



Isle of Man
Government

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Life in the Isle of Man

Bea ayns Mannin

A supplement to

Life in the United Kingdom: A Guide for New Residents

August 2020
9th Edition

Introduction

“Life in the Isle of Man” is a supplement to “Life in the United Kingdom: A Guide for New Residents” and is primarily intended to assist people applying for “Settlement or Indefinite Leave to Remain” and British nationality status who currently live and reside on the Isle of Man. The supplement provides information about the Isle of Man, its history, culture and government. In particular it highlights differences between the Island and the UK. The UK Government have agreed with the Isle of Man Government that for people living on the Island the British citizenship test should include a number of questions taken from the supplement. Candidates for nationality are therefore advised to read the supplement together with the “Life in the United Kingdom: A Guide for New Residents” booklet before taking the “Knowledge of Life in the UK & Islands Test”.

“Life in the Isle of Man” provides information on many aspects of Manx life and also refers to further resources where additional details are available. The questions about the Isle of Man in the “Knowledge of Life in the UK & Islands Test” will not include information from Section 20 onwards. Website addresses, telephone numbers and references to further reading are included to assist you should you wish to enquire further but you will not be asked questions on them. Examples of the kind of questions that you will be asked are included at the back of this supplement.

The Passport Immigration and Nationality Office of the Isle of Man Government handles British citizenship applications for those who reside on the Isle of Man and any queries should be directed here in the first instance.

The Isle of Man

1. Location

The Isle of Man occupies a central position in the Irish Sea. It is 52 kilometres (33 miles) long from north to south and 22km (13 miles) wide from east to west at the widest point; it has a total area of 572sq km/227sq miles. The Isle of Man’s territorial seas extend to 12 nautical miles from the coasts, and make up 4000sq km/ 1500 sq miles of the Island’s total territory.

The Island’s capital is Douglas, on the east coast, and other main settlements include Onchan, which lies next to Douglas, the coastal towns of Ramsey, Castletown, Peel, Port Erin and Port St Mary and the villages of Ballasalla, Laxey, and Michael.

Despite its comparatively small size, the Island contains a wide variety of scenery. A range of hills stretches across the Island, the highest of which is Snaefell at 621 metres (2,036 feet) and between these hills lie well defined valleys. There are 17 National Glens. Around the Island’s flat northern plain are long sandy beaches; there are rocky cliffs and sheltered bays around the rest of the coastline. Over 70% of the Island’s land is used for agriculture. The Island also has rare and in some cases unique wildlife including Loaghtan sheep, a distinctive breed with 4 horns.

In 2016, the special qualities of the Isle of Man as an outstanding place for people and nature were recognised by UNESCO when it endorsed the Island as the first entire nation to be granted Biosphere status. At the heart of Biosphere status is sustainability in all areas. This means actively taking care of “living landscapes” to balance the needs of the environment, the community and the economy and protect the Island’s biodiversity. Our Biosphere connects people with nature, celebrates our sense of place and is a platform for us to work together as a community for a more sustainable future.

2. History

The unique heritage of the Isle of Man is a blend of influences from surrounding islands and settlers, and includes Celtic and Viking influences as well as more recent English and British ones. People have lived here for over 10,000 years.

The Celtic tradition is reflected in Manx Gaelic, which is related to the Irish, Scottish Gaelic, Welsh, Cornish and Breton languages. Most Manx place names are Gaelic in origin, including the common element 'Balla' meaning 'Homestead'. The Manx name for the Isle of Man is Mannin or Ellan Vannin. During the centuries after 500 AD Christianity was introduced to the Island, and there are numerous place names referring to Patrick and other Patron Saints of Ireland such as Bridget.

The Viking influence dates back to the 9th century with the arrival of Scandinavians who later settled here. Tynwald, which celebrated one thousand years of existence in 1979, is the oldest continuous parliament in the world. Some local place names have Norse roots, including Snaefell ('Snow Mountain'), the highest peak, and the Island is rich in Viking sites. Under Norse rule, the Isle of Man became the centre of the Kingdom of Mann and the Isles, extending across the Hebrides. The Norman invasion and occupation of England did not reach the Isle of Man.

After periods of Scottish rule, the Island came under the English Crown in the 14th century. In 1405, King Henry IV of England gave the Isle of Man and all its rights to Sir John Stanley, whose descendants and heirs ruled as Kings or Lords of Mann for 360 years until the reign of George III when the British Crown acquired the Island from the Duke of Atholl in the Act of Revestment in 1765.

The Island experienced periods of economic decline and emigration during the late 18th and early 19th centuries. The growth of tourism in the second half of the 19th century brought increased prosperity and modern infrastructure to what had been an isolated and poor community reliant upon farming and fishing. The mining of minerals brought prosperity to some but many skilled miners left the Island for new lives in America, Australia and South Africa.

The Island played a unique role in two World Wars. In World War 1 it housed 25,000 civilian internees of German origin for 4 years. In World War 2 it also housed civilian internees, including women and children, in converted guest houses and hotels, but also supported military training, three military airfields, and experimental radar stations.

The decline of mass tourism in the 1960s and 1970s coincided with increased independence for the Manx Government, with more power being transferred from the British Crown-appointed Lieutenant Governor to Tynwald. This greater freedom on such matters as taxation and public spending was used by the Manx Government to stimulate new economic activity in international financial services, for example, and to provide improved services for the people of the Island.

The past 30 years have seen significant growth in the Island's prosperity, population and public services. Throughout this period, the Isle of Man has retained a strong sense of its own identity, heritage and culture.

The Isle of Man Today

3. Population

The overall population of the Isle of Man at the 2016 census was 83,314 of whom 26,997 reside in Douglas. The census reveals that 49.8% of the population were born in the Isle of Man, 33.9% were born in England, 3.0% in Scotland, 2.0% in Northern Ireland, 1.1% in Wales, 1.8% in the Republic of Ireland, and 8.3% were born overseas.

4. Language

Manx Gaelic (yn Ghaelg) is one of six Celtic languages which are divided into two branches, Goidelic (Manx, Scottish Gaelic and Irish) and Brythonic (Welsh, Breton and Cornish). Older forms of Irish originally came to the Island over 1,500 years ago. This language absorbed elements of Norse during the period of Viking rule and developed into Manx Gaelic during the 14th and 15th centuries.

