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The 12 best things to do in Guernsey

Our expert guide highlights the top attractions on the island and nearby

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Destination expert
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Surfing in Vazon Bay is one of the best things to do in Guernsey

Whether you want to jump into deep natural rock pools or take bracing walks along floral cliff paths, Guernsey and its neighbouring islands offer boundless outdoor adventures. History buffs will be thrilled with the remnants of the Second World War German occupation, and the traces left by the artists Renoir and Turner and the writer Victor Hugo.

Trips to the car-free islands of Sark and Herm are like stepping straight into an Enid Blyton novel, while farther north in Alderney you can spot one of the largest communities of northern gannets in Europe.

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All our recommendations below have been hand selected and tested by our resident destination expert to help you discover the best things to do in Guernsey. Find out more [below](#), or for more [Guernsey](#) inspiration, see our guides to the island's [best hotels](#), [restaurants](#) and [bars](#).

Find things to do by area:

- St Peter Port
- South coast
- West coast
- Other islands

St Peter Port

Wheadon's Gin / Rocquette Cider

Try the local tippie

Try Wheadon's Gin at the distillery in the Vivier Bunker on Castle Pier. The bunker was built by the German invading forces to house fuel tanks and is now the Channel Islands Liquor Company's production and bottling site. Alternatively head to wooded Fauxquets Valley, in the heart of the Guernsey countryside, to visit Rocquette Cider which has been producing since 1998.

Insider tip: Join one of the orchard tours at Rocquette and you can explore its extensive orchards, learn details of its craft cider production and taste nine different ciders and fruit liqueurs with cheese and biscuits and homemade apple chutneys.

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Website: ciliquorco.com/pages/guernsey-distillery-rocquettecider.com

Price: £

Hauteville House

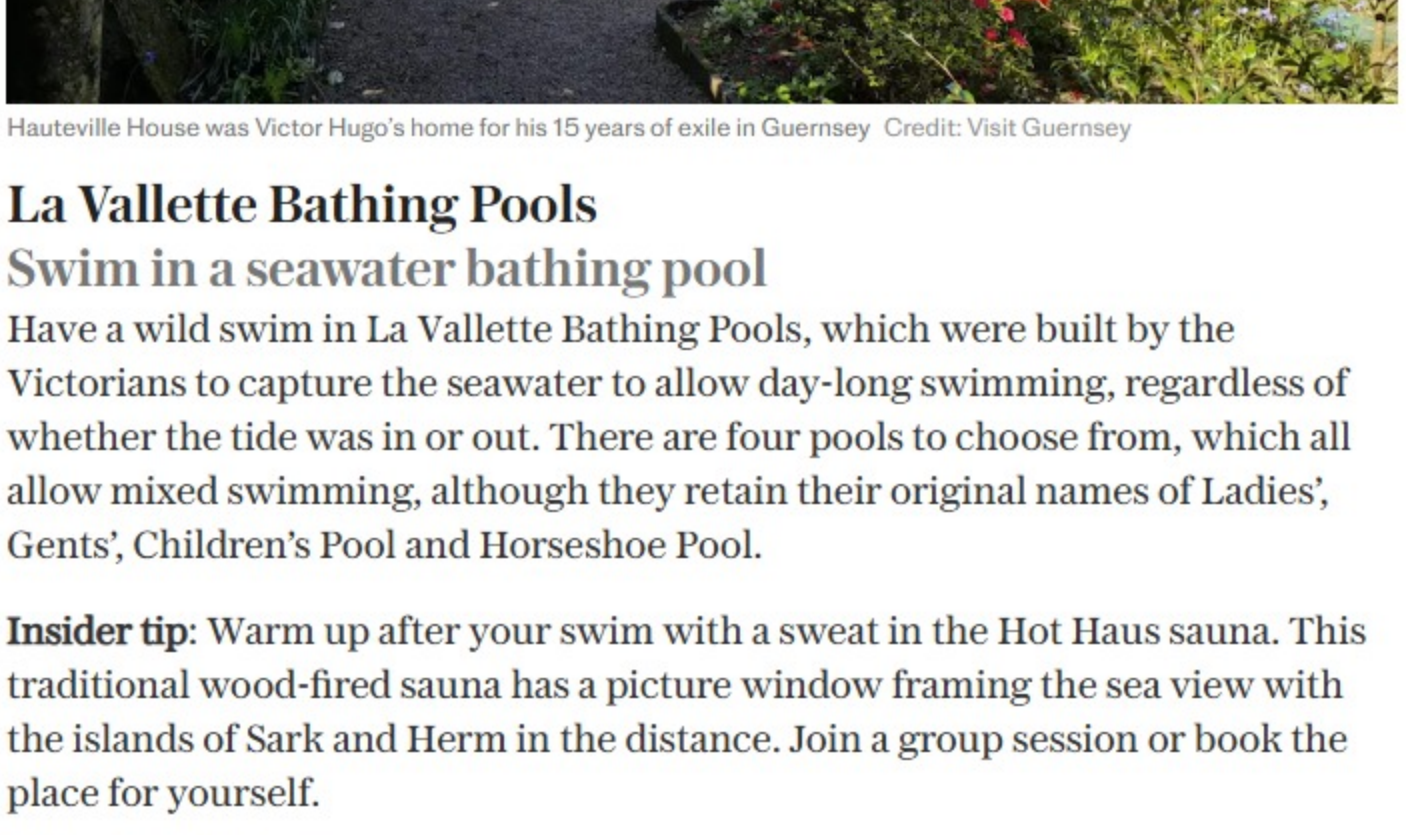
Visit the eccentric home of France's 'Shakespeare'

