

ENGLISH RIVIERA

MEDIA BRIEFING FACT SHEET

MARITIME LEISURE

South Devon's Beautiful Bay

The English Riviera resort towns of Torquay, Paignton and Brixham are set around one of the most beautiful bays in England. With over 16 square miles of sheltered waters, no significant obstructions or sandbanks, an average water depth of 10 metres across the bay at low water and tidal streams usually less than one knot, Tor Bay is ideal for all kinds of watersports. It also provides a natural amphitheatre for spectators, and forms the centre of the English Riviera Global Geopark.

Exceptional Weather

Coupled with one of Britain's best climate records, you will find mild sea temperatures here.

Sailing in the Geopark

Tor Bay is well known as being the perfect arena for world-class sailing events, with unobstructed, practically tidal-free waters. Two world-class marinas at Torquay and Brixham and the three enclosed harbours of Torquay, Paignton and Brixham together offer excellent facilities with an abundance of on-shore amenities including harbourside restaurants and marine stores selling chandlery, specialist clothing and equipment. There are plenty of opportunities for both experienced and novice sailors to sail – Brixham Sea School organises holidays, adventure breaks, instruction and skippered yacht charters www.brixhamseaschool.com.

Further information on sailing and events:

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

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

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

<http://www.paigntonsailingclub.com>

<http://www.brixhamyachtclub.com>

For detailed information on harbour facilities, tides, berthing and anchorages visit our harbour website: www.tor-bay-harbour.co.uk

Watersports for the Beginner, Enthusiast or Professional

The English Riviera Global Geopark provides the backdrop for a multitude of exciting watersports and activities.

Sea kayaking and canoeing allows the visitor to experience the 22 miles of coastline from a whole new perspective, while there are plenty of opportunities to take part in paddle-boarding, waterskiing, jet skiing, kite surfing, wake-boarding and sea-fishing. Anglers catch fish in profusion, and there are numerous mackerel and wreck fishing trips available. More information is available in the English Riviera Global Geopark leaflet.

Scuba Diving

The horseshoe-shaped bay offers good protection from the prevailing winds, making it the ideal place for sheltered scuba dives. Popular shore dives in the Geopark include Babbacombe Beach, Brixham Breakwater and Meadfoot Beach. Boat dives include Thatcher Rock, the Orestone and Berry Head. The Geopark status recognises the bay's remarkable marine ecology: a great diversity of underwater species inhabit the reefs, seagrass beds and submarine caves, including the short-snouted seahorse, jewel and snakelock anemone and the spectacular cuttlefish. Divers Down <http://www.diversdown.co.uk> provides escorted diving expeditions and independent equipment hire.

Sightseeing Cruises

There's often nowhere better to learn about the coast of the Geopark than on a sightseeing cruise, with the chance to spot the resident pods of dolphins or the local seal. Greenway Ferry and Pleasure Cruises operate Sea-Fari Wildlife Cruises www.greenwayferry.co.uk while Paignton Pleasure Cruises have regular wildlife cruises in the summer www.paigntonpleasurecruises.co.uk.

A Safe Haven for Major Events

Through the summer months Tor Bay is filled with activity and the English Riviera plays host to around 50 regional, national and international watersports events.

Diary Dates 2011

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| Laser SB3 World Championships | 14 th – 20 th May |
| Tor Bay Classic Powerboat Championships | 28 th – 30 th May |
| Babbacombe Regatta | 18 th – 19 th June |
| Torbay Week | 19 th – 24 th August |
| Torbay Royal Regatta | 20 th – 24 th August |

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:

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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.