



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **Bay of Lights 2025: The English Riviera Set to Shine Brighter Than Ever**

*From 28 November - 02 January 2025, Bay of Lights Returns to the English Riviera following a 37% increase in footfall in 2024*

The English Riviera is gearing up for its most dazzling festive season yet as [Bay of Lights](#) returns from 28 November to 02 January, bringing a spectacular programme of illuminations, immersive installations and festive experiences to Torquay, Paignton and Brixham.

Now in its fourth year, the Bay of Lights has fast become one of the South West's most magical winter attractions, and this year, the English Riviera BID Company in partnership with Torbay Council are promising to raise the bar even higher with exciting new features and returning favourites that will transform the English Riviera into a winter wonderland by the sea.

At the heart of the celebration is the [Illumination Trail](#), a free, fully accessible 1.5-mile walk along Torquay seafront from Torre Abbey to the harbour, organised and funded in collaboration with Torbay Council and SwissCo. Visitors can expect 18 large-scale installations, interactive digital displays, festive soundscapes, and countless photo opportunities. The trail will light up the coastline each evening from 16:30, with sound elements until 21:30 and lighting displays until 23:00, offering visitors a truly enchanting seaside spectacle.

Adding an extra sparkle this year is the brand-new [ice rink at Abbey Park](#) - the first of its kind in years. Under a canopy of twinkling lights, up to 80 skaters per session can glide across the 39-metre rink, open daily from 06 December to 02 January. Special 'Parent and Toddler' sessions will also take place on Fridays, offering fun for all ages.

The festive atmosphere continues with the [Torre Abbey Christmas Market](#), running from 28 November to 21 December, where local makers and producers will showcase artisan crafts, seasonal gifts, and festive treats. Beyond Torquay, both Paignton and Brixham will sparkle with [8-metre pixel Christmas trees](#), while Brixham's [Lanterns, Lights & 'Luminations'](#) returns on 21-22 November with lantern parades, live music, markets, and a spectacular fireworks finale.

For those seeking something truly unforgettable, the [Christmas Train of Lights](#) offers a magical steam journey between Paignton and Kingswear, its carriages and track illuminated in dazzling colours. Meanwhile, [Babbacombe Model Village](#) will glow with miniature illuminations from 22 November 2025 to 04 January 2026, creating a family favourite experience filled with charm and nostalgia.

“We are excited to see Bay of Lights returning for a fourth year,” **said Carolyn Custerson, CEO of the English Riviera BID Company.** “It’s quickly becoming a national ‘must-see’ event that brings so much joy to residents and visitors. The English Riviera has a truly magical feel during the Bay of Lights; it’s the perfect place to escape your everyday, and experience Christmas like never before.”

The Bay of Lights Illumination trail is free to explore, with some special attractions and events requiring tickets. Bay of Lights 2025 promises to be a destination-wide celebration filled with light, laughter and festive cheer. Last year’s event saw a 37% increase in footfall - a testament to the growing popularity and impact of the region’s glittering winter showcase.

Whether you’re looking for a stylish seafront hotel, a welcoming B&B, an activity-packed holiday park, or a self-catering retreat, the English Riviera offers accommodation for every type of visitor. Enjoy a luxurious stay at the [Mercure Paignton Hotel](#) or take advantage of the fantastic leisure facilities at [TLH Leisure Resorts](#) in Torquay. For a more homely experience, [Brixham’s delightful cottages](#) and apartments offer breathtaking sea views, all year round.

For a full schedule of activities, event details, and ticket information, please visit <https://www.englishriviera.co.uk/bay-of-lights>.

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## **About the English Riviera**

The English Riviera Business Improvement District (ERBID) Company is a collaborative effort between over 1000 local businesses, authorities, and stakeholders dedicated to enhancing the tourism experience and promoting sustainable economic growth for Torbay.

Looking to Escape Your Everyday? 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 culture, history, water activities, spas, festivals, entertainment and food and drink experiences. The resort is also an international cruise port.

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.

For more information for consumers visit [www.englishriviera.co.uk](http://www.englishriviera.co.uk) and for businesses visit [www.englishriviera.co.uk/bid](http://www.englishriviera.co.uk/bid)