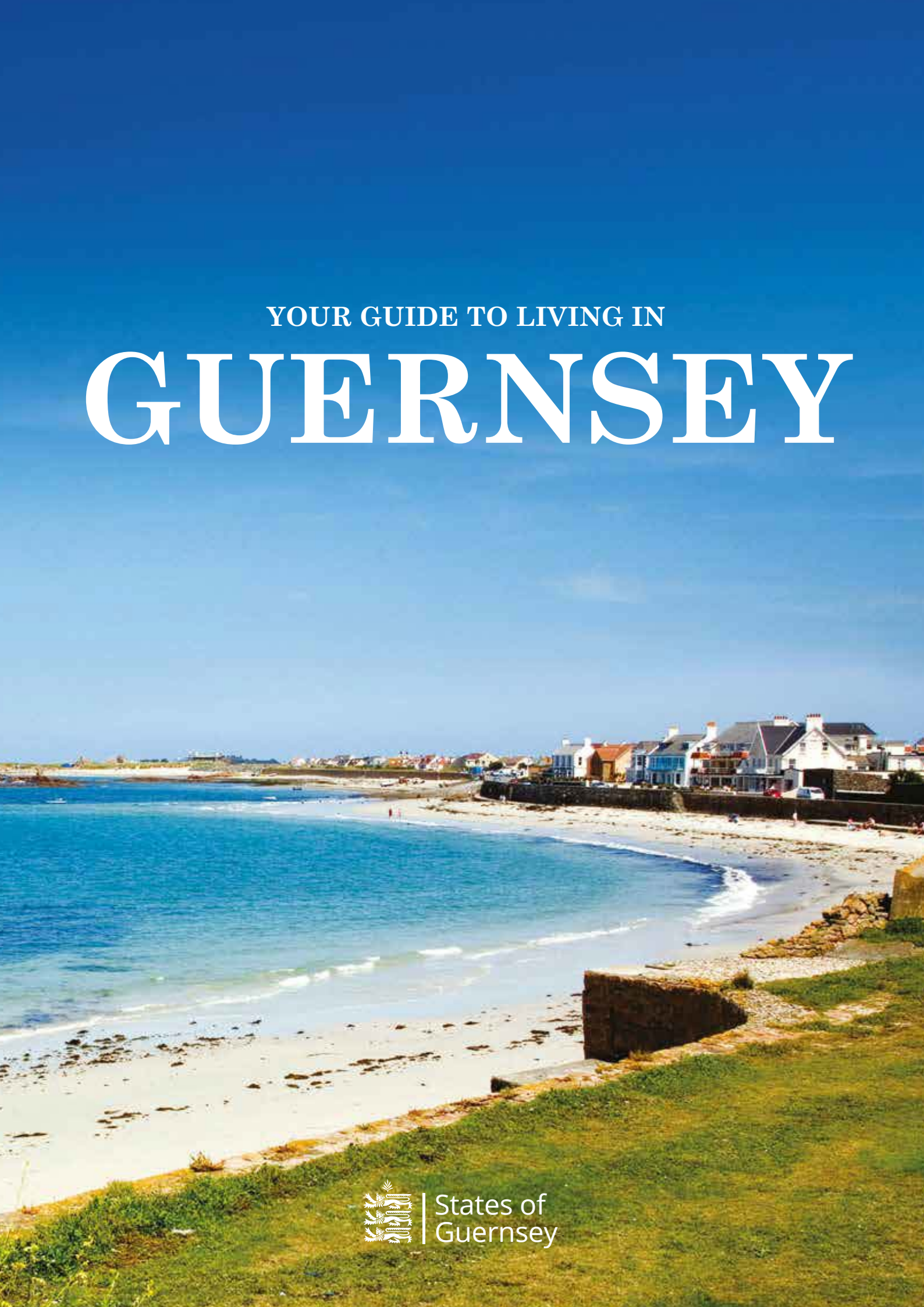
