



### 13 JERSEY WAR TUNNELS

**Distance:** 4mi/6.5km; 2h10min

**Grade:** easy

**You will need:** stout shoes

**How to get there and return:**  8a or  to Jersey War Tunnels (ample free parking). (Bus users also have the option of returning by bus from The Living Legend or the Victoria pub.)

**Short walk:** since this walk makes a figure of eight, a pleasant stroll of about half the length, mostly on footpaths, can be achieved by cutting out the loop between the 25min- and 1h50min-points.

First-time visitors to Jersey are often surprised to discover the extent and the legacy of the five-year Occupation (1940-45). The story is no more vividly told than at the Underground Military Hospital, a massive tunnel complex built when the Germans entrenched themselves in the Channel Islands, believing them to be stepping stones to a full invasion of the UK. A visit to the tunnels will amaze you. Hitler never felt the island sunshine himself, but his command HQ was not far away from the hospital, where 'The Living Legend' a theme park which opened in 1992, now stands. This major tourist attraction offers some free entertainments as well as an audio-visual history of Jersey (for which there is an admission charge). The walk passes the entrance; allow extra time if you'd like to visit it.

**Begin** at the **Jersey War Tunnels** bus stop. Walk up Mont du Rocher, with a view to the museum entrance on your right. A minute or two later, follow the road as it makes a near-90° turn left, and come to a T-junction with Rue de la Ville au Bas. Turn left again, then go right, gently descending. Just after a sharp bend to the left, follow the footpath signs on the right to avoid the narrow (but busy) main road near the **Victoria pub (25min)**.

Go up the hill to the right, continue on La Route de L'Aleval (you'll see the road name on a stone) passing (on your left) the en-

*The tunnel corridors of Jersey War Tunnels (the German Underground Military Hospital) extend for more than a kilometre and were constructed by forced labour during the war years. Everything remains as it was when the occupying forces left (pictured is one of the operating theatres). An exhibition vividly brings to life the incredible achievement of the architect and of the slaves who worked in appalling conditions to complete the project, which in the end was never used in a state of siege or battle, as had been intended.*



trance to a war-time tunnel. This is now Jersey's main mushroom farm, though it is not open to the public. Walk on the grassy verge at the edge of the road for about 0.6mi/1km; there are more tunnel entrances on both sides of the road, now blocked. You are on a road that was created by the German forces for access to their military headquarters.

Turn left at the top of the hill at Le Pissot (**50min**) and soon reach **The Living Legend (1h05min)**. The nerve centre for the Occupation was underground here — it's now incorporated into the buildings. During the war the command bunker was disguised as a cottage; today it is used as a store behind the scenes and is not open to the public. You can visit the attraction if you wish, (no charge if you do not choose to see the audio-visual presentation) but the walk continues by turning left just beyond The Living Legend, onto a very quiet road. Keep ahead until the road makes a sharp left turn and zigzags downhill, back to the **Victoria pub (1h35min)**.

Turn right and go along the valley road about 200 yards/metres, to the millpond (on your left). From here the walk continues on footpaths. First there is a path through National Trust for Jersey woodland to **Quetivel (1h35min)**, a restored water mill (open to visitors Tuesdays to Thursdays from May to September; 10.00-16.00). Across from the mill, the path goes through gateposts and continues downstream along the valley. Soon turn left to cross the stream, then go right along the roadside path as far as a **pumping station**. Cross the road carefully here, then take the steep path on the other side. This winds its way through the trees, over the hill and down to your car or the bus stop at the **Jersey War Tunnels (2h10min)**.

