

Pilgrimage to The Isle of Man

In the company of The Very Reverend John Mann

6 Days

19th July – 24th July 2025



A view from the hills looking south



McCabe
PILGRIMAGES

The Isle of Man – 6 Days

A visit to the Isle of Man is a step onto an island steeped in history, myth and above all, for those on pilgrimage, what was a centre of Celtic Christianity. The evidence is everywhere in the beautiful glens, on the hills and cliffs, within the ancient churches, carved in stone and somehow held in every breath of wind.

During the earliest times, there were no churches as we know them as parish churches today, but many tiny keeills – chapels only large enough to hold a very small number of worshippers, some were for a single hermit. We will hear about the tradition and history of keeills at the Thie dy Vea Retreat Centre in Peel, and see a modern reconstruction in the cathedral gardens, of what they would have looked like, as only ruins remain at the actual sites.

While there are many Celtic crosses throughout the British Isles, there is a particular abundance of them on the Isle of Man. Our pilgrimage will take in a number of places where there are some particularly fine examples of Manx crosses – such as near Maughold Church and within the Church at Kirk Michael.

The Isle of Man is also a tourist destination, and we shall step back in time to travel its Victorian trains, view its industrial archeology, learn of its Viking history, relived on Tynwald Day, the Manx national day and hear of its ancient parliament, language, folk traditions, dance and music. This is a trip not to be missed!

TOUR INFORMATION

The cost of this pilgrimage is £1495 per person and includes most expenses.

Your round-trip Ferry transportation from Heysham to the Isle of Man is included. We include 23kg of checked-in luggage.

You will stay in a 3-star hotel in Douglas. Breakfasts are included as well as dinners and 3 lunches. Evening meals will be in the hotels and lunches will typically be in local restaurants. Water is included with all meals.

All entrance fees are included as well as gratuities; these will be disbursed locally to those that help us on our journey.

Travelling Alone

A limited number of single rooms are available at a supplement of £195 per person.

Special Requests

Special diets and other requests should be noted at the time of booking.

Travel Insurance

This is essential. We require all travellers to have adequate cancellation and medical coverage for their journey. We recommend the policy with Holiday Extras who offer a comprehensive policy as well as yearly policies that also cover short UK overnight stays. See the back cover for details.

Final Travel Documents

These will be sent to you via email, two weeks before departure.

Payments

A non-refundable deposit of £500 per person is required to secure your place. The final balance is due 12 weeks before departure. Please note that for any late bookings made within 12 weeks of departure, the price may increase due to the fluctuating cost of flights. If this arises, we will always discuss this with you before processing the booking.

Completing your Booking

Please ensure that we have your full name (as in your passport), correct address, email address and contact numbers as soon as your booking is confirmed. We will need your passport details no later than 10 weeks before departure.

To book your place on this Pilgrimage, please [visit our website to book online](https://www.mccabe-travel.co.uk/booking-conditions/) or contact McCabe by phone or email. You can arrange payment of your non-refundable deposit by bank transfer or card. To view our booking conditions, please visit our website: <https://www.mccabe-travel.co.uk/booking-conditions/>

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DAILY PROGRAMME

Saturday 19th July | Travel to The Isle of Man

You are met by a McCabe representative at Heysham where you will catch the ferry to Douglas. On arriving you are met by your Tour Leader, Rev John Mann and be transferred to your hotel. In the evening, he will give you an introduction to the Isle of Man and the local area of the Douglas Seafront, and you will meet your fellow pilgrims for a welcome drink and dinner at the hotel.

Sunday | Maughold, Ramsey & The Point of Ayre

Our first day takes us north from Douglas, through some lovely countryside to the ancient monastic site of Maughold where we will join a service in the local church including a short talk from the resident priest about monastic settlement. After a stroll to view St Maughold's Well, which is spectacularly situated high above the sea on Maughold Head, we drive to Milntown House & Gardens for lunch and some free time to enjoy the gardens there. Our last stop of the day is The Point of Ayre in the north of the island where, with some luck, we will see gannets, terns, other coastal birds and seals. A possible option of returning to Douglas by Victorian rural tramway from Ramsey concludes our first day. Dinner this evening is in the hotel.

