

COAST AND COUNTRYSIDE SCENIC DRIVE

Discover the history, as well as the beautiful scenery that Guernsey has to offer in this three hour coach trip around the island.....

The excursion begins from the harbour seafront, passing the 12th Century parish church of St Peter Port, as well as the slipway where Queen Victoria and her consort, Prince Albert landed on an impromptu visit to Guernsey in 1846. This was the first time a reigning monarch had ever visited the island.

As we pass the iconic Castle Cornet, backdropped by the neighbouring Channel Islands of Herm and Sark, the coach heads away from the capital through the wooded valley road known as Les Val des Terres. Passing through the leafy tree-lined roads of St Martin, you'll see some of the beautifully kept gardens and properties that have in recent years helped the parish to award winning status in both local and national competitions. Onwards through the field lined country lanes of St Andrew, as we head for the unique monument in the centre of the island that is the Little Chapel. We stop off to admire the smallest consecrated church in the world - designed a hundred years ago, and based on the grotto at Lourdes in France. A true labour of love, it is decorated in a mosaic fashion with local shells and donated fragments of Wedgwood and Royal Doulton china - as well as similar material from all over the world. While at Les Vauxbelets ('the beautiful valley'), you'll also have the opportunity to visit the neighbouring Guernsey Clockmakers - specialising in unique timepieces and jewellery.

Time to head back onboard the coach, and country lanes once more lead us on our way towards the southwest corner of Guernsey's coastline - where from the cliff top vantage point of Pleinmont you'll be able to take in the stunning seascapes on offer. A photographer's dream location in many ways - as to the south you'll see both the rugged cliffs and the watchtowers which serve as a reminder of more hostile times during the German Occupation of the Channel Islands, while to the west you'll find yourself standing in the footsteps of the great French author Victor Hugo, at the ruins of the ancient watchtower where he spent a considerable amount of time gaining inspiration for his work "Toilers of the Sea". As you look out towards the horizon, you'll be able to view Les Hanois Lighthouse - to which many a seafarer owes his or her safety.

Back on the coach, and we quickly descend to sea level at the beautiful Rocquaine Bay, where you'll find Fort Grey - the Martello Tower which was built to keep Napoleon's invading forces at bay. Just across the road we make our next stop, at the Guernsey Pearl Tearooms - which overlook the bay, and where optional refreshments can be purchased.

The tour continues along the west coast, passing the tiny island of Lihou (a RAMSAR designated nature reserve just a stone's throw from Guernsey) as well as the glorious sandy beaches at L'Eree, Vazon, and the award winning Cobo Bay. We turn inland, as we head back to St Peter Port, before completing the excursion back at Guernsey's main ferry port and harbour.

Duration: 3 hours

Accessibility: No wheelchair access at The Little Chapel. 12 steps on entrance to the Little Chapel with a few steps to explore inside.

Toilet Facilities: Available at Guernsey Clockmakers and Guernsey Pearl.

NOTE: To avoid congestion at attraction sites, the route may be alternated.

