

DOUGLAS BAY HORSE TRAMWAY

The **Manx Museum** is a short (5 mins) up-hill walk from the Cultural Area (follow signposts; for impaired mobility access, use the Market Street car park lifts). The Island's 10,000 year history is presented through film, galleries and interactive displays.

Out in Douglas Bay near to the harbour lies the diminutive St Mary's Isle or **Conister Rock** on which countless boats and ships have come to grief over the centuries, as the rock is just submerged at high tide. Following one tragic ship wreck in 1830, Sir William Hillary, an Island resident and the founder of the RNLI, proposed a refuge be built on the rock, which was paid for by public subscription and completed in 1833. On visiting the Island that year, the poet William Wordsworth wrote about the **Tower of Refuge** and the safe haven has been known by that name since.

On the seaward side of Loch Promenade are the beautiful sunken **Marine Gardens**, originally laid out in the 1930s, with seating, shelters, fountains, sculptures, children's play zones and seasonal colourful plantings, all expertly maintained by Douglas Borough Council.

At the bottom of Victoria Street, near to the southern terminus of the tramway, stands the **Jubilee Clock** which commemorates the Golden Jubilee of Queen Victoria and was presented to the town and people of Douglas in 1887 by wealthy bank owner G W Dumbell. Thirteen years later, his bank collapsed causing financial ruin for nearly 8,000 businesses and individuals on the Island, including the then owners of the Horse Tramway.

Mounted on a plinth at the entrance to the Bottleneck Car Park adjacent to the **Sea Terminal** can be seen one of the 8ft diameter cable return pulley wheels from the long-closed Upper Douglas Cable Tramway which ran a semi-circular route from the Jubilee Clock, up Victoria Street, through upper Douglas, and down to the bottom of Broadway next to the Villa Marina.



Timetables, Events & Latest Information

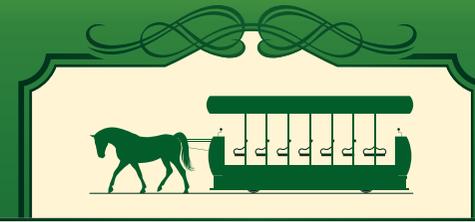
Timetable and event leaflets are published for each of the Island's Heritage Railways and other attractions. Leaflets are available from the Welcome Centre at the Sea Terminal, railway stations and other outlets across the Island, and to download from official websites. Leaflet information is correct at time of printing but may subsequently change. Accessibility and open dates and times vary by attraction, local amenity and season. Therefore to avoid disappointment, you are advised to check official websites and social media for up-to-date information relevant to you before making travel arrangements and before setting out.

- Douglas Bay Horse Tramway, Manx Electric Railway, Snaefell Mountain Railway and IoM Steam Railway: www.rail.im, Facebook [/IoMTransport](https://www.facebook.com/IoMTransport) and Twitter [@iombusandrail](https://twitter.com/iombusandrail), or call the Public Transport infoline on +44 (0)1624 662525.
- Manx Museum: www.manxnationalheritage.im and Facebook [/Imanxnationalheritage](https://www.facebook.com/Imanxnationalheritage), or call +44 (0)1624 648000.

Conserving Heritage, Advancing Education

Please help support a broad range of conservation and education initiatives relating to the Horse Tramway, its draught horses and its historic tramcars by making a donation to or by sponsoring one of the *Trammers* through the support charity *Douglas Bay Tramway Heritage Trust*. Visit www.horsetram.im for more information about the charity and the Tramway.

This leaflet is funded by Douglas Bay Tramway Heritage Trust, an Isle of Man public charity (No.1238) helping to promote and support the Douglas Bay Horse Tramway, its draught horses and historic tramcars. All rights reserved. Edition 2/2020



DOUGLAS BAY HORSE TRAMWAY

SINCE 1876

Visitor & Journey Guide

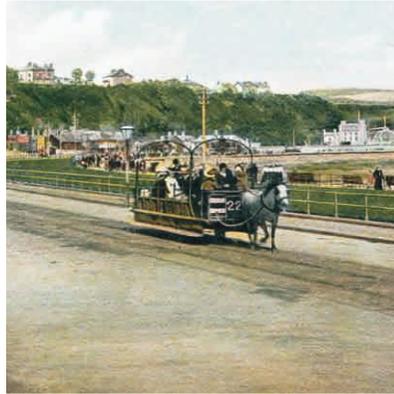


History & Heritage

Founded by Yorkshire-born engineer Thomas Lightfoot in 1876, Douglas Bay Horse Tramway is the oldest horse-drawn passenger tramway to remain in service anywhere in the World.

The Tramway provides a heritage transport service along the busy seafront promenades of Douglas, capital of the Isle of Man, between **Derby Castle**, the **Villa-Gaiety** Cultural Area and the **Sea Terminal** (when track replacement is complete - see map overleaf).

