

Brighton & Hove

Turn your Rugby World Cup trip to Brighton & Hove into a south coast seaside break packed with beach fun, boutique shopping and family entertainment.

Vibrant Brighton <http://www.visitbrighton.com/> is just 50 miles south of London. This laid-back beachside destination sits on the edge of East Sussex and the undulating chalk South Downs. Head to the beachfront for fresh air, fish and chips and traditional seaside entertainment, and explore Brighton's bohemian charms in The Lanes' warren of alleys, the Artists' Quarter and the quirky fashion hub, North Laine.

Don't miss

A visit to Brighton isn't complete without experiencing the traditional seaside delights of the quintessentially English **Brighton Pier** <http://www.brightonpier.co.uk>, with its old school dodgems, helter skelter and carousel – not to mention clouds of pink candyfloss and sticks of colourful Brighton rock. For a gull's eye view of this glistening stretch of south coast there's the **Brighton Wheel** <http://www.brightonwheel.com>. The opulent Regency era is conjured by the iconic onion-domes of the Royal Pavillion <http://www.brighton-hove-rpml.org.uk/RoyalPavilion/Pages/home.aspx>, and football fans can get their fix at the new **American Express Community Football Stadium** <http://www.amexstadium.co.uk/>, home of Brighton & Hove Albion Football Club.

Great for families

Kids love spotting colourful reef fish, tropical sharks and the resident giant turtle through the glass-bottomed boat at **Sea Life Brighton** <http://www.visitsealife.com> on Marine Parade. For some hand-on crafts, head just behind the seafront to the bohemian North Laine and design ceramics over tea and cake at the **Painting Pottery Cafe** <http://www.paintingpotterycafe.co.uk>.

Go shopping

It's easy to lose yourself amid the quaint, winding alleyways of the **Brighton Lanes** <http://www.visitbrighton.com/shopping/the-lanes>, browsing hip boutiques brimming with vintage clothing, sparkling jewellery and all manner of kitsch and quirky goodies. For a more mainstream shop, there are over 90 well-known brands under one roof at **Churchill Square** <http://www.churchillsquare.com/> mall or head to the **North Laine** <http://www.northlaine.co.uk/> for colourful shops and independent traders.

Explore the area

Budding horticulturalists can spend hours admiring the blooms of azaleas and roses in the manicured 17-acre gardens at **Borde Hill** <http://www.bordehill.co.uk> Tudor mansion, just north of Brighton. Woolly animal friends are just a 45-minute drive away at **Ashdown Forest Llama Park** <http://www.llamapark.co.uk>, where friendly llamas roam the park, sharing it with a herd of reindeer.

Get active

The breezy Brighton coast is the perfect place to try watersports such as wakeboarding, powerboating and windsurfing – experienced instructors can be found at **Lagoon Watersports** <http://www.lagoon.co.uk/>. Inland, there's the rolling greenery of the South Downs National Park, to be explored by mountain bike, on foot or even by kayak on a **So Sussex** <http://www.sosussex.co.uk/> organised activity tour.

Did you know?

Abba won the Eurovision Song Contest with *Waterloo* at the Brighton Dome in 1974.

Where to stay

- Budget: Paskins Town House <http://www.paskins.co.uk/>
- Moderate: Sea Spray boutique hotel <http://www.seaspraybrighton.co.uk/>
- Luxury: The Grand Brighton <http://www.devere-hotels.co.uk/hotel-lodges/locations/the-grand.html>
- Accessible: Hilton Brighton Metropole Hotel <http://www3.hilton.com/en/hotels/united-kingdom/hilton-brighton-metropole-hotel-BSHMETW/index.html>

Where to eat

- Budget: Northern Lights <http://www.northernlightsbrighton.co.uk/>
- Moderate: Sam's of Brighton <http://www.samsobrighton.co.uk/>
- Luxury: English's of Brighton <http://www.englishs.co.uk>
- Accessible: The House Restaurant <http://www.thehouserestaurant.co.uk/index.php>

Events

Try to coincide your trip to Brighton with one of these great events.

- Brighton Comedy Festival: <http://www.brightoncomedyfestival.com/>
- More TBC

Getting there and around

- Air: The nearest major airport is London Gatwick Airport <http://www.gatwickairport.com>. Regular trains services take 30 minutes to the city centre.
- Rail: Brighton Station is one hour from London Victoria Station.
- Road: Brighton is at the end of the A23/M23

Find more inspiration for your trip to England at www.visitengland.com