

General Information for your Channel Island holiday

Passports and Customs

British citizens and citizens of the Irish Republic do not require passports or entry visas to visit the Islands. However, they will require passports if they wish to travel onward to France.

Other EU citizens require only their ID cards for entry to the Islands. Citizens from non-EU countries will need a passport and should check before travelling to the Island whether a visa is required.

Please note that any passenger flying between the UK and the Channel Islands will need valid photographic ID in order to travel.

Currency

Although the Islands have their own coins and notes, all trade is conducted in Pounds Sterling.

All major debit and credit cards are widely accepted.

- Sterling is the currency of the island.
- Chip & Pin is widely used in the island.
- English money can be freely used, as can UK cheques supported by a banker's card.
- Euros are accepted in a limited number of outlets. All banks exchange currency and there are a number of Bureaux de Change.

Holidays and opening hours

The same public holidays as the UK mainland apply, with an additional day's holiday on 9 May to mark Liberation Day.

Pubs and shops

At the discretion of the proprietor, public bars are open to persons over 18 between the following hours:

Jersey: Weekdays 9am- 11pm. Sundays 11am-11pm
Guernsey: Weekdays 10am-12.45am Sundays 12 pm-12.45am
The Licensing Assembly may also permit children under the age of 18 in public bars up to 9pm if accompanied by an adult in designated areas.

The markets and some shops are closed on Thursday afternoons - otherwise normal shopping hours apply (9am - 5.30pm). During the summer months a number of shops are open in the evenings. High Street shops are normally closed on Sunday.

Banks

Banks normally keep the same hours as those in the UK, and some open Saturday mornings. Building societies' facilities are restricted.

Post offices

Hours of opening: Weekdays 0900-1700 (early closing on Saturdays)
Closed on Sundays. Only Jersey or Guernsey postage stamps can be used.

Electricity

240 volts AC.
UK sockets only (3 pin). European visitors will require adaptors.

Visitor Medical Advice

UK visitors to Jersey who fall ill or have an accident will now have access to free medical care in hospital following the reinstatement of the Reciprocal Health Agreement between Jersey and UK. If you require medical treatment during your visit emergency care and hospital care is free. GP visits and any other health related services including repatriation must be paid for.

Please note that no reciprocal agreement exists between Guernsey Alderney, Sark, Herm and the UK, all treatment must be paid for.

Visitors to the Islands from the UK are advised to have comprehensive health and travel insurance. Those with private health insurance are advised to check with their policy provider regarding health cover in the Islands.

These changes are only with the UK and do not affect existing health agreements with other countries such as France or Portugal.

Smoking Ban

Smoking is not permitted in public areas within the Islands. This includes pubs, restaurants and hotels. Some hotels do have bedrooms where smoking is allowed; please check this at time of booking.

Parking

Single yellow lines indicate that parking is not permitted and is liable to a fine.

Pay-cards are used to pay for parking throughout Jersey where the P for parking sign is shown (a blue P with a red semi-circle). They have to be used Mon-Sat inclusive 08.00 - 1700. (Parking on Gorey Pier is charged until 22.00) The exception to this rule is the harbour, airport, Sand Street and waterfront where a pay on exit scheme is in operation. UK and European Blue Badges entitle disabled drivers to park in designated areas, such as on-street parking zones and in multi-storey car parks. However, they DO NOT permit disabled drivers to park on yellow lines. Badges are valid for use in Jersey and are available from the Town Hall in St Helier. At the time of writing all public parking in Guernsey is free. However, most on-street parking and car parks in principal shopping areas are marked disc zone and you must use a 'parking clock' to indicate your time of arrival, day or night. This parking clock can be purchased from the Visitor Information Centre, Airport Information Desk, the Police Station and other selected outlets.

