

Cowes, Isle of Wight, England

A royal retreat and sailor's paradise off England's south coast — tender into Cowes and discover chalk cliffs, Victorian palaces, and dinosaur footprints all on one diamond-shaped island.

- Tender port (Trinity Landing, Cowes)
- Typical call: 8–10 hrs
- Currency: British Pound (£)
- Language: English
- UNESCO Biosphere Reserve

MY DAY IN PORT

Ship/Date: _____	Arrive: _____	All aboard: _____
Excursion: _____	Notes: _____	

GETTING ASHORE

Docking: Tender to Trinity Landing, West Cowes — 0 min walk to town

Walk to centre: Steps from tender pier to Cowes High Street

Best For: Royal history, coastal walks, cycling, yachting culture

Don't Miss: Osborne House — Queen Victoria's beloved seaside palace

Getting around: Taxi £2–£5 within Cowes; £15–£24 to Newport

TOP THINGS TO DO

- Osborne House — Queen Victoria's Palace** — Victoria called this Italianate seaside villa her favourite home.
- The Needles & Alum Bay** — Three towering white chalk stacks rise from the sea at the island's western tip, guarded by a striped lighthouse.
- Carisbrooke Castle** — A classic Norman motte-and-bailey fortress near Newport where King Charles I was imprisoned before his execution.
- RIB Speedboat to the Needles** — The most thrilling way to see the Needles — a high-speed rigid inflatable boat departs from Cowes waterfront and races along the coast to the chalk...
- Tennyson Down & Needles Viewpoint Walk** — Hike the chalk ridge from Freshwater Bay to the Tennyson Monument and onwards to the Needles viewpoint — all completely free.

BEST WALKS

- Cowes Waterfront & High Street** 1.5 km · flat · 30 min · free — From Trinity Landing walk south along the esplanade to the Royal Yacht Squadron and Cowes Castle, then cut up to the pedestrianised High Street.
- Osborne House Grounds Walk** 2 km within estate · easy · 45 min · included with entry — Once inside Osborne House, walk from the main palace down through Victoria's terraced gardens to the Swiss Cottage and the Queen's private beach on the Solent shore — a...
- Tennyson Down Ridge** 7 km return · moderate · 2.5 hrs · free — From Freshwater Bay (reached by bus or taxi), climb the chalk ridge to the Tennyson Monument and continue to the Needles viewpoint.

WEATHER · DAYLIGHT · MONEY

CLIMATE (AVG °F · RAINY DAYS)				DAYLIGHT & MONEY	
Mon	High	Low	Rain	Apr 6:10AM–8:00PM · Jun 4:51AM–9:19PM · Aug 5:53AM–8:24PM · Sep 6:41AM–7:18PM · Oct 7:28AM–6:12PM	
Apr	55°	43°	9d	Currency: British Pound (£)	
Jun	67°	55°	10d		
Aug	69°	59°	11d		
Sep	66°	56°	9d		
Oct	60°	52°	13d		

