



that if the French fleet was to leave St Malo, the news could be flashed from lookout ships to Mont Orgueil (via Grosnez), to Sark and then Guernsey, where the British fleet was stationed. Tests showed that the news could arrive in Guernsey within 15 minutes of the French fleet's departure!

#### St Ouen's Bay F 02, 03, 04 and 05

In 1779, the Prince of Nassau attempted to land with his troops in St Ouen's bay but found the Lieutenant Governor and the Militia waiting for him and was easily beaten back. However, the attack highlighted the need for more fortifications in the area and a chain of five towers was built in the bay in the 1780s as part of General Henry Seymour Conway's plan to fortify the entire coastline of Jersey.

Three of the towers were destroyed by coastal erosion and these were replaced in the 1830s by Kempt Tower and Lewis Tower. Although all of Jersey's towers are commonly referred to as 'Martello' towers, these later towers are among the few true Martello towers in the Island. They are squatter in design than the 18th century round towers, with thicker walls to support the battery placed on the top of them.

#### La Caumine à Mary Best G 03

As you travel further south along the bay you will come to a small guardhouse called La Caumine à Mary Best, which is also known locally as 'the white house'. A guardhouse was first recorded on this site in 1665 when the parishes of St Peter and St Ouen shared responsibility for the defence of the bay. The building was rebuilt in

1765 with a stone vaulted roof, to replace the original structure (which was blown up). It is the oldest defensive fortification in St Ouen's Bay and, as with others, is painted white as a navigation marker.

#### La Rocco Tower F 04

Standing half a mile offshore at the southern end of St Ouen's Bay is La Rocco Tower, the largest of Conway's towers and the last to be built. Like the tower at Archirondel it was built on a tidal islet and has a surrounding battery, which helps give it a distinctive silhouette.

#### Portelet H 06

The tower on the rock in the middle of the bay is commonly known as 'Janvrin's Tomb'. It takes its name from Philippe Janvrin, a sea captain returning to Jersey in 1721 from France. He was not allowed to dock because of fears that he and his ship's company might bring in the plague. While anchored offshore in Belcroute Bay he fell sick and died, but the worried authorities wouldn't allow his body to be brought ashore. Instead, he was buried on the rocky islet known as Ile au Guerdain, in Portelet Bay, within sight of his Jersey birthplace and home.

#### St Aubin's Fort J 05

The wide sweeping bay of St Aubin, with its proximity to the island's main centres of habitation and commerce, was recognised early on as a likely landing spot for an invasion. From the 16th century onwards, the bay was protected at either end by gun positions built on two islets. Over the years these were developed to become Elizabeth Castle and St Aubin's Fort.

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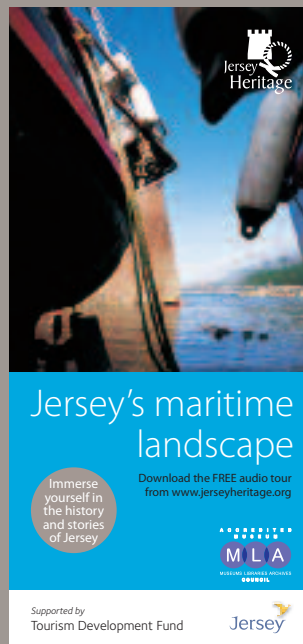
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Over the centuries, the wars between the French and the English have played a major part in Jersey's history and, ever since 1204, when the Island confirmed its allegiance to the English crown, Jersey has been subject to numerous invasions and attacks. This guide and accompanying audio tour trace the development of Jersey's historic fortifications.

#### Elizabeth Castle **K 06**

Fortification began in the mid-16th century with the building of gun positions on small islets at opposite ends of St Aubin's Bay. The gun position at the western end of the bay, which was to become St Aubin's Fort, actually predates Elizabeth Castle as, up until the late 1700s, St Aubin's Harbour was still the main port.

Work began on fortifying the bay's eastern approaches – for the defence of St Helier – in the 1550s, when a gun platform was built on the highest part of the islet now occupied by Elizabeth Castle. However, work didn't really begin in earnest until the end of the century when Queen Elizabeth I despatched her engineer, Paul Ivy, to oversee its construction. Originally known as the New Castle, it was named by Sir Walter Raleigh (who was the Governor of Jersey from 1600 to 1603) in honour of Queen Elizabeth I.

