

Channel Islands, Guided Island Hopping Holiday

Tour Style: Island hopping

Destinations: Channel Islands, United Kingdom & England

Trip code: GYLDW

Trip Walking Grade: 3



HOLIDAY OVERVIEW

Visit Guernsey, Alderney, Sark, and Herm all in one holiday. Blessed with better-than-average British weather these stunning islands offer awe-inspiring coastal walks, white sand beaches, and seaside resorts fit to rival any you'll find in Europe.

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- Comfortable en-suite rooms in our partner accommodation(s)
- Cooked or continental breakfast every morning
- Daily packed lunches
- Three-course evening meals, plus tea & coffee
- Guided walks with an experienced HF Holidays Leader
- All transport to and from walks where necessary
- Return flights from London Gatwick, Birmingham or Manchester to Guernsey, including hold baggage, and airport transfers

HOLIDAY HIGHLIGHTS

- The car-free lanes and stunning clifftop paths of Sark
- Sailing to Herm to explore the smallest of the Channel Islands
- Exploring nature-rich Alderney
- Stunning coastal walks on Guernsey

TRIP SUITABILITY

This Guided Island Hopping /Hiking Trail is graded 3 which involves walks/hikes on well-defined paths, though often in hilly or upland areas, or along rugged coastal footpaths. These may be rough and steep in sections, and often with many steps, so a good level of fitness is required. Coastal paths such as this often feature a considerable amount of ascent and descent due to the nature of the coast, so you should be prepared for this. It is your responsibility to ensure you have the relevant fitness and equipment required to join this holiday. It makes a lot of sense to spend time getting some additional exercise before your holiday. We suggest that you try to fit in a number of longer walks, including some on hilly terrain. Other exercises such as cycling, jogging and swimming are also excellent for developing increased stamina. Walking days will involve a mix of transport; coach, boat and air transport in order to visit the islands and enjoy the walks.

Your fitness

Having a solid base of fitness before your holiday will ensure you've the best chance of completing the holiday and enjoying it to boot. Here's a few simple tips to help you get fit and ready for your challenge:

- Get out walking - whether the weather, get out there, and start building your fitness months before your holiday
- Build your distance gradually and get a number of 6-8hr hill days in
- Ideally, try and do two consecutive days training if possible
- Take the stairs every time
- Train on different terrain
- Train with your day pack and your walking boots too, to ensure they're well worn in before your holiday
- Other sports help improve your walking fitness too. The best ones are jogging, cycling, swimming, which will build your stamina, and yoga which will help strengthen your core and improve balance
- Time training will help ensure you enjoy your holiday to the max.



ITINERARY

Day 1: Arrival Day

Your leader will be at reception at 18:30 to meet the group and for a quick introduction to the holiday before dinner.

Day 2: Guernsey

Today we leave St Peter Port on foot and enjoy views of the harbour and the imposing Castle Cornet. After ascending to Clarence Battery and Fort George we join a much more rural path to Fermain Bay, with its loop-holed tower. Crossing into St Martin's parish we continue with stunning coastal views to Jerbourg Point. On a clear day this corner of the island offers fine views of the other Channel Islands and France. From Jerbourg, we join the south cliff path passing high above Moulin Huet Bay and Saint's Bay en route to lcart Point and the incredibly pretty beach at Petit Bôt, before completing our walk close to Le Gouffre Nature Reserve. This is quite a tough, but beautiful walk. The coastal bus service offers an earlier return option for anyone who finds the complete walk a little long.

11 miles (18km) with 2,550 feet (780m) of ascent and 2,350 feet (720m) of descent.

Day 3: Sark

Our boat journey from St Peter Port takes us directly to Sark in less than an hour and we begin our walk directly from the Maseline Harbour tunnel. Pretty country paths and car-free lanes quickly reach the south coast and our path meets extensive views over Derrible Bay. We soon reach Dixcart Bay and follow the rising cliff path, which offers wonderful views out to sea before crossing La Coupée – a narrow isthmus leading to Little Sark. Little Sark offers quiet lanes, cliff views, charming houses and the remains of silver mines. Back on Sark, we follow the Rue du Sermon into the village and pass La Seigneurie before looping the island's rocky northern headland. Returning to the village initially, our route then drops back to the harbour for our return boat.

