



Tour Information



Agatha Christie on the English Riviera





The tour commences and concludes at **The Grand Hotel, Torquay.**

Sea Front

Torbay Road

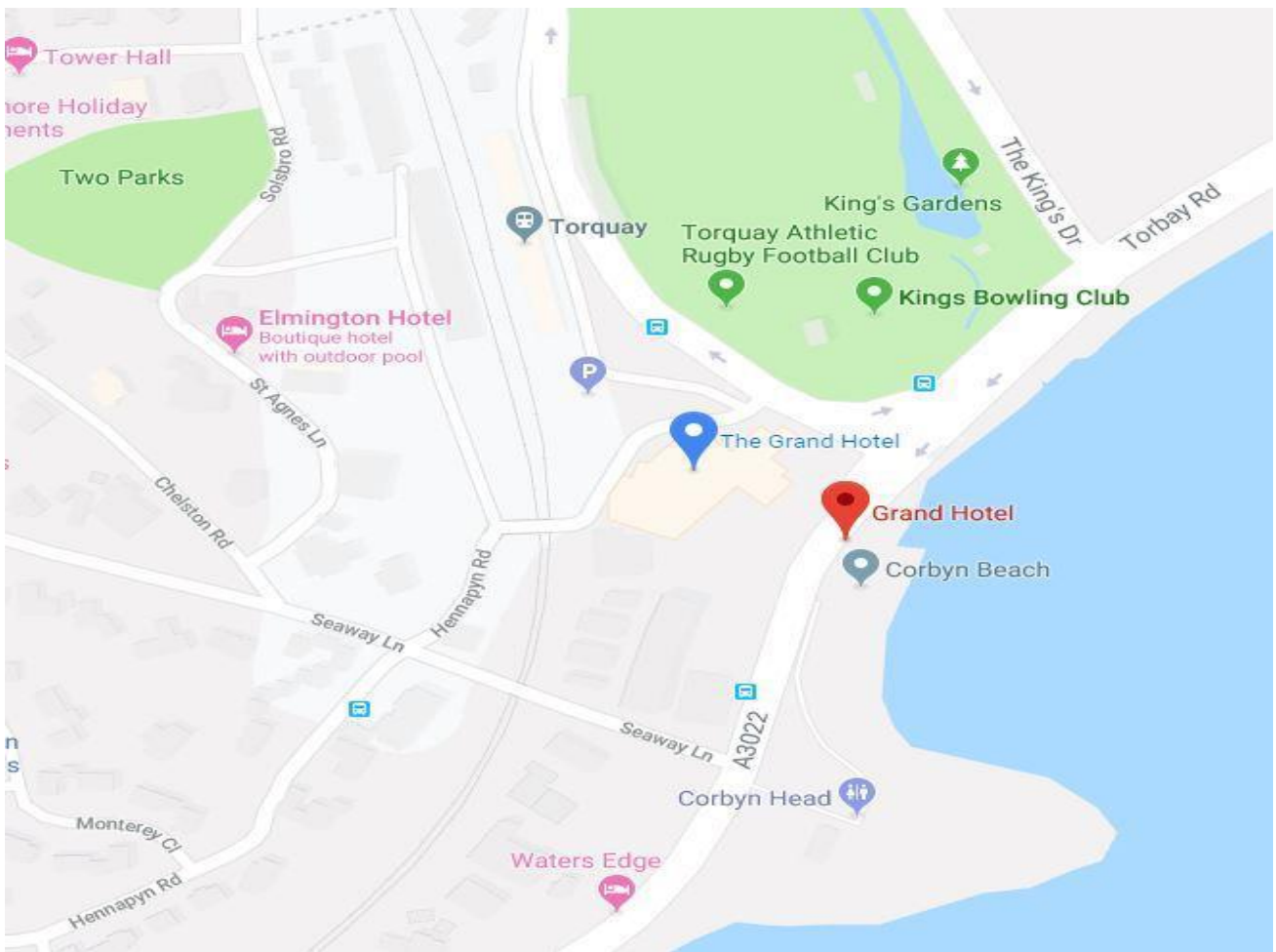
Torquay

TQ2 6NT

Tel: 01803 296677

Transport

Please note that transport to the hotel is not included in the price of the tour.



