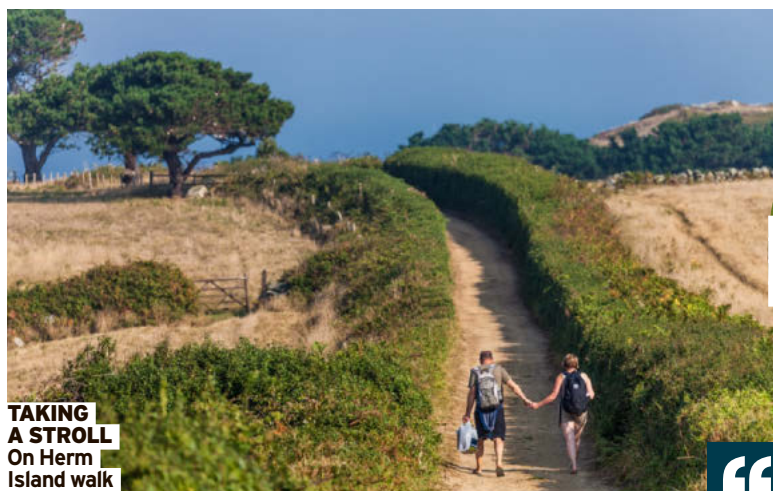


CHANNEL HOPPING



LONG & WINDING ROAD
The route linking to Little Sark

Ferghal Blaney finds delights and even some unexpected sun on Guernsey and island hotspots



TAKING A STROLL
On Herm Island walk



OUT IN TANDEM
Pair out cycling



BEACH LIFE
Tourists relax in the sun

don't fall foul of the local law. There's a small stone cell that looks like an Irish monastic beehive. It's the old Herm prison and was still in use until very recently, we were told.

Back on Guernsey, another Irish connection is the Copenhagen restaurant.

Little-known fact – the Duke of Wellington, Arthur Wellesley, was a Dub and the famous chestnut horse upon which he rode into the Battle of Waterloo, where he met his death, was called Copenhagen.

The restaurant is a shrine to the great steed and his rider, but the food

was the best I had on the island. Don't miss the scallops and prawns main course, if it's on when you visit.

After being well fed each evening it was always back to the Fermain Hotel, named after the beautiful bay it looks out over.

Breakfast is a highlight here, as you can have it on a terrace that peers over the beautiful blue seas of the natural cove that is Fermain.

As I mentioned above, walking and cycling is the best – and fittest after

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The whole island is just nine miles long and three miles wide

plenty of eating and drinking – way to get around Guernsey. It's easy, the walks are leisurely and we're told even the most committed couch potatoes off the cruise ships have no problem with cycling.

On the history front, with Gill again as our guide, it was like stepping back in time to the Second World War, but after the Germans had left.

The island is an open museum, with a German underground hospital, huge bunkers that are like icebergs in that only 10% is visible above the ground,

and massive cannons and guns that you can sit up and play out Boys or Girls Own stories on.

The days are full in Guernsey. You earn your hunger from the fresh sea air coming from the coast of France which is only 27 miles away and you definitely earn your thirst in the evenings.

I won't go into the antics of what us press team got up to every night – but you will definitely not be going to bed early.

An enthusiastic sampling of the local gin the night before is worth feeling a little Guernsey groggy the next morning.

BOOK IT

- Aurigny operates three flights a week from Ireland, see details at www.aurigny.com
- The 4* Fermain Valley Hotel offers rooms from €140 per night.
- Gill Girard leads a variety of tours in Guernsey, for more information visit <https://gillgirardtourguides.com/>
- Copenhagen Bar & Grill <https://restaurantcopenhagen.com>
- Bella Luce Hotel (Gin Tasting is €29pp) <https://bellalucehotel.com/>

MORE INFO

For more information on the Islands of Guernsey visit <https://www.visitguernsey.com/>