

Discover Guernsey



Find out more about what Guernsey
has to offer as your new home.

giba
GUERNSEY INTERNATIONAL
BUSINESS ASSOCIATION



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Welcome to Guernsey

Located 26 nautical miles off the coast of France, Guernsey has a rich history. It's long been a favourite destination for artists and writers, and is known for its stunning coastline and sandy beaches, but it is also home to a thriving finance industry that offers specialist services to a sophisticated global audience.

As they say in Guernsey, à la perchôine (see you soon)!

Guernsey may only measure 25 square miles, but it is a global player in the insurance, banking, private wealth and fund management sectors.

The island offers the best of all worlds - a financial centre to develop your career, a safe community to bring up a family and an outdoor playground to enjoy a healthy lifestyle.



Discovering a Work-Life Balance

Many professionals have discovered that Guernsey, with its thriving financial services industry, is the ideal location to enjoy a high-flying career balanced with a healthy lifestyle outside of work.

Working in Guernsey

One of Guernsey's key attractions is its status as a financial centre of excellence. Its proximity to the UK and well-connected, professional business community mean that it truly keeps pace with the City of London. The island is globally recognised for its quality, stability and innovation and it provides first-rate financial services to global clients including:



Banking



Fund management and administration



Private wealth management



Insurance



Offshore law

The presence of Guernsey's GTA University Centre means many industry qualifications can be accessed on the island, along with seminars, lectures and updates to ensure you can stay at the cutting edge of your industry.

With an emerging fintech sector, the **Digital Greenhouse** acts as a focal point for the growth of innovation.



Discovering a Work-Life Balance

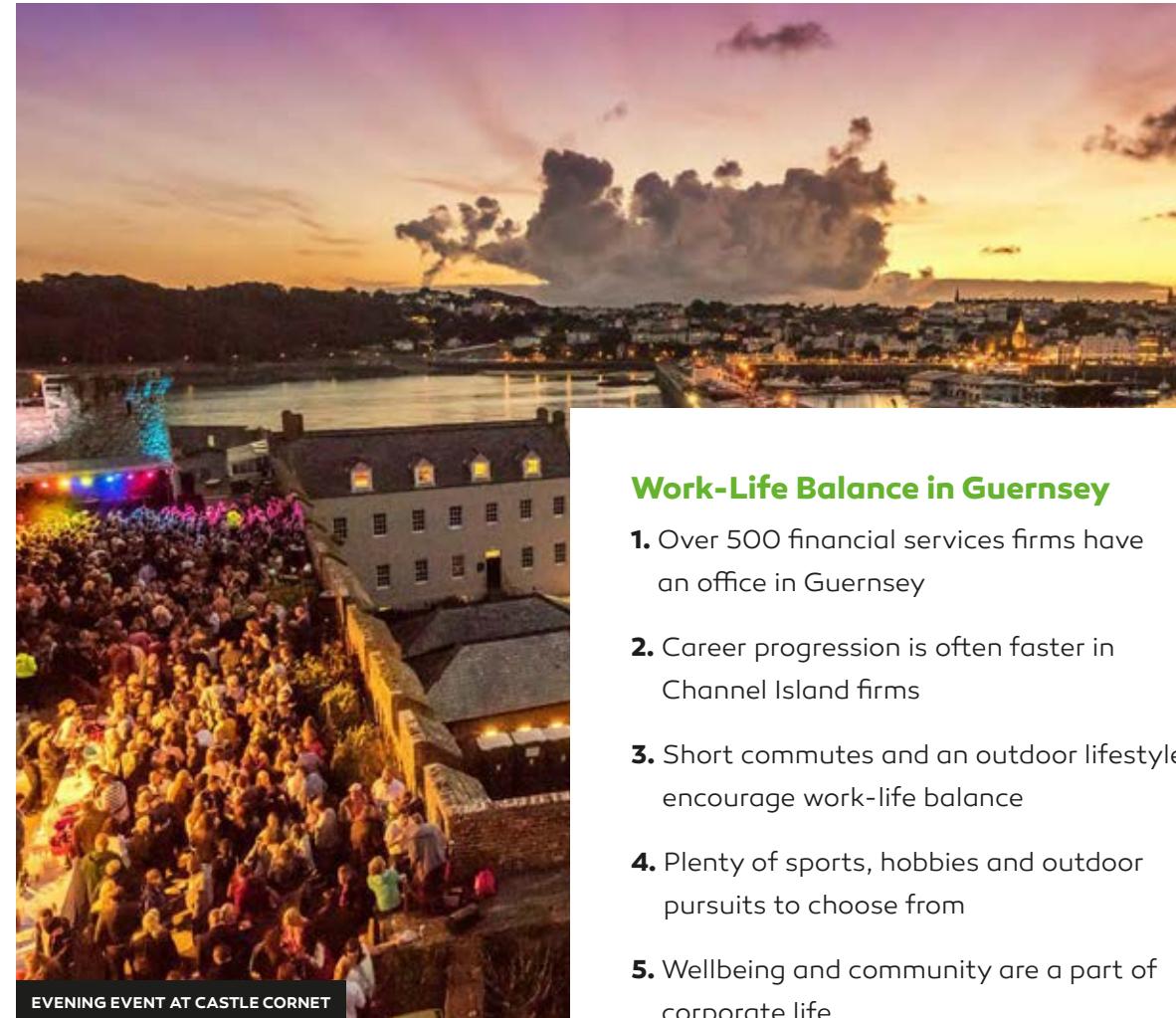
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Making the Most of Island Life