Visit Victor Hugo's home for his 15 years of exile in Guernsey. At his writing desk in the attic of Hauteville House, Hugo completed *Les Misérables*, while he invested excess creative energy on the interiors. The rooms of this townhouse are works of art in their own right. Tapestry, pottery, paint and woodwork jostle for attention in this house that lets you enter into Hugo's mind.

Insider tip: Hugo hid inscriptions and initials throughout the house. Look out for the Latin phrase *exilium vita est* ("life is exile") above the entrance to the dining room and the "H" formed from ceramic tiles on the dining room chimney breast.

Website: maisonsvictorhugo.paris.fr

Price: £



Hauteville House was Victor Hugo's home for his 15 years of exile in Guernsey. Credit: Visit Guernsey

La Vallette Bathing Pools

Swim in a seawater bathing pool

Have a wild swim in La Vallette Bathing Pools, which were built by the Victorians to capture the seawater to allow day-long swimming, regardless of whether the tide was in or out. There are four pools to choose from, which all allow mixed swimming, although they retain their original names of Ladies', Gents', Children's Pool and Horseshoe Pool.

Insider tip: Warm up after your swim with a sweat in the Hot Haus sauna. This traditional wood-fired sauna has a picture window framing the sea view with the islands of Sark and Herm in the distance. Join a group session or book the place for yourself.

Website: hothaus.gg

Price: £

Department stores

Enjoy tax-free shopping

The Bailiwick of Guernsey is separate from the UK with its own jurisdiction and its own tax. It still has pound notes and has never been in the EU. One exciting consequence of this for the British visitor is that Guernsey has chosen not to impose a goods tax and so items are 20 per cent cheaper than they would be in the UK.

Insider tip: For a high-ticket item head to Guernsey's licensed Apple seller, where you can pick up the latest iPhone or Mac for a considerably cheaper price than in the UK. Or visit the 100-year-old Creaseys department store for a range of homeware, clothing and electrical items.

