



————— Tim Saunders enjoys a weekend on the Isle of Wight —————

ISLE OF WIGHT

A weekend on the Isle of Wight gives the opportunity of discovering some wonderful litter free beaches.

We sail from Portsmouth to Fishbourne with Wightlink. Arriving by car at the port near Gunwharf Quays we board the ferry. Inside there's a children's play area complete with slide. They thoroughly enjoy this. The boat seems new and up-to-date with plenty of comfortable seating. The crossing takes around 30 minutes. When we disembark the sun is shining.

At Cowes we're able to find a side road to park with no time restriction and then saunter off towards the town. Soon the children discover a park and demand to play in it. They've been ever so good. So how can we decline?

After a while we head towards town and make our way to the water's edge to see the start of the world famous Cowes Week regatta, which we later learn is postponed due to bad weather. Apparently visibility is very poor and there are strong winds. Hard to believe when our crossing was fine. The heavens have opened and everyone is ducking for cover but we glimpse some action on the water.

After our picnic in the car we make our way to Sandown to the AA 2 star Wight Bay Hotel, with its imposing and historic roadside frontage. There is ample parking for guests. An open mind is always important when staying in any hotel, no matter what the rating.

Up the front steps and inside where we are greeted by an extremely helpful and friendly receptionist. That cannot be said of many hotels we have stayed in including some four star ones. We are informed that breakfast is between 730am and 9am and that check out is 1030am. It's almost bang on the 3pm check in and Henry desperately needs the toilet, as only he can. Key in hand we dash up the stairs to our en-suite family

room and Henry can now uncross his legs.

The room has two single beds and one double; Henry shares with Heidi, despite his insistence on the double bed. The room, which has a new carpet, is comfortable and clean. There's a good supply of hot water, too.

Our return crossing to Portsmouth with Wightlink is prompt and the little ones discover the cinema, which is showing Sing, a computer animated film.

For more information visit:

www.wightlink.co.uk
www.wightbayhotel.com

Watch the videos:

www.travelwriter.biz

