

GETTING TO KNOW GUERNSEY



PART 1 GET SETTLED

FINDING YOUR NEW HOME	03
GOVERNMENT & VOTING	04
BANKING & MONEY	04
TRAVEL	04
GET CONNECTED	05

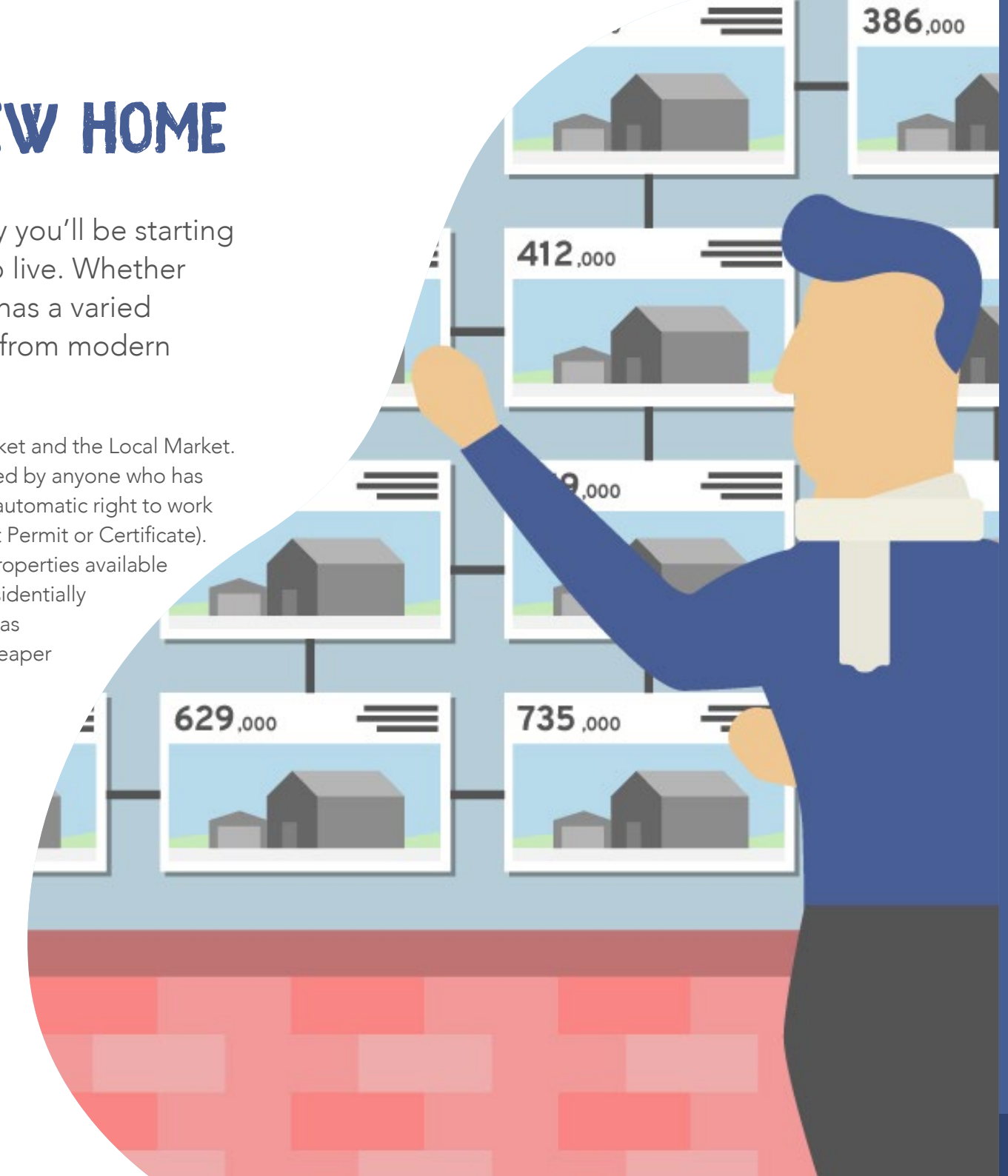
FINDING YOUR NEW HOME

Now that you're moving to Guernsey you'll be starting to think about where you're going to live. Whether you intend to rent or buy, Guernsey has a varied market of housing accommodation, from modern apartments to country cottages.

