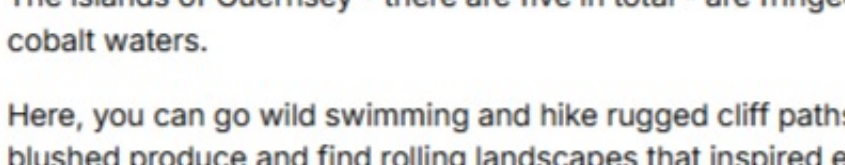


Five islands, one trip: The UK staycation alternative that feels like a European adventure

Ad Feature by British Airways Holidays & Visit Guernsey

By SARAH GORDON

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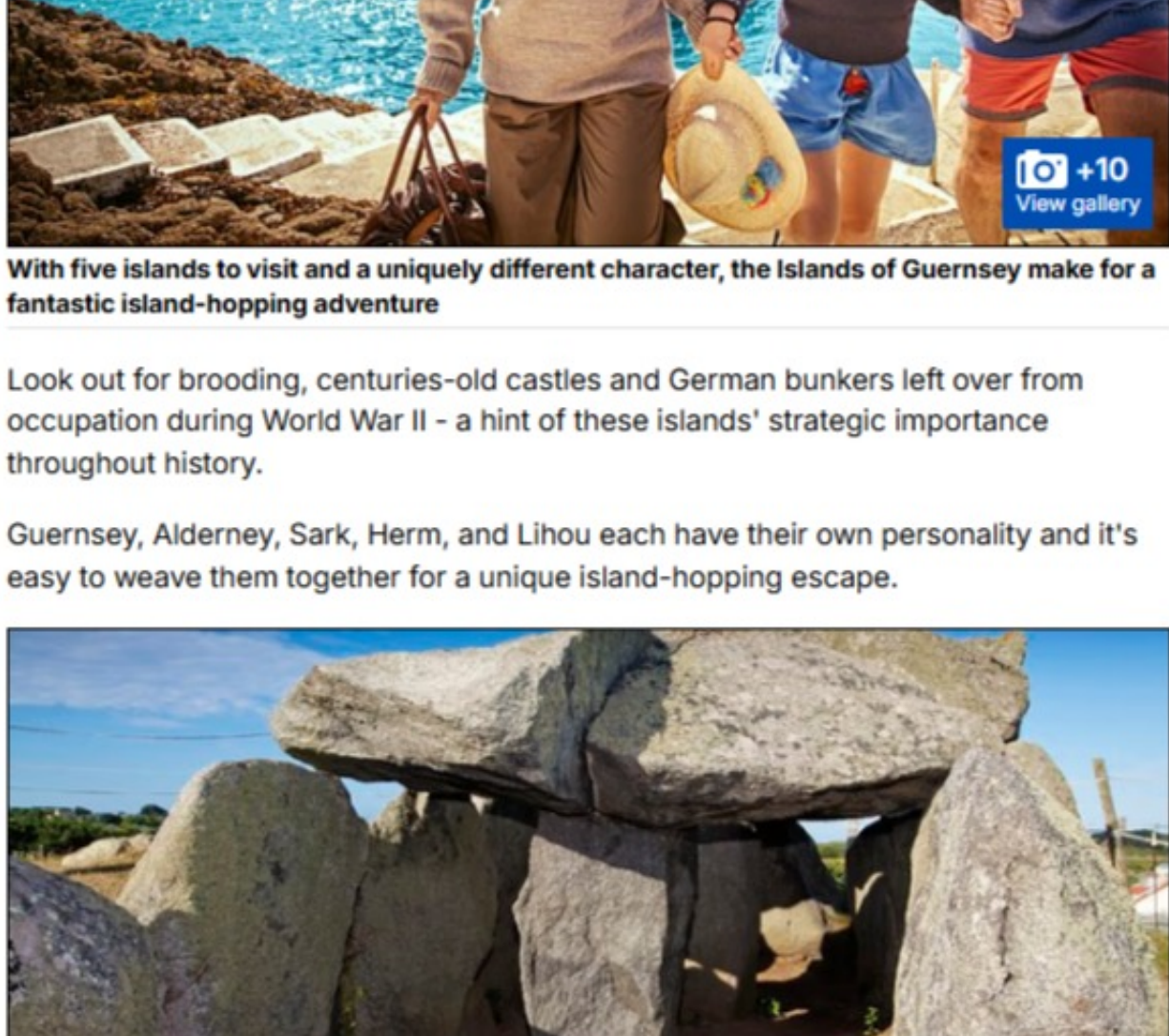


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Just 40 minutes from the UK, you'll find a collection of islands that combine French flair with a distinctly British heritage.