Guernsey's capital, St Peter Port, offers many of the perks of a cosmopolitan city, with few of the downsides. The financial hub moves at a relaxed pace and home is rarely more than a short drive, cycle or walk away.

Corporate wellness has also become a key priority for the majority of businesses in the Bailiwick. Employees are often encouraged to support Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiatives that actively help and engage with the local community.

For more ideas of how to enjoy your downtime jump to page 18 ➔



Work-Life Balance in Guernsey

1. Over 500 financial services firms have an office in Guernsey
2. Career progression is often faster in Channel Island firms
3. Short commutes and an outdoor lifestyle encourage work-life balance
4. Plenty of sports, hobbies and outdoor pursuits to choose from
5. Wellbeing and community are a part of corporate life

Guernsey's Thriving Finance Sector

Guernsey is a global finance centre, with 50 years' experience providing specialist solutions to sophisticated clients.

The island has developed numerous leadership positions in financial services. The breadth and depth of expertise present in Guernsey has created a substantial finance industry which in turn provides excellent opportunities for career progression.

The island's multi-faceted financial services sector is represented by the **Guernsey International Business Association (GIBA)**, with our member associations covering the banking, funds, fiduciary, insurance and investment sectors and the related legal and accounting professional services industries. Further details are available at www.giba.gg.

As you'd expect from a modern global finance centre, Guernsey has a responsive and responsible internationally recognised regulatory regime and is leading the way in new sectors such as green finance.

For more information about the island's role in international finance, visit the **Guernsey Finance** website.



