The ISLANDS of GUERNSEY

WOULD YOU LIVE IN A WORLD WAR II BUNKER ON GUERNSEY?

A German bunker dating from the Nazi occupation of the islands of guernsey has been transformed into a stylish, modern property



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London, October 2024 – Renovations have been completed to turn one of Guernsey's historic World War II bunkers into a three-bedroom, 'one-of-a-kind' home. Built in 1942 by German occupying forces as a coastal defence, the reinforced concrete shelter ('Bunker Six Eighty One') offers breathtaking views of Guernsey's Rocquaine Bay and once housed up to 12 German soldiers who were stationed to defend against potential attacks by Allied forces.

The bunker was acquired by property developer BDL in 2017 and has since been converted into a modern, stylish residential property, perfect for those who want to live in their own piece of history. The project commenced in 2020 and involved the complex task of removing 144 tonnes of reinforced concrete walls and floors, for which a specialist drill was brought over from the mainland.

The glass-fronted home, with its rooftop terrace and open-plan design, balances the building's historic character with modern comfort. Brad Ogier, director of BDL developments, commented: "You don't approach a project like this intending to erase its past. We wanted to retain the bunker's story while ensuring it felt comfortable and homely. Features like the hinges from the steel-armoured gas door and ventilation ducts have been thoughtfully preserved – they provide great talking points."

Whilst the current sale price is unknown, properties in the area regularly sell for over £1,000,000. More information on the property can be found <u>here</u>.

WWII history on the islands

2025 will be a landmark year for the Islands, marking 80 years since their liberation from occupying Nazi forces in World War II. Visitors to Guernsey in 2025 will be warmly invited to join in the Heritage 80 celebrations, which are set to include a number of historic bunker open days by volunteer organisation <u>Festung</u>, new historical routes and history-themed boat tours, and a particularly special celebration of the annual <u>Liberation Day</u>, held annually on 9 May and comprising parades, fireworks and chances to commemorate liberation from occupation.

The bunker is not the only significant renovation for 2024: <u>Wheadon's Gin</u> has established a <u>new distillery</u> <u>in Guernsey</u>, located in the historic Vivier Bunker on Castle Pier. This unique venue, once a World War II bunker built by the Nazis to house fuel tanks, now serves as the Channel Island Liquor Company's production and bottling site.

Renovations have also been completed at a historic Guernsey property, allowing guests to book a stay at one of the Islands' most artistically significant locations. Built in 1780, the so-called 'Renoir Cottage' was

once the site of a tearoom frequented by acclaimed French author Victor Hugo and renowned Impressionist artist Pierre-Auguste Renoir. Now, travellers can stay in the restored property, which offers dramatic coastal views and authentic historical immersion with all the comforts of a modern retreat.

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For more information on travelling to the Islands of Guernsey, please visit <u>www.visitguernsey.com</u> or email the LOTUS team at <u>guernsey@wearelotus.co.uk</u>