Website: iguernsey.com/creaseys.com

Price: £-£££

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South coast

Moulin Huet Bay

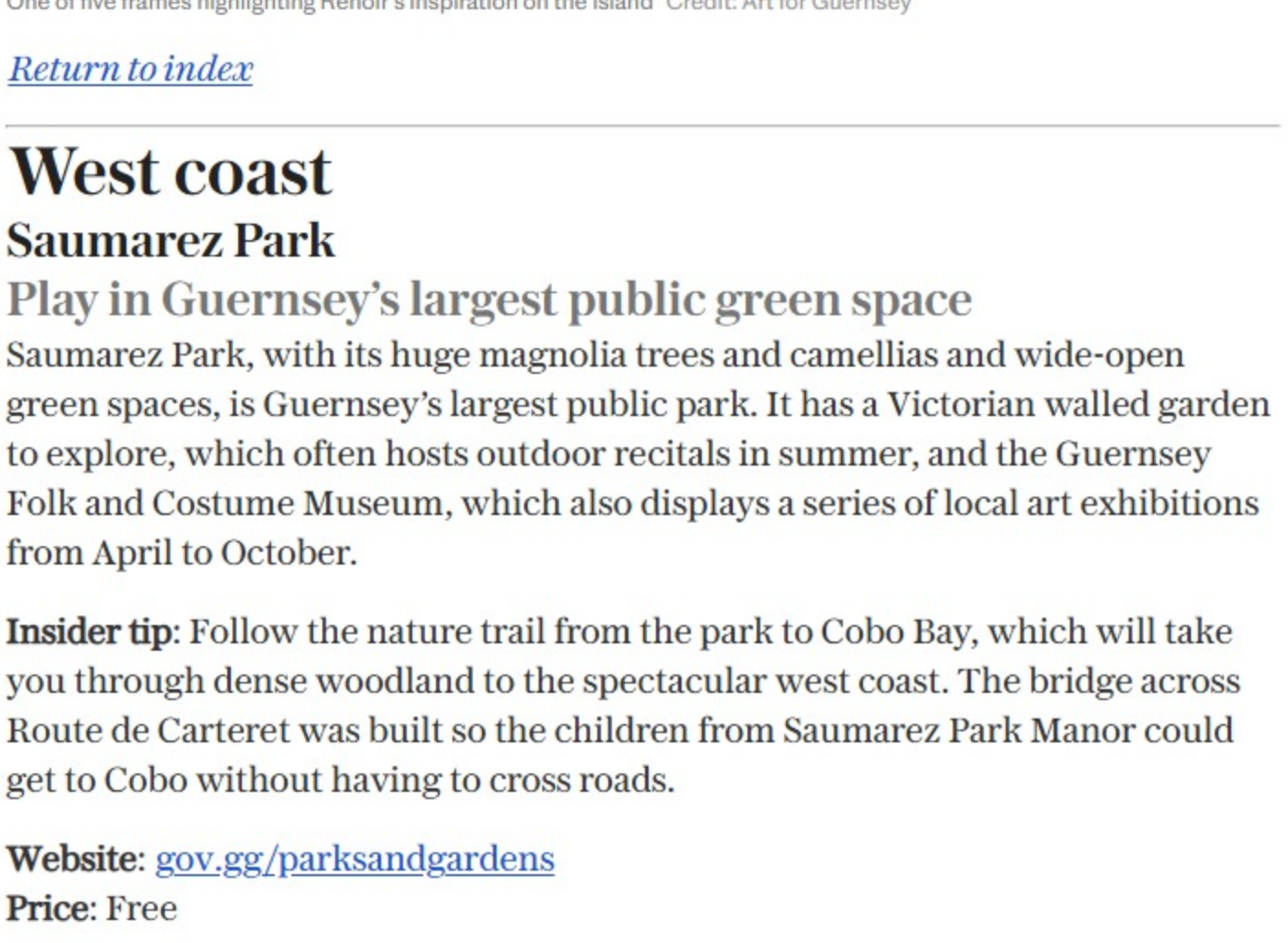
Follow in the footsteps of Renoir

The leading impressionist Pierre-Auguste Renoir was so inspired by Moulin Huet Bay on Guernsey's south coast that he painted a series of 15 oil paintings during a month-long summer holiday to the island in 1883. He is known to have remarked: "What a pretty little place! What pretty paths! Superb rocks, beaches such as Robinson must have had on his island."

Insider tip: Take the self-guided Renoir walk and you can visit five empty frames that have been placed at the spots where Renoir probably stood to paint the famous scenes. At each frame you can listen to an audio guide by an art historian.

Website: artforguernsey.com/exhibitions/the-renoir-walk

Price: Free



One of five frames highlighting Renoir's inspiration on the island. Credit: Art for Guernsey

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West coast

Saumarez Park

Play in Guernsey's largest public green space

Saumarez Park, with its huge magnolia trees and camellias and wide-open green spaces, is Guernsey's largest public park. It has a Victorian walled garden to explore, which often hosts outdoor recitals in summer, and the Guernsey Folk and Costume Museum, which also displays a series of local art exhibitions from April to October.

Insider tip: Follow the nature trail from the park to Cobo Bay, which will take you through dense woodland to the spectacular west coast. The bridge across Route de Carteret was built so the children from Saumarez Park Manor could get to Cobo without having to cross roads.

Website: gov.gg/parksandgardens

Price: Free

Vazon Bay

Take to the water

The glorious Vazon Bay is home to Guernsey's largest and most popular beach for water sports. On a windy day, you'll find dozens of kitesurfers doing tricks in the water. If you want to have a go at normal surfing, then you can book yourself in for a surf lesson with Guernsey Surf School, which hires out boards and teaches novices.

Insider tip: If the surf's not up then go to neighbouring Cobo Bay, where you can hire a paddleboard or kayak from Outdoor Guernsey. You can also hire a wetsuit if you don't want to brave the cold water of the Channel.

