

CICERONE

WALKING ON JERSEY

24 Routes and the Jersey Coastal Walk



Paddy Dillon

WALKING ON JERSEY

by Paddy Dillon

CICERONE

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Updates to this Guide

While every effort is made by our authors to ensure the accuracy of guidebooks as they go to print, changes can occur during the lifetime of an edition. This guidebook was researched and written during the COVID-19 pandemic. While we are not aware of any significant changes to routes or facilities at the time of printing, it is likely that the current situation will give rise to changes. Any updates that we know of for this guide will be on the Cicerone website (www.cicerone.co.uk/1103/updates), so please check before planning your trip. We also advise that you check information about such things as transport, accommodation and shops locally. Even rights of way can be altered over time.

We are always grateful for information about any discrepancies between a guidebook and the facts on the ground, sent by email to updates@cicerone.co.uk or by post to Cicerone, Juniper House, Murley Moss, Oxenholme Road, Kendal, LA9 7RL.

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Front cover: Looking across Bouley Bay from L'Islet (Walk 13)

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Route symbols on map extracts



route

extension



start point



finish point

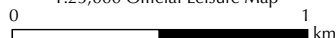


start/finish point

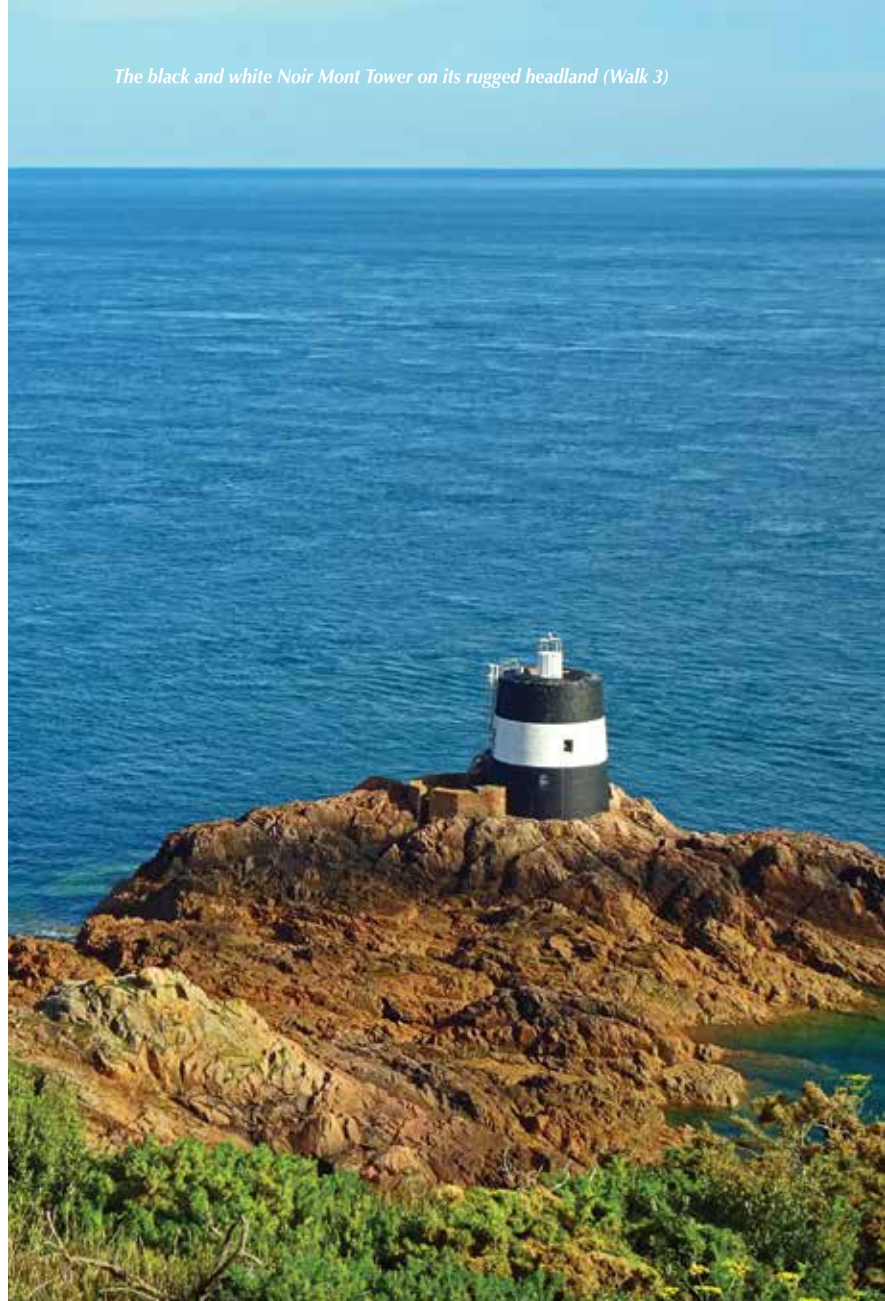


direction of walk

Maps are extracted from the States of Jersey
1:25,000 Official Leisure Map



The black and white Noir Mont Tower on its rugged headland (Walk 3)





Boats sit on the beach at low tide in the little harbour at Rozel (Walk 14)

INTRODUCTION

'Morceaux de France tombés à la mer et ramassés par l'Angleterre.'
'Pieces of France fallen into the sea and picked up by England.'

