

Pier to Creek

Ryde to Wootton

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 - Protect the natural environment
 - Leave no trace of your visit and take your litter home
 - Keep dogs under effective control
 - Enjoy the outdoors
 - Plan ahead and be prepared
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The best way to see the Island
Rambles Bus

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Westfield House

Westfield House, now called Westfield Park, dates from 1811 and was built for the 2nd Earl Spencer (after whom Spencer Road is named). It was a favourite marine residence of his for many years, and visited by many distinguishing guests, including European royalty.

The house was enlarged and an 'Osborne tower' added by Thomas Hellyer for Sir Augustus Clifford in 1855. Sir Augustus Clifford was at one time Black Rod. Clifford also added the triumphal arch gateway in 1864 to bear the statue of a reclining stag which came from the Great Exhibition of 1851.

Ryde Pier

Before the pier was built, passengers to Ryde had the uncomfortable experience of coming ashore on the back of a porter and then, depending on the state of the tide, having to walk as far as half a mile across wet sand before reaching the town.

The first pier was opened in 1814. It was extended to 2250 feet in 1833 while the pier head was expanded in 1842 and 1856-60. A tramway pier, opened on August 29th 1864, was added alongside. Horse-drawn trams took passengers from the pier head to the esplanade. The railway pier, adjacent to this, opened in 1880.

A concert pavilion was constructed at the pier head in 1895, and from then until 1911, the wooden piles were gradually replaced with iron. The lifeboat station closed in 1922 and, in June 1924, Southern Railway took over the pier. In the early 1930s the pier was rebuilt in concrete. After the Second World War, the pavilion concert hall was used as a ballroom.

Ryde Sands

where the nation's only passenger hovercraft service links Ryde with Southsea

In 1969, the tramway closed and the pier was partly dismantled, leaving gaps between the promenade and railway piers.

In December 1976, a five year re-planking operation was completed. In the early 1980s, a covered waiting area, replacing the Victorian waiting rooms, was constructed on the pier-head. More parking spaces were also provided.

Trains still leave from the pier-head and ferries maintain a regular service from this 2,305-foot pier to Portsmouth harbour.

Quarr Abbey

The Cistercian abbey was founded in 1132, and was a flourishing farming community – it took its name from the local quarrying of limestone. The site was well chosen to have access to the Solent and the monks traded with northern Europe and the North Sea coast. The abbey became the largest religious house on the Isle of Wight.

In the 16th century, on the orders of Henry VIII, the Dissolution of the Monasteries took place. At Quarr, after the monks left, the stonework of the abbey was taken away. Some of this stone can still be seen in the walls of Henry's coastal fort, Yarmouth Castle. One of the abbey bells still remains at Binstead church. Over the centuries, the once imposing abbey with its grand church, fell into disrepair.

In 1907 the monks returned to Quarr, the Benedictine "black monks" – so-called because of the colour of their habit – of the French Solesmes congregation. A new, more modern Quarr Abbey has arisen – Our Lady of Quarr, this time built in brick, designed by Dom Bellot. The small community of Benedictines grew and is now well established; they have worked hard to bring life to both the new and old abbeys.

Church of the Holy Cross, Binstead

This Anglican church was founded in the Middle Ages. The present church is of Norman foundation, one of several thousand churches in England built or rebuilt, entirely in stone, within a hundred years of the Conquest. Only the Norman chancel and chancel windows now remain. In 1834, the Norman nave was rebuilt. Further rebuilding was carried out in 1875 and 1925. Most of the interior of the church was entirely furnished and equipped during Victorian renovations, and much of the stained glass is relatively modern.

In 1969 the nave was severely damaged by a fire which broke out in the gallery. The gallery panelling and hammer-beam roof, both copies of the original, were reconstructed by local craftsmen. The glorious stained glass high in the west windows depicting a peacock, a symbol of immortality, and a phoenix rising from the flames were installed in the 1970s by Lawrence Lee. He led an exceptional group of artists who designed the famous stained glass at Coventry Cathedral. The window behind the pulpit was also by Lawrence Lee.

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Description A linear walk along very good paths which are suitable for families. There is an opportunity to visit Binstead Church and Quarr Abbey. **Distance** 3.6 miles. **Start** Bus station at Ryde Esplanade. **Access information** There are no stiles, some inclines. Most of the paths are suitable for cyclists and families with buggies. **Refreshments** Ryde pubs, and cafes. Tea room at Quarr. Pub at Fishbourne. **Toilets** Patrons of pubs and cafes. **Internet** All walks in this series can be downloaded from this website www.loveislandbuses.com/page4.htm or www.islandbuses.info/things-to-do/

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Rambles Bus

Pier to Creek

Ryde to Wootton

Information

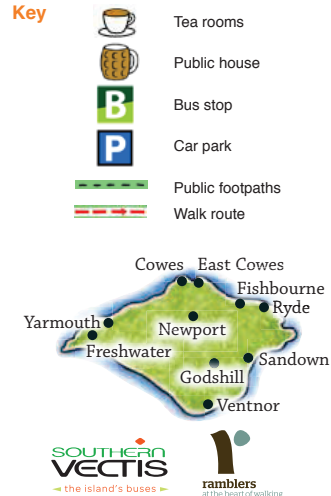
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Key



Scan this code with your smart phone to access the Southern Vectis timetable applicable to this walk.

Route From the bus station walk past the pier **1** and continue to a roundabout. Continue into St Thomas Street, following the Coastal Path signs. Turn right into Buckingham Road **2**. Follow this as it goes left and at a road junction at the top of the hill go right. Go along Spencer Road to Westfield Park Lodge **3**.

Continue along the road and go along a footpath on a "private road" which leads to the main road. Turn right onto the footpath to the right of clubhouse at Ryde Golf Club **4**. The path descends over a bridge and up into Binstead village.

