

PADDLE STEAMER WAVERLEY ANNOUNCES FIRST VISIT TO ENGLISH RIVIERA SINCE THE 1980's

Waverley, the World's last seagoing paddle steamer, will return to South Cornwall and South Devon this summer with the historic steam ship set to include Torquay as a calling point. Waverley will offer cruises in the South West from Thursday 28th August until Monday 1st September with Penzance, Falmouth, Fowey, Plymouth and Dartmouth all set to welcome the famous vessel.

Waverley's Master, Captain Dominic McCall, commented: "In 2024 we received a fantastic welcome when Waverley visited the South West with tickets selling out as locals and visitors flocked aboard. Sailing Waverley into the picturesque Fowey harbour was special but the highlight for many was meeting Paddle Steamer Kingswear Castle on the River Dart, the sight of both paddlers side by side and their steam whistles tooting was memorable for all that were aboard. This year I am delighted to announce that Torquay has been added to the cruise itinerary as we further develop the unique sailings Waverley can offer."

Carolyn Custerson, CEO of the English Riviera BID Company, said: "We are excited that the iconic Paddle Steamer Waverley will be returning to the English Riviera this summer and berthing in Torquay for the first time in decades. This is fantastic news for our local tourism economy, offering visitors and residents a unique opportunity to escape their everyday and experience a journey on the world's last sea-going paddle steamer. We look forward to welcoming the Waverley and all her passengers to the English Riviera."

Waverley will call at Torquay at 12:30pm on Saturday 30th August firstly offering an afternoon cruise along the South Devon Coast viewing Dawlish and Teignmouth before then offering a further sailing at 3:45pm to steam across to Dartmouth to meet Kingswear Castle and steam up the River Dart as part of the Dartmouth Royal Regatta event. On Monday 1st September Waverley will sail from Torquay at 12:15pm bound for Weymouth giving passengers the opportunity to enjoy the stunning south coast with views of Lyme Bay, Portland Bill, Durdle Door and Lulworth Cove.

Once aboard Waverley passengers can savour the sight and sound of a real steamship - hear the telegraph ring, visit the Engine Room and watch the engine start to move and turn the massive paddles, which can be seen through the portholes. With full catering facilities available throughout all cruises - passengers can enjoy a hot or cold snack, tea and cake in the afternoon, a hot meal in the Dining Saloon or a refreshment in one of the period lounges, as well as a visit to the Souvenir Shop to take home an exclusive gift or memento of their trip on this famous and much-loved ship.

Waverley is currently in dry dock for her annual survey, repair works and full repaint. Over the course of this winter more than £1 million has been invested in the ship to keep her operating. Her sailing season begins next month and sees her scheduled to visit over 70 ports and piers across the UK.

Tickets for all sailings are available from waverleyexcursions.co.uk or by calling the booking office on 0141 243 2224.

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About Waverley

- Waverley was built in Glasgow for the London and North Eastern Railway, launched in October 1946, and entered service on 16th June 1947.
- Waverley is the World's last seagoing paddle steamer and was gifted to the Paddle Steamer Preservation Society in 1974 for £1.
- Since 1975 she has operated in preservation carrying over 6 million passengers, visiting several areas of the UK offering a variety of day, afternoon, and evening cruises. The ship is operated on a 'not-for-profit' basis and owned by Waverley Steam Navigation Co. Ltd, a Registered Charity (SC005832).
- The steamer is British Registered for up to 780 passengers and is fully restored to her original 1940s style.
- Waverley was included within the 2023 'The Times listing of 'Seven of the UK's best boat trips'.
- Sir Timothy Laurence, husband of Her Royal Highness The Princess Royal, is Patron of Waverley.
- A recent independent Economic Impact Assessment put Waverley's contribution to the UK economy at £11.6 million showing an increase of over 100% on a similar assessment 8 years previous.

About English Riviera

The English Riviera Business Improvement District (ERBID) Company is a collaborative effort between over 1000 local businesses, Torbay Council, 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, events, 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 and for businesses visit www.englishriviera.co.uk/bid