

**FREE**

TOR BAY HARBOUR AUTHORITY



# Maritime Guide

Torquay | Paignton | Brixham

## Get Involved...

Local clubs and opportunities for all

## Explore

Beaches and coves

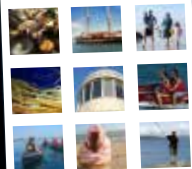
## Stay Safe

Useful advice for maritime users



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**TOR BAY HARBOUR**  
TORQUAY - PAIGNTON - BRIXHAM

Harbours | Beaches | Services | Maps



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# Welcome to Tor Bay

With its 22 miles of coastline, 16 square miles of open sea and sheltered waters, Tor Bay is one of the UK's favourite maritime destinations. Its three active harbours, international standard marinas, yacht and sailing clubs plus access to a range of water-based activities, ensure locals and visitors can enjoy themselves on the water.

Sharkham Point, located to the South of Berry Head, forms the southern limit of Tor Bay, with the northern limit being Mackerel Bay, north of Maidencombe.

Tor Bay Harbour Authority is part of Torbay Council and is responsible for providing comprehensive and effective marine services within the statutory Harbour of Tor Bay.

The Harbour Authority also controls operations in the three enclosed harbours of Brixham, Torquay and Paignton, each with their individual appeal and identity.

This guide is designed to be of particular interest to locals, visitors and especially boat

owners. It contains general information about Tor Bay Harbour, examining each of the three enclosed harbours in greater detail. It is hoped that this guide will contribute to your safety and enjoyment of the facilities available.

The Bay offers superb sailing conditions for recreational and competitive boating plus a variety of other water sports opportunities. It is home to one of the country's largest fishing fleets, with Brixham being an important fishing port, landing the highest valued catch in England and Wales. Marine-based leisure facilities include two large, privately operated marinas, with yacht and

small craft moorings populating all three enclosed harbours.

Tor Bay has its own favourable micro-climate, which contributes towards the overall sunny image of the English Riviera.

The Bay is a popular stopover for boats cruising the Westcountry and it is also the venue for a variety of prestigious maritime events throughout the summer season.

The Harbour Authority is proud of Tor Bay Harbour and of the quality of its service. Tor Bay ranks among the finest harbours in the country and we strive to maintain this high standard.

We hope that you enjoy what Tor Bay has to offer.



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# Contents



Welcome.....	3	Divers Safety.....	21
Torquay Harbour.....	6	Stay Safe in Tor Bay.....	22
Torquay Harbour Map.....	9	Tor Bay Beach Guide.....	24
Bridge and Cill.....	10	Clubs.....	27
Paignton Harbour.....	12	Sub Aqua.....	35
Paignton Harbour Map.....	13	Paddleboarding.....	37
Brixham Harbour.....	14	Kayaking & Canoeing.....	39
Brixham Harbour Map.....	17	Wild Swimming.....	41
Controlled Areas.....	18	Windsurfing & Kiteboarding.....	43
Ski Lanes.....	19	Natural Environment.....	47
Personal Watercraft.....	20	Conservation in Tor Bay.....	49

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Image © Martin Smith

# Torquay Harbour

With almost 1,000 berths available, Torquay Harbour is a well-protected yacht haven with access to some of the best facilities in the Southwest. It's the ideal base from which to explore the English Riviera's coast.

Torquay Harbour lies in the north of Tor Bay where it benefits from the shelter of Haldon Pier to the south and Princess Pier to the west.

Development of Torquay's harbour was initiated in 1803 by an Act of Parliament under the stewardship of local baronet Sir Lawrence Palk. It marked the start of the town's progression into a fashionable Victorian resort favoured by the upper classes of the time. Later in the 1800's the harbour was extended and became popular with yacht sailors, as well as being an important commercial landing point for coal and wool imported from Australia.

During the 1920s and 30s, magnificent 'J' Class yachts favoured by King George V, raced in Tor Bay and used Torquay as a safe haven.

Torquay also played an important role during World War II. Large D-Day embarkation ramps were built in Torquay for use during Operation 'Overlord' on 6 June 1944. These structures are still preserved today in Torquay. Haldon Pier was also home to an RAF Air Sea Rescue flotilla during the war years.

The main outer harbour at Torquay provides both visitor and permanent pontoon berthing on the Town Dock, with berthing also

available on Torquay Marina. The inner harbour features additional pontoon berthing for vessels and is located behind a tidal cill.

Beacon Quay is home to the Harbour Master's office, as well as a selection of retail outlets, a modern slipway facility and wide quayside with storage for dinghies. Toilet and shower facilities are available to all visiting mariners.

## Visiting Vessels

There are three main options for visitor berthing.

A seasonal visitor's pontoon lies alongside Haldon Pier and is also used for hosting a number of

maritime events throughout the season.

The Town Dock facility offers berthing for visiting vessels alongside the south side of 'V' pontoon.

As an alternative, some visitors may opt for Torquay Marina.

Visitor facilities are all accessed by safe gangways and have water and electric supplies nearby.

Visitors are advised to contact the Harbour Office in advance to check berthing and slipway availability during the busy summer months to avoid disappointment. The demands of some maritime events can occasionally cause slipway delays.

Please be aware that during peak holiday weeks and bank holiday weekends, visiting craft may be required to raft-up on vessels of a similar size. Short stay visitors to Torquay Harbour are welcome to enjoy a courtesy period on the visitor pontoons for up to two hours without charge. A daily fee applies after this

period, although visitors staying for three nights, get one additional night free.

See [tor-bay-harbour.co.uk](http://tor-bay-harbour.co.uk) for current rates.

Call 'TORQUAY HARBOUR' on VHF Channel 14 for specific berthing instructions.

## Launch and Recovery

The outer harbour slipway at Beacon Quay offers a friendly gradient and extends all the way to the sea bed for launch and recovery at all states of the tide, with added trailer storage nearby on Haldon Pier. Vehicles must exit Beacon Quay after launch.

## Slipway Safety

When using the main slipway, please take time to read the safety advice notice. Check the suitability and road-worthiness of your trailer, check that your boat is sufficiently secured to the trailer, and double check that the tow hitch is safely attached with a safety chain applied. Ensure that you have sufficient helpers and

each person is competent in what they are doing.

## Anchoring

Anchoring is prohibited within Torquay's enclosed harbour. However, vessels may choose to anchor outside the harbour, usually to the south east of Haldon Pier or to the south west of Princess Pier.

## Permanent Berthing Facilities

Torquay Harbour's Town Dock facility has 170 deep water berths, designed for vessels up to 12

## SAFETY INFORMATION

TORBAY HARBOUR  
OFFICE  
TEL: 01803 292429  
(VHF CH.14)

24HR COUNCIL  
EMERGENCY  
TEL: 01803 550405

## USEFUL CONTACTS

TORQUAY MARINA  
TEL: 01803 200210

RIVIERA FUEL TORQUAY  
TEL: 07786 370324

TORBAY SEAWAYS &  
STEVEDORES (CRANE  
OPERATIONS)  
TEL: 01803 296570

TOURIST INFORMATION  
CENTRE  
TEL: 01803 297428



Image © Martin Smith

metres, plus 14 docks for the dry storage of personal watercraft. The Town Dock is aimed at providing affordable berthing and the facility is occupied and enjoyed by the local community. This also serves an increasing number of visiting yachtsmen to Torquay with a visitors' pontoon, which doubles as a maritime events area. Water and electric points are located within this busy location.

The pontoons incorporate features you'd expect to see on marinas, such as a trolley park, general waste/recyclable waste receptacles. The facility has coded access and is not available to the general public, thereby maintaining security and privacy. The inner harbour has recently been converted to marina-style pontoon berthing providing a further 173 berths with facilities as found on the Town Dock.

## Boat Park Spaces

Torquay Harbour's permanent dinghy park spaces are based on Beacon Quay, conveniently adjacent to the main slipway. Keelboat storage is situated on the south side of South Pier, where launch and recovery is completed via a dedicated lifting davit operated by the Royal Torbay Yacht Club.

## Cranage

For the launching/recovery of vessels unable to make use of the slipway, there is a mobile crane and storage compound situated on South Pier. See contacts on page 7.



Image © English Riviera Image Library

## Fuelling

The fuelling station is located on the end of South Pier with a pontoon on the south side. The facility supplies petrol, diesel and LPG. See contacts on page 7.

