

General Information for your Channel Island holiday

Passports and Customs

The Channel Islands are part of a Common Travel Area, along with the UK, Isle of Man and Republic of Ireland and therefore they maintain the same standard of immigration control as the UK.

British citizens and citizens of the Irish Republic do not require passports or entry visas to visit the Islands for tourism and can use valid photographic ID. However, they will require passports if they wish to travel onward to France.

Up until 1 October 2021 EU citizens can travel to the Channel Islands using their valid photographic ID. After this date they will need to hold a valid passport.

Non-EU citizens will require a valid passport and should check before travelling to the Islands in case a visa is required.

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 (GBP) is the currency of the island.
- Chip & Pin and contactless payment is widely used in the islands.
- English and Scottish money can be freely used
- Euros are accepted in a limited number of outlets. You will be able to change currencies at the Post Offices.

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 12pm - 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). 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 8.30am - 5pm (early closing on Saturdays). Closed on Sundays. Only Jersey or Guernsey postage stamps can be used respectively.

Electricity

Standard voltage is 230V. 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 or 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.

EU citizens should check if health agreements are in place with between the Channel Islands and their country of residence.

Smoking

Smoking is not permitted in indoor public areas within the Islands. This includes pubs, restaurants and hotels.

Parking

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

Guernsey: 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, the Police Station, most garages and a number of retail outlets.

Jersey: Paycards or PayByPhone mobile app 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 8am - 5pm. (Parking on Gorey Pier is charged until 10pm) The exception to this rule is the airport and waterfront where a pay on exit scheme is in operation. You can purchase paycards from garages, newsagents, supermarkets and post offices. If you aren't using paycards you will need to buy a parking disc to display your arrival time, these can be bought from St Helier Town Hall and the Parish Halls.

UK and European Blue Badges entitle disabled drivers to park in designated areas for free.

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
- 42 litres of beer and 18 litres of wine. Plus either 4 litres of spirits and 9 litres of sparkling or fortified wines.
- £390 worth of other goods

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

Jersey Zoo - A great place to take the family where adults and children of all ages will enjoy themselves, as well as supporting a great conservation charity.

Mont Orgueil Castle – Seasonal exhibits coupled with music in the crypt and staterooms bring history to life.

aMaizin Adventure Park - Great outdoor fun for children, including towering toboggan, go-karts and tractor rides.

Jersey War Tunnels - History of the occupation of Jersey in this underground hospital. Take a jumper, it can be chilly.

Elizabeth Castle - Walk out via the causeway at low tide or take the amphibious bus. Enjoy 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 (The Railway Walk)

St Brelade's Bay - One of the most popular, award winning, safest beaches on the Island.

St Ouens Bay – Great for surfing (keep within the red flags for swimming).

Restaurants (A small selection below)

Little Italy - St Helier

Jaipur –St Helier

Indian Ocean –St Helier

Bohemia – The Club Hotel & Spa, St Helier – Michelin Star

Tides at the Somerville Hotel - St Aubin - great Sunday lunch

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

Old Court House - St Aubin. Home of "Barge Aground" of Bergerac fame.

Great pub food at the Portelet Inn, The Tenby St Aubin, The Goose on the Green at Beaumont and there are several more good restaurants at West Centre of St Helier.

Guernsey

Tourist attractions

Sausmarez Manor - Beautiful sub-tropical gardens, 9 hole pitch and putt plus a 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 - 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, home to a great café voted as one of Britain's best.

Moulin Huet and Petit Bot beaches, both popular with families.

Restaurants (A small selection below)

La Fregate Hotel – St Peter Port

Le Nautique – St Peter Port

Octopus – St Peter Port

Red Grill – St Peter Port

OGH Hotel – St Peter Port

Crabby Jacks – Vazon Bay

La Barbarie – St Martins

Farmhouse Hotel – St Saviours

Cobo Bay Hotel – Cobo Bay, Castel

Other favourites of our include the Deerhound Inn, Le Petit Bistro, Dix-Neuf, La Perla, Pier 17, Buho and The Square.