

Any comments, suggestions, queries ?

Contact Patricia Newton at 861560 / 366269 or
Email patricianewton@manx.net

When? To maximise the chance of enjoying “bird life” we would hope to travel as near as possible to the end of September 2018 ie somewhere between 20th September and 2nd October for a minimum of 5 nights / 6days.

Where? Accommodation is proposed in the Newcastle / Downpatrick area in South Down. Dinner, bed and breakfast is a minimum of £75 per person based on two people sharing a room. There is very little single bedroom accommodation; those wishing to occupy a double as a single may pay significantly extra or may have to find alternative B& B accommodation in guest houses.

How? Flying to Belfast or Dublin is proposed.

However the airline to Belfast is changing at the end of October 2017 and details of flights and costs will not be known until March 2018. Based on this year there will be no flights at weekends.

Based on previous years, Steam Packet sailings, which are continuing to Belfast in 2018, will only operate until the end of the third week in September and will arrive and depart in the middle of the night.

Transport around the area will be in a self-drive minibus. We will be accompanied by guides as required.



CO. DOWN

IOMNHAS OFF-ISLAND EXCURSION, SEPTEMBER 2018

Co Down in Ulster stretching from Belfast Lough to Carlingford Lough is our third destination around the Irish Sea to view places we can see from the Island but may never have visited.

With three legs to our tour – Strangford Lough with its rich bird life, beautiful islands, “castles” and monasteries, the Mourne Mountains, their reservoirs, dykes and traditional farms and the Lecale Peninsula on the trail of St. Patrick – our

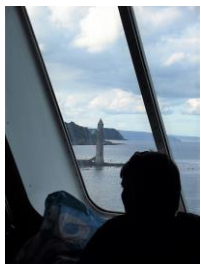


‘pilgrimage’ will lead from dolmen via diving-ducks to direct current, monks, missionaries and moorhens souterain, sandpiper

and scotch mill, the excursion offers the opportunity for all IOMNHAS interests to compare and contrast the region with the Island.



INDICATIVE ITINERARY



Journey Out and Day 1 North Down travel to Belfast, lunch stop at Dundonald watermill, journeying past Newtownards lead mines



and monasteries to Scrabo Hillfort & Tower at head of Strangford Lough before continuing to hotel in South Down.



Day 2 Ards Peninsula East of Strangford Lough Portaferry area, Grey Abbey, Mount Stewart, Ballycopeland windmill.

Day 3 Trail of St. Patrick, Ballanoe Stone Circle, Downpatrick – South Down Museum, Cathedral, Struell Wells, Saul Church, Inch Abbey.

Day 4 Mourne Dundrum Castle, Drummena Cashel & Souterain, Silent Valley



Hanna's Close, Annalong harbour & cornmill.



Day 5 West side Strangford Lough Annadorn Dolmen, Nendrum monastery, Castle Espie wildlife reserve, the



two faced Castle Ward.

Day 6 West Down Legananny Dolmen, Dromore Scutch Mill, Lisburn Linen Centre and return to Belfast/Isle of Man.

ESTIMATED COST

Based on

5 nights

A minimum of 16 people

Two people sharing a room

dinner, bed and breakfast, self-drive minibus hire, guides, guidebook, lunches & admissions the **excursion will cost around £570 - £600.**

This excludes travel to and from Isle of Man to Belfast or Dublin.

Single rooms will be extra and may have to be obtained in a separate venue.

Manx National Heritage cards are valid at various sites.

A 6th night to allow more time at sites is not ruled out but will cost £75 -£100 extra.

Opinions welcome!

If you are interested in joining this trip please complete and return the attached form together with a deposit of £60 per person (cheque payable to IOMNHAS) to Patricia Newton, Hon Excursion Secretary IOMNHAS, 2 Glen View, South Cape, Laxey IM4 7HY

By 30th November 2017

Name(s) & Address (email or postal)

Deposit £60 per person

Please indicate which of the following apply -

Double / Twin (please specify which)

If you are travelling singly but will share a twin room with someone else

Single (may be in different accommodation and will cost a minimum of £10 per night more)

I /We have MNH cards

I / We would prefer 6 nights / 7 days