

The Weekend *Travel*

(Cont from page 35)

As is customary in Sark, we hired three bikes and a child seat from A to B Cycle Hire, who were very thorough in ensuring the bikes we were given matched our specific requirements. A word of advice, however: book in advance because the bikes get booked up quickly, especially during the summer season.

Cycling around Sark with the boys was one of the undisputed highlights of our holiday – and I’m including Disneyland Paris in that assessment. With no cars and very little traffic, Teddy was able to ride around with a freedom rarely found on the roads of Jersey, while we could relax knowing there was no chance of him encountering some speed-limit-flouting twerp in a sports car. We could take our time, stop whenever we wanted, and explore little pathways and viewpoints along the way.

Speaking of pathways, a visit to Little Sark is essential, but, boy oh boy, you sure need a head for heights if you’re going to cross the narrow ridge – named La Coupée – that connects Sark with Little Sark. My wife and kids aren’t remotely bothered by steep vertical drops leading to rocky terrain hundreds of feet below, but me? My legs were wobblier than a gyrating Elvis impersonator on a vibrating bed as I tried to walk the two or three dozen metres from one side of the ridge to the other. I’m surprised I didn’t accidentally break Alby’s fingers given the force with which I was clasp his little hand. But I made it, and I’m glad I did. Once in Little Sark, there is a small eatery, a playground and – if you can find it! – the famous “Venus Pool”. My wife bravely tackled the scramble down the cliffs in search of the pool, which can be accessed for around two hours either side of low tide.

Sark has a fascinating history, and Teddy and Alby absolutely loved hearing stories of pirates, smugglers and witches. Suddenly, a quiet lane wasn’t just a quiet lane – it was a route that might once have been taken by pirates. A rocky coastline became somewhere to imagine

ships arriving hundreds of years ago. Fascinating stuff.

Our meals in Sark – once again organised by VisitGuernsey – were another part of the experience. There are a larger than expected number of hotels, restaurants and pubs hidden away in the island, with the Stocks Hotel being a combination of all three: a four-star hotel (with outdoor pool and poolside bistro), a restaurant and a pub (the atmospheric Smugglers Bar).

We enjoyed a wonderful dinner in the main dining room. I had been told that the seafood dishes at Stocks were especially impressive and so opted for the pan-fried salmon with green beans, sliced beetroot, garlic and dill sauce (the salmon was exceptional), while Lucy enjoyed the slow-braised Guernsey beef with seasonal vegetables, roasted potatoes and red wine jus, followed by the homemade cheesecake. The latter was a particular treat, and more than compensated for the terrible cheesecake we ate in Disneyland. (Disney’s cheesecake is about as enjoyable as their live-action remakes of classic cartoons, ie not very.)

We enjoyed another fantastic meal at Hugo’s Bistro the following night. The pub – which is just a few minutes walk from Stocks Hotel – is now officially my favourite pub in Sark. The walls and ceiling are decorated with theatrical posters from the early 20th century, while the jukebox played pop-rock classics from the ‘60s, ‘70s and ‘80s at just the right volume. The staff were also lovely, as was the half-lobster I enjoyed for my main. Sark seafood is *really* bloody good.

The following day we returned to Guernsey and then made our way back to Jersey aboard the Islands Unlimited ferry.

Three islands – Guernsey, Herm and Sark – each completely different to the others. You don’t need a long-haul flight to find turquoise waters (Herm), dramatic coastlines (Sark) or wonderful hotels and restaurants (all three).

Sometimes, all you need is a boat ticket and a bicycle.



■ Clockwise from left: Alby deciding where to visit in Sark; Vine Cottage, with bikes from A to B Cycle Hire parked outside; pan-fried salmon in the restaurant at Stocks Hotel

■ For more details on the islands, hotels and restaurants mentioned in this write-up, visit:
Visitguernsey.com Herm.com (email: reservations@herm.com / Sark.co.uk Tel: 01481 75000) Cobobayhotel.com Facebook: Hertz Channel Islands

Win a family holiday to the Islands of Guernsey

GET 2 NIGHTS at the COBO BAY HOTEL for A FAMILY of 4, WITH A RETURN FERRY and CAR HIRE INCLUDED.

Enter here



Closing at 23:59 on Sunday 23 August. Winner will be announced on Monday 24 August. Prize must be taken between 25 March 2027 and 30 June 2027.



ST PETER PORT'S HARBOUR



VAZON BAY on the WEST COAST

ISLANDS of GUERNSEY