

Getting to India Cottage - The address is: India Cottage, Grove Road, Ventnor, PO38 1TP

By Car: The Island is served by three ferry ports; Lymington to Yarmouth, Southampton to East Cowes and Portsmouth to Fishbourne (near Ryde):



Lymington to Yarmouth: Operated by **Wightlink** is often the best service if you are coming from the South West of England or Wales. The ferry takes on average 40 mins to cross, once landed at Yarmouth it is around a 40min drive to the cottage, along the West Wight route. You'll see the wild undeveloped part of the Island, excellent for surfing and paragliding and some rugged beaches.

Southampton to East Cowes: Operated by **Red Funnel** is a good service from the M3/A34 central England, the sailing is the longest at around an hour. Once landed at East Cowes it is around a 30min drive to the cottage. It is best to opt for the more scenic rural route avoiding Newport via Downend/Merston, unless you wish to visit Newport, the Island's administrative/retail centre¹. We now have access to 15% discount codes for Red Funnel services, please message me for one.

Portsmouth to Fishbourne (near Ryde): Operated by **Wightlink** this is best service if you are coming from the South East and London. The Hindhead Tunnel on the A3 has shortened the journey by around 30 mins pre-tunnel. The ferry takes on average 45 mins to cross, once landed at Fishbourne it is around a 30min drive to the cottage, via Arreton and Wroxall.

Wightlink: <https://www.wightlink.co.uk>

Red Funnel: <https://www.redfunnel.co.uk>

¹ Please note the East to West Cowes chain ferry suffering from operational issues, this won't affect your journey to the cottage, but if you planned to visit West Cowes before coming to the cottage you may have to drive via Newport.

Top tips for Ferry bookings: both companies operate dynamic pricing, a bit like the airlines, so prices can change according to demand. The prices regrettably do go up considerably in school holidays. The peak sailing days and times are Friday afternoon and evening and Saturday's these are generally the most expensive. If you are able to take a less popular sailing, very early or very late, or a less popular day for example mid-week, you can make considerable savings. Also the type of ticket you buy is more expensive the more flexible it is, 'saver' tickets are cheaper but have less date and time flexibility and often have limitations on cancellation and refunds. We have access to 15% discounts for Red Funnel, please message me for a code. Wightlink regrettably don't offer such a discount. They do however take Tesco Clubcard points which you can use to pay towards your crossing fares.

Please note it is not the end of the world if you miss your ferry, it happens all the time. Try and call ahead if you know you won't make your ferry. The ferry tends to load about 10-15 mins before the actual sailing time. If you do miss your ferry they will try and get you on the next available service, this may not be the next ferry, depending on how busy they are and whether overbooked. The staff are normally really helpful and will try their best to get you across as soon as they can.

Sat Navs such as Waze, Tom Tom, Google Maps all seem pretty accurate for PO38 1TP, taking you to Grove Road. India Cottage is at the junction of Grove Road and Tulse Hill.

If you are coming to cottage from the east, **up** the hill in Grove Road, the cottage is on your right with the cottage parking directly **after** the cottage. If you are coming to the cottage from the west, **down** the hill in Gove Road, the cottage is on your left immediately **after** the left hand turning into Southgrove Road, with parking immediately **before** the cottage.

The cottage parking is for the exclusive use of guests, please when parking keep inside the double yellow lines. Please be careful when entering/exiting the parking space, the kerb closest to the cottage is quite steep. There is a sensor controlled, solar light to help when loading and unloading.



