

Escape to Jersey

Under an hour's flight from London City, Gatwick and Stansted, Jersey has spent 800 years mixing French and English influences into a beguiling blend.

Tucked away in the lee of Normandy, its 45 miles of coastline alternate between towering seacliffs and arcs of golden sand swept by white-capped breakers. Inland, prettily-named parishes are criss-crossed by quiet roads lined with ancient walls of Jersey stone.

Summer 2005's Out of the Blue celebration includes air rallies, art shows, seafood festivals and ocean races. For now, the crowds ease, leaving discerning travellers to the rugged dunes on wild St Ouen's Bay, the palm-fringed seaside promenade in St Brelade, the pretty fishing port of St Aubin and

the low-tide majesty of La Rocque Bay.

The capital, St Helier, provides bustling contrast, highlighted during the week-long Fête dé Noué (Nov 27-Dec 5) when lantern parades and street entertainers add extra sparkle to the tax-free temptations of boutique shops, big-name stores and markets.

Nowhere are you far from the sea, whose gourmet offerings appear at top restaurants like Sumas in Gorey, Bohemia in St Helier and the Salty Dog in St Aubins. Work up an appetite on the north coast cliff paths, explore green hideaways like Fern Valley or try one of the renowned pub walks like the St Brelade Bender!

And to recuperate from the wild life, relax with the wildlife at Gerald Durrell's world-renowned zoo at

Les Augres Manor. Like Jersey itself, a natural class act.

An island of breathtaking natural beauty that is right on your doorstep. Reaching this beautiful island has never been easier and you can get to Jersey in less time than it takes to read the Sunday newspapers. Some go to find sun and solace, others to be inspired by culture and history, whilst many lose themselves in activities. Whatever you go for, Jersey is big enough to lose yourself in and small enough to feel at home. The perfect place for a winter get away.

Visit www.jersey.com/winter for more information plus a chance to win a luxury two-night break for two on the island.