The Tramway retains thirteen of its original Victorian and Edwardian tramcars with which to operate the service, a selection of open-sided roofed and un-roofed cross-bench cars, enclosed saloons and a double-decker. Built between 1883 and 1913, these historic tramcars afford today's visitors the opportunity to experience the first form of urban mass public transit pre-dating the arrival of electric trams in the World.



The Tramway Stables

The Tramway's original stables complex dating back to 1877 is a listed building and still used today to accommodate the large team of draught horses. Finding a working original Victorian transport stables tucked away in a modern urban environment, complete with smithy, feedstock rolling machinery, hay loft and cobbled wash yard, is a rare treasure in any developed country and is itself a must-visit heritage attraction.

Located off Queen's Promenade at the junction with Summer Hill, the **Tramway Stables** are open to the public when the Tramway is operating. Visitors can explore the stables, meet the Clydesdale and Shire draught horses, learn about their lives and discover the hidden story of the Douglas Bay Horse Tramway. There is a heritage exhibition room and gift shop on site. Guided tours of the stables are available on selected dates throughout the season led by knowledgeable volunteer guides.

Clydesdales and Shires are well suited to pulling horse trams with their immense power, large round feet and generally good temperament. There are more than twenty of these heavy draught horses with the Tramway. Historically known as 'trammers', some of these rare breed horses attend Summer agricultural shows and compete in Winter ploughing matches on the Island to promote their breed conservation and heritage.

21st Century Renaissance

In 2016 the Tramway was acquired by the Isle of Man Government and is now operated as a heritage transport service and visitor attraction by **Isle of Man Transport** (a division of the Department of Infrastructure) with additional support from volunteers.

Significant investment is being made by the Government in the development of the Horse Tramway as a heritage visitor attraction which will see the track replaced as part of the Douglas Promenades Refurbishment Scheme; a replica of the original tramcar storage depot built at the Derby Castle northern terminus; the museum and service fleet tramcars restored; the stabling facilities refurbished; and 21st Century amenities provided for both staff and the visiting public.



Along the Route

A journey between **Derby Castle** and the **Villa-Gaiety** Cultural Area will take little more than 10 minutes each way on the Tramway (depending on your horse), with an extra 5 minutes each way for services to the **Sea Terminal** when operating. But if you have a valid Go Card, break your journey at one or more of the Tram Stops along the route and visit some of the many other attractions, cafés, restaurants, shops, galleries, gardens and museums on or near the Douglas Promenades.

A number of points of interest and buildings of architectural significance can be viewed from the tram as it makes its journey around Douglas Bay:

The **Kaye Memorial Gardens** at the end of Strathallan Crescent were created in 1955 in memory of Joseph & Sarah Kaye, Mayor & Mayoress of Douglas 1904-5, by way of a bequest from their son. In 2013 Douglas Borough Council erected three memorial stones to commemorate those who lost their lives in the 1973 Summerland fire disaster at Derby Castle. The garden site along with No.1 Strathallan Crescent was for many years owned by the Horse Tramway, used for offices and additional stabling space.

The **Falcon Cliff** sits high on the hillside above Central Promenade. Built as a private residence in the 1840s, its white castellated structure later became part of a hotel, dance hall and entertainment complex, with its own funicular cliff railway for access. It was converted into offices in the 1990s.

At the rear and to the left of the 1960s built Palace Hotel & Casino survives the **Palace Opera House**, today converted into a cinema but once part of the huge Palace Pavilion entertainment venue which opened in 1887. It comprised the Palace Ballroom (reputedly the largest in Europe with an 11,000-seat capacity), the 1,800-seat Palace Opera House and later the 3,500-seat Palace Coliseum theatre. The theatre was demolished in 1965 to make way for the 'modern' hotel and casino, the ballroom behind lasted until 1994.



The imposing **Castle Mona** mansion stands on Central Promenade, originally built in 1805 for the fourth Duke of Atholl, then Governor General of the Isle of Man, the stonework having been cut from the Isle of Arran. It was the first building on the Promenade, had very extensive walled gardens and became a hotel back in 1831. Closed since 2006, it now awaits its own renaissance, needing considerable capital investment to bring it up to 21st Century standards and expectations.

Further along Central Promenade, the right-hand section of the Spectrum Apartments includes the original art deco facade of the **Crescent 'Super' Cinema** which opened in 1930 at the height of picture house popularity. The 2,000-seat cinema had an ornate interior styled on a Tudor-era castle complete with tapestry walls and a portcullis-shaped stage!

In the designated Cultural Area on Harris Promenade, attractions include the **Villa Marina** entertainment venue with its famous gardens and colonnade walkway, the 1,800-seat **Gaiety Theatre & Opera House** standing alongside the grand Sefton Hotel, an art gallery, street sculptures and, on the seafront walkway, the imposing 50ft high **War Memorial** and entrance to the sunken **Marine Gardens**.

The Island's main **Shopping District** is formed by Castle Street and Strand Street which run parallel to Loch Promenade, so alight at the Cultural Area or at any of the intermediate Tram Stops along Loch Promenade for a short walk (2 mins) to enjoy a wide range of retail shops, cafés and eateries on offer.

