



MEDIA BRIEFING FACT SHEET

TOP QUIRKY FACTS

DID YOU KNOW?

- 1. Lord Churston's Bathhouse** - Beautiful Elberry Cove near Paignton boasts the fascinating ruins of the 18th Century bathhouse where Lord Churston used to take a dip. Elberry Cove is also the scene of one of Agatha Christie's ABC murders and is just a few miles from Agatha Christie's home at Greenway.
- 2. Ghost Walks, Brixham** – rumoured to be one of the most haunted places in Britain, regular ghost walks take place in this picturesque, but spooky harbour town.
- 3. Guillemots at Berry Head** – Berry Head in Brixham is home to the largest breeding colony of guillemots on the south coast and every summer visitors can watch the amazing spectacle of hundreds of chicks making the death-defying jump off the 200ft cliffs into the sea.
- 4. Home of Ancient Humans** – By far the most important prehistoric cave dwelling in Britain can be found in Torquay at Kents Cavern. An upper jaw bone found there is believed to be the oldest in Europe.
- 5. The Perfect Storm** – In 1866 A great gale swept Torbay in January, causing the loss of over 60 ships and the tragic loss of nearly 100 lives. As a result, the RNLI established the lifeboat station at Brixham and the people of Exeter raised money for the first lifeboat, City of Exeter.

6. **The Man They Couldn't Hang** – John 'Babbacombe' Lee became famous as "the man they could not hang". Convicted murderer John Lee, who killed a wealthy spinster at Babbacombe Cliffs, survived three attempts to hang him in 1885. As a result his death sentence was commuted to life imprisonment.

7. **Oldest Monastery** - Built in 1196 Torre Abbey is not only Torquay's oldest building, but also the best surviving mediaeval monastery in Devon and Cornwall.

8. **Torquay's Spanish Prisoners** - Having defeated the Spanish Armada in 1588, Sir Francis Drake held 400 prisoners in the Tithe Barn at Torre Abbey in Torquay. Drake circumnavigated the world in 1580 and a replica of his ship the Golden Hind has been a popular tourist attraction in Brixham harbour since 1964.

9. **Singer Sewing Machines** – Paignton's beautiful Oldway Mansion was the home of Isaac Singer, where he entertained his colourful friends and where his son, Paris, danced with the beautiful Isadora Duncan.

10. **Global Geopark** – The English Riviera, home to the coastal towns of Torquay, Brixham, Paignton and Babbacombe Bay is one of very few worldwide destinations designated a UNESCO endorsed Global Geopark, because of the amazing geology that has helped form its spectacular coastline and undersea world.

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