## Waste Disposal

There are plenty of waste disposal points around the harbour, however, for bulkier loads, the Harbour Authority can supply large capacity wheelie bins on request. For the disposal of waste oils or contaminated fuel, a special waste tank is situated in the shelter on Haldon Pier (see map point 17). If in any doubt about the use of this facility, please ask the harbour staff for assistance.

## Swimming

Swimming and diving anywhere within Torquay Harbour is strictly prohibited (Harbour Bye laws).

## Angling

Fishing within the harbour is prohibited, however anglers are welcome to fish from the seaward side of both Haldon & Princess Piers. It is always worth asking

where you can and cannot fish from – and get some useful tips from the Harbour Office.

## Passenger Ferries

Frequent ferries to and from Paignton, Brixham and Dartmouth can be boarded from the harbourside at designated departure points.

## Out and About

Torquay's harbour lies at the heart of the town and only a short walk will lead visitors to a wide variety of facilities. Restaurants to suit all pockets surround the harbour, from locally sourced fish and chips to Michelin starred dining. To the east lies Living Coasts, Torbay's marine zoo, to the west the Princess Theatre and Torre Abbey Sands.

Venturing further into the town the visitor will uncover pleasant al fresco eating and drinking opportunities and a good range of shopping and visitor attractions.

The English Riviera Visitor Information Centre is located at the north end of the inner harbour (see map point 10).





- |                                    |  |  |
|------------------------------------|--|--|
| <b>1</b> Harbour Master's office   | <b>8</b> Outer harbour visitors' pontoons (seasonal) | <b>14</b> Fuel berth                   |
| <b>2</b> Toilets/showers           | <b>9</b> Royal Torbay Yacht Club                     | <b>15</b> Commercial pontoons          |
| <b>3</b> Main slipway              | <b>10</b> Visitor Information Centre                 | <b>16</b> Living Coasts                |
| <b>4</b> Car parks                 | <b>11</b> D-Day ramps (not in use)                   | <b>17</b> Waste oil tank               |
| <b>5</b> MDL – Torquay Marina      | <b>12</b> Bridge/Cill                                | <b>18</b> Holding pontoon              |
| <b>6</b> Passenger ferry pontoon   | <b>13</b> Crane operator                             | <b>19</b> Town Dock visitors' pontoons |
| <b>7</b> Military boats exhibition |  |  |



Image © English Kowira Image Library

# Bridge and Cill

A half tide cill with a pedestrian footbridge spans the entrance to the inner harbour, linking North and South Piers, whilst providing easy access to the town centre.

Two parallel hydraulic gates within a fixed cill wall retain the water at half tide level, providing depths of between 1.0 and 2.8 metres within the inner harbour. The cill gates, which provide a navigable entrance width of 11 metres, will open (subject to operational hours) to provide access to, or from, the inner harbour approximately 3.5 hours before, to 3 hours after high tide. The bridge will remain closed when the cill gates are in the raised position. However, when the cill gates are in the lowered position, the bridge will be

opened on demand for any vessel that cannot safely navigate under it. An audible alarm and flashing orange lights indicate that the bridge is operating.

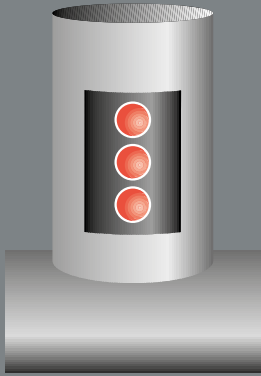
When the cill gates are lowered the minimum depth through the entrance will be 2.2 metres. Requests for the bridge to be opened should be made to the Harbour Office or harbour staff on the quayside.

## Navigation

For safety reasons, all mariners should exercise caution when navigating under the

closed bridge. This is due to the restricted and constantly fluctuating 'headroom/air-draft'. Navigation is only permitted under the central span of the bridge because the fixed cill wall either side, presents an obstruction and a hazard. Mariners should also be aware that the base of the cill gates is proud of the surrounding harbour bed.

At half tide, on the inner harbour side of the cill, there will be 2.2 metres of water over this obstruction, adjacent to the bridge.



**SIGNAL**

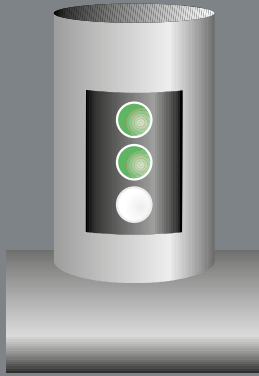
**THREE RED LIGHTS**

Fixed & exhibited vertically.

**ACTION**

Vessels shall not proceed.

Cill gates raised and/or bridge operating.



**SIGNAL**

**TWO GREEN LIGHTS over ONE WHITE**

Fixed & exhibited vertically.

Fixed & exhibited vertically.

**ACTION**

Vessels may proceed, cill gates lowered.

Two way traffic is subject to air-draft (headroom) restrictions.

Bridge lifted on request.



**BRIDGE ACCESS**

CALL TORQUAY HARBOUR VHF CHANNEL 14 TO REQUEST A BRIDGE LIFT FOR INNER HARBOUR ACCESS.

24HR COUNCIL EMERGENCY  
TEL: 01803 550405

**OPERATING HOURS FOR THE BRIDGE AND CILL**

07.00 TO 21.00 SUMMER SEASON – MAY TO SEPTEMBER

08.00 TO 17.00 WINTER SEASON – OCTOBER TO APRIL

**Approaches**

Mariners should keep a sharp lookout for vessels entering or exiting the Inner Harbour, especially passenger craft accessing North Pier and any vessels manoeuvring on or off Torquay Marina. The 5-knot maximum speed limit should be observed at all times and wash should be kept to a minimum. Mariners must not loiter in the immediate vicinity of the bridge or the approaches.

TAKE CARE.

Cill gates opening arrangements outside of published opening hours can be arranged provided that sufficient notice is given to the Harbour Office.

**Missed the tide?**

A courtesy waiting pontoon is situated on the seaward side of the cill with access to South Pier. This is strictly for vessels waiting for the cill/bridge to operate to access the Inner Harbour.

Vessels may also wait at Haldon pier.

**USEFUL CONTACTS**

TORQUAY MARINA  
TEL: 01803 200210

RIVIERA FUEL TORQUAY  
TEL: 07786 370324

TORBAY SEAWAYS & STEVEDORES (CRANE OPERATIONS)  
TEL: 01803 296570

TOURIST INFORMATION CENTRE  
TEL: 01803 297428



Image © English Riviera Image Library

50°25'97"N 03°33'35"W

# Paignton Harbour

Paignton Harbour sits on the western shores of Tor Bay, midway between Torquay and Brixham harbours.

The Harbour was established in the eighteenth century, some years before Queen Victoria's accession to the throne. Paignton was a thriving fishing harbour for many years and some of the old traditions of seamanship still remain today. The Harbour is a hive of activity, especially during the summer months, and a range of different users enjoy the benefits of this unassuming maritime location.

## Approach

The Harbour dries out at low tide and is well known for having an unconventional fairway approach. Unlike nearly all other UK harbours, the approach to Paignton is made on the port side of the fairway and not the starboard side. This unusual and interesting feature

is marked by a unique seasonal buoy and makes for a much safer harbour approach.

## Visiting Vessels

Visitors may secure at East Quay on the seasonal pontoon, but please be aware of the state of tide and the duration of your intended stay as the harbour dries out. Visitors may call 'PAIGNTON HARBOUR' on VHF Channel 14 for specific berthing instructions.

## Launch and Recovery

There are two slipways in regular use within the harbour, the main facility being located on East Quay, whilst the slipway on West Quay is of a lesser gradient. When using either slipway, please take time to read the safety advice

notice. Check the suitability and road-worthiness of your trailer, check that your boat is sufficiently secured and double check that the tow hitch is safely attached with a safety chain applied. Ensure that you have sufficient helpers and each person is competent in what they are to do.

Once launching is complete, all vehicles should be removed from the harbour as soon as possible. Trailer storage is limited, so please contact the Harbour Office for further information.

## Facilities

Paignton Harbour provides 110 trot moorings with 30 outhaul moorings on the harbourside and all are permanent. Boat parking, dinghy storage and Laser racks are well provided for on the quayside.

## Passenger Ferries

Frequent ferries to and from Torquay and Brixham can be boarded at designated departure points.

## Fuelling

Please note that the fuelling of boats on the quayside at Paignton is prohibited. However, fuel is available at Torquay and Brixham harbours.

## Water & Electricity

Water is on supply from points on North Quay, East Quay and at the head of the East Quay slipway. Electric cards and

tokens are available from the Harbour Office.

