

Seashore

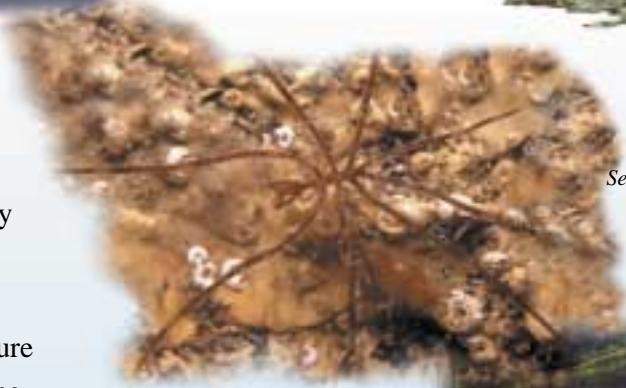


The forty five miles of coastline around Jersey is arguably the Island's greatest natural treasure. Unlike many land based habitats, the areas between high and low water mark surrounding the Island have remained relatively unchanged since the sea reclaimed the land around the Channel Islands thousands of years ago.



Seymour Tower

Even at the height of summer, very few Island residents or tourists venture away from the soft sands of the upper shore to explore the huge areas which are exposed at low tide. The seashore in Jersey is subjected to dramatic change every six hours due to the Island's unique position within the Bay of St Malo. Over spring tide periods, which occur approximately every two weeks throughout the year, the tide can rise and fall in excess of 40 feet twice a day.



Sea Spider



Two-Spotted Gobies



Sea Squirts and Arctic Cowrie



Little Cuttlefish

“On the great attractions of Jersey for the naturalist, one word will suffice: there is no such spot in England for marine zoology.” George Eliot 1857

Life forms vary dramatically throughout the various habitats found on the Island’s shores. From the extreme upper range of marine influence - the splash zone - wet only on the highest spring tides - down to the lower shore - exposed only on the lowest spring tides. Conditions can be extremely hostile in these areas and many creatures and plants are well adapted in their own ways to survive the rigour of life on the shore. Well over 100 species of fish, 80 species of worm, 100 species of crustacean, 30 species of green seaweed, 60 species of brown seaweed and 140 species of red seaweed have been found on Island shores.

Star Ascidian



The extremes of tidal range. These two photographs were taken at exactly the same spot at high tide and low tide. Note the small boat and the rocks.

Snakelocks Anemone

Mating Paddle Worms



Camouflaged Goby

Littoral adj.
of or relating to the
shore of a sea,
lake or ocean

Burrowing
Prawn

Shore Crab

Worm Pipe Fish

Jellyfish



Although we encourage residents and visitors to explore the Island. Environmental Services cannot be held responsible for any accident. Take great care not to become cut off by the incoming tide. Also, please leave everything as you found it. If you are unsure stay high on the beach or join a guided walk.

If you would like to know more please contact the Soci t  Jerseyaise. The Marine Conservation Society also have an active branch in Jersey. For further information ring the Frances Le Sueur Centre, St. Ouen. Telephone 483140. This brochure is produced by the Planning & Environment Committee.

Photos by Rowena White.



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