



## **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 bustling fishing port at the southern end of the English Riviera Global Geopark. Vibrant and colourful fishermen's cottages gaze out across 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.

[www.mdlmarinas.co.uk/mdl-brixham-marina](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. The Hymn, 'Abide With Me' was written in Brixham, and there are endless tales of smugglers and pirates to be unearthed. The new Smugglers Story attraction brings these stories to life through a thrilling multi-media 3D spectacular. 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!

[www.brixhampiratefestival.co.uk](http://www.brixhampiratefestival.co.uk)

[www.goldenhind.co.uk](http://www.goldenhind.co.uk)

[www.smugglersstory.co.uk](http://www.smugglersstory.co.uk)

#### **Boat Trips and Fishing**

Brixham remains one of the UK's busiest fishing ports and every year and lands over 40 varieties of fish and seafood each year. You couldn't find a better place to sample the fresh catch of the day, available from countless restaurants, cafes and seafood stalls. You can also

embark on a fish market tour and enjoy the inner workings of landing and auctioning the catch. 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 Sundays from April to late October on the Fish Quay.

### **Berry Head**

Berry Head National Nature Reserve is one of the Gateways to the English Riviera Global Geopark and 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 this cliff-top nature reserve. 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 curlew buntings and regular sightings include sparrowhawk, goldcrest, occasional firecrest, razorbill, black redstart and occasional eider duck. There is an excellent restaurant and visitor centre onsite.

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

<http://guardhousecafe.com>

### **Steam Trains**

Picturesque Churston Station, just outside Brixham, is on the route of the spectacular English Riviera Geopark Coast Line. 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>

**To find out more visit: [www.englishriviera.co.uk/whats-on](http://www.englishriviera.co.uk/whats-on)**

### **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;

**Louise Smith/Holly Hollis e-mail: [marketing@englishriviera.co.uk](mailto:marketing@englishriviera.co.uk)**

**Telephone: 01803 296296**

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](http://www.englishriviera.co.uk/ertc)