

Discover the Story of Mann at

Rushen Abbey, The Abbey Gardens and Interpretive Centre Ballasalla, Isle of Man



Welcome to the group visitor information for Rushen Abbey, The Abbey Gardens and Interpretive Centre, situated in Ballasalla. Here you will find everything you need to plan a visit.

What there is to see

At Rushen Abbey, discover one of the Island's most important heritage sites through the ages from its founding in the 10th Century right through to its use in the present day. Learn about the earliest written account of the Isle of Man which unveils the pillaging of Rushen Abbey by Irish raiders and find out about the Abbey's uses in more recent times including as a popular tourist destination famed for strawberry and cream teas, dancing and gardens.

Visitors to Rushen Abbey are initially welcomed into a large modern interpretation centre where they pass through audio and visual presentations, as well as models and displays telling the story of Rushen Abbey. Part of the museum has been specifically designed for children, allowing them to dress as a monk, learn calligraphy, build an arch or dig for artefacts.

Once outside the interpretation centre, visitors find themselves overlooking the ruins of Rushen Abbey where paths and signs mark out key locations around the Abbey. Visitors can also enjoy the Abbey Gardens which include wild flowers, trees and herbs, many of which were used by the monks to prepare medieval medicines.

Opening hours (Easter to October)

2nd April 2010 to October 2010

10.00 – 17.00, 7 days a week

Admission is by ticket which provides entry to the entire Rushen Abbey site, including the Abbey, The Abbey Gardens and Interpretive Centre.

Regrettably, Rushen Abbey is not open during the winter months or after 17.00 unless by special arrangement for a private evening tour.

Timing your visit

A typical visit lasts between 1 to 1½ hours.

Manx National Heritage recommend that a visit to Rushen Abbey is timed to coincide with other Southern area visits including **Castle Rushen**, one of Europe's best preserved medieval castles; the **Nautical Museum**, which includes a uniquely preserved eighteenth century armed yacht; the **Old House of Keys** – the restored original

parliament building which offers the opportunity to debate momentous issues in Manx political history; and the **Old Grammar School** where rows of benches and desks are a reminder of early Victorian schools days.

Admission prices for 2010

Adult £4.00 · Child (under 16 years): £2.00 · Family (2 adults and 2 children): £9.50

Discounted admission prices are available for pre-booked groups. Multi-site discount admission passes are also available from all Manx National Heritage sites. Valid passes must be shown on entry to each site.

Booking your visit

Pre-booking is advised and achieves a number of benefits for your group including a substantial discount on the standard admission price, discount on the purchase of guide books and speedy, hassle-free entry to the site.

To book your group visit, please telephone our group bookings office on (+44) (0) 1624 648000. Payment is due no later than 2 weeks in advance and refunds are not given once the booking and group numbers are confirmed.

On receipt of payment, a Group Entry Permit will be issued to you for presentation at the site entrance on the day of your visit.

Private evening tours

Private evening tours of Rushen Abbey can be arranged during the summer months by special request. An expert guide will show you around the Abbey and will explain the importance and historical significance of Rushen Abbey through the centuries, as well as answering any questions regarding the Abbey and its fascinating heritage.

Evening tours are priced at £10 per person (groups of 20 or more). The maximum recommended group size is 30 people per tour). Tours last 1 hour and visitors are advised to wear sensible footwear.

How to get there

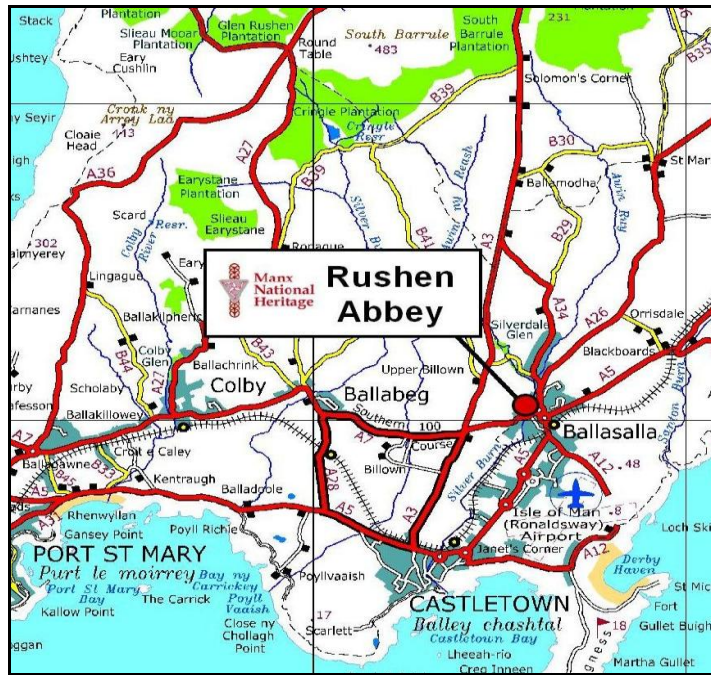
By coach: Enter Ballasalla via the A5 Douglas to Castletown Road and follow the signs to Rushen Abbey.

By bus: 1, 1C, 2, 8, X2

Steam Railway: Rushen Abbey is signposted from Ballasalla station.

By foot: Access to Rushen Abbey is available by foot via Ballasalla village, via Silverdale Glen or via the Millennium Way walk along the Silverburn River.

Map:



Coach parking and Coach travel information

Coaches may drop off or collect visitors at the entrance to Rushen Abbey and coach parking is available at the adjacent Rushen Abbey Hotel.

Information for visitors with disabilities

Rushen Abbey is fully accessible to wheelchair users.

Visitor Information

For safety reasons, visitors are asked to take special care whilst visiting Rushen Abbey. Visitors are asked to wear suitable footwear and keep to defined routes as surfaces may be worn, uneven or slippery. Children should be kept under close supervision at all times.

- Lavatories are available within the interpretation centre.
- Photography and filming (for personal use only) and use of mobile phones is permitted.
- Souvenirs and guidebooks are available to purchase at the Rushen Abbey Heritage Shop.
- Picnics can be enjoyed within Rushen Abbey Gardens.
- The Rushen Abbey Hotel is currently undergoing renovation and conservation. Café and restaurant facilities will be included within the development.

Group discount on guidebooks

Group travel organisers receive a 25% discount on Souvenir guidebooks for Rushen Abbey when purchasing 10 guidebooks or more. Please request your guidebooks through our Group Bookings Office.

Discover more about the Story of Mann sites

A complimentary 6 minute DVD guide to visiting the Island's heritage attractions is available to anyone organising a Group Visit, together with copies of Manx National Heritage's Story of Mann Leaflet. These can be obtained by contacting our Group Bookings Office.

Where to next

DISCOVER
The Story of Mann
at thirteen historic sites around the Isle of Man,
including special events, exhibitions
and exciting days out.

Peel
Peel Castle
The Peel Castle

Ramsey
The Grove
The Grove

Niarbyl
Niarbyl
Niarbyl

Laxey Wheel
The Great Laxey Wheel
The Great Laxey Wheel

Douglas
The Manx Museum
The Manx Museum & Bay Room Restaurant

Castletown
Castle Rushen
Nautical Museum
Old House of Keys
Old Grammar School

Ballasalla
Rusham Abbey
Rusham Abbey

Cregneash & The Sound
National Folk Museum
The Sound
The Sound

Open 10am to 5pm daily from Easter to October.
The Manx Museum and House of Manannan remain open throughout the winter. Manx Museum closed on Sundays.

Manx National Heritage
Eiraght Ashoonagh Vannin

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Manx National Heritage Contact details

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