



Torquay & South Devon

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Best Places to Eat

- Riverford Field Kitchen (p82)
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- Seahorse (p88)
- Millbrook Inn (p93)
- Britannia @ the Beach (p91)

Best Places to Stay

- Burgh Island (p98)
- Pippin (p79)
- Cary Arms (p72)
- Alf Resco (p86)
- Seabreeze (p89)

Why Go?

This chunk of Devon is holiday heaven. The breezy, family-friendly resort of Torquay can claim bundles of beaches, unique attractions, stylish sleep spots and top-notch eateries. Boat trips and zoos, saucy postcards and fishing ports, palm trees and proms – you'll find them all here.

Outside the resort, the character changes. Paved esplanades give way to soaring cliffs, and amusement-backed beaches become untamed stretches of sand. In the scenic South Hams, you'll discover chic yachting havens, prime surf breaks, hip eco-hang-outs, Miss Marple-esque villages and historic homes. Plus some absolutely superb places to eat and stay. Kayak up a tranquil creek, catch crabs on a harbour wall, go barefoot beachcombing on a huge sweep of sand. Whether you go resort or rural, you'll get a cracking bit of coast either way.

When to Go

- **Apr & May** Attractions open and boat trips start. Hotels and B&Bs aren't yet charging top rate.
- **Jul & Aug** High season equals high accommodation prices, but the weather should be better. Torquay and Dartmouth regattas set sail; major literature and music festivals start in Totnes.
- **Sep** Summer crowds melt away; accommodation bills edge down. Attractions remain open and the seas are at their warmest.
- **Oct** Dartmouth's food festival brings top-name chefs to town.
- **Feb & Mar** The surf tends to be better. Accommodation prices plummet in many top-end hotels.

TORQUAY

It may face the English Channel, rather than the Med, but the coast around Torquay has long been dubbed the English Riviera, famous for palm trees, piers and russet-red

cliffs. At first glance, Torquay itself is the quintessential faded English seaside resort, beloved by both the coach-tour crowd and stag- and hen-party animals. But a mild microclimate and an azure circle of bay have also drawn a smarter set and Torquay now



Torquay & South Devon Highlights

1 Cracking the clues at Agatha Christie's bewitching holiday home, **Greenway** (p83)

2 Gazing at gorgeous architecture and feasting on fine foods at picture-postcard-pretty **Dartmouth** (p83)

3 Hopping on a ferry to a sublime sandy cove at a chic yachting haven, **Salcombe** (p95)

4 Standing up, and falling in, as you learn to surf at chilled-out **Bantham** (p97)

5 Drinking in the views and sampling fine wines at picturesque **Sharpham Vineyard** (p77)

6 Having family fun in **Torquay** (p65), with its eco-zoo, prehistoric caves and model village

7 Experiencing jazz-age glamour at the house

and gardens at **Coletton Fishacre** (p88)

8 Riding the world's only sea tractor en route to wave-dashed **Burgh Island** (p98)

9 Seeing how your supper was landed in a behind-the-scenes tour at **Brixham Fish Market** (p73)

10 Losing the crowds and discovering tranquil secret spots as you kayak the **River Dart** (p78)