



SARK - A WONDERFUL HAVEN OF PEACE AND TRANQUILLITY

...recalls Tim Saunders as he helps his wife to home school their three children during the lockdown

The island of Sark is a 50-minute ferry crossing from Guernsey.

Having packed our picnic we board the Sark bound vessel at 10am from Saint Peter Port and look forward to our day ahead. The island promises peace and solitude thanks to there being no cars.

The only way to travel to Sark is by ferry because there's no airport. Between April and October the blue and white boat carries 45,000 return passengers.

The choppy sea violently pushes the small vessel up and down. There's a distinct look of fear on all of our faces that heightens the senses. Those of us who have travelled from mainland England on the comparatively smooth Condor Ferries trimaran might be just a little surprised at the choppiness of the Sark Shipping Company crossing. It certainly requires a strong stomach on this occasion. Little Henry (3) copes for the best part of the journey soon a sick bag is quickly passed his way. This situation does give us all greater understanding of what a seafarer's life is like and how hardy our fishermen must be.

We arrive at Maseline Harbour and gratefully clamber off into the glorious summer sunshine. We walk up the hill, along a track beside the road that introduces us to the island's delightful flora and fauna as well as insects such as grasshoppers and a stunning butterfly.

We're never far from tractors or horses pulling carriages so it is necessary for the children, especially, to be vigilant when walking on the tracks around the island. It's a wonderfully relaxing time that sees us paddle and build a big sandcastle complete with its own moat. We play catch with Henry while Heidi does a bit of rock climbing near the idyllic waterfall.

While it might be possible to visit all parts of this two square mile island in one day, we cannot. We've discovered that we can't be too demanding of our children otherwise the day is just not enjoyable. And so we only touch on the beauty of Sark. But we leave all the better for this enriching experience that we'll all remember for the rest of our lives.

At 6pm we board the ferry back to Saint Peter Port, Guernsey where Henry sleeps and travels much better as a result.

For more information visit:

www.sark.co.uk

www.sarkshipping.gg

Watch the videos:

www.travelwriter.biz