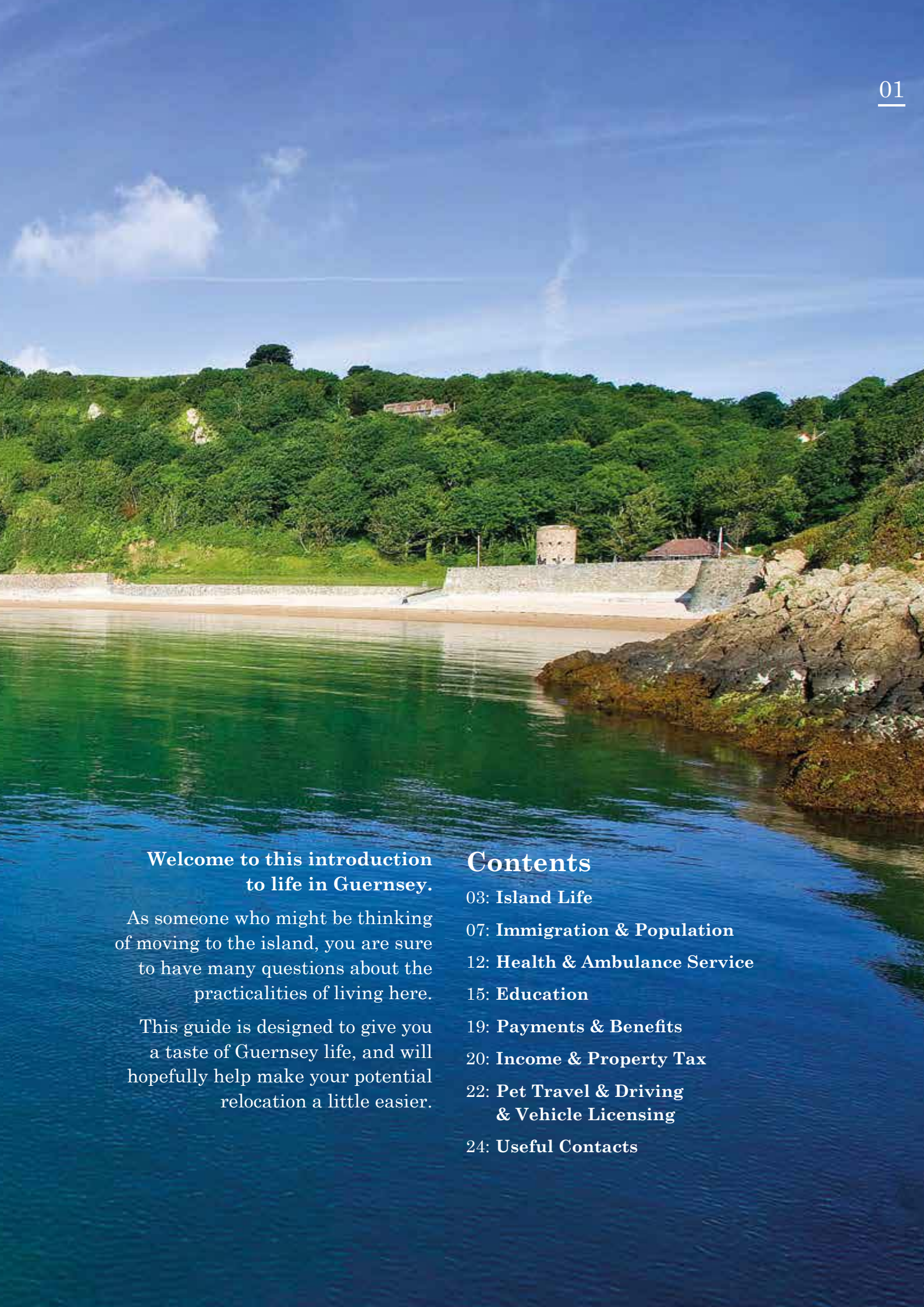
YOUR GUIDE TO LIVING IN

