



Once upon an Island



Welcome to the enchanting Osea Island

An idyllic haven of peace and tranquillity basking serenely on the Blackwater Estuary, yet remarkably, little over an hour's drive from the city!

This hidden oasis lies nestled within 4½ miles of secluded coastline, where one can wander its private beaches and rarely see another soul. The island is also a sanctuary for wildlife with some breath taking scenery.

On Osea you may be forgiven for thinking the 20th Century hasn't quite yet arrived as access to the island is via an ancient causeway built by the Romans. The enigmatic tidal road opens at every low tide for a period of 4 hours when cars can be driven across. At high tide, there is a river taxi service from the mainland, the boat journey taking about 10 minutes.

Osea has a fascinating and colourful past stretching back some 5000 years. Uncork a good bottle of red as the sun goes down and enjoy musing over the island folklore of scandalous tales and heroic deeds.

Surrounded by 550 acres of rustic gardens, orchards, meadows and salt marsh the island has an eclectic mix of accommodation. Its charming cottages, apartments and grand houses are available for holidays and family get togethers. Exclusive hire of the whole island is also possible for private events.



Whatever you want it to be





HOLIDAYS



CORPORATE
EVENTS



PARTIES



WEDDINGS



FESTIVALS



CONFERENCES



The approach to Osea Island is a strange mix of the mundane and the surreal. The island is not signposted and having negotiated the ring road of Maldon and a never-ending series of mini-roundabouts, I stop the car to ask a passer-by the way. He stares at us blankly “Never heard of it”

JOANNE O'CONNOR - FINANCIAL TIMES

Osea Island Resort is a hidden treasure where wildlife thrives and people find a refuge from modern life.

JOHN WILMOTT - THE DAILY TELEGRAPH

The Coast





At the edge of a tidal creek, a small girl and her grandpa are intent on the silvery ribbon of water snaking its way inland. 'Yup!' says the girl, hopping with excitement, 'it's doing it again! It does it every day, you know!' Pleasures are simple on Osea Island, but none the worse for that.

JANE DICKSON - CONDE NAST TRAVELLER



Essex outpost that's as chic as the Hamptons. The Manor House has old-school grandeur; but feels well-lived in. There is a long stretch of lawn in front, leading to the beach, and the beautiful open waters of the estuary . It's more Nantucket than The Only Way is Essex.

KATE FREUD - DAILY MAIL

Manor House





The Lichen-covered trees meet with the approval of Jon. 'That means that the air is really clean' he declares. The island's a haven for wildlife - Osea is the only place where all five species of the British owl can be found. We see rabbits and foxes and enough birds overhead to wish that we knew what they were.

SARAH TURNER - DAILY MAIL



With its clapboard cottages and Agatha Christie-ish manor house, it feels more Martha's Vineyard than East Anglia.

ANNABEL RIVKIN - TATLER



Captain's House





Sitting here on that Sunday evening, drinking a good bottle of Shiraz over the tender echo of Radio 2, was a few hours of perfect bliss; it was as if I'd been allowed to relive someone else's memory of the 40s, I was my very own Captain Jack in the war, imbued with all the romance and adventure of a bygone era.

NIGE BURTON - WORLD TRAVEL BLOG





Manor Beach Cottages

Enid Blyton's Famous Five would love it here. I stop at a pillbox, admiring the view across to a marina, listening to the calls of oystercatchers. Autumn is a particularly good time to see wildlife on and around Osea. "The Blackwater estuary has about 75,000 wintering birds" says Chris Tyas of the RSPB.

DEBORAH KING – THE TIMES



It was the salty and seaweedy air that made the biggest first impression: every lungful seemed charged with extra oxygen. Across the water the church bells sound. We are completely cut off and Osea finally reveals what it really is: a truly special, hidden corner of Britain.

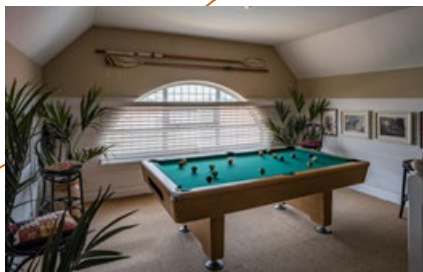
SARAH TURNER - DAILY MAIL

The Village



Large numbers of maturing trees are one of the most obvious features - a planting programme in the 1980's has left more than 3,000 chestnuts, sycamores, limes and oaks that must stand out in the sparsely-wooded Blackwater floodplain. Tantalising thoughts of what might turn up there later in the migration season had to be suppressed.

