

# All at Sea

You can always rely on the good old BBC. About a week before *The Other Half* and I were due to travel to Jersey, Neil Oliver and the *Coast* team popped up on the TV with a Channel Islands special and a taste of what we might expect. We were intrigued. Unlike Neil, however, a quick, greased-up cross-Channel training swim was not on our agenda!

We had lined up plenty of other activities. The two of us love the outdoor life. So, whilst soaking up the commanding and expansive views overlooking St Aubin's Bay from the balcony of the lovely Cristina Hotel, we planned how to best use every precious, fresh-air filled hour on this jewel of an island.

Helmets on, legs pumping, we were soon travelling by bike. Sure, Jersey's narrow hedge-framed roads are easy to drive around. But nothing beats the wind-blown freedom of gambolling along under your own steam. In fact, we travelled 'in the tracks of steam', crunching through the gears along the old railway line that once ran from St Helier to La Corbière, linking the wide, breezy promenade along St Aubin's Bay to the rocky south-western corner of the island.

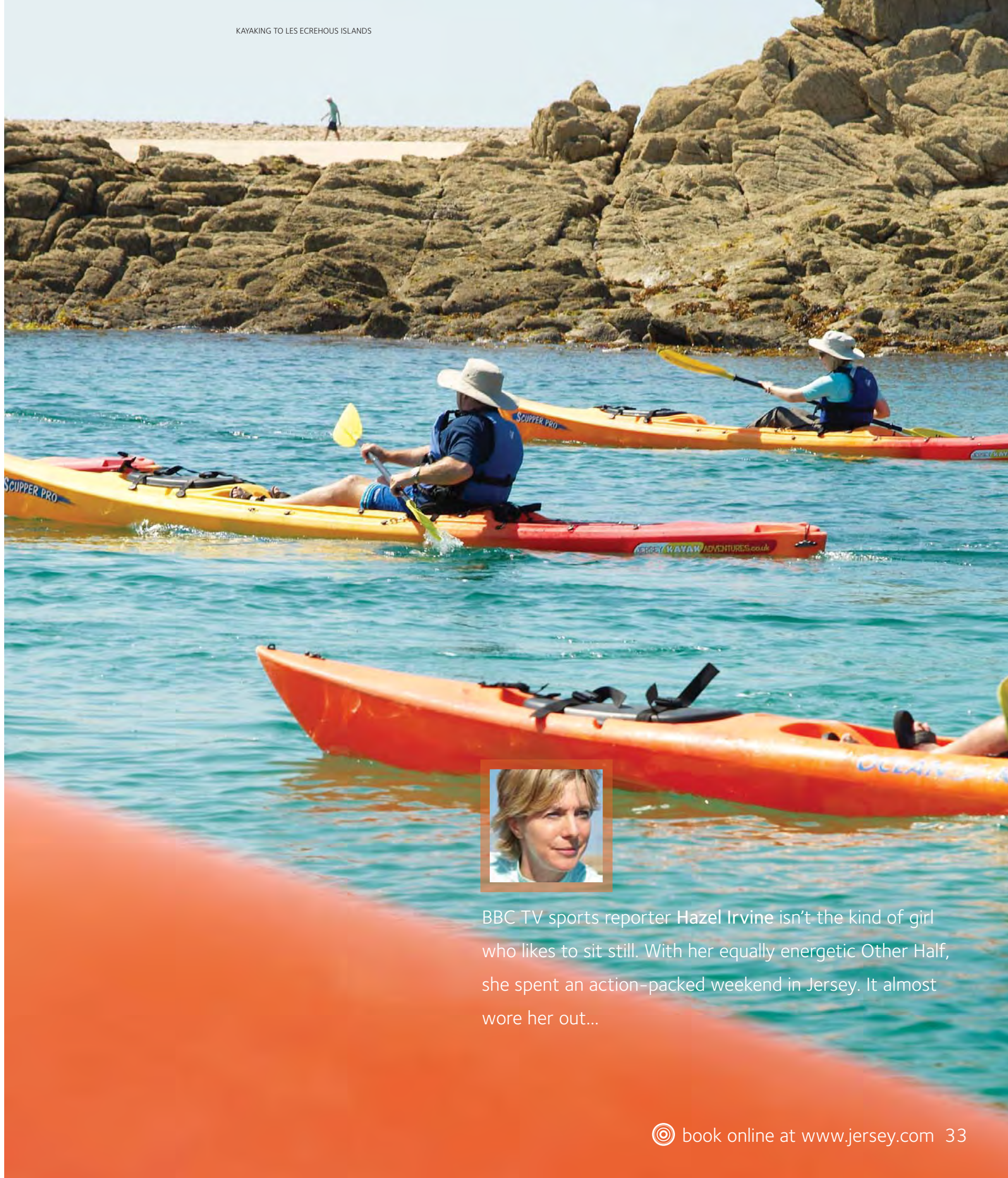
If you've ever battled your way around London on a bicycle, or indeed any major city, you'll certainly appreciate the non-aggressive, stress-free riding available in Jersey. You'll find a large network of designated 'Green Lanes' where vehicular

