

11.05.11

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ADVENTURE, THRILLS AND SURVIVAL A HUGE HIT ON THE ENGLISH RIVIERA

Those seeking adventure, exploration and a taste of the sea will have a treat in store this summer with the introduction of a series of brand new Geopark Discovery Packages on the English Riviera Global Geopark. The excursions have been developed by the Torbay Coast and Countryside Trust with partnership support from the English Riviera Tourism Company and the English Riviera Geopark Organisation.

Rachel Tapper, Events and PR Officer at Torbay Coast and Countryside Trust said, “The new packages were a hit from the moment they were launched – they’re a fantastic chance to take part in a new adventure and explore the most beautiful parts of our unique Geopark. Meandering around our coves in a canoe and the mackerel fishing boat trip followed by cooking demo has proved especially popular so far. We expect the Thrill Seekers adventure to be a sell-out too – an ideal opportunity to try some coastering under the watchful eye of experienced instructors.”

Since becoming a Global Geopark in 2007, a designation recognised by UNESCO, the English Riviera has worked to make its exceptionally beautiful natural landscapes and spectacular coastline more accessible to visitors. Now, these unforgettable opportunities will showcase the Geopark as the backdrop for a multitude of exciting sports and leisure activities that stem from the natural and marine environments.

Lydia Stone, Brand Marketing Executive, English Riviera Tourism Company said, “The Geopark Discovery Packages are just the first step in creating a tangible product here on the English Riviera. Working in partnership with the Torbay Coast and Countryside Trust, we can really show off the bay in a unique way, to be enjoyed and explored by everyone.”

The Discovery Packages are now available to book with the Torbay Coast and Countryside Trust. On some of the trips, places are limited, so book early to avoid disappointment!

Geopark Thrill Seekers offers the adventurous a taste of coastering with an experienced instructor, involving negotiating rugged coastlines, swimming across inlets, climbing on cliffs and a chance to try adrenalin-fuelled jumps into deep water. Geopark Thrill Seekers is an all-day event and meets at Anstey’s Cove in Torquay on Tuesday, 31st May, Saturday, 9th July and Wednesday 24th August and the cost is £45 per person. Minimum age is 12.

Geopark Survival is a chance for Ray Mears wannabes to learn skills in bushcraft survival with a local expert. You'll learn to light fires, build shelters and forage for wild food. The meeting place is Game Keeper's Cottage in Cockington on Wednesday 1st June, Wednesday 27th July and Thursday, 25th August and the cost is £25 per person. Minimum age is 8.

Canoe the Coves is a chance to explore the Geopark coastline with an experienced instructor and discover the bay's rich marine life and fascinating geology, on the look out for seals, dolphins and seabirds. The meeting place is Grenville House in Brixham on Thursday 2nd June and Seashore Centre, Goodrington on Friday 22nd July and Wednesday 10th August. The cost is £45 per person and the minimum age is 12.

Geopark Explorer is an on-foot excursion of the Geopark. Accompanied by an experienced guide, you'll step back 400 million years with a tour of Kents Cavern prehistoric caves, discover the geology of beautiful Ilsham Valley, walk to Torquay Harbour to catch a ferry across the beautiful Bay to Brixham and a walk round to Berry Head National Nature Reserve with its panoramic sea views, seabirds and wildlife, returning to Kents Caverns by the end of the day. Meeting place is Kents Cavern on Friday 3rd June, Wednesday 13 July and Wednesday 31st August and the cost is £35 to include lunch.

The Geopark from Sea to Plate is a fantastic opportunity to test your angling skills catching local mackerel, then learn from the master as Simon Hulstone, Head Chef of the Michelin-starred Elephant Restaurant in Torquay, demonstrates cooking techniques and creates delicious masterpieces using local fish. A two course seafood lunch at the Elephant is included. Meeting place is Torquay Harbour on Tuesday 31st May, Thursday 7th July and Thursday, 18th August and the cost is £60 per person. Minimum age 12.

Mussels by Moonlight is an unforgettable evening boat trip, exploring the Geopark coastline with a marine ranger, looking out for our amazing marine wildlife such as dolphins and seals. You'll also enjoy the delicious local mussels cooked by expert chef David Jones of Manna from Devon Cookery School. These trips take place just twice – on Thursday 11 August and 1 September. Meeting place is Brixham Harbour and the cost is Adults £20 and children (12 & under) £10.

All packages must be booked by calling 01803-606035 or online and further details are available on:

www.countryside-trust.org.uk

More information on what else to do all year round in the Geopark, for independent free spirits, is available in the new Geopark Leaflet, available from the Visitor Information Centres in Torquay, Paignton and Brixham and numerous other outlets.

For details on what else to do and where to stay:

www.englishriviera.co.uk

For more information on the English Riviera Geopark:

www.englishrivierageopark.org.uk

Ends

Notes for Editors:

Photos available on request

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Launched in October 2010 the ERTC is a new private sector-led public/private tourism partnership leading on the official promotion of the English Riviera as a leading UK resort and overseeing the effective delivery of the 2010-2015 Turning the Tide for Tourism in Torbay Strategy. To download a copy of the strategy please visit: www.englishriviera.co.uk/ertc Please note that the ERTC is a company controlled by the Council of the Borough of Torbay.