

Living in Guernsey



The Bailiwick and Deanery of Guernsey is a group of islands located within the Gulf of St. Malo off the north-west coast of France.

Guernsey is the largest of the islands, and has a population of 64,844 (December 2023). Alderney, to the north, has a population of 2,187 people whilst Sark has a resident population of 562, although this figure increases in the summer months.

Guernsey is a beautiful, vibrant and safe place to live, a thriving and entirely modern community that maintains a healthy respect for its culture and traditional values. It is situated only 27 miles from the Normandy coast, and some 70 miles from the United Kingdom.



Guernsey's loyalty is to the British Crown, although the island is a self-governing jurisdiction.

Part of the Duchy of Normandy from before the Norman Conquest of England, the Channel Islands were retained by the Kings of England when Normandy was lost in 1204. Guernsey and Jersey have remained as two separate crown dependencies, each with their own laws and customs based historically on Norman law. The Channel Islands are geographically a part of the British Isles, but *not* in the United Kingdom. However, the UK government is responsible for the Bailiwick's international representation and defence.

Guernsey is approximately 9 miles by 6 miles (just over 25 sq miles). The capital, St Peter Port, is delightful, with its cobbled streets and a mixture of small boutiques and other shops and banks. In addition, there are many restaurants, bistros and cafes offering a wide range



of cuisine with many featuring fresh local seafood. Over 19,000 people live in St Peter Port.

Guernsey offers a completely different way of life to the U.K. The island has stunning views from the cliff paths, beautiful walks, sandy beaches and cycle routes. Sport and the arts play an important part of life in Guernsey. There is a vibrant voluntary sector. The churches are significant in Guernsey's life.



The **economy** was, until the 1960s, primarily based on agriculture and tourism. As these industries have declined, Guernsey has become a major international finance centre.

Guernsey's currency is the pound sterling. The States (the Island's Government) issue their own bank notes and coins. UK currency is also used.

Communications between Guernsey and the UK are excellent – whether through high-speed internet or through air links to various parts of England. There are regular sea crossings, by high-speed ferry to Poole or the conventional daily ferry service to Portsmouth.



Recognising that most of its clergy have significant family and social connections to the UK, the Deanery of Guernsey pays an annual grant towards the cost of off-island travel for priests and their immediate dependent family members.



On-island health care is very good, and residents have access to specialist services in the UK when this is necessary. The Deanery of Guernsey pays for primary health insurance cover for clergy and their resident dependents. A reciprocal agreement allows Guernsey residents to receive emergency care through the National Health Service in the UK.



Educational provision is made at primary and secondary level, Young people from Guernsey can attend UK universities. As Guernsey students are not eligible to apply for funding from the UK Student Loans Company, Guernsey students choosing to study at university are supported through a means-tested grant scheme. More detailed information is available at <https://www.gov.gg/education>



The independent colleges educate over 30% of the Island's children, whereas only 6% of children in the UK are educated in independent schools.

Living and working in Guernsey

A useful introduction to Guernsey can be found at www.visitguernsey.com (although the website is designed to inform visitors and to encourage tourists).

External transport

By air



Guernsey has regular flights to a range of UK destinations. Flights from London Gatwick take as little as 45 minutes, with those from regional airports taking upwards of 30 minutes. Regular flights operate from major UK airports all year round, as well as some additional seasonal services further afield in Europe.

Guernsey's airline, Aurigny, provides regular flights from Guernsey to various destinations.

There are daily flights to eight UK airports, Paris, Jersey and Alderney. In addition, there are regular seasonal services to Dublin, Grenoble and other destinations in Europe. British Airways also fly a daily service to London Heathrow.

Air travel is not cheap (not least because Guernsey is not served by budget airlines). But services are reliable. 'Official' travel costs are reimbursed, and, as mentioned above, the Deanery Board of Finance pays travel grants for family members.

By sea

There are regular ferries to Portsmouth and Poole, as well as Jersey and France. Ferries to Guernsey from the UK take as little as three hours. A traditional ferry operates in all weathers, and all-year-round, from Portsmouth.

There are also regular ferries from Guernsey to Sark and Herm.



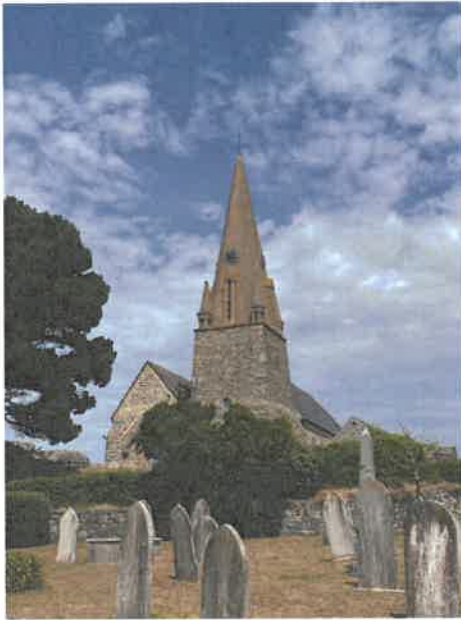
Immigration and nationality

There are no restrictions on British Citizens or persons who otherwise have the right of abode in the United Kingdom and Islands under the provisions of the Immigration Act 1971 taking up residence or conducting business in the Island.