traffic is restricted to a maximum of 15mph. What a joy. Ken Livingstone, please take note.

As you pedal along, meandering through lanes and pretty villages, there's plenty of time to muse on Jersey's old Norman-French placenames and road signs. It all adds up to an appealing mixture of British home-from-home certainties and stimulating continental sophistication. The variety and quality of the food here underlines this happy cultural co-existence.

Once you reach the end of the old railway line, you're rewarded by views of Corbière Lighthouse, one of Jersey's most recognisable and photographed spots. When we arrived the narrow causeway out to the lighthouse was semi-submerged, waiting for low tide to link it once more to the island. It was a sight that gave us our first indication of the extraordinary tidal range around Jersey, something that we would experience for ourselves over the following days.

Huge 40ft tides – that's about 13m – make Jersey's coastline a constantly expanding and contracting wonderland, to be enjoyed and explored, but only with caution and respect for the power of the sea. Fortunately when we took to the water we were in the hands of an expert, the dynamic Derek Hairon who runs Jersey Kayak Adventures. A paddling *Pied Piper*, Derek guided us through one of the most memorable days I've ever spent anywhere in the world.



BBC TV sports reporter Hazel Irvine isn't the kind of girl who likes to sit still. With her equally energetic *Other Half*, she spent an action-packed weekend in Jersey. It almost wore her out...

'What a weird and wonderful sight these tiny islands are. At high tide all that's visible of Les Ecrehous are a handful of rocky outcrops defiantly sitting above the water line.'



WATCHING THE WILDLIFE



LANDING ON LES ECREHOUS



JERSEY FLAG

Leaving the breakwater at St Catherine on a sunny, flat-calm early morning we powered away on board our 'mothership', *Equinox*, a large RIB (Rigid Inflatable Boat) with Captain Dean at the wheel. We were bound for Les Ecrehous, a granite reef six miles off the north-east coast. So special is this place that I'm almost afraid to say too much about it lest it becomes overrun with visitors and loses its magic.

What a weird and wonderful sight these tiny islands are. At high tide all that's visible of Les Ecrehous are a handful of rocky outcrops defiantly sitting above the water line. Upon them nestle a score of small huts, some of simple grey stone, others whitewashed. They were once fishermen's refuges, which have been passed down through generations of families. Now they're used as the ultimate in getaway holiday cabins. The scene reminded me of a curious collection of Monopoly houses and hotels... perched on a bit of real estate that money just can't buy.

At low tide, things get even better. The surface area of the islands expands by around 80% as the sea drains away to reveal a stony, lunar-style landscape and spectacular crescent-shaped shingle bank.

We unloaded our kayaks from the RIB and settled into our sturdy, buoyant little crafts. With paddle in hand, we began to explore the ever-rising and falling waters around the reef. The Other Half and I are hardly Olympic kayaking material but this kind of waterborne adventuring was, whilst at times energetic, surprisingly straightforward and very relaxing. Pushing through the crystal-clear water I was struck by how peaceful a place this is.