If you are travelling by car:

From the M5:

From the M5, take the Devon Expressway A38 towards Torquay and continue on to the A380. Follow the A3022 and turn left onto Hamelin Way, then right onto Riviera Way. Continue to follow the A3032 onto Avenue Road, then Torbay Road and turn right onto Rathmore Road, after 250 yards turn left and your destination will be in the left.

If you are travelling by train:

The closest railway station is Torquay which is approximately 3 minutes' walk from the hotel.

Accommodation

The Grand Hotel, Torquay

The Grand Hotel first opened in Torquay in 1881 in response to the Great Western Railway's expansion into the South West. The Grand has a unique association with the much-loved author, Agatha Christie, and is the place where she spent her honeymoon in 1914. The hotel has 2 restaurants, the AA rosette-rated Restaurant 1881 and Sea View Brasserie. Overlooking one of the finest bays, this elegant Victorian hotel offers 132 individually styled bedrooms, period embellishments and contemporary styling. The hotel features an indoor and outdoor pool, fitness centre with gym, free Wi-fi, spa and sauna and a sun terrace overlooking the beach. Each of the comfortable bedrooms has a TV, safe, tea and coffee making facilities, telephone and complimentary toiletries.

There are a few limited on street parking spaces outside the hotel but these are based on a first come first served basis and cannot be reserved.

Parking is available at the hotel garage or the rugby club car park (located 0.1 miles from the hotel). Please note that the car parks are chargeable and can be paid at the machines or via a parking app from your phone.

Please note that the main entrance to the hotel can be found towards the rear of the building, away from the promenade.

More information can be found via the hotel's website:

<https://www.grandtorquay.co.uk/>

Check-in and departure from the hotel

On the day of arrival, you will be able to check-in at the hotel from 15.00, and the tour manager will meet you in the evening at the welcome reception.

On the last day, the tour will not finish until approximately 17.00 so you should check with your tour manager, or the hotel reception, where luggage should be stored until your departure.

Extra nights

If you have booked to stay an extra night at the hotel, this is on bed and breakfast basis and check out from the hotel is at 11.00.

Dining

On the first and second night, a private 3-course dinner with wine is served and a 2-course lunch with wine is included whilst on Burgh Island – all are included in the price of the tour. Breakfast on all days of your stay is included in the price but meals other than these stated are not included.

Special requests

If you haven't already done so, please notify Travel Editions of any special requests as soon as possible to allow sufficient time to make the necessary arrangements.



Places Visited

Burgh Island

Burgh Island is an iconic South Devon landmark, located directly opposite Bigbury on Sea beach. The island is accessible at low tide by a strip of sand which at high tide is completely covered, leaving a ride on the unique sea tractor as the only means of access. As well as the sea tractor the island is famed for its links to Agatha Christie, the art-deco inspired Burgh Island Hotel and as well as a onetime haunt for pirates and smugglers. The tidal passageway that separates the mainland from Burgh Island is a beautiful sandy beach and a walk around the island will let you explore the remains of the chapel or discover an abundance of wildlife that lives on its shores.

Crossing to Burgh Island:

This is subject to weather conditions allowing the operation of the sea tractor. At low tide it is also possible to walk the short distance across the sands to Burgh Island, so we recommend that you bring suitable footwear for walking across the bay (approx. 500 meters). Should it not be possible to reach the island an alternative lunch on the mainland will be arranged (subject to availability). In this instance a partial refund only of the cost of the lunch on Burgh Island will be made.

