

A Disabled Visitor's Guide to Jersey



GENERAL

WE TEND not to talk much, these days, of William the Conqueror, 1066 and all that, but there is one part of the British Isles where you can still call on the Conqueror's great-grandfather for help in time of trouble. That part of the British Isles (although not of the United Kingdom) is the archipelago known as the Channel Islands. Jersey is the most southerly of these islands, set in the Bay of Saint-Malo, 90 miles south of England but just 14 miles to the west of France.

Just nine miles by five, Jersey offers all its visitors an amazing diversity of attractions that everyone can enjoy whatever their disabilities; from spectacular scenery with golden beaches, from quaint country pubs to a thousand years of history, from sleepy harbours to a bustling cosmopolitan shopping metropolis.

Down the centuries Jersey has been shaped by its loyalty to the Crown of England and its proximity to France. Fortifications dating from the time of the Conqueror (when Jersey was on William's side) to the Second World War (when Jersey was occupied by German forces for five years) are everywhere in the landscape. Jersey's proximity to France means that there is a very strong French influence on place names and Jersey-French, a language dating back into the Middle Ages, is still in use and taught in schools.

Getting to Jersey is relatively easy although facilities for people with disabilities tend to be better by sea than by air, although travelling time is obviously much less by air. Jersey is well served by airlines operating from most of Britain's major airports for much of the year and by fast or conventional Condor car ferries from Poole and Portsmouth all year round. Flying time is rarely more than 90 minutes from the north of England and Scotland and just 30 minutes from the south of England and the crossing

on the fast ferries takes four hours although the conventional ferry takes about ten hours with a stop in neighbouring Guernsey.

A number of Jersey hotels (from five stars down to two) offer varying facilities for the disabled although only the purpose-built Maison des Landes Hotel caters exclusively for guests with disabilities and their families and friends.

Within its 45 square miles Jersey has 550 miles of road and all places of interest in the Island are easily accessible. Unfortunately several of Jersey's most historic sites have only very limited access due to their antiquity but there are many attractions (see following list) where wheelchair access is easy and all have toilets for the disabled.

For keen sea anglers there are many coastal locations that can be fished successfully by those with limited mobility and *Theseus II*, a specially-equipped charter boat offers wheelchair users the thrill of deep sea angling. 'Gentle Wanders' around the Jersey countryside have been designed specifically for walkers and wheelchair users alike. Sites around the Island have been assessed for ease of access and 14 different 'Wanders' give participants an unusual experience of woodlands, heathlands and quiet country lanes.

Shopping in Jersey's capital, St Helier, is made easier by Shopmobility, a scheme whereby disabled visitors can use powered scooters to enable them to visit the shops. Shopmobility users are offered free unlimited parking for conventional vehicles while the equipment is in use. Holders of UK and EU disabled and blue badges can park their vehicles in specially designated on-street parking zones and in multi-storey car parks. There is no charge for disabled parking in multi-storey car parks or for most on-street parking in Jersey but signs indicate where parking charges are levied. Most buses and many taxis have facilities for carrying wheelchairs but coaches tend only to have facilities to accommodate collapsible wheelchairs.

Jersey's principal entertainment centres are all in St Helier and Fort Regent Sports and Leisure Centre, Cine World, the Jersey Arts Centre and the Jersey Opera House theatres all have facilities for the disabled including disabled toilets.

Jersey has many fine inns, taverns, restaurants and nightclubs and many have easy disabled access and facilities. Fuller details are available from www.jersey.com/eatingout or the Visitor Services Centre in St Helier.

Most areas with public access around Jersey have disabled toilets on site and access to all disabled toilets is by use of a Radar key which is available for hire at the Visitor Centre at the Visitor Centre at Jersey Museum, the Town Hall and the Shopmobility Centre at Sand Street car park. A refundable £5 deposit is required. Several companies hire out wheelchairs (manual and motorised), commodes, walking and bathing aids.

In Jersey we speak the same language, use the same currency – albeit we use different notes and coins and retain the £1 note – and there are many familiar names along the High Street (although we call it King Street), but being just that much closer to France and having such a diverse heritage offers a delightfully different holiday experience. Add to

that the most sunshine in the British Isles, a much lower rate of VAT (we call it GST and it's just five per cent) and where people with disabilities are more than welcome, Jersey will always provide a holiday full of happy memories.

