

Round island cycle guide

A self-guided round island bike tour, suitable for all abilities and good all year round. Choose the half day route, approximately 4 miles (6km) or spend the whole day exploring the island with the full day route, approximately 6 miles (10km). The time it takes you to complete the routes depends of course on the pace you pedal. Start where you like and take as many days as you want, enjoy discovering Alderney.

- 1 The route starts at the bottom of Victoria Street, if you are facing Victoria Street take a left to the junction, then take a right up Le Val.
- 2 Continue up Le Val to the top of the road where you will take a left onto Longis Road.
- 3 Follow Longis Road until you come to a fork in the road, bare right on to Route des Carrières passing the Golf Course on your left and continue down the hill to the Roman fort, **The Nunnery** situated on the next junction on your right.
- 4 From The Nunnery turn right back onto Route des Carrières and cycle another 150m with the German anti-tank wall on your right, you will then reach the path on the **Longis Nature Reserve** on your left.
- 5 Continue along the coastal road with the anti-tank wall on your right again, at the top of the hill you will see a track on your left leading to the German Naval tower known locally as '**The Odeon**'. Take this path if you wish to explore the area.
- 6 Back on the main road continue with the sea on your right, at the next fork in the road take a right and follow the coast. From the road you will see Fort Houmet Herbé, Fort Quesnard and Fort Les Hommeaux Florains before reaching **Quesnard Lighthouse**.
- 7 Continue to follow the coastal road still with the sea on your right, at the next junction take a right down the hill to Corblets Bay. Stay on this road where you will pass the next small bay along called Arch, around a sharp bend to the left with Château à l'Etoc in front of you.
- 8 You will pass Saye Campsite and come to a track on your right heading down the hill towards the coast. Take this track if you wish to explore **Bibette Head**.
- 9 Continue up the hill and follow the road round to the right where you will see the **War Memorial** on the left.

10 Follow this road through Whitegates, pasted the football field on your right and down the hill towards **Braye Bay**. Continue on this road until you reach the other side of the Bay and see the Train Station on your left.

11 At the junction take the road ahead of you to the left of the wall and train track (one way). At the next junction turn left on to Route de Crabby where you will see Crabby Bay on your right.

12 Continue up the hill and bare left with the road around a stone wall, you will then reach a junction.

To follow the **half day route** bear left, heading uphill towards St Anne, take the middle road continuing up hill on the wooded La Vallée road. At the next junction take a left up a cobbled street, at the top you will be back at the bottom of Victoria Street.

To follow the **full day route** take a right down the hill onto Route de Picaterre.

13 Full day route – Follow the road until the other end of Platte Saline beach where you will see **Fort Tourgis** in front of you. At this junction take a right to continue along the coast.

14 The road will become a track which you can follow until the end of Clonque Bay and see **Fort Clonque** in front of you. Here you can push your bikes up the footpath locally known as 'The Zig Zag', at the top after an old brick well turn left to follow the path inland until you reach the main road where you will turn right.

15 Follow this road past the Pig Farm on your right and continue straight out to the coast, see wooden signs for 'Gannets'. When you reach the end of the track at the area known locally as 'The Guns' you will see **Les Etacs** ahead of you.

16 Take the track back to the first junction where you will take a right down the hill on to the track which will take you between the coastline and the back of the airport. Half way round you will see the **Site of Lager Sylt** on your left. Keep cycling until you reach the '**Madonna Stone**'.

17 At the stone take a left to continue on the track around the end of the runway. You will then come to a road, cross straight over on to La Petite Rue a cobbled residential street that will bring you down to Marais Square.

18 Continue straight on following the cobbled street towards the Clock Tower, at the junction bear right past the phone box and the **Alderney Society Museum** on your left. You are now on High Street, continue to the top of the street passing the top of Victoria Street on your left. At the crossroads, where the cobbles finish, take a left back onto Le Val. Follow this road to the junction where you will see Cycle & Surf in front of you and take a left to return to the bottom of Victoria Street.

The Nunnery – originally a Roman coastal fort of the 4th Century AD and one of the most historically important buildings in the Channel Islands. Much of the outer wall and other key parts of the structure are now understood to be the original Roman stonework of what was probably a 'signal station' or coastal fort. Alterations were made during the 15th or 16th century and WWII German fortifications were also integrated into this unique structure. Opening times are displayed on the gates.

Longis Nature Reserve – the home of the Naturetrek bird hide originally erected in 2001 and rebuilt in 2017 by the Alderney Conservation Volunteers. Providing a splendid view over the reed beds and pond, well worth a visit to see if you can spot a Coot, Mallard or Moorhen on this natural fresh water pond.

The Odeon – the hillside is dotted with numerous WWII German fortifications which made up one of four 88mm anti-aircraft batteries on the island. At the top edge you will see 'The Odeon' which was originally used by the German Navy as a range finding tower. Access can be arranged through the Wildlife Centre on Victoria Street.

Quesnard Lighthouse – built in 1912 by a local man William Baron, however the lighthouse is now managed by Trinity House and is fully automated. It is open for conducted tours on Sundays during the summer season, information and times available at the Visitor Information Centre on Victoria Street.

