

## Scilly and Guernsey, June

This was our first attempt of the year to do a Scotland trip. Like so many flying trips, weather dictates the destination and with horrible weather up north we changed our plans and departed to the Isles of Scilly instead in Cirrus N147CD.

The Scillies are absolutely stunning and, warmed by the Gulf Stream, you could be mistaken for thinking they were in the Caribbean rather than 28 miles off Lands End.

The airport is on the largest island, St Mary's and is on a domed shaped hill where the two main runways cross. Away from the summit the runways are quite sloping so concentration is needed both on the approach and departure. We stayed on St Martin's. The hotels are very used to arranging transport and had a taxi waiting to take us to a waiting launch which sped us across to our destination. Once again we felt we were in the Caribbean as we looked out of our hotel window towards the setting sun. The next morning the weather had taken a turn for the worse and the Caribbean feel had vanished to much more familiar British weather and a 2000ft cloud base. We departed into a strong south westerly having done a careful weight and balance computation to take account of the short uphill, downhill half tarmac half grass westerly runway and scud ran across the 28 miles of water to Lands End and along the south coast to Plymouth. Refuelling at Plymouth we filed for Guernsey and with the weather clearing arrived in glorious sunshine. Unfortunately we woke up to fog which was forecast to remain all day so we hired a car and went sight seeing, taking in a lot of the war museums. The next day we had to wait most of the day for the fog and low cloud to clear and as soon as we got a safe break sufficient to clear the Jersey Zone Special VFR we departed.