Catching the swooping cries of curlews and oystercatchers, we paddled along the so-called 'Suez Canal' between islands that bear names such as La Marmotiere and Le Bliantque Île. We peered down into the lagoons. Below us long strands of black bootlace weed and fronds of pink feathery

Sargassum were languidly going with the flow of the outgoing tide.

Les Ecrehous lies within virtual touching distance of the French mainland. Indeed fishermen and some French militants famously mounted a mini-invasion of the islands one morning in 1994, determined to wrest them from British sovereignty. They gave up on the idea around lunchtime, ate and went home.

Happily this place still feels like a treasured secret that is shared only by those 'in-the-know' from the two nations. Indeed there were as many Tricolours as Union Jacks flying from the handful of vessels anchored in the main lagoon that balmy Saturday afternoon.

After beaching the kayaks on the main island we enjoyed a well-earned picnic lunch on the shingle beach and wandered around on (then) dry land. Moving up and amongst the little huddle of huts on La Marmotiere we came to a tiny main square. A wall still

bears the official Jersey States 'Customs House' sign sculpted into the stone.

I couldn't help but wonder what it would feel like to be stranded there at high tide in an English Channel storm with the waters rising rapidly around you. A little disconcerting, I shouldn't wonder. Indeed, as Derek regaled us with tales about the islands, I could empathise with one poor fellow who'd had to lash himself to the outside of his hut for survival during a particularly nasty night.

Fortunately for us the warm, serene conditions continued as we mounted an afternoon assault in our kayaks on the now incoming tide. With Derek's tuition, we were able to see the outer reaches of the reef by forcing our way across much faster-running streams of rushing, incoming water. Then, as we circumnavigated the smaller outcrops that poked above the tide, several large seals magically played cat-and-mouse with us as we paddled.

All too soon it was time leave this magical place. As we loaded the kayaks onto Captain Dean's sturdy 'mothership' the sea was already engulfing the islands as quickly as it had deserted them. Les Ecrehous really do stir the imagination. And sitting just a few inches above the water on a kayak is surely the best way to experience this amazing archipelago.

In truth, there's a huge range of outdoor pursuits available in Jersey that will fire your adrenaline and get the blood pumping. On the vast expanse of white sand at St Ouen's Bay we sat down for a while – a little jaded by this point, I confess – and watched scores of wet-suited surfers as they soaked up the sun and the swell. It was a cool, energetic 21st-century Jersey twist on buckets, spades and knotted handkerchiefs.

We did summon enough energy to squeeze in a quick and pleasant nine holes of golf at Wheatlands Golf Course, a venue opened by former Ryder Cup captain Ian Woosnam.

(We're already formulating plans to come back and play the island's other six courses.)

Then, there was just enough time for a last exhilarating blast of salty sea air on board yachtmaster Peter Carnegie's stunning 42ft ocean-going craft, *Caprice*. Our skipper for a four-hour trip off the southern coast of Jersey was the amiable Mark Tucker and his crew James. Although I was a little nervous about taking the helm – *Caprice* is, after all, a splendid and rather expensive vessel – Mark patiently showed me the ropes and I found myself at the wheel as the yacht reached out and tilted into a robust wind. What a thrilling feeling it was, our mainsail gripped and taut, as we surged through the waves at a healthy eight knots.

Talk about a dynamic weekend! The Other Half and I are already carbo-loading in preparation for a return visit...



## An Action-Packed Weekend

Hazel Irvine and her partner stayed at Hotel Cristina, Mont Felard, St Aubin's Bay, Jersey JE3 1JA. It's very comfortable and friendly, with beautiful terraces and stunning views overlooking the bay.  
Tel 01534 758024  
www.dolanhotels.com

They Went Offshore with: Jersey Kayak Adventures, St Clement  
Tel 01534 853138 or 07797 853033  
www.jerseykayakadventures.co.uk

Jersey Sailing  
Tel 01534 851983 or 07797 729240  
www.jerseysailing.com

They Played Golf at: Wheatlands Golf Course, St Peter  
Tel 01534 888877  
www.wheatlandsjersey.com