Guernsey has two housing markets: the Open Market and the Local Market. Open market properties can be purchased or rented by anyone who has the right to live in the UK and occupants have the automatic right to work on the Island (as long as they apply for the relevant Permit or Certificate). Local Market properties make up the majority of properties available on the housing market and can be occupied by residentially qualified residents or specific Permit holders, such as Employment Permits. They're also considerably cheaper than Open Market properties.

Because of the limited land available in the Island, it's worth bearing in mind that house prices compare with the London Market – except a house in Guernsey is much closer to the beach!

There is a healthy selection of estate agents on the island to help you in your search for your new home. The majority of these can be found [here](#).



GOVERNMENT AND VOTING

The Bailiwick of Guernsey (Guernsey, Alderney, Herm and Sark) is a crown dependency, meaning that it is part of the British Isles, but not the United Kingdom.

We have an Island-wide voting system to elect our 38 representatives – called People’s Deputies – in Guernsey. A further two representatives from Alderney make up the States of Deliberation.

General Elections are held every four years to appoint Members to the States of Deliberation. To qualify to vote in the elections you must:

- Be 15 years of age or older (although you can’t vote until you’re 16)
- Be ordinarily resident in Guernsey
- Have been ordinarily resident in Guernsey for the last two years consecutively or for a total of five years at any time

Further information on elections and voting can be found [here](#).



BANKING AND MONEY

Although we’re geographically closer to France, here in Guernsey we use the same currency as the UK meaning that English banknotes and coins can be used on the Island. We also produce our own locally issued banknotes and coins, including unique £1 notes.

The high street banks in Guernsey are Barclays, HSBC, Lloyds Banking Group and Natwest. If you have an account with a bank which does not have a branch on-island, make sure you set up online banking if you need to access these accounts whilst you’re here.

TRAVEL TO AND FROM THE ISLANDS

Guernsey has a number of air and sea links to the other Islands in the Bailiwick and beyond.

A full list of operators and destinations can be found [here](#).

GET CONNECTED

We know that you will want to be up and running as soon as possible when you arrive on island, this includes getting connected with your broadband, mobile and utilities. We have put together a list of contact details to help you get started.

MOBILE AND INTERNET PROVIDERS

Sure web.sure.com/guernsey
JT jtglobal.com/guernsey
Airtel-Vodafone airtel-vodafone.com

UTILITIES

Guernsey Water water.gg
Guernsey Gas gsygas.com
Guernsey Electricity electricity.gg

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Government Services gov.gg
Guernsey Post guernseypost.com
TV Licencing Guernsey Post Ltd issues TV licences instantly at guernseypost.com but cannot assist with further enquiries. For a full service go to tvlicensing.co.uk

It’s also worth noting that if you have an existing phone contract in the UK, you may receive additional charges if your contract provider does not include Guernsey as part of its UK coverage. When you move to the island you may want to change to an on-island provider or choose a UK provider which offers the coverage you will need without additional tariffs.



PART 2 GET CLUED UP

PUBLIC / SCHOOL HOLIDAYS 07

GETTING AROUND 08

ACCESSIBILITY 10

BRINGING PETS 11

COST OF LIVING 12

WASTE AND RECYCLING 13

ACT LIKE A LOCAL 14

SHOPPING 17

5 MINUTE HISTORY 18

PARISH COMMUNITY 20

GETTING INVOLVED 22

PUBLIC AND SCHOOL HOLIDAYS

All public holidays are the same as in England, plus an additional one on 9th May when Islanders celebrate Liberation Day.

PUBLIC HOLIDAYS

The public holidays can be found [here](#).

SCHOOL TERM TIMES

All school term times are agreed and published 18 months ahead and are similar to some areas of the UK. Term times for this school year can be found [here](#).





GETTING AROUND

There are plenty of ways to get around in Guernsey. Whether you prefer to travel by car, bus, taxi, cycle and even walk it won't take you long to get used to navigating your way around the Island.

BY CAR

Driving in Guernsey is different. Many roads in Guernsey are narrow lanes with high hedges and granite walls and the maximum speed limit for the island is 35mph (56kph).

The filter in turn system is unique to driving in the Channel Islands and takes a bit of getting used to. At these junctions all directions have equal priority and cars must take it in turns to enter the junction. These junctions are clearly signposted and marked on the floor with yellow hatched paint.

You'll also notice that road markings are in yellow rather than white like in the UK. A large yellow arrow lets you know you are about to approach a junction, and a yellow line at the junction means you should give way. Yellow lines along the curb mean no parking. You can find more about how driving in Guernsey is different [here](#).