Customs regulations

On re-entering mainland Britain from the Channel Islands, the Customs allowance is:

- 200 cigarettes OR 100 cigarillos OR 50 cigars OR 250 grams of tobacco
- 1 litre of distilled beverages or spirits OR 2 litres of sparkling or fortified wines and 4 litres of other wines
- 60 cc/ml perfume
- 250 cc/ml eau de toilette
- £390 worth of other goods

You may bring back any plant material (unless strictly prohibited), provided it was grown in the EC. However, it must be imported as personal baggage, intended for own use (not for trade or business) and be free from signs of pests and disease.

Some of the places we recommend to visit during your stay (Some attractions are seasonal) plus some great tried and tested restaurants too.

Jersey

Tourist attractions

Durell Wildlife Conservation Trust – A great place to take the family where adults and children of all ages will enjoy themselves, as well as supporting a great project.

Gorey Castle–Current displays coupled with music in the crypt and staterooms bring history to life.

Amazing Maize- Great outdoor fun for children, including towering toboggan, go-karts and tractor rides.

Underground War Tunnels- History of the occupation of Jersey depicted very well. Remember to take a jumper, it can be chilly.

Elizabeth Castle- Walk out via the causeway at low tide or take the castle ferry. Exhibitions explaining the role of the Castle in Jersey's history.

Jersey Museum and Art Gallery-Tells the story of life in Jersey. Explore the restored Victorian Merchants House; go back as far as 250,000 years ago and right up to the modern day

Maritime Museum –See hear and smell the story of Jersey's maritime history. Also includes the award winning Occupation Tapestry made by the people of Jersey.

Walks & Beaches

Val de la Mare and Queens Valley Reservoir. L'Etacq to Plemont. Noirmont Point to Portelet (fantastic views) St Aubin to Corbiere.

St Brelade's Bay - One of the most popular and safest beaches on the Island. St Ouens Bay – Great for surfing (keep within the red flags for swimming).

Restaurants

Little Italy –Kensington Place-St Helier

Indian Ocean- St Helier

Somerville Hotel-St Aubin-great Sunday lunch

Boat House –St Aubin-informal dining downstairs -great terrace overlooking the harbour.

Old Court House – St Aubin- great for local seafood. Home of "Barge Aground" of Bergerac fame.

Salty Dog- St Aubin-Pacific rim cuisine-try the starter for 2 or the surf and turf... bet you cant eat it all!!!!

Danny's – St Aubin-Great food in a relaxed atmosphere, daily specials-great value.

Great pub food at the Portelet Inn, the Tenby St Aubin and The Goose at Beaumont.

Guernsey

Tourist attractions

Sausmarez Manor - Beautiful sub-tropical gardens, 9 hole pitch and putt. Ride on train for the children.

Castle Cornet & Museums - Stands guard over St Peter Port harbour. Features three museums telling the story of the castle and aspects of Guernsey History.

German Occupation Museum - A unique experience of life during the occupation.

Guernsey-Museum – Tells the story of the island and its people.

Guernsey Candles – Candle workshop and gift centre. Children can make their own candle.

Candie Gardens – Award winning gardens in the heart of St Peter Port.

Walks & Beaches

St Peter Port to Pleinmont – A series of cliff paths, walks as far as you want. Portelet Beach to Fort Pezeries. Lihou Headland to Claire Mare Nature Reserve.

Vazon Bay is home to the biggest beach on the Island. This award winning sandy stretch of beach is ideal for sunbathing, paddling and even surfing. Fermain Bay can only be reached on foot, a great café here voted as one of Britain's best. Moulin Huet and Petit Bot both popular with families.

Restaurants

La Fregate Hotel –St Peter Port

Crabby Jacks – Vazon Bay

La Barbarie – St Martins

OGH Hotel – St Peter Port

Farmhouse Hotel – St Saviours

Roberto's – St Peter Port

Le Nautique – St Peter Port

Cobo Bay Hotel

Reasonably priced restaurants that offer excellent value are Deerhound Inn, Le Petit Bistro, Dix-Neuf, La Perla, Riva and The Square.