



6

Ventnor Botanic Garden

Luxuriant and leafy, with panoramic sea views, this fascinating yet relaxing botanic garden was developed in 1972 on the site of the former Royal National Chest Hospital. South-facing and sheltered, the Garden enjoys a unique microclimate of mild winters and warm summers

which enables its nurseries to propagate unusual and exotic species - most of which can be purchased at the garden. Its 22-acres are divided into geographical areas with plantings and shrubs from around the world, from the Mediterranean, New Zealand and Americas Collections to stylised features like the Sub-tropical Garden and Mixed Borders. It also boasts the National Collection of Pseudopanax. The Visitor Centre houses exhibitions, a gift shop, café, conference and functions facilities. New for 2003 is The Green House, a landscaped display with a waterfall, huge ferns and other pioneer plants. Created almost entirely from recycled materials, it shows nature reclaiming its own in the wake of man's wilful destruction.

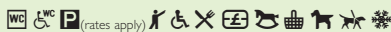
Undercliff Drive, Ventnor; Isle of Wight PO38 1UL
Tel: 01983 855397 www.botanic.co.uk

Open: Gardens: All year, daily, dawn-dusk.

Plant Sales: 10.00-17.00 (16.00 at weekends, Nov-Feb).

Visitor Centre: Mar-Oct, 10.00-18.00; Nov-Feb, weekends only, 10.00-16.00.

Admission: Gardens, Visitor Centre, Plant Sales: Free; The Green House: small admission charge.



PLACES TO STAY...

BEMBRIDGE SEA CHANGE

◆◆◆ SILVER AWARD

Peaceful location 100m unspoilt beach. Ideal touring base. Pleasant secluded garden. Good pub/restaurant nearby.

B&B from £22



22 Beachfield Road, Bembridge, Isle of Wight PO35 5TN
Tel: 01983 875558
Fax: 01983 875667
Email: seachangewight@aol.com



OTHER PLACES TO VISIT...

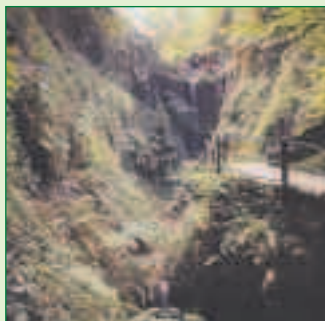
SHANKLIN CHINE

12 Pomona Road, Shanklin, Isle of Wight PO37 6PF
Tel: 01983 866432

Historic smugglers' gorge of great natural and secluded beauty, with an enchanting waterfall. Rich in wild plants, ferns, mosses, woodlands and wildlife.

Open: Apr-Oct.

Admission: £3.50

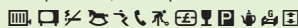


FRESHWATER FARRINGFORD

AA/RAC ★★★

Once home of Tennyson, the Farringford is now a beautifully apportioned hotel in 35 acres of parklands. 9 hole golf course. Open to non residents. Pets welcome.

B&B from £40, DB&B from £63



Bedbury Lane, Freshwater, Isle of Wight PO40 9PE
Tel: 01983 752500 Fax: 01983 756515
Email: enquiries@farringford.co.uk
www.farringford.co.uk



7

A Year of Flowers in Winchester

2003 is the perfect time to visit the ancient city of Winchester. Winchester and nearby market towns such as Bishop's Waltham and Denmead already have an excellent reputation for their prowess in the annual Southern England in Bloom competition. Their streets are decked throughout the summer with prize-winning hanging baskets and colourful displays which enhance the beautiful architecture and interesting shopping streets.



For more information contact Winchester Tourist Information Centre on 01962 840500, e-mail tourism@winchester.gov.uk or www.visitwinchester.com

To find out about some of the events taking place in Winchester please see back cover.



King Alfred Statue from Abbey Gardens

PLACES TO STAY...

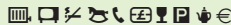
WINCHESTER THE WINCHESTER ROYAL

★★★

Central Winchester location with car parking at rear. Pleasant garden and terrace. Conservatory restaurant.

B&B from £66

DB&B from £68 min 2 nights



St Peter Street, Winchester, Hampshire SO23 8BS
Tel: 01962 840840
Fax: 01962 841582
Email: royal@marstonhotels.com
www.marstonhotels.com