10 miles (16km) with 1,400 feet (440m) of ascent

Day 4: Herm

A morning sailing takes us over to the tiny island of Herm, to the east of St Peter Port, in just 15 minutes. Despite being so close to Guernsey, the smallest island on the Channel Island Way is a world away from bustling St Peter Port. Regardless of whether the boat lands at the harbour or Rosaire Steps we progress south with views to Jethou Island (privately leased by philanthropist Sir Peter Ogden). The undulating cliff path winds around to the island's east coast and the views are often inundated with seabirds. From Belvoir Bay the walk levels out and we pass pretty Shell Beach and loop across the green. With our circuit complete, the quaint harbour village offers a souvenir shop and refreshments at the Mermaid Tavern.

4 miles (6½km) with 500 feet (140m) of ascent and descent.

Day 5: Guernsey

Our second walk on Guernsey continues from Le Gouffre and rejoins the rugged south coast. The cliff path here has some fairly steep ups and downs but the Pleinmont Headland rewards us with wonderful views out towards Hanois Lighthouse, nature reserves and commanding historic towers. After the mysterious-looking Fairy Ring, we re-join civilisation at Portelet Harbour. From here we can enjoy the contrast of walking on Guernsey's west coast, which features a succession of wide sweeping bays with views of defences like the iconic Fort Grey and Lihou Island, the most westerly point in the Channel Islands. Our final destination for the day is pretty Vazon Bay, which is protected by the imposing Fort Hommet. This is quite a tough, but beautiful walk. The coastal bus service offers a return option for anyone who finds the complete walk a little long.

12 miles (20km) with 1,600 feet (500m) of ascent and 1,750 feet (540m) of descent.

Day 6: Alderney

An early flight takes us to Alderney, the closest island to France geographically, and set apart from the rest of the Channel Islands. Its isolation offers a completely different feel to its visitors. Walking around the island can be done in the day and this route offers spectacular cliff paths brimming with military history and an abundance of wildlife at every turn. From the airport, we head for the noisy and stunning gannet colony at Les Etacs and then progress around the island's south coast, passing Telegraph Bay and a converted WW2 communications bunker displaying the island's natural and military history. The cliff path leads to the sweeping horseshoe of Longis Bay, and Mannez Lighthouse at the north-east end of the island. After a succession of pretty bays, the path passes by Fort Albert and onto sweeping Braye Bay below St Anne (Alderney's town).

Passing Braye Harbour with its enormous breakwater, the circuit of the island concludes with views of romantically situated Fort Clonque, before heading back to the airport.

12 miles (19½km) with 1,300 feet (400m) of ascent and descent

Day 7: Guernsey

Continuing from Vazon Bay, our final walk on Guernsey completes our circuit of the island. We carry on along the islander's playground, past sandy beaches and seagrass dunes dotted with rocky granite outcrops. At Le Grand Havre we reach Vale, which, before human intervention, was once separated by water from the rest of Guernsey. Now at the north of the island, we pass the Megalithic passage grave of La Varde and the beautiful L'Ancrese Bay en route to Fort Doyle. From here the pretty harbours of Bordeaux and St Sampson lead us back to the Esplanade in St Peter Port and our starting point.

15½ miles (25km) with 700 feet (200m) of ascent and 750 feet (220m) of descent.

Day 8: Departure Day

Enjoy breakfast before making your way home.

ACCOMMODATION

Moore's Central Hotel, St Peter Port, Guernsey - Channel Islands

The Moore's Hotel enjoys an almost unique position in the centre of St. Peter Port, Guernsey and only minutes from the picturesque marinas and seafront from where the ferries leave for the neighbouring Channel Islands. Rooms include TV, radio alarm, hairdryer, tea and coffee making facilities and WiFi. Drying facilities are available. It has a recently refurbished conservatory restaurant with a roof terrace and outdoor seating. Other features of the hotel include a relaxing lounge, an authentic Austrian patisserie and a health suite with Jacuzzi, sauna and fitness room.