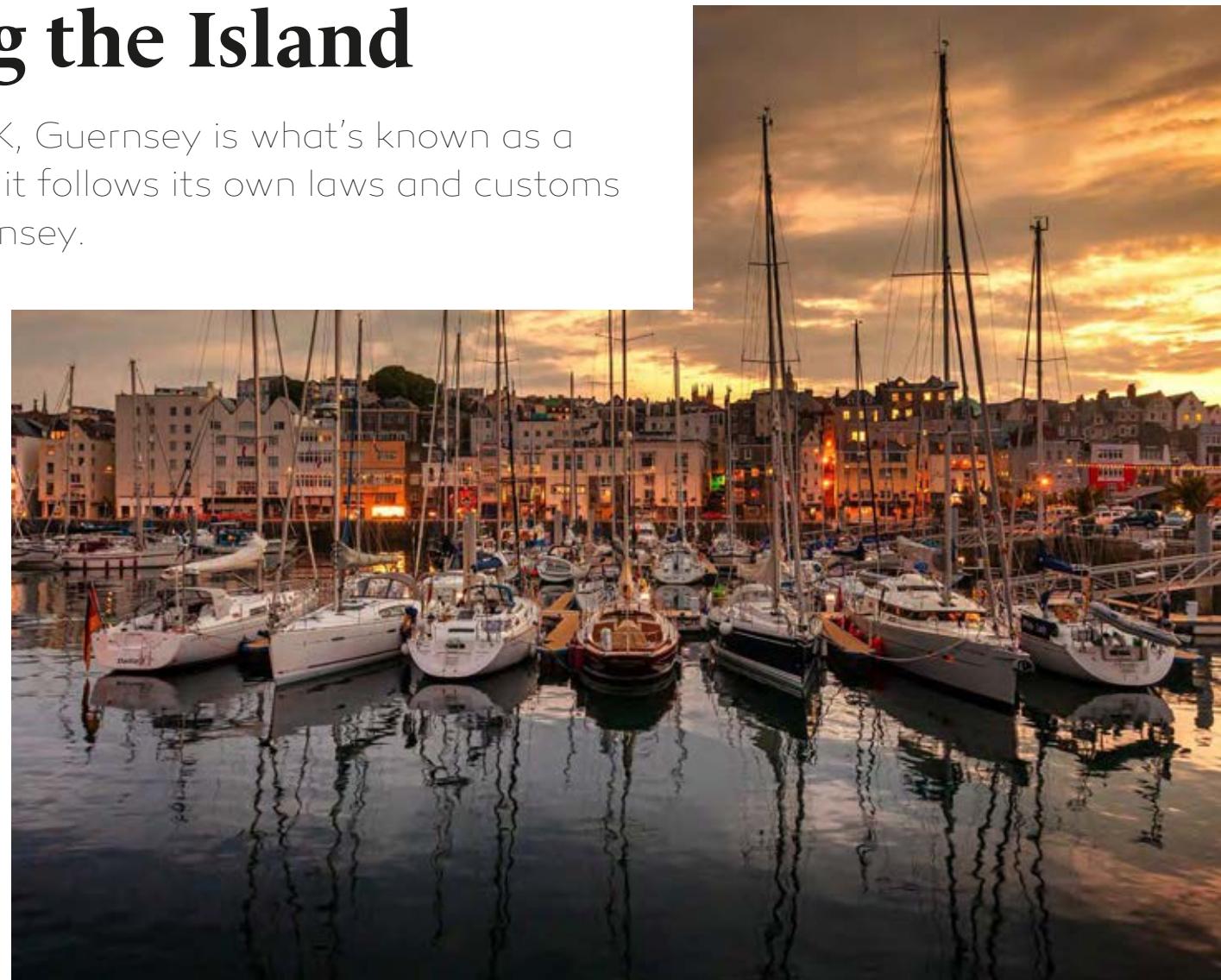
Understanding the Island

Despite its proximity to the UK, Guernsey is what's known as a Crown Dependency, meaning it follows its own laws and customs defined by the States of Guernsey.

The island is effectively independent but comes under the protective wing of the British Government when it comes to international security. It is known for its stability, independence and security - increasingly desirable qualities for those who live here and do business with the jurisdiction.

Discover the benefits of working in Guernsey. [Jump to page 04](#) ➔

The Bailiwick of Guernsey also includes the smaller neighbouring islands of Sark, Herm and Alderney which, together with Jersey, form the Channel Islands.



Understanding the Island Continued



A Little History

The island has lived under the rule of the Romans, French armies and British kings, and in more recent history was occupied by the German army during World War II. Nowadays, the UK is Guernsey's biggest trading partner but the island has its own banknotes and system of government.

The States of Guernsey is comprised of elected deputies and a committee-based style of government sits for a term of four years.

Did You Know?

*The island was home to Victor Hugo, who wrote *Les Misérables* and *Toilers of the Sea* whilst he was living in exile in Guernsey.*

Pierre-Auguste Renoir captured one of Guernsey's most beautiful bays, Moulin Huet, in 15 different pictures during a visit to the island in 1855.

Guernsey has its own language, Guernésiais, and many road signs and surnames have French origins.

Learn more about the island lifestyle. [Jump to page 16](#) ➔

Practicalities of Living in Guernsey

Guernsey is known for its warm welcome, making it easy to settle in and enjoy island life; here are a few practicalities to think about before arriving to make your journey even smoother.

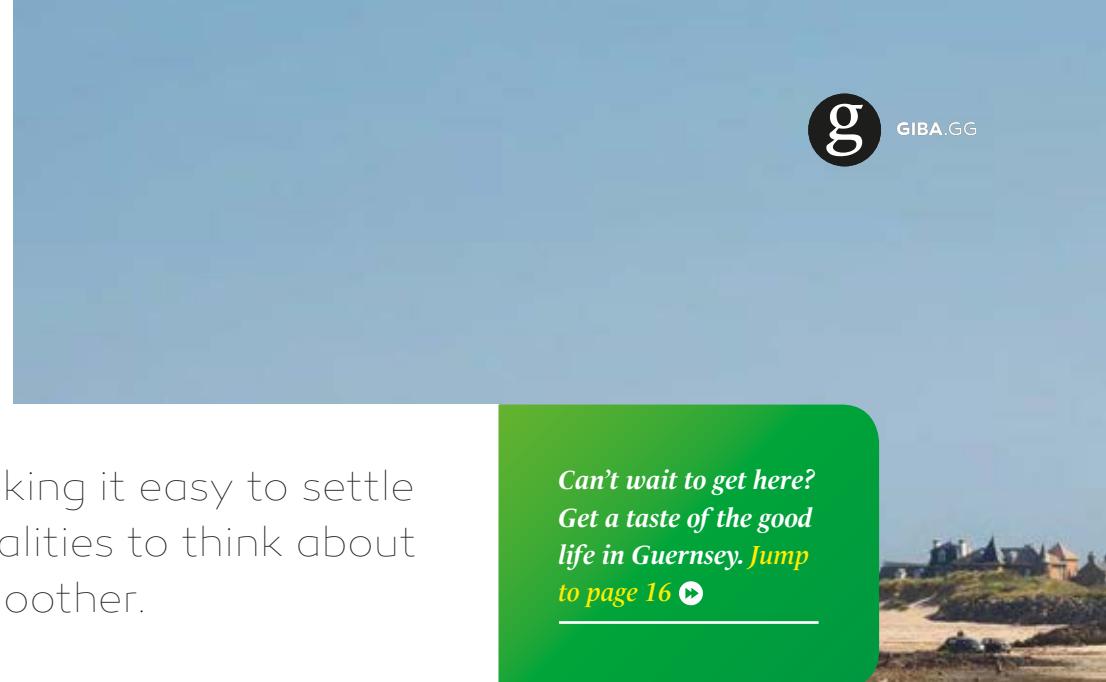
Your Health in Good Hands

Guernsey has an excellent healthcare system, accessed through its numerous medical centres and the Princess Elizabeth Hospital (PEH). Secondary or specialist care is delivered through the Medical Specialist Group.