They Hired Bikes from: Zebra Cycles  
Tel 01534 736556  
www.zebrahire.com



## Outdoor Active

There's a huge range of activities on offer in Jersey. It's an outdoor kind of place, with good weather, big beaches, great surf and inviting seas. And inland, you can go cycling, play golf or get to grips with adventure sports. We have included some samples from our all-action activities scene here. For the full picture go to: [www.jersey.com](http://www.jersey.com)

### Activity Operators

**Active Island Sports**, St Brelade's Bay  
Open All Year.  
Tel 07797 717564  
www.activeislandsports.com

**Adventures Unlimited**, St Martin  
Open all year.  
Tel 01534 873074 or 07797 727503  
www.jerseyadventures.com

**Atlantic Waves School of Surfing**, St Ouen's Bay  
Open May–September.  
Tel 01534 744157 or 07797 718150  
email: atlanticlaneez@hotmail.com

**Conjuring Kites Kitesurfing School**, St Helier  
Open all year.  
Tel 01534 618548 or 07797 727207  
email: seakites@aol.com

**Extreme Jersey**  
Open all year.  
Tel: 07797 717564 & 07797 736411  
www.extremejersey.com

**Gorey Watersports**, Grouville  
Open daily 10am–5pm July and August.  
Tel 07797 816528  
www.goreywatersports.com

**Jersey Aero Club**, Airport, St Peter  
Open all year.  
Tel 01534 743990  
www.jerseyaeroclub.com

**Jersey Karting**, The Living Legend, St Peter  
Open March–November.  
Tel 01534 485855  
www.jerseylivinglegend.co.je

**Jersey Kayak Adventures**, St Clement  
Open all year.  
Tel 01534 853138 or 07797 853033  
www.jerseykayakadventures.co.uk

**Jersey Odyssey**  
Open all year.  
Tel 01534 498636 or 07700 727430  
www.jerseyodyssey.co.uk

**Jersey Sea Sport Centre**, La Haule Slip, by St Aubin's Village  
Open 9am–5.30pm May–mid-September.  
Tel 07797 738180  
www.jerseyseasport.com

**Jersey Surf School**, Watersplash, St Ouen's Bay  
Open April–September.  
Tel 01534 484005  
www.cisurf.com

**Kite School Jersey**  
Open April–October.  
Tel 01534 638888  
www.pureadventurejersey.com

**Pure Adventure**, St Helier  
Open all year.  
Tel 01534 638888 or 07797 721050  
www.pureadventurejersey.com

**Sand, Surf and Sail**, St Ouen's Bay  
Open all year.  
Tel 01534 483707

**Skydive Jersey**  
Open February–November.  
Tel 01534 747410 or 07797 737730  
www.skydivejersey.net

**Surf 'n' Sun Watersports**, St Brelade's Bay  
Open May–September.  
Tel 07797 736411  
email: mackleys@jerseymail.co.uk

**Waterfront Watersports Centre**, St Helier  
Open April–September.  
Tel 01534 638888  
www.pureadventurejersey.com

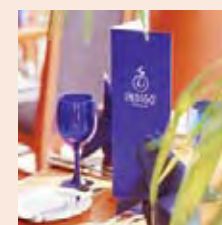
### Operators

Active Island Sports  
Adventures Unlimited  
Atlantic Waves School  
Conjuring Kites School  
Extreme Jersey  
Gorey Watersports  
Jersey Aero Club  
Jersey Karting  
Jersey Kayak Adventures  
Jersey Odyssey  
Jersey Sea Sport Centre  
Jersey Surf School  
Kite School Jersey  
Pure Adventure  
Skydive Jersey  
Sand, Surf & Sail  
Surf & Sun Watersports

