

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Spooky Season Arrives at the English Riviera this October

Visitors heading to the South West this Half Term can expect a programme packed with family adventures and seaside thrills



With meteorological Autumn upon us and the nights drawing in, the experts at the English Riviera have compiled a list of the top events happening across Torquay, Paignton and Brixham for those looking to plan a spooktacular half-term staycation.

From exhibitions in underground caves to murder mysteries and ghoulish games, there is something for everyone in South Devon this October.

[Halloween Trail at Torre Abbey](#)

Torre Abbey, a museum of history and art housed in an Ancient Scheduled Monument, once again swings open its ancient garden gates after hours, inviting families to experience a spine-tingling, family-friendly Halloween adventure like no other. Step into the eerie world of The Abbey After Dark, where shadows stir and ghostly figures roam. As night falls, brave visitors will journey through a creepy trail filled with interactive scares, haunting illuminations, and hair-raising special effects

[Ghost Walks at Kents Cavern](#)

Journey into a place of deep time, where the walls of the ancient caves of Kents Cavern hold some of the oldest stories. Discover tales of haunted homes, restless spirits and stories of strange things in the underground cave network. In addition, the caves are running a *Darker Side of History*



experience, where visitors can step beyond the familiar tales and discover the darker and mysterious side of this ancient place, learning about ancient rites, the last witches in England, folklore and the traditions that have shaped Devon for centuries.

[Sculpture Trail at Cockington Court](#)

The annual trail features over 30 sculptures, all inspired by the magic of the movies from space, sci-fi, and action, promising to provide plenty to discover and explore. There is also the option to have a cream tea and browse the artisan studios and workshops at [Cockington Court](#) while visiting.

[National Trust Greenway House](#)

Discover frightfully fascinating facts about poisonous plants, wicked wildlife and garden gobblers, on a family-friendly autumn trail packed with ghoulish games in the garden of the National Trust's Greenway. In this atmospheric Georgian house, crime writer Agatha Christie would spend summers and Christmases with her family.

[Frightlights at Babbacombe Model Village](#)

Frightlights is a chilling adventure packed with spooky scenes, eerie surprises and just enough fright to delight both adults and children at Babbacombe Model Village. The intricate village transforms with ghouls, ghosts and spooky scenes causing havoc among the miniature residents, bringing Halloween magic to life like never before.

[Murder mystery events](#)

Across three different venues, the Bay is hosting several murder mystery events, including immersive dinner shows, afternoon teas, themed weekend breaks, and interactive performances with a nod to Agatha Christie, who was born in Torquay.

[Dartmouth Steam Railway](#)

The Dartmouth Steam Railway from Paignton runs for seven miles in Great Western tradition along the spectacular Torbay coast to Goodrington Sands, Churston and through the wooded slopes bordering the Dart estuary and on to Kingswear. The scenery is superb, with seascapes right across Lyme Bay to Portland Bill on clear days.

[Paignton Zoo](#)

Head to the largest zoo in the South West for a great family day out, whatever the weather, in the beautiful 80 acres of land home to 1,800 animals across nearly 190 different species.

[Theatre and comedy](#)



Known for its thriving theatre scene, the English Riviera has six theatres showing a range of comedy, musicals and dramas, including Frozen the Musical at the Palace Theatre in Paignton. Also, legendary singer [Van Morrison](#) is performing for one night only on 28 October at the Princess Theatre in Torquay.

For the sunnier Autumn days, October on the English Riviera is the perfect time of year for cosy pub lunches, brisk seaside walks and [dog and family-friendly outdoor adventures](#) on the stunning South West Coast Path which runs directly through the UNESCO Global Geopark.

Along a 22-mile stretch of coastline, there are more than 20 beaches and secluded coves to explore with four-legged friends or blow the cobwebs away at dog-friendly [Berry Head National Nature Reserve](#) in Brixham, one of the main gateways to the English Riviera Global Geopark. It is an internationally-acclaimed heritage site, home to a fascinating variety of wildlife and history, with recently-restored Napoleonic War fortifications.

With accommodation and dining options to suit every taste and budget, an Autumn adventure awaits on the English Riviera.

For more information about the range of events and activities to enjoy this October half term, visit <https://www.englishriviera.co.uk/whats-on/seasonal-events/autumn>

For more information about accommodation offerings across the English Riviera, visit <https://www.englishriviera.co.uk/accommodation>

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About the English Riviera

The English Riviera Business Improvement District (BID) Company is a collaborative effort between over 1,000 local businesses, authorities, and stakeholders dedicated to enhancing the tourism experience and promoting sustainable economic growth for Torbay.

With 22 miles of stunning coastline, the English Riviera covers Torquay, Paignton and Brixham. Torquay is the birthplace of Agatha Christie, the world's greatest crime writer, and the resort offers a vast array of cultural and historic attractions, water activities, spas, festivals, entertainment and food and drink experiences.



As a designated UNESCO Global Geopark, the English Riviera has gained international recognition for its 400 million years of geological heritage and is promoted as one of Earth's Extraordinary Places.' The resort is also an international cruise port.

For more information for consumers, visit www.englishriviera.co.uk and for businesses, visit www.englishriviera.co.uk/bid.