

Itinerary for Lee, Wei Ling London – Isle of Wight – London

March 2020

Friday 13 March 2020

1. Train to Swindon

This morning you should make your way to the Paddington train station in time to take the train from there to Swindon. This train leaves at 9.02am and arrives into Swindon at 9.56am. You have a reserved seat in carriage H, seat 65. But you can take any free/available standard class seat on the train.

Paddington is a large train station. We suggest you get there at least ten minutes prior to departure, and better to be there 15 minutes prior. Remember also you'll be traveling during rush hour morning traffic in London, so give yourself plenty of time to get from your hotel to the station.

Make sure you have your printed out train ticket with you.

2. At Swindon station

Check your suitcase(s) with the Left Luggage office. You'll be gone for almost exactly three hours.

3. Taxi up to near Wayland's Smithy

First, **make a note of any taxis you see at the train station and write down their phone numbers or take photos (shown on the side of the taxis)**. You'll need these numbers when calling for a taxi to take you back to the station.

Then take any taxi from the train station and ask it to take you to where the Ridgeway meets the B4000. This is about half a mile southeast of the town of Ashbury. It is a 10 mile journey by taxi and should take about 20 minutes. It will probably cost £20 – 30. Tip about 10%, but if you are arranging for the same driver to collect you and take you back to the station, tip more generously!

Make sure the taxi driver drops you at exactly the point where the Ridgeway crosses the road, and make very sure he tells you which way to walk to go to Wayland's Smithy and on to the Uffington White Horse.

This map shows where the taxi driver should drop you and then your walking path from there on to Wayland's Smithy and beyond.



4. Walking along the Ridgeway

Proceed along the clearly marked well maintained pathway that is the Ridgeway. About 0.8 miles along, on the left, you can go off the main path and see the Wayland's Smithy site. This is a Neolithic chambered long barrow, it was once believed to have been the home of Wayland, the Saxon god of metal working.

Human remains found on the site indicate that 14 people were interred in an earlier burial structure between 3590 and 3550 BC. Between 3460 and 3400 BC a second far larger barrow was constructed on top. It is the ruins of this that can be explored by visitors to the site today.

When you walk back to the Ridgeway from the Smithy, remember to turn to your left and continue walking towards the Uffington White Horse. This is about another 1.3 miles, and will also be on your left.

Shortly after crossing a road you will then see signs pointing you to the white horse, which is on the hillside sloping down/away from the Ridgeway and on your left. Climb over a stile and follow the path to the White Horse, and then continue on down to the pathway that takes you to the White Horse Hill car park.

You should be in a taxi returning to Swindon no later than 12.30pm. So probably call for it no later than midday, and ideally somewhat sooner. Depending on where taxis are and how busy, it might take up to half an hour for one to come and get you.

It might make sense to arrange with the first taxi driver for him or someone from his company to meet you at a pre-arranged time at the White Horse Car Park (not where you are dropped off!) so you don't have to worry about arranging the pickup.

This map shows the rest of the way to the White Horse and then down the hill to the footpath to the White Horse Hill car park.



5. Taxi back to Swindon Station

When you are walking to the car park (or even sooner), you should call for a taxi to come and collect you from the White Horse Hill car park. Its address is "just south of Woolstone, Faringdon, SN7 7QN, and it is about half a mile south of the B4507.

It is about 13 miles to the train station, and should take just under 30 minutes to get there. We guess it will cost about £30.

6. Reclaim your luggage!

Get your bag(s) from the left luggage service.

7. Train to Portsmouth Harbour

Next, take the train from Swindon that goes to Westbury and which leaves Swindon at 1.14pm. We're not sure where the train's ultimate destination will be, so check all the trains that are scheduled to leave at about 1.14pm to see which one includes a stop at Westbury. **Make sure you have your ticket printed out for these two journeys.**

Take this train and get off at the fourth stop (Westbury). The three stops before are first Chippenham, then Melksham, then Trowbridge.

You should arrive at Westbury at about 1.55pm. Quickly find which platform you need to be on to then take a train from there to Portsmouth Harbour. This second train leaves at 2.03pm.

The train arrives at Portsmouth Harbour at 3.50pm. We think this is its last stop – be sure not to get off at the stop before which is Portsmouth & Southsea!

You have one train ticket that works for both these two trains. You have open seating for the first journey from Swindon to Westbury – take any standard class seat that is free. You have a reserved seat in Carriage B, seat 41, for the journey on from Westbury to Portsmouth Harbour, but can of course sit in any free seat if you prefer.

8. Ferry to Ryde

Make your way the very short distance from the train station at Portsmouth Harbour to the Wightlink Ferry terminal in time for the ferry that sails at 4.15pm.

Make sure to print your ferry ticket so you have it with you. Keep the ticket because it is also your return ticket for when you go back to Portsmouth again next Tuesday.

The ferry is about a 22 minute crossing, so you'll arrive in Ryde about 4.40pm.

9. Hotel

You are booked to stay at the Ryde Castle Hotel. This is about 3/10th of a mile along the road from the Wightlink Ferry pier. Simply turn left, walk along The Esplanade, and it is on the other side of the first roundabout. It looks a bit like a castle so is easy to recognize.

The hotel's phone number is +44 1983 563-755.

Saturday/Sunday/Monday

Three full days to enjoy as you wish.

Tuesday 17 March

1. Hotel Checkout

You'll check out of the Ryde Castle Hotel some time this morning, and should ask to have your bags held for you while you go out and about for the day.

2. Ferry to Portsmouth Harbour

You should collect your bags and go back to the Wightlink Ferry Terminal in plenty of time to check in for your ferry which is scheduled to leave at 4.47pm. They ask you to check in at least 15 minutes prior to departure (ie 4.30pm) so we suggest you plan to be leaving the hotel by 4.15pm.

The ferry crossing is about 22 minutes, so you will be in Portsmouth about 5.10pm.

Use the same ticket for the ferry that you used to travel over last Friday.

3. Train to London's Waterloo Station

You are booked on a train leaving Portsmouth Harbour at 5.45pm. There are no train changes on the way, and you arrive into Waterloo Station in London at 7.29pm. You both have open seats, so choose any two seats in standard class that are free.

Be sure to have both tickets (one for Wei Ling, one for Krystle) with you.

For more information please visit <https://blog.thetravelinsider.info/wl>

Contact Information

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David Rowell, able to help with most things, call *any time* in the US, +1 425 883-1676 or WhatsApp; Skype is DavidRowell and email DRowell@gmail.com

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Singapore High Commission (Embassy), London, 020 7235-8315, after hours 077 1034-8335; High Commissioner's (Ambassador) name is Ms Foo, Chi Hsia (can help in emergencies)