**About Jersey**

Jersey is the largest of the Channel Islands, with an area of 45 square miles. The island combines a lively and cosmopolitan main town, which is home to our global finance sector, with sweeping, unspoilt beaches, fishing ports and rolling countryside. It’s just 14 miles off the north-west coast of France and 85 miles south of the English coast and is very well served by air to a range of UK and international cities.

Jersey is a Crown Dependency. While it’s in the British Isles, it’s not part of the UK. Yet for many UK visitors, it feels like a home from home, thanks to its sterling currency and familiar high street shops, restaurants and supermarkets.  The Island is divided into 12 Parishes and each one is presided over by an elected Connétable (Constable), who deals with issues relating to civil matters. Each parish also has a Rector, who deals with ecclesiastical affairs.

**History**

Jersey has a proud and complex history - from how it got its name from the plundering's of Vikings in the ninth century, to a valuable island outpost, fought for over centuries by the English and French, whose traces remain in the Jerriais language, in the names of streets and long-established families, and in the heritage of the legislature.

Its occupation by German forces during World War II left a deep imprint on the island's character, as well as visible reminders - from the gun emplacements to the underground hospital. These are now an important part of our cultural heritage, as are the Round Towers that surround the island.

**Government**

Jersey’s legislature is the States of Jersey – a billion-pound organisation and the largest employer in the island. Its 49 members are elected by the public, and its 7,300 public servants are responsible for the cradle-to-grave health, education, social care and social security of Jersey’s 100,000 islanders. This government is led by the Chief Minister and Council of Ministers, and subject to oversight by a number of scrutiny panels.

The States of Jersey develops and maintain the island’s infrastructure – from housing and roads, to water and sewage, public spaces to cultural venues. It also supports the island’s local and international economy through effective regulation and fiscal policy, overseas promotion and inward investment, business support and innovation.

In addition, the States of Jersey collect the taxes that pay for public services, and pay the income support and pensions that help families and the elderly. They exist to keep islanders safe from harm – policing Jersey’s streets, running its prisons, fire and ambulance services. They also protect the natural environment and biodiversity, supporting the island’s agriculture, fishing and tourism sectors.

Following the recent appointment of our new Chief Executive, Charlie Parker, we’ve proposed re undergoing a radical modernising and restructuring review of our current operating model and services, led by an interim transition team.

**Current challenges and opportunities**

Jersey’s prosperity in recent decades has been anchored in a strong international financial services sector. Our island showed resilience in responding to the banking crisis a decade ago, and it has been in the vanguard of international governments in tightening financial regulation. In this way, Jersey has cemented its position as a responsible and compliant jurisdiction.

At the same time, the island has continued to support its traditional sectors, such as tourism, farming and fishing. Jersey has also invested in sectors such as digital to exploit the benefits of its superfast broadband infrastructure.

With very low unemployment, one of Jersey’s greatest challenges is securing the skills that its employers need, whether in the private sector or the public sector. There is a renewed focus on tackling structural weaknesses in productivity, as well as maintaining a balance between the pressures on infrastructure, especially housing, and the natural environment.

Right now, we’re also facing the challenge of keeping our historically low and stable tax regime, in the face of rising demands on public services.

**Life in Jersey**

It won’t take you long to discover there’s more to life in Jersey than meets the eye.

The island offers so much in the way of leisure activities, as well as great dining and retail choices. From the welcoming community to the thriving local culture, and scenic surroundings – this island is packed with so many opportunities to live life to the full.

Relocating here means you’ll enjoy the best that outdoor island life has to offer. From beach walks to coastal drives, from boat trips to water sports, and from heritage sites to rolling countryside – you’ll have your pick of what to see and do.

It’s also only a quick flight or ferry trip to France and the UK – and through the island’s gigabit broadband infrastructure, it’s also brilliantly connected to the rest of the world.

All of this and more around a job that’s filled with exciting challenges, great rewards – and bigger opportunities to do the best work of your life.

To find out more about living and working in Jersey, why not visit:
 **Visit Jersey** [www.jersey.com](https://www.jersey.com/)
**Locate Jersey** [www.locatejersey.com](https://www.locatejersey.com/)
**Facts about Jersey** [www.gov.je/Leisure/](https://www.gov.je/Leisure/Jersey/Pages/Profile.aspx)