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# WALKING EXPERIENCES: SAIL AWAY

Isle of Wight



## OVERVIEW:

Cowes is the maritime gateway to the Isle of Wight. Cowes is rich in history and heritage, from Royal roots to world famous sailing events, and from being a leader in boat building for hundreds of years, to having interesting art and photography galleries - Cowes and the surrounding area has it all.

With plenty of boutique shops, a chain ferry linking the towns of Cowes and East Cowes - one of the only remaining chain ferries in the UK - and plenty of great pubs and restaurants, there is so much to explore during your visit. Both towns are easier to see by foot. Wander around the marina's and take in all the types of boats, grab fish and chips and enjoy out of the paper. Then enjoy a gentle stroll through famous Cowes High Street with quirky,

vintage and independent shops. Once through the town head on towards Gurnard, popular for its beach huts and enjoy a cream tea or head up to the iconic Northwood House and Park. The house has a rich history of hosting events and celebrations of all kinds. Purchased in 1793 by George Ward, a successful London merchant, the House was rebuilt and extensively decorated by his son, George Henry Ward. Many lavish parties were thrown by the Wards throughout the Victorian era when the Island was a popular destination for the Royal family. Queen Victoria's own children often came over from Osborne House along with the rich and famous from all over Great Britain, to enjoy the high society soirées hosted at the House. If you are lucky you might even spot a Red Squirrel in the park.

To find more walking ideas go to [visitisleofwight.co.uk](http://visitisleofwight.co.uk)