Website: guernseysurfschool.co.uk; outdoorguernsey.gg/hire-kayaks-and-surfs

Price: £-££



Guernsey Surf School offers surfing lessons

Lihou

Bathe in the Venus pool

Take advantage of the low tide and walk across the causeway to the tiny island of Lihou, just off the west coast of Guernsey. This unpopulated island is a wetland and marine conservation site, home to 150 species of bird and more than 200 species of seaweed. You can also spot the ruins of a 12th-century priory from when monks lived there.

Insider tip: If you like to dive into your swims head first, make sure you take a dip in the deep natural "Venus pool". The cold water might take your breath away, but wild swimming doesn't get much more picturesque.

Website: lihouisland.com

Opening times: Accessible only at low tide – check tide times

Price: Free

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Other islands

Herm

Explore the nature-filled island

Tiny car-free Herm, with its white-sand "shell beach" at Belvoir Bay and its criss-cross of walking paths through its grassy interior, is a wonderful day trip from Guernsey. Explore Manor Village with its tiny 11th-century chapel and look out for the one-cell prison, possibly the smallest in the world. Stop for a drink at the Mermaid Tavern to hear the local gossip.

Insider tip: Watch out for seals, puffins and dolphins on the boat across. Puffins breed here from mid-March to July and you can book a one-hour Herm Explorer Wildlife Voyage RIB trip from Guernsey to get up close.