Manx continued to be spoken as the main community language in the Island until the mid-1800s at least; however, a combination of factors increasingly led to a language shift towards English, including:

1. Poverty leading to emigration from the Island,
2. Immigration from England;
3. The growth of the tourist industry, all of which meant that English was seen as the more advantageous language to speak

From about the 1850s fewer Manx people were raising their children through the Manx language. Increasingly Manx was marginalized to areas such as Cregneash, Dalby, Bride, Ronague and other remote rural areas. Although there were still thousands of Manx speakers by 1900, they increasingly belonged to the older generations; throughout the 20th century, the numbers of speakers declined quickly, with Ned Maddrell, the last 'traditional' native speaker of Manx, dying in December 1974.

Many decades before Ned Maddrell died, there had been a renewal of interest in the language. Yn Cheshaght Ghailckagh, the Manx Language Society, was founded in 1899. By the middle of the 20th century, with the support of the Irish Folklore Commission and the Manx Museum, sound recordings were made of older speakers, and others started to learn the language from them. As a consequence of the work carried out by volunteers and later support from the Government the number of speakers is growing. The language is an option in all schools in the Island whilst at the Bunscoill Ghaelgagh Primary School in St Johns the whole curriculum is delivered through Manx Gaelic.

The Manx language is indigenous to the Isle of Man and its very structure holds the story of our Island. Although it is small in terms of its number of speakers, its impact on worldwide efforts to protect and promote endangered languages is huge. The Isle of Man is now looked to by many as an example of best practice. As a result of well-organised community based initiatives coupled with targeted Isle of Man Government support, the language has seen an upsurge of interest in recent years. The Manx language is available for all ages to enjoy, within nurseries, schools, adult classes and the wider community. It is also a unique identifier for the business community and for the Isle of Man as a whole. The Manx language is one of the Island's most important cultural assets; it is an Island success story and something in which we all can take great pride.

Common place names to look out for include:

Balley/Balla comes from Gaelic and means farm/homestead. Ballabeg = Little Farm

You will often see traditional Manx surnames combined with *Balley/Balla*. *Ballateare* = *Teare's Farm* and *Ballacain* = *Cain's farm*

By is a Norse word, which also means farm. Colby means Koli's Farm

Dale = Valley; this is also of Norse

Other common place-names include:

Cronk = Hill;

Carrick = Sea Rock;

Slieau = Mountain;

Keeill = Church.

Most people in the Island know a little Manx including the following phrases:

Moghrey mie (MORR-a MY) – Good morning

Fastyr mie (Fass-ter MY) – Good afternoon/good evening

Oie vie (EE VY) – Good night

Kys t'ou? (kiss-TOW) – How are you

Braew (brow) – Fine

Gura mie ayd (gurr-a-MY-edd) – Thank you

Slane lhiat (slenn-LYATT) – Goodbye

Hee'm oo (HEEM-oo) – See you

Traditional Manx surnames are widespread and often begin with the letters C, Q and K.

Examples of Manx surnames include:

Caley; Clague; Kewley; Keggin; Quayle; Quine; Shimmin; Skillicorn

Further information on the Manx language and culture can be found as follows:

Culture Vannin Tel 01624 676169 www.culturevannin.im

Manx Language Unit

www.gov.im/categories/education-training-and-careers/manx-language-in-schools/

Manx Language Network www.learnmanx.com

Manx National Heritage Tel 01624 648000 www.manxnationalheritage.im

5. Customs and traditions, national days and festivals

The Isle of Man's traditional symbol has for centuries been the "Three Legs of Mann" (three bent legs joined at the thigh) which is widely used on currency, flags, etc. The three legs relate to the Island's motto — *Quocunque Jeceris Stabit*, which is Latin and translates to "*Whichever way you throw me I will stand*". The motto reflects the stability and robustness of the Manx character. The Isle of Man's National Anthem is "O Land of Our Birth" and is sung at many formal events and public gatherings.

Arts and culture feature heavily in Manx life, with many opportunities to participate. The Island has produced some world-class performers in all art-forms. Major cultural and arts events include fairs, festivals and shows. These include the Manx Music Festival, held in Douglas in April/May; Shennaghys Jiu Celtic Youth Festival, held in Ramsey at Easter; Mananan International Festival of

Music and the Arts, held in Port Erin in June; Yn Chruinnaght Celtic Gathering held in July; and two large agricultural shows, the Royal Manx Show in the north of the Island and the Southern Show in the south. There are a growing number of independent music and lifestyle festivals such as the Dark Horse and the Great Manx Shindig.

The Isle of Man shares the same Public Holidays as the United Kingdom but also has two of its own. The 5th July is the Manx National Day known as Tynwald Day. Each year on that day (or the first Monday following if it falls on a weekend) the Manx Parliament, or Tynwald as it is known, meets in the open air on Tynwald Hill at St. John's, a Viking site of the ancient parliament. There Tynwald conducts business and receives petitions from aggrieved citizens and during the ceremony all the laws passed during the previous year are read out in English and in Manx. The day is also a community celebration on the Fairfield. There is also a Bank Holiday on the Friday of T.T. Week known as Senior Race Day. The world famous Tourist Trophy (TT) motorcycle races, which take place over the 37.73 mile mountain course, are usually held in the first week of June and attract huge numbers of visitors from across the world.

There are a number of major motor sports events each year; however sports in general play a big part in many people's lives. The Manx countryside together with excellent venues like the National Sports Centre provides plenty of opportunities for a range of activities. Football, hockey, netball, swimming, cycling, fishing, bowling, and target shooting are all extremely popular and the Isle of Man has people of international standards in a number of sports. Running and walking are also popular. There is an annual Parish Walk in June: a gruelling 85-mile walking race in 24 hours, visiting all 17 parish churches on the Island. It is both a serious sporting event and a fun one, with many people participating to raise money for charity. About 1,000 people start, but typically only 150 complete the course in the time limit.

6. Economy

The Manx economy combines traditional industries such as agriculture, fishing and tourism with areas of recent growth such as financial services, e-gaming, e-commerce and the media and broadcasting industry. There is no heavy industry, but there is a manufacturing sector which covers a wide range of products. The Island has its own income tax and customs and excise services and is an established low tax area.

