# Solo female travellers flock to Sark as island’s safety and charm shine despite rising social concerns



The Channel Islands, long known for appealing to wealthy tycoons seeking tax advantages, are now drawing a contrasting group of visitors: female solo travellers. Among these islands, Sark stands out, famed for its unique charm and idyllic environment. Nestled between Guernsey and Jersey, Sark boasts a population of roughly 500 and is renowned as the sunniest of the islands. As cars are banned, the peaceful surroundings, abundant beaches, and low crime rates create an inviting atmosphere for women travelling alone.

Tara Price, a 30-year-old Australian who ventured to Sark for both work and leisure, highlights the island’s safety. “It’s really safe; you can walk around in the middle of the forest at night, it’s crazy,” she remarked. The absence of streetlights means navigating the island requires a torch, a fact that adds to its mystique. Sark has been designated the world’s first dark sky island, making it an appealing refuge from light pollution.

Despite the general fears surrounding women's safety in public spaces, particularly at night, Sark offers a reassuring counter-narrative. As Amie Strode, a 21-year-old from Oxfordshire, experienced during her stay, the local environment fosters a sense of security. She recounted her ease in leaving her bike unattended and feeling free to explore without apprehension. “You can walk home and not worry about getting hit by a car. Someone might nick the occasional bike, but they tend to get found out,” Strode noted.

The island’s remote nature and limited amenities provide a distinct charm. Transportation is restricted to walking, biking, horseback riding, and horse-drawn carriages, which contributes to its tranquil atmosphere. However, residents receive food deliveries only twice a week, necessitating a certain degree of preparation and resilience from those who choose to stay long-term. This lifestyle, while stark, offers an excellent opportunity for visitors to disconnect from the pressures of daily life.

Elsie Courtney, who has worked at the island’s only tourist office, confirms an uptick in the number of female solo travellers. “We’ve always had a lot of solo female travellers,” she said. “Recently, we’ve seen an increase in single ladies coming.” Reflecting a broader trend across the globe, women are increasingly seeking destinations that promise safety and connection, akin to experiences in far-flung places such as Thailand or New Zealand. In Sark, they find not only safety but also a welcoming community eager to embrace newcomers.

Yet, Sark is not without its challenges. A recent report has highlighted a rise in domestic and welfare issues on the island, which could pose concerns for the local community. Between October 2023 and October 2024, instances of domestic violence and welfare checks have been noted, prompting calls for further support measures. This juxtaposition of a haven for solo female travellers alongside emerging social issues complicates the narrative of Sark as an idyllic escape.

In stark contrast to these darker developments, the island’s natural beauty offers recreational opportunities that are hard to resist. Visitors can indulge in kayaking tours, swimming, and hiking at sunset, all set against the backdrop of stunning coastlines and crystal-clear waters. The annual Sark Folk Festival and sheep racing events add a cultural dimension, ensuring that visitors have much to immerse themselves in beyond the tranquil scenery.

Ultimately, Sark presents a complex tapestry of solitude, adventure, and a burgeoning community spirit. As the Seneschal of Sark suggested, “Sark fits the magical ideal of an Enid Blyton novel.” This enchanting island continues to attract women seeking both job opportunities and the chance to experience a slower pace of life, all while reveling in the safety and warmth of its small but tight-knit community.

## Reference Map:

* Paragraph 1 – [[1]](https://www.dailymail.co.uk/travel/article-14731243/female-solo-traveller-tiny-island-streetlights-banned.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490), [[2]](https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cwy8p80953yo)
* Paragraph 2 – [[1]](https://www.dailymail.co.uk/travel/article-14731243/female-solo-traveller-tiny-island-streetlights-banned.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490), [[2]](https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cwy8p80953yo), [[3]](https://www.islaguru.com/islands/channel-islands)
* Paragraph 3 – [[1]](https://www.dailymail.co.uk/travel/article-14731243/female-solo-traveller-tiny-island-streetlights-banned.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490), [[3]](https://www.islaguru.com/islands/channel-islands), [[6]](https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2019/oct/07/sarks-top-police-officer-says-channel-island-awash-with-criminals)
* Paragraph 4 – [[2]](https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cwy8p80953yo), [[5]](https://right.rent/renting-in-sark-channel-islands/)
* Paragraph 5 – [[1]](https://www.dailymail.co.uk/travel/article-14731243/female-solo-traveller-tiny-island-streetlights-banned.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490), [[5]](https://right.rent/renting-in-sark-channel-islands/)
* Paragraph 6 – [[2]](https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cwy8p80953yo), [[6]](https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2019/oct/07/sarks-top-police-officer-says-channel-island-awash-with-criminals)
* Paragraph 7 – [[1]](https://www.dailymail.co.uk/travel/article-14731243/female-solo-traveller-tiny-island-streetlights-banned.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490), [[5]](https://right.rent/renting-in-sark-channel-islands/)

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## Bibliography

1. <https://www.dailymail.co.uk/travel/article-14731243/female-solo-traveller-tiny-island-streetlights-banned.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cwy8p80953yo> - An article from BBC News reports a rise in calls to domestic and family welfare issues in Sark over the past year. Between October 2023 and October 2024, there were 12 incidents of domestic violence and 16 welfare checks requiring constables' involvement. The constables are actively seeking ways to assist more in these types of issues, with an upcoming domestic abuse law expected to help address these concerns.
3. <https://www.islaguru.com/islands/channel-islands> - A travel guide from Islaguru provides information on the Channel Islands, including safety for tourists. It states that the Channel Islands are very safe for tourists, with low crime rates and friendly local communities. The main hazards come from natural conditions, such as high tides and steep coastal cliffs. Visitors are advised to follow local guidance for tide schedules and be aware of strong currents when swimming.
4. <https://travelladies.app/safety/seychelles> - An article from Travel Ladies discusses the safety of Seychelles for solo female travelers. It mentions that Seychelles is generally considered safe, with a low crime rate compared to many other tourist destinations. However, travelers are advised to take standard precautions, such as not walking alone late at night, protecting belongings from theft, and avoiding drawing unnecessary attention.
5. <https://right.rent/renting-in-sark-channel-islands/> - A Right Rent article about renting in Sark, Channel Islands, highlights the island's vibrant local events and festivals, such as the annual Sark Folk Festival and the Sark Sheep Racing Weekend. These events showcase traditional music, art, and cuisine, providing opportunities for visitors to immerse themselves in the local culture.
6. <https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2019/oct/07/sarks-top-police-officer-says-channel-island-awash-with-criminals> - An article from The Guardian reports on Sark's police chief's concerns about the island being 'awash' with people who have criminal convictions. The chief highlighted challenges in stopping smuggling of drugs and other illegal goods due to the lack of a customs post and called for stricter laws on driving under the influence and better-equipped police officers.
7. <https://www.vigilios.com/destinations/guernsey-and-alderney> - A Vigilios article discusses the safety of Guernsey and Alderney, stating that they are very safe destinations for tourists, with low crime rates and a stable political environment. The islands have reliable emergency services, including ambulance, fire, and police services, ensuring prompt responses to emergencies.