



CHANNEL ISLANDS
BRUSSELS OFFICE



Giffard Point

Introduction

The Channel Islands, or ‘Les Iles Anglo-Normandes’, have a combined population of approximately 165,000. They are located just off the coast of France, in the English Channel. Their history is intertwined with those of both the British Isles and France, and this is reflected in their unique culture and their native languages.

The Islands’ economies are mainly based on financial services, tourism and agriculture. They are also home to many EU citizens and in particular, significant populations of Portuguese, Polish and Latvian nationals live and work in the Islands.

The Channel Islands are British Crown Dependencies which are located in the English Channel, but are geographically closer to the coasts of Normandy and Brittany. They have a direct allegiance to the British Crown which goes back over 800 years. Channel Islanders are British Citizens, but the Islands enjoy a high degree of autonomy, including their own parliamentary, fiscal and judicial systems.

The Channel Islands comprise two separate jurisdictions, the Bailiwick of Guernsey and the Bailiwick of Jersey. The term ‘Bailiwick’ derives from an ancient administrative term for an area under the control of a Bailiff. The Bailiff is the head of the judiciary and is the most senior civic figure in each Island. The Bailiwick of Guernsey comprises three separate jurisdictions: Guernsey, Alderney and Sark. The Bailiwick of Jersey comprises the island of Jersey.

The Islands are not part of the United Kingdom, but they work closely with the UK Government which is constitutionally responsible for the Islands’ defence and for formal international representation. Through Framework Agreements signed between the UK and each of the Islands in December 2008 (Guernsey), it was agreed that the UK will not act internationally on account of the Islands without prior consultation and recognises that they each have an international identity that is different from that of the UK.

The Channel Islands participate in the UK-EU Trade and Cooperation Agreement (TCA) in respect of fisheries and the trade in goods. Outside of the formal TCA relationship, the Islands are treated as third countries and are not part of the European Economic Area (EEA). They maintain close relationships with the EU and its Member States in many different fields, and those relationships are deeply valued by Islanders.

Our History & Culture

The Islands' status as Crown Dependencies dates back to 1204 when King John of England lost continental Normandy to the French King Philippe Auguste. The Islands, which had been part of the Duchy of Normandy since 933, elected to remain loyal to the English Crown. The relationship between the Channel Islands and the monarchy was formalised in 1259 when the Treaty of Paris was agreed between Henry III of England and Louis IX of France. Although in it, Henry III abandoned his right to the title "Duke of Normandy", his rights to the Islands were confirmed and he still ruled the Islands in that capacity, continuing to observe their established laws, liberties and customs. These local rights were later confirmed in a series of Charters by successive Kings and Queens and are the origins and basis of the Islands' status as Crown Dependencies.

As evidence of their Norman heritage, the Islands' indigenous languages, Guernésiais and Jèrriais, are derived from Norman French. Both Islands are working to preserve these native tongues as part of their cultural identities, as the number of speakers declined following the Second World War.

The Channel Islands were the only part of the British Isles to be occupied by the Nazi forces, from June 1940 until May 1945, and many children were evacuated to England during the war years. The Channel Islands were heavily fortified with anti-tank walls, bunkers and gun batteries as part of the Atlantic Wall; these fortifications remain and now form a distinctive part of the coastline. Both Guernsey and Jersey celebrate a special holiday on the 9th May each year, Liberation Day, to remember the day in 1945 that the Occupation finally ended.

The King is the Head of State and the Lieutenant-Governor in each Island acts as His Majesty's personal representative. Guernsey and Jersey are not sovereign states, but they are not and have never been part of the UK, a British colony or a dependent territory. The Islands are not represented in the UK Parliament.

As dependencies of the Crown, the death of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, the longest reigning monarch in British history, was acutely felt in both Islands. Special services to pay tribute to Her Majesty and to proclaim the new King drew in thousands of Islanders.



Liberation celebrations

Facts & Figures



Constitutional status:

Crown Dependencies (self-governing since 1204)



Indigenous languages:

Guernésiais (Guernsey); Jèrriais (Jersey)



7 permanently inhabited Islands:

Guernsey, Herm, Jethou, Alderney,
Sark, Brecqou, Jersey



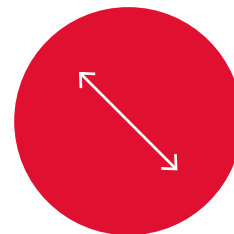
Main towns:

St Peter Port (Guernsey); St Helier (Jersey)



Population:

Guernsey 64,000; Jersey 103,000



Size:

Guernsey 78 km²; Jersey 120 km²



Official language:

English



GDP:

Guernsey £3.4 billion (2021);
Jersey £5 billion (2021)

Guernsey

Alderney

Herm

Sark

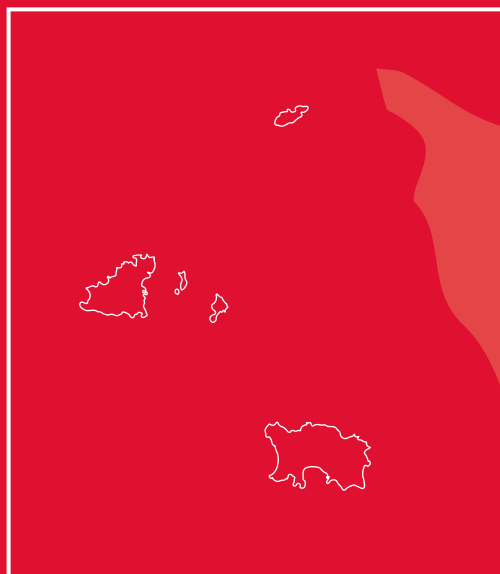
Jethou

Brecqhou

Jersey

ENGLISH CHANNEL

FRANCE







Potato farming

Economy & Business

Both Islands have historic agricultural and fishing traditions. While they now play a smaller role in terms of GDP, these industries are still key to the Islands' identities. Dairy farming, built around the famous Jersey and Guernsey breeds, remains a proud agricultural tradition for producing high quality milk products. Jersey Royal potatoes, oysters, and other products are also important exports for the Islands.