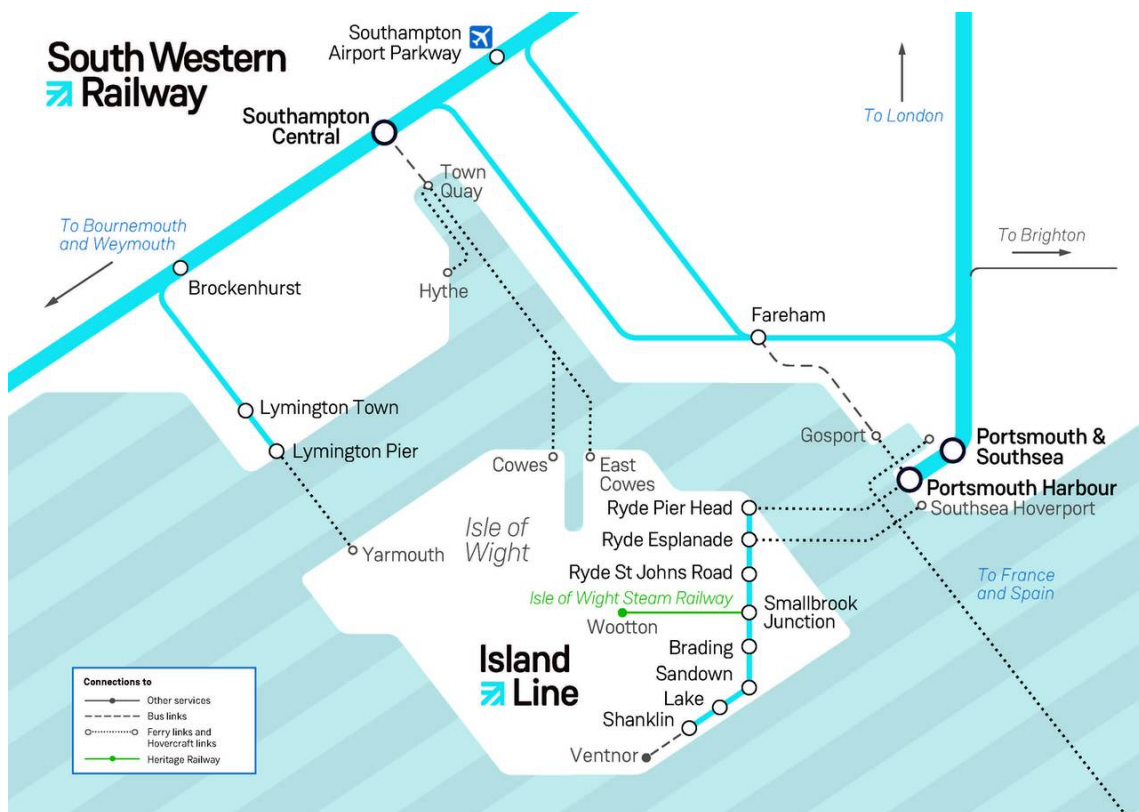
If you have guests or are coming in two cars, there is a second parking space in Southgrove Road. The space is in front of the right hand garage, there is a India Cottage sign on the door. Please note this space is quite short and there is a metal gate pole which needs to be very carefully manoeuvred around. Please if using this space make sure the car does not stick out into the road over the yellow lines. Again there is a sensor controlled, solar light to help when loading/unloading.

On Foot: The above car ferry services all take foot passengers and cycles, please check the ferry company website for details. In addition to the car ferries there are also three high-speed passenger crossing options, with Red Jet and Fast Cat both linking to the national rail network.

Red Jet - Southampton to West Cowes: operated by Red Funnel, the Red Jet catamaran runs from Southampton to West Cowes taking on average around 25 mins. The Red Jet can take foot passengers with luggage but does not take cycles unless folding with a carry bag. Onward travel is via Southern Vectis buses or private taxi service.

FastCat: Portsmouth to Ryde Pier: operated by Wightlink the FastCat runs from Southampton to Ryde Pier taking on average around 22 mins. The FastCat can take foot passengers with luggage and cycles although it best to check the service status when booking. Onward travel is via the Island Line train, Southern Vectis bus or private taxi service.

Hovercraft: Southsea to Ryde Esplanade: operated by Hovertravel the hovercraft runs from Southsea Esplanade to Ryde Esplanade taking on average just 10 mins. The Hovercraft can take foot passengers with luggage and cycles, although it best to check the service status when booking. Onward travel is via the Island Line train, Southern Vectis bus or private taxi service.



Bus service: India Cottage is about 100m from the Southern Vectis bus stop called 'Ventnor Boots', bus routes 3 and 6 both stop here. The nearest Island Line station is Shanklin, you will then need to take a route 3 bus which takes around 20 mins. Please see the 'getting to Ventnor' page. Bus timetables and live buses can be viewed on the Southern Vectis website: <https://www.islandbuses.info>



GETTING TO VENTNOR

Isle of
Wight

**It's easy to get to the Isle of Wight using sustainable transport.
Here's how you get to Ventnor...**

TRAVELLING FROM LYMINGTON

This is a very handy link if you've been staying in the New Forest.

