

Highlights of Aramuna 2019 tour to the Isle of Man

Each year we tend to drive off into the sunset somewhere, so for 2019 where to go. Well with Brexit still not sorted, forgive the language, but stuff Europe, it was here in the UK in the Isle of Man and a chance to drive around the famous TT circuit the week before those lunatics on bikes do so.

So, sailing from Liverpool this pair of “likely lads” together with 40 odd other Porsches set off against the backdrop of the Liver Building on the Steam Packet Ferry company’s boat Manannan for the 2hr 40min crossing to Douglas. A beautifully calm Irish Sea passed countless windfarm turbines and soon this delightful island appears over the horizon.



Organised by the Porsche Club GB this the 20th year in which their Manx tour has taken place, motoring on this fantasy island. One of the finest traditions of the tour is the legendary “Dawn Raid” an early morning blast around the island, just as it’s waking from a slumber, and the majority of people are still in bed. Swift but civilised was the motto and after a safety briefing, (yes, the local rozzers can still deal with transgressors with a swift and stinging justice for speeding), it was off in two groups following a pace car, driving the famous TT circuit. This makes you really appreciate just how good those bike riders really are, as they travel at over 100mph faster than what we drive round at, and I’m not slow.

After a civilised 07:30 breakfast and nap off to the locally Porsche dealership for coffee and a chat before an afternoon trip to the Manx Motor Museum and the nearby Fynoderee Distillery. Now I know what a spoiler on a car should be used for.



There are so many interesting small towns to visit on this island Castletown, Port Erin, Peel, and Laxey to name but a few. In the south of the island on Sound Road lies Cregneash and beyond a wonderful vista that you really must visit.

As a keen golfer I didn’t realise that there were so many golf courses on the this self-governing British Crown dependency, eight in total, so although we didn’t have time or space this time to bring the clubs, I know next time I need a little longer here.

Driving the TT circuit, you pass such famous corners and areas such as Braaid, Glen Helen, Kirk Michael, Ballaugh bridge, Ramsey hairpin, Gooseneck, Guthrie's, Bungalow, Creg-Ny-Baa before crossing the finish line in Douglas.



There are many nice restaurants in Douglas, and one worthy of note was the Thai Thai on Circular Road.

After a few beers and a taxi back to our Mount Murray hotel, in time for another dawn run (this time at a slightly more relaxed pace) before off to find amongst the 500 miles of road a little gem of a road called "The Sloc". This road epitomises everything special about the IOM, it just paints a picture perfectly immortalising the words on the Manx National Anthem – *this gem of God's Earth, this island so strong and so fair.*

If you don't believe me watch this video <https://youtu.be/XQ2bUB53boA>

And so finally all good things have to come to an end, (including Theresa May's premiership, depending on your point of view) so we concluded our trip with fish & chips in the Little Fish Café on the harbourside before returning to Liverpool and the journey home.