PRINCIPAL LOCATIONS with easy wheelchair access (except where indicated)

Bonne Nuit Bay, St John. *A small harbour (with an excellent café with wheelchair access) from where the new Charles II left his refuge in Jersey with his brother James, Duke of York, for exile in France during the English Civil War*

Corbiere Lighthouse. *The world's first concrete lighthouse and one of Jersey's most popular landmarks at the Island's south-west corner. The lighthouse is on an offshore reef and is not open to the public but the view from the carpark, particularly at sunset is spectacular.*

Gorey, St Martin. *Overlooked by the massive Mont Orgueil Castle (sadly not suitable for wheelchairs having hundreds of steps), a picturesque port with high quality shops, inns and restaurants, all with good access*

Grosnez. *Site of a medieval castle ruin (no easy access for wheelchairs) but offering magnificent views over the other Channel Islands*

Noirmont Point. *Overlooking much of Jersey's south coast, this promontory contains a restored German strongpoint much of which has easy access (see local press for details of opening hours of bunkers) and offers extensive views over the south coast.*

St Aubin, St Breilade. *At the opposite end of St Aubin's Bay from St Helier, another picturesque harbour with shops, inns and restaurants. Served by road train from St Helier.*

St Breilade's Bay. *Jersey's most popular beach with ample parking, cafés and restaurants all with easy access.*

St Helier Town Centre, St Helier – *Jersey's main shopping area with department stores, boutiques, shops, cafés, inns and restaurants with easy disabled access and convenient disabled parking areas*

St Ouen's Bay. *The magnificent sweep of Jersey's entire west coast with spectacular sunsets and superb beaches to be enjoyed with care*

The Royal Square, St Helier. *Scene of the Battle of Jersey (the last battle to be fought on British soil), overlooked by the Island's parliament building and the Royal Court. A place of calm with pavement restaurants and inns.*

ATTRACTIONS IN JERSEY welcoming DISABLED VISITORS

Catherine Best Jewellers, The Windmill, St Peter (tel: 01534 485777) - *exquisite jewellery created by Catherine Best in an authentic windmill*

Central Market, St Helier - *a glorious Victorian market for fresh produce, flowers, antiques and hosts of other fascinating things. Closed Thursday afternoons.*

Durrell Wildlife Conservation Trust (Jersey Zoo), Trinity (tel: 01534 860000) - *a world-famous sanctuary for many endangered species set in spectacular grounds*

Eric Young Orchid Foundation, Trinity (tel: 01534 861963) - *the world's finest collection of orchids in a fascinating setting*

Fort Regent Leisure Centre, St Helier (tel: 01534 449600) - *Jersey's principal indoor sporting venue and location for concerts and shows within a fortress built at the time of Napoleon*

Havre des Pas Swimming Pool, St Helier - *a Victorian attraction with sun terraces ideal for wheelchair users*

Howard Davis Park, St Helier. *A superbly maintained public park near the centre of St Helier with frequent evening band concerts*

Jersey Lavender Farm, St Brelade (tel: 01534 742933) - *all the processes from plants to oils and fragrances in a delightful country setting*

Jersey Museum, St Helier, (tel: 01534 633300) - *a treasure house of Jersey history*

Jersey Pearl, St Ouen's Bay, St Ouen (tel: 01534 862137) - *relish one of nature's most appealing gemstones*

Jersey War Tunnels, St Lawrence (tel: 01534 853823) - *a fascinating underground complex created by German occupying forces between 1941 and 1944 - the definitive museum of the German Occupation – wheelchairs provided.*

La Hougue Bie, St Saviour (tel: 01534 633373). *A Neolithic passage grave, a geological and archeological museum and a German Occupation bunker and memorial all on the one site.*

La Mare Wine Estate, St Mary (tel: 01534 481178) - *Enjoy the products and ambiance of Jersey's only working vineyard producing a fine range of wines and even spirits.*

Liberty Wharf. St Helier. *Shops, bars and restaurants created in the former terminus of the Jersey Railways & Tramway Company (closed in 1937!) and the former Island abattoir!*

Maritime Museum & Occupation Tapestry Gallery, St Helier (tel: 01534 811043) - *a compelling evocation of Jersey's maritime heritage and the magnificent tapestry recalling the dark days of the German Occupation*

Millenium Park, St Helier. *The town's newest recreation area with many facilities for families.*

Pallot Steam Museum, Trinity (tel: 01534 865307) - *a museum devoted to country crafts and machinery including, at times, Jersey's only running steam railway (see local press for details)*

The Waterfront, St Helier - *Restaurants, bistros, fast food outlets, bars, swimming pool and 10 cinema screens*

EQUIPMENT available for hire

Guardian Nursing Services, 3 Savile Street, St Helier. Tel: 01534 732335
 – *Wheelchairs, commodes, bathing aids and oxygen*

Harsco Hire, Millbrook, St Lawrence. Tel: 01534 873699 – *Manual wheelchairs*

St John's Ambulance, Midvale Road, St Helier Tel: 01534 735611

Technicare, Doué House, Longueville Road, St Saviour Tel: 01534 888975
– *Manual wheelchairs, scooters, bathing aids, specialist beds and hoists*

Channing's Mobility, Tel: 01534 631736 – *Toilet aids, walking aids and mobility scooters*

Shopmobility, St Helier Tel: 01534 739672 – *powered scooters and chairs, manual wheel chairs, Quad-walkers, Tri-walkers, baby buggies, shower and toilet seats*

This guide is published by Maison des Landes Hotel for people with disabilities and was correct at the time of printing.

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