## Waste Disposal

For your thoughtful disposal of waste, there are several bins located around the harbour. Should you wish to dispose of waste oil or contaminated fuel please contact the Harbour Office.

## Personal Safety

A number of lifebuoys are strategically located around the harbour. When walking around the harbour areas please keep dogs on a lead and keep a close eye on children. There

are many harbour attractions to look at but kindly respect the commercial operations on the quay and abide by any safety instructions.

## Swimming

Swimming and diving anywhere within Paignton Harbour is strictly prohibited (Harbour Bye laws).

## Angling

Fishing within the harbour is prohibited, however anglers are welcome to fish from the seaward side. It is always worth asking where you can and cannot fish from at the Harbour Office.



**SAFETY INFORMATION**  
**PAIGNTON HARBOUR OFFICE**  
 TEL: 01803 557812  
 (VHF CH.14)

**24HR COUNCIL EMERGENCY**  
 TEL: 01803 550405

**USEFUL CONTACTS**  
**TOURIST INFORMATION CENTRE**  
 TEL: 01803 558383



### N-Flag

Denotes a Negative instruction. Mariners to enter this harbour on the opposite (Port) side.



### East Cardinal

Hazard to Navigation. Mariners to pass to the East of this Cardinal mark.

- |                               |                                      |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| <b>1</b> Harbour Office       | <b>8</b> East Cardinal mark          |
| <b>2</b> Launching slipways   | <b>9</b> Seasonal mark–N-Flag        |
| <b>3</b> Boat park            | <b>10</b> Outhall Moorings           |
| <b>4</b> Trailer park         | <b>11</b> Fore and Aft Moorings      |
| <b>5</b> Shops & cafés        | <b>12</b> Visitor Pontoon (seasonal) |
| <b>6</b> Coastguard Station   |                                      |
| <b>7</b> Pleasure boat kiosks |                                      |



Image © English Riviera Image Library

# Brixham Harbour

Brixham Harbour is located on the southern aspect of Tor Bay and boasts one of the largest fishing fleets in the UK, plus a thriving, modern fish market.

Approached from the sea, the view of Brixham with its many colourful houses cascading down on either side of the harbour is one of the prettiest along the South Devon coast. Brixham personifies the classic English fishing port, mixing tradition with a modern, vibrant industry.

The port has benefited from much recent investment as well as the efforts of its community in making the waterfront attractive and inviting to visitors.

## Visiting Vessels

Approaching Brixham's outer harbour, negotiate the main fairway, leaving the (MDL) Brixham Marina to port and the MFV

basin (fishing boats) to starboard, and you will approach the 90 metre visitors pontoons or Town Pontoon. Visitors should contact the Harbour Office in advance to check berthing availability to avoid disappointment.

Depending on demand, visitors may be required to 'raft-up' on vessels of a similar size, especially during the peak holiday weeks and bank holiday weekends. Unfortunately there is no reduction for doubling up! Please announce your presence at the Harbour Office or to a member of harbour staff on the quayside. Alternatively, please call 'BRIXHAM HARBOUR' on VHF Channel 14 for specific

berthing instructions.

Short stay visitors to Brixham Harbour are welcome to enjoy a courtesy stay on the visitor pontoons for up to two hours without charge. A daily fee applies after this period, although visitors staying for three nights get one additional night free. See [tor-bay-harbour.co.uk](http://tor-bay-harbour.co.uk) for current rates.

## Permanent Berthing Facilities

Within Brixham's outer harbour, there are 250 deepwater swing moorings, while the inner harbour provides for 51 trot moorings. For availability please contact the Harbour Office.

## Launch and Recovery

The two main locations for launch and recovery and trailer storage are at Breakwater slip and Oxen Cove slip. When using these slipways, please take time to read the safety advice notice. Check the suitability and roadworthiness of your trailer, check that your boat is sufficiently secured to the trailer and double check that the tow hitch is safely attached with a safety chain applied. Ensure that you have sufficient helpers and each person is competent in what they are doing.

## Cranage

The Harbour Authority operates a static crane with a lifting capacity of four tonnes. Please contact the Harbour Office for further information, as there are restrictions on the crane berth, depending on draft and tide. Advance notice of any lifting operations is recommended.

## Fuelling

Brixham Marina supplies diesel fuel only from its fuel pontoon. Alternative fuel supplies are available from Torquay Harbour.

## Waste Disposal

There are several waste disposal bins located around the harbour. For the disposal of waste oils or contaminated fuel, a special waste tank is situated on New Quay. Please ask for assistance from harbour staff before using this facility.

## Personal Safety

A number of lifebuoys are strategically located around the harbour perimeter to assist in the rescue of a person in the water. When walking around the harbour areas, please keep any dogs on a lead and keep a close eye on children. There are many harbour attractions to look at, but kindly respect the commercial operations on the quay and abide by any safety instructions.

## Swimming

Swimming and diving anywhere within Brixham Harbour is strictly prohibited.

## Passenger Ferries

Frequent ferries to and from Torquay, Paignton and Dartmouth can be caught from designated departure points.

## Angling

Fishing within the harbour is prohibited, however anglers are welcome to fish from the seaward side of the Breakwater.

It is always worth asking where you can and cannot fish from – and get some useful tips from the Harbour Office.



## Out and About

A walk around the Harbour's edge will find several restaurants, bistros and pubs serving delicious, locally caught seafood. The town retains much of its original 'fishing village' atmosphere. The central shopping area houses small cafés where famous Devon cream teas can be enjoyed together with locally made pasties. Around the Inner Harbour you will find local artists painting and on Strand Quay stands a statue of Prince William of Orange commemorating his landing at Brixham in 1688. A replica of Sir Francis Drake's *Golden Hind* can be found in the corner of the Inner Harbour.

## SAFETY INFORMATION

BRIXHAM HARBOUR  
OFFICE  
TEL: 01803 853321  
(VHF CH.14)

24HR COUNCIL  
EMERGENCY  
TEL: 01803 550405

## USEFUL CONTACTS

BRIXHAM MARINA  
TEL: 01803 882929

FUEL STATION  
BRIXHAM MARINA  
TEL: 01803 882929  
(VHF CH.80)

TOURIST INFORMATION  
CENTRE  
TEL: 01803 852861

# Brixham Fishing Industry



Image © English Kweira Image Library

With food provenance being more important than ever to restaurants and shoppers, Brixham's fish is becoming an internationally recognised product.

At the end of the eighteenth century the fishing industry in Brixham boomed when the method of catching fish by trawling along the sea-bed with a weighted net was successfully introduced and developed. It was deep-sea fishing that developed the Harbour area in the nineteenth century and by mid century, the Brixham trawling fleet was the largest in England. Before World War 1, nearly 300 sailing trawlers were based in Brixham.

Today, Brixham is the most important fishing port in England and Wales when measured by the value of catch landed. The Harbour provides areas for the safe and efficient management of the fishing industry. This includes the provision of fish landing facilities and a fish market for the conduct of fish auctions, for which the Harbour Authority is responsible for the upkeep and maintenance.

The history of Brixham goes back over 1000 years and its role as a fishing port is mentioned in the Domesday Book. By medieval times the port had strong trade in drying fish and curing pilchards, which has been recorded as taking place in 1500.

The arrival of the local railway system

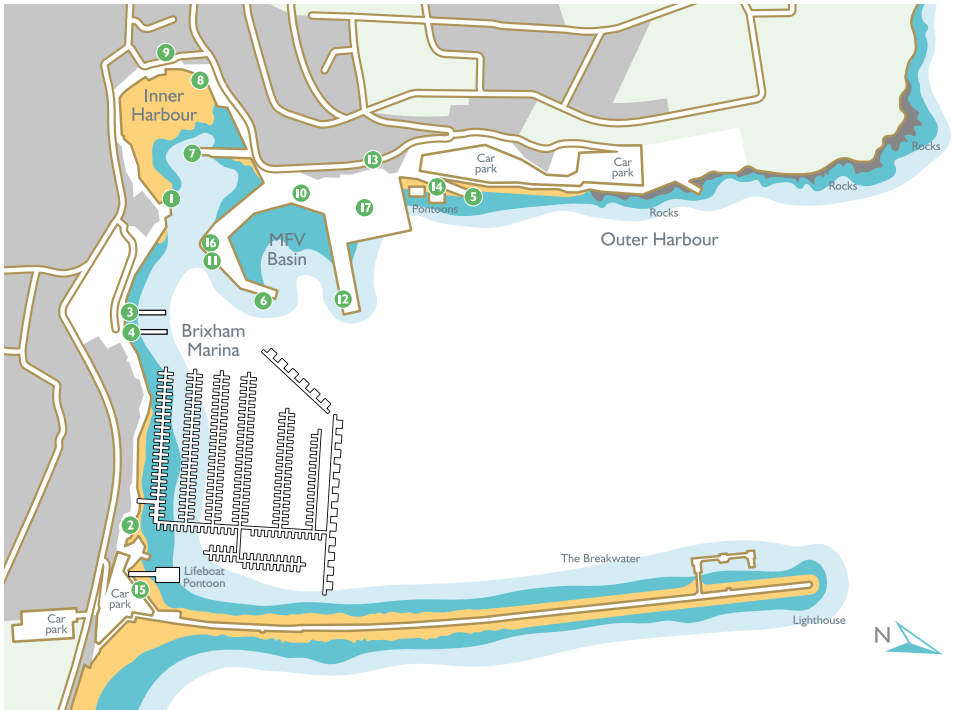
led to Brixham having a record number of registered fishing vessels just prior to World War 1. This later declined because of competition from North Sea ports, resulting in the fleet being reduced to just seven by 1930.