Food & Drink

Your stay is full-board. This includes daily breakfasts, packed lunch options, and evening meals. Vegetarian choices and dietary requirements can be catered for (please give advance notice when booking).

Packed Lunches

Our packed lunches will be too much food for some and not enough for others; if you feel you might need more food during the walk, please bring a supply of snacks to supplement this – it won't always be possible to buy these on the route. Your packed lunches will include: a bread sandwich or roll with a choice of filling; some fresh fruit; fruit cake/flapjack or similar, crisps and/or biscuits. For those of you tackling a level 4 or above holiday, we would highly recommend bringing some trail mix or something similar to ensure you've some fuel in reserve should you need it.

Dietary Requirements

Our partner hotels can cater for most dietary requirements, but it is important you advise us of any allergies and dietary restrictions you have at the time of booking.

TRAVEL DETAILS

By Air

Our 'with flight' holiday includes group return flights from London to Guernsey. For flight times and prices please follow the booking process. If you choose this option, we automatically include return transfers between the airport and hotel. Upon arrival at the airport, exit through security into the arrivals hall, where you will be met by our partner transport company. Please look out for someone holding an HF Holidays sign. The transfer by taxi to your hotel takes approx. 15 minutes.

If you prefer to book the holiday without flights and make your own travel arrangements, there are numerous flights from UK regional airports to Guernsey. If you would like us to arrange your return transfers between the airport and hotel, which is included in the cost of your holiday, you must contact us on 020 8732 1250 or email reservations@hfholidays.co.uk at least 8 weeks before your holiday start date to provide your flight details. If you do not contact us, we will assume you are making independent travel arrangements.

All passengers aged 16 and over are required to provide photographic ID at the check-in desk and at the departure gate.

Your return day flight between Guernsey and Alderney is included in your holiday price, as are the ferry boat journeys across to Herm and Sark. On the Alderney flight, luggage is restricted to **1 item per passenger with a maximum weight of 6kgs.**

By Ferry

Condor Ferries operate services between Poole in Dorset and St. Peter Port. After disembarking, the hotel is just a few minutes' walk from the pier. Cross the North Esplanade near the roundabout and head in the direction of Lower Pollet, Le Pollet and High Street (which are one continuous street). Moores Central Hotel is situated on Le Pollet, almost directly behind the Guernsey Information Centre.

USEFUL HOLIDAY INFORMATION

Holiday Information

We try to create a relaxed atmosphere on the walk but please listen to safety instructions from your leader.

Keep members of the group in view especially when weather or visibility is poor. If you leave the group, then your leader will no longer have responsibility for you. Our leaders consider the safety of the group as a whole and are likely to be more cautious over potential risks such as bad weather.

Our Channel Island Hopping adventure based on Guernsey, has three days of stunning coastal walks on Guernsey as well as taking you by sea and by air to enjoy a day walking on each of the islands of Alderney, Sark and Herm. All travel to and from the islands from Guernsey is included as we sail to Herm and Sark and fly in a small plane to Alderney. These stunning islands enjoy a better climate and a more relaxed way of life than mainland UK. Although they are grouped together within the Crown Dependency, Guernsey, Alderney, Sark and Herm all have their own unique identities, which you can explore as you follow their stunning coastlines.

Guernsey is just 70 miles from the coast of mainland Britain but due to its position in the Bay of St Malo and better climate, it has a decidedly French feel.

Rugged cliff top and coastal paths with steep winding steps are contrasted by sweeping beaches and wide

bays, and the walks are often interspersed with pre-historic sites, commanding defence towers, quaint houses and spectacular wildlife.

In the hopefully rare event of any cause for complaints regarding accommodation, you should notify your leader who can then attempt to rectify the problem.

Essential Information

With flights holidays: Price includes return flights from London Gatwick, Birmingham or Manchester to Guernsey Airport, hold baggage and airport transfers

If you have booked your own flights and would like airport transfers, you must contact us on [+44 \(0\)20 8732 1250](tel:+44(0)2087321250) or email reservations@hfholidays.co.uk at least 8 weeks before your holiday start date to provide your flight details. If you do not contact us, we will assume you are making independent travel arrangements.

