



## 8 SAUMAREZ PARK AND NATURE TRAIL

See also photograph page 15

**Distance:** 3mi/5km; 1h30min

**Grade:** easy

**You will need:** stout shoes

**How to get there and return:**  (routes 3/3A/3B or 7/7A) from St Peter Port to Cobo village, or  to the car park at Cobo village off Rue de la Saline (the coast road).

**Short walk: Cobo — Ozanne Tower — Cobo** (1.5mi/2.5km; 45min; easy). Follow the main walk for 25min and return the same way.

**H**ere's a short but very scenic walk based on a States of Guernsey nature trail and extended to include an excellent folk museum, concluding with just about the best view you could ever have of the west coast, short of flying over it.

**Begin at** the CAR PARK north of **Cobo** post office: take the NATURE TRAIL and head past the small green electricity station, keeping to the edge of the school playing fields on your left. The route is shaded by a variety of trees such as alder, willow, elm and poplar. Rounding the tennis courts, pass over a small footbridge close to the school gates and turn right alongside a long pond (a blocked-off section of a former canal), which is home to a great variety of small creatures, including frogs, newts, moorhen and dragonflies — even kingfishers in winter.

Come to the Route de Carteret and cross it (the handsome footbridge here is, alas, now closed). You're now in a lovely wooded area of the trail known as The Glen, which has excellent birdwatching. The path leads round to a splendid picnicking area (complete with wooden tables) below the derelict late 19th-century folly of **Ozanne Tower** (25min). The Short walk turns

*Climb to the top of Le Guet viewpoint, and you'll enjoy this superb view of Cobo Bay — it's the setting for Picnic 8.*



back here. The main walk heads south from the tower to follow a footpath in a field alongside La Rouette de la Tour. Keep along the path, cross a road, and come into a car park. Here you enter **Saumarez Park**,



which you can explore at leisure. I suggest you first walk round the perimeter of the grounds in a clockwise direction, past the Japanese temple and then cross the park to the Folk Museum belonging to the National Trust of Guernsey. This offers an authentic view of life in bygone days through a series of recreated rooms and outbuildings. There's a shop selling quality craft items and gifts. In the courtyard (shown in the photograph on page 15) are old farm wagons and implements.

Come out of Saumarez Park on to La route de Cobo (45min), but beware as you turn left: there is no pavement. Cross the road and turn right almost immediately, into a much quieter road (Ruelle de la Generotte). Ignore the first right turn, then after 100 yards or so, look for a grassy track on the right — another of Guernsey's 'green lanes' (see Walk 4). This does a sharp bend before reaching a metalled road on a bend, where you keep straight on. This road bears left to reach a T-junction at La rue de la Lande. Turn right and walk past St Matthew's Church and vicarage to Cobo Institute Hall.

With the hall on the left, walk through the wooded area and reach the viewpoint of **Le Guet**. Climb to the top of this little wooded knoll (1h10min; Picnic 8): from the watchtower there are incomparable views over the whole of Vazon, Cobo and Grandes Rocques bays.

Come back to the hall and turn left on a track which leads down to the coast road. The steel rails now acting as bollards are remnants of a railway built by occupying Germans during the war to supply their many fortifications. You can pick up a bus close to this point, or take to the beach for an invigorating return to the bus stop of CAR PARK (1h30min).