Despite considerable changes and pressure on the fishing industry, Brixham now ranks as one of the most significant in the country. Members of the fleet have been responsible for the introduction of innovative equipment and techniques that considerably reduce by-catch, leading to less undersized fish being caught and offering greater protection to the sea bed.

This reflects the high quality of the deep sea fish caught in the Western Approaches, including lemon sole, turbot and plaice together with the valuable







contribution now made by non-quota species such as cuttle fish and scallops.

This has inspired a complete redevelopment and improvement of Brixham's commercial harbour frontage, featuring a larger fish market, with a new chill store, grading, display and despatch areas. The existing fish market building has been refurbished as part of the project, along with the construction of a new harbour office, new business offices, storage and processing units.

Tours of the facilities are available that highlight its importance to the local community and wider food community.

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <b>1</b> Coastguard Station                           | <b>12</b> Ice plant                          |
| <b>2</b> Lifeboat Station                             | <b>13</b> Brixham Yacht Club                 |
| <b>3</b> Town pontoon (visitors)                      | <b>14</b> Brixham Yacht Club visitors'ponton |
| <b>4</b> Marina pontoon                               | <b>15</b> Main slipway for trailer launching |
| <b>5</b> Oxen Cove slipway                            | <b>16</b> Waste oil tank                     |
| <b>6</b> Brixham Trawler Agents fuel station (diesel) | <b>17</b> Fishmarket and business units      |
| <b>7</b> Docksie crane (max lift 4 tonnes)            |  |
| <b>8</b> Golden Hind replica                          |  |
| <b>9</b> Tourist Information Centre                   |  |
| <b>10</b> Harbour Master's Office                     |  |
| <b>11</b> Passenger Ferry boarding pontoon            |  |

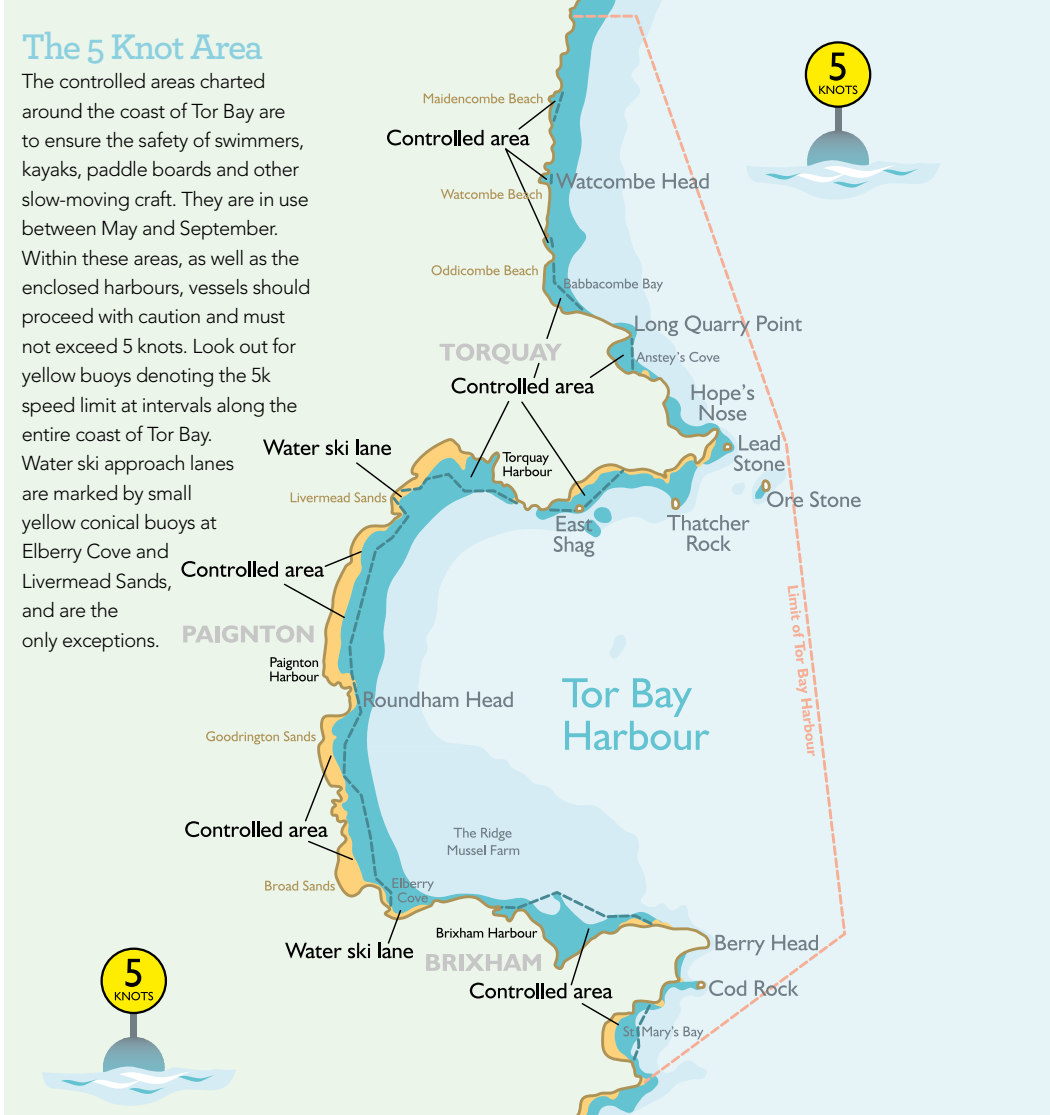


Image: © Shutterstock

# Controlled Areas

## The 5 Knot Area

The controlled areas charted around the coast of Tor Bay are to ensure the safety of swimmers, kayaks, paddle boards and other slow-moving craft. They are in use between May and September. Within these areas, as well as the enclosed harbours, vessels should proceed with caution and must not exceed 5 knots. Look out for yellow buoys denoting the 5k speed limit at intervals along the entire coast of Tor Bay. Water ski approach lanes are marked by small yellow conical buoys at Elberry Cove and Livermead Sands, and are the only exceptions.



