

OCCUPIED GUERNSEY TOUR

Over many centuries, the Channel Islands have been seen as a strategic gateway to invading British soil. They were the only part of the British Isles to end up under enemy rule during the Second World War - and became known as part of Hitler's Atlantic Wall.

On departure from St Peter Port Harbour, your coach heads southwards, away from the St Peter Port skyline, and onwards through the parish of St Martin, before arriving at the German Occupation Museum, founded by Richard Heaume, who as a schoolboy began collecting spent bullets in the local fields after the plough had gone by. From these humble beginnings, bit-by-bit his assortment of artefacts grew into an extensive collection of original Occupation items and documents including many extremely rare pieces. With evocative reconstructions of civilian as well as military life in the 1940s, this must surely be an essential visit.

Boarding the coach once again, we head across the island for a scenic drive - taking in views of the many fortifications from both the Napoleonic era and the more recent German Occupation. We pass one of the most iconic historic constructions - the Martello Tower situated at Rocquaine Bay, known as Fort Grey - which was built to deter Napoleon's invasion forces. From here we climb from sea level to the most south-westerly point of Guernsey's rugged coastline, at Pleinmont Point, where you'll have the chance to explore a fully restored German gun emplacement, as well as passing a high Observation Tower- with other Direction Finding towers, built using the Nazi trademark steel reinforced concrete construction methods.

After a stop for photo opportunities here, the coach heads away from the coast, and inland to the parish of St Andrew, where we visit the largest construction built during the German Occupation of the Channel Islands - the Military Underground Hospital at La Vassalerie. Hewn out of solid rock by Russian slave workers who were brought to Guernsey after the invasion of June 1940 - this not only provided medical facilities, but also a safe haven from enemy attack. Commissioned by the German High Command - the tunnels contain original artefacts; with some sections kept in the same shadowy and original state as would have been experienced 70 years ago.

Emerging from a thought provoking experience within these tunnels, back onboard the coach we return you to St Peter Port Harbour, passing many buildings which were commandeered by the military during what was said to be a 'model occupation'.

Duration: 3 hours

Accessibility: Limited wheelchair access at the Occupation Museum with uneven ground at cliff top visit, and possible slippery surfaces at the Underground Hospital.

Toilet Facilities: Toilet facilities are not available at the museums - although public toilets are available along the route.

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

