

Glorious Guernsey!

From rich history and white-sand beaches to a fabulous food scene, this secret archipelago makes for the ultimate short break



Here's a pocket of paradise that sits right in the English Channel. It feels like a slice of the Mediterranean, but with a very British heart.

Guernsey is a sunsoaked collection of islands where you can go wild swimming or hike rugged cliffs; you can explore coastal castles and Second World War bunkers, and dine on island-fresh produce, from the creamiest of dairy to the freshest and sweetest shellfish.

For British Airways first officer Keith Lanyon, it's not just another flight route, it's home. Born and bred on the islands, he is a little bit English and a little bit French, just like Guernsey.

A slice of the Mediterranean, with a British heart: (clockwise from top) there are golden sands soaked in sunshine; crystal-clear warm waters; the islands' martial and maritime history is everywhere; St Peter Port is a lovely, bustling little capital

Luckily for him, going home takes just 40 minutes from London Heathrow.

'It's a very short flight and there can be incredibly beautiful views coming in over the islands on a fine day,' he says. 'A top tip: the westerly runway is used the most, so sitting on the right gives the best views of the islands.'

Guernsey is an archipelago of islands (five of them uninhabited) and each one is unique. Guernsey, the largest island, is home to the bustling little harbour of St Peter Port, and has a rich history, delicious food, and long stretches of sandy beaches overlooked by thrilling clifftop walks.

'For an ultimate switch-off experience, you can take one of the regular small ferries across to Herm or Sark, where there are no cars, only the occasional tractor or horse,' recommends Keith.

The island of Lihou, off the west coast of the main island, is accessible by a causeway at low tide. Cross over to see the wetland reserves and go bird spotting, before heading to Alderney, a green pastoral haven of farmland and woods.

If you book with British Airways Holidays, you can wrap up the whole trip in one easy, ATOL-protected package, with your choice of hotel, return flights and a generous baggage allowance included. You can secure your trip with a low deposit, and spread the cost with flexible payment options.*

THE GREAT OUTDOORS

On arrival, you'll find rolling countryside and a rugged coastline to explore.

Keith says: 'From scenic walks for hikers to white, sandy beaches and secluded coves, there is something



Sark: with no cars on the island you'll walk in peace



BA first officer Keith Lanyon's insider tips on Guernsey

Cobo is one of the most popular west coast beaches, an ideal place to finish the evening with fish and chips or watch the sunset outside the pub with a cold drink.

St Peter Port is pretty and quaint, overlooking the harbour. You'll find an eclectic mix of boutique shops and familiar high street brands, and many bars and restaurants.

I'd also recommend a trip to The Little Chapel, a tiny chapel built with seashells, pebbles and broken china, or Lihou Island off the West Coast, which is only accessible by causeway at low tide – don't miss the window to get back!

Sark is also a big favourite, and was the world's first Dark Sky Island, making it exceptional for astronomy or astrophotography.

for absolutely anyone who enjoys nature and the outdoors.

'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.'

A STEP BACK IN TIME

And for Keith, one thing that stands out is Guernsey's rich and remarkable martial and maritime history.

'You'll see a number of coastal defences around the island, including Martello towers, German observation towers and bunkers, and the 13th century Castle Cornet, where they still fire the noonday gun,' he says.

'The Channel Islands were the only part of British soil to be occupied by

German forces during the Second World War, and museums such as the German Underground Hospital and Naval Signals HQ are a good way to learn about this.'

GOURMET ISLES

You'll also find a distinctive foodie culture, inspired by the fresh fruit and vegetables grown on the island – pick them up from the unique 'hedge veg' honesty boxes along the country lanes – and a rich variety of seafood.

Keith adds: 'If you get the chance, a must try is Guernsey dairy – the butter is rich and golden, and the milk is deliciously creamy.'

In fact, the islands of Guernsey have all the ingredients for a unique break – and all of those delights just a 40-minute hop from the mainland, with British Airways Holidays.

*Full balance due seven weeks before departure

Find out more and book your Guernsey getaway at ba.com

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GUERNSEY

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