GP practices are private, although subsidised by your Social Security payments, and any emergency medical treatment you receive also has to be paid by the patient.

Registering with a GP is relatively easy, and patients don't often have to wait long for an appointment. You might also consider health insurance for the whole family, to give you peace of mind that you're covered if you need it.

The local healthcare system also links into the NHS in the UK for specific specialist or emergency care needs.



*Can't wait to get here?
Get a taste of the good
life in Guernsey. [Jump
to page 16 ➔](#)*



Practicalities of Living in Guernsey Continued

Education for All

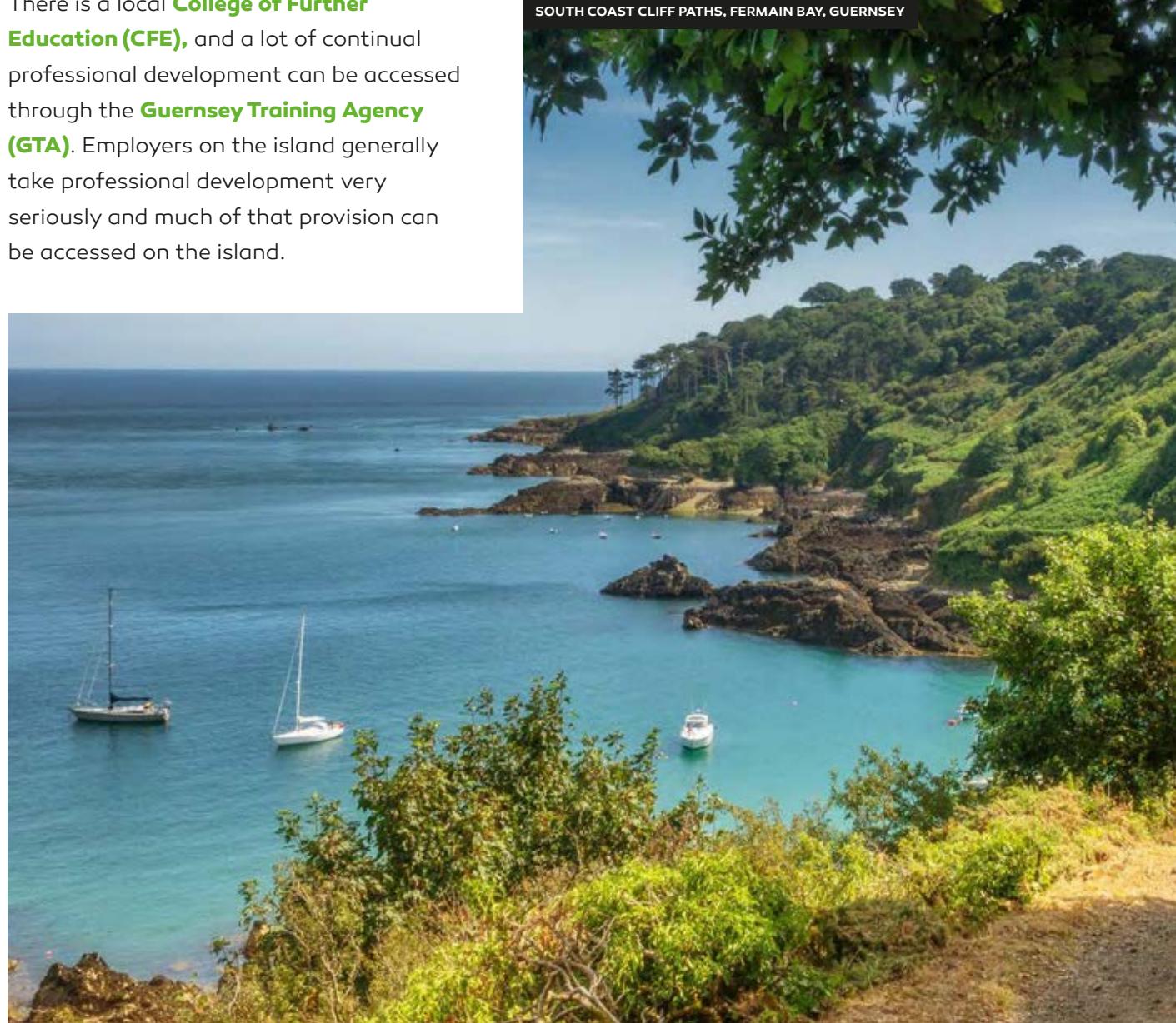
Guernsey's education system has an excellent reputation. Children follow the GCSE and A-level curriculum, and the island also boasts first-class private education via its three independent colleges.

