

Welcome to the group visitor information for the Old House of Keys situated in Castletown.

Here you will find everything you need to plan a visit.



The Old House of Keys is the former home of the Manx Parliament and centre of nineteenth century political life on the Isle of Man. Animated portraits of Keys members and a simulated model of Mr Speaker bring the debating chamber to life. The Secretary of the House welcomes you to join in the debates on law in this fun, participatory experience.

Things to see and do:

- Meet the costumed secretary of this historic building
- Take a seat in the finely restored debating chamber
- Watch as the talking head of Mr Speaker and animated portraits of the Members of the House come to life
- Discover how democracy developed on the Isle of Man
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- Decide whether women should get the vote
- Shout 'aye' for those in favour and 'no' for those against!

## Opening hours 2024

Sittings can be booked at 11.00, 12.00, 13.45 & 14.45 daily (except Saturdays when the 13.45 sitting is not available) from 28<sup>th</sup> March – 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2024, subject to availability. The maximum group size per sitting is 25 adults. Booking well in advance is recommended due to high demand.

## Timing your visit

A sitting lasts for 45 minutes with time at the end for any questions your group might have.

## Admission prices

Pre-booked group £7.70 per adult\*

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

Holiday passes providing multi-site admission can be booked in advance at a discounted group rate of £30 per adult and are also available at the standard price of £35 per adult from all Manx National Heritage sites. Holiday Pass admission is only permitted on production of a valid card. Cards are valid for the named person and are not transferable. ID may also be requested. Free access is for 14 days from the first day of use on a Holiday.

A combined Go Explore Heritage 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.

Free admission is available to children under 18 years of age, persons accompanying a disabled visitor, Members of the Friends of Manx National Heritage and organisations holding an agreement with Manx National Heritage. Entry available to the named member only on presentation of a valid membership card. Restrictions may apply. For details on our reciprocal arrangements, please consult your membership handbook.

Coach drivers and guides accompanying a group receive free admission to all Manx National Heritage sites.

## Booking your visit

Booking your visit in advance is recommended and provides a substantial discount on the standard admission price and speedy hassle-free entry to the site.

To book your group visit please contact the group bookings office on +44 (0)1624 648017 or [enquiries@mnh.im](mailto:enquiries@mnh.im) 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 entrance on the day of the visit.



## How to get there

The Old House of Keys is situated in Castletown, close to the entrance to Castle Rushen.

By road - Either enter the town via the Douglas Road (from the North) and follow Victoria Road into Castletown, crossing the harbour bridge. From the South enter Castletown from Alexandra Road and follow the road until you enter Castletown square.

By Steam Railway – Follow the signs to Castle Rushen is signposted from Castletown station.

By bus - from Douglas, Peel, Port Erin and Port St Mary. For timetables please see [www.iombusandrail.im](http://www.iombusandrail.im)

Parking - Disc zone car parking is available within the town. Please ask a member of staff for a disc.

Coaches may drop off or collect visitors at Castletown town square. Free coach parking is available in the area behind the George Hotel, adjacent to Castletown fire station on Farrants Way. Please note that speed limits apply in Castletown and there are narrow streets within the town.

## Visitor Information

- Toilets are not available within the Old House of Keys, however there are a number of public conveniences throughout Castletown
- Cafes, bars and restaurants are available in the nearby town centre
- Photography and filming (for personal use only) is permitted
- Mobile phones should be turned off during sittings

## Access information

The Old House of Keys is fully accessible to wheelchair users, although there is a small step at the entrance to the building. Detailed access information is available at <https://manxnationalheritage.im/visit-2/families-2/facilities-for-families-2-2/>

