

General Aspects of Island Life

Schooling

The island's school is professionally run and a high standard of education is achieved due to an excellent teacher and the low numbers of children (Normally 6-9 children). Schooling starts in the year that the child is 5 and in practice ends at 9 years although some children remain in the island school until 11 years. On finishing Herm school children weekly board in Guernsey. This is an informal boarding arrangement that is only available to key staff who have proved that they are well settled on the island. It is for this reason that we regret that preference will be given to applicants with children 6 years and younger.

Resident population

Normally comprises 10 key managerial families with a number of young single/couples totalling about 65. There are usually 15 to 20 children of various ages on the island or attending secondary or further education. In summer an additional 90 seasonal staff are recruited and housed in purpose built accommodation.

Medial matters

We are very fortunate that Guernsey has first class medical facilities with specialist care /hospitalisation covered by a modest state insurance contribution. On Guernsey people pay to see a GP and also to visit the A&E department in the local hospital, however prescription charges are much lower than the UK. Herm has its own 'first aid team' backed up by an excellent Marine Ambulance. In an emergency a Doctor/ Paramedic can be on the island in about 30 minutes and a patient can be transferred to hospital in about an hour.

Shopping

Once a week grocery orders are emailed to an independent supermarket and your shopping is delivered to your door at no charge on a Friday morning! Many islanders supplement this service by travelling to Guernsey on the Wednesday or Saturday shopping boats that provide a first, midday and evening service throughout the year. Unfortunately general groceries are slightly more expensive than in the UK but this is offset by the absence of VAT on other goods.

Travel to Guernsey

Islanders enjoy free travel under our charter agreement with Trident Travel, a fast catamaran service direct to St Peter Port. In summer the service is almost hourly with a restricted winter time service of a morning and evening boat except for Wednesdays and Saturdays when there are additional mid-day sailings. No sailings on Sundays. It is not practical for school children to travel daily to Guernsey.

Restrictions on island life

One has to be philosophical when the ferry-boats occasionally cancel due to adverse weather! As the island has an abundant bird life cats are not normally allowed. The island is exceptionally clean and free of dog fouling, hence our request that dogs are not normally allowed. As in every small community it is essential that islanders follow a good moral and sober code of behaviour and have due regard for other islanders peace and privacy. Apart from other minor common sense matters largely concerning the safety of children we encourage islanders to settle on the island as if they were anywhere else. In order to help maintain a community spirit islanders frequently volunteer, where appropriate, their services for the fire team, as first aiders or to run the play school. As in any community the more you put in the more you enjoy life!

Utility services

All normal services are available as if on the mainland! However as the island generates its own electricity there are restrictions on the use of high wattage domestic equipment. Electric cookers, fires, tumble driers, dish washing machines are not permitted but an exception is made for clothes washing machines.

The above informal notes are intended to assist permanent managerial applicants. If you are interested in working on Herm Island keep checking this site for any vacancies that arise, it may just be your dream job.

Herm Island... Exciting jobs and a wonderful place to live and work.