# Ski Lanes

## Livermead Beach

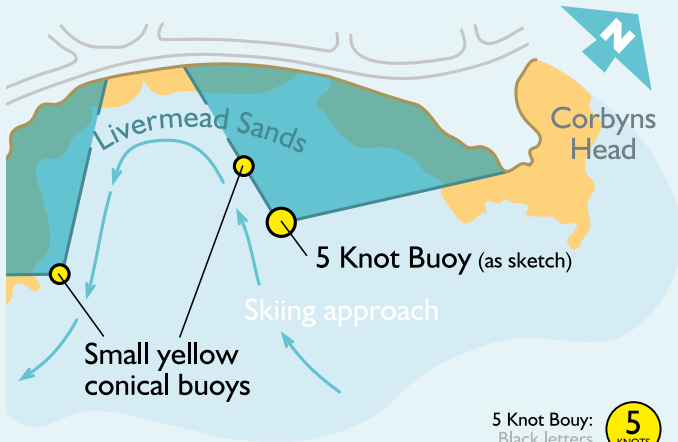
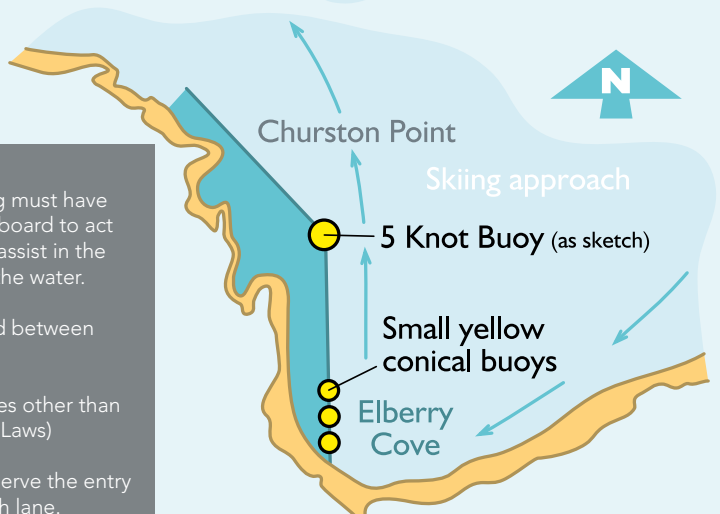


Image © English Riviera Image Library



## Elberry Cove



### Remember:

Any vessel used for towing must have one additional person on board to act as spotter and be able to assist in the recovery of persons from the water.

Ski lanes must not be used between sunset and sunrise.

Use of ski lanes for activities other than towing is prohibited. (Bye Laws)

For your safety please observe the entry and exit directions for each lane.

# Personal Watercraft

Tor Bay is one of the most popular venues in the UK for Personal Water Craft enthusiasts with its 22 miles of coastline to explore, and short distance to the three enclosed harbours of Torquay, Paignton and Brixham.

Within Tor Bay, you may only launch Personal Water Craft (PWC) within the three harbours. Before launching, you must first register your PWC with the Harbour Authority, completing a simple form and signing acceptance of the Harbour Masters directions and declaration of adequate third party insurance. In return you will receive free safety advice and a safety pack, telling you where you

can and cannot operate within Tor Bay. You will also receive a local registration sticker to display on your PWC.

If your PWC is used anywhere within Tor Bay Harbour limits, it must display a Tor Bay Harbour Authority registration sticker.

It is always advisable to seek advice from either the Harbour Office, during registration or when paying for your launch, or heed the advice from 'Oscar 4',

the Harbour Authority Beach Patrol RIB, on areas where Personal Watercraft can and can't go. Five minutes spent here can provide hours of trouble free pleasure on the water!

## Important

Please note that within the confines of Tor Bay Harbour (16 square miles) under 18's are strictly prohibited from driving a Personal Water Craft, irrespective of their qualifications. Within the registration process, you will confirm valid insurance cover, however, should anyone else use your PWC, you must ensure that adequate insurance cover extends to other users.

PWC specific permanent berthing is available at Torquay's Town Dock and at Torquay and Brixham marinas subject to availability.



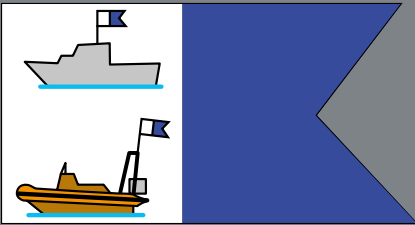
Image © English Riviera Image Library



Image © Silver Foxes Publishing

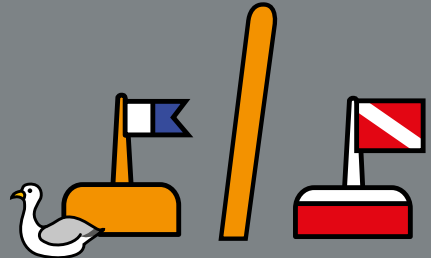
# Divers' Safety

Tor Bay is also a popular location for those who prefer to adventure below the waves. To ensure they can dive in safety, all harbour users should be fully aware of the flags and buoys that show the presence of divers and be prepared to exercise extreme caution, stay well clear and pass at slow speed.



## FLAGS

Vessels displaying the 'A' flag have divers in the water - proceed with caution and stay well clear.



## BUOYS

Buoys like these mean there are divers in the water in the area - stay well clear.





Image © English Kiviera Image Library

# Stay Safe in Tor Bay



## SeaSafety

When you're out on the water in Tor Bay anything can happen. How will you cope in an emergency?

Plan ahead with the top tips from the RNLI and Harbour Authority regarding Sea Safety.

### Wear a Lifejacket

Boating can be extremely unpredictable. If you find yourself in the water, a correctly fitted lifejacket could be your lifesaver!

### Engine and Fuel Checks

When was your engine last serviced? Are you sure it will get you home? Always check you have enough fuel for the trip, and always carry reserve fuel.

### Tell Others Where You're Going

Tell someone ashore where you are going and when you'll be back. They will raise the alarm if you are overdue. You may wish to register with the Coastguard's free **CG66 - Voluntary Safety Identification Scheme**. In the event of you requiring assistance at sea, this will help those raising the alarm to relay the fullest information possible about your craft and likely whereabouts, to the emergency services.

### Calling for Help

How will you call for help in an emergency? VHF is best because you are broadcasting to many others on the water who may be listening to your call. Mobile phones are an option but you may not get adequate reception at sea and the person you are calling may not be able to answer. Flares are essential too.



## National Coastwatch Institute (NCI)

From its lookout tower at Daddyhole Plain in Torquay, the NCI provides a watchful eye over Tor Bay for 365 days a year between 10am and 6pm and until 9pm during the summer. The staff are all volunteers and are trained to Maritime Coastguard Agency standards.

The NCI works in tandem with other search and rescue-providers and assists with incident activities within the Bay. Yachtpersons and marine users can contact the station on VHF Channel 60 or by telephone 01803 411145 for up-to-the-minute weather and sea-state information. [www.torbaynci.org.uk](http://www.torbaynci.org.uk)



Image © Silver Foxes Publishing

## Weather and Tides

Before you head out, always check forecasts and tide times. Ask for details at your local Harbour Office to make sure it's safe to go.

## Training

Proper training will make you safer and give you more confidence, which will ensure you enjoy your boating.

## Saving Lives Starts Here

Although best known for running the lifeboat service, the RNLI is also dedicated to saving lives at sea by spreading the word on sea safety. The RNLI is here for you, so take advantage of its expertise and give them a call.

To ensure your next voyage is both safe and enjoyable, why not start by arranging a FREE SEA (Safety Equipment Advisory) Check? A SEA Check provides free, friendly and confidential advice about the safety equipment suitable for your boat and its type of use. It's the best way to ensure that your boat and the equipment you carry is suitable when it comes to staying safe on the water.

To arrange your free SEA Check or for Sea Safety advice call FREEPHONE 0800 328 0600.

To arrange directly with the local Tor Bay Lifeboat Sea Safety Officer please call 07866 689315. [torbaylifeboat.co.uk](http://torbaylifeboat.co.uk)

## Beach Patrol

The Harbour Authority operates a patrol vessel to monitor Tor Bay's 22 miles of coastline and is primarily tasked with ensuring beach safety, along with keeping a weather eye out on activities on the water during the summer season.

The crew of 'Oscar 4' is also a good source of local information for mariners and advice on safety afloat.

This fully coded 6.5 metre RIB, distinguished by yellow / navy blue livery and HARBOUR MASTER on each sponson, is capable of over 40 knots if required and therefore only a few minutes away from any potential incident in the Bay.

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Image © English Riviera Image Library

# Beach Guide











With 20 accessible beaches within Tor Bay there is something for everyone. Use our guide to find a beach for you.

Tor Bay is well-known for its beautiful beaches and has a wide variety, from easily accessed large, sandy stretches with full amenities, to secluded shingle coves ideal for sunbathing or exploring.

With one of the highest concentrations of Blue Flags and beach awards for cleanliness in England, you won't be disappointed. Swimming is a joy in the summer months and many swim throughout the year from the Bay's golden sands. At Shoalstone Beach there is a renovated art deco sea pool for those seeking a safe haven for swimming.

From May to September inclusive, beaches are protected by a 5 Knot speed restriction to protect swimmers and small craft users.














## TORQUAY

- 1 Maidencombe Beach**   
Type: Shingle Access: Moderate, steep in places
- 2 Watcombe Beach**   
Type: Sand Access: Moderate, but steep in places
- 3 Oddicombe Beach**   
Type: Sand/shingle Access: Moderate (historic cliff railway)
- 4 Babbacombe Beach**   
Type: Sand/Shingle Access: Moderate
- 5 Anstey's Cove**   
Type: Shingle/Rock Access: Moderate, but steep in places
- 6 Meadfoot Beach**   
Type: Pebble/Sand Access: Easy
- 7 Torre Abbey Sands**   
Type: Sand Access: Easy
- 8 Corbyn Head**   
Type: Sand/Shingle Access: Easy
- 9 Livermead Beach**   
Type: Sand Access: Moderate
- 10 Hollicombe Beach**   
Type: Sand Access: Moderate





### PAIGNTON

- 11 **Preston Sands**       
- Type: Sand Access: Easy
- 12 **Paignton Sands**      
- Type: Sand Access: Easy

### GOODRINGTON

- 13 **Goodrington Sands**       
- Type: Sand Access: Easy











### BROADSANDS

- 14 **Broadsands Beach**       
- Type: Sand Access: Easy
- 15 **Elberry Cove**     
- Type: Shingle Access: Moderate

### BRIXHAM

- 16 **Churston Cove**    
- Type: Sand/Shingle Access: Moderate
- 17 **Fishcombe Cove**   
- Type: Sand/Shingle Access: Moderate
- 18 **Breakwater Beach**      
- Type: Shingle Access: Easy
- 19 **Shoalstone Beach**   
- Type: Shingle/Rock Access: Easy
- 20 **St. Mary's Bay**  
- Type: Sand/Shingle Access: Difficult

### Key to symbols:

- |  |  |  |
|--|--|--|
|  Angling      |  Sub-Aqua       |  Towed Sports |
|  Kayaking     |  Paddleboarding |  Swimming     |
|  Kite Surfing |  Wind Surfing   |  Exploring    |
|  |  |  Refreshments |

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Image © English Riviera Image Library

# Royal Torbay Yacht Club

The Royal Torbay Yacht Club (RTYC) was granted a Royal Warrant in 1875 after its formation earlier in that year with Sir Lawrence Palk as Commodore.

Famous for hosting the America's Cup trials for King George V and the J-Class fleet in the 1930's, the club hosts many prestigious sailing events today, among them: RTYC Offshore Week and Channel Race, the Yachting Monthly Triangle Race, well-supported local cruiser and keelboat racing series, as well as many national and international dinghy sailing events. The club racing season starts in April with many classes running until the end of the year.

The club is a Royal Yachting Association (RYA) recognised training centre, and offers a range of courses for beginners and improvers, as well as seamanship, performance and race training. There is a very active junior

section operating at least six fleets including Cadets, RS Feva, RS Teras & Q'bas, dinghies many of which are available for hire to members at very reasonable rates. The club also runs courses as The Torbay Youth Sailing Trust with the aim of introducing 8-16 year-olds to sailing and provides training in accordance with the RYA 'Start Sailing' syllabus.

As well as organising top class sailing races, the RTYC annual regatta event held in August each year, has variously catered for other sports including: motor boat racing, rowing, running, water-skiing, swimming and diving. The event celebrated it's bi-centenary in 2013 and continues to provide a wide range of activities both ashore and at sea, against the backdrop of Torbay Week sailing organized by RTYC, Babbacombe Corinthian Sailing Club, Brixham Yacht Club, and Paignton Sailing Club.

Torquay Rowing Club, whose boathouse is situated on Beacon Quay, is affiliated to the RTYC. Its members enjoy the facilities of the yacht club and host the rowing events at the Torbay Royal Regatta, as well as the coastal rowing Thatcher Rock 8km race.

## *Get in touch*

**Royal Torquay Yacht club**  
**12 Beacon Terrace**  
**Torquay TQ1 2BH**  
**rtyc.org**

**01 803 292006**

## *Who's who...*

**Flag Officers**  
**Commodore**  
**Bob Penfold**  
**Vice-Commodore**  
**Tim Whitehead**  
**Rear-Commodore**  
**Joe Woods**  
**Rear-Commodore**  
**Phil Rumbelow**  
**Club Secretary**  
**Debbie Selley**

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Image © Paignton Sailing Club

# Paignton Sailing Club

Operating as a mainly dinghy sailing club, Paignton Sailing Club has been in existence since 1889. It moved to its current purpose-built premises on Paignton harbour in 1975.

The Club has active fleets of Fireballs, Lasers, Toppers, Albacores, Laser 2000, RS600 and Blazes, plus a variety of craft in a handicap fleet. The club has a selection of well-maintained dinghies from various classes for hire at very reasonable rates to members.

Each year the Club runs several weekend open events and in 2014 hosts the B14 Nationals and Enterprise Nationals in July, as well as the juniors Topper Nationals in May. There is a series of single handed and double handed open events throughout the season that allow a wide variety of fleets and individuals to get involved. These events, the only ones of their kind in the South West, are known by the acronyms PODD (Paignton Open for Double Handed Dinghies) and

POSH (Paignton Open for Single Handed Dinghies). Entry is limited to 120 boats, so early booking is advised at the club website.

The club is a Royal Yachting Association (RYA) affiliated training centre and offers courses throughout the year for both sail and power boating. The junior section runs a beginners' and improvers' course over five consecutive Friday nights that starts in June, taking complete novices to a level where they could start racing.

The junior section is very active with Topper, Pico, RS Feva and RS Vision fleets. There is a junior committee and sailing and fun social events take place throughout the summer season. Hire fees for juniors are nominal so its easy to get involved without having to purchase a boat.

The club actively encourages family participation and is always happy to train-up shore based volunteers who want to get involved.

Membership forms are available from the website along with temporary membership for visitors and holidaymakers who fancy a sail in the Bay. The club also holds open days for prospective members.

## Get in touch

**Paignton Sailing Club**  
**South Quay**  
**Paignton Harbour**  
**Devon**

**TQ4 6DT**

[paigntonsailingclub.com](http://paigntonsailingclub.com)

[sailing@paigntonsailingclub.com](mailto:sailing@paigntonsailingclub.com)

**01803 525817**

## Who's who...

### Flag Officers

Commodore

**Trish Walker**

Vice-Commodore

**Rob Daniels**

Rear-Commodore

**Nick Ripley**

Sailing Secretary

**Dale Giles**

Club Secretary

**Morag Aiken**



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Summer season everyday from 9am-9.30pm (last orders)

Winter season from 10am-4pm  
plus Friday and Saturday evening

Families welcome and fully wheel-chair accessible.





Image © Brixham Sailing Club/Google

# Brixham Yacht Club

Established in 1937, Brixham Yacht Club offers a commanding view over the busy marina and working harbour of the port of Brixham from its clubhouse in Overgang Road. The building, a former sail loft, houses the club's popular bar and restaurant, as well as all the usual facilities for racing and cruising sailors.

The recent development of the Fish Quay has allowed the club to boost its facilities for both members and visiting yachtsmen. There is 30 metres of sea wall adjacent to the club for mooring as well as two pontoons and a ferry shuttle service (contact the club for details). Dinghies and tenders can be launched and recovered from the club slipway at all states of the tide.

A full range of facilities is offered to visiting racing and cruising sailors and the club has an enviable reputation for its hospitality.

The club hosts a well-supported cruiser section. The cruiser racing season starts in

April continuing until October, with regular weekly sessions on Thursday evenings and Sunday mornings as well as a selection of events that take sailors out of the Bay. As well as racing there are organised rallies taking keen sailors as far afield as the Channel Islands and the French coast. Rallies will appeal to inexperienced and experienced sailors, as they offer both a social element and the confidence of sailing with the back-up of other boats nearby. The section is open to boat owners and those who just want to crew. People of all ages are always welcome.

Brixham Junior Sailing Club provides sail training and a busy season of events for youngsters, and actively encourages family membership especially for non-sailing members.

The club hosts several major events each year including the Brixham Heritage Regatta in May, and the Sonata Nationals in July, plus a new for 2014 Midsummer Mini Regatta at the end of June.

It also co-hosts Torbay Week in August along with Babbacombe Corinthian Sailing Club, Paignton Sailing Club and Royal Torbay Yacht Club.

## *Get in touch*

**Brixham Yacht Club**  
**Overgang Road**  
**Brixham**  
**Devon**  
**TQ5 8AR**

[brixhamyachtclub.com](http://brixhamyachtclub.com)  
[brixhamjsc.co.uk](http://brixhamjsc.co.uk)  
**01803 853332**

## *Who's who...*

**Flag Officers**  
 Admiral  
**Ralph Bowles**  
 Commodore  
**Adrian Morrall**  
 Vice-Commodore  
**Mark Hobbs**  
 Rear-Commodore Sailing  
**Laura Eydmann Fudge**  
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Image © Babbacombe Corinthian Sailing Club

# Babbacombe Corinthian Sailing Club

A small, sociable club formed in 1935 and originally run from a fisherman's hut on Oddicombe Beach.