GUERNSEY



States of Guernsey



Welcome to this introduction to life in Guernsey.

As someone who might be thinking of moving to the island, you are sure to have many questions about the practicalities of living here.

This guide is designed to give you a taste of Guernsey life, and will hopefully help make your potential relocation a little easier.

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ISLAND LIFE

Here in Guernsey we understand the need for a good work-life balance, and with stunning natural scenery, sweeping sandy beaches and a whole host of sport and leisure opportunities, our island is the perfect place to balance work and play.

Your free time doesn't have to be a rare treat. Forget motorways and long train journeys, everything in Guernsey is just a short drive or even just a walk away, allowing you more time to spend with friends and family doing the things you love.

Our island can be reached by sea or by air. For more information on traveling to Guernsey, please visit www.visitguernsey.com/travel/getting-here/

ISLAND LIFE

If you enjoy the great outdoors, there are few better places to be. Picturesque walking routes line the island's coast offering breathtaking cliff views in the south, while the rural parishes are perfect for a casual country stroll.

More of a thrill seeker? Watersports are highly popular in Guernsey, so adventurous types can enjoy surfing, coasteering, kayaking and much more.

Sports lovers in Guernsey are well catered for, with quality venues and facilities, and active leagues and social scenes for most sports. Beau Sejour Leisure Centre is at the heart of the islands' health and fitness, where you can participate in indoor and outdoor sports, swimming and other activities. Many other sporting venues are situated across the island.

Guernsey is also famed for its culinary scene, with a wide selection of great quality local restaurants. With cuisines on offer ranging from classic favourites like Chinese and Italian to more adventurous picks like Mexican and Moroccan, there's something for everyone in Guernsey. For a bargain option however, you can't go wrong with fresh fish and chips on a west coast beach, overlooking one of the most beautiful sunsets you are likely to see.

The island has a rich calendar of events taking place throughout the year, so whether you are interested in live music, local history or great food and drink, you are sure to find something to suit.

ISLAND LIFE

RED COCKTAIL BAR - GUERNSEY

LONGIS BEACH - ALDERNEY

Once you've finished exploring Guernsey, take a trip to one of the Bailiwick's other islands; Sark, Herm, Lihou and Alderney. Just a short walk, ferry or plane ride, and perfect for getting away from it all and enjoying a daytrip, a weekend break or longer stay.

These are just a handful of the great things to do when living in Guernsey. For more information about culture and leisure pursuits, please visit:**www.visitguernsey.com**

Get in touch with a sports club in Guernsey: **www.guernseysports.com**

BELVOIR BAY - HERM

FORT GREY - GUERNSEY

LA COUPEE - SARK

“Mooove over here.”

Population Management is important in Guernsey as the island is only 25 square miles, its small size means there is a limit to the number of people the island’s resources can support.

IMMIGRATION & POPULATION

The rules governing who can live and work in the island have been established in order to protect Guernsey's environment and to preserve its resources.

Anyone who is not a British or Irish national or holds a valid immigration status to live in Guernsey (e.g. Indefinite Leave to Remain, a status under the EU Settlement Scheme, etc.) and is travelling for anything other than visitor purposes, is required to apply for a visa to enter the UK, Bailiwick of Guernsey, Jersey or the Isle of Man, prior to travel.

If you are not a British or Irish national or a holder of valid immigration status, you will require a visa and a Population Management Employment Permit to work in Guernsey.

Visa requirements for entry to the Bailiwick are the same as those required to enter the UK and further information can be obtained by contacting the Immigration and Nationality Division or, if resident abroad, a British Diplomatic Mission.

If you have any specific questions regarding your personal situation, or are unsure about your immigration status, you are advised to contact the island's authorities. We recognise as a community that essential workers are vital to support island life and our economy. We look forward to welcoming you.

You can contact the Immigration and Nationality Division at: www.gov.gg/gba or call +44 (0) 1481 221420

Guernsey is a very special place to live. The island's spectacular scenery paired with its vibrant economy and enviable location create a way of life that its residents hold dear.

IMMIGRATION & POPULATION

The size and make-up of Guernsey's Population is regulated by The Population Management Law.

