

Floral Guernsey

A Colourful Canvas

Whilst perhaps the most famous, Renoir was probably not the first person to notice Guernsey's exceptionally high levels of light in the islands. Gardeners had been quietly appreciating it for hundreds of years. A steady stream of plant species had managed to reach the island aboard trading ships - often unintentionally - to flourish in the mild, maritime climate. The result was a global garden, with over 449 plants recorded in flower in the month of January alone.

At just 25 square miles Guernsey is home to the largest producer of clematis in the world. The island also provides two thirds of all the freesias sold in UK. You can see the life cycle of this sweet-smelling South African flower at the Guernsey Freesia Centre in the Vale parish.

Wildflower cliff walks delight as much as horticultural shows, country lanes and cottage gardens alike are adorned with daffodils, primroses and violets. Historic formal gardens compete with bluebell woods and natural orchid fields. Commercial growers supply Britain with superb cut flowers.

As a visitor to Guernsey discover the Floral Islands, their Gardens and Attractions, the award winning Island of Herm and information on our most famous flower, the Guernsey Lily.

Guernsey's flowers and plants are renowned for being amongst the best in the world. With the islands in bloom all year round you are guaranteed a truly unforgettable floral experience - whenever you visit.

Once part of a private estate, the award winning, restored Victorian Candie Gardens offer the best view across St Peter Port harbour, along with a rare example of a late 19th century public flower garden. They are home to the oldest known heated glass-houses in the British Isles, which date back to the late eighteenth century.

The Floral Calendar for 2007

14th - 17th June 2007

ST SAVIOURS PARISH CHURCH FLORAL WEEKEND
10am - 8pm except Sunday when there is a family service 9.30 - 10.30am. A country church flower festival with over 40 flower arrangements on the theme 'Peace'. The church is located at Les Buttes (Perry's map ref 22 A3) Bus route 4. Ample free parking. Free entry, donations welcome. Refreshments available and live music on Saturday and Sunday. For further details please contact Mrs Gill Nobes on +44 (0) 1481 264756.

15th July 2007

MUSIC ON THE LAWN
Music on the Lawn will be held at Government House from 2-5pm. Various groups and choirs will perform including GU 10. Cream teas will be on sale. Tickets £5. For further details please contact Jenny on +44 (0) 1481264903.

20th - 22nd July
FLOWER FESTIVAL

The Guernsey Flower Arrangement Society is holding a Flower Festival at the Forest United Methodist Church on Friday 20 July, Saturday 21 July and Sunday 22 July 2007. All are most welcome. For further details please call Sheila on +44 (0) 1481 255492 or email: sheilalelievre@hotmail.com.

22nd - 23rd August 2007

NORTH SHOW & BATTLE OF FLOWERS

Saumarez Park, in the parish of the Castel, is the venue for the island's final summer show. The North Show offers acres of family entertainment and competitions with a Gymkhana and all the traditional agricultural, horticultural, fur & feather and craft categories, contested by the parishioners of Vale, Castel and St Sampson's. The climax of the two days is the "Battle of Flowers", a classic island event, where locals compete to win the prestigious "Prix D'Honneur" award for the best mobile floral float. For further information please contact Mrs C Marquis on +44 (0) 1481 726688.

6th - 14th October 2007

FLORAL GUERNSEY AUTUMN FESTIVAL WEEK

This year Guernsey has a third Floral Festival Week to celebrate its natural wealth of Flora. Come and join us as we go into autumn and join in one of our events. Open gardens as well as tours, hands-on master classes and beginners' sessions will be on offer for everyone to enjoy. The Nerine Festival also runs from the 14th. A full programme is published before the event. For further details phone The Information Centre on +44 (0) 1481 723552.



Camellias and magnolias often grow to be huge in Guernsey, not least in the public gardens of Saumarez Park. Its exotic species were originally planted by a Guernsey diplomat who had served as the British Ambassador to Japan. A nature trail links the park with nearby Cobo Bay.

Saumarez Manor's Subtropical Garden is probably the most visited private Garden in Guernsey, though the lovely Walled Garden at the Seigneurie in Sark is probably as popular. With its multitude of little beds crammed with the rare and exciting.

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Other historic gardens shed light on the past. Restored by TV gardener Peter Thoday as one of four fascinating period gardens in Castle Cornet, General Lambert's Garden is tinged with sadness. Lambert was a favourite of Cromwell, but paid for it with imprisonment by Charles II.

The Gardens at Victor Hugo's Exile Home have recently been restored and visitors can see the oak tree that Hugo planted. Hugo predicted that Europe would be united by the time the tree reached maturity. Visits to Hauteville House and Gardens can be arranged throughout the summer season.

The Guernsey Freesia Centre is a working freesia nursery set on a three acre site where the flowers can be seen at various stages of development, through to the packing and distribution process. The Centre is open all year round and visitors are welcome.



Castle Cornet & Museums

Museums
Story of Castle Cornet, Maritime Museum and 201 Squadron RAF Museum
Museum shop, cafe and great views
Open daily 10am - 5pm*
Adults £6.50, Seniors £4.50
*until October 31

Guernsey Museum & Art Gallery

Exciting temporary and permanent displays including the story of Guernsey from the Neolithic period through to the 20th century
Cafe Victoria, shop and fantastic gardens
Open daily 10am - 5pm*
Adults £4.00, Seniors £3.00
*4pm in Winter, closed January









In Guernsey for the day?

Then take time to visit Castle Cornet and the Guernsey Museum & Art Gallery, both only a short walk through St Peter Port. With lots to see and experience, it won't be long before you're booking to come over again!

... or for longer?

For only £10, our 4 site pass lets you visit each of our four museums around the island (Castle Cornet, Guernsey Museum, Fort Grey and the Telephone Museum). Great savings compared to buying individual tickets!

For details visit the Guernsey Information Centre in Town or call: (01481) 723552



CULTURE AND LEISURE
A STATES OF GUERNSEY GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENT