You can always rely on the good old BBC. About a week before The Other Half and I were due to travel to Jersey, Neil Oliver and the Coast team popped up on the TV with a Channel Islands special and a taste of what we might expect. We were intrigued. Unlike Neil, however, a quick, greased-up cross-Channel training swim was not on our agenda!

We had lined up plenty of other activities. The two of us love the outdoor life. So, whilst soaking up the commanding and expansive views overlooking St Aubin’s Bay from the balcony of the lovely Cristina Hotel, we planned how to best use every precious, fresh-air filled hour on this jewel of an island.

Helmets on, legs pumping, we were soon travelling by bike. Sure, Jersey’s narrow hedge-framed roads are easy to drive around. But nothing beats the wind-blown freedom of gigabiking along under your own steam. In fact, we travelled ‘in the tracks of steam’, crunching through the gears along the old railway line that once ran from St Helier to La Corbière, linking the wide, breezy promenade along St Aubin’s Bay to the rocky south-western corner of the island.

If you’ve ever battled your way around London on a bicycle, or indeed any major city, you’ll certainly appreciate the non-aggressive, stress-free riding available in Jersey. You’ll find a large network of designated ‘Green Lanes’ where vehicular traffic is restricted to a maximum of 15mph. What a joy. Ken Livingstone, please take note.

As you pedal along, meandering through lanes and pretty villages, there’s plenty of time to muse on Jersey’s old Norman-French placenames and road signs. It all adds up to an appealing mixture of British home-from-home certainties and stimulating continental sophistication. The variety and quality of the food here underlines this happy cultural co-existence.

Once you reach the end of the old railway line, you’re rewarded by views of Corbière Lighthouse, one of Jersey’s most recognisable and photographed spots. When we arrived the narrow causeway out to the lighthouse was semi-submerged, waiting for low tide to link it once more to the island. It was a sight that gave us our first indication of the extraordinary tidal range around Jersey, something that we would experience for ourselves over the following days.

Huge 40ft tides – that’s about 13m – make Jersey’s coastline a constantly expanding and contracting wonderland, to be enjoyed and explored, but only with caution and respect for the power of the sea. Fortunately when we took to the water we were in the hands of an expert, the dynamic Derek Haron who runs Jersey Kayak Adventures. A paddling Pied Piper, Derek guided us through one of the most memorable days I’ve ever spent anywhere in the world.

BBC TV sports reporter Hazel Irvine isn’t the kind of girl who likes to sit still. With her equally energetic Other Half, she spent an action-packed weekend in Jersey. It almost wore her out...
Leaving the breakwater at St Catherine on a sunny, flat-calm early morning we powered away on board our mothership, Equinox, a large RIB (Rigid Inflatable Boat) with Captain Dean at the wheel. We were bound for Les Ecrehos, a granite reef six miles off the north-east coast. As special a place that I’m almost afraid to say too much about it lest it becomes overrun with visitors and loses its magic.

What a weird and wonderful sight these tiny islands are. At high tide all that’s visible of Les Ecrehos are a handful of rocky outcrops defiantly sitting above the water line.

At low tide, things get even better. The surface area of the islands expands by around 80% as the sea drains away to reveal a storm, kauri-style landscape and spectacular crescent-shaped shingle bank.

We unloaded our kayaks from the RIB and settled into our sturdy, buoyant little crafts. With paddle in hand, we began to explore the ever-rising and falling waters around the reef. The other half and I are hardly Olympic kayaking material but this kind of waterborne adventuring was, whilst at times energetic, surprisingly straightforward and very relaxing. Paddling through the crystal-clear water I was struck by how peaceful a place this is.

At low tide, things get even better. The surface area of the islands expands by around 80% as the sea drains away to reveal a storm, kauri-style landscape and spectacular crescent-shaped shingle bank. Sargassum were languidly going with the flow of the outgoing tide.

Les Ecrehos lies within virtual touching distance of the French mainland. Indeed fishermen and some French militiamen famously mounted a mis-invasion of the islands one morning in 1994, determined to wrest them from British sovereignty. They gave up on the idea around lunchtime, ate and went home. Happily this place still feels like a treasured secret that is shared only by those ‘in-the-know’ from the two nations. Indeed there were as many Tricolours as Union Jacks flying from the handful of vessels anchored in the main lagoon that balmy Saturday afternoon.

After beaching the kayaks on the main island we enjoyed a well-earned picnic lunch on the shingle beach and wandered around on (then) dry land. Moving up and amongst the little huddle of huts on La Marmotiere we came to a tiny main square. A wall still bears the official Jersey States ‘Customs House’ sign sculpted into the stone.

‘What a weird and wonderful sight these tiny islands are. At high tide all that’s visible of Les Ecrehos are a handful of rocky outcrops defiantly sitting above the water line.’
An Action-Packed Weekend

Hazel Irvine and her partner stayed at Hotel Cristina, Mont Fleur, St Aubin’s Bay, Jersey JE3 1JA. It’s a very comfortable and friendly, with beautiful terraces and stunning views overlooking the bay.
Tel 01534 758024
www.dolanhotels.com

They Went Offshore with Jersey Kayak Adventures, St Clement
Tel 01534 853138 or 07797 853033
www.jerseykayakadventures.co.uk

They Played Golf at: Wheatlands Golf Course, St Peter
Tel 01534 488877
www.wheatlandsjersey.com

They Hired Bikes from: Zebra Cycles
Tel 01534 736556
www.zebrahire.com

Outdoor Active

There’s a huge range of activities on offer in Jersey. It’s an outdoor kind of place, with good weather, big beaches, great surf and inviting seas. And inland, you can go cycling, play golf or get to grips with adventure sports. We have included some samples from our all-action activities scene here. For the full picture go to: www.jersey.com

Activity Operators
Active Island Sports, St Brelade’s Bay Open All Year. Tel 07797 717564 www.activeislandsports.com
Adventures Unlimited, St Martin Open all year. Tel 01534 873074 or 07797 727503 www.jerseyadventures.com
Atlantic Waves School of Surfing, St Ouen’s Bay Open May–September. Tel 01534 744157 or 07797 718150 email: atlanticwavezz@hotmail.com
Conjuring Kites Kitesurfing School, St Helier Open all year. Tel 01534 618548 or 07797 727207 email: seakites@ad.com
Extreme Jersey Open all year. Tel 07797 717564 & 07797 736411 www.extremejersey.com
Jersey Odyssey Open all year. Tel 01534 498636 or 07700 727430 www.jerseyodyssey.co.uk
Jersey Sea Sport Centre, La Haule Slip, by St Aubin’s Village Open 9am–5.30pm May–mid-September. Tel 07797 738180 www.jerseysasport.com
Jersey Surf School, Watersplash, St Ouen’s Bay Open April–September. Tel 01534 484005 www.csurf.com
Kite School Jersey Open April–October. Tel 01534 638888 www.pureadventurejersey.com
Pure Adventure, St Helier Open all year. Tel 01534 638888 or 07797 731050 www.pureadventurejersey.com
Sand, Surf and Sail, St Ouen’s Bay Open all year. Tel 01534 483707
Skydive Jersey Open February–November. Tel 01534 747410 or 07797 737730 www.skydivejersey.net
Surf ‘n’ Sun Watersports, St Brelade’s Bay Open May–September. Tel 07797 736411 email: mackley@jerseymail.co.uk
Waterfront Watersports Centre, St Helier Open April–September. Tel 01534 638888 www.pureadventurejersey.com

Operators
Active Island Sports
Adventures Unlimited
Atlantic Waves School
Conjuring Kites School
Extreme Jersey
Gorey Watersports
Jersey Aero Club
Jersey Karting
Jersey Kayak Adventures
Jersey Odyssey
Jersey Sea Sport Centre
Jersey Surf School
Kite School Jersey
Pure Adventure
Skydive Jersey
Sand, Surf & Sail
Surf & Sun Watersports

Visitor to the Hotel Cristina never fail to comment on the fantastic views from the balconies and terraces. Overlooking the vista of St Aubin’s Bay, the south-facing hotel offers hours of sunshine to be enjoyed in the lush gardens and outdoor heated pool in the hotel’s private grounds. Only a couple of minutes’ walk from the beach, and just a mile and a half from Jersey’s main town St Helier, the Cristina provides the perfect setting for guests to explore the island at their own pace. The bedrooms are stylishly furnished in a bright, modern style that is matched in the thriving brasserie-style Indigo Restaurant with a fresh, light menu that changes daily.

Hotel Cristina
Mont Fleur, St Aubin’s Bay, Jersey JE3 1BE
Tel 01534 712250
Fax 01534 730229
email: cristina@dolanhotels.com
www.cristinajersey.com
Surfing Clubs
Jersey Bodyboarding
www.jerseybodyboarding.com
Jersey Longboard Club
www.jerseylongboarders.com
Jersey Surfboard Club
www.surfingjersey.net

Dive Operators
Bouley Bay Diving Centre
Open all year.
Tel 01534 866990
www.scubadivingjersey.com

H2O Sports Ltd, St Helier
Open all year.
Tel 01534 880934 or 07797 723941
www.divejersey.co.uk

Jersey Sub Aqua Club, St Helier
Open all year.
www.jsac.org.uk

TT Divers, St Lawrence
Open all year.
Tel 07797 742338
www.oceandiscoveries.co.uk

Raleigh Sailing
Open all year.
Tel 01534 607910 or 07797 734303
www.raleighsailing.com

Sailing, Fishing and Boat Charters
Anna II Fishing Trips, St Helier
Available all year.
Tel 01534 888552 or 07797 725301
www.fishingjersey.co.uk

Channel Charter, St Helier
Available all year.
Tel 07797 761902 or 07797 728099
www.channelcharter.com

Island RIB Voyages, St Helier
Open all year.
Tel 01534 638888
www.pureadventurejersey.com

