

# Coniston

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Nestling beside the picturesque Wootton creek and within easy reach of the island's principal attractions these very comfortable properties are equally appealing whether for a long awaited family holiday in the warm summer months or for a well earned break in the winter holidays. A quiet small and intimate complex of cottages and more recently built apartments Creek Gardens is a perfect spot for relaxing and enjoying a climate that is notably sunnier and warmer than other English resorts – with lawned gardens leading down to the water's edge. Visitors to this 'enchanted isle' will find a myriad places of interest to suit all ages and tastes including the Roman Villa at Brading whose carefully preserved mosaics are comparable with any in Europe a wax museum housed in the island's oldest domestic building dating from 1499 Carisbrooke Castle where Charles I was imprisoned in 1647 and Osborne House the home Prince Albert designed for Queen Victoria's pleasure. Further to the west lies Yarmouth a neat little town by a snug harbour much loved by the yachting fraternity and home of the Royal Solent Yacht Club. Also well worth exploring are the pretty villages of Godshill and Brighthstone with their delightful little thatched cottages whilst a ring of walnut trees clusters round the village well in Mottistone also home to a beautiful Tudor manor house its gardens in the care of the National Trust and open to the public.

A short drive leads to Cowes host to regattas every summer weekend and the famous Cowes Week at the beginning of August whilst the natural harbour at Bembridge is crammed with yachts and pretty houseboats.

Often called 'The Garden Isle' the island supports a host of superlative vineyards and the 22 acre Botanical Gardens at Ventnor provide an exotic visual feast. Birdwatchers can in season study the numerous species of sea birds to be seen offshore or breeding on the cliffs and Parkhurst Forest is one of the very few locations in Britain still inhabited by the red squirrel. Arts and traditional crafts are seen in numerous studios galleries and craft centres throughout the island. Watching a potter at work or beautiful glassware being hand-blown is an unforgettable holiday experience whilst children of all ages will delight in a trip to the zoo or on the island's steam railway.

Numerous child friendly unspoilt sandy beaches promise hours of bucket and spade fun the nearest is at Ryde (4½ m

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