The Isle of Man has total independence from the United Kingdom on matters of direct taxation. There is low corporate and personal tax and no inheritance tax or capital gains tax and no stamp duty is payable for house purchases. VAT on the Isle of Man is the same as in the UK. The Island has developed into a flourishing and internationally respected international business centre with rising National Income and low levels of unemployment.

Key Points

The Isle of Man has a strong sense of identity with its own language (Manx Gaelic), culture and traditions. The Island has a National Anthem, an ancient symbol, the "Three Legs of Mann" and two of its own Public Holidays. It is famous for motor sports. The countryside provides for a wealth of other sporting activities and arts and culture are well represented.

How the Isle of Man is governed

7. The Isle of Man, the United Kingdom and Europe

The Isle of Man is an internally self-governing dependent territory of the British Crown – a “Crown Dependency” - and its people are British citizens. It is not a part of Great Britain or the United Kingdom. Her Majesty the Queen is the Head of State and is known as the Lord of Mann. Her personal representative on the Island is His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor. The Crown appoints a new Lieutenant Governor every 5 years.

As a Crown Dependency the Island is completely autonomous in legislative, executive and judicial matters. However, the United Kingdom is ultimately responsible for good governance, the Island’s defence and international relations.

The Isle of Man is not, and has never been, a member of the European Union but it did have a special relationship with the Union through an agreement known as “Protocol 3” to the UK’s Act of Accession to the European Community. Protocol 3 fell away on the UK’s BREXIT day. The Protocol allowed the movement of industrial and agricultural goods between the Island and the European Union and free movement of people. However the Isle of Man neither contributed to, nor received funds from, the European Union. The Isle of Man’s relationship with the European Union after the transition period will be dependent on the agreement on the future relationship reached between the United Kingdom and the European Union.

The Island is not an independent member of the British Commonwealth. There is a branch of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association within the Island’s legislature, and the Island has a Commonwealth Games Association in its own right. This means the Island sends its own team to the Games. The Commonwealth Youth Games were hosted on the Isle of Man in 2011.

8. The Island’s Government

The Island has a ministerial system of government. The political head of the Isle of Man Government is the Chief Minister, who is nominated by Tynwald from amongst its own members and appointed by His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor. The Chief Minister selects the ministers, most of whom have responsibility for the Government Departments. They, along with the Chief Minister, form the Council of Ministers - the Manx Cabinet.

There are 8 Government Departments, each of which has its own functions, powers and responsibilities, alongside working together on cross-government matters. The Treasury, for example, looks after public finances and the Department of Home Affairs is responsible for the emergency services. In addition to the Departments there are also a number of administrative and legal Offices and several Statutory Boards such as Manx Utilities, Isle of Man Post Office, and the Financial Services Authority. Government Office is located on Bucks Road in Douglas.

Key Points

The Isle of Man is a Crown Dependency; it is internally self-governing and does not form part of either the United Kingdom or the European Union. The Queen is the Head of State and her official title is “The Lord of Mann”. Her personal representative on the Island is the Lieutenant Governor. Under “Protocol 3” to the UK Act of Accession to the European Community the Isle of Man had a special relationship with the European Union. The Isle of Man’s relationship with the European Union after the transition period will be dependent on the agreement on the future relationship reached between the United Kingdom and the European Union. The Island has its own Government, which comprises 8 Departments, each with their own functions and powers. The Chief Minister is the political head of the Government.

The name originates from the Norse language *thing-vollr*, meaning a field of assembly. There were originally several such sites on the Island and whilst the Viking tradition of assembly here is the same as in Iceland and Norway, Tynwald Hill on the Isle of Man is unique in its continuous practice of open air and public promulgation of the law for over 1000 years.

The Isle of Man does not have a representative in either Westminster, the UK parliament, or in the EU Parliament.

The House of Keys is the Lower Branch of Tynwald and consists of 24 Members, representing 12 constituencies. The Members of the House of Keys (known as MHKs) are directly elected by the people of the Isle of Man. The majority of Members sit as independents although three political parties are registered. Every five years a General Election is held to elect members to the House of Keys. The MHKs elect one of their members to be the Speaker, who presides at meetings of the Keys. The Legislative Council is the Upper Branch of Tynwald and eight of its eleven Members (or MLCs) are elected by the Members of the House of Keys. The remaining Members of the Legislative Council are the President of Tynwald, who is elected by Tynwald, and the Attorney General (who does not vote) and the Lord Bishop who is appointed by the Crown.

The two branches of Tynwald sit separately throughout the parliamentary year mainly to enact primary legislation; they sit together as Tynwald Court ten times each year, mainly to debate matters of policy, approve subordinate legislation and to adopt financial motions. The President of Tynwald presides when both branches sit together. Tynwald proceedings are broadcast on Manx Radio, livestreamed on the internet and recorded in official reports known as Hansard. You can also visit and watch Tynwald proceedings from the Public Gallery.

The names, addresses and contact numbers for all Members of the Legislative Council and the House of Keys, together with the constituencies they represent can be found in the front of the Isle of Man Phone Book and Business Directory and on the Tynwald website. To be eligible to vote on the Isle of Man you must be entered on the electoral roll and be aged 16 or over at the time of the election. You must have lived on the Island for at least twelve months prior to the 12th day of May in the year of an election to be entered on the electoral roll. You are then eligible to vote in the constituency in which you usually live.

Key Points

The Manx Parliament is called Tynwald. It has Viking origins and has existed for over 1,000 years. The House of Keys is the Lower Branch of Tynwald and consists of 24 Members; the Legislative Council is the Upper Branch of Tynwald and has eleven Members. The President of Tynwald presides over both Branches when they meet together as Tynwald. General Elections take place every 5 years. To be eligible to vote you must have lived on the Island for at least twelve months prior to the 12th day of May in the year of an election.

10. Local Government

There are 21 Local Authorities on the Isle of Man with Douglas Borough Council being the largest. Local authority members on the Isle of Man are typically called Commissioners, the exception being those for Douglas Borough Council who are called Councillors. They provide a range of community services including civic amenity site provision, libraries, parks, street lighting and refuse collection. All Local Authorities charge for most of these services through a system of rates calculated on the rateable value of your property.

Everyday Needs

11. Housing

The Department of Infrastructure is responsible for developing public housing strategy and policy for the Island. A number of local authorities and the Department of Infrastructure provide public sector housing, and the Department also provides financial assistance to enable first time buyers to bridge the gap between the amount of mortgage they can afford and the price of their first home.

