

ENGLISH RIVIERA

MEDIA BRIEFING FACT SHEET

TORQUAY AND COCKINGTON

Yachting, Café Culture, Shopping

Torquay has been a fashionable haven since the 19th century and the waterfront area remains very much the focus of life in the town. Part of the UNESCO-recognised English Riviera Global Geopark, Torquay is internationally renowned for its beautiful coastline and diversity of landscape, wildlife and culture. There is a picturesque harbour with great shopping, many waterside restaurants, cafés and bars to choose from and delightful palm tree-lined promenades framing the marina.
<http://www.mdlmarinas.co.uk/mdl-torquay-marina>

Agatha Christie

Dame Agatha Christie, the world's most famous mystery and crime writer, was born in Torquay in 1890 and lived for many years in the area. Many of the English Riviera's locations can be recognised in her novels and the area is popular with Christie fans from around the world (see also our Agatha Christie fact sheet).
<http://www.englishriviera.co.uk/agathachristie>

Beaches, Boat Trips and Birds

Torquay is known for its beautiful beaches, including Torre Abbey Sands and Meadfoot Beach, and there are a wealth of boat trips and water sports to enjoy off the coast. There are also some truly world-class tourist attractions, including Living Coasts, the award-winning coastal zoo and conservation charity. Here the whole family can have fun meeting the free-roaming penguins, watching the fur seals and learning about the natural habitats of a wide range of marine species.
<http://www.livingcoasts.org.uk>

Kents Cavern

This spectacularly beautiful underground cave system is a National Protected Monument, an International Prehistoric Show Cave and a Gateway Site for the

English Riviera Global Geopark. Kents Cavern is by far the most important prehistoric cave dwelling in Britain and is known around the world for its archaeological record of prehistoric human life in ancient Europe. A fun and exciting all-weather option for the visitor, Kents Cavern has fascinating guided tours plus a great programme of events.

<http://www.kents-cavern.co.uk>

New! Royal Terrace Gardens – Spectacular Illuminated Staircase / Geopark Platform

A stroll through the beautiful Princess Gardens towards Torre Abbey Sands and along the promenade will take you to the newly-opened Royal Terrace Gardens. Here there is a stunning illuminated staircase up the cliffs which leads you to the new Geopark viewing platform. This has to be one of the best view points across South Devon's beautiful bay.

Torre Abbey

Culture vultures shouldn't miss out on a visit to Torre Abbey. The restored ancient monument and gardens offer a fascinating insight into 800 years of history and also house one of the biggest art collections in the Westcountry. Every summer, the Abbey hosts a "Summer of Arts". In addition, it is the site of the Agatha Christie-inspired Potent Plants Garden.

<http://www.torre-abbey.org.uk>

Cockington – Quintessentially English Village and Craft Centre

A mile from Torquay seafront you will find Cockington, often described as the prettiest village in England; the world-famous thatched village has remained virtually untouched throughout the centuries. Cockington Court, a 17th century manor house surrounded by a beautiful country park, houses a number of craft studios where you can watch artists at work before enjoying a delicious cream tea.

<http://www.cockingtoncourt.org>

Nightlife

Of course, Torquay is also renowned for its nightlife, with a wide range of excellent restaurants, a top quality theatre and a vibrant choice of bars and nightclubs.

Diary Dates 2011

Sleuths! Torbay's Festival of Thriller and Crime

6th – 9th April

Torbay Food and Arts Festival

13th – 14th May

Geopark Festival

25th May – 5th June

Torbay Week

19th – 24th August

Torbay Royal Regatta

20th – 24th August

Agatha Christie Festival

11th – 18th September

Princess Theatre Blockbusters: Blood Brothers

11th – 16th April

Joseph

16th – 22nd May

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.