

Go Slow on Jersey

Naturetrek Tour Itinerary

Outline Itinerary

Day 1	Arrive Jersey
Day 2	St Ouen and Grouville
Day 3	Herm island excursion
Day 4	St Brelade and north coast
Day 5	Depart Jersey

Departs

May

Focus

General Natural History

Grading

All walking will be at a slow pace, some slight uphill walking on coastal paths. Some physical strength required for RIB excursion.

Dates and Prices

See website (tour code GBR127)

Highlights

- See wonderful species not found on the British Isles mainland; species such as Jersey Orchid, Western Green Lizard, Short-toed Treecreeper
- Good chance to see Red Squirrel, Dartford Warbler, Cirl Bunting and Red-billed Chough
- Birds passing through the island may include Cuckoo, Yellow Wagtail and Wheatear, with a chance of something much rarer
- RIB excursion to Herm with Bottlenose Dolphin, Grey Seal and Puffin possible
- Stay at a 'Small Luxury Hotel of the World'



From Top: Jersey Orchid, Jersey Coast, Atlantic Hotel



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Introduction

A great range of important environments occur on Jersey and within a short distance one can easily move between Jersey-cow-grazed marshes to sand dunes, tidal areas and gorse heathlands. Within these habitats, many of which are SSSIs, we will have the opportunity to study some truly wonderful species.

The Jersey, or Loose-flowered, Orchid thrives here and will be a certain highlight as we time our visit to coincide with their peak at a special site in the west of the island, in the parish of St Ouen. At the same, glorious, location an astonishing 60,000 individual orchids have been recorded and, amongst the Jersey Orchids, we should spot Southern Marsh, Pyramidal, and Common and Heath Spotted-orchid. At the orchid fields we will be joined by a local botanist who will guide us to other notable plant species in the surrounding area.

We'll take an exciting chartered RIB journey to the idyllic nearby island of Herm where one of the highlights is sure to be seeing Puffin travelling between the island and their foraging areas. Herm is often described as a paradise island with it's beautiful white-sand beaches, turquoise waters and wonderfully peaceful way of life with no cars, crowds or airport. We'll enjoy walking the flower-lined paths and scanning the vegetation for migrant and resident birds and butterflies, with Jersey's beautiful surrounding seas only ever a stone's throw away.

Back on Jersey, we'll explore some of the wonderful sites which are just a short drive from our elegant hotel. Indeed, not far from the hotel are fantastic areas to spot species on migration, whilst some of the key resident species here include Dartford Warbler, Red Squirrel, Western Green Lizard and many butterflies. Our base for this tour will be The Atlantic Hotel, one of Jersey's finest luxury hotels, set in 10 acres of beautifully landscaped gardens, combining breathtaking ocean views, an award winning 4 AA Rosette restaurant and outstanding service.



NB. Please note that the itinerary below offers our planned programme of excursions. However, adverse weather & other local considerations can necessitate some re-ordering of the programme during the course of the tour, though this will always be done to maximise best use of the time and weather conditions available.

Itinerary

Day 1

Arrive St Peter, Jersey

Today we will arrive at Jersey Airport in St Peter before making the 8-minute drive to our wonderful hotel in St Ouen where we can quickly begin enjoying the peace, ambiance, and stunning views.

After the short and picturesque journey from the airport, we'll arrive at our hotel where we will settle into our rooms. You may wish to walk on the beautiful St Ouen's Bay beach or begin taking advantage of the wonderful facilities at the hotel. In the evening we shall meet for our first lovely dinner where we can enjoy cuisine from a highly prized AA Four Rosette rated menu, placed among the top restaurants in the British Isles.

Day 2

St Ouen and Grouville

In the morning, after a restful night's sleep and a delicious breakfast, we will make a 6-minute drive to the meadows of Le Noir Pré where we will meet a local expert botanist who will guide us through two beautiful orchid fields, where we will find an eruption of colour. We'll have plenty of time to enjoy the site, study the plants, and whilst we are doing so, we'll likely hear the calls of the Cetti's Warblers or the metallic 'pinging' call of the exquisite Bearded Tit which can be found in the nearby reedbeds.

Southern Marsh-orchid



Jersey Orchid



In St Ouen, we'll also hope to find the splendid Western Green Lizard. Jersey is the only place in the British Isles with a native population of these jewels and we'll be searching the best places on the island to find them. If the weather is favourable, we will enjoy lunch atop a scenic headland which overlooks St Ouen's Bay and gives fantastic views of the landscapes we have been studying during the morning.

After lunch we shall visit wet marshes at Grouville and continue onwards to the east coast where we can enjoy searching for the fine Cirl Bunting, migrant birds, and exciting flora such as Sand Catchfly, Childing Pink and Bastard-toadflax, before we head back to our wonderful hotel to relax and use the hotel's fantastic facilities for the remainder of the afternoon.

