

**KEEP TRACK OF JERSEY WEATHER LEADING UP TO YOUR SWIM**

**(OR JUST FOR A DAY OUT ON THE BEACH)**

**As many of you are avidly interested in how the local Jersey weather is shaping up previous to your arrival I have cobbled together a few of the web-sites which I use in conjunction with my crystal ball, pre-licked finger and moist seaweed.**

**Jersey is renowned for its micro climate due to its location in the English Channel and being adjacent to the west coast of the French mainland. We therefore do not align to all conditions expected by British mainland weather forecasters.**

**Many of these sites can be employed with very little extra searching for the local conditions in DOVER should you be progressing to the ultimate day out. Normally insert Dover for location.**

**Please remember: We do not set sail with a swimmer if the conditions are likely to deteriorate to a Force 4 or worse. It’s been proved this is no fun for you the swimmer, nor is it enjoyable for your support crew on board a small vessel. We are not and do not attempt to emulate our big brothers in Dover with their gin palaces, we just do not have their skills, boats or technological equipment. We have perfectly good ale houses for foul weather swimming.**

**Basics on wind: Winds tend to circulate CLOCKWISE around areas of HIGH PRESSURE and ANTICLOCWISE around areas of LOW PRESSURE.**

**If these sites require you to enter a location; insert JERSEY.**

1. **JERSEY FORECAST: http://**[**www.gov.je**](http://www.gov.je) **A basic outlook on conditions, winds etc together with ‘live weather observations’ and a two day shipping forecast.**
2. **WINDFINDER: http://**[**www.windfinder.com**](http://www.windfinder.com) **A trustworthy forecast for the forthcoming eight days.**
3. **WINDGURU: http://**[**www.windguru.cz**](http://www.windguru.cz)**/int/index.php?sc=35643 Again a reliable site for eight days ahead.**
4. **METCHECK: http://**[**www.metcheck.com**](http://www.metcheck.com)**/UK/TODAY.ASP?ZIPCODE=Jersey&locationID=61406&lat=49.1&1 Various sections for the next 48 hours; this week; next week or next six months.**
5. **JERSEY COASTGUARD:** [**www.portofjersey.je**](http://www.portofjersey.je)**/Pages/weather.aspx A site within the Port of Jersey information site. Details of min and max temperatures; wind direction and force; tidal information and sea temperature for ‘today’. Plus a five day temperature and wind forecast.**
6. **BBC WEATHER AT JERSEY AIRPORT:** [**www.bbc.co.uk/weather/6296595**](http://www.bbc.co.uk/weather/6296595) **A daily forecast broken into hourly segments of temperatures, wind strength and direction.**
7. **IT’S RAINING SIDEWAYS:** [**www.itsrainingsideways.com**](http://www.itsrainingsideways.com) **Menu, Jersey weather. Sounds like a fun site, but full of a lot of useful information. Its results are very akin to an American military site I use.**
8. **THE JETSTREAM:** [**www.netweather.tv/index.cgi?action=jetstream:sess**](http://www.netweather.tv/index.cgi?action=jetstream:sess)**= The Jetstream carries our weather across the Atlantic Ocean from the east coast of the United States of America. Its position above Great Britain decides our weather. If the Jetstream is above the north of the UK then warm weather is pulled up from Europe and the Mediterranean area. Should it lie below the south coast and Channel Islands then cold weather is pulled down from the Artic regions.**
9. **Apart from the above technological finger bruising sites why not try the good old steam driven radio?**
10. **BBC RADIO JERSEY: 88.8 VHF A typical insular radio station which carries forecasts at the following times: Monday to Friday 0625 – 0725 – 0825. Weekends 0625 – 0725 and 0825. All times local.**
11. **BBC RADIO 4: 92-95 VHF and 198KHz and 1515MW. Providing the official Met Office Shipping forecasts on behalf of The Maritime and Coastguard Agency at 0048 FM & LW – 0520 FM& LW – 1201 LW only and 1754 LW only. All transmitted at UK local times. Jersey lies within Sea area Portland, a vast area extending from the south coast of mainland Britain down to the north cast of Brittany. Jersey harbour itself lies on coordinate 49° 11‘ 13’’ North 2° 06’ 25’’ West**
12. **BBC Television & Channel Television: Both local television channels carry weather forecasts, normally at the end of their evening news broadcasts. Timings vary.**
13. **And finally: The following are National Data Buoys, these are weather buoys placed by Government agencies. One is local and the other three are out in the English Channel along the south coast of Britain which will extremely useful if you’re going on to Dover. However they do give an idea of prevailing conditions which may affect your Jersey swim.**

**Station 62027 – Jersey buoy, English Channel – 5nm south of Jersey UK**

[www.ndbc.noaa.gov/station\_page.php?station=62027](http://www.ndbc.noaa.gov/station_page.php?station=62027)

**Station 62305 – Greenwich Lightship**

[www.ndbc.noaa.gov/station\_page.php?station=62305](http://www.ndbc.noaa.gov/station_page.php?station=62305)

**Station 62304 – Sandettie Lightship**

[**www.ndbc.noaa.gov/sar.php?station=62304**](http://www.ndbc.noaa.gov/sar.php?station=62304)

**Station 62103**

[**www.ndbc.noaa.gov/station\_page.php?station=62103**](http://www.ndbc.noaa.gov/station_page.php?station=62103)

**HOW TIDES ARE FORMED**

**Basically; tides are formed and controlled by the gravitational pull of the sun and the moon. As the moon rotates around the earth the water on the earth’s surface is drawn towards the moon. The sun and moon rotate together; however as they move in different orbits and at different ‘speeds’ around the earth both having different gravitational strengths, their differing positions give us springs and neap tides. Although the sun is much larger the moons gravitational force is dominant as far as tides are concerned.**

**Spring tides: The highest spring tides, (nothing to do with seasons or Granny’s old bedstead) are caused with the ‘new moon’. Both sun and moon are on the same side of the earth, this happens in a fraction over 28 days, the accumulation of the fraction approx 1/28th of the time occurring each 28 day period. This gives us the highest movement, therefore the rise and fall of tide. Jersey is third highest rise and fall of tide in the world behind the Bay of Fundy in Nova Scotia and Bristol Docks on the River Severn.**

**Low spring tides occur is when we experience a full moon, with the moon on the opposite side of the earth to the sun.**

**Neap Tides: The moon is now at 90° to both the earth and suns axis causing the least water movement and less tidal flow.**

**So in Jersey we use the stronger spring tides for Round Island swims to ‘assist’ the swimmer going with the tide, whereas on the Jersey to France route when we are crossing tidal streams we use the weaker neap tide.**

**Timings: We have four tides roughly each 24 hour period, two high water and two low water. The ‘Flood’, or incoming tide lasts for approximately 6.5 hours and the ‘Ebb’ tide, as the water runs out for approximately 6 hours. Winds and ambient pressures each have differing effects on tides and therefore can affect timings.**

**Due to differing global positions tide times differ around the world but ‘locally’ Jersey is roughly 4hours 47 minutes before Dover, which is considered the ‘reference’ point for all tides world-wide.**