

BEA



Experience sustainable transport

CYCLING EXPERIENCES: HOVERCRAFT HISTORIC TRAIL

Isle of
Wight



OVERVIEW:

If you want to learn more about the unusual hovercraft and the history that ties it irrevocably to the Island, start your journey with a trip on Hovertravel's new hovercraft over from Southsea. From here you can hire an electric bike – the easiest way to cycle on the Isle of Wight – and set off up the not-so-challenging hill out of Ryde; a breeze with your pedal-assisted bike.

From here head along the paths and bridleways to East Cowes – at some point this will involve cycling along the road, so make sure you can be seen and follow the highway code.

Once in East Cowes, visit the sight of Saunders Roe, the ship building company that won the contract for the first hovercrafts

designed by Sir Christopher Cockerell, largely accepted as the inventor of the craft. His original model was built out of items including a hair-dryer, a set of kitchen scales and cat food in a coffee tin! Securing the bikes in the town, pop into the Heritage Centre where the volunteers will be able to tell you more about the nautical connections East Cowes has.

When you're ready, head back to Ryde, where the sweeping promenade offers beautiful views of the Solent. If you are still interested in learning more, head over to Lee-on-the-Solent where you will find the Hovercraft Museum, which houses a collection of over 60 hovercrafts!

To find more cycling ideas go to
visitisleofwight.co.uk/inspiration/bicycle-island

