



# INTRODUCTION

## Alum Bay & The Needles

Visit two world-famous attractions in one!

Alum Bay is the location of a classic sequence of upper Paleocene and Eocene beds of soft sands and clays. The strata in the main section of the bay are near vertical and the sands are coloured due to oxidised iron compounds formed under different conditions.

Such is the variety of colour in the sands that they were used in Victorian times for *marmotinto*, a popular artform.

A stunning view of the Needles rock formation is available from Alum Bay, along with optional boat trips from the pier (must be pre-booked for groups) which Education Destination can schedule for you.

Parking (chargeable) is available at the clifftop nearby Needles attraction, and Alum Bay is accessed via a long flight of

wooden steps on a public footpath.

Alternatively a chairlift operates during the summer months from the Needles attraction, but this is chargeable and requires the

**“Very friendly and helpful crew, answering the many questions of our 8 year olds. Duration of trip just about right. Views are good, you get nice and close to the Needles.”**

pre-purchase of blocks of tickets. There are also height restrictions and other byelaws which usually prevent groups below KS4 age using the lift for logistical reasons.

As a result, be aware that neither Alum Bay nor the boat trips are wheelchair accessible.

For safety reasons the boat trips do not run in choppy sea conditions. Trips last approximately 20 minutes so are suitable for even the most nervous traveller.



Look out for the monument to Guglielmo Marconi situated near to the Needles viewpoint at the

bottom of the car park area. This celebrates Marconi’s early experiments with the first ship-to-shore radio transmissions

in 1897 taking place from the now-defunct Needles Hotel.