Primary schools are allocated by catchment area and the **education system** in Guernsey is very similar to that in the UK. Children stay in primary education until they are 11, when they move on to secondary school.

Feeling ambitious? Find out more about working in Guernsey. [Jump to page 04](#) ➔

There is a local **College of Further Education (CFE)**, and a lot of continual professional development can be accessed through the **Guernsey Training Agency (GTA)**. Employers on the island generally take professional development very seriously and much of that provision can be accessed on the island.

SOUTH COAST CLIFF PATHS, FERMAIN BAY, GUERNSEY



Practicalities of Living in Guernsey Continued

Travelling - Home and Away

Guernsey has frequent flights to various UK and European destinations with flights from London Gatwick taking as little as 45 minutes.

Regular ferries operate between Guernsey and the UK, as well as to Jersey and France.

Ferries to Guernsey from Poole take as little as three hours and a traditional 'all-weather ferry' operates all year round from Portsmouth.

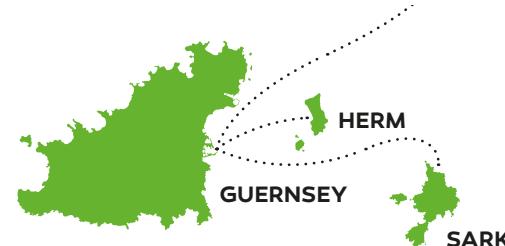
Travelling between the Bailiwick islands is also refreshingly simple - Herm and Sark are easily accessible by ferry from Guernsey and are popular destinations for a day trip or weekend break. Island hopping is a popular summer pastime, with more pristine beaches and secluded coves right on the doorstep.

Guernsey by Numbers

Number of islands in the Bailiwick	4
Number of parishes	10
Population	64,000
Doctors' surgeries	9
Schools	24
Flights to Gatwick per day	6

Bailiwick of Guernsey

 Guernsey to London Gatwick 45m  Guernsey to St Malo 1h55m



Want to island hop?
Jump to page 20 ➔



Countryside or
coast? Pick a place
to call home. Jump
to page 12 ➔

Finding Your Dream Island Home

From coastal and countryside locations boasting traditional Guernsey granite cottages to modern apartments and new-builds, the island has an impressive spectrum of properties across its 10 parishes. Whatever your personal preference, whether you rent or buy, you're sure to find your dream home.



Understanding Guernsey's Property Market

Guernsey is unique in that it operates a two-tier property structure for both rental and sales properties:

- **Local Market** is available for locals and for Employment Permit holders.
- **Open Market** is for anyone who holds a British or EEA passport. If you hold a Certificate or Permit to live in the Open Market you can undertake any employment.

Open Market properties do tend to be more expensive than those in the Local Market, however subject to any immigration restrictions you will find this a very easy way to establish yourself in Guernsey.

The **Population Management Office** processes all Certificate and Permit applications online.

Choosing a Property Partner

The island's estate agents are used to helping people from the UK and beyond to find a home in Guernsey.

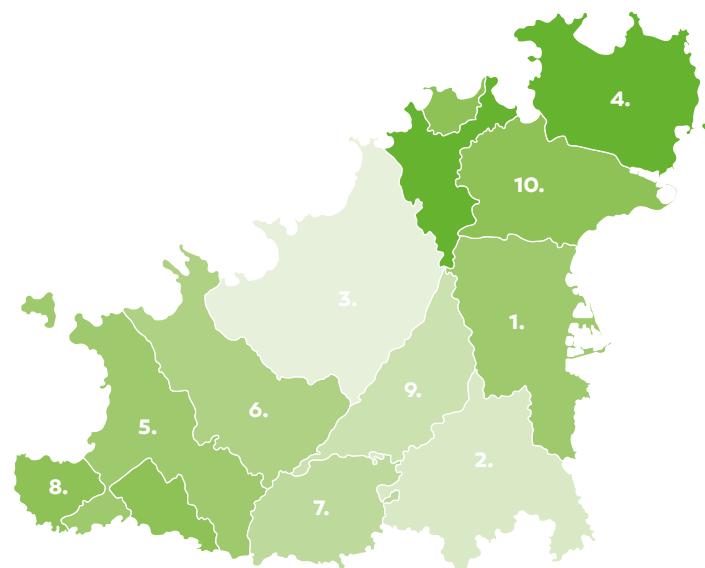
**Swoffers | Living Room | Lovells Property |
Martel Maides | Cooper Brouard**

If you're looking for advice on how a move to Guernsey can help you to achieve that perfect work-life balance [jump to page 04](#) ➔

Finding Your Dream Island Home Continued

Exploring Guernsey's Parishes

Where do you want to put down your roots - coast, countryside, village or town? The island's 10 parishes all have a unique character and a wealth of desirable properties of all sizes to choose from:



1. St Peter Port is the most populated parish and Guernsey's main town. It's famed for its scenic harbour, cobbled streets and rich architectural history.