The Law is designed to make sure that the island has the right mix of people supporting our economy and community now and also for the future. This is done by using a system of Permits and Certificates. Generally, everyone living in Guernsey requires a Permit or Certificate (in addition to a valid immigration status for those who aren't British or Irish nationals).

It aims to support local businesses by controlling Permits designed for employment purposes, allowing us to employ a diverse range of skilled people where needed to strengthen Guernsey's workforce.

It also determines who can live in certain accommodation. Guernsey's properties are primarily split into two 'Housing Markets' the 'Local Market' and the 'Open Market'. To be able to live in the Local Market you have to be either residentially qualified, or hold certain permits (e.g. Employment Permits) to be able to access accommodation in this Market. Anyone can live in Open Market (subject to immigration permissions). A list of roles, and the type of Employment Permit that each role attracts, can be found online at https://gov.gg/epp.

For full details please visit:
www.gov.gg/populationmanagement or our FAQ page: https://gov.gg/pmfaq or for advice call the Population Management office on +44 (0) 1481 225790 or email: population@gov.gg

HEALTH & AMBULANCE SERVICE

Guernsey boasts an excellent health service with modern facilities staffed by experts in their fields.

Guernsey is not part of the NHS and operates its own Health Service. Our Social Security System runs a specialist health insurance scheme, covering the cost of most specialist care available from the Medical Specialist Group (this provides emergency and elective specialist medical services on a consultant-only basis) and specialist physiotherapy provided by the Guernsey Therapy Group.

The scheme is funded through either earnings-related or income-related insurance contributions and all new residents are granted immediate cover. Once you register for contributions you are eligible for benefits that cover part of the cost of GP visits and bring prescription charges down to a nominal amount.

HEALTH & AMBULANCE SERVICE

Outside of the health insurance scheme, residents are responsible for meeting the costs of medical care. These include treatment from their GP, chiropodists, physiotherapists (for treatment not covered by the health insurance scheme), opticians and dentists.

Guernsey has an excellent hospital offering both in and out-patient care. Treatment and accommodation is not usually charged here, unless a patient elects to be treated privately. Charges are made to patients for attendance at the Emergency Department. **Costs can be viewed online at www.gov.gg/edcharges.**

A number of private hospital and medical insurance schemes are operated in the island, if you wish to opt for private medical treatment or wish to take out cover in addition to that included in the Health Insurance Scheme. **Further details about hospital or medical facilities in the island can be found online at www.gov.gg/healthcareforvisitors/travellers.**

The St. John Ambulance & Rescue Service provides 24-hour professional ambulance services on the island. However, because there is no National Health Service in Guernsey, patients are charged if they receive treatment or transport in an ambulance.

Because of this, the Service operates a subscription scheme. Members pay an annual fee and in return any ambulance services they may need during the year are free.

St John's maintains a large selection of equipment for the disabled. **These items are available for sale or hire, and you can get full details of this service by visiting www.stjohn.gg or by calling directly on +44 (0)1481 725211.**

A reciprocal health arrangement is in place to allow necessary healthcare to be provided to Bailiwick residents visitng the UK and vice versa. You can find out more at www.gov.gg/rha

EDUCATION

Guernsey boasts an excellent education system that aims to prepare our children and young people for opportunities and challenges of living in the 21st centry.

EDUCATION

Our curriculum

Our schools deliver the Bailiwick of Guernsey Curriculum, which has been developed by teachers from primary, secondary and special schools working together. We have designed this curriculum to help our schools improve, to promote and raise standards, to secure the essentials for learning and life and to make learning the best it can be for all children in all schools.

Our curriculum aims to retain the best of current practice whilst seeking to place greater emphasis on important elements required to secure well-rounded learning.

There is a bigger focus on:

- Literacy and numeracy
- Ensuring children can remember what they are learning
- Taking learning outside the classroom
- Promoting positive mental health and wellbeing

You can find out more about our exciting curriculum at: www.gov.gg/curriculum.

Our Schools and Services

Education is organised along similar lines to the other home jurisdictions. Compulsory education is from the age of 5 to 16 and children are able to start primary school at the beginning of the school year in which they will reach the age of five.

