# Young adults flock to Sark to embrace tax-free, peaceful island life



A tiny island almost 100 miles from the mainland UK, Sark's idyllic charm may seem an unlikely backdrop for a youthful migration, but a growing number of young adults are redefining life on this car-free haven. With just three pubs and a population of under a thousand, Sark appears to be an escape from the urban hustle and bustle, instead offering a slower, communal lifestyle that resonates deeply with today’s generation.

For Jade Right, a 23-year-old from Oxfordshire, the allure of Sark became irresistible during a three-week holiday that transformed into a call to permanence. She notes, “It’s easy to get a job in hospitality; CVs aren't a thing, and employees treat you really well.” Such sentiments reflect the island's burgeoning hospitality sector where work is plentiful during the tourism season, which runs from March to October.

What makes Sark particularly appealing is its status as a tax haven. Unlike many places, residents do not pay income tax, capital gains tax, inheritance tax, or VAT. Instead, a straightforward, one-page tax form requires only a property tax relative to the size of one's home. This tax-friendly environment attracts a diverse mix of residents, including those who, like Jade, enjoy the community spirit while also eyeing potential financial benefits. “There's a lot of tax avoiders; Germans come here and buy properties,” she explained, highlighting a cross-section of resident motivations.

The tax benefits are cited by many young migrants as a pathway to financial freedom, enabling them to save and travel during the off-season. Cerys Lockeridge, a 24-year-old who relocated to Sark after studying Events Management, claims the island lifestyle allows her to live beautifully and manage her finances effectively. Having started her Sark journey with a last-minute decision for a placement year, she remarked, “It’s a safe place, especially for anyone who wants to avoid the hustle of the mainland.”

Interestingly, the island's remote location serves not just as a retreat but as a setting that fosters creativity and individuality. Social media platforms like TikTok are awash with videos celebrating Sark's stunning scenery and leisurely lifestyle, generating interest among other young people. A vibrant digital presence is reshaping the island's identity, drawing attention from a generation eager to escape urban life.

Yet, the challenges posed by Sark's unique feudal system can complicate aspirations for long-term living. Property ownership is intricate; mortgages are non-existent, and potential homeowners must be residents for 15 years before building on virgin land. Despite these hurdles, many find accommodations are often bundled with island job offers, easing the transition for newcomers.

The island's storied history only adds to its appeal. Established in 1565 under a charter from Queen Elizabeth I, Sark remains one of the last bastions of feudalism in the Western world. Governed by a council of landowners, it is steeped in tradition, boasting a unique regime that fuels a cult-like following among its residents.

Moreover, the sense of community that defines Sark is palpable. Elsie Courtney, who works at the island's only tourist office, describes how newcomers, especially solo female travellers, are drawn to the island's safety and intimacy. “We’ve always had a lot of solo female travellers,” she noted. “It's a safe place for anyone.” Daily interactions are warm and familiar, where passing strangers often become conversation partners rather than mere acquaintances.

Life on Sark, however, is not without its quirks. There are no quick dining options like McDonald's, prompting residents to make regular trips to neighbouring islands for more familiar fare, sometimes relying on friends to stock up on community favourites. This scarcity, juxtaposed with the rich sense of community, evokes a lifestyle many liken to living in an Enid Blyton novel—where children roam freely and everyone knows each other.

With a resolute commitment to maintaining its tranquil ambiance, Sark also enjoys the distinction of being a Dark Sky Island, devoid of streetlights, inviting residents to engage in stargazing as part of daily life. Many residents, like Ed Stone, a 37-year-old accountant and kayaker, find solace in this quiet existence, stating, “It’s so quiet and peaceful; no traffic changes the feel.”

As Sark continues to attract younger generations seeking an alternative lifestyle, its unique blend of community, natural beauty, and fiscal benefits creates a captivating narrative—one that marries tradition with the ever-evolving demands of contemporary life. For those ready to embrace this “step back in time,” Sark offers a space for both financial opportunity and idyllic living.

## Reference Map:

* Paragraph 1 – [[1]](https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-14731213/Inside-tiny-island-no-one-pays-income-inheritance-tax.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490), [[2]](https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-14731213/Inside-tiny-island-no-one-pays-income-inheritance-tax.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490)
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* Paragraph 3 – [[3]](https://as.com/diarioas/2021/09/23/actualidad/1632396149_077389.html), [[6]](https://www.irishtimes.com/business/tiny-sark-governed-by-40-island-landowners-1.160204)
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Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

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2. <https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-14731213/Inside-tiny-island-no-one-pays-income-inheritance-tax.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490> - An article from the Daily Mail explores the allure of Sark, a small island in the English Channel, for young adults seeking a simpler lifestyle. It highlights the island's ban on cars, low population, and absence of income and inheritance taxes, making it an attractive destination for those looking to escape urban life. The piece features personal accounts from residents who have relocated to Sark, emphasizing the community's appeal and the unique way of life.
3. <https://as.com/diarioas/2021/09/23/actualidad/1632396149_077389.html> - This article from Diario AS delves into Sark's unique status as a tax haven, detailing its lack of income, capital gains, inheritance, and sales taxes. It discusses the island's historical background, including its 1565 grant by Queen Elizabeth I, and the challenges faced due to economic changes and modernization attempts. The piece also covers the island's strict vehicle restrictions and its appeal to those seeking a tax-free lifestyle.
4. <https://www.ft.com/content/2721f9f1-224c-48bd-8327-e1c9844acfc3> - The Financial Times article examines the efforts of Christopher Beaumont, the Seigneur of Sark, and entrepreneur Swen Lorenz to rejuvenate the island's economy. They plan to purchase properties from the estate of the late Sir David Barclay, aiming to attract investment and eventually initiate an IPO on the London Stock Exchange. The article details the community's reactions and the socio-economic dynamics of Sark.
5. <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sark> - The Wikipedia page on Sark provides comprehensive information about the island's geography, history, governance, and economy. It details the island's unique feudal system, its car-free status, and its designation as a Dark Sky Community. The page also covers the island's tax system, highlighting the absence of income, capital gains, inheritance, and sales taxes, and the presence of property and personal taxes.
6. <https://www.irishtimes.com/business/tiny-sark-governed-by-40-island-landowners-1.160204> - This article from The Irish Times discusses Sark's governance by a council of 40 landowners and its status as one of the last remaining feudal states in the Western world. It highlights the island's unique tax system, which includes property and 'visible wealth' taxes, and its reliance on tourism for revenue. The piece also touches upon the island's independence and its appeal to investors seeking confidentiality.
7. <https://www.mightytravels.com/2024/02/finding-haven-exploring-europes-tiny-island-of-tolerance/> - Mighty Travels explores Sark's progressive laws, including its early legalization of same-sex marriage in 2013 and its opt-out from the EU's human rights legislation in 2008. The article discusses the island's car-free status, low taxes, and strong sense of community, portraying Sark as a haven for those seeking a tolerant and unique lifestyle.