



PHOTOS COURTESY JERSEY TOURISM

the other
JERSEY

AN ENCHANTED ISLE OF BREATHTAKING BEAUTY BY GLENN SWIFT



Sweeping bays, dramatic cliffs, peculiar accents — this isn't Tony Soprano's Jersey.

A coastline dotted with dazzling flowers, dominated by sweeping bays and dramatic cliffs, populated by a people with peculiar accents — welcome to Jersey! No, not the Jersey of Tony Soprano, the other Jersey.

Located just 14 miles off the northwest coast of France lies the isle of Jersey, the largest of the Channel Islands and the most southerly island of the British Isles. Like the other Channel Islands (Alderney, Guernsey, Herm and Sark), Jersey is a parliamentary democracy and a dependency of the British Crown. It is a British island and its residents hold British passports. However,

it is not a part of the United Kingdom, nor is it a colony. Confused? I don't blame you!

The island's link (as is the case with all of the Channel Islands) with Great Britain is through the British Crown, who is recognized as the Head of State. A lieutenant governor, through whom official communications with the United Kingdom are directed, represents the sovereign island. Acts of the British Parliament, however, do not apply routinely to the island, except upon the consent of the island's parliament, called the States of Jersey. By agreement, the United Kingdom has assumed





Sunset vistas at the St. Helier Marina don't disappoint.

responsibility for the island's defense and foreign affairs. Once again, even in these matters, the United Kingdom acts only with the consent of the islanders. Accordingly, the Jersey Parliament frequently legislates independently from the Parliament of Great Britain, making its administration parallel, rather than subordinate to the parliament in Westminster. How in the world did this bizarre political relationship come to pass?

In the early Middle Ages, the Channel Islands became a part of the Duchy of Normandy. When William, Duke of Normandy (aka William the Conqueror), conquered England in 1066 and was crowned William I, the title to the islands automatically passed to the British Crown. The islanders have pledged their allegiance to the Crown ever since. The legacy of the Normans, however, is still very visible in Jersey.



TWO OF JERSEY'S FINEST EATERIES

BEAU BISTRO
This restaurant has a beach-side location with fantastic views from all tables. Lunch and dinner are served March through December.

LES FONTAINES TAVERN
A 15th-century building with unique features, this restaurant enjoys a true-to-life Jersey atmosphere and is a favorite among locals. Suitable for all ages, lunch and dinner are served year-round.

The unique customs and traditions of the island reflect a fascinating and complex history dating to the Norman period. The imprint of the Normans can be clearly seen in the distinct Norman-style farmhouses scattered throughout the island, as well as in the dozens of narrow, winding lanes, many of which were built a millennium ago. Perhaps the most obvious legacy of these amazing people of centuries past is the Jersey language.

Although everyone on the island speaks English – with a Jersey accent, say the English – you will still hear Le Jerriais spoken in the countryside and occasionally in town. Le Jerriais is a French dialect dating to the days of Norman rule. Nearly 6,000 islanders still speak this centuries-old language.

As for the island itself, the sea dominates the landscape with views of the Atlantic Ocean accessible from virtually every point on the island. Despite its

small size, Jersey offers an extraordinary level of variety, providing visitors with a kaleidoscope of sensory stimuli. Approach the island by air and you will see lush valleys, well-kept fields and unspoiled coastline. Arrive by sea and the rocky grandeur of Corbiere, the sweep of St. Aubin's Bay and picturesque Elizabeth Castle set the scene for a grand encounter with a small but delightful island, whose wealth of scenery, history and sheer beauty is nearly overwhelming.

Visitors will be pleased to find more than 450 miles of roadway – a mix of fast roads and small country lanes – offering endless opportunities for exploring and discovering the unexpected and impressive. Jersey also has a network of more than 40 miles of Green Lanes, where a speed limit of 15 mph is strictly enforced, giving priority to walkers, cyclists and horseback riders.

As for boating, there is an endless array of magnificent seascapes in and around the island. Keep in mind, however, that this is the English Channel – not the most idyllic body of water. Not only are the currents swift and the seas rough, but the island grows and shrinks twice a day (as the tide ebbs and flows) in excess of 40 feet – one of the highest tidal ranges in the world. Charters are your best bet if you want to travel around the island by boat. The St. Helier Marina is located just a few blocks from the town center and they can answer all of your questions on the chartering subject. For more information, call 011-44-1534-885508.

With sweeping seascapes and a rich history and culture, why not visit Jersey? ... the other Jersey. ↴

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

GETTING THERE

Jersey is accessible by air through a number of major carriers (British Airways, American Airlines, Continental Airlines, Delta, United and US Airways). You must fly via the United Kingdom or France. Consequently, travelers will be subjected to customs regulations on both the island and the mainland. **NOTE:** Anyone entering Jersey who is not a citizen of the United Kingdom or the Republic of Ireland must have a valid passport.

CURRENCY

Although Jersey has its own currency, the British pound is accepted everywhere on the island. Jersey is not, however, a member of the European Union, so the euro is not accepted.

ACCOMMODATIONS

Many of the hotels on the island frequently offer package deals, affording travelers significant discounts. For more information on lodging and these package deals, contact Jersey Tourism at 011-44-1534-500700 or visit www.jersey.com. Their highly trained and friendly staff provides a free booking service and can answer all of your questions about visiting the Channel Islands.

MOST POPULAR SITES

ELIZABETH CASTLE AND THE HERMITAGE

Built in the 1590s, the castle was named after Queen Elizabeth I by Sir Walter Raleigh while he was governor of Jersey. There are some fascinating exhibitions detailing the castle's role through the centuries.

MONT ORGUEIL CASTLE

Built in the 13th century to protect the island from the French, this dramatic medieval fortress towers over the harbor at Gorey.

THE JERSEY MUSEUM

The winner of two national awards, this extraordinary museum uses modern technology and dramatic displays to tell the amazing story of Jersey.

HAMPTONNE COUNTRY LIFE MUSEUM

Here you will find a cluster of faithfully restored farm buildings – two thatched-roof houses, a cider house, a bakery, a wash house and stables – along with costumed characters, representing previous centuries, describing island life through the ages.