2. St Martin is one of the most popular parishes. Close to town, it boasts spectacular coastal paths, cliff-top views and winding country lanes.

3. Castel, the island's largest parish, occupies part of the centre of the island while extending down to some of Guernsey's finest beaches on the west coast.

4. Vale includes L'Ancresse Common, the island's largest area of open land, an 18-hole links golf course, beautiful beaches and various fascinating archaeological sites.

5. St Peter is one of the more rural parishes. There is a small village at its centre with a unique church.

6. St Saviour is Guernsey's most rural parish. Boasting rolling countryside and quiet lanes, picturesque valleys lead down from the beautiful parish church.

7. Forest is the highest parish on the island, with leafy lanes that wind down to a stunning coastline.

8. Torteval is the remotest of Guernsey's parishes. Forming the south-western corner of the island, parishioners here have an independent spirit focused around a livelihood earned from boat-building, fishing and the land.

9. St Andrew is the only parish that does not border the sea and is located right in the centre of Guernsey. Its Little Chapel is the main attraction and reputed to be the world's smallest consecrated church.

10. St Sampson is the second largest town in Guernsey and is also affectionately known as 'The Bridge'. Now a recreational marina, the harbour here used to be the export hub of Guernsey's renowned granite industry.

Setting Yourself Up in Your New Island Home

Finding your feet in a new place can feel like a daunting prospect, but most employers are used to helping new staff get settled in.



Setting Yourself up in Your New Island Home Continued

Banking

Most UK high street banks can be found in Guernsey, often as an offshore subsidiary, which simplifies setting up a personal or business bank account. There are also a number of private banks to choose from.

Social Security

Payment of Social Security contributions is compulsory and provides individuals with a number of benefits. Both the employer and employee contribute and you'll just need to register with the **Social Security** services team in person or by post to get started.

Bringing children to the island? For advice on healthcare and education in Guernsey [jump to page 09](#) 

Tax

The island has developed its own system of taxation for its residents. In comparison to many other jurisdictions, **tax in Guernsey** is straightforward; there are caps on the amount of income tax payable by residents and the island has no inheritance, estate or gifts taxes, no wealth tax, no taxes on capital gains and no VAT or sales taxes.

The Guernsey Society of Chartered and Certified Accountants has a number of contacts who can provide tax advice.

GSCCA Guernsey Society of Chartered and Certified Accountants

Guernsey Finance also provides a Business Directory with contact details for a number of accountants and banking advisors.



Cars & Driving

Many new residents choose to bring their car to Guernsey. A verbal declaration to Guernsey Customs is usually sufficient and there's no need to pay any Customs Import Duty.

The vehicle's current and original registration documentation are needed to re-register a car. You also have a year to register for your **Guernsey driving licence**.

For most, driving in Guernsey will be a new and interesting experience. The roads are narrower, road names are often in French and the island has some unique and quaint traffic systems, including filter-in-turns and the tiny Ruettes Tranquilles lanes.

Food, Family and Fun

The island's first-class restaurants, lively pubs, excellent sports facilities, music, arts scene and theatre mean there is a lot to do locally, and because it's all so close, islanders can pack a lot into their weekends and evenings.

Whether you're an adrenaline junkie or into more leisurely pursuits, find an activity that suits you.

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Wining and Dining

If you're a **foodie**, the island offers an impressive dining scene, with a wealth of popular international-standard restaurants and bistros featuring local delicacies. Here are a few of Guernsey's favourites:

Surf

Octopus boasts an extensive seafood selection with stunning views of Castle Cornet.

Situated in the heart of St Peter Port, **Le Nautique** is renowned for its innovative and creative seafood cuisine.