Early Years

The States of Guernsey provides 15 hours per week, term time only, free pre-school education for all three to four-year-olds in the year before they start school. This entitlement is delivered by a range of private pre-school providers. You can find out more online at www.gov.gg/preschool.

Primary Education

We operate 11 all-ability primary schools. Admission to these primary schools is by catchment area. There are two primary schools for children who are baptised Catholics. There are also three private schools for primary age children. Details of our school admissions process for our States of Guernsey schools can be found online at www.gov.gg/schooladmissions.

Our primary schools use low-stakes standardised assessments to track progress and attainment. We do not use SATs.

Secondary Education

Secondary education is currently delivered in three all-ability 11-16 schools and one 11-18 school at which the Island's Sixth Form Centre is based. Our secondary schools are currently being re-organised into three 11-16 schools and a separate Sixth Form Centre. Primary schools are partnered with named secondary schools for admission into Year 7. All secondary schools offer a range of public examination and qualifications including GCSEs, BTECs and other recognised courses. For up to date information about the provision of secondary and post-16 Education, please visit www.gov.gg/education. There are also three grant-aided Colleges providing 11 – 18 year old education (including sixth form A Levels) for fee-payers.

Post-16 Education

A Levels and the International Baccalaureate Diploma (IB) are offered at the Sixth Form Centre and a range of full-time and part-time vocational, technical, professional qualifications and apprenticeship programmes are offered at The Guernsey Institute.

Our Post-16 education sector is going through a process of transformation. A new post-16 campus is due to be built which will deliver academic and vocational studies, side-by-side in an adult learning environment, serving the whole community's training, learning and development needs.

EDUCATION

Additional Needs

The majority of children with special educational needs or additional needs are supported within our mainstream schools. In a small number of cases, and following a process of formal assessment, children may be placed at one of our three special schools (one for primary age pupils, one for secondary age pupils and one all-age school for pupils with social, emotional and behavioural difficulties) or receive additional support from our specialist bases or education support services.

Other Education Services

We provide a range of education support services including Educational Psychology Service, School Attendance Service, Communication and Autism Support Service, Sensory Support Service, Careers Guernsey, Schools' Library Service and Guernsey Music Service.

Further and Higher Education and Adult Learning

Further and Higher Education on-island and adult community learning is provided by The Guernsey Institute, which includes the College of Further Education, the GTA University Centre and the Institute of Health & Social Care Studies alongside a range of private training providers.

To find out more go to:

www.guernseycollege.ac.gg
www.gov.gg/theinstitute
www.gta.gg

Higher Education Funding

The States of Guernsey invests more than £4 million per year supporting more than 600 students studying full-time higher education degree courses outside of the Bailiwick.

Students attending UK Universities are treated as 'home' students and are charged tuition fees at the home rate. Financial support is through a means-tested grant scheme and dependent on a number of factors including an assessment of gross household income. Grants consist of two elements; living and travel costs (known as a maintenance grant) and tuition fees.

Visit www.gov.gg/studentfinance for more information.

To find out more go to:

www.gov.gg/education

PAYMENTS & BENEFITS

Guernsey's Social Insurance Scheme provides the people of Guernsey with a range of social, health and long-term care benefits, such as pensions, unemployment benefit and maternity benefit.

All residents above school leaving age are liable to pay contributions at a rate that is dependent upon your employment status.

If you have been paying into the UK scheme, or certain other countries' schemes, reciprocal agreements are in place to help you access these benefits.

Full details of the Scheme are available from Social Security. Visit www.gov.gg/socialsecurity or call +44 (0) 1481 2257000 to find out more.

INCOME & PROPERTY TAX

Income Tax in Guernsey is paid at a rate of 20% and is done so through deductions made from employment, otherwise known as the ETI Scheme. Each individual is entitled to a personal allowance and may also claim other allowances.

When you arrive in Guernsey you will be given an income tax number and a coding notice will be issued when you start work so your employer can deduct the right amount of income tax from your wages. Find out more about income tax in Guernsey by visiting www.gov.gg/tax.

