



Useful information from the Expedition Network

Welcome

For more information, please contact the Expedition Area Co-ordinator:

Alison Barnes

Duke of Edinburgh's Award Co-ordinator

Ardwhallan Outdoor Centre

West Baldwin

Isle of Man IM4 5EU

T: 01624 853711/01624 686051 M: 07624 321706 E: Alison.Barnes@sch.im

Introduction

The Isle of Man is a little different to most of the other Expedition Areas, it is like going abroad without the hassle.

- While geographically being part of the British Isles it is not part of the United Kingdom.
- It is an internally self-governing Crown dependency, its parliament being 'Tynwald', the oldest continuous parliament in the world.
- It uses its own money although this is linked to sterling, and British notes and coins which are happily accepted everywhere.

While the Isle of Man is small, compared to many other Expedition Areas, there are many opportunities for some great expeditions.

Getting to the Island requires greater planning than a visit to many other areas - however communications are good and the extra effort can make your venture more of an event.

Because the Isle of Man is compact and hosts some large motor racing events, during which some roads are closed, we advise to avoid these very busy times. Also, the cost of travelling to and from the Island increases at these times too.

Maps and information

Isle of Man Expedition Area information

Local maps

The Landranger 1:50000 map Sheet 95 covers the Isle of Man and is widely available. The Isle of Man Department of Infrastructure produce a footpath and public rights of way (1:25000) map. This is very useful for showing field boundaries, footpaths, and areas where you are free to walk away from footpaths, however, it is important to get the 2004+ issue as on earlier maps contours are still shown in feet. The 1:25000 map is available from the Department of Infrastructure and many Isle of Man bookshops or heritage shops or maps could be lent to groups, contact Alison for details. A Harvey 1:30000 map is also available.

Not all of the Isle of Man is designated as wild country; please use the guidelines to assist with planning your expedition, refer to the notification process for more information, and the map below.

All the members of the Isle of Man Expedition Network will be delighted to offer help and guidance to anyone involved in the Expedition section of the DofE.

DofE on the Isle of Man

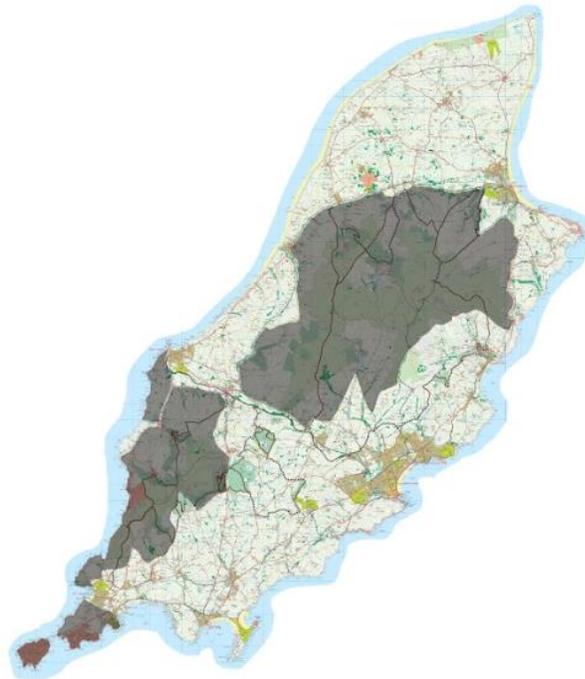
The Isle of Man Department of Education, Sport and Culture Youth Service is the largest Operating Authority, and DofE is very active on the Isle of Man, with many local Award groups going out on over 100 expeditions per season. As well as expeditions it is an ideal venue for residentials and expedition or Leader training.

Camping/wild country area Campsites

Refer to the list of campsites in the Isle of Man, this is not intended to be a complete list, and is only updated annually; but may prove helpful. Wild camping is only permitted with permission from our Department of Environment, Food and Agriculture (DEFA).

Planning an expedition

Because of the size of the Isle of Man careful planning of an expedition is essential, the shaded area on the map below shows the areas of true wild country (the vast majority of a Gold expedition should take place within these boundaries). There is some flexibility, such as if a group wishes to visit an area of interest or study or go to a more suitable campsite. However, this should be kept to a minimum and be agreed with the Assessor when the route is first submitted.



Emergency Planning

The fire service and civil defence operate their own mountain rescue unit.

The main hospital on the Isle of Man is Nobles Hospital, Braddan, Douglas. The Isle of Man Health Service provides emergency treatment free for groups from the UK and EU.

Telephones

Most payphones are card phones and only Manx Telecom cards can be used in these, they are available from many newsagents and tourist information offices.

Mobile phones should not be relied on, as there are areas of the island without coverage. Some mobile phones may not work on the island, so please check your phone works on local networks, international roaming charges may apply.

Weather

The weather in the Isle of Man is, by nature of its location, changeable with low cloud, hill fog and strong winds common. The 'live' weather forecasts on Manx Radio (1368 MHz) at 6:00, 7:00, 8:00, 9:00 and 17:00 each day give very good guidance for the next few days.

Ronaldsway Met Office provides an excellent service giving detailed weather forecasts and very useful advice. Recorded Forecasts 0900 6243 300 are updated six times each day. You can talk to a forecaster direct 0900 6243 200, available 24 hours per day.

Familiarisation

Groups should try to spend two full nights on the island prior to the start of the expedition. If you do not wish to camp there are some inexpensive self-catering properties available for hire, such as:

- Ardwhallan Outdoor Education Centre, West Baldwin (6 miles from Douglas Town Centre). Contact Paul Melling on 01624 853711
- The Venture Centre Bunkhouse, Maughold (2 miles from Ramsey Town Centre). Contact either Mike or Simon Read on 01624 814240

There are also many low cost boarding houses in Douglas, details can be obtained from the Department of Enterprise (DE) on 01624 686766.

Busy times

T.T. Fortnight: The Isle of Man TT is a series of motorcycle races around a 37-mile road circuit, which is closed to the public for many hours at a time. This is usually a two-week period starting at the end of May. The dates can change slightly, however this is well publicised by the DE. This is also the Island's busiest period, the cost of travel increases, all accommodation is full and campsites suitable for expedition are impossible to find; wild camping is not allowed. **The Festival of Motorcycling** (formally the Manx Grand Prix) is similar to the TT but quieter and ventures are possible during this time, it is usually held at the end of August /beginning of September.

Car Rallies: Many roads are closed and access is almost impossible during these, however, campsites are available and an extra day's familiarisation can provide some spectacular viewing. Dates and details are available at www.gov.im/tourism

Tynwald Day: 5 July: The Manx National Day, when new laws are announced to the population by the Lord (or her representative) from 'The Hill' in St Johns. This is a unique occasion and is well worth a visit - however expeditions should steer clear of St Johns on that day (unless you have it as part of your aim).

Getting here

Getting to the Isle of Man is a little more challenging than many other areas, however, travelling by ferry or plane can help make your expedition a greater experience.

By sea:

From: Liverpool, Heysham, Dublin and Belfast, contact the Isle of Man Steam Packet Company, Imperial Buildings, Douglas, Isle of Man, Tel: 01624 661661 www.steam-packet.com The Steam Packet Company may give special fares to DofE participants if you ask them, however 'footloose' or 'rail and sail' fares are good value.

By air:

From: Aberdeen, Belfast City, Belfast International, Birmingham, Blackpool, Bristol, Cardiff, Dublin, Glasgow, Gloucester, Liverpool, London City, London Gatwick, Manchester, Newcastle.

In the first instance check out www.manxflights.com for airline providers, except Easyjet, but booking direct from the flight provider's websites is usually cheaper.