12. Services for Your Home

Manx Utilities is the sole supplier of mains water and sewerage services on the Isle of Man. Payment is by water and sewerage rates. Electricity is also supplied by Manx Utilities, which is a Statutory Board of Tynwald. Mains gas and most bottled gas on the Isle of Man are supplied to the customer by Manx Gas which is a private company, although the pipelines to and around the Island are owned or leased by Manx Utilities.

Key Points

There are 21 Local Authorities on the Isle of Man providing a range of community services. Elected members of local authorities are commonly called Commissioners. Most public sector housing is provided by local authorities and electricity, water and sewerage are delivered by a statutory board, Manx Utilities Authority.

13. Health and Social Care

The Isle of Man has a publicly funded National Health Service (NHS), which provides the majority of healthcare on the Island. The NHS is free at the point of delivery except for prescriptions and dentistry (though there are exemptions). There is no local health authority on the Island. All healthcare is organised centrally by the Department of Health and Social Care.

You should always register with a family doctor (GP) as soon as possible rather than waiting until you are ill. If you have difficulty finding a family doctor the Department of Health and Social Care can provide help. If you need to see a doctor you should always contact your local surgery first and they will arrange an appointment, or a home visit if appropriate. If the call is 'out of normal hours' you will be directed to contact the Manx Emergency Doctor Service (MEDS) which is located at Noble's Hospital.

Noble's Hospital, which includes the accident & emergency unit, is situated in Braddan on the outskirts of Douglas. The Ramsey & District Cottage Hospital, which includes a minor injuries unit (open 8 am to 10 pm), is situated in Ramsey.

There is a charge made for prescriptions though exemptions do exist e.g. for pensioners, people who are registered as blind, people on certain allowances, or others in receipt of financial support. Routine sight tests are typically provided free of charge, every 2 years, to all Isle of Man residents.

The Isle of Man has a reciprocal health agreement with the UK, which allows for referrals to the UK for any treatment that cannot be provided on Island, and for free urgent treatment as a result of illness or accident while in the UK. No reciprocal agreement exists with the European Union as a whole, though there are individual agreements between the Isle of Man and some other countries. It should be noted that these agreements only provide for basic healthcare needs as a result of accident or emergency and the Department **recommends** that all travellers have private medical insurance even for travelling in the UK.

Details of the provision of NHS dental services on the Island can be obtained from Department of Health and Social Care Dental Services or from the specific dentist as detailed in the phonebook.

The Department of Health and Social Care has a Community Care Directorate which provides help and support to adults with physical or learning disabilities; people with physical, mental health or social care problems; people in the community with mental health problems and voluntary organisations working with vulnerable people. There is a separate Directorate for Children and Families Services and this is responsible for help and support for children under 16 and their families. All services have a statutory safeguarding responsibility.

Social Security

Social Security benefits are the responsibility of The Treasury - Social Security Division.

There is an agreement between the Isle of Man and the UK which means that National Insurance contributions paid in one country can count towards entitlement to certain working age benefits in the other country, in particular incapacity benefit, jobseeker's allowance and industrial injuries benefits. The agreement also provides that periods of residence in one country can be counted as periods of residence in the other country for the purposes of child benefit, carer's allowance, disability living allowance and attendance allowance. The Isle of Man now has its own separate and distinct state pension scheme – the "Manx state pension" – for people who reach state pension age after 6 April 2019 and which is based only on National Insurance contributions paid in the Island. The Isle of Man also administers a number of other benefits and allowances, some of which are very similar to those in the UK and some which are not. The UK's Universal Credit scheme and Tax Credits schemes don't exist in the Island, instead we pay income support, income-based jobseeker's allowance and employed person's allowance. But to be entitled to any of these income-related benefits you must normally have to meet the "*Isle of Man residential condition*". The UK's Pension Credit is also not available in the Island, instead income support is available to people of state pension age. More information on benefits in the Island is available on the IoM Government website gov.im under "Benefits and Financial Support". It should also be noted that the UK's Child Maintenance Service does not operate in the Isle of Man. Where a parent is claiming income support, child maintenance from the absent parent is pursued by the Social Security Division.

Key Points

There are no local health authorities on the Island. Health (acute/primary and mental), social services, and public health are the responsibility of the Department of Health and Social Care. Social security benefits and National Insurance fall within the responsibility of the Treasury. The Island's health service is free at the point of delivery for Isle of Man residents and those requiring urgent treatments or treatment under reciprocal health arrangements. There are charges for prescriptions and dentistry services (although there are exemptions). There is a reciprocal health agreement with the UK, but no reciprocal agreements with the EU as a whole and private medical insurance for travellers is highly recommended. National Insurance accounts and reciprocal benefits can be transferred between the UK and the Isle of Man. The Island also has a number of schemes that supplement the Retirement Pension and the Jobseeker's Allowance. Some schemes available in the UK are not provided on the Island.

14. Education

There are 32 primary schools widely spread across the Island providing education for children from 4 years up to age 11. Children must start full-time education in the term following their fifth birthday although most parents send their children to school earlier than this. Children attend secondary school from the age of 11. Secondary schools serve their local communities; there are

schools in the north, the west and the south and two in Douglas. Children can leave school at the end of May in the school year in which they reach the age of 16. Each secondary school has a sixth form for 16-18 year olds. There are also 2 independent schools.

The Department of Education, Sport and Culture has overall responsibility for the standards and management of schools but each school has its own governing body. Each governing body includes a teacher-governor, a parent-governor and a Governor appointed by the Department.

Most examination courses offered by schools in the Isle of Man lead to qualifications awarded by examination boards in England, but there are many differences between the Manx and English education systems. Children in the Isle of Man do not automatically sit the tests that are statutory in England (SATs). The curriculum has many similarities to England but schools in the Isle of Man must cover Manx history and culture wherever possible, with optional Manx language provision.

University College Isle of Man provides a range of post-16 courses and Further Education courses for adults. Most students taking degree courses attend universities in the UK but University College Isle of Man offer degree courses on-Island through links with British universities. Each year around 1,200 undergraduate and 120 postgraduate students are supported by the Department of Education, Sport and Culture to continue their studies at Higher Education establishments in the United Kingdom. The Department contributes towards annual means-tested university tuition fees for students who have resided on the Island for 4 years before starting the course and who have achieved a certain minimum academic standard. A means-tested maintenance grant is also available, subject to the parental income.