Sat Nav does exist in Guernsey but as the roads are often narrow and close together it is sometimes difficult for the Sat Nav to pinpoint your exact location. However, Google maps and What3words do work, and having a map handy in your car will help you get used to navigating around. Before long you will know the island like the back of your hand!

If you bring a car over to Guernsey, you will usually need to re-register it within 14 days of your arrival. New residents to the Bailiwick will have the duration of their probationary period to re-register their cars. In addition to the registration fee, a 'first registration duty' will be applied to all new and second-hand vehicles being imported and registered in Guernsey for the first time. Full details on this can be found [here](#). You will also need to exchange your licence for a Guernsey driving licence within a year of arriving – finally you can replace that photo with the bad haircut you had 8 years ago! The exchange process depends on the type of licence you currently have, more details can be found [here](#).



BY BUS

The bus service on Guernsey operates daily and will take you almost anywhere on the Island. If you use the bus regularly you can purchase a Puffin Pass which reduces the cost per ride! Full details of the routes and timetables can be found [here](#).

BY FOOT OR BICYCLE

Being only 25 square miles in size, Guernsey is ideally suited to getting around by bike. The island has a network of lanes called Ruelle Tranquilles. These designated routes promote a recommended speed limit of 15 mph with priority given to walkers, cyclists and horseriders.

PARKING

All public parking in Guernsey is free. However, most on-street parking and car parks in principal shopping areas are marked as disc zone and you must use a 'parking clock' to indicate your time of arrival, day or night. The time limit for that particular disc parking place starts from the time you parked your vehicle. Disabled parking spaces are also available and can be used when displaying a valid blue badge permit which are available from Driver & Vehicle Licensing at Edward T Wheadon House (DVL) . Parking clocks are available for purchase from DVL, the Guernsey Information Centre and the Police Station.

BY TAXI

Guernsey has a regulated, licensed taxi service based at three ranks in St Peter Port, St Sampson (on the Bridge) and at Guernsey Airport. 4 accessible taxis are also available on island. It is advisable to book taxis wherever possible, especially when you wish to travel early in the morning or during the evening when demand is greatest. You can book a taxi through the Guernsey Taxi App [here](#). A list of the taxi companies available on island can be found [here](#).



ACCESSIBILITY

The good level of accessibility in Guernsey will help everyone enjoy many excellent historical sites, cafes, bars and restaurants that the Island has to offer.

Good, clear information on accessibility enables people to plan their journeys in advance, and to know that they will be able to move around with dignity and without discomfort. The AccessAble access guide provides a great resource covering local venues for many aspects of Island life, as well as helpful information on local businesses. The guide can be found [here](#), or you can download the app.

[Signpost.gg](#) is a website that provides easily accessible information for parents and carers of disabled children as well as offering information on the services and support available in Guernsey for disabled adults.

BRINGING PETS

We know that some family members have four legs. Here's what you need to know about bringing your pets to the Island.

If you are moving from the UK you will be able to bring your pets over without a pet passport. If you are moving here from outside the UK you will need a pet passport. You can find out more about this [here](#).

DOGS ON BEACHES

Most of Guernsey's beaches are dog friendly during the summer months, but between 1st May and 30th September there are some where dogs are not allowed. These are:

Fermain, Petit Bot, L'Eree, Vazon (Northern end), Cobo, Port Soif, L'Ancrese, and Pembroke.

While enjoying a gentle stroll on the beach with your furry friend, be sure that they don't disturb the wildlife, particularly birds, that can be especially vulnerable during mating season (February to July). And of course, like anywhere else, please pick up after your dog.

More information can be found [here](#).

DOG TAX

Owners of dogs in Guernsey are required to buy a licence from their parish authority for each dog they own. Dog tax is payable annually and is renewable each January by 31st of the month.

Tax is due for all dogs over the age of 6 months - the only exceptions being assistance dogs. (e.g. guide dogs for the blind or hearing dogs for the deaf). For the method of payment you should contact your parish, details of which can be found in the Parish Contacts of the States of Guernsey website [here](#).

VETS

Vets4Pets - 01481 239101
Isabelle Vets (Route Isabelle) - 01481 723863
Isabelle Vets (L'Islet) - 01481 241056
Northside Veterinary Centre - 01481 248464
Les Eturs Veterinary Clinic - 01481 257708
St Martins Veterinary Centre - 01481 238300



COST OF LIVING

On average the cost of housing and food is more expensive than in the UK.