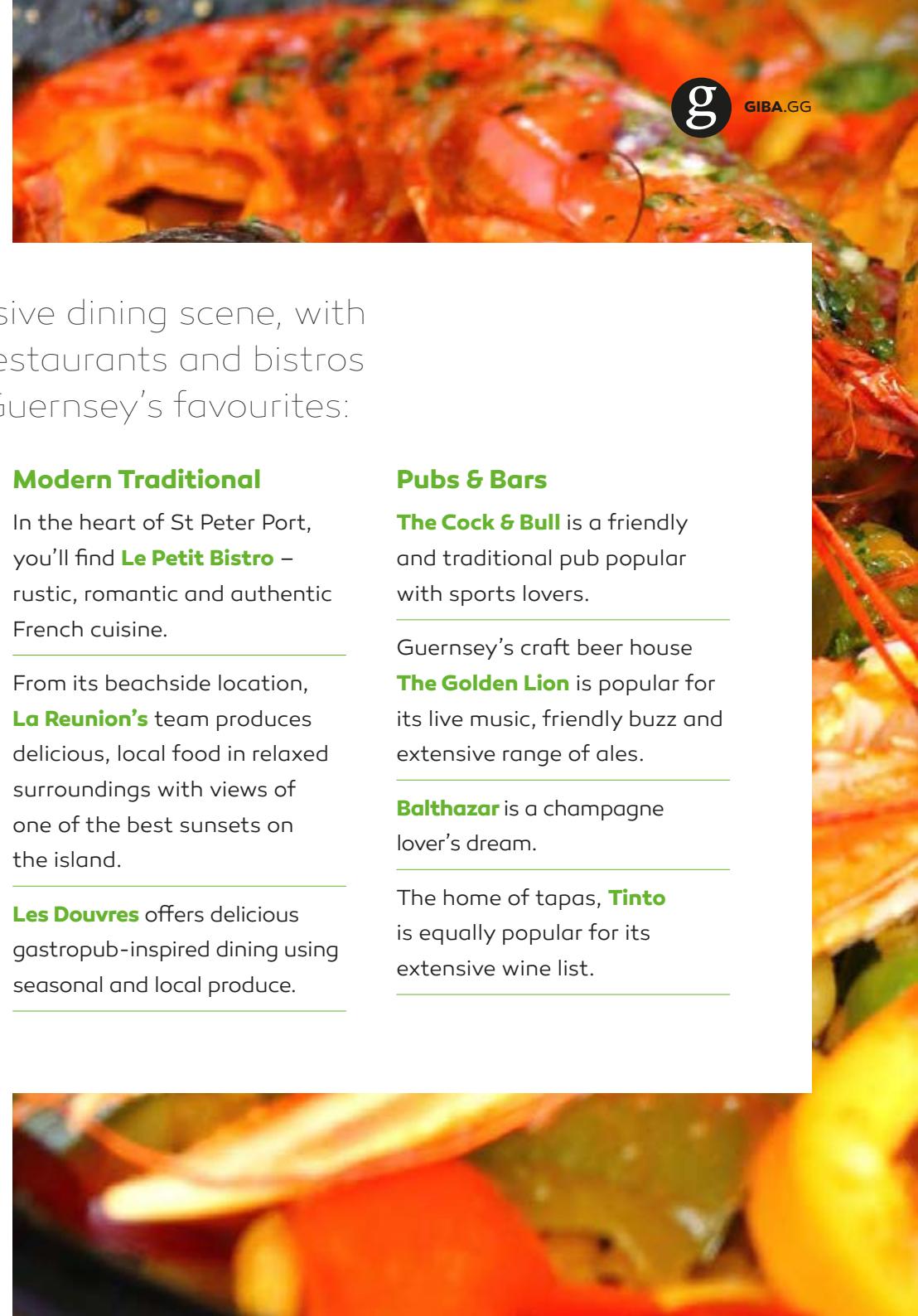
The Hook is renowned for its excellent sushi, with guest DJs playing in its upstairs bar.

Turf

Red prides itself on sourcing the best quality produce, making it the go-to restaurant for steak lovers.

Situated on the edge of the harbour, **The Slaughterhouse** has been reborn with a firm culinary nod to its meaty past.

The Rock Garden serves fine steaks, from Herefordshire-reared fillets to melt-in-the-mouth Brazilian ribeye.



Modern Traditional

In the heart of St Peter Port, you'll find **Le Petit Bistro** – rustic, romantic and authentic French cuisine.

From its beachside location, **La Reunion's** team produces delicious, local food in relaxed surroundings with views of one of the best sunsets on the island.

Les Douvres offers delicious gastropub-inspired dining using seasonal and local produce.

Pubs & Bars

The Cock & Bull is a friendly and traditional pub popular with sports lovers.

Guernsey's craft beer house **The Golden Lion** is popular for its live music, friendly buzz and extensive range of ales.

Balthazar is a champagne lover's dream.

The home of tapas, **Tinto** is equally popular for its extensive wine list.

Making the Most of the Great Outdoors

For such a compact island, Guernsey really packs a punch when it comes to activities that keep the whole family entertained.

In addition to an extensive network of social and sports clubs, the island has a packed events calendar, often making the most of outdoor venues, historic sites and nature.

If wining and dining is more your style, check out our guide to some of Guernsey's best restaurants.
[Jump to page 17](#) ➤



Making the Most of the Great Outdoors Continued

Hitting an Adrenaline High

With its temperate climate and diverse landscape, Guernsey is a mecca for thrill seekers looking to embrace new challenges both on and off the water.

Coasteering, sea swimming, kayaking, paddleboarding and diving are just a few of the sports that make the most of the island's stunning coastline, while landlubbers will be equally thrilled with archery, abseiling, Nordic walking and cycling to name but a few. The surge in popularity of endurance sports, including marathons, triathlons and cross-fit, means clubs have sprung up to support athletes of every level.



