

Channel Islands, Island Hopping Holiday

Tour Style: Island Hopping

Destinations: Channel Islands, United Kingdom & England

Trip code: GYLDW

Trip Walking Grade: 3



HOLIDAY OVERVIEW

Our Channel Island Hopping visits the islands of Guernsey, Alderney, Sark and Herm. These stunning islands enjoy a great climate and a relaxed way of life. The islands all have their own unique identities, which you can explore as you walk along their stunning coastlines. Based near the seafront at St Peter Port on Guernsey for your holiday, we include an exciting day flight to walk and discover Alderney and boat trips to walk and discover both Sark and Herm.

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- Full Board en-suite accommodation
- Experienced HF Holidays Walking Leader
- All transport to and from the walks
- All inter-island flights and ferries
- Transfers to and from Guernsey airport

HOLIDAYS HIGHLIGHTS

- Step back in time on Sark with its car-free lanes and stunning clifftop paths
- Sail to Herm and explore its unique identity
- Nature lovers and history buffs will love Alderney as we fly for the day to walk and enjoy all it offers
- 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.

ITINERARY

Day 1: Arrival Day

You will meet your leader at a welcome meeting prior to dinner at the hotel

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: 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 5: 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 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

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.

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.

Food & Transport

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.

Joining Instructions

Travel

The transfer for all guests from Guernsey Airport to your hotel is included in the price of your holiday. Upon arrival, exit through security into the Arrivals Hall. You will be met by our partner taxi company. Please look out for someone holding an HF Holidays sign in the Arrivals Hall. The transfer by taxi to your hotel takes approximately 15 minutes.

Departure day: We will arrange for you to be taken back to the airport to catch your flight.

At least 8 weeks before your holiday start date please contact us on 020 8732 1250 or e-mail trails@hfholidays.co.uk with your travel plans and expected time of arrival and departure. If you will not be using our transfers, please let us know.

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. Luggage is restricted to 1 item per passenger with a maximum weight of 6kgs on the Alderney flight.

Making Your Own Travel Arrangements

By Air: There are numerous flights from UK regional airports to Guernsey.

By Fast 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.

What To Bring

Essential Equipment

To enjoy walking/hiking comfortably and safely, footwear, clothing and equipment needs to be suitable for the conditions. Safety and comfort are our priorities, so our advice is to come prepared for all eventualities.

- Footwear with a good grip on the sole (e.g. Vibram sole) is the key to avoiding accidents
- Walking/hiking boots providing ankle support and good grip are recommended (ideally worn in), and specialist walking socks to avoid blisters.
- Several layers of clothing, which can be added or removed, are better than a single layer (include spares)
- Fabrics (lightweight and fast drying) designed for the outdoors are recommended
- Waterproof jacket and waterproof over trousers
- Warm hat and gloves. Gaiters are an optional but useful extra
- Denim jeans and capes are not suitable on any walks
- Rucksack with a waterproof liner
- Thermos flask for hot drink
- Water bottle (at least 1 litres)
- Spare high-energy food such as a chocolate bar
- Small torch
- First aid kit – your leader's first aid kit doesn't contain any medication or blister kits (such as Compeed)

Optional Equipment

- Walking poles are useful, particularly for descents
- Insect repellent and a midge hood is highly recommended for Scotland
- Sun hat
- Sunglasses
- Sun cream
- Camera

Essential 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.

Useful Information

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 Guided Walking/Hiking Trail 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 the party, 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. 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.

Local Currency

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.

HOW TO BOOK

When you're ready to book, you can choose to **book online** or book **over the phone**. Our website offers secure online booking for our holidays, is available 24/7, and offers more in-depth information about all our holidays. If you prefer to call us, our experienced and knowledgeable team are available to answer any specific questions you have and can offer guidance as to which holiday is best suited to your needs.

Our office is open: Monday to Friday: 9am – 7pm Saturday & Sunday: 9am – 1pm Bank Holiday Monday: 9am – 1pm

PAYING YOUR DEPOSIT

To secure the holiday of your choice, you will need to pay a deposit: UK & European Holidays: £150 per person and Worldwide Holidays: £250 per person. You can pay your deposit by debit or credit card with no additional card fees charged or make an online BACS payment directly into HF's bank account, please see details under BACS payments. You can also pay your deposit by cheque within seven days of booking. Cheques should be made payable to 'HF Holidays Ltd' with your booking reference / Order ID on the back.

ASSOCIATE'S FEE

Non-members can join our holidays by paying an Associate's fee of £10 per person per holiday. Alternatively, full life membership is available from £100 – visit hfholidays.co.uk/membership for details.

BACS PAYMENTS

Please quote your booking reference / Order ID when you make your payment online: Bank Name: Svenska Handelsbanken AB (publ) Account Name: HF Holidays Ltd Account Number: 35923304 Sort Code: 40-51-62 IBAN: GB92HAND40516235923304 Swift / Bic Code: HANDGB22

Once we have received your booking and deposit, we will send a confirmation invoice to the lead name. Please check this carefully. For bookings 'with flights' it is essential that the names on your booking confirmation invoice match those on your passport for bookings overseas. Please advise us immediately of any errors. Any name changes after the balance of your holiday has been paid will be subject to a fee levied by the airline.

MANAGE MY BOOKINGS

Payments can also be made through the Manage My Booking function on our website. Click on the link at the top of our homepage. This is available to all customers who provide an email address at the time of booking.

YOUR FINAL BALANCE

The balance is due 10 weeks before departure. As with paying your deposit, you can pay your final balance by debit or credit card, make an online BACS payment directly into HF's bank account or pay by cheque.

TRAVEL INSURANCE

Travel insurance is an important part of any booking and essential for one of our holidays. HF Holidays works with specialist. Insurance Brokers Campbell Irvine Direct. For more information or to obtain a quote call them on 01702 427 236 or visit hfholidays.co.uk/insurance

PEACE OF MIND

ATOL:

The air holidays and flights in this brochure are ATOL-protected, since we hold an Air Travel Organiser's Licence granted by the Civil Aviation Authority. Our ATOL number is ATOL 710. In the unlikely event of our insolvency, the CAA will ensure that you are not stranded abroad and will arrange to refund any money you have paid us for advance bookings. For further information visit the ATOL website atol.org.uk

MEMBER OF ABTOT:

HF Holidays is a member of ABTOT (The Association of Bonded Travel Organisers Trust Limited) which provides financial protection under the Package Travel, Package Holidays and Package Tours Regulations 1992 for HF Holidays Ltd and in the event of their insolvency, protection is provided for the following: 1. non-flight packages commencing in and returning to the UK; 2. non-flight packages commencing and returning to a country other than the UK; 3. flight inclusive packages that commence outside of the UK and Republic of Ireland, which are sold to customers outside of the UK and Republic of Ireland. 1, 2 and 3 provides for a refund in the event you have not yet travelled. 1 and 3 provides for repatriation. Please note that bookings made outside the UK and Republic of Ireland are only protected by ABTOT when purchased directly with HF Holidays Ltd.

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.

PRICE GUARANTEE

We promise that our earliest published prices will always be the best and if we reduce our holiday price after your booking has been confirmed, we will pass this reduction on to you. Our price promise applies if any subsequent offer price is for an identical holiday, duration, location and date and does not cover any optional extras, flights or additional services.

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