	Surfing & Bodyboarding	Jet Skiing	Kitesurfing	Wakeboarding	Windsurfing	Water Skiing	Sea Kayaking	Blokarting	Coasteering	Rock Climbing & Abseiling	Sky Diving	Karting	Flying
Active Island Sports	*				*		*						
Adventures Unlimited	*								*	*			
Atlantic Waves School	*												
Conjuring Kites School			*										
Extreme Jersey								*					
Gorey Watersports				*		*	*						
Jersey Aero Club												*	
Jersey Karting											*		*
Jersey Kayak Adventures							*						
Jersey Odyssey	*			*	*	*	*			*	*		
Jersey Sea Sport Centre		*		*		*	*	*	*	*			
Jersey Surf School	*					*	*	*	*	*			
Kite School Jersey			*										
Pure Adventure	*	*		*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Skydive Jersey											*		
Sand, Surf & Sail	*					*	*						
Surf & Sun Watersports				*		*	*						

**Pure Adventure Centre**  
Jersey's newest attraction, based in a beautiful natural valley at Les Ormes Leisure Centre in St Brelade, is scheduled to open in May 2008. Its high-adrenaline features include an exciting high ropes course with three different height levels suitable for all the family. There's also a 330ft 'Big Zipper' zip wire ride and 40ft vertical parachute descent. Other activities include a climbing and abseil tower, the 'King Swing', a low ropes/problem solving course, a military-style assault course, archery, raft building and orienteering.  
Tel 01534 638888  
www.pureadventurejersey.com

## Hotel Cristina



Visitors to the **Hotel Cristina** never fail to comment on the fantastic views from the balconies and terraces. Overlooking the vista of St Aubin's Bay, the south-facing hotel offers hours of sunshine to be enjoyed in the lush gardens and outdoor heated pool in the hotel's private grounds. Only a couple of minutes' walk from the beach, and just a mile and a half from Jersey's main town St Helier, the Cristina provides the perfect setting for guests to explore the island at their own pace. The bedrooms are stylishly furnished in a bright, modern style that is matched in the thriving brasserie-style Indigo Restaurant with a fresh, light menu that changes daily.

**Hotel Cristina**  
Mont Felard  
St Aubin's Bay  
Jersey JE3 8EF  
Tel 01534 712850  
Fax 01534 758028  
email: cristina@dolanhotels.com  
www.cristinajersey.com



**Surfing Clubs**

Jersey Bodyboarding  
www.jerseybodyboarding.com

Jersey Longboard Club  
www.jerseylongboarders.com

Jersey Surfboard Club  
www.surfingjersey.net

**Dive Operators**

Bouley Bay Diving Centre  
Open all year.  
Tel 01534 866990  
www.scubadivingjersey.com

H2O Sports Ltd, St Helier  
Open all year.  
Tel 01534 880934 or 07797 723941  
www.divejersey.co.uk

Jersey Sub Aqua Club, St Helier  
Open all year.  
www.jsac.org.uk

TT Divers, St Lawrence  
Open all year.  
Tel 07797 783183  
www.ttdivers.co.uk

**Sailing, Fishing and Boat Charters**

Anna II Fishing Trips, St Helier  
Available all year.  
Tel 01534 888552 or 07797 725301  
www.fishingjersey.co.uk

Channel Charter, St Helier  
Available all year.  
Tel 07797 761902 or 07797 728099  
www.channelcharter.com

Island RIB Voyages, St Helier  
Open all year.  
Tel 01534 638888  
www.pureadventurejersey.com

JerseySailing.com  
Open all year.  
Tel 01534 851983 or 07797 729240  
www.jerseysailing.com

Ocean Discoveries, St Helier  
Open all year.  
Tel 07797 742338  
www.oceandiscoveries.co.uk

Raleigh Sailing  
Open all year.  
Tel 01534 607910 or 07797 734303  
www.raleighsailing.com

South Coast Cruises, St Helier  
Open April–October.  
Tel 01534 732466  
www.jerseycruises.com

Stay and Sail, Trinity  
Open all year.  
Tel 01534 869075 or 07797 820701  
www.jerseystayandsail.co.uk

Tarka Sea Trips, St Clement's  
Open all year.  
Tel 01534 858046 or 07797 728316  
www.tarkaseatrips.com

**Visiting Yachtsmen**  
The island's three yacht clubs all extend a big welcome to visiting yachtsmen.

The Royal Channel Islands Yacht Club, St Aubin  
Tel 01534 741023  
email: rciyc@localdial.com

St Catherine's Sailing Club, St Martin  
Tel 01534 857741  
www.scsc.org.je

More yachting information overleaf →

Drive to Jersey **Four days away from just £149**



Take your car by CONDOR FERRIES from Weymouth or Poole and enjoy Jersey at its peaceful best. You'll like the prices too – for example, **four days away from just £149**, and that includes taking your car **FREE** and a **FREE** hotel night. Taking your car gives you a door to door service, and you can pack as MUCH as you want. Just one call or click will book it all – stay from two nights to as long as you like.