Harnessing a Competitive Spirit

Whether you're a spectator or participant, Guernsey is truly proud of its home-grown sports teams. Fans faithful to **Guernsey FC** and **Guernsey Raiders** rugby teams enjoy a season of competitive sport at the squads' Foote Lane home ground, while there are also opportunities to travel for off-island fixtures.

The Guernsey Tennis Centre and **Yacht Club** offer membership options for competitors of every age and ability, while many other sports are offered from Beau Sejour leisure centre and the island's private gyms.

Nature Lovers' Paradise

It's almost impossible not to be captivated by Guernsey's beautiful coastline. The coastal paths provide scenic routes for walkers, while birdwatchers are drawn to the island thanks to its puffin breeding colonies, which are the most southerly in Europe.

Many artists and authors remain enchanted by the island. Literature lovers can walk in the footsteps of French author and poet Victor Hugo, who spent 15 years in exile on the island and took much inspiration from the Bailiwick when producing his work.

Did you know? Guernsey's 33ft tidal range is one of the largest in the world and transforms the coastline around every six hours.

Exploring the Beautiful Bailiwick

Island hopping is a way of life in Guernsey. The Bailiwick's other three islands offer their own unique charm, beautiful beaches and proud heritage, so a change of scene is only a short ferry or plane journey away.

Love the outdoors? Why not try a new hobby? [Jump to page 18](#)



Exploring the Beautiful Bailiwick Continued

Alderney

Famed for its diverse wildlife and numerous hiking trails, Alderney is truly a nature lover's paradise.

With its tranquil green spaces and beautiful coastline, it's easy to escape the crowds and enjoy a slower pace of life while soaking up the island's rich natural history.

ALDERNEY FACTS:

Size:	7.77km ²
Population:	2,290 (approx)
Distance from Guernsey:	25 miles
Journey time:	20 mins
How to get there:	Flight - Aurigny



Herm

Boasting wide sandy beaches and undulating coastal paths, Herm's laid-back vibe and breathtaking scenery make it the ultimate island retreat.

Only three miles wide, Herm is also home to Europe's most southerly puffin breeding colony and Shell Beach, a stunning stretch of coastline with crystal-clear water.

HERM FACTS:

Size:	1.99 km ²
Population:	60 (approx)
Distance from Guernsey:	3 miles
Journey time:	20 mins
How to get there:	Ferry - Travel Trident

Sark

The self-proclaimed 'Jewel of the Channel Islands', Sark's unspoilt landscape and unique, unpaved roads make you feel like you're truly taking a trip back in time.

Cars are prohibited, making it an appealing option for cyclists and those keen to experience the island's unique charm and world-renowned horse-drawn carriages. It also has Dark Sky status, making it a stargazer's paradise.

SARK FACTS:

Size:	5.44km ²
Population:	500 (approx)
Distance from Guernsey:	10 miles
Journey time:	55 mins
How to get there:	Ferry - Sark Shipping



A Year in Guernsey

Spring/Summer

Liberation Day

Every 9th May, islanders celebrate the liberation of Guernsey from German occupation with a host of family-friendly celebrations.

Guernsey Literary Festival

A regular springtime celebration of books based right in the centre of St Peter Port.

Cobo Balcony Gigs

A major part of Guernsey summers, these gigs bring a real carnival atmosphere to the Cobo seafront whilst raising funds for local charities.



The Harbour Carnival

Held in and around St Peter Port Harbour, the Carnival is a fun-filled fundraising event for all the family.

Hill Climb

Racing cars line up along the seafront in St Peter Port before competing against the clock on this challenging hill climb course.

Candie Gardens Summer Concerts

A series of music concerts and dance recitals performed in the beautiful setting of Candie Gardens.

Seafront Sunday

A series of Sunday summer markets showcasing local delicacies, arts and crafts.

Guernsey Summer Shows

Three back-to-back traditional shows offer islanders the chance to celebrate their horticulture and agriculture with various family-friendly activities.

Normandie Markets

Market stalls from Normandy showcase traditional French delicacies and fresh produce from across the Channel.

Castle Nights

A series of evening events at Castle Cornet featuring live music, singing and fun for all the family.

Autumn/Winter

Guernsey Food Festival

Where food lovers enjoy signature dishes with flavours of the world from Guernsey's finest restaurants.

Proms on the Pier

Guernsey's annual summer finale concert.

Photography Festival (biennial)

Showcasing the best in local and international photography.

Tennerfest

The Channel Islands' most successful and beloved fixed-price food festival.

Christmas Lights

Santa pays both St Peter Port and The Bridge a visit to collect letters from children and to switch on the festive lights.

Christmas Markets

St Peter Port's historic square becomes home to festive street markets, providing shoppers with a unique opportunity to buy locally made gifts.

Herm Christmas Fayre

Travel Trident offers reduced priced trips to Herm to visit the island's annual Christmas market.

Key Contact Numbers and Websites

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