

Beginners Guide:

Booking a trip to the Isle of Man TT & Classic TT

Each year, thousands of TT fans descend on the Isle of Man for the annual races.

Travel and accommodation are in high demand and booking a trip can turn into a daunting process. Matching travel with accommodation is troublesome if you have never been to the TT before.

We have put together a guide with some useful tips on what you need to consider when booking a trip to the Isle of Man TT.

You can book the full TT package with IOM TT Travel, or individual products where available.

Isle Of Man TT:

The Isle of Man TT is a motorcycling road racing event spread over a two week period.

The first week being the practice/qualifying week, has evening practice sessions starting around 6 pm through to 9 pm.

Race week, which is the second week, sees races on alternate days which are Saturday, Monday, Wednesday and Friday.

Practice week is the quieter week and also has lower prices for travel, accommodation and tickets.

It is also likely you will see more bikes on track during this week than race week.

Race week is a lot busier: it's the week everyone wants to be at the TT and due to demand prices are higher, and everything sells out quicker.

Classic TT:

The Classic TT is part of the Festival of Motorcycling which incorporates the Manx Grand Prix.

Festival of Motorcycling is a two-week event, consisting of a practice week and race week, similar to the Isle of Man TT races.

The first week, practice week, sees evening practice sessions starting around 6 pm through to 9 pm. Qualifying sessions include a mixture of Classic TT and Manx Grand Prix.

Classic TT events focus around the middle weekend with the final practice day on the Friday incorporating a carnival held at the TT grandstand.

Races take place on Saturday and Monday during the day.

A visit to the Festival of Jurby is a must on the Sunday of the Classic TT weekend. Jurby is the island's biggest visited one-day attraction and has thousands of bikes on view along with a track day.

Manx Grand Prix races which feature amateurs, are then held on the other two race days, Wednesday and Friday.

Travel: How to get here

The Isle of Man is an island located in the middle of the Irish Sea. Just 33 miles long and 12 miles across, you can access the island via sea or air.

Tip: You don't need to bring your vehicle. Public transport is excellent on the island, during the TT it's increased due to high demand. Go Explorer tickets allow unlimited travel on any public bus, tram or train.

By Sea

The most popular way to get to the island and the option that sells out the quickest.

The Isle of Man Steam Packet Company offer daily sailings from Heysham and Liverpool in England or every-other-day sailings from Dublin and Belfast in Ireland.

You can travel as a foot passenger or with a motorbike, car, van or motorhome.

All ferry space is in high demand during race week; a top tip is be to be as flexible as possible. Your ideal travel date may not be available, but try the day before or maybe the day after.

It is also important to understand how the ferry booking process works.

All sailings are released a year in advance. You can secure a sailing during practice week a year before the next TT.

You can obtain a ferry booking by paying a deposit (at the time of writing), with the full balance then being due in February of the following year. At the time of booking, no one knows what the final bill will be. Final ferry balances are advised in November/December.

Any ferry bookings that are not paid in full will then go back into the system around the first week of March to be resold.

Tip: Book your sailing early, if you want the best dates. Sailings go on sale a year in advance, and the most popular dates sell out first.

By Air

You can fly to the Isle of Man from some UK and Irish ports.

Airlines Easyjet and Flybe offer routes to the island from London Gatwick and Manchester which are great if you are travelling from further afield. Aer Lingus offers flights from Dublin, which is fantastic if you are travelling from the US or Canada.

Flights are readily available to the TT, but peak dates sell out quickly and can be expensive.

Tip: Peak travel dates are the Friday of practice week coming to the island and Saturday and Sunday after the final race, departing the island.

Airlines release some flights a year in advance, while other such as Flybe and Easyjet go on sale between 7 to 10 months prior.

Need more information on travel? Contact us travel@iomtt.com.

Accommodation: Where to stay

There are many options available from camping with your tent to hotel style glamping or TT Homestay to 4-star hotels.

Hotel rooms are limited and can be pricey compared to other options, during race week rooms start from £250 upwards.

Tip: Hotels do not list accommodation on websites such as Booking.com or Expedia. They only take bookings direct or some offer rooms through the official TT Travel Partner.

Bed & Breakfast guest houses sell out year on year with repeat guests. Before a visitor leaves, they have already booked for the year after.

With limited hotels available, more and more temporary solutions are made available.

Glamping is available in 5-meter bell tents equipped with real beds, mattresses, duvet and pillows are available in many island locations.

Pre-erected tents are a bikers dream, just simply turn up and find a tent waiting for your arrival, included essential equipment.

Camping with your tent is the cheapest option; you can pitch a tent from just £12 per person per night.

TT Homestay - This is where Isle of Man residents offer spare rooms on a B&B basis or rent our full properties. All properties have to pass strict requirements, if you intend to stay in a TT homestay, ensure that it is an official registered property.

Watching the races

As the TT course is just under 38-miles long, you can stand or sit in a hedge (when not in a restricted area) and watch for FREE!

You will only pay if you want to sit in a grandstand. Tickets are per day.

If you want to treat yourself or a partner to an exceptional race day experience, you can also buy VIP or VIP platinum race tickets.

What else should I consider?

Let public transport take the strain. You don't need your own transportation to get around; a journey can take just 30 minutes from one side of the island to the other.

You can get around the course using public transport. The mountain course is harder to get to as public buses are not permitted. You can use the Electric Tram to access the Bungalow area. Other than that you can get to any spot on the island.

Public transport is increased due to demand, plus coming as a foot passenger or by air you will have more available options to get here.