



ABOVE: NATURE WALK IN HERM ©ISLANDFAMILIES

KEEPING BUSY IN THE SCHOOL HOLIDAYS

NATALIE HENRY FROM ISLANDFAMILIES HAS PLENTY OF IDEAS FOR KIDS OF ALL AGES TO HAVE FUN IN THE ISLANDS DURING THE EASTER BREAK.

Guernsey is the perfect Easter getaway for families. The island hosts spring earlier than mainland Britain, arriving around four weeks earlier, which means there's even more time to enjoy a broad range of activities that cater to families with children of all ages. Families can immerse themselves in both indoor and outdoor experiences that showcase the island's natural beauty and rich cultural heritage. From nature trails and hiking to rock climbing both indoor and natural, there really is something for everyone no matter the weather.

PRESCHOOLERS

Guernsey has a wealth of beaches to explore with little ones, and sometimes the best fun really is free. Let them explore the golden sands on one of our beautiful bays, paddle in shallow waters, and collect shells. If it's windy, bring a kite; if it's damp, pack a puddle suit. Visit L'Eree Bay or Rousse for rockpooling to see what wildlife they can discover, or head to Petils Bay, a firm favourite for over a decade in our house,

where the rock pooling is brilliant at low tide, and there are rope swings up in the trees above. Please make sure you check a local tide timetable online before you go as Guernsey has one of the largest tidal ranges in the world.

Island-hopping across the water to Herm can be a fantastic day out for little legs. Enjoy the car-free environment, take in stunning Shell Beach, enjoy the nature trail, then relax and savour some local cider while the kids spend their pennies in the much-loved Herm shop.

If rainy days call for creative play, why not do some pottery painting at Iris & Dora Studios? Simple crafts like handprint plates or painted bunnies are perfect for toddlers.

PRIMARY SCHOOL

Our beautiful beaches lend themselves to children of all ages. Mine have loved sea glass hunting from a young age, and youngsters can spend hours scrambling across the rocks on what can only be described as nature's playground. Spring's a fantastic time to head

down to Moulin Huet where you can admire the flora along the way, enjoy the crystal-clear waters, stunning views and a bit more climbing on the amazing rock formations. The walk is perfectly doable from toddler onwards, but be mindful that it'll take them longer to trek back up. There's a water lane on your way down that ours have always loved playing in. though be warned – they will get themselves wet regardless of what they're wearing, so spare clothes are a must.

Saumarez Park, the largest public park on the island, offers open spaces for Easter picnics and a children's playground to burn some energy. There are ample grassy areas for running around, and the duck pond with its marvellous Japanese pavilion is always a hit.

The weather doesn't always play ball, and while a little rain never hurt anyone, it's the perfect excuse to enjoy Oatlands Village with its family-oriented fun, including trampolining, mini golf and an indoor playbarn. Two minutes up the road, Guernsey Candles

ABOVE: PETILS BAY ©ISLANDFAMILIES.
BELOW: MOULIN HUET BAY ©ISLANDFAMILIES.

can take you through a hand-dipped candle making process too. Another spot to consider is Guernsey Museum, which offers interactive displays and hands-on exhibits, making history come alive. A full list of exhibitions can be found online and the staff on reception can also lend you the key for Victoria Tower nearby – a climb mine have always really enjoyed.

TWEENS

Guernsey's a great place to walk at any time of year but comes into its own in the spring.

Round up your mini adults and head on out for a cliff path adventure – walk the south coast paths and let kids enjoy spotting nesting birds and the abundance of spring wildflowers. Routes like Icart to Moulin Huet are short and scenic while a romp from the bathing pools to Fermain is a little more challenging but you pass the bluebells on the way.

Guernsey Seaweed runs Seaweed Foraging Tours throughout the spring, which can be great fun and under 15s go free with a paying adult too.

Looking to island hop a little further afield? Consider a day or two in Sark for an extra adventure. Hire some bikes and take in the island's coastal views and stop at the Sark Dairy to try out its milk vending machine and milkshake station.

Adrenalin hunters can get their fix with outdoor activities through Adventure Sark.

If the British weather lets you down and the great outdoors isn't an option, you could head to Up Climbing or the local library's FabLab.

OLDER TEENAGERS

Guernsey has a wealth of quiet lanes to explore with something to admire around every corner. Why not hire some bikes and explore the island's scenic countryside with its blooming hedgerows and springtime flowers? The peaceful lanes and stunning views dish up some great shots for their social media too!

If you're raising history lovers, the island offers historical sites in abundance, from German bunkers and Castle Cornet, and a stop at the German Underground Hospital might be right up their alley. These attractions provide educational insights and interactive exhibits suitable for older children. The Guernsey Tapestry, which showcases the island's history through beautifully crafted embroidery, is well worth a visit too.

Karting Guernsey offers a bit of adrenalin for the older kids and while Golf19 offers something for all ages, if the weather's not playing ball (excuse the pun), older teens might particularly enjoy the

driving range. Hit some balls and have some food in the restaurant. Pirate Bay Adventure Golf is there too.

Why not get the whole family involved with the escape rooms at Fermain Valley? Solve clues and puzzles together then head next door for Mexican food at Buho Restaurant (restaurant opening times subject to seasonal demand).

Guernsey's blend of natural beauty, cultural heritage, and family-friendly activities makes it an ideal destination for an unforgettable Easter holiday.



IslandFamilies is a vibrant hub of information, and home to the popular Community Club, helping families get most out of life in the Bailiwick. Visit islandfamilies.com for more information on things to do, places to go, and money to be saved along the way.