Go by the Church of the Holy Cross **5**. Follow the

road left and after 30 yards turn right into Church Road. Follow the coastal path R45 signs towards Ladies Walk and Quarr Abbey **6**. Take the path to the left of Kingarth. At a lane, go right. After houses, the path goes through a wooden gate. The track is an upgraded path which passes the ancient ruins of Quarr Abbey.

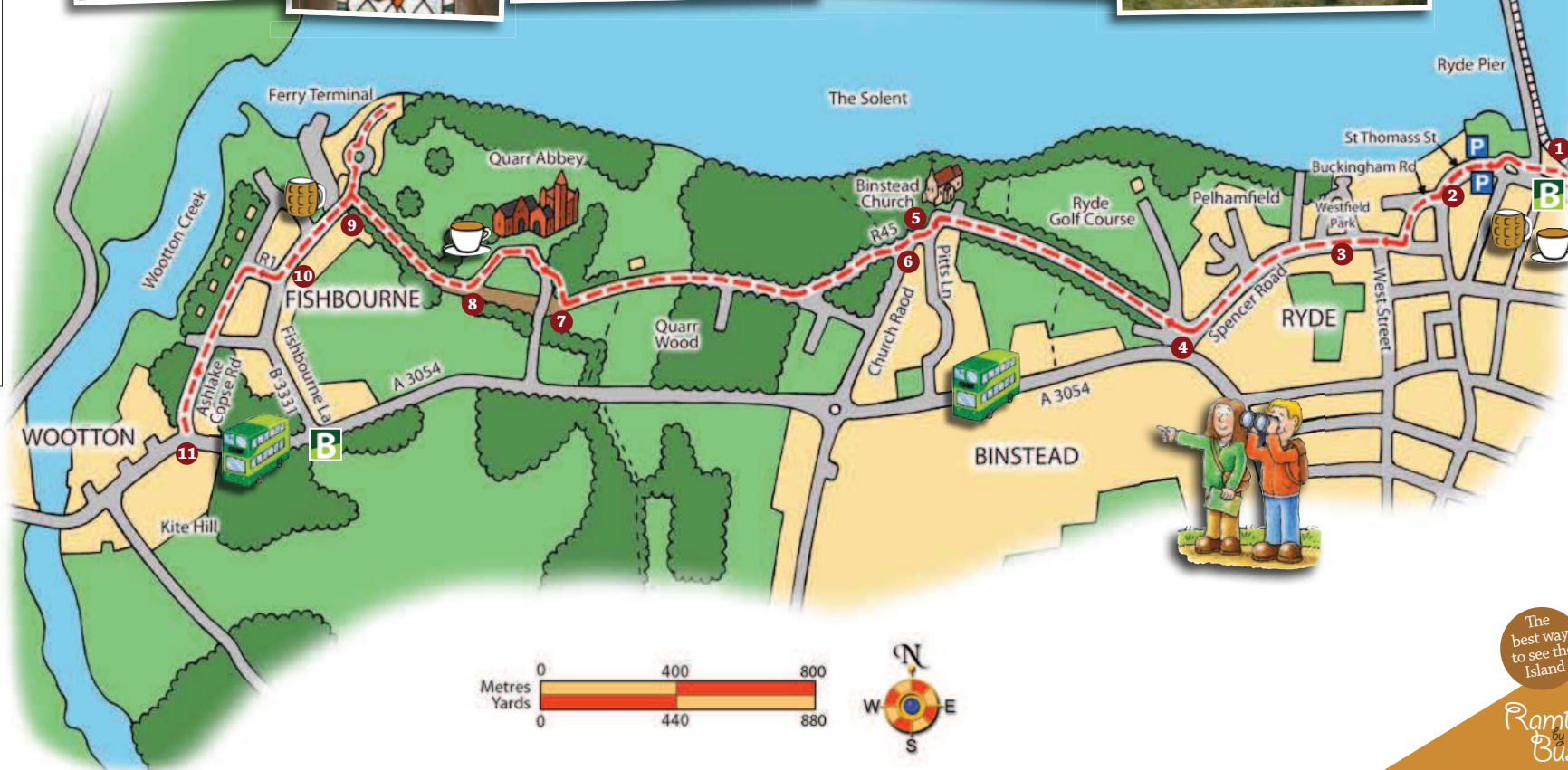
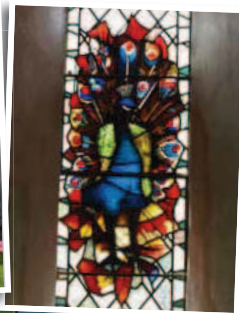
Just before the main abbey entrance road, turn right onto a woodland path **7**. Pass wooden sculptures and a wildlife hide. The path re-emerges onto an entrance road. Here, go right to Quarr Abbey.

Feel free to explore the abbey, bookshop and tea rooms. Turn left and follow a path towards the main car park.

At a track turn right **8**. Continue along the path where there are views across the Solent. Go through a wooden gate and continue on the lane past houses to emerge by The Fishbourne pub **9**.

Go right to explore the estuary views. Retrace your steps along Fishbourne lane passing the pub and ferry terminal. Turn right onto footpath R1 **10** and follow this left into Ashlake Copse Road. Go straight ahead on the coastal path through woodland and emerge on the main Ryde road at Kite Hill at a bus stop **11**. This is the end of the walk, but Wootton can be explored by following the footpath right down Kite Hill. Bus stops to Ryde can be found here.

Pictured, left to right
Holy Cross Church, Binstead; peacock stained glass at Holy Cross; Ryde Pier; remains of the original abbey walls at Quarr; what is this building?



The best way to see the Island

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