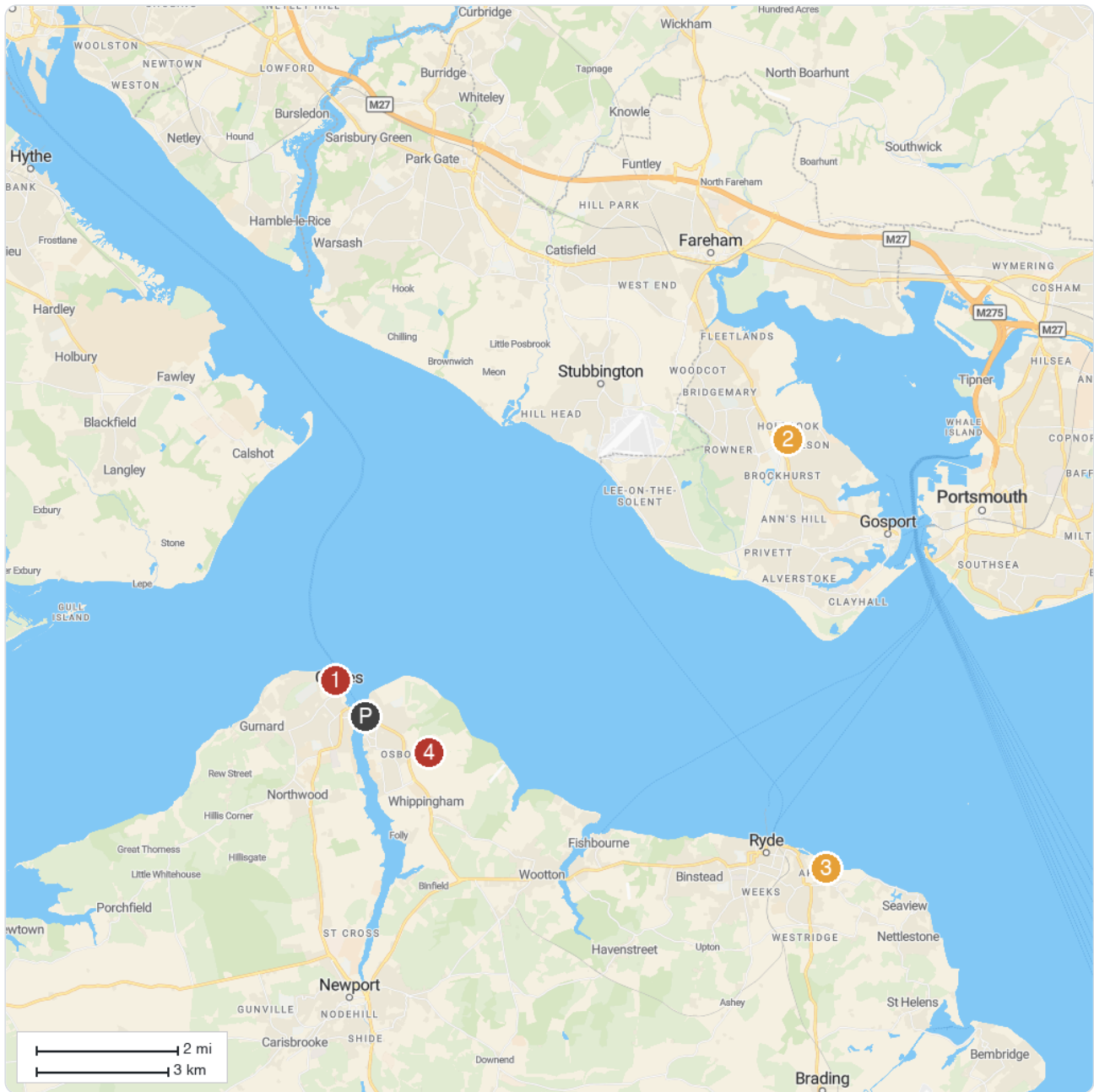
KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

- Tender timing:** First tenders usually depart around 08:00. Grab an early one to maximise time — Osborne House and Carisbrooke together fill a full day. Last tender back is usually 30 min before departure.
- Pick one big attraction:** The Needles and Osborne House are on opposite ends of the island. Choose one for a relaxed day, or take an organised tour that combines them by coach.
- Bus Rover ticket:** Southern Vectis Day Rover (around £12) covers unlimited island buses — great value if you plan to hop around. Single fares are £3 until March 2027 under government cap.
- Floating Bridge:** The chain ferry from West to East Cowes costs £1.50 for foot passengers and runs every few minutes — the easiest way to reach Osborne House without a taxi.
- Pack a layer:** Isle of Wight weather is famously changeable even in summer. A light waterproof jacket makes coastal walks and the Needles chairlift much more comfortable.
- Local food:** Try fresh Isle of Wight crab — crab sandwiches and crab ramekins are a local speciality, best from waterfront cafes in Cowes or Yarmouth. Wash it down with Goddards Ale, brewed on the island.

Cowes, Isle of Wight, England — Port Map

cruiseports.org

Red = walkable sights · Amber = excursions farther out · P = cruise terminal. Numbers match the order you'd typically visit.



- 1 Cowes Week** Cowes Week is a world-renowned annual sailing regatta.
- 3 Appley Park** Appley Park offers a beautiful beach, parkland, and play areas.
- P Cruise port / terminal**

- 2 Fort Brockhurst** Fort Brockhurst is a well-preserved Victorian artillery fort.
- 4 Osborne** Osborne House was Queen Victoria's magnificent seaside home.