Victor Hugo

Small and often very busy, but also beautiful and abounding in interest, the Channel Islands are an intriguing walking destination. The self-governing 'Bailiwicks' of Jersey and Guernsey owe their allegiance to the Crown and seem outwardly British but are in fact an ancient remnant of the Duchy of Normandy, with Norman–French place-names very much in evidence. For British visitors it is like being at home and abroad at the same time. French visitors, however, find it a quintessentially British experience!

Walkers will find magnificent cliff and coastal paths, golden sandy beaches, wooded valleys and quiet country lanes. Flowers are everywhere and there is a rich birdlife. There are castles, churches, ancient monuments and fortifications to visit, as well as a host of other attractions. There are efficient and frequent bus services, and easy onward links by air and sea between the islands. This guidebook describes 24 one-day walking routes on Jersey, covering a total distance around 225km (140 miles), plus a long-distance coastal walk around the island, measuring almost 80km (50

miles). There is also a note about the Channel Island Way, a long-distance island-hopping route embracing the entire archipelago, covering 178km (110 miles).

LOCATION

The Channel Islands lie south of Britain, but not everyone immediately appreciates how close they are to France. The islands fit snugly into a box bounded by lines of longitude 2°W and 3°W, and lines of latitude 49°N and 50°N. This puts them well and truly in the Golfe de St Malo off the Normandy coast of France. The French refer to them as *Les Îles Anglo-Normandes*, and that is the clue to their curious place in geography and history. They are the only remnants of the Duchy of Normandy to remain loyal to the Crown.

Jersey is the largest and southernmost of the islands, yet has an area of only 116km² (45 square miles). No point on the island is more than 3.5km (2 miles) from the sea, yet it can take weeks to explore the place thoroughly.

WALK 1

St Helier Town Trail

Start/Finish
Distance
Terrain
Refreshments
Transport

Liberation Square, St Helier
 Variable
 Urban roads and pavements, as well as parks.
 Plenty of choice around St Helier.
 All bus services on Jersey operate to and from Liberation Station.

St Helier is the largest town on Jersey and the Channel Islands, with several features of note. A rigid route description is hardly appropriate, and in fact there is no need to dedicate a whole day to a tour. Simply explore a different area of town any time you are passing through. There are so many places of interest, many of them apparent even if you are not particularly on the lookout for them. Lots of little plaques and memorials are fixed to all sorts of structures. The best approach is to visit the museum first, then explore some of the interesting streets and green spaces in town. Free town plans are easily obtained, and there is an excellent one on the back of the 1:25,000 Official Leisure Map of Jersey.

Within easy reach of the Weighbridge are two fine museums, both of which have entry charges.

The focal point for starting explorations around St Helier is the wide-open space around the Weighbridge, and, more precisely, **Liberation Square** and its striking bronze memorial. Carts laden with potatoes and other goods for shipment used to be weighed, then weighed again unladen at the Weighbridge. The difference between the two weights was the weight of the goods, for which payment would be made. ◀ The award-winning **Jersey Museum**, tel 01534 633300, www.jerseyheritage.org, is in the Ordnance Yard. It explains all about Jersey's development from its most ancient bedrock to the flickering Reuters screens which offer constant news updates for the world of commerce and high finance.



The **Maritime Museum**, tel 01534 811043, www.jerseyheritage.org, is situated on the harbourside. It covers everything from the nature of the weather and tides to sea-life and the lives of fishermen and boat-builders, with plenty of hands-on exhibits. The museum also houses the Occupation Tapestry and details how it was made in the 12 parishes of Jersey.

There are several interesting streets clustered around the Weighbridge. The Esplanade no longer runs beside the sea, as harbour developments have pushed further and further seawards. Following the Esplanade



Liberation Square and its striking centrepiece monument

launches straight into Walk 2 around St Aubin's Bay. Both **Mulcaster Street** and **Conway Street** lead directly from **Liberation Square** to the town centre, and both run close to the ancient Parish Church of St Helier.

If following **Conway Street**, a left turn leads onto Broad Street, where the head post office is located, and enquiries can be made about Jersey stamps and first day covers. There is onward access to **King Street**, **Queen Street**, **New Street** and other pedestrianised shopping streets. The old Market Hall, one of the busiest retail spaces in the Channel Islands, is an imposing building on **Halkett Place**.

Following Mulcaster Street from the Weighbridge leads to the States Offices, with access to Royal Square and its fine buildings.

The name **Peirson** is forever associated with this square, where the last pitched battle with French forces took place in 1781. Major Peirson won the day, but lost his life, as did the French leader Baron de Rullecourt (see the end of Walk 17 for more information).