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- Sharing a twin or double room at your choice of 15 hotels – with breakfast
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- Condorbreaks holiday information pack and island map

Prices are per person based on a minimum of two adults. Free nights are based on B&B only. Room upgrades and dinner supplements apply to the full duration. Book with Confidence ABTA V1290.

Here are just two of the 15 Jersey Breakaway hotels. See our website for the full selection.



**SHAKESPEARE** St Clement ★★★  
The most southerly hotel in the British Isles, only two miles from St Helier, faces the sea and enjoys views along the south coast and across to France • Award winning restaurant offering table d'hôte and à la carte menus • Private access to beach • Sun lounge and two sea-facing bars overlooking the patio • Weekly Manager's reception • Lift • Car park

**ADDED VALUE FREE NIGHTS AS INDICATED**  
Prices in £pp based on commencement date

HOL COMM DATE	2 NTS	3 NTS	4 NTS	EX NT
UP TO 15 MAR	149	149	179	33
16 MAR – 21 APR	155	179	179	33
22 APR – 23 MAY	165	195	195	37

SUPPLEMENTS (PPPN): DINNER £10, SEA VIEW £5



**L'HORIZON** St Brelade ★★★★★  
Ideally situated alongside the sandy beach, this first class hotel is renowned for its traditional service and superb cuisine where there is a choice of three restaurants • Leisure club comprising indoor pool, saunas, Jacuzzi, steam rooms and mini-gym • Beauty salon (extra cost) • Elegant lounges • Sun terrace with stunning sea views • 24-hour room service • Lift • Car park

**ADDED VALUE FREE NIGHTS AS INDICATED**  
Prices in £pp based on commencement date

HOL COMM DATE	2 NTS	3 NTS	4 NTS	EX NT
UP TO 15 MAR	209	209	269	65
16 MAR – 23 APR	219	219	279	66
24 APR – 23 MAY	265	345	345	87

SUPPLEMENTS (PPPN): DINNER £24, OCEAN VIEW £35



**St Helier Yacht Club, South Pier**  
Tel 01534 721307  
www.shyc.je

**Harbour Information**

St Helier has three modern well-equipped marinas catering for a wide range of craft. St Helier Marina is Jersey's main visiting marina, with berthing for up to 200 visiting yachts, accessible three hours each side of high water. Elizabeth Marina is the island's newest marina with 564 berths ranging from 20ft to 65ft. Available to non-residents on one-, five- and ten-year leases. La Collette Basin is Jersey's deep-water marina with access at all states of the tide.

**Jersey Harbours, Maritime House, St Helier**  
Tel 01534 885588  
www.jersey-harbours.com

**Fishing**

Jersey's coastline offers excellent shore fishing from rocks, harbours and breakwaters. And the island's huge tidal range brings a kaleidoscope of marine life. There are rich fishing grounds in the inshore waters too, and boat charter is easy to arrange. For freshwater anglers, there's good reservoir fly-fishing for trout. Val de la Mare and Queen's Valley reservoirs are

set aside for game fishing and coarse anglers can fish at Dannemarche and Millbrook reservoirs. The season runs from June 1st to March 31st. For further information contact the Jersey Freshwater Angling Association (tel 01534 861083 evenings; email: jffa@jerseymail.co.uk). For the full picture go to: [www.jersey.com/fishing](http://www.jersey.com/fishing)

**Golf**

It's advisable to book at all courses to avoid disappointment. Please check with individual clubs about hiring of equipment and dress code.

