

MIRROR ONLINE

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Alderney: A short hop from Southampton

By Ian Vogler



Braye Beach, Alderney

You could be excused for not knowing where Alderney is - if you're no pub quiz expert it's the most northern Channel Island.

This three-square-mile gem is a short hop from Southampton on a real aeroplane, the kind with propellers.

After landing our taxi driver whisked us to the Braye Beach Hotel, which sits above golden sands in the north of the island.

The locals say that Alderney has a special feeling and I had to agree as soon as we stepped on to the hotel's patio.

Time seemed to stand still... or was it the large gin and tonic? We had a brisk walk around Braye Harbour before enjoying fresh fish and perfectly chilled wine.

The evening was rounded off with a visit to the hotel's own cinema where the manager, Richard, has a large selection of films and soft leather chairs.

Alderney is great for walkers and wildlife lovers and, with little traffic, bikes are a cheap way to get around. Cycling across the island the next morning, we found Braye Road Station, where the Alderney Railway takes passengers on a tour from Easter to September.

For me, the highlight of the railway - dating from the 1840s - was its Northern Line tube carriages of the type I used to go on as a kid in London. Mind the gap!

The Braye Chippy is one of the island's most popular places to eat so booking is recommended. And our hotel was so close to the beach we could stroll down to soak up the rays before going to the airport on the last morning.

The locals were right. A weekend on Alderney was so relaxing it felt like a whole week off.

GET THERE

A 3 night break at the Braye Beach Hotel inc flights with Aurigny from Southampton, transfers and dinner on first and last nights costs from £375pp based on 2 sharing a standard room. Flights from other regional airports are available:

<http://www.brayebeach.com/>

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