Key Points

Children must start full-time education in the term following their fifth birthday and can leave school at the end of May in the school year in which they reach the age of 16. They do not automatically sit the tests that are statutory in England (SATs) and though the curriculum is similar, schools in the Isle of Man must cover Manx history and culture wherever possible. Most students taking degree courses attend universities in the UK. The Department of Education, Sport and Culture contributes towards annual university tuition fees for students who have resided on the Island for 4 years before starting the course and who have achieved a certain academic standard. A means-tested maintenance grant is also available.

15. Leisure and Heritage

The range of landscapes on the Island and the variety of leisure opportunities and heritage sites continue to attract visitors. The responsibility for promoting the Island's many attractions to residents and non-residents lies with the Department for Enterprise.

There are several organisations that care for and promote the Island's heritage. Manx National Heritage is the statutory agency which has a wide-ranging responsibility, including caring for archaeological monuments, protecting important areas of landscape, managing the National Museum, Library, Archive and Art Gallery, and operating museum sites open to the public. Amongst these sites are the most famous landmarks of the Island; the Great Laxey Wheel, Castle Rushen, Cregneash Village and Peel Castle. MNH makes significant amounts of its collections digitally available online including 200 years of newspapers printed on the island.

In addition, there are a number of smaller voluntary heritage trusts around the Island, for example in Peel and Rushen. These trusts work with their local communities to preserve the traditions of the local area.

Culture Vannin supports and promotes all aspects of Manx culture on the Island, finding practical ways to make them relevant to today's society. Their development work focuses on the Manx language, Manx music and dance, and the production of online and educational resources relating to the Isle of Man. It also awards grants for approved projects, initiates its own schemes and undertakes research and publishing. Recent publishing projects include books on archaeological sites, a Manx language ABC, and tutor books for various musical instruments.

The Villa Marina and Gaiety Theatre are flagship venues on the Isle of Man offering a diverse programme of events and entertainment. Both restored buildings, the Gaiety Theatre was designed by renowned theatre architect Frank Matcham and opened in 1900. The Villa Marina opened in 1913. Between the two venues sits the Villa Marina Arcade where the fabulous Wurlitzer organ is housed.

The Isle of Man Arts Council is a grant giving body sponsored by the Department of Education, Sport and Culture. Made up of volunteers and chaired by a political member from the Department, the Council meets regularly to grant funding not only to individuals, arts and culture events, but also to many of our artistic venues and facilities. The Arts Council and Culture Vannin's joint National Development Strategy for Culture and the Arts in the Isle of Man runs from 2017 to 2027.

The sporting scene is very active. The National Sports Centre in Douglas is a world class sporting facility of international standard with swimming pools, sports halls, a gym and fitness zone, Bowls Hall, Squash courts, Athletics track and Astro-turf pitches. IOM Sport recognises 31 Local Sport Associations, each with numerous clubs. Many of these sports clubs offer children a wide variety of opportunities with numerous initiatives around the island to ensure that they can regularly participate in sport regardless of where they reside. The Manx Youth Games, School Holiday Sports activities and after school sports clubs are just some of the many programmes that Manx Sport & Recreation manage and deliver. Many Island sports associations are 'county' members of the English association, but the Isle of Man is a member of some international associations in its own right.

16. Travel and Transport

The Isle of Man Passport Office issues passports to British citizens; the Island is an 'issuing authority' not an 'issuing state'. Passports issued by the Isle of Man Passport Office are British passports issued to a common format on behalf of the Lieutenant-Governor exercising the Royal Prerogative. They are identified as being for the "British Islands, Isle of Man" and some may include the title "European Union" on the cover. Assistance to Isle of Man residents travelling abroad is provided by the UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office via British Embassies, High Commissions and Consulates.

The Department of Infrastructure, as well as running the heritage transport systems (a steam railway and electric tramway), is also responsible for the Isle of Man bus services. Local public transport enquiries on the Isle of Man should be directed to the Welcome Centre at the Sea Terminal. The Department of Infrastructure looks after Ronaldsway airport, the Sea Terminal and harbours, the highways and drainage.

You can obtain a provisional driving licence to drive cars and learner motorbikes from the age of 16 in the Isle of Man, and from 17 you can qualify to drive motorcycles without a learner status. From 21 you are allowed (with a suitable licence) to drive any other form of vehicle. Anyone wishing to learn to drive a motorcycle must obtain a Certificate of Basic Training before being allowed to take the motorcycle onto the open road. To drive either a taxi or a bus you must also obtain a Public

Service Vehicle licence from the Road Traffic Licensing Committee. All motor vehicles used or kept on any public road in the Isle of Man must be registered and licensed on the Island. Vehicles registered on the Isle of Man are not required to have a MoT. However, a vehicle used on the public highway must be fit for purpose; if it is not, the Police may confiscate it and/or issue a fine.

Key Points

Manx National Heritage is responsible for archaeological monuments, protecting important areas of landscape, managing the National Collections, and operating museum sites open to the public. The Department of Infrastructure looks after Ronaldsway airport, the Sea Terminal, harbours, highways and runs the heritage transport systems as well as the Isle of Man bus services. Provisional driving licences for cars and learner motorbikes can be obtained from the age of 16. Vehicles registered on the Isle of Man are not required to have an MoT but a vehicle used on the public highway must be fit for purpose.

17. Employment

Whilst there are no special restrictions on access to the Island (other than those under the Immigration Act which apply equally in the United Kingdom) the ability of newcomers to take up work is governed by the Control of Employment Act. This requires anyone who is not an "Isle of Man worker" to have a work permit before starting employment or self-employment in the Island. There are a limited number of occupations for which permits are not required, e.g. doctors, dentists, certain roles in ICT and e-Business, ministers of religion or the police. Qualification as an "Isle of Man worker" includes being born on the Island, resident for at least five years, married to an "Isle of Man worker", having received full-time education during residence (and having remained on the Island thereafter) or having a Manx-born parent who spent the first five years of their life on the Island.

