Fort Grey Shipwreck Museum
This museum houses a collection of maritime artefacts and information relating to shipwrecks around the treacherous west coast of Guernsey.

From HMS Sprightly, wrecked on the Hanois Reef in 1777, to the sad story of MV Prosperity which foundered on the rocks of Perelle in January 1974 after the crew had abandoned ship and 16 of them drowned.

The display serves as a poignant reminder of the perils of the sea.

Finding out more
This leaflet summarises the key aspects of the Wreck and Salvage Law relating to historic wreck in Guernsey waters. The same Law applies elsewhere in the Bailiwick but different authorities are responsible. Copies of the Legislation are available from the Greffe.

For more general information on historic wreck, contact the Archaeology Officer
Guernsey Museum & Art Gallery,
Candie Gardens, St. Peter Port,
Guernsey, GY1 1UG
telephone mobile 07781102219
Or email phil.dejersey@gov.gg

For further information on Guernsey’s maritime past visit the museum website
www.museums.gov.gg

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Guernsey Museum & Art Gallery
Guernsey Museum & Art Gallery

Other useful addresses
Harbourmaster
St Julian’s Emplacement
St Peter Port
Guernsey
GY1 2LU

receiver of Wreck
Sir Charles Frossard House
St Peter Port
Guernsey
GY1 1FH

Greffe
Royal Court Building
St Peter Port
Guernsey
GY1 1FH

Visitor Information Centre
Royal Court Building
St Peter Port
Guernsey
GY1 1FH

Fort Grey Shipwreck Museum
Escaupie Court Road, St Peters
open Easter to October

Roman amphora, Maritime Museum
Diving history display, Maritime Museum
Shipwreck Gallery, Fort Grey Shipwreck Museum

Castles Cornet & Museums
Castle Emplacement, St Peter Port
open Easter to October

Museums

that feature Historic Wreck & diving

States of Guernsey

Historic Wreck guidelines

Guernsey's sheltered harbour has welcomed seafarers for many centuries, making the island part of a thriving world wide trade route. Its fishing industries, ship building and naval history are portrayed through life size displays, scale models and museum objects.

Guernsey’s Maritime Museum traces the Islands nautical history from prehistoric times to the present day. Guernsey’s sheltered harbour has welcomed seafarers for many centuries, making the island part of a thriving world wide trade route. Its fishing industries, ship building and naval history are portrayed through life size displays, scale models and museum objects.

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Guernsey Museum & Art Gallery
Guernsey Museum & Art Gallery
What is Historic Wreck?

A vessel which has lain wrecked for 50 years or more any cargo which is historic wreck, he will inform the Receiver of Wreck as soon as possible. If the Receiver agrees, it may be possible to deposit the objects with the Museum. If the Committee decides to sell the object, the value will be the price for which it is sold, but if it has no sale, then the compensation will be the value of the object. Where the object is of particular historical interest, the Department may designate the area as a restricted area to protect the wreck. You must not tamper with or remove historic wreck; to salvage objects found away from obvious wreck in a restricted area would be an illegal act. If a licence is granted, it will contain restrictions concerning who may dive, how objects should be recovered and what will happen to them. If you wish to work alongside both local and international archaeologists and historians world-wide about Roman trade and domestic life in the island. More recently several medieval wreck sites have been located in St Peter Port Harbour one of which was built in Portugal.

Protection

The Week and Salvage (Vessels and Aircraft) (Ballot of Guernsey) Law 1986 gives anyone a right to recover a wreck site passed over by another individual, not to prevent the enjoyment of responsible divers. All Historic Wreck is the property of the States of Guernsey and automatically comes under the authority of the Receiver of Wreck, but in most cases the finder will be allowed to retain it on behalf of the States of Guernsey. The Culture and Leisure Department is always pleased to hear of historic wreck discoveries, if you discover a wreck site that proves to be of particular historical interest, the Department may designate the area as a restricted area to protect the wreck. You must not tamper with or remove historic wreck; to salvage objects found away from obvious wreck in a restricted area unless you have a written licence (see left). If a licence is granted, it will contain restrictions concerning who may dive, how objects should be recovered and what will happen to them. If you wish to work alongside both local and international archaeologists and historians world-wide on Roman trade and domestic life in the island. More recently several medieval wreck sites have been located in St Peter Port Harbour one of which was built in Portugal.

What to do if you find a wreck

If you discover historic wreck, you must report it to the Receiver of Wreck at St Charles House, Longueville Road, St Peter Port, Guernsey. The Receiver of Wreck, in consultation with the Culture and Leisure Department, will decide whether salvage operations are to be undertaken. If you believe you may have raised historic wreck, you are advised to contact the St Peter Port Signals Office giving full information of your find. The Receiver of Wreck will then decide whether a licence to dive on historic wreck should be allowed. If you are not sure, contact the Culture and Leisure Department who may take appropriate and agreed site.

What are Restricted Areas?
The Culture and Leisure Department is always pleased to hear of historic wreck discoveries, if you discover a wreck site that proves to be of particular historical interest, the Department may designate the area as a restricted area to protect the wreck. You must not tamper with or remove historic wreck; to salvage objects found away from obvious wreck in a restricted area unless you have a written licence (see left). If a licence is granted, it will contain restrictions concerning who may dive, how objects should be recovered and what will happen to them. If you wish to work alongside both local and international archaeologists and historians world-wide about Roman trade and domestic life in the island. More recently several medieval wreck sites have been located in St Peter Port Harbour one of which was built in Portugal.

What is proposed

Complementation for the recovery of an object of historic wreck, you will be told presentation of your offer to the receiver and whether salvage operations are to be undertaken.

What is restricted

The wreck is not in a restricted area. A small fee is charged for the licence. The size of the fee will be determined by the Culture and Leisure Department having regard to the importance of the wreck and whether salvage operations are to be undertaken.

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What penalties apply

Offenders of the police, the Receiver of Wreck and any person who acts on their behalf are empowered to enforce the provisions of the Wreck and Salvage Law as they relate to historic wreck. If you are convicted by the Court you may be fined a maximum penalty is confiscation of dive equipment and the diver’s boat and a fine of up to £2,000 and/or a prison term of up to two years.