From Lymington

- Head for Lymington Pier. You can get here by train from Brockenhurst and Lymington Town. 5 minutes
- Take the Wightlink ferry from Lymington Pier to Yarmouth. 40 minutes
- Take the route 7 bus from Yarmouth Harbour to Newport bus station. 35 minutes
- Catch the route 3 bus from Newport bus station to Ventnor. 30 minutes

ARRIVE IN VENTNOR

TRAVELLING FROM SOUTHAMPTON

This is accessible from all parts of the country with direct links from London.

From Southampton Central train station or coach station

- Take the free Quayconnect bus to Town Quay terminal 2. 10 minutes
- Take the Red Jet Hi-speed to West Cowes. 25 minutes
- Jump on the Southern Vectis route 1 bus to Newport bus station. 25 minutes
- Catch the Southern Vectis route 3 bus to Ventnor. 30 minutes

ARRIVE IN VENTNOR

TRAVELLING FROM PORTSMOUTH

This is accessible from all parts of the country with direct links from London.

From Portsmouth Harbour train station (follow the 'Wightlink' sign at the end of the platform)

- Take the Wightlink Catamaran to Ryde Pier Head. 22 minutes
- Take the train from the Pier Head to Shanklin. 25 minutes
- Take the Southern Vectis route 3 bus from Shanklin train station to Ventnor. 18 minutes

ARRIVE IN VENTNOR

TRAVELLING FROM SOUTHSEA

This is the fastest crossing to the Island (foot passengers only). It's near Portsmouth.

From Portsmouth & Southsea train station

- Cross the road and take the Hoverbus (bus stop C) to the Southsea Hoverport. 15 minutes
- Take the Hovercraft to Ryde Esplanade. 10 minutes
- Take the train from the Esplanade to Shanklin. 23 minutes
- Take the Southern Vectis route 3 bus from Shanklin train station to Ventnor. 18 minutes

ARRIVE IN VENTNOR



Advance Reading & Viewing:



Pocket Rough Guide British Breaks Isle of Wight (Travel Guide with Free eBook) (Pocket Rough Guides) Paperback – 1 Oct. 2020

Recently published a great little guide covering all the Island highlights, well-illustrated and very clear layout. £6.99 on Amazon, £8.99 list price. There is a copy in the cottage but certainly worthwhile getting beforehand to help plan your visit.



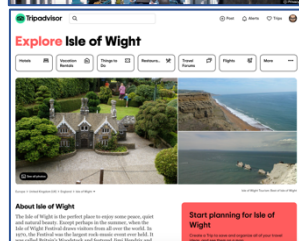
OS Explorer OL29 Isle of Wight (OS Explorer) Map

Undoubtedly the best map of the island. Better scale than the Landranger 196. Now with a free download to the OS mobile app, so you can carry with you on your phone, plot routes, giving distance and gradients etc. £7.15 Amazon or £8.99 list price. There is a copy in the cottage but worthwhile getting beforehand for planning walks or cycling.



Visitisleofwight.co.uk

The official Isle of Wight tourism website, good information including sample itineraries. Well worth a look before you come.



Tripadvisor.com

Search by “Isle of Wight”, brings up a really useful selection of things to do, places to visit, places to eat etc, all backed up by real user reviews. Handy to download the app on your phone when on the island to find places nearby. As with all Tripadvisor listings take a balanced view on reviews, they are all personal opinion.



YouTube - Isle of Wight by Drone 4K

A great aerial overview of the island shot about two years ago but certainly worth a view on YouTube: <https://youtu.be/CdSggnHRTIU>



YouTube - A Travel Guide: Isle of Wight

Alex Outhwaite's great little video blog of her visit to the Island including the Ventnor fringe festival. <https://youtu.be/ItYT-JhQ05o>



YouTube - Isle of Wight by Drone 4K

A 2021 edit of the 4K drone footage to welcome guests back to the Island. <https://youtu.be/t-qaKyZ1qZg>

“Love the Isle of Wight” Facebook Group is well worth joining for recent and past postings, questions and recommendations about the Island. Normally fast and detailed responses.

Your local public library may have some good guidebooks about the Island to borrow. The cottage has a selection of guidebooks and walking guides for you to use during your stay.

Getting in:

There is a key-safe under the right hand window, the code is **2211**. Please note the box can sometimes be stiff if a key is caught inside the catch, you may need to give the box a few firm knocks to release it. The 'Chubb' type key is for the bottom lock and 'Yale' type key for the top lock. Once in the back door keys are normally hanging on the orange tag above the back door.