Website: herm.com/islandribovoyages.com/experiences/herm-explorer

Price: £



Herm is family friendly, with opportunities for spotting local wildlife

Sark

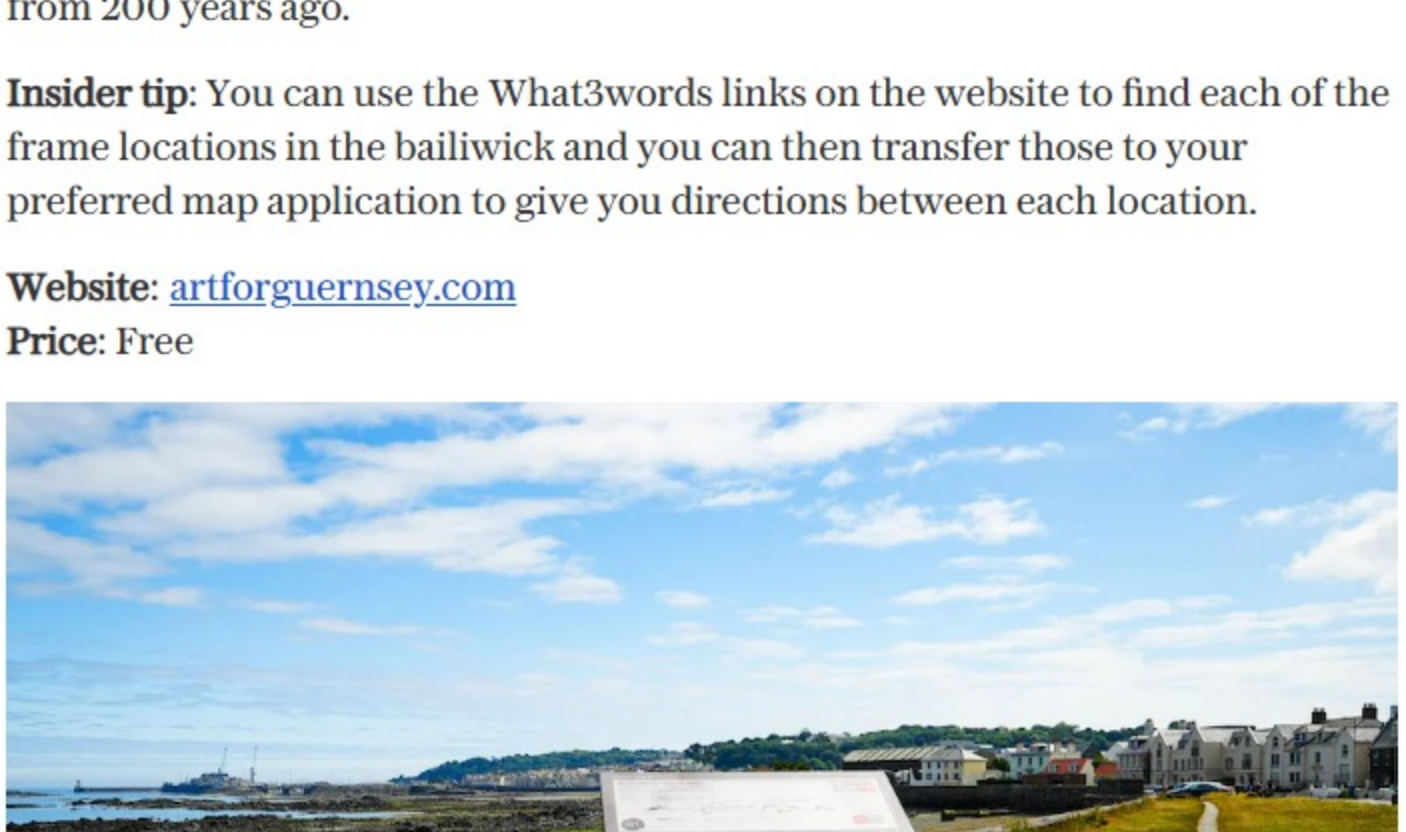
Leave the motorised vehicles behind

Taking the tractor-pulled bus from the harbour will be your only experience of a motorised vehicle in Sark. When you get to the high street, you'll find horses and carriages waiting to transport you on a sightseeing ride, or you can rent a bicycle from the hire shop. Make sure you see the Seigneurie Gardens in the grounds of the manor, considered the best in the Channel Islands.

Insider tip: Little Sark is attached to Sark by a narrow causeway called La Coupée. At about 80m above sea level it's a dramatic place for a selfie. Pop into Caragh Chocolates before you cross La Coupée to stock up on snacks.

Website: sark.co.uk; caraghchocolates.com

Price: ££



Sark is car-free and a scenic day trip destination

Alderney

Explore its fortifications

Did you know you can spot blonde hedgehogs in Alderney? Apparently the population started with a pair of escaped pets bought from Harrods. Alderney is also one of the most fortified places in the world and you can explore Roman, medieval, Victorian and Second World War forts and bunkers. There are cars here, but the speed limit is 35mph.

Insider tip: Pop into the Alderney Wildlife Trust office on Victoria Street in the capital, St Anne, to book a night-time bat and hedgehog-spotting walk, or a daytime boat trip to see the nesting northern gannets on the rocks around the island.

Website: alderneywildlife.org/visit/walks-tours

Price: ££

Turner trail

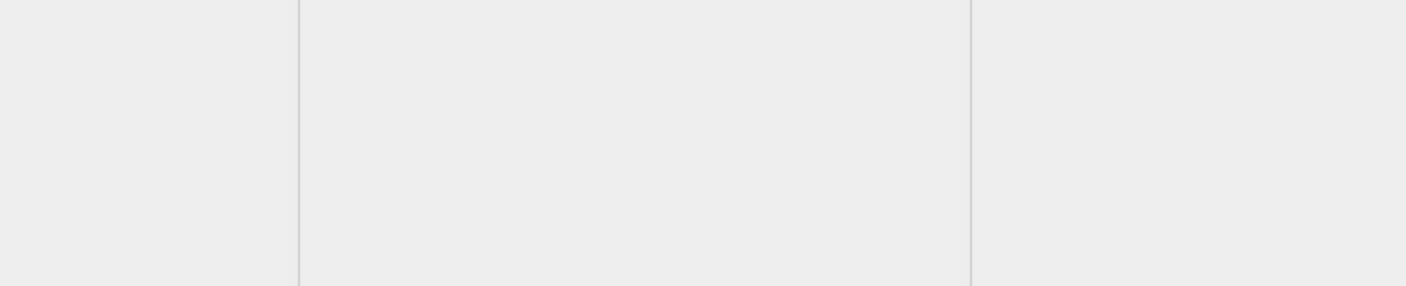
Follow the frames

The artist JMW Turner visited the Channel Islands in 1836 and you can now find 16 frames dotted around the islands, positioned to frame the views that appear in Turner sketches of the period. Frames are on Guernsey, Sark, Herm and Alderney. At each location you can compare the scene today with the sketch from 200 years ago.

Insider tip: You can use the What3words links on the website to find each of the frame locations in the bailiwick and you can then transfer those to your preferred map application to give you directions between each location.

Website: artforguernsey.com

Price: Free



Follow the Turner trail around the islands

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How we choose

Every attraction and activity in this curated list has been tried and tested by our destination expert, to provide you with their insider perspective. We cover a range of budgets and styles, from world-class museums to family-friendly theme parks – to best suit every type of traveller. We update this list regularly to keep up with the latest openings and provide up to date recommendations.

About our expert

Antonia Windsor

I grew up in Jersey listening to my grandparents' tales of the German occupation and in adulthood ventured across the water to explore the rival islands of Guernsey, Alderney, Sark and Herm. I now know all the islands inside out and write extensively about them.

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