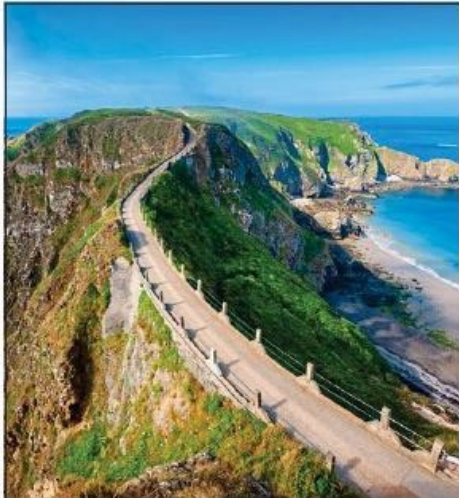


Enjoy the slow pace of scenic Sark

Travel

25 Jun 2023 +1 more By Josa Keyes



SPECTACULAR: La Coupee, joining Sark with its southern peninsula, Little Sark

PEDALLING furiously, it takes no more than ten minutes to cycle across Sark – if you weren't legally obliged to dismount on the steep track to the harbours or across La Coupee, the causeway that takes you to the peninsula, Little Sark.

We get to the island by ferry from Guernsey, landing at the Maseline harbour. Lichen – that signifier of

clean air – covers the trees. There isn't much tarmac, just sandy paths covered with spring flowers. And birdsong.

As Charles Beaumont, 23rd Seigneur (Lord) of Sark, said, the main 'export' of the island is tourism, which his great-grandmother, Sibyl Hathaway, previous Dame of Sark, worked hard to cultivate. She led the island through Nazi occupation and stood against the introduction of cars on Sark.

Visitors return each year to enjoy life at a pace not experienced in the rest of the British Isles. The permanent population is only 500.

We stay at both La Moinerie and Dixcart Bay – both of which have been extensively refurbished. At La Moinerie, we lie on the picnic tables to gaze up at the flaming Milky Way – Sark was named the world's first Dark Sky Island due to its low light

pollution.

La Seigneurie, the Seigneur's residence, is next door, with Hathaway's restaurant in its grounds. Apparently, during World War Two, the population grew sick of lobsters – we certainly don't.

To get about we hire e-bikes from Bam's Bikes and visit the delicious Caragh chocolate factory. But a Sark imperative is meeting George Guille and his son, Morgan, who take us on their boat for a circuit of the island. We spot guillemots, fulmars and puffins from the turquoise waters.

In April, Seigneur Beaumont asked the Prince's Foundation to help Sark plan for the future and become 'resilient for the 22nd century'. It sounds fine – but not changing it at all would be good, too.

London to Guernsey return flights from £104 (aurigny.com). Ferries to

Sark from £30 return (sarkship-ping.gg). Doubles at Le Moinerie from £175 and Dixcart Bay from £224 (thesarkestate.com). Visit sark.co.uk for all other businesses mentioned.

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