



ENGLISH RIVIERA

MEDIA BRIEFING FACT SHEET

BRIXHAM AND BERRY HEAD

Classic Fishing Port and Stylish Sailing Haven

Generations have been enchanted by the charm and romance of Brixham, a colourful and bustling fishing port at the southern end of the English Riviera Global Geopark. Vibrant and colourful fishermen's cottages gaze out across this delightful port and the working fishing trawlers below. The quaint, historic town is built around the central harbour area, which remains its lifeblood. The stylish marina blends in perfectly, offering world-class facilities for pleasure cruisers and day boats alike.

<http://www.mdlmarinas.co.uk/mdl-brixham-marina>

Pirates, Smugglers, Sailing Ships and Ghosts

Many festivals and events take place during the year in Brixham with the highlight being the annual Pirate Festival in May where a world record to celebrate the highest number of pirates gathering in any one place is frequently broken. The hymn "Abide With Me" was written in Brixham, and there are endless tales of smugglers and pirates to be unearthed. The fishing trawlers, which were invented in Brixham during the 19th century, share the harbour with a replica of Sir Francis Drake's ship, the Golden Hind, a popular tourist attraction and a focal point of the town. The nearby statue of William of Orange is another hint to the rich and diverse history the town boasts and Ghost Walks are available from dusk for any of us who like to be scared!

<http://www.brixhampiratefestival.co.uk>

<http://www.goldenhind.co.uk>

Boat Trips and Fishing

Brixham remains one of the UK's busiest fishing ports and every year, with over ten thousand tonnes of fresh fish land on the quays. You couldn't find a better place to

sample the fresh catch of the day, available from countless restaurants, cafes and seafood stalls. Exploring the charming streets and alleys, you'll find no end of traditional pubs willing to reward you with an ale or glass of wine at the end of a busy day of sightseeing. Of course, the best way to experience the allure of Brixham is to take one of the many boat and fishing trips. You'll learn plenty about the rich heritage and history of the area, whilst also returning with amazing photographs of the outstandingly beautiful coastline.

Arts and Crafts

Don't miss a visit to the Shoal of Brixham Artists at the Breakwater Bistro and Art Gallery, as well as the Brixham Arts and Crafts Market on Saturdays from late March to late October on the Fish Quay.

Berry Head

Berry Head National Nature Reserve guards the southern half of Tor Bay. One of the Gateway Sites of the English Riviera Global Geopark, it is an internationally-acclaimed heritage site, home to a fascinating variety of wildlife and history, with recently restored Napoleonic-War fortifications. Brixham is blessed with some of the most stunning coastal walks in the UK, and no visit would be complete without a climb to the cliff-top nature reserve of Berry Head, past Breakwater Beach and Shoalstone pool. The impressive promontory of Berry Head towers 60 metres (200 feet) above the English Channel and is the second most southerly point on the English mainland, creating a regular rare bird and migration hot-spot. About 200 species of birds have been recorded here and 50 species breed within or close to the reserve. The cliffs are host to the largest breeding colonies of guillemots on the south coast of England. Berry Head is also home to a small breeding colony of ciril buntings and regular sightings include sparrowhawk, goldcrest, occasional firecrest, razorbill, black redstart and occasional eider duck, as well as the regular daily guillemot count, from the sea-cliff facing hide, averaging 1,000 birds. There is an excellent new restaurant and visitor centre.

<http://www.berryhead.org.uk>

<http://guardhousecafe.com>

Steam Trains

Picturesque Churston Station, just outside Brixham, follows the spectacular English Riviera Geopark Coastline. Step back in time and experience the railway journey that would have been familiar to Agatha Christie herself. The outstanding scenery and wildlife makes this route one of the finest steam railway journeys anywhere in Europe. <http://www.dartmouthrailriver.co.uk>

Diary Dates 2011

Brixham Pirate and Shanty Festival	30 th April – 1 st May
Geopark Festival	25 th May – 5 th June
Brixham Heritage Festival	28 th May – 4 th June

Brixham Trawler Race
Brixham Hapnin'

18th June
9th – 10th July

To find out more visit: www.englishriviera.co.uk

English Riviera Tourism Company Welcomes Journalists

We host a number of familiarisation visits throughout the year and tailor each itinerary to suit your perfect story. We are always happy to welcome journalists to the English Riviera, if you are interested in visiting please contact.

Lydia Stone

e-mail: lydia.stone@englishriviera.co.uk

Telephone: 01803 408346

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.