By now, several tall buildings associated with commerce and high finance will have been noticed, and these now dominate the town centre.

Also dominating the skyline, and named on many signposts, is **Fort Regent**. Although an old stone wall can be seen encircling this whaleback ridge, once enclosing a 19th-century fort, the structures beyond are quite modern. Fort Regent is now a large and varied leisure centre full of attractions and entertainment. What appears to be a mast and rigging rising over the site is actually the last working signal station to be used in the British Isles.

There is no need to climb up to Fort Regent. Simply follow Hill Street and turn right onto Grenville Street to reach Green Street. ► Cutting through the **cemetery** leads to Hastings Road, which can be used to reach **Howard Davis Park**. This park is laid out quite formally, with lovely rose gardens, and is well used by locals and visitors. A memorial building tells the story behind the park.

Roads lead down to the sea and a slipway at Le Dicc. The road called **Havre des Pas** runs past modern developments, but in previous years the scene was quite different.

An old cemetery is now managed as if it were a hay meadow, and around 100 species of plants grow in this little plot.

Looking across the harbour towards the centre of St Helier, with Fort Regent rising to the right



Ships were constructed on the beaches and either floated off on the high tides, or launched from wooden slides.

Seats around the Old Harbour carry the names of ships, leading to the curious 'Ariadne' Steam Clock.

The Steam Clock 'Ariadne' is located near the Maritime Museum

Fort d'Auvergne once stood here and the area was notable for shipbuilding. ◀ When the tide is out, rocky reefs appear and careful seamanship is required to navigate around them. A promenade path can be followed round to La Collette, where barracks are surrounded by flowery gardens. La Collette Gardens rise steeply onto the wooded rise of **Mount Bingham**, which is all parkland and paths. The area also features a towering power station chimney, a prominent landmark.

Walking back into town via the harbour reveals much of interest. There are immense retaining walls above the Victoria, French and English Harbours. ◀ Close to hand are the Maritime Museum, Weighbridge, Jersey Museum and **Liberation Square**, so explorations have come full circle.

There is so much to see around St Helier, so spend time pounding the streets looking for interesting plaques and monuments. Shops offer goods at duty-free prices, while restaurants offer a wide variety of food and drink. There are constant distractions and you can almost smell the money being made by the financial institutions. Behind St Helier's bustling facade is a town rich in history and heritage, waiting to be discovered. There are sometimes guided heritage walks around town and the tourist information centre can provide details of any taking place during your visit.



WALK 2

St Helier to St Aubin

Start	Liberation Square, St Helier
Finish	St Aubin's Harbour
Distance	5.5km (3½ miles)
Terrain	A short, easy, firm, level promenade walk. Optional extensions along tidal causeways allow fortified islands to be visited.
Refreshments	Plenty of choice around St Helier and St Aubin, and along the promenade between them. Café at Elizabeth Castle.
Transport	Amphibious vehicles serve Elizabeth Castle at any state of the tide. All buses serve St Helier. Buses 12A, 14 and 15 link St Helier and St Aubin. <i>Le Petit Train</i> runs along the promenade between St Helier and St Aubin.

A walk around St Aubin's Bay is easily accomplished using a level promenade path, or a fine sandy beach when the tide is out. The bay is flanked by two small, stoutly fortified islands, which can be included in the walk if the tide allows. A thorough exploration of Elizabeth Castle might take half a day, but St Aubin's Fort is not open to visitors. A couple of cylindrical Jersey Towers are tucked away among built-up areas, and there is no shortage of places offering food and drink.

Start on Liberation Square in St Helier and follow the Esplanade past Liberation Station. Keep to the right-hand side of the road, then use a pedestrian crossing to reach the other side of a busy road to enter Les Jardins de la Mer. This supports bushes and maritime plants.

► A curious boat-shaped restaurant called *La Frégate* is passed. Amphibious vehicles operate from a slipway nearby to **Elizabeth Castle**. Note the stone plaques set into the sea wall, recording the endeavours of round-the-island swimmers over the years.

The centrepiece of the garden is a fountain rising around a bronze sculpture of humans and dolphins swimming together.



- 24 coastal and inland walks suitable for most abilities
 - historical sites, castles, churches, pretty villages
 - popular destination for year-round walking

This guidebook offers walks all over Jersey. The routes use good paths and tracks as well as quiet country roads, while occasional more rugged paths explore the island's excellent cliff coastline. The walks take in plenty of interesting historical sites as well as formidable castles and churches. There are also many museums and attractions to visit.

Famous for its sunshine, history and wonderful coastline, Jersey is an intriguing destination. Outwardly British but with Norman-French overtones, it is a compact and attractive island.

- easy walks of between 5km (3 miles) and 13km (8 miles)
- most walks include visitor attractions, heritage sites, food and drink



- enough walking to occupy anyone for up to a month's visit
- short walks can be joined together to create the 80km (49½ mile) Jersey Coastal Walk and the Channel Island Way
- contains extracts from the Official Leisure Map of Jersey

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