The islands of Guernsey - there are five in total - are fringed by pale gold sands and cobalt waters.

Here, you can go wild swimming and hike rugged cliff paths, savour the islands' sun-bashed produce and find rolling landscapes that inspired everyone from Renoir to Victor Hugo.



With five islands to visit and a uniquely different character, the Islands of Guernsey make for a fantastic island-hopping adventure

Look out for brooding, centuries-old castles and German bunkers left over from occupation during World War II - a hint of these islands' strategic importance throughout history.

Guernsey, Alderney, Sark, Herm, and Lihou each have their own personality and it's easy to weave them together for a unique island-hopping escape.



History to take your breath away: Le Trépiéd Dolmen is a Neolithic tomb dating back 4,000 years

Book your getaway with British Airways Holidays, and your flight and chosen hotel will be wrapped up in an easy, ATOL-protected package.

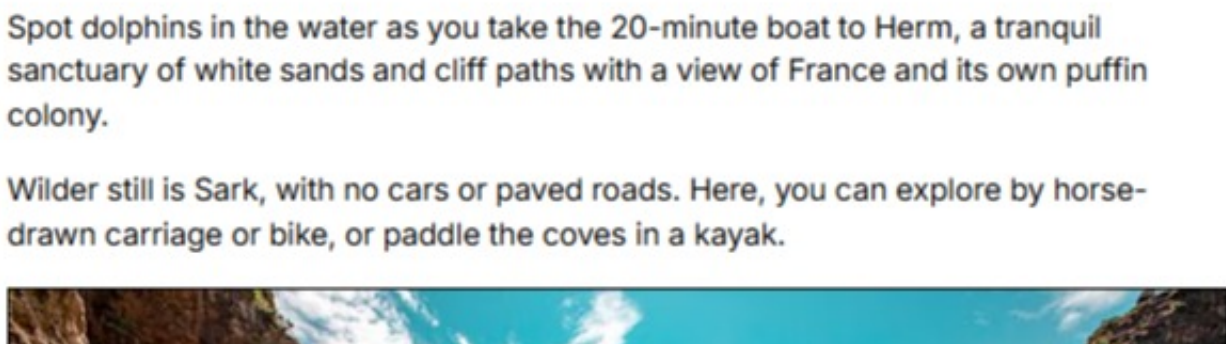
With the support of a 24/7 helpline, and a generous checked baggage allowance, you can reserve the whole thing with a low deposit, spreading the cost with flexible payments.*

Find your island idyll

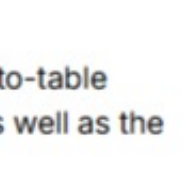
With five islands to choose from, adventure awaits.

Begin in Guernsey, the largest island, with bustling St Peter Port, guarded by 800-year-old Castle Cornet. Here you'll discover rich history, richer food, cliff walks and lovely stretches of sand.

Cross the cobbled causeway to Lihou, a natural haven. Wetland and marine reserves are a magnet for more than 150 species of coastal birds, and you can take a dip in the tidal Venus Pool and go rockpooling with the kids.



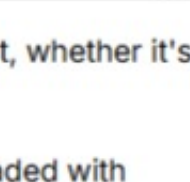
Refreshingly different: The water in tidal Venus Pool is warm and crystal clear



Herm, just a 20-minute boat trip from Guernsey, feels exotically beautiful with its white sands

Spot dolphins in the water as you take the 20-minute boat to Herm, a tranquil sanctuary of white sands and cliff paths with a view of France and its own puffin colony.

Wilder still is Sark, with no cars or paved roads. Here, you can explore by horse-drawn carriage or bike, or paddle the coves in a kayak.



Creux Harbour on Sark: The tiny, quirky island is car-free, so enjoys a relaxed pace of life

