

# GROUP VISITS

# THE NAUTICAL MUSEUM

**Welcome to the group visitor information for the Nautical Museum situated on the harbour side in Castletown. Here you will find everything you need to plan a visit.**



For more than 200 years the Nautical Museum in Castletown was home to the Peggy, the earliest example of a British schooner. The Peggy was built by the inventive Captain George Quayle who in his time was a businessman, banker, soldier and alleged smuggler.

Extensive archaeological investigations have been completed in the boatyard yielding new information on the Peggy story and revealing an eighteenth century private dock.

The Peggy is now housed in a specialist building for a long-term programme of stabilisation, conservation and study.

See the new Quayle gallery telling more of the personal story of George Quayle and his family, showcasing previously unseen objects uncovered in recent archaeological excavations. Exhibits include a leather pistol holster, a flintlock pistol mechanism, some coconut shell drinking cups and what is believed to be an eighteenth century microscope.

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Don't miss:

- The story of why the Peggy remained undisturbed for over 100 years
- The fascinating stories of the life of Captain George Quayle
- The sailmaker's loft and tools of the trade
- The cabin room, built in the form of a naval warship of Nelson's day
- Secret trap door, hidey-holes, panels and architectural jokes
- Picture of the ancient bank vault next door

## Tours

Guided tours with the award-winning Billy Stowell are recommended for groups. The tours last an hour and must be booked at least a week in advance. Groups of no more than 20 people work best at the Nautical Museum due to the small size of some of the galleries.

## Timing your visit

A typical visit lasts one hour. Manx National Heritage recommends that a visit to the Nautical Museum is timed to coincide with other attractions in Castletown, within walking distance, including:

- Castle Rushen, one of the world's best preserved medieval castles
- The Old House of Keys, the former home to the Manx Parliament
- The Old Grammar School where rows of benches and desks are a reminder of early Victorian school days. This site can be opened for pre-booked groups by special request

A visit to the Nautical Museum could also be easily combined with Rushen Abbey in nearby Ballasalla or the National Folk Museum at Cregneash.

## Opening hours 2019

Daily from 1 April to 3 November, 10am - 4pm.

## Opening hours 2020

Daily from 1 April to 1 November, 10am - 4pm.

## Admission prices 2019/2020

Pre-booked group £5.00 per adult\*

\*To qualify for the pre-booked group rate, groups must consist of at least 15 people and be booked 7 days in advance.

Holiday passes providing multi-site admission can be booked in advance at the discounted group rate of £22 per adult and are also available at the standard price of £25 per adult from all Manx National Heritage sites.



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A combined Go Heritage Explore card is also available to groups of 20 or more which offers, during normal operating times, unlimited access to Manx National Heritage sites and unlimited travel on the heritage railways, buses and Douglas horse trams for up to 5 days. The group rate for the **2019** Go Explore Heritage card is £58.50 per person.

Manx National Heritage have reciprocal agreements with a number of other heritage organisations such as the National Trust, English Heritage and CADW amongst others, providing free or reduced admission on presentation of a valid membership card. Refunds are not available for tickets purchased.

### **Booking your visit**

Booking in advance is recommended and achieves a number of benefits for your groups including discount on the standard admission price and speedy, hassle-free entry to the site. Payment is due a week in advance. On receipt of payment, a group bookings permit will be issued to you for presentation at the site on the day of the visit.

### **How to get there**

By coach: Enter Castletown via the Douglas Road (from Douglas) or Alexandra Road (from the South). Follow Victoria Road in Castletown, crossing the harbour bridge.

By bus: From Douglas, Peel and the airport.

Please see [www.iombusandrail.info](http://www.iombusandrail.info) for timetables.

Steam Railway: The Nautical Museum is signposted from Castletown station.

By road and foot: The Nautical Museum is situated on the harbour side in Castletown.

### **Coach parking**

Coaches may drop off or collect visitors at Castletown town square and coach parking is available in the area behind the George Hotel on Farrants Way, adjacent to Castletown fire station.

Please note that speed limits apply in Castletown and there are narrow streets within the town.



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## **Access information**

The Nautical Museum has steps and narrow corridors, although it is partially accessible to wheelchair users.

Detailed access information is available at

<https://manxnationalheritage.im/visit/getting-about/accessibility-information/>

## **Visitor information**

- Small gift shop
- Toilets are not available within the Nautical Museum, however there are a number of public toilets throughout Castletown.
- Photography and filming (for personal use only) is permitted