<https://www.visitsouthdevon.co.uk/things-to-do/burgh-island-p1541123>

Torquay

Torquay, situated on the English Channel in Devon, southwest England, its coastline is nicknamed the English Riviera due to the mild climate. Torquay Harbour near the town centre offers shops, cafes and a marina. Torre Abbey, a monastery founded in 1196, has art galleries and extensive gardens featuring plants from local writer Agatha Christie's novels.

Torre Abbey

Torre Abbey is an archaeological site of national importance. Founded in 1196, it became the wealthiest English monastery of the order of Premonstratensian canons. The extent of its survival makes Torre Abbey the best-preserved medieval abbey in Devon and Cornwall. After King Henry VIII closed the monastery in 1539, two of its former ranges were adapted for use as a private house. From 1662, this house became the home of the Cary family, who lived here for nearly 300 years. Today the abbey provides an ideal setting for Torbay's collection of paintings and antiques including a permanent collection featuring works by William Holman Hunt, William Blake and Sir Edward Coley Burne-Jones. The award-winning gardens are the pride of Torbay and a real oasis of calm away from the busy seafront. With a wealth of exotic and exciting plants, the gardens are a tranquil haven of beauty and pleasure and the perfect setting in which to relax, stroll or picnic. Exuberant plantings of herbaceous perennials, roses and dahlias sit in the formal 19th century landscape around the abbey ruins.

<https://www.torre-abbey.org.uk/>

Greenway

This relaxed and atmospheric house is set in the 1950s, when Agatha and her family would spend summers and Christmases here with friends, relaxing by the river, playing croquet and clock golf, and reading her latest mystery to their guests. The family were great collectors, and the house is filled with archaeology, Tunbridgeware, silver, botanical china and books. In the garden a large and romantic woodland drifts down the hillside towards the sparkling Dart estuary. The walled gardens are home to a restored peach house and vinery, as well as an allotment cared for by local school children. A visit to Greenway isn't complete without seeing the Boathouse, scene of the crime in 'Dead Man's Folly', and the battery complete with cannon.

Greenway has been accredited by the International Camellia Society as a 'Garden of Excellence.' It is the first National Trust Garden with this accreditation, and one of just seven gardens in the UK to be recognised as a 'Garden of Excellence' by the International Camellia Society.

<https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/greenway>

Your Guide

Jane Tapley will be your guide during the trip. Jane has been a Blue Badge Guide for over thirty years and regularly accompanies groups of all kinds from students to senior citizens around Bath and the West Country.

In addition, she has worked as an adviser and guide for several TV companies in Bath when they have been filming period dramas.

Jane will give a lecture during the tour:

'Agatha Christie – Queen of Crime'

Practical Information

Tour manager - Your tour manager will be on hand throughout the tour to ensure that everything operates according to plan. If you have any problems or questions, please see him or her immediately – it is often possible to resolve complaints or problems very quickly on the spot and do everything to help you enjoy your holiday.

Tipping –To keep our tours affordable, we do not increase the tour price by adding in tips. However, in the tourism industry, there is a certain level of expectation that when receiving a good service, one does award with a tip. Tour Managers, Representatives, Guides and Drivers appreciate a tip at the end of their involvement with the tour, but this is entirely at your discretion. We believe in allowing you to tip according to your level of satisfaction with their services.

Grading – This tour has been graded as **Moderate**: Walking between sites, lots of standing for viewing.

Insurance

Although this is a UK holiday, please note that, should you cancel your holiday, the amount paid is non-refundable. For this reason, you may wish to take out insurance just in case an unforeseen event caused you to have to cancel the tour. As well as covering cancellations, your travel insurance will also cover your baggage and personal belongings in case they are lost or stolen.

Emergencies

Should an emergency arise, please call our offices on:

020 7251 0045

Outside office hours (Mon-Fri 0900-1700), telephone our emergency staff on:

07841 023807 or 07831 133079

PLEASE USE THESE NUMBERS ONLY IN THE EVENT OF A GENUINE EMERGENCY.

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