Bibette Head – the location of German Strongpoint 'Biberkopf', constructed by the Germans between 1942 and 1943. It was a well-sited, well-armed and extremely well-camouflaged defence work that was the most powerful coastal strongpoint on the island. As well as commanding the entrance to Braye Bay, its defences would have enfiladed the small, sandy Saye Bay to the east with devastating fire.

War Memorial – Alderney was one of the Channel Islands occupied by the Germans during WWII, however unlike the other islands the whole population was evacuated to the UK. Subsequently slave labour was used to construct the considerable fortifications which you will see across the island. This memorial was built by local residents on their return to commemorate the many slave labourers who lost their lives on Alderney.

Braye Bay – home to Braye harbour, Alderney's main transportation link for goods arriving on the island and also providing facilities for visiting yachtsmen. The harbour is sheltered by a 3,000 foot (900m) breakwater, construction started in 1847 and took 17 years to complete as conditions were far worse than expected. Initially it was to provide protection for the Navy and alongside Fort Grosnez, the first Alderney Fort to be completed in 1853, it provided a look out station for vessels of war.

Fort Tourgis – the second largest of the Victorian Forts built on the island it covers over 2.5 hectare. It was designed to mount 33 guns and accommodate 346 officers and men after its construction in the 1850's. It was then adapted by German occupying forces during WWII and became a powerful defensive position known as Strongpoint Türkenburg ('Turks Fortress'). Both the Cambridge Battery and Battery No. 3 are accessible for the public following a massive clearance effort by volunteers since 2013. Access can be gained from Tourgis Hill, look out for the white stones on the main road.

Fort Clonque – now owned and managed by The Landmark Trust it is available for holiday lets. The bay it is situated in is the heart of Alderney's Internationally Important Wetland (Ramsar) site. Clonque Bay contains the largest area of intertidal rock on Alderney, its rock pools hold a vast array of fauna including starfish, brown velvet and spider crabs and at the lowest tides green ormers. Wading birds include large numbers of little egrets, curlews, whimbrels and oystercatchers.

Les Etacs – the home to some 12,000 gannets between February and October. From this view point you may see four islands in the far distance. To the left Sark with Brecqhou immediately to the right, then the very small Herm before the bigger outline of Guernsey. To the right is the second smaller gannetry of Ortac which has a further 5,000 birds. To the right is Burhou with its puffin and storm petrel colonies.

Site of Lager Sylt – one of four Nazi Labour Camps on Alderney during WWII holding prisoners. The gate posts which still stand marks the entrance and also displays a plaque commemorating the labourers who lost their lives on Alderney.

The Madonna Stone – originally a cattle scratching post in a neighbouring field, locally known as the 'Standing Stone' it was erected in the current position in the 1960s.

Alderney Society Museum – packed with exhibits and artefacts it is well worth a visit to learn more about Alderney's rich heritage. You will also see the Clock Tower, built in 1767, this is all that remains of the original church of St Anne.

Bike Hire

Cycle & Surf Les Roquettes
01481 822286 / 07781 154045
cycleandsurf.co.uk
info@cycleandsurf.co.uk

Auto-Motion Inner Harbour
01481 823352
automotionalderney.com
auto-motion@cwgsy.net

Facilities en route



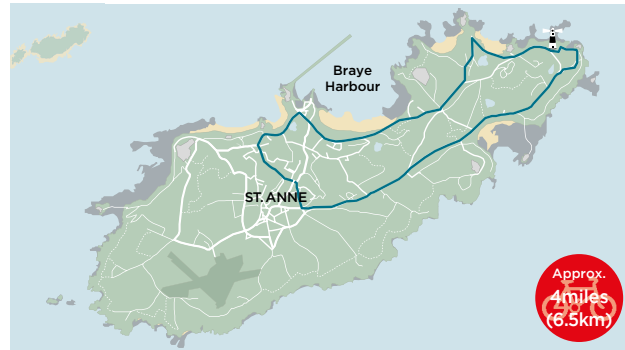
There are toilets in Longis car park behind the Nunnery (3), just off the main road by Saye Campsite main entrance (8), on Braye Beach (11, underneath Braye Beach Hotel) and in Marais Square (17).



There are outlets near point 3 (Old Barn), near point 8 (Saye Campsite), near point 11 (Mooring, Cantina No. 6, Braye Beach Hotel & Braye Chippy) and many up Victoria Street at the start and finish point. **Please check opening times with the Visitor Information Centre.**

Whilst every effort has been made to select the most suitable route for cycling, the States of Alderney accept no responsibility for any difficulties incurred whilst following this route. Please also note access to historic buildings and defensive structures is dangerous and in most cases not permitted. The States of Alderney can accept no liability for any injury.

Half day route



Full day route



Alderney Visitor
Information Centre
Victoria Street
Tel +44 (0)1481 822333
www.visitalderney.com
www.alderneywildlife.org



#Alderney

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Photographic contribution from Martin Batt,
image: cycling around Longis Bay

There are lots of other Alderney walks and cycle routes to try. Why not pick up the leaflets from the visitor centre and discover more of Alderney on foot?

Half day or full day route

