

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## 2026: The year to visit The English Riviera

Visitors heading to South Devon's beautiful coastline in 2026 are invited to make the most of all the area has to offer as the English Riviera unveils its calendar of key events for the year ahead.

**Carolyn Custerson, CEO of English Riviera BID Company, said:** “2026 is shaping up to be a landmark year for the English Riviera, making it the absolute must-visit destination on the UK coast. With the spectacular **10th anniversary of the English Riviera Airshow** and the Bay welcoming the global elite for the **ICF SUP World Cup 2026**, we are firmly on the international stage.”

### The Agatha Christie Festival presents A Spring Gathering (11 - 12 April 2026)

Join best-selling mystery author Tom Mead and special guests Val McDermid and Abir Mukherjee for the second year of the **Spring Gathering**. Watch a live recording of the hugely popular Swinging Christies podcast by day then join the evening entertainment of live music, talks and an interactive game at Livermead House Hotel. This year's **Spring Gathering** celebrates the launch of a brand new app, the Agatha Christie Digital Mile, with an opportunity to join a real life Sunday morning stroll along the Agatha Christie Mile in the Golden Age Costumed Promenade. The inaugural event was a sell-out so secure your tickets early for the 2026 event.



For more information, please visit: <https://www.englishriviera.co.uk/whats-on/the-agatha-christie-festival-presents-a-spring-gathering-p3581253>

### All hands on deck for the 2026 Brixham Pirate Festival (2 – 4 May 2026)

Pirate enthusiasts and novices alike are invited to join “the annual gathering of the world's most infamous pirates and lowly scallywags” for a weekend to remember in the charming, historic port of Brixham. There’s something for everyone at **Brixham Pirate Festival** over the early May Bank Holiday weekend, including fancy dress competitions, children's activities, live music, street performers, historical re-enactments plus themed food and drink.



For more information, please visit: <https://www.englishriviera.co.uk/whats-on/brixham-pirate-festival-p1170073>

### **Fly high at this year's English Riviera Airshow (29 - 31 May 2026)**

Paignton provides the unique backdrop for a weekend of breathtaking aviation displays. The **English Riviera Airshow** is free to attend and brings the skies to life with some of the world's finest aerial skills.



For more information, please visit: <https://www.englishriviera.co.uk/whats-on/english-riviera-airshow-p1951223>

### **Step up for the English Riviera Walking Festival (6 – 21 June)**

Take in the scenic coastline of the UK's only seaside resort with a UNESCO Global Geopark accolade by joining the **English Riviera Walking Festival** in 2026. With over 20 coastal and woodland walk options, including themed walks, such as literature and foraging, there is a route for every age and ability to enjoy the unrivalled geology, landscapes and heritage of the English Riviera.



For more information, please visit: <https://www.englishriviera.co.uk/whats-on/english-riviera-walking-festival-p3038933> and <https://rivierawalking.co.uk/>

### **Get colourful at Torbay Pride (13 June 2026)**

Join an inclusive celebration of diversity, humanity, and equality at **Torbay Pride** in June. This free event welcomes everyone for a fun-filled family day out, including a unifying march from Princess Gardens in Torquay.



For more information, please visit: <https://www.englishriviera.co.uk/whats-on/torbay-pride-p1577783>

### **Be inspired by the ICF SUP World Cup 2026 (24 – 28 June)**

A unique opportunity for paddle boarders of all levels to participate in races or a relaxed community paddle, alongside around 200 of the world's top athletes. The bays of Torquay, Paignton and Brixham will host the **ICF SUP World Cup 2026** in June, the first time the International Canoe Federation will host a SUP World Cup of this scale in the UK. As a spectator or participant, this is an accessible event for all the family and might just be the inspiration needed to try paddle boarding on the scenic English Riviera.



For more information, please visit: <https://www.englishriviera.co.uk/whats-on/icf-sup-world-cup-2026-p3694353>

### **Follow in famous footsteps at the Agatha Christie Festival (12 – 20 September 2026)**

This annual celebration of the English Riviera's most famous author returns in September to celebrate Agatha Christie's life, work and contribution to the Devon coast. The wide range of events during the **Agatha Christie Festival** includes murder mystery afternoon tea, exhibitions, talks and music. Take the opportunity to explore some of Agatha Christie's famous characters, including Poirot and Miss Marple, at this fan favourite festival.



For more information, please visit: <https://www.englishriviera.co.uk/whats-on/the-agatha-christie-festival-p1257113>

### **For the freshest catch head to England's Seafood FEAST (dates TBC September and October 2026)**

A chance for food lovers to experience the very best flavours the region has to offer at **England's Seafood FEAST**. Celebrating all that the water around Torquay, Paignton and Brixham has to offer, this two-week event is a feast for the senses. Inspirational events include chef demonstrations, expert wine pairings, seafood safaris plus 'catch and cook' experiences all booked directly with the restaurants, cafes and venues participating in 2026.



For more information, please visit: <https://www.englishriviera.co.uk/whats-on/englands-seafood-feast-p3470383>

### **Prepare to be dazzled by the Bay of Lights (November 2026 – January 2027)**

As the days get shorter, the English Riviera transforms into a magical **Bay of Lights**, including the spectacular 1.5-mile Illumination Trail along Torquay seafront. Enjoy candlelight services and innovative light projections throughout the winter months in this breathtaking series of events.



For more information, please visit: <https://www.englishriviera.co.uk/whats-on/bay-of-lights-p3098273>

## **Plan Your Visit**

Join us for an event and stay for the weekend with great hospitality available throughout the English Riviera. For more information on 2026 events and to plan your trip, please visit

[www.englishrivierabid.co.uk](http://www.englishrivierabid.co.uk)

## **ENDS**

### **NOTES TO EDITOR:**

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### **About 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 culture, history, 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 'Earth's Extraordinary Places.' The resort is also an international cruise port.

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).