**Jersey Recreation Grounds, St Clement**  
Nine-hole course with par three and four holes. Other facilities include putting green, crazy golf, bowls, boules, tennis and restaurant.  
Tel 01534 721938

**Longueville Golf Range, St Clement**  
Golf range with 25 bays. Tuition and club hire available.  
Tel 01534 519922

**Les Mielles Golf and Country Club, St Ouen**  
Eighteen-hole golf course with shop,

clubhouse bar and restaurant. Separate driving range and activity centre including miniature golf and laser clay pigeon shooting.  
Tel 01534 482787  
www.lesmielles.com

**La Moye Golf Club, St Brelade**  
This 18-hole links type course of over 6,500 yards presents a good challenge for golfers of all handicaps. Features large sand hills, pot bunkers, gorse bushes and punishing rough.  
Tel 01534 743401  
www.lamoyegolfclub.co.uk

**Les Ormes Golf and Leisure Village, St Peter**  
Facilities include a 17-bay covered driving range with automatic pop-up tees, practice green and bunker. Also a golf and tennis shop, fitness centre, bar/restaurant.  
Tel 01534 497000  
www.lesormes.je

**Royal Jersey Golf Club, Grouville**  
The oldest established golf club in Jersey, with a challenging 18-hole course. Visitors are welcome 10am-12noon and 2pm-4pm, Monday-Friday, and after 2.30pm on weekends.  
Tel 01534 854416

**Wheatlands Golf Course, St Peter**  
Nine-hole golf course established in 1994 and officially opened by former Ryder Cup Captain Ian Woosnam. Visiting golfers welcome and may compete in 'open competitions' every Thursday May-September.  
Tel 01534 888877  
www.wheatlandsjersey.com

**Cycling**

Jersey is one of Europe's best-kept secrets, with around 350 miles of roads, byways and lanes to explore. Pedalling is pure pleasure – especially on those peaceful Green Lanes and the island's 96-mile signposted cycle network. For such a small island there's also a surprising number of excellent bike shops stocking masses of accessories, clothing and spare parts. Most shops can also repair or service your bike. Cycle hire is also available. For more details visit: [www.jersey.com/cycling](http://www.jersey.com/cycling)

**Bringing Your Own Bike**

Jersey Tourism has details of establishments that have cycle racks or a safe and secure

alternative. Please check with your airline before booking to make sure that they will carry your bike.

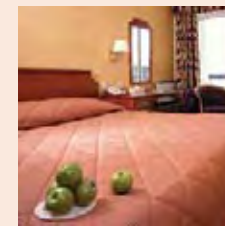
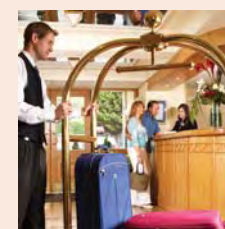
Condor Ferries take bicycles free of charge  
Tel 0870 243 5140  
www.condorferries.com

**Cycle Hire**  
Jersey Cycles, St Aubin  
Tel 01534 746780 or 07797 775124  
email: [jerseycycletoours@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:jerseycycletoours@yahoo.co.uk)

**Zebra Cycles, St Helier**  
Tel 01534 736556  
www.zebrahire.com

**Cycling Publications**  
Please see page 59 for more details.

Golden Sands



For beach-lovers, the **Golden Sands** enjoys one of the finest locations of any hotel in Jersey. Its prime spot in the centre of St Brelade's Bay makes the most of Jersey's sunshine and warm climate, with the shaded crescent-shaped sands being perfect for families and bathers of all ages, as well as the more active who can enjoy volleyball and a range of water sports. With panoramic sea views and the gentle sound of the waves, the Golden Sands is great for those who want direct access to the beach. The comfortable rooms, most boasting balconies and sea views, are well designed and, with a flexible friendly approach, the hotel is also perfect for families



**Golden Sands Hotel**  
La Route de la Baie  
St Brelade's Bay  
Jersey JE3 8EF  
Tel 01534 491058  
Fax 01534 499366  
email: [goldensands@dolanhotels.com](mailto:goldensands@dolanhotels.com)  
www.goldensandsjersey.com