The UK has a famously unpredictable climate so it's best to be prepared for weather that's sunny one minute and raining the next. To make it easier, here's a list of items you should consider packing.

Essentials

- Suitable footwear such as waterproof walking boots that provide ankle support and good grip
- Waterproof and windproof jacket
- Comfortable clothing (jeans & waterproof capes are not suitable)
- Mid-layer(s) to keep you warm. Fleeeces make a good choice
- Waterproof overtrousers
- Gloves and a warm hat
- Rucksack with waterproof liner
- Spotting scope and/or binoculars
- Flask for hot drinks
- Water bottle (at least 1 litre capacity)
- Sunscreen
- UV sunglasses

Recommended

- Several base layers (long-sleeve or short-sleeve)
- Cushioned walking socks to avoid blisters
- First aid kit, including plasters and insect repellent
- Sit mat
- Waterproof pouch for valuables
- Rubbish bag (remember to always leave no trace)
- Wallet/purse
- Camera
- First-aid kit

Useful Information

Travel Insurance

Travel and appropriate personal insurance cover is an essential requirement for this holiday. Guernsey's Health Service is not part of the UK National Health Service. Primary care health professionals are in private practice and all patients are required to pay for treatment. There is no reciprocal health agreement between Guernsey and the British Government. UK residents will be charged for medical treatment within a hospital and for the ambulance service and repatriation. Please note: Visitors from countries which have an agreement will still be charged for the same aspects of treatment as a local resident, which includes treatment by a GP and ambulance service.

Mobile Phones

The Channel Islands are not included as part of the UK by most mobile phone operators. Your provider will charge their specific roaming charges for calls made and received on the Channel Islands. Whilst this is often cheaper than using your mobile in Europe, you may wish to consider using 'Sure' (Cable and Wireless) payphones instead. These are often seen as a novelty and are photographed by many British visitors as they are painted blue rather than the traditional 'pillar box' red.

Ticks

Ticks are tiny creatures that live in vegetation and can attach themselves to passing animals or walkers and may carry a risk of Lyme Disease. Please refer to NHS advice and guidelines for information prior to your holiday.

Our experienced and knowledgeable volunteer leaders undergo a thorough assessment to lead you on your holiday and are delighted to share their knowledge and enthusiasm with you.

Please ensure you complete and hand in your registration form on arrival and let the leader know about any medical problems you may have. This may be useful in the event of a problem on the walk and will be treated confidentially by the leader.

In The Event Of A Problem

If you become separated from your group, please stay where you are. Your leader will retrace their steps to find you.

All our leaders carry a mobile phone, group shelter, spare maps and a compass. In the unlikely event your leader is incapacitated, please use any emergency kit in their rucksack and call the emergency services (call 999 in the UK, or 112 overseas).

Please then try to call the hotel where you are staying to let them know there is a problem.

If you have any cause for complaints regarding accommodation, you should notify your leader who can then attempt to rectify the problem.

Local Currency

Guernsey has its own currency. This currency is sterling but is not accepted in the rest of the British Isles. British pounds are accepted just like anywhere else in the UK and change given can be a mixture of British and Channel Islands money. To change back to currency, Bureau de Change can be found at several locations and there are banks in St Peter Port and St Anne, as well as the Guernsey Information Centre.

TRIP NOTE VALIDITY

These Trip Notes are valid based on the date printed at the bottom of the page. They will occasionally be updated post booking and pre-departure. We will send you the latest trip notes prior to departure through a link in your pre departure documents or we can send you a copy in the post if preferred.

In booking this trip you should be confident in your ability to participate in all activities described in these Trip Notes. If you have any doubt about your suitability you should call HF Holidays and ask to speak to one of the team about this itinerary.

The information in these Trip Notes is given in good faith. Where differences exist between the Trip Notes and our current brochure, the Trip Notes supersede the brochure. All holidays can be subject to unexpected changes; so please be prepared to be flexible where necessary. At times, it may not be possible to follow the itinerary as planned due to weather conditions, political, physical or other factors. In these circumstances we will make the best possible alternative arrangements to maintain the integrity of the original itinerary.

Document produced: 15-06-2024