Day 3

'Seafaris' Excursion to Herm

Today we'll take an exciting 'Seafaris' RIB trip to Herm. The small Channel Island is truly a gem and there are none more befitting of a 'Go Slow' holiday. Herm measures just 1.5 miles from north to south and 0.5 miles east to west. It is one of the smallest of the inhabited Channel Islands and, with a population of just over 60, it is beautifully unspoilt with no cars. Herm's Shell Beach is stunning with beautiful soft white sand and clean blue waters which are perfect for swimming, for those who don't mind the temperature!

On the voyage from Jersey, we shall lookout for seabirds such as Gannets, Fulmar, Puffins, Guillemot and Razorbill. Mammals may include Grey Seal, and if we are lucky, Bottlenose or Common Dolphin.

Once landed on Herm, butterflies we hope to see include Common Blue, Small Heath, Grayling and Wall (the latter now increasingly rare in the UK). We will also look for day-flying moths such as the tiny but attractive Scarce Purple and Gold (*Pyrausta ostrinalis*), Silver-barred Sable (*Pyrausta cingulata*) and Five-spot Burnet. Plants that we should encounter include Burnet Rose, Viper's Bugloss, Sea Bindweed and Sea-holly. We should encounter bird species such as Common Whitethroat, Stonechat and Linnet as well as, again, having the chance to spot something much rarer on migration.

After a very enjoyable exploration of Herm, we'll take our chartered RIB back to Jersey in time to freshen up for the next of our delicious dinners.



Day 4

St Brelade and North coast

Another short drive from our hotel are some wonderfully scenic habitats which we will explore in search of both resident and migratory birds. Resident species we'll be searching for include Dartford Warbler, Stonechats, Whitethroat and a number of butterflies. Whilst on Jersey we'll be utilising local contacts to keep up to date with any special migrating birds which may take temporary pause here, and the sites in the west are some of the best places to find exciting migrants which in recent years has included such species as Golden Oriole, Honey Buzzard and Turtle Dove.

Stonechat



Dartford Warbler



After lunch we'll head to the rugged north coast where species such as Northern Fulmar, Red-billed Chough, Raven and Peregrine Falcon frequent. Gannets and small rafts of Guillemot and Razorbill can be seen out to sea here. With luck, a very small number of Puffin can also be found here, and these birds represent the most southerly breeding populations of this species.

Day 5

Depart Jersey

This morning we'll have time for a final use of the spa facilities or beach walk before making the short drive back to the airport for our flight home after a restful break in Jersey.

Tour Grading & Focus

There will be easy walking on this holiday, though naturally there will be some short uphill walks on the coastal paths. For our chartered RIB journey, some arm strength will be required to be able to hold on to the seat in front for safety.

Weather, Clothing & Equipment

We expect fine weather at this time in late May but the weather is of course unpredictable and we recommend bringing layers of clothing including a warm jumper/fleece for the boat journey and a waterproof jacket and waterproof walking boots. Binoculars will be very useful if you have them.

Lifejackets are provided for our RIB journey.

What's Included

Breakfasts and evening meals are included in the holiday cost beginning with the evening meal on Day 1 and finishing with breakfast on Day 5. The tour price includes a 3-course meal on our four evenings. The hotel's multiple award-winning restaurant showcases modern British cooking in a classic setting with the emphasis on fresh Jersey produce. Lunches are not included in the cost of this tour which offers the chance for those who wish to take advantage of eating something lighter in the afternoon to save stomach space for our wonderful dinners!



The Atlantic Hotel

We'll be using Golf View rooms as standard. All rooms feature one King size or two twin beds with contemporary headboards in oak and satin polished chrome, as well as elegant oak and satinwood furniture. Full-height sliding windows with views over La Moye Championship Golf Course open onto a step-on balcony. Well-equipped marble en-suite bathrooms with stylish Hans Grohe fittings and toiletries by Molton Brown. It may be possible to upgrade rooms should this be of interest and depending on availability.

During our stay you'll have full use of the spa facilities which include swimming pools, spa pool, mini gymnasium and saunas.

Extending Your Holiday

We can happily book additional nights at the hotel for you. Please request this at the time of booking.

How to book your place

In order to book your place on this holiday, please give us a call on 01962 733051 with a credit or debit card, book online at www.naturetrek.co.uk, or alternatively complete and post the booking form at the back of our main Naturetrek brochure, together with a deposit of 20% of the holiday cost plus any room supplements if required. If you do not have a copy of the brochure, please call us on 01962 733051 or request one via our website. Please stipulate any special requirements, for example extension requests, at the time of booking.

Please note, to travel to the Channel Islands from the UK all passengers are required to provide photographic ID (Passport, Photographic Driving Licence, National ID card, Citizen card, etc) at the airport or harbour check-in desk. Please note that for flights departing from the Channel Islands, UK (EU) 261/2004 which covers delays caused by things like extreme weather, air traffic control or airport employee strikes or other 'extraordinary circumstances' is not applicable and not eligible for compensation.



Jersey Orchid



Western Green Lizard



Puffin



Red Squirrel