Nowadays the Club has two venues, a beach clubhouse on Oddicombe Beach accessed by road or Babbacombe Cliff Railway, where the dinghy fleet launches from and a social clubhouse in St Marychurch that provides shore-based training, as well as a wide variety of social and non-sailing activities.

The Club actively seeks new members and their families with regular open days for new sailors, and are always looking for new boats to join up. The Club offers a selection of Royal Yachting Association (RYA) standard training courses and provides crewing and mentoring opportunities for beginners of all ages.

The Club has a variety of dinghies available to members. As well as sail training, it also provides powerboat training, radio, race officer, and first aid courses when required. As an RYA recognised

training provider the Club is subject to annual inspection in regard to safety on the water and child protection.

2014 sees the Club hosting the 188th Babbacombe Regatta in June that attracts dinghy sailors from around the Bay and further afield and is held in conjunction with the Babbacombe Festival. The Club's prominent class, the Tasar, will hold its national championships at Oddicombe in September 2014. In common with all of Tor Bay's sailing and yacht clubs, Babbacombe Corinthians co-hosts Torbay Week Regatta in August.

Club sailing is held regularly from spring to autumn on Sunday mornings and Tuesday evenings. There are two race fleets, a mixed handicap that runs under the PY handicap system and the two-person Tasar fleet.

More recently established is the Babbacombe Corinthian Cadet Club that offers a busy programme of sailing and social events for young people during the sailing season.

Babbacombe Bay offers safe sailing with prevailing south-westerly winds blowing over The Downs high above the beach. Sailing is presided over by a willing team of volunteers manning safety boats and attending to shore-based duties.

## *Get in touch*

**Babbacombe Corinthian Sailing Club**

**Fore Street  
St Marychurch  
Torquay**

**TQ1 4LY**

**[babbacombe-sc.com](http://babbacombe-sc.com)**

**01803 311253**

## *Who's who...*

**Flag Officers**

**President**

**Roger Southcombe**

**Commodore**

**Neil Spacagna**

**Vice-Commodore**

**Guy Hester**

**Rear-Commodore**

**John Mitchell**

**Hon Secretary**

**Nicole Phare**




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# Sub Aqua in Tor Bay

The varied geology of the Geopark and relative shelter of Tor Bay makes for a varied and interesting coastline with an abundance of coves and underwater features to be explored. Favourites with local clubs and for the less experienced are Babbacombe Bay, Fairy Cove (adjacent to Paignton Harbour) and the outside of Brixham Breakwater, all of which provide access to a diverse range of marine life. Shoalstone Reef, Thatcher Rock and the waters around Berry Head offer challenges for the more experienced and adventurous of divers.

There is a great variety of marine life to be seen in the Bay with corals, sponges, sea anemones, fish and marine

crustaceans, as well as unusual environmental features such as the flowering seagrass beds.

One of the Bay's most noted diving features is the wreck of German submarine U-269 sunk in 1944 by HMS Bickerton.

## Give it a go...

There are several facilities providing training by way of pool taster sessions or try dives to get you started. These are generally followed by open water and theory courses that will get you qualified to PADI or BSAC standards. There are local clubs that offer frequent trips within the Bay and to wrecks, reefs and pinnacles further afield for divers of all levels of experience. As well

as dives there are also regular club nights and social events for non-diving members.

For experienced divers there is a variety of dive charter companies within the Bay.

## Get in touch

Local clubs

**Torbay BSAC**

**Unit 8 Beacon Quay**

**Torquay TQ1 2BG**

**torbay-bsac.co.uk**

**torbaybsac@aol.com**

**07500 214916**

**Brixham BSAC**

**brixham-bsac.co.uk**

**paul@brixham-bsac.co.uk**

Look out for divers in the Bay (Blue and white A flag) see page 21 for more details.



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# Stand-up Paddle Boarding

It's the fastest growing water sport in the world and what better place than the sheltered waters Tor Bay offers to learn this exciting sport. Stand-up paddle boarding, or SUP for short, is a versatile water sport that has something for everyone. Whether you like the waves and exhilaration of surfing when the wind is easterly, some leisurely exploration, or even Yoga or Pilates, then paddleboarding could be for you.

Take a lesson at first to set you on the right track and to make the most of the core fitness benefits that SUP has to offer, then its up to you how far you take it. Progress can be made quickly, as the boards are wide and buoyant and the more you practice, fun and satisfaction come quickly.

## What you need?

A board, a paddle, a leash and a wetsuit, depending on the conditions. There are many sizes and types of paddleboard available and the type of paddling you'll be doing, and your size and weight will determine what you choose. Many versatile boards both surf and glide well so will allow the novice the best of both worlds. Try before you buy! A good paddleboard shop will have test boards you can hire and some will run taster sessions. There are many versatile boards that both surf and glide well, so allow the novice the best of both worlds.

Paddleboard hire is available on some beaches in the Bay.

A waterproof case for a

mobile phone is a must, not just for safety but also to record those amazing moments when a seal pops up nearby!

## Where to go?

Tor Bay is a great place to learn with its largely calm waters and surfing opportunities (with the right wind). Paddleboards can launch from any beach but you are strongly advised to avoid harbour slipways in the interest of public safety. Beaches that have particularly suitable access for paddleboards are Paignton, Preston, Goodrington, Broadsands, Breakwater (Brixham) and Meadfoot (Torquay). There's a vast array of interesting coastline and wildlife to encounter from the unique 'walking on water' perspective that paddleboarding offers. Always check the prevailing wind and tide conditions to use them to your advantage. Tell a friend where you are going and when you expect to be back, and if possible carry a mobile phone in a waterproof case or a fully charged VHF radio. If you are planning to cross open water ensure you inform the coastguard of your planned journey. Do not enter the enclosed harbours at Torquay, Paignton or Brixham.



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# Kayaking and Canoeing

Kayaking and canoeing has regained popularity in recent years with many new types of craft becoming available to a wider market. Sit-on-top kayaks designed for fishing, leisurely paddling and surfing are popular in the Bay.

Whether your interest is simply in adventuring and journeying, or is more competitive, the best place to start is with a local club who can help you to learn the basics without having to invest in all the kit.

Exploring Tor Bay's 22 miles of coastline by canoe or kayak offers an opportunity to see coastal features that many people are unaware of. Quite often this will be teamed with sighting of the Bay's more elusive marine species such as seals, porpoises and dolphins whose natural inquisitiveness can bring them quite close.

## What you need

There's a huge range of designs available for different pursuits. Sit-on-top canoes are popular at the beach but once bitten by the bug you may want to upgrade to a more specific design for fishing or longer coastal passages. There are opportunities around the Bay to hire a variety of craft, and local clubs offer taster sessions.

Clubs also offer training for beginners and improvers, and will advise on the correct personal flotation device (PFD) and other equipment you will need.

## Where to go

Like paddleboards, kayaks and canoes can launch from any beach but you are strongly advised to avoid harbour slipways in the interest of public safety.

Beaches that have particularly suitable access for kayaks and canoes are Paignton, Preston, Goodrington, Broadsands, Breakwater (Brixham) and Meadfoot (Torquay).

For your safety please avoid entering Torquay harbour and keep well clear of busy fairways at Brixham Harbour.

## Get in touch

### Paignton Canoe Club

Pool sessions at Torbay Leisure Centre, Clennon Valley, Paignton from October to April, and weekly events from various locations from May to September: [info@paigntoncanoeclub.org.uk](mailto:info@paigntoncanoeclub.org.uk), [paigntoncanoeclub.org.uk](http://paigntoncanoeclub.org.uk)

### ibex Canoe Club (Brixham)

The Breakwater, Berry Head Road Brixham TQ9 5AF [simon.berry@ibexcanoeclub.org.uk](mailto:simon.berry@ibexcanoeclub.org.uk), [ibexcanoeclub.org.uk](http://ibexcanoeclub.org.uk), [bcu.org.uk](http://bcu.org.uk) (British Canoeing Union)

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Image by Liam Scott www.underwaterpics.co.uk

# Wild Swimming

Wild swimming is about taking advantage of the best that local waters have to offer in terms of both the landscape and its flora and fauna.