There is no capital gains tax, capital transfer tax, estate duty, inheritance tax, purchase tax, turnover tax, value added tax or wealth tax.

Property in Guernsey and Alderney is subject to the Taxation of Real Property (TRP) Law, which calculates tax charges based on the size and usage of property. Accounts are issued by the States of Guernsey Cadastre on an annual basis and payable by property owners.

Property owners are also liable for parochial charges, which are also calculated using TRP information. Parish charges are also annual but issued separately by each respective Parish Douzaine. The revenue is used to cover the costs of general parish maintenance and refuse collection.

For further information on property taxes and rates, please contact Cadastre by email cadastre@gov.gg or call +44 (0) 1481 221239.

PET TRAVEL & DRIVING & VEHICLE LICENSING

Pet Travel

Your pet cats and dogs can travel without a Pet Passport if they travel directly between the United Kingdom and Guernsey.

Pet cats and dogs travelling from Europe (or UK pets which have travelled to Europe and are returning via Guernsey) must use the only approved route operated by Condor Ferries from St Malo.

Pets travelling from Europe must have a Pet Passport and must have been given tick and tapeworm treatments before embarking for Guernsey as required by the Pet Travel Scheme. Pets will be checked for conformity with the Scheme at St.Malo and those that fail will not be allowed to board the ferry for Guernsey. Please contact Condor Ferries regarding travelling with your pet before making travel arrangements.

Pet Passports can be obtained from vets, and it takes between seven and eight months for a pet to qualify for travel.

For further information: email aclms@gov.gg or call +44 (0) 1481 227000.

Driving and Vehicle Licensing

If you bring a car into the island you will need to re-register it within 14 days of your arrival. In addition to the registration fee, a 'First Registration Duty' will be applied to all new and second-hand vehicles being imported and registered in Guernsey for the first time.

Details of the process and costs can be found at www.gov.gg/vehicleownership or by contacting Guernsey Driver and Vehicle Licensing on tel: + (0) 1481 223400 or email: traffic@gov.gg

New residents need to apply to exchange their foreign licence for a Guernsey driving licence within one year of arriving in the island. Any foreign licence will become invalid for exchange or use on the island after that time.

You can exchange licences issued by many countries, including the UK and other EU members, for a Guernsey licence. However, there are a number of countries whose licences cannot be exchanged. In such cases, you will have to apply for a provisional driving licence and then pass a theory and practical driving test before you can be issued with a full Guernsey licence.

Further information can be obtained from:
Driver and Vehicle Licensing at www.gov.gg/dvl, email:traffic@gov.gg or call +44 (0) 1481 223400.

Useful Contacts

The international dialling code for the Bailiwick of Guernsey is +44 (0)1481

Accountants/Auditors

www.gscca.gg

Communications

Airtel-Vodafone www.airtel-vodafone.com

Guernsey Post www.guernseypost.com

JT www.jtglobal.com/guernsey

Sure www.sure.com/guernsey

Lawyers & Advocates

www.guernseybar.com

Local Estate Agents

www.guernseypress.com

www.underoneroof.gg

Transport Links

Aurigny Air Services www.aurigny.com

Blue Islands www.blueislands.com

Condor Ferries www.condorferries.co.uk

Manche Iles Express www.manche-iles.com

Loganair www.loganair.co.uk

BA operated by cityflyer www.britishairways.com

TV Licencing

Guernsey Post Ltd issues TV licences instantly at www.guernsey-post.com but cannot assist with further enquiries or complaints.
For a full service go to www.tvlicensing.co.uk

Utilities

Guernsey Electricity Ltd www.electricity.gg

Guernsey Gas Ltd www.gsygas.com

Guernsey Water www.water.gg

Government Services www.gov.gg

UK
SOUTHAMPTON
PORTSMOUTH
ALDERNEY
HERM
LIHOU
GUERNSEY
SARK
JERSEY
FRANCE

FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE GO TO:

GOV.GG