JerseySailing.com
Open all year.
Tel 01534 858046 or 07797 728316
www.jerseysailing.com

Ocean Discoveries, St Helier
Open all year.
Tel 07797 742338
www.oceandiscoveries.co.uk

South Coast Cruises, St Helier
Open April–October
Tel 01534 732466
www.jerseyfishing.com

Stay and Sail, Trinity
Open all year.
Tel 01534 869075 or 07797 820701
www.jerseystayandsail.co.uk

Tarka Sea Trips, St Clement’s
Open all year.
Tel 01534 851983 or 07797 729240
www.jerseysailing.com

Visitng Yachtsmen
The island’s three yacht clubs all extend a big welcome to visiting yachtsmen.

The Royal Channel Islands Yacht Club, St Aubin
Tel 01534 741023
email: rciyc@localdial.com

St Catherine’s Sailing Club, St Martin
Tel 01534 857741
www.scsc.org.je

More yachting information overleaf

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Click on CONDORBREAKS.COM to book – or call 0845 60 33 121

Click on CONDORBREAKS.COM to book – or call 0845 60 33 121.
St Helier Yacht Club, South Pier
Tel 01534 721307
www.shyc.je

Harbour Information
St Helier has three modern well-equipped marinas catering for a wide range of craft. St Helier Marina is Jersey’s main Marina with 564 berths ranging from 20ft to 65ft. Available to non-residents on one-, five- and ten-year leases. La Collette Basin is Jersey’s deep-water marina with access at all states of the tide. 

Jersey Harbours, Maritime House, St Helier
Tel 01534 885588
www.jersey-harbours.com

Fishing
Jersey’s coastline offers excellent shore fishing from rocks, harbours and breakwaters. And the island’s huge tidal range... For freshwater anglers, there’s good reservoir fly-fishing for trout. Val de la Mare and Queen’s Valley reservoirs are set aside for game fishing and coarse anglers can fish at Dannemarche and Millbrook reservoirs. The season runs from June 1st to March 31st. For further information contact the Jersey Freshwater Angling Association (tel 01534 861083 evenings; email: jffa@jerseymail.co.uk). For the full picture go to: www.jersey.com/fishing

Golf
It’s advisable to book at all courses to avoid disappointment. Please check with individual clubs about hiring of equipment and dress code.

St Clement
Nine-hole course with par three and four holes. Other facilities include putting green, crazy golf, bowls, boules, tennis and restaurant. Tel 01534 721938

St Peter
Longueville Golf Range
Golf range with 25 bays. Tuition and club hire available. Tel 01534 519922

St Ouen
Les Mielles Golf and Country Club
Eighteen-hole golf course with shop, clubhouse bar and restaurant. Separate driving range and activity centre including miniature golf and laser clay pigeon shooting. Tel 01534 482787

St Brelade
La Moye Golf Club
This 18-hole links type course of over 6,500 yards presents a good challenge for golfers of all handicaps. Features large sand hills, pot bunkers, gorse bushes and punishing rough. Tel 01534 743401

St Peter
Les Ormes Golf and Leisure Village
Facilities include a 17-bay covered driving range with automatic pop-up tees, practice green and bunker. Also a golf and tennis shop, fitness centre, bar/restaurant. Tel 01534 497000

Grouville
Royal Jersey Golf Club
The oldest established golf club in Jersey, with a challenging 18-hole course. Visitors are welcome 10am–12noon and 2pm–4pm, Monday–Friday, and after 2.30pm on weekends. Tel 01534 854416

Cycling
Jersey is one of Europe’s best-kept secrets, with around 350 miles of roads, byways and lanes to explore. Pedalling is pure pleasure – especially on those peaceful Green Lanes and the island’s 96-mile suggested cycle network. For such a small island there’s also a surprising number of excellent bike shops stocking masses of accessories, clothing and spare parts. Most shops can also repair or service your bike. Cycle hire is also available. For more details visit: www.jersey.com/cycling

Bringing Your Own Bike
Jersey Tourism has details of establishments that have cycle racks or a safe and secure alternative. Please check with your airline before booking to make sure that they will carry your bike.

Condor Ferries take bicycles free of charge
Tel 0870 243 5140
www.condorferries.com

Zebra Cycles, St Helier
Tel 01534 736556
www.zebrahire.com

Cycling Publications
Please see page 59 for more details.

Golden Sands
For beach-lovers, the Golden Sands enjoys one of the finest locations of any hotel in Jersey. Its prime spot in the centre of St Brelade’s Bay makes the most of Jersey’s sunshine and warm climate, with the shaded crescent-shaped sands being perfect for families and bathers of all ages, as well as the more active who can enjoy volleyball and a range of water sports. With panoramic sea views and the gentle sound of the waves, the Golden Sands is great for those who want direct access to the beach. The comfortable rooms, most boasting balconies and sea views, are well designed and, with a flexible friendly approach, the hotel is also perfect for families.