DAVID JOBBINS - ESSEX BIRDING



Village Cottages





Steeped in history and mystery, the island has housed residents from the Vikings and the Romans to Robert Devereux, Second Earl of Essex and in more recent times it has played host to a number of exclusive parties and secret weekends held by musicians, models and nature enthusiasts alike.

ISOBEL CARMICHAEL - THE JOURNAL



In our two bedroom cottage there's a wood-burning stove, four-poster beds and absurdly luxurious baths. Standing outside at night the lack of light pollution means that the milky way is visible.

SARAH TURNER - DAILY MAIL



Courtyard Apartments





The idea of Osea Island as a quiet haven may seem at odds, but that it is. Accessible twice a day at low tide, you'll be met with quaint wooden jetties, rugged sand dunes and verdant fields. Skim pebbles on the seashore, pick berries in the orchards or take a rowboat out for the afternoon to truly embrace Osea's rustic tranquility.

NATALIE EVANS-HARDING - NET-A-PORTER



Stunning sea views, beautiful white cottages and windy leaf paths, I didn't want to go home. You could hear a pin drop for the first time in a very long time. Staying in the picturesque Captain's House which resembled one of my very own 'House Goals' style Pinterest kitchens, complete with matching floral tea pot and plate sets, with a seaside theme.

LORILEY SESH - TRAVEL BLOG



Events

Whatever the occasion an event on Osea will be something your guests may well be talking about for years to come.

As a venue it really stands in a class of its own and has been the scene of some very special occasions, be they corporate events, weddings or private parties.

This beautiful tidal island is unique not least for its close proximity to the city and has the capacity for intimate gatherings or large scale events with a range of stylish houses, cottages and apartments to accommodate your guests in comfort.

With a variety of indoor and outdoor event spaces to choose from coupled to our 24 hour music and drinks licence there are almost endless possibilities to create something truly original.

We offer a very personal service and work tirelessly with our clients to bring their dreams to life. Our catering and bar teams are world class and will tailor an entirely bespoke menu to suit the occasion no matter how large or small.

So... what better way to make a private island splash than by inviting all your favourite people, family or friends to celebrate with you in this little corner of paradise?



The Bomb Factory





When we stayed, the Captain's House kitchen was missing some basic equipment (big pans, decent knives, a bottle opener) but I still adored it: sea views on two sides of the master bedroom made it feel like staying on a ship. And, for me, the wild corners of the island – I found the remains of a bonfire where people had smashed up an old car and probably howled at the moon – only added to Osea's thrilling strangeness.

PATRICK BARKHAM – THE GUARDIAN



Osea Island in the Blackwater estuary, Essex, is frequented by Cara Delevingne, Kate Moss and Sienna Miller. There may not be an Isle of Wight festival but the private island is the setting for private parties and festivals.

If you're not on the guest list, you can book to stay another time in the pretty clapboard cottages.

ANNA MURPHY - THE TIMES



The Shack





Jeffrey's business has taken her to the world's most glamorous locations – including Necker itself. Nevertheless, Osea occupies a very special place in her affections. "It was fabulous. The novelty factor of the location and layout make it such an attractive and entertaining destination – provided you have game invitees." How could they possibly be otherwise?

Laura Jeffrey – The Telegraph Lifestyle



"I love party magic", she says, "when you're with the right people and it doesn't matter where you are or what you're doing and it just feels... magic!" Such as? "Me and some friends this weekend were on this island in Essex. The tide is only down about three hours a day, so you're cut off completely."

Lady Mary Charteris – Sunday Times, Style Magazine



The Power House





Osea's philosophy is a laissez-faire one: visitors can wander anywhere, help themselves to Raleigh Chloe bikes – with special fat tyres for the tracks and beaches – borrow DVDs from the library, play pool and table tennis. In the summer there is croquet, mini golf and beach volleyball, you can swim in the heated outdoor pool and of course the sea. There are few notices and only a couple of hand-painted signs – to “the bomb factory” and “the shack”, both of which are converted warehouses with dance floors empty and waiting for the music.

PATRICK BARKHAM - THE GUARDIAN



The Clubhouse



We picked samphire and blackberries and went birdwatching, while our toddlers played on the shingle and in wooden gazebos. We wandered through overgrown fields and discovered old wartime pillboxes. Together, we watched the ever-changing sea and marvelled in our islandness, gazing at the land over the grand, salty moat between us and the mainstream.

PATRICK BARKHAM – THE GUARDIAN



Wish you were here







OSEA ISLAND



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Instagram: [@oseaislanduk](https://www.instagram.com/oseaislanduk)