Tourism also plays an important part of the economy in both Islands, with high quality hotels and restaurants, beautiful beaches and cliffs. The Islands' unique histories and anglo-norman culture attract hundreds of thousands of holiday makers each year.

The largest employer and contributor to GDP in both Islands is financial services. The Islands are significant net providers of liquidity and investment funds to the EU economy. As third countries, and due to their location and close trading relationships with both the UK and other EU Member States, the Islands voluntarily implement appropriate EU legislation and apply relevant international standards. The Islands have robust and internationally respected systems of financial regulation, and the independent Guernsey and Jersey regulators regularly cooperate with EU counterparts. Both Islands are assessed as being amongst the best quality financial centres in the world when measured against the standards set by the Financial Action Task Force for countering terrorist financing and anti-money laundering.

[INSERT JERSEY FACT]





Climate & Environment

Both Guernsey and Jersey are committed to reaching 'net zero' emissions by 2050 at the latest, as both Islands are committed to playing their part in the global effort to combat climate change.

The Islands' financial services sectors are leaders in green finance initiatives. In 2018, the Guernsey Financial Services Commission published the Guernsey Green Fund rules, creating the world's first regulated green investment fund product.

The Islands are also world leaders in other areas of environmental protection and sustainability.

Guernsey has prioritised recycling, and the household recycling rate (including recycling, reuse and composting) is more than 70%, one of the highest in the world.

[INSERT JERSEY FACT]

Island Treasures

- In 2012, one of the largest ever Celtic coin hordes was discovered in Jersey. Around 2,000 years old, it contains nearly 70,000 coins, rings, torques and other jewellery.
- The Little Chapel in Guernsey, thought to be the smallest consecrated church anywhere in the world, was built by a French monk, based on the basilica at Lourdes. It is decorated with thousands of shells and pieces of broken china.



The Little Chapel







Guernsey Coastline

The relationship with the EU

Prior to the UK's withdrawal from the EU, there was a formal relationship between the Channel Islands and the EU which was governed by Protocol 3 to the UK's Act of Accession to the European Economic Community in 1972 ("Protocol 3"). This relationship, amongst other things, allowed for the Islands to be in the EU Customs Territory and to benefit from free movement of industrial and agricultural goods. Certain limited agreements which the UK was party to through its relationship with the EU applied to the Islands insofar as Protocol 3 applied. When the UK ceased to be a Member State of the EU, the Islands' Protocol 3 relationship with the EU also ended.

On the afternoon of 24th December 2020, the UK Government and the European Parliament announced that an agreement in principle had been reached on a future relationship with the European Union ('EU'), for trade, security and other cooperation. This agreement is called the Trade and Cooperation Agreement (the TCA).

The Islands resolved to participate in the new UK-EU relationship, insofar as it applies to them, in particular, in respect of fisheries and the trade in goods. Outside of the formal TCA relationship, the Islands are treated as jurisdictions outside of the EU and ones that are not part of the European Economic Area (EEA). This means they are treated as 'third countries'.

As third countries, and due to their location and close trading relationships with both the UK and other EU Member States, the Islands voluntarily implement appropriate EU legislation and apply relevant international standards. The Islands are not, for example, part of the single market in financial services and so have negotiated limited market access as a third country on a case-by-case basis by being assessed as applying equivalent standards to those in the EU.

By virtue of their geographical location, the Islands also applied the relevant EU aviation and maritime measures to secure and underpin their transport links.

The Channel Islands are not

- Part of the UK
- Represented in the UK Parliament
- UK Overseas Territories (like Gibraltar or Bermuda)
- Members of the EU
- Members of the European Economic Area (EEA)
- Members of the European Free Trade Area (EFTA)
- Covered by the EU Overseas Countries and Territories (OCT) Decision
- "Small-sized countries which maintain specific relations of proximity with the EU" (Lisbon Treaty Declaration 3 – Andorra, Monaco, San Marino)
- Covered by the EU's European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP)
- Represented in the European Parliament
- Recipients of any funds from the EU budget



Market Square, St Peter Port

Literary lights



Victor Hugo was exiled and lived in both Jersey and Guernsey. He spent 15 years in Guernsey, and it is possible to visit the house where he lived and wrote works such as *Les Travaillleurs de la Mer* and *Les Misérables*.



Jersey was also home to Gerald Durrell, conservationist and author, and founder of Jersey Zoo which has been protecting rare species and preserving threatened ecosystems for six decades.

The small island of Sark was home to Gormenghast author Mervyn Peake.



TH White, author of *The Once and Future King*, and *the Sword in the Stone*, made his home in Alderney.



Sark





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