There is a minimum wage rate on the Isle of Man, which is reviewed periodically, usually annually. The Department for Enterprise can provide further information on the minimum wage rate. Tax on the Isle of Man is paid to the Income Tax Division of the Treasury. If you have paid 10 years of Manx National Insurance contributions then you will be eligible, if still resident on the Isle of Man, to collect the Manx supplement in addition to the basic Manx pension. Full information on Manx pensions can be obtained from the Department of Health and Social Care.

The Isle of Man Government is committed to the principle of equality, and believes that all people on the Island should be treated fairly. It is unlawful for an employer to treat someone less favourably because of their sex or because they are married. There is also some legal protection if a person is dismissed because of their race, religion or sexual orientation. There is legislation in place which makes it unlawful to discriminate on the grounds of disability. The Equality Act in the Isle of Man was brought into force on 1st January 2019 for most protected characteristics, and will be effective from 1st January 2020 for age and disability. There are schemes in place to help people with a disability find employment, or to make necessary adjustments to their workplace. More information is available from the Department for Enterprise. If you have a problem with your employer you can contact the Manx Industrial Relations Service.

Key Points

The Control of Employment Act requires anyone who is not an "Isle of Man worker" to have a work permit before starting employment or self-employment in the Island. There is a minimum wage rate which is reviewed annually. Tax on the Isle of Man is paid to the Income Tax department of the Treasury.

The Law on the Isle of Man

18. The Manx Legal System

Lawyers who have qualified in the Isle of Man are known as advocates and they combine the roles of solicitors and barristers in England. Manx advocates perform a wide range of work and have an exclusive right to appear in the Island's courts (although English barristers can be licensed to appear in certain cases). Other legal work (except conveyancing) can be undertaken in the Island by registered legal practitioners qualified to practice in other jurisdictions. Although English law does not extend to the Isle of Man, the Manx legal system is based on the principles of English common law. Manx criminal law is closely based on English law and is also similar to English law in areas such as contract, family law and social security. In other areas Manx law has been developed to meet the Island's special circumstances, particularly with regard to direct taxation, company law and financial supervision.

The Island's High Court judges are known as Deemsters (a term dating from Viking times), who preside over all the criminal and civil matters that in England would fall under the High Court, County Court and Crown Court. Deemsters are appointed by the Crown. If you are 18 years or over you may be called on to perform jury duty. Juries are used in the higher court, known as the Court of General Gaol Delivery and are generally made up of 7 people who can exercise independent and unbiased judgement of the facts of a case presented by the advocates. The Island has its own lay magistrates (similar to their English counterparts) and also two stipendiary magistrates (the High Bailiff and Deputy High Bailiff) who also act as coroners of inquests and preside over the licensing court. Magistrates' courts tend to deal with offences such as shoplifting, public order and driving offences.

19. Knowing the Law

The police on the Isle of Man operate under the same framework as UK Policing and to all intents and purposes Island residents who are from the United Kingdom would not readily see any difference in the Policing of the Island. The regulations, codes of practice and framework governing the Police mirrors the UK Forces structure and governance.

The Isle of Man Constabulary is part of the Isle of Man Government and falls under the Isle of Man Government Department of Home Affairs for reporting and performance. The Minister for the Department of Home Affairs is responsible for setting the annual policing plan. The Constabulary has an appointed Chief Constable and whilst it has responsibility to deliver the Policing plan it also has autonomy to act independently and ensure impartiality throughout its operational reach and activity.

The Isle of Man Constabulary Headquarters is based on Glencrutchery Road in Douglas, however there are locally based community police stations in Ramsey, Peel and Castletown. The main ethos of delivering policing on the Island is community focussed and the Constabulary operates a Neighbourhood style policing approach throughout all of its activities. Whilst this is the backbone of the delivery of Island policing the Constabulary has all the skills and capabilities in other specialist areas such as criminal investigations, public protection, roads policing, dog unit, public order and a firearms capability that the public would expect.

The Constabulary operates under a structure of approximately 232 Police Officers and 70 support staff in varying roles. The Isle of Man Constabulary is also supported by a volunteer Special Constabulary who regularly provide uniform operational support in a varied number of roles. As a

community police force the Constabulary also has a number of other volunteer roles in various areas of the organisation supporting its delivery of the Chief Constables policing strategy.

Should you be subject of arrest the Isle of Man Constabulary follows a similar framework to that of UK Police Forces and codes of practice that governs the detention and treatment of persons in custody. This is set out under the Police Powers and Procedure Act 1998. This includes the provision of legal advice and processes that govern these arrangements. In summary if you are arrested and do not have your own advocate, you will be given access to a duty advocate at the police station who will be able to advise you. There is a Legal Aid fund to assist people who could not otherwise afford to be represented at court. Legal Aid is administered by the General Registry using public funds. Further information can be obtained from the Isle of Man Courts of Justice on Deemsters Walk.

If you are a victim of crime there is a Victim Support and Witness Service in Douglas and the police will also provide you with details on Victim Support when they deal with an incident. If you feel that you have been treated unfairly with regard to a consumer matter (e.g. unsafe goods, misleading adverts etc.) the Office of Fair Trading can provide help. The OFT can also offer consumer advice, debt counselling etc.

Key Points

Citizens living in the Island are subject to Manx law. Lawyers who have qualified in the Isle of Man are known as advocates and combine the roles of solicitors and barristers in England. The Island's High Court judges are known as Deemsters and are appointed by the Crown. The Manx legal system is based on the principles of English common law. Juries are used in the higher court, known as the Court of General Gaol Delivery and are generally made up of 7 people. The Island has its own lay magistrates and two stipendiary magistrates, the High Bailiff and Deputy High Bailiff. The Manx police operate under the same kinds of regulations and codes as in the UK. There is an Office of Fair Trading that can provide help with consumer advice, debt counselling and trading standards.

20. Help and Advice

Local newspapers and radio stations are good sources of current information. The Isle of Man has 3 newspapers – the *Courier* (delivered free to homes on the Island), the *Manx Independent* and the *Isle of Man Examiner*, and 3 radio stations – Manx Radio, (the public service broadcaster), Energy FM and 3FM. The Welcome Centre at the Sea Terminal can provide details of leisure activities, events, festivals, accommodation etc.