Additional costs for living on the Island are usually offset by the average income which is higher in Guernsey than the UK. Living on an island means you never have far to travel, so you can wave goodbye to train season tickets and endless commuter traffic jams, along with the associated costs! Island life also means taking advantage of experiences available on your door step which have no added cost, whether it's swimming in the sea, running on the cliff paths or cycling along the coast, there are plenty of activities you can enjoy for free.

Unlike in the UK, Guernsey and Alderney are not part of the NHS so islanders pay for primary healthcare such as visiting the GP or the Emergency Department. Secondary healthcare is free for residents and paid for through social security contributions which are automatically deducted from your wage. On your arrival in the Bailiwick, you and your family will need to register with Employment and Social Security (ESS) in order to be able to access medical cover. Once you are registered you will be entitled to access all medical benefits. Islanders also pay for Ambulance callouts however there is a subscription scheme available [here](#) which greatly reduces this cost.

In order to avoid a gap in medical cover, it is a good idea to register online **before you arrive**. You can find details of how to do this [here](#). Depending on your health needs it is recommended that you look into health insurance cover whilst living in Guernsey.

The Island offers a mix of private and state funded education. The States of Guernsey provides financial support for students attending university in the UK based on a means-tested grant scheme. More information can be found [here](#).

WASTE AND RECYCLING

Guernsey's Waste Strategy encourages islanders to reduce waste, and provides services and facilities that make it easy to reuse and recycle. We separate our waste into different bags (blue, clear and glass refuse) and boxes (black food waste box) at home so that they are sorted and recycled in the best way when collected.

Blue and clear recycling bags can be obtained free of charge from local supermarkets. You can acquire a new food waste caddy and glass recycling bag [here](#).

General waste is collected in black bags, and are paid for by purchasing stickers which are added to the bags when put out for collection.

Every household in Guernsey has a weekly waste and recycling collection. These collections are arranged by each parish, so your collection night will depend on where you live. You can find out your collection day and more information on waste collection charges [here](#).



WHEN IN GUERNSEY...

With so much to see and do, knowing where to start can be tricky so we've compiled a list of ways to make the most of Island life.

1 BEWARE OF THE HERM BURN

We like spending time exploring our wonderful beaches and cliff paths, so we're used to taking care of our skin when the sun comes out. Visiting our sister island, Herm, however requires taking extra precaution as it is known for causing the 'Herm burn', even on a cloudy day. Our advice? Cover up and pack your factor 50!



2 BRACE YOURSELF FOR THE BOXING DAY SWIM

Yes, you read it correctly. Every year hundreds of islanders celebrate the festive period by taking a dip at Cobo beach on Boxing Day morning. Do you think you would be brave enough?



3 GET LOST IN A MAZE OF COUNTRY LANES

With a network of winding country lanes, it's easy to get disorientated when exploring the island. Don't worry if you do get lost though, just head for the sea. The main road that loops around the island will bring you safely back to town!



4 GET IN THE FESTIVAL SPIRIT

Whatever your interests, whether it be food, history, photography, comedy, music or sport, Guernsey is an island which thrives on bringing people together in the festival spirit. Ranging from the expected to the unusual (check out Torteval's scarecrow festival), there's a festival to suit every taste. You can find out about upcoming events [here](#).



5 GET STARRY EYED IN SARK

The night sky over the isle of Sark is famous for its spectacular stargazing and was awarded the title "Dark Sky Island" So if you're a budding astronomer, why not pack your tent and spend the weekend sleeping under the Milky Way.



6 EAT FRESH WITH SOME HEDGE VEG

Hedge veg is a unique aspect of island life where locals sell home grown and homemade produce from boxes or small stalls at the end of their driveways. Products range from fresh fruit and veg to flowers, jams and eggs. All you need to do is pop your payment in the honesty box!



7 LEARN THE LINGO EH!

As with all communities, Guernsey has words and phrases which are unique to the Island. We've picked out some of the most common ones to help you sound like, or at least understand, the locals!



WOTCHER! – Hello

CHIRRI! – See ya!

PUSHANG – Bicycle

BEAUSIE – a shortened name for Beau Sejour, the leisure centre

A LA PERCHOINE – Guernsey-patois meaning 'until next time' or 'until we meet again'

GOING AROUND SARK TO GET TO HERM – a long diversion

Separate from these words and phrases Guernsey also has its own language, Guernésiais, which the Islanders' are proud of and keen to preserve. You can find out more [here](#).

