty impressive!

So whether you want to relax on one of the island's beaches, dance to a famous DJ or are interested in discovering an area of natural beauty, the Isle of Wight has something for you. You might even stand in the footprint of a dinosaur!

Are these sentences True or False?

- | | |
|---|-------|
| 1 The Isle of Wight is the most popular tourist destination in England. | T / F |
| 2 The landscape of the Isle of Wight is very similar across the island. | T / F |
| 3 The walking festival is the largest in Europe. | T / F |
| 4 The Isle of Wight had a music festival in 1969. | T / F |
| 5 There are model dinosaurs in the museum. | T / F |