However, due to the size of the Island and the density of the population, there are strict controls on who may occupy dwellings in Guernsey, governed by the Population Management (Guernsey) Law, 2016.

There are two categories of dwellings: 'open market' which are freely available for occupation and 'local market' which may be occupied only by persons with residential qualifications or by licence holders. The Dean and Rectors of the ancient parishes, as holders of Crown offices, are exempt from the requirements of the law.

The Deanery of Guernsey will ensure, as part of the appointment process, that a priest appointed to a post in Guernsey (together with his or her spouse and any dependent children



accompanying them) will have the appropriate permission to occupy the house provided for them and to work in Guernsey. However, they will only gain permanent residential qualifications if the priest remains in post for 15 years. Any children will only qualify in their own right for continuing residence in Guernsey if they are first resident in Guernsey with their parents, as minors, and have 15 years residence in a 25 year period. .

Cost of living

Value added tax and other forms of sales taxes are not (yet) payable in Guernsey. However, the prices of certain items - particularly food and fuel, may be higher than in the United Kingdom.

Income tax

The standard rate of Income Tax is 20 pence in the pound. There is no capital gains tax, capital transfer tax, estate duty, inheritance tax, purchase tax, turnover tax, value added tax or wealth tax in Guernsey.

Social security

All residents of Guernsey and Alderney are required to register for Social Security. Contributions for employed persons are collected through their employer's payroll system (by the Church Commissioners for Anglican clergy). Benefits paid include those related to sickness, old age pension, healthcare, long term care, maternity, bereavement and unemployment.



Health

The States of Guernsey commits a significant proportion of the Island's annual budget to health and social care, reflecting the high standard of these services within the Island and the value placed on ensuring healthy living.



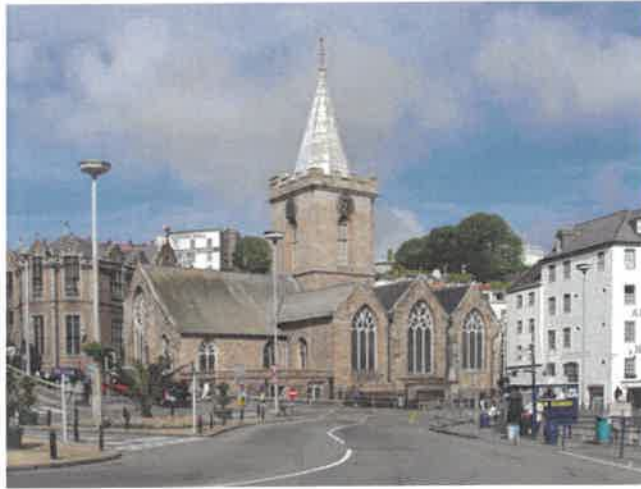
The healthcare system in Guernsey is different to that of the National Health Service in the UK. All primary care is provided on a private basis whilst some secondary care and specialist services are free. Specialist (secondary care) services are only accessed via a referral from a GP. There is a reciprocal health agreement between Guernsey and the UK.

The Deanery of Guernsey arranges and funds private health insurance for clergy and their families.

GP visits, A&E visits, ambulance use and physiotherapy requested by the GP incur a charge – but this charge is covered by the health insurance scheme.

Everyone who normally lives in Guernsey and is registered for the payment of Social Security contributions is covered by the ‘Specialist Health Insurance Scheme’ and so may receive specialist care and treatment free of charge.

The Medical Specialist Group consultants provide the emergency and elective specialist medical services for the Bailiwick of Guernsey. These consultants provide the majority of medical services, including surgery, undertaken at the Island’s hospital.



There are a number of services available to help those who are raising a family in Guernsey:

- Health visiting is a universal service offered to all families with pre-school children;
- The School Health Service is committed to promoting and maintaining the health of school age children; and
- The Children’s Dental Service provides a dedicated dental service for pre-school and school age children with particular needs, and dental health screening of children at their 3 year developmental check and also at 5, 10 and 12 years of age in school, together with a programme of oral health promotion.

Vehicles and Driving Licences



New residents who import a car with them into the island, that has previously been registered in another jurisdiction, need to re-register it in Guernsey within 14 days of their arrival. A current registration documentation for the vehicle from the country in which it is currently registered is required.

New residents who already have a driving licence issued in another jurisdiction, must apply to exchange their foreign licence for a Guernsey licence within one year of arriving.