8 GET YOUR WELLIES ON AND GO ORMERING

Ormers are a local delicacy, similar to an oyster, which can only be collected on a handful of dates between January and April when the 'ormering tide' allows locals to wade out and find them amongst the rocks. You are unlikely to find them in restaurants, so to taste them you'll need to grab your wellies, find a local guide, and get ormering!



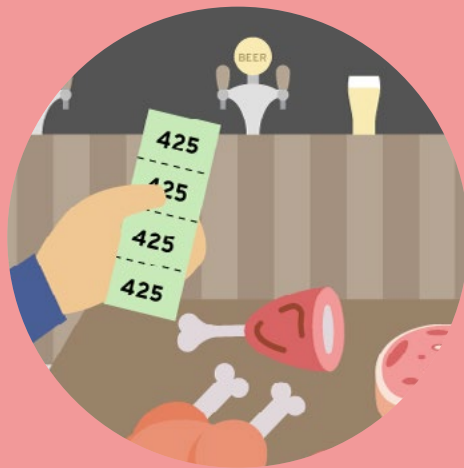
9 GRAB SOME BEANJAR AND EAT LOCAL

In addition to ormers, Guernsey enjoys some less elusive local dishes. The Guernsey bean jar is a wholesome cassoulet type dish which goes down a treat when bought from a seaside kiosks with a view across the bay. Guernsey Gâche (pronounced gosh) is a sweet bread packed with dried fruit and best enjoyed with a thick spread of rich Guernsey butter.



10 TRY YOUR LUCK AT THE MEAT DRAW

Whilst not unique to Guernsey, taking part in a meat draw is part and parcel of Guernsey life. Usually found in local pubs, a variety of meats are raffled off to those who have bought a raffle ticket whilst enjoying an evening tipple. If you're lucky, a trip to the pub could see you coming home with your week's supply of meat, all for a few pounds! And if your taste buds don't tingle at the prospect of meat, keep an eye out for the vegetable and fish draws which are also popular.



SHOPPING

The main shopping area in Guernsey is the high street in St Peter Port where you will find high street brands sitting between unique independent boutiques. St Sampson also has a collection of smaller shops which offer a range of products.

The main supermarkets are Waitrose, M&S and the Co-operative with smaller cornershops at convenient locations across the island. There are also independent butchers, farm shops, farmers markets and fishmongers where you can find local, fresh produce.

SHOPPING ONLINE

If you shop online it is worth checking whether the company delivers to the island. You will also find that many retailers remove 20% VAT at point of purchase.

WOTCHERS



5 MINUTE HISTORY

There's a lot of history packed into such a small Island; here's a brief look at some of the most important moments in Guernsey's past.

10-5 million BC

Up until this point in history Guernsey was still on the seabed. It wasn't until about 2.6 million BC that the land emerged from the sea due to a series of ice ages causing sea levels to rise and then fall. During this time Guernsey was connected to France whenever sea levels fell, and at around 8000 BC Guernsey finally became an Island.

50BC – 400AD

For almost 500 years, St Peter Port was a Roman town. In around 280 AD one of the Roman ships caught fire and sank in St Peter Port Harbour. It was found and excavated in the 1980s and is now on display opposite Fort Grey in St Pierre du Bois.

1204

Fast forward to the 13th century and this a very significant date for Guernsey as it separated from Normandy but was retained by the English Crown. The Channel Islands have been separate crown dependencies ever since.

1350

Guernsey was hit by two devastating events; Black Death and the 100 years war. Little is known of the actual impact of Black Death on the Islands but the 100 years war resulted in the Islands being raided and occupied by the French on numerous occasions.

1642 - 1651

During the English Civil War, Guernsey supported Parliament while Castle Cornet was held by the King, resulting in regular skirmishes between the Castle and St Peter Port. By the end of the war, Castle Cornet was the last Royalist stronghold to surrender.

1689

The end of Guernsey's neutrality gives birth to privateering. By 1713, there were 113 Guernsey privateers in operation. These 'legal' pirates would seize enemy ships on the shores of the island, taking the ship's cargo as a reward.

1819

In this year, the famous Guernsey cow became a protected breed.

1822

Guernsey starts to print its own money. Guernsey born printer, Thomas De La Rue went on to found the world's largest commercial banknote manufacturing company.