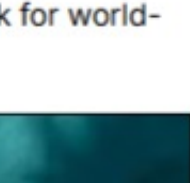
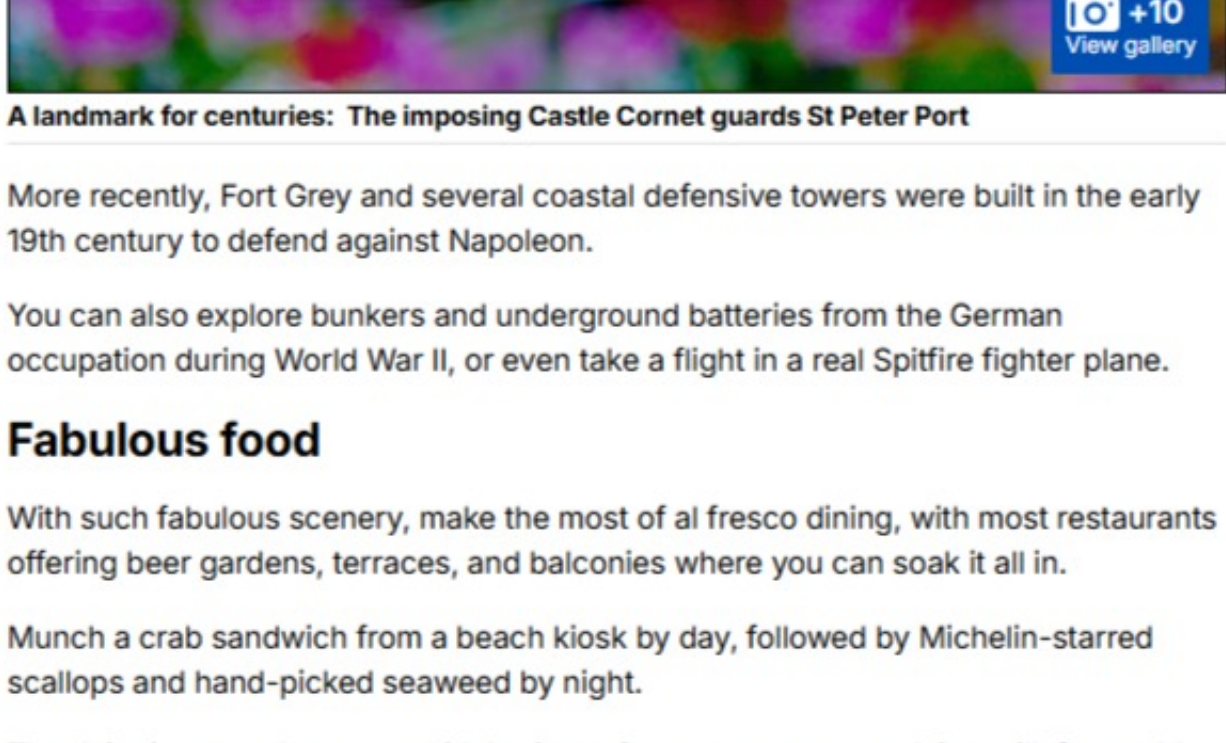
By night, look up to see the incredible starry display - this is the world's first Dark Sky Island.

Finally, there is Alderney, the second-largest island, with excellent farm-to-table restaurants and a pastoral paradise of green winding lanes to explore, as well as the Channel Islands' only railway.

Coast to country

There are more than 100 beaches on the island of Guernsey alone, so you're sure to find a favourite.

Crest a dune flecked with sea grass for a view of the clear, turquoise waters lapping at white sands, shingle, or colourful crushed shells.



Beach beauty: Braye Beach on Alderney is one of many beautiful parts of the coastline to enjoy

Across all the islands, you'll find different ways to enjoy the rugged coast, whether it's swimming in serene bays, kayaking or perhaps taking a surfing lesson.

Head inland, and more outdoor adventures await. These islands are walked with winding paths, taking you from vertiginous cliffs to pretty villages.

You can cycle the winding country lanes, stopping off to explore flower-filled gardens.

Feeling adventurous? Combine land and sea with a coasteering adventure, scrambling over rocks and jumping in the water.

Living history

The islands have been home to humans for thousands of years.

Neolithic dolmens, menhirs featuring pagan deities, and giant stones still stand, hinting at times and cultures very different from our own.

Castle Cornet has been guarding St Peter Port for 800 years. Roam the ancient battlements, looking out to sea, before descending to explore any of the four museums it now houses.



A landmark for centuries: The imposing Castle Cornet guards St Peter Port

More recently, Fort Grey and several coastal defensive towers were built in the early 19th century to defend against Napoleon.

You can also explore bunkers and underground batteries from the German occupation during World War II, or even take a flight in a real Spitfire fighter plane.

Fabulous food

With such fabulous scenery, make the most of al fresco dining, with most restaurants offering beer gardens, terraces, and balconies where you can soak it all in.

Munch a crab sandwich from a beach kiosk by day, followed by Michelin-starred scallops and hand-picked seaweed by night.