#### Fort Regent **L 05**

Fort Regent was named by the then Governor, General Sir George Don, in honour of the Prince of Wales (later George IV) who was acting as the Prince Regent during his father's

illness. Unfortunately, almost as soon as it was completed, the threat posed by the French had already begun to recede, following Napoleon's defeat at Waterloo.

#### Le Hocq **N 06**

This is one of a series of round towers that were built along the coast to defend the Island. The building programme was ordered by General Henry Seymour Conway, the then Governor of Jersey, in response to the threat of French invasion. This threat was confirmed when, in 1781, French troops (helped by a treacherous Jerseyman) landed at La Rocque and marched into town, where they forced the Island's commander to surrender before being defeated by a hastily-arranged defence force under the command of Major Peirson in what became known as the Battle of Jersey.

These round coastal towers were simple in design and relatively quick and cheap to build. Their advantage over square towers was that they had no weak angles, while the curved walls tend to deflect cannon balls.

#### Icho Tower **N 06**

This is a squat round tower that stands a mile offshore from Le Hocq. Icho Tower is one of three Martello Towers built in Jersey during the Napoleonic Wars on the orders of General Sir George Don.

#### Seymour Tower **P 06**

Built in 1782 in direct response to the French invasion the previous year, it has a gun battery at its base and, unlike General Conway's other towers, which were round in design, Seymour Tower is square because of the shape of the islet on which it stands.

#### Mont Orgueil Castle **P 04**

Towering above the skyline is Mont Orgueil Castle which is built on a rocky outcrop overlooking the sweep of the Royal Bay of Grouville. The site, which is naturally protected on three sides by cliffs and the sea, has been used as a place of defence and refuge since the Neolithic period, around 3,000 years B.C.

Construction of the castle began in the early 13th century, when King John lost control of Normandy and the Channel Islands suddenly found themselves on the edge of a war zone, a position that was to last for another 600 years. Within sight of the French coast, and dominating one of the island's best landing beaches, Mont Orgueil Castle was Jersey's original fortress and first line of defence against a French invasion.

#### Fort Henry and Fort William **P 04 and 05**

Defences in the Royal Bay of Grouville were further strengthened in the mid-18th century by the building of two small forts, Fort Henry and Fort William. Smaller forts formed part of the chain of defence along this eastern coast.

Nearest to the castle you can see Fort William (now a private residence), then Fort Henry, and beyond them the five surviving round towers of a chain of six that originally protected this stretch of coast.

#### Fort Leicester **M 02**

Bouley Bay was valuable from a military point of view for its deepwater anchorage. On its western side, Bouley Bay was protected by Fort Leicester. A cannon



had been positioned on this site since the late 16th century and a guardhouse was built along side it in 1646 during the English Civil War. A century later a wall was built to enclose the site and Fort Leicester was created. The present layout of the fort dates from the 1830s when new building work also took place at La Crête Fort and L'Etacquerel Fort. Fort Leicester had five heavy cannon, probably 32-pounders, which were positioned to prevent an enemy making a landing in the bay. It needed about 30 men and one officer to man the guns.

#### L'Etacquerel Fort **N 02**

L'Etacquerel derives its name from the old Norse word 'stakkr', which means a heap or a stack of rock. The fort is protected on the landward side by a massive dry ditch. It housed four 32-pounder cannon, and the range of buildings included a magazine, a store, an officers' guardroom, a soldiers' guardroom and privies.

#### Grève de Lecq **G 01**

High up on the cliffs at the eastern end of the bay stands an 18th century guardhouse called Le Câtel Fort. This was built to defend the bay from the threat of French invasion and had three heavy 32-pound guns on traversing platforms.

To the east of the fort is a large earth mound over 270 feet high which is thought to be a promontory fort dating from the late Iron Age. There is evidence that it was used as a place of refuge during the late medieval period

when the island was raided by the Castilian nobleman turned corsair, Don Pero Nino.

A large cluster of granite buildings set on the hillside above the bay is Grève de Lecq Barracks. Construction began in 1810 at the height of the fear of Napoleonic invasion and was part of General Sir George Don's military building programme.

#### Grosnez Castle **F 01**

The gatehouse of Grosnez Castle is the only substantial part of this 14th century castle that survives. Originally protected by a drawbridge and portcullis, the gatehouse was flanked by two strong towers. If you enter the castle you can see the foundations of the towers to either side of the gatehouse.

In 1806, a naval signal station was established at Grosnez by General Sir George Don who was determined to keep the Island safe from invasion. He developed a signalling system so