1833

The first tourist guide to Guernsey is published. Today, Guernsey is a popular holiday destination visited by thousands of tourists every year.

1855

After his exile from France, the famous writer Victor Hugo moved to Guernsey. During his time on the Island he wrote some of his most celebrated works, including the world renowned Les Miserables.

1884

With the growing industry on the rise, Guernsey tomatoes were exported to the UK for the first time. Almost 100 years later, at its peak, there were over 9.5 million trays of tomatoes exported in a single year.

1940-1945

During the height of World War II the Island was occupied by Nazi Germany. Over 17,000 people were evacuated to the UK before the Germans invaded leaving them cut off from their families for 5 years. The island was liberated on 9th May 1945, a day which is now a public holiday for Islanders.

1963

The first merchant bank opened office in Guernsey, marking the start of the finance industry. Financial services is now the largest sector in Guernsey's economy and comprises 18% of employment on the Island.

PARISH COMMUNITY

Guernsey has a story to tell around every corner, down each alley and tucked away in its forts and castles, ruins and ancient tombs. The island is made up of 10 parishes which each have their own individual character, so whether you prefer the bustle of town, cliff walks with views across the other islands, or lazy days by the beach, there is a parish to suit every occasion.

TORTEVAL

The relatively remote location of Torteval in the South West of the island is the punch line to many a local joke about having a 'long commute to town', despite it still only being around a 20 minute journey by car. Torteval is also host to one of the more unique festivals on the island – the Scarecrow festival. Held each summer, over 60 scarecrows depicting topical themes line the trail which starts at the parish church.

ST PIERRE DU BOIS

Known locally as St Peters, St Pierre de Bois is the home parish of the Le Creux ès Faies, a well preserved Megalithic passage tomb. Guernsey folklore says the passage is the entrance to the Fairy Kingdom and fairies can be seen there at midnight on moonlit nights. We're not sure if it's true, but it's worth a visit during the day, if only for the views.

CASTEL

Castel (pronounced 'Cat-elle') is home to some of Guernsey's best beaches for water sports and barbeques. Sitting on the wall at Cobo beach with a bagful of fish and chips watching the sunset is the ideal way for any islander to spend a summer evening.

ST SAVIOUR

One of Guernsey's more rural parishes, St Saviour has a healthy network of ruelles tranquilles as well as being home to the island's reservoir which provides a water supply to the island. It is worth noting that this is the reason that the roads cannot be gritted in winter as the rock salt may contaminate the water supply. So on the rare occasion there is snow in Guernsey it's best to plan ahead so that you get home safely.

FOREST

Forest is the highest parish on the island with altitudes of up to about 100m, and because of this it is home to the island's airport. Making up part of the South coast, the parish has some of the island's more secluded beaches and coastline which are best explored by kayak or canoe.

VALE

Interestingly, before it was drained and reclaimed in 1806, Guernsey was separated into two islands by a tidal channel known as the Braye du Vale. Nowadays, Vale is home to the sweeping sands of L'Ancrese Bay and an 18-hole golf course, one of three golf courses on the island.

ST SAMPSON

St Sampson is the second biggest 'town' on the Island and has a more industrial feel owing to its large harbour which receives many of the goods shipped to the island. Don't be confused when locals refer to this area as 'the Bridge' – there is no bridge! The name comes from a bridge which used to exist here before the land was reclaimed and the gap was filled in, but the name has stuck!

