

The magical tranquil islands of Guernsey, Jersey, Alderney, Sark and Herm lie clustered in the Channel between England and the Normandy coast of France. Collectively known as the Channel Islands they have a unique relaxing atmosphere and offer the visitor the perfect holiday destination – far enough away to feel you are somewhere completely different but close enough for an easy, short, stress free journey and unforgettable holiday.

Spring and summer are lovely times of the year to visit the islands but whenever you come you won't be disappointed. Ideal for both beach lovers and walkers alike the islands offer unspoilt clean sandy beaches, fresh air and miles of panoramic cliff paths and narrow country lanes to explore. Children will love spending endless hours in the sea or looking for shells along the seashore, rock-pooling, crabbing followed by an ice-cream. Don't forget to try a fresh crab sandwich or cream tea at one of the many beach kiosks. Food lovers will be spoilt for choice by the range of excellent restaurants and fresh local produce on offer with menus to suit all budgets. Both Guernsey and Alderney hold a Seafood Festival in summer which is followed in October by the ever popular Tennerfest which is held in both Guernsey and Jersey - an ideal time to come for an autumn break. Shoppers can take advantage of the VAT-free prices so why not come over and do a spot of Christmas shopping? – both Guernsey and Jersey have a great range of independent boutiques, gift shops, perfumeries and jewellers.

Those simply looking to completely get away from it all and escape the crowds should head for either the feudal island of Sark or the tiny gem of an island known as Herm. Both islands are traffic free other than the odd tractor and both have a charm of their own.

The islands have a long and interesting history dating back to prehistoric times but perhaps the most significant events have been the seizing of England in 1066 by William, Duke of Normandy who then already owned the Channel Islands and the German Occupation of the islands during the Second World War. There are several local museums such as the Jersey Museum and the Guernsey Museum and Art Gallery which detail historical events in the islands. Those interested in the occupation can visit the German War Tunnels in Jersey or the German Occupation Museum in Guernsey.

There are regular flights from several British airports to the larger islands of Jersey, Guernsey and Alderney. Condor Ferries operate a fast car ferry service from Poole and Weymouth or a slower car ferry from Portsmouth and link the two larger islands to St Malo in France. There is also a busy inter-island air service and flights to Dinard from Guernsey. It is easy to do a daytrip from which ever island you are visiting to one of the other islands or even to France. However, the smaller islands of Sark and Herm are only accessible by local ferry from Guernsey. Come and see our beautiful islands for yourself, many visitors fall in love with them and return year after year!