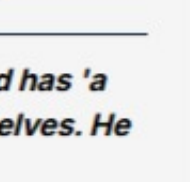
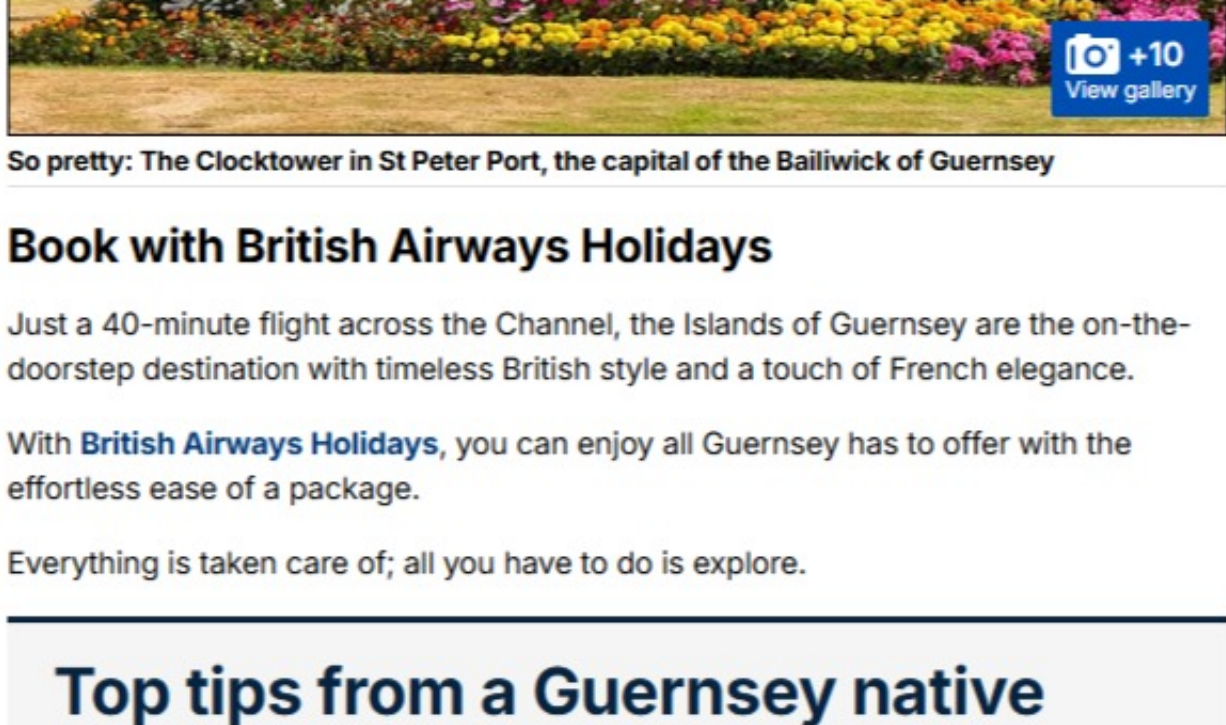
The dairy is second to none, with heritage Guernsey cows supplying milk for world-famous butter, cream, and ice cream.



Cream of the crop: Enjoy a delicious Guernsey ice cream, made with local cows' milk

Pick up supplies for a picnic from one of the islands' many 'hedge-veg' stalls, small local stands with honesty boxes and a single small producer behind them. Then choose pastries, cheese, and fresh bread from the market.

The Big Eat Festival in 2026 sees local food businesses offering special menus, products, and tours of their premises.