ST PETER PORT

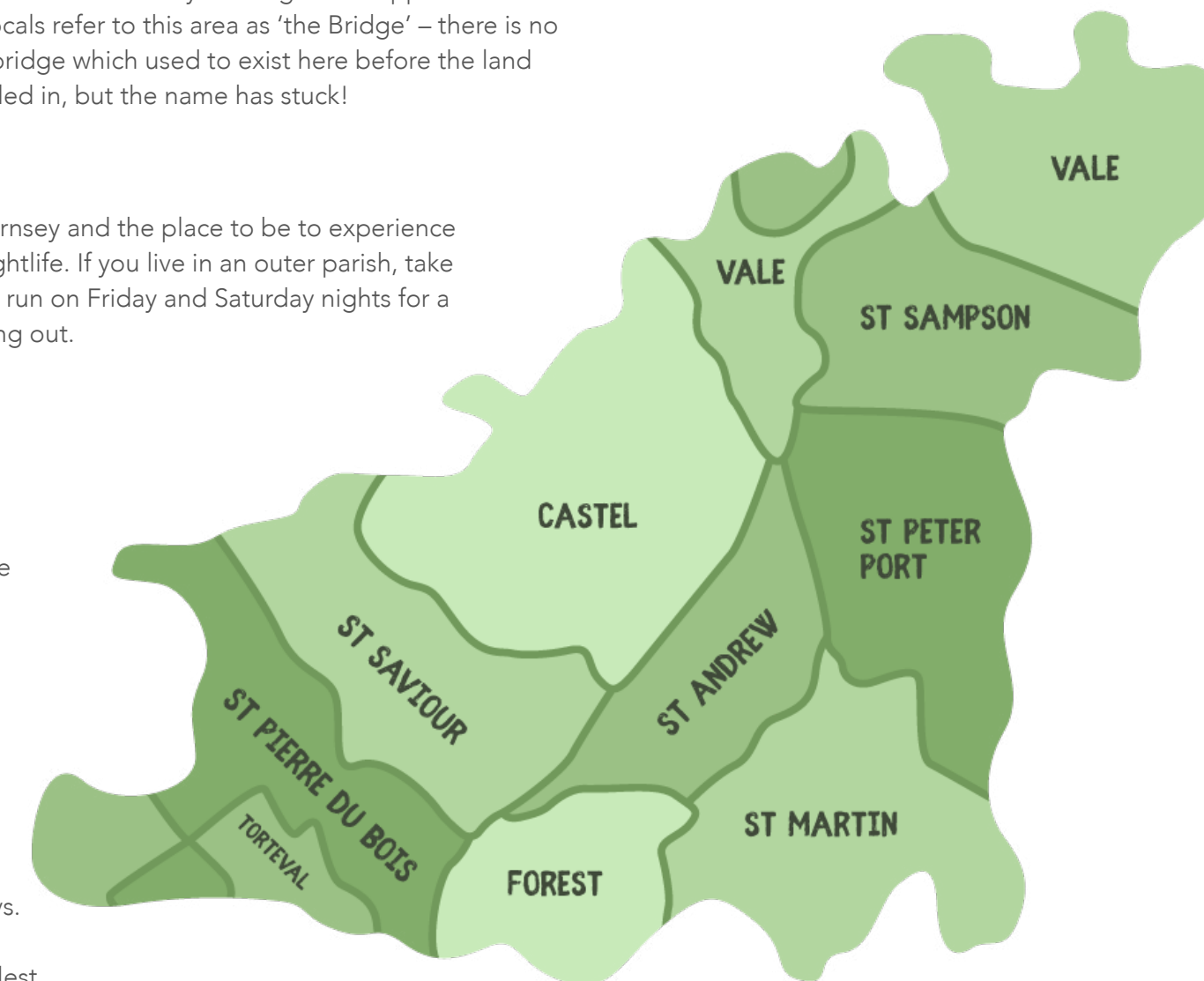
St Peter Port is the Capital of Guernsey and the place to be to experience great restaurants, bars and the nightlife. If you live in an outer parish, take advantage of the night buses that run on Friday and Saturday nights for a cheap ride home after your evening out.

ST MARTIN

One of the most popular parishes to live in, St Martin connects the bustle of town with the scenic views of the South East coast. Take the cliff path down to Jerbourg point on a clear day to have spectacular views of Sark, Herm and across to Jersey.

ST ANDREW

St Andrew is the only landlocked parish on the island with a landscape of small hills and valleys. The parish is home to the Little Chapel, possibly the world's smallest chapel which is decorated with broken china, shells and pebbles.



GETTING INVOLVED

Whether you're looking for the opportunity to try something new or wanting to continue doing the things you love, Guernsey has plenty of ways to get you involved in island life.

THERE ARE LOTS OF WAYS TO FIND OUT WHAT'S GOING ON ACROSS THE ISLAND..



Web search online



Local newspapers



Parish newsletters



Visit Guernsey Website



Local radio, BBC Guernsey (93.2MHz) and Island FM (104.7FM)



Facebook Groups

**FOR MORE HELP AND SUPPORT
GO TO HEALTHCONNECTIONS.GG**



SPORT

Sports Commission
guernseysports.com

VOLUNTEER

Guernsey Community
Foundation
foundation.gg

THE ARTS

Guernsey Arts
Commission
arts.gg

FESTIVALS

Visit Guernsey What's
on this week
visitguernsey.com

