



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.

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. 2015 is the 125th anniversary of Agatha Christie's birth. (See also our Agatha Christie fact sheet).

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.

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.

www.kents-cavern.co.uk

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 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.

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.

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. Torquay is also a winner of the Purple Flag award.

To find out more visit: 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

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