Monday | Tynwald, Peel & Thie dy Veia Retreat House

We set off for the west of the Island, first to St John's for a talk about the Manx Parliament and the significance of Tynwald Day and Tynwald Hill. We continue our drive west to Peel, walking from the ruins of the former cathedral, set within Peel Castle on St Patrick's Isle

to the newer, St German's Cathedral, which has recently undergone major re-development, with fine gardens, and a facsimile Keeill and a labyrinth. Our group will enjoy a talk about the Cathedral and its important work followed by a delicious picnic lunch provided by the Dean of the Cathedral. After lunch there will be time for a walk before we meet at Thie dy Veia retreat centre where we will hear about the Keeills, and enjoy the facilities of this peaceful place, and have a time of quiet reflection. We return to Douglas by a scenic route, before enjoying dinner once more in our hotel

Tuesday | A steam train ride, the Calf of Man and Cregneash

We depart our hotel for Douglas Station, and board the Victorian narrow gauge train for Port Erin. Our coach collects us from the station and we take the road to the southern tip of the Island overlooking the Calf of Man, where we have lunch in this spectacular setting. We continue to Cregneash National Folk Museum, which was used as the backdrop for the Irish village in the film *Waking Ned* and we have a short service in the little church there. After an all-important ice cream stop in Port Erin, we will wend our way over the hills back towards our hotel, pausing for a walk to get a great view of the sun setting over Ireland. On the return to our hotel, we will have dinner.

Wednesday | Laxey & Snaefell Mountain Railway

We drive to Laxey and catch the first tram of the day to the summit of Snaefell Mountain. This spectacular mountain railway was constructed in the late Victorian

era in just eighteen months. From the top, if the day is clear we will see England, Ireland, Scotland and Wales, the whole of the Isle of Man, the Irish Sea, and some say, the Kingdom of Heaven! On our return in Laxey, we walk to the Laxey Wheel, another incredible feat of engineering. Lunch is at the Ballacregga Mill Tearooms.

After lunch we will visit three churches to view some of the finest Celtic & Norse crosses on the island. Our first stop will be St Adamnan's, a tiny and very ancient church hidden deep in the Manx countryside, for prayers and a hymn together, followed a drive over the hills via Sulby Glen to the north-west to Kirk Andreas and finally to Kirk Michael, close by, where we will hear from a local expert on the design, development and variety of the crosses, and here too, at this historic site, we shall have a closing service before returning to our hotel for dinner and our final night.

Thursday 24th July | Douglas and return to the mainland

This morning will be at leisure for you to explore Douglas. The Manx Museum is well worth a visit, as is the Roman Catholic Cathedral, and St Thomas Church with its noted murals and stained glass. There are coffee shops and a horse tram ride to enjoy, a walk around the inner harbour, and, for the more energetic, a stroll up Douglas Head to get the panoramic views, see the Camera Obscura, and even walk out along the Marine Drive. If you missed out on Sunday's tram ride to Laxey and Ramsey, that is easily achieved in the morning and starts at the end of the horse tram line. We meet for a final dinner together before our evening ferry back to Heysham.

Stained Glass window of the baptism of St Maughold



Steam Railway



Laxey Wheel
Image Credit: Visit Isle of Man

YOUR TOUR LEADER - Your Tour Leader, The Very Reverend John Mann



John Mann is an experienced McCabe leader, having taken groups for us for thirty years. He was formerly Dean of Belfast Cathedral and is the author of several devotional books including *Journeying to the Light* and *Christ's Seven Words from the Cross*. He and his wife live on the Isle of Man and have a long connection with the island.

MOBILITY

There is a certain amount of walking (and stairs) involved on a daily basis on this holiday so please make sure you pack comfy footwear for this so that you are prepared. Your Tour Leader will keep you updated on a daily basis with what to expect the following day. If you are finding it difficult to keep up, then please make sure you tell your Tour Leader who can help you to find places to rest and relax and then you can rejoin the group at a later stage. We suggest you take a pair of comfortable shoes with good grips or trainers. For your guided walking tours, you must be prepared to be on your feet for up to 90 minutes without the need to sit down and walk two to three flights of stairs unaided.

MCCABE PILGRIMAGES

McCabe Travel is a company well-known in church circles and recognised as Britain's foremost religious tour operator. McCabe has been responsible for organising hundreds of pilgrimages to the Bible Lands with churches from all over Britain for 40 years. The company is a member of AITO and is fully bonded with the Civil Aviation Authority.

THE MCCABE EDUCATIONAL TRUST

The McCabe Educational Trust is an independent registered charity with the aim of helping inspiring people we meet on pilgrimage in the Holy Land. McCabe Pilgrimages invite all travellers to become partners in this work. A £20 voluntary donation to the Trust's work is added to every pilgrim's invoice and all money raised in this way is given in full to the projects the Trust supports. This scheme is voluntary and confidential with nobody put under any pressure to participate.

HOLIDAY INSURANCE

Ensuring that your holidays are appropriately protected is one of our main priorities. That's why we have partnered with Holiday Extras so you can get a travel insurance policy to protect you before and whilst you are travelling.

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