There is a Citizens Advice Service available with offices in Castletown, Ramsey, Douglas and Port Erin, which can provide help and information across a wide range of areas. Libraries are also an excellent source of information; Douglas, Onchan, Ramsey, Castletown and Peel all have libraries and there is also a community mobile library and children's library.

There are no Yellow Pages or Thomson Directory on the Isle of Man. The Manx Telecom Phone Book and Business Directory supplied free by Manx Telecom to customers is a good source of information and acts as both a business directory, a list of domestic telephone numbers and provides very useful details of help lines etc.

21. Useful Contact Details

Name and Website	Telephone Number
Cabinet Office www.gov.im/about-the-government/departments/cabinet-office/	01624 685711
Department of Environment, Food and Agriculture www.gov.im/defa	01624 685835
Department of Education, Sport and Culture www.gov.im/desc	01624 685808
Department of Home Affairs www.gov.im/dha	01624 694300
Department of Infrastructure www.gov.im/doi	01624 850000
Department for Enterprise www.gov.im/dfe	01624 686400
Department of Health and Social Care www.gov.im/dsc	01624 650000
The Treasury www.gov.im/treasury/	01624 685980
Financial Services Authority www.iomfsa.im	01624 646000
General Registry www.gov.im/registries/	01624 685265
HM Attorney General's Chambers www.gov.im/government/offices/attorney-generals-chambers	01624 685452
Income Tax Division www.gov.im/treasury/incometax	01624 685400
Isle of Man Constabulary www.iompolice.im	01624 631212
Isle of Man Fire and Rescue Service https://www.gov.im/categories/home-and-neighbourhood/emergency-services/fire-and-rescue-service/	01624 647300
Isle of Man Post www.iompost.com	01624 664664
Manx Utilities	01624 687687

<https://www.manxutilities.im/>

Manx Gas 01624 644444
www.manxgas.com

Manx National Heritage – Manx Museum 01624 648000
www.manxnationalheritage.im

Manx Telecom 01624 624624
www.manx-telecom.com

Isle of Man Information Commissioner 01624 693260
<https://www.inforights.im/>

Office of Fair Trading 01624 686500
www.gov.im/oft

Tynwald and Hansard 01624 685500
www.tynwald.org.im

22. Websites and Books

Further information on a variety of subjects can be found on the following websites:

Locate Isle of Man	www.locate.im
Isle of Man Tourism	www.visitisleofman.com
Manx Culture	www.culturevannin.im
Manx Gaelic	www.learnmanx.com
Manx Music	www.manxmusic.com
Manx Literature	http://manxliterature.com/
Manx Geological Survey	www.manxgeology.com
Manx National Heritage	www.manxnationalheritage.im
Isle of Man Arts Council	www.iomarts.com
Manx Radio	www.manxradio.com

Further Reading

- *The Isle of Man*, by Trevor Kneale
- *A New History of the Isle of Man – Vol 5* ed. John Belchem
- *Struggle for Manx Democracy* by Robert Fyson
- *Dictionary of Manx Placenames* by George Broderick
- *A Guide to the Archaeological Sites of the Isle of Man* by Allison Fox and Andrew C Johnson
- *Controversy – from Smuggling to the Common Purse* by C W Gawne
- *Manannan’s Cloak. An Anthology of Manx Literature* by R C Carswell
- *The Manx and Their Music* by Fenella Bazin
- *Manx National Song Book*
- *Manx Fairy Tales* by Sophia Morrison
- *Manx Memories and Movements* by Samuel Norris
- *New Manx Worthies*, ed. Dollin Kelly
- *Collected Poems* by T. E. Brown
- *Mona Douglas: A Tribute* by Fenella Bazin

23. Isle of Man: Key Facts

- Capital: Douglas
- Population: 83,314 (in 2016)
- Land Area: 572 square kilometres (sq. km) / 227 square miles
- Population Density: 133 people per sq. km or 336 people per sq. mile
- Location: The centre of the Irish Sea – 55 km (34 miles) from the nearest point in England and 64 km (40 miles) from the nearest point in Northern Ireland
- Longest River: Sulby (17 km/ 10.5 miles)
- Highest Peak: Snaefell (621 m/ 2036 feet)
- Head of State: Her Majesty the Queen, Lord of Mann
- Lieutenant Governor: Sir Richard Gozney
- Chief Minister: The Hon Howard Quayle MHK
- President of Tynwald: The Hon Stephen Charles Rodan BSc MR PharmS MLC
- Speaker of the House of Keys: The Hon Juan Paul Watterson BA FCA CMgr FCMI MHK
- Status: An internally self-governing dependent territory of the Crown which is not part of the United Kingdom
- Parliament: Tynwald
- Currency: Pound Sterling
- Public holidays: As in the UK with additional holidays for TT Senior Race Day and Tynwald Day
- Languages: English and Manx Gaelic
- Airport: Ronaldsway airport is situated in the south of the Island
- Seaport: The sea terminal is situated in Douglas
- The first verse of the National Anthem "O Land of our Birth" is:
 - O land of our birth,*
 - O gem of God's earth,*
 - O Island so strong and so fair;*
 - Built firm as Barrule,*
 - Thy throne of Home Rule*
 - Makes us free as thy sweet mountain air.*

24. Manx Patriots' Roll of Honour

The persons whose names are contained in this Roll of Honour have been recommended by the Tynwald Honours Committee and approved by Tynwald Court sitting in public. The Manx Patriots' Roll of Honour is listed below:

- ❖ **Godred Crovan (died 1095)**
Defeated the Manx forces at the Battle of Skyhill near Ramsey in 1079 and became King of Man and the Sudreys (Southern Isles) until his death in 1095
- ❖ **Edward Christian (1600-1661)**
Governor of the Isle of Man between 1628 and 1639. He was accused of insurrection in 1643 and charged with plotting to overthrow the Government, for which he was imprisoned. He died in prison in 1661
- ❖ **William Christian ("Illiam Dhone") (1608-1663)**
Governor of the Isle of Man between 1656 and 1658, he also held the role of Receiver-General on the Island. Executed at Hango, outside Castletown in 1663. The King subsequently conceded the Act of Indemnity should have applied to him, and ordered redress
- ❖ **Rt. Rev Issac Barrow DD (1614-1680)**
Appointed Bishop of Sodor and Man in 1663, and Governor of the Isle of Man in 1664. Raised funds to improve the standard of the clergy and of the schools on the Island
- ❖ **Rt. Rev Thomas Wilson DD (1663-1755)**
Appointed Bishop of Sodor and Man in 1698 until his death 57 years later in 1755. He was responsible for a great improvement in the spiritual and academic standards of the Islands clergy, and also for the restoration of nearly all the Island's churches
- ❖ **John Christian Curwen (1750-1828)**
Born in Cumberland but was a relative of the Christian family of Milntown, Lezayre. He was a member of Parliament for Carlisle from 1786 and was also elected as a member of the House of Keys in 1820. He is the only person ever to hold the titles of both MP and MHK
- ❖ **Captain John Quilliam (1771-1829)**
During his naval career he served with Nelson on board HMS Victory during the Battle of Trafalgar in 1805. Was later elected as a Member of the House of Keys
- ❖ **Sir William Hillary (1771-1847)**
Founder of the Royal National Lifeboat Institution. He was instrumental in the building of the Tower of Refuge in Douglas Bay in 1832, which remains as his main memorial
- ❖ **Eleanor Brennan (Nelly Brennan) (1792-1859)**
Best known for her selfless devotion to caring for victims of the cholera epidemics on the Island in 1832 and 1833. Her dedication and nursing skills resulted in her appointment, despite her illiteracy, as matron at the new Hospital and Dispensary in Strand Street in 1839
- ❖ **William Kennish (1799-1862)**
A prolific and pioneering inventor who discovered a route to link the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans in Panama. Author of evocative Manx poetry
- ❖ **Robert Fargher (1803-1863)**

Journalist and founder of the *Mona's Herald*, he was a relentless campaigner for democratic elections. Fargher died in 1863, and as such did not live to see his dream of a freely elected House of Keys fulfilled

❖ **James Brown (1815-1881)**

Journalist and founder of the *Isle of Man Times*. He challenged the unrepresentative nature of the House of Keys and played a key role in its becoming an elected body. His unlawful imprisonment in 1864 marked a turning point in the movement towards enfranchisement

❖ **Thomas Edward Brown (1830-1897)**

Poet who used poetry as a way of recording the old ways of Manx life and speech before they disappeared, but he was known in literary circles far beyond the Isle of Man. He is commemorated by a memorial room in the Manx Museum and a statue in Buck's Road, Douglas, and in a 2003 newspaper poll was voted "greatest Manxman of all time"

❖ **Henry Bloom Noble (1816-1903)**

Born in Westmoreland, he came to the Isle of Man in 1835 and became involved in property speculation, shipping and banking. Within 20 years he was the wealthiest man on the Island. After his death his trustees were responsible for, amongst other things, building Noble's Hospital and giving Noble's Park to Douglas Corporation

❖ **Sir James Gell CVO JP (1823-1905)**

Attorney General and First Deemster and Clerk of the Rolls, he was well known for his support for the developing rights and privileges of the Island

❖ **Arthur William Moore CVO MA JP (1853-1909)**

Elected to the House of Keys in 1881 and became speaker in 1898. He was well known for producing many works on the different aspects of Manx life and history

❖ **Sir Thomas Henry Hall Caine (1853-1931)**

Well known author, whose novels were wholly or partly set in the Isle of Man and did much to promote the Island, he was also a member of the House of Keys well known for his support of constitutional reform

❖ **Marion Shimmin (1878-1942)**

In 1933 became the first woman to be elected to the House of Keys. She was a keen advocate of the interests of the less well-off in the community and was instrumental in getting the Government to introduce a system of financial aid for fishermen

❖ **Samuel Norris (1875-1948)**

Journalist and politician, he was a vocal proponent for institutional reform and founder of the Manx Reform League. He argued consistently in favour of increasing the power of the Keys and reducing the power of the Governor and other appointed officials

❖ **Sir William Percy Cowley CBE JP (1886-1958)**

High Bailiff, Second Deemster and from 1947, First Deemster and Clerk to the Rolls. Was involved in the formation of the Manx National Trust

- ❖ **Sir Joseph Davidson Qualtrough CBE (1885-1960)**
Elected to the House of Keys in 1919 becoming Speaker in 1937. As Speaker he was a champion of the Island's campaigns for further constitutional reform and a greater degree of responsibility for its own internal affairs
- ❖ **Major Robert Henry Cain VC (1909-1974)**
The only Manxman ever to be awarded the Victoria Cross, receiving it for his gallantry during the Battle of Arnhem during World War Two
- ❖ **Mona Douglas MBE (1898-1987)**
Worked as a rural librarian in Douglas for 30 years and then as a newspaper journalist but best known for her life-long interest in Manx culture
- ❖ **Sir Henry Charles Kerruish OBE LLD (hc) CP (1917-2003)**
Elected to the House of Keys in 1946, going on to become Speaker in 1962 and being elected as the first President of Tynwald in 1990, a post he held until his retirement in 2000. He was a great ambassador for the Island through his involvement in the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association
- ❖ **Mavis Kelly LRAM (1926-2005)**
Accomplished pianist and highly regarded teacher who was widely involved in the cultural life of the Island. She served on the Committee of the Manx Music Festival, and was the official accompanist for over 25 years

Example questions for applicants intending to take the Citizenship Test

Customs and traditions, national days and festivals

During which month is the open-air Tynwald ceremony held each year?

- A. May
- B. June
- C. July
- D. September

Answer: - C

The Isle of Man, the United Kingdom and Europe

Which of these political/cultural organisations is the Isle of Man a member of?

- A. The European Economic Area
- B. The Commonwealth Parliamentary Association
- C. The United Kingdom
- D. The European Union

Answer: - B

The Island's Government

Which group of people form the Council of Ministers?

- A. Senior civil servants
- B. Ministers
- C. Members of the House of Keys
- D. Members of the Legislative Council

Answer: - B

The Island's Parliament

How often are General Elections held in the Isle of Man?

- A. Every 2 years
- B. Every 3 years
- C. Every 5 years
- D. Every 7 years

Answer: - C

Employment

Who requires a work permit before starting long-term employment in the Isle of Man?

- A. Anyone who is an "Isle of Man worker"
- B. Anyone who has not lived in the Isle of Man for more than 5 years
- C. Anyone who is in an exempted occupation such as a doctor, dentist or police officer etc
- D. Anyone who is married to an Isle of Man worker

Answer: - B