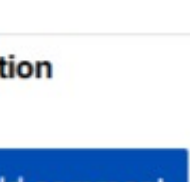
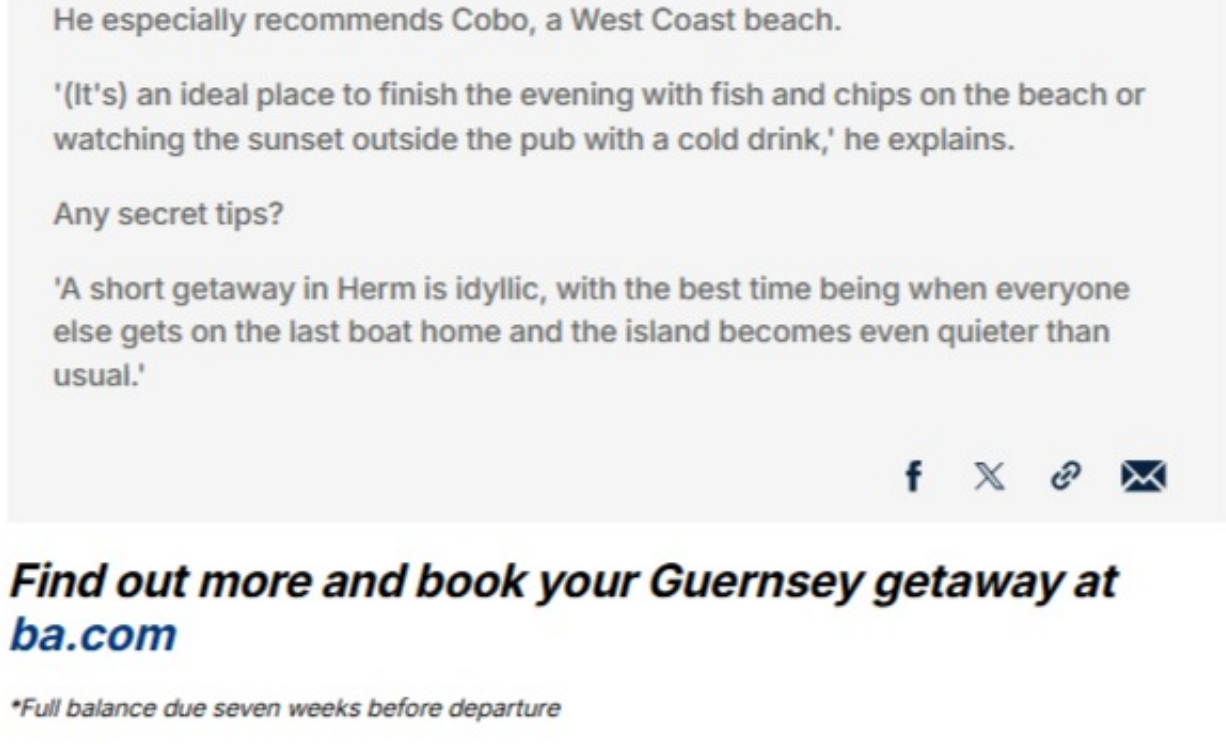


Sample the mouthwatering local produce in a relaxed setting at Shell Beach Kiosk on Herm

Artists' inspiration

Countless artists and authors have found their muses on the island of Guernsey, living here for years as they traced the inspirational paths and landscapes.

Renoir's Walk is a route that takes in the vantage points from which the Impressionist painted several of his works over a brief period in the late 19th Century.



Victor Hugo was exiled at Hauteville House and wrote the classic Les Misérables while there

You can visit Hauteville House, home to French writer Victor Hugo for 15 years while in exile from France. It was here that he wrote Les Misérables and Toilers of the Sea, and here, too, where he walked for inspiration along the surrounding coastline.

Hugo called the island 'the gem of the sea' and famously wrote that 'a month's work here is worth a year in Paris'.

So pretty: The Clocktower in St Peter Port, the capital of the Bailiwick of Guernsey

Book with British Airways Holidays

Just a 40-minute flight across the Channel, the Islands of Guernsey are the on-the-doorstep destination with timeless British style and a touch of French elegance.

With **British Airways Holidays**, you can enjoy all Guernsey has to offer with the effortless ease of a package.

Everything is taken care of; all you have to do is explore.

Top tips from a Guernsey native

British Airways First Officer Keith Lanyon was born in Guernsey and has 'a bit of both English and French ancestry', just like the islands themselves. He shares what he loved about Guernsey...

'One thing that stands out is Guernsey's rich and remarkable history,' he says, picking out the 18th century Martello Towers and the 13th century Castle Cornet where they still fire the noontide gun.

'The Channel Islands were the only part of British soil to be occupied by German forces during WWII and museums such as the German Underground Hospital and Naval Signals HQ are a good way to learn about this.'

For nature-lovers, Guernsey offers the perfect escape, too, says Keith.

'The coastal cliffs provide some stunning quiet walks and the beaches are popular with families, sea swimmers and watersports enthusiasts, with many serviced by kiosks or tearooms where you can enjoy some local seafood or a Guernsey cream tea.'

He especially recommends Cobo, a West Coast beach.

'(It's) an ideal place to finish the evening with fish and chips on the beach or watching the sunset outside the pub with a cold drink,' he explains.

Any secret tips?

'A short getaway in Herm is idyllic, with the best time being when everyone else gets on the last boat home and the island becomes even quieter than usual.'

Find out more and book your Guernsey getaway at [ba.com](https://www.britishairways.com)

*Full balance due seven weeks before departure

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