

**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 here are a few of the web-sites which we use.**

**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.**

**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 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.**



**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 moon’s gravitational force is dominant as far as tides are concerned.**

**Spring tides: The highest spring tides are caused with the ‘new moon’. Both sun and moon are on the same side of the earth. This gives us the highest movement between the rise and fall of tide. Jersey has the 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 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 4 hours 47 minutes before Dover, which is considered the ‘reference’ point for all tides world-wide.**