Wifi:

The Wi-Fi network is "Huawei B535" the password is **D45Y7DNMQEL**. Please note the Wi-Fi is supplied via a 4G mobile network so has some limitations on speed and capacity. The hub where it is located in the kitchen under the boiler provides a decent signal on the whole ground floor but weakens upstairs. If you are primarily using Wi-Fi upstairs you can unplug and take the whole unit upstairs. Please do not take the unit outside as it is not weatherproof!

Heating:

The central heating is supplied by the combination boiler in the kitchen, in winter it is set to go on automatically twice a day. From 06:30-09:00 it is set for 21°C, 09:00-18:00 it is set for 16°C, 18:00-22:30 it is set for 21°C and from 23:00-06:30 it is set for 16°C. If you need to override the settings then simply touch the Honeywell thermostat screen (in the lounge on top of the bookcase) and press the up or down arrows to the required temperature which will remain until the next pre-set period. Please do not attempt to reprogramme the controller or unplug it from the mains. In addition the master thermostat in the lounge each radiator has its own thermostat, please adjust to your preferred heat setting: from off ❄ through to 5, the maximum.



NB: The boiler operates at a specific pressure range shown in the control window. If in the very unlikely event the system has lost pressure and needs recharging please call me, this can be easily done in a few minutes. If you are unable to contact me, there is an emergency number on the boiler.

Hot Water:

The same boiler also supplies the hot water on-demand, there is no hot water tank. As soon as the hot tap is turned on the boiler will engage and hot water will flow within a few seconds. If not used for a while may take around 30 seconds to come through. If running a bath and the hot tap downstairs at the same time the flow may reduce accordingly.

Ventilation:

The sash windows are quite stiff but do open, you sometimes need to open one half to pull/push the other half up/down. The upper floor windows can be left open when out, for security we recommend closing and locking the ground floor windows when going out. There are two electric fans available on request, they are stored in the garage in the top garden, key on back door bunch.

House Rules:

These are clearly stated on the respective booking sites but please read:

Children under 10: Airbnb does not give us the option to state this rule, their system only allows us to state unsuitable for all children. The steep stairs inside and especially outside on the terraces we feel are unsafe for small children, we therefore state we do not allow children under 10. We have two children ourselves and know the trip and fall potential on the stairs and steps is a hazard and risk.

People with access/mobility issues: we regret the steep stairs inside and very steep, uneven and high steps outside on the terraces mean India Cottage is simply not suitable for those with any access or mobility issues. The cottage was built around 1850 and is Grade II listed.

Number of Guests: we have a strict maximum of four guests staying overnight in the cottage at any one time, the facilities have been specifically designed for four guests. We understand many cottage owners increase this number by including the sofa bed. We have decided not to as the living space in the cottage and bathroom/wc facilities in our opinion are not sufficient for more than four guests. We are of course happy for staying guests to receive day guests and entertain as desired, but we insist only four guests may stay overnight.

Parties: the cottage is a cosy Grade II listed cottage, semi-detached with elderly neighbours next door within a quiet conservation area, and as such is unsuitable as a party venue, we therefore do not allow group bookings or parties.

Dogs: we welcome well behaved dogs with careful and considerate owners. As dog owners ourselves we share frustration with no-dog properties. However we ask you to protect the cottage fixtures, fittings and furniture from damage and soiling. Please if you allow your dog on sofas and beds to bring with you throws, rugs and dog bedding to cover the fabric and bedding. If your dog brings in dirt and mess please clean it up.

Dog owners may use the upper garden to exercise your dog but please clean up any mess and dispose of it in a responsible way (ideally in a Council poo bin). Please clean your dog's paws before letting them back in the cottage via the back door, we have installed a large mat at the top of stairs. Please also be careful of the front door opening directly onto Grove Road, which is a 20mph zone but cars do speed past especially downhill.

Check-in and Check-out: please adhere to the check-in time of 15:00 and check-out time of 10:00 unless agreed by prior arrangement. We do need the time in between to thoroughly clean and sanitise the cottage before the next guests arrive. We'll aim to let you know if the cottage becomes available earlier than 15:00.

Breakages and damage: we understand that accidents happen, if there are breakages or damage to the property please let us know so we may replace any items and repair any damages.

Smoking: the cottage interior and garden/terraces are all strictly no smoking for any type of smoking material, tobacco, herbal or otherwise. If you wish to smoke please use the parking area adjacent to the cottage and dispose of cigarette butts safely in a suitable bin.