Devon is a popular location within the wild swimming community with many beach, estuary and river swimming opportunities. Tor Bay is gaining in popularity for this sport due to its varied scenery and marine life combined in sheltered and safe waters.

To really appreciate the Bay, you need to swim away from busy beaches and encounter sea life in its element. Popular spots in Tor Bay for exploration include the spectacular limestone formations

between Torquay's Beacon Cove and Meadfoot Beach, the towering red sandstone cliffs between Oddicombe and Maidencombe and, for the most adventurous, the sea caves at Berry Head.

All ages and abilities can take part within the limits of their capabilities and with a keen eye on safety, as the support of beach lifeguards isn't on hand.

To link up with other wild swimmers try the websites listed below, plus Facebook where there are many established local groups.

For a first foray into organised sea swimming why not try the Agatha Christie Sea Swim that takes place in September each

year in Support of Devon Air Ambulance Trust and Torbay Surf Life Saving Club.

## What you need

Swimming costume, a wetsuit for the colder months or, if you intend staying in the water for a long session, a pair of wetsuit boots or water shoes, sea swimming goggles to make the most of the underwater sights, tide tables and a tidal atlas to ensure you're using the conditions to your advantage. The Outdoor Swimming Society suggests you ask the following questions before embarking on any outing: Is it clean? Is it safe? Am I safe? Is it legal? Will I get too cold? As with most other waterborne activities don't go alone and always tell someone where you're going and when you expect to return.



### ***For more information***

**outdoorswimmingsociety.com  
wildswimming.co.uk**

**Beyond the Beach: The Secret Wild Swims of Torbay is available in local bookstores in the area or via [www.secretwildswims.wordpress.com/shop](http://www.secretwildswims.wordpress.com/shop)**

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# Windsurfing and Kiteboarding

Kiteboarding, also known as kitesurfing, is an extreme sport and requires tuition and a good grasp of kite control on land before being attempted. Beginners training is available in the Bay and once the basics are mastered, you can expect to progress quickly with practice, more so than with surfing or windsurfing.

Along with windsurfing, specific wind direction and strength are desirable so it's often a waiting game. However, when conditions are right the rewards can be extremely exhilarating and 'airtime' is a regular feature for the more experienced. When the skies turn dark and the kites return to the beach, it's time for the windsurfers to pick up their smallest sails and head out. Setting out from Preston,

Paignton or Goodrington in a southwesterly wind offers good freestyle and speed sailing opportunities for windsurfers. With the wind turning easterly conditions for wave sailing improve.

## What you need

Both sports have a very broad range of equipment depending on the style you develop, the

prevailing conditions and level of experience. The learning curves are steep, so its best to hire or use club equipment to learn on.

## Where to go

Broadsands, Preston and Goodrington offer good opportunities for most styles of windsurfing and kiteboarding when the wind blows on shore.





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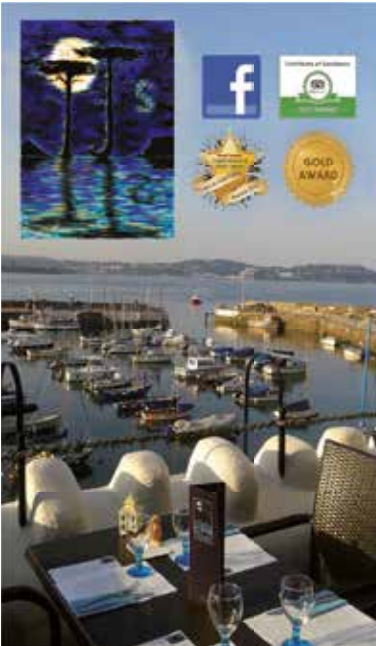
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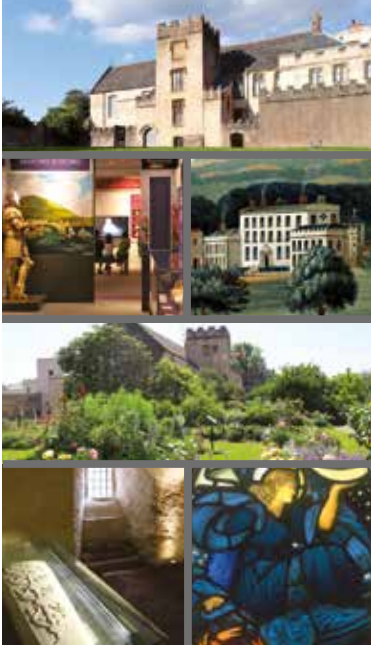
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# Natural Environment

## The Coral Coast

400 million years ago if you were standing on the end of Berry Head you would have been underwater. The sea above your head would have been warm and under your feet would have been a huge coral reef, stretching for miles around. Running down to the shores of this sea from the uplands of Dartmoor was a hot desert across which great tropical storms swept. Flash floods carved out the desert and carried huge amounts of rocky material down towards the sea, depositing it on a floodplain and in the sea itself.

These were the conditions in which Tor Bay was created. Reminders of this time can be found all around the bay; fossil burrows at Saltern Cove, a 400 million year old coral reef at Dyers Quarry; caves at Kents Cavern where you can see fossil bones of animals and early humans and over 34,000 specimens at Torquay Museum.

## The Green Blue

A joint environment programme created by the British Marine Federation and the Royal Yachting Association (RYA) for people who enjoy getting out on the water or whose livelihood depends on it. The programme helps boat users, boating businesses, sailing clubs and training centres to reduce their impact on coastal and inland waters. This involves practical projects, scientific research and the dissemination of some sound practical advice.

The focus is concentrated on six areas: Oil and Fuel, Cleaning and Maintenance, Anti-Fouling and Marine Paints, Waste Management, Resource Efficiency and the Effects on Wildlife. To find how you can help the local marine environment, visit: [www.thegreenblue.org.uk](http://www.thegreenblue.org.uk)



## SeaTorbay

SeaTorbay is a coastal management partnership – a large group of individuals and organisations with an interest in the marine environment are working together with a set of common goals – namely a sustainable marine environment and economy for Tor Bay.

There are four working groups representing Fishing, Leisure and Tourism, Conservation, and Community Engagement & Education. If you would like to be involved with any of the working groups or require further information please contact [info@seatorbay.gov.uk](mailto:info@seatorbay.gov.uk)



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# Conservation in Tor Bay

## Tor Bay's Seagrass Beds

The rare *Zostera Marina* seagrass is abundant in Tor Bay, accounting for 30% of Devon's seagrass beds.

Seagrasses are flowering plants that live in seawater.

The beds are important for the environment and marine life.

As seagrass flourishes in the shallows it is vulnerable to damage from certain marine activities, such as anchoring, speeding through shallows, and pollution. For further information and location of local seagrass beds, please observe beach information signs. A fact sheet is available from your local Harbour Office or online at [www.tor-bay-harbour.co.uk](http://www.tor-bay-harbour.co.uk) or also visit [www.seatorbay.org.uk](http://www.seatorbay.org.uk)

## Seabirds in Tor Bay

At Berry Head the South Coasts' largest colony of Guillemots can be seen from the headland. Cormorants and Shags are

common in the Bay along with a smaller Kittiwake community.

An area of coastal waters lying to the south of Berry Head headland has been designated as an area of special protection for the seabird colony. It is a statutory requirement that boats stay out of the area of special protection between the 25th March and 31st July to avoid disturbing the nesting seabirds. Feeding of seabirds is discouraged.

## Marine Life

Tor Bay's Geopark coast and mild climate gives rise to a diverse range of marine species. You may discover burrowing anemones, brittle starfish, peacocks tails and snakelock anemone. Rockpools are rich with shore crabs, pipefish, sea squirts, sea slugs and the ferocious velvet swimming crab. Seashore Code:

- Always check the tide times.
- Go in pairs and tell someone where you are going.



- Wear suitable clothing and be very careful under cliffs.
- Always treat the animals with respect – take photos not animals home with you.
- Take rubbish home with you.

## Marine Mammal Awareness

Please follow this code of conduct when watching marine mammals such as seals, dolphins, porpoises and basking sharks:

- Keep a safe distance of 100m away (200m if other boats are present).
- Do not scare dolphins by driving erratically head on to them. Never move between, scatter or separate dolphins.
- Keep your speed below 5 knots.
- Keep away if there are lots of boats in the area already.
- Please spend no longer than 15 minutes near dolphins – they need a rest.
- Under the 1981 Wildlife and Countryside Act, it is an offence to disturb or endanger dolphins, porpoises and basking sharks.





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