



Excursions & Tours

Torbay is lucky to have the coast on one side and stunning countryside on the other. For centuries, life in the Westcountry revolved around fishing and farming, and the lasting remains are picturesque villages and towns clinging to the coast or nestling in valleys. But it's not all rural idyll: the south west also has major towns and cities which are full of things to see and do, as well as world-class attractions, both ancient and modern.

Devon has a thousand miles of road crammed into the county, but the roads are often very narrow and, although urban areas have good bus networks and are

well connected by trains and coaches, away from the town's public transport is often poor.

That's why LAL Torbay has a great range of excursions to help you see as much of the area as possible during your stay here. Each week a new programme sets out the options for the next seven days, with tours ranging from historic houses to local pubs. Excursions start at £10, and can be booked at the dedicated counter in the main Reception. Book as early as possible to avoid disappointment in busy periods!



Cathedral	Café
Wildlife	Local crafts
Castle	Industrial site
Church	Views
Farm	Walk
Gardens	Guided walk
Historic house	Site of battle
Cave	Beach
Landscape	Funfair
Live music	Museum
Prehistoric site	Historic railway
Roman site	Other attraction
Pub	Vineyard
Good food	Literary connection
Shopping	



Above: Dartmouth. Top right: Bath.
Below: Battlefield live.

The following pages contain a useful guide to the places we visit regularly on our excursions programmes.

Bath and Wells

Full Day

This is a trip to the famous Roman city of Bath, stopping on the way at England's smallest city, Wells.

In Wells your guide will take you to the beautiful cathedral and tell you about this unique city.

In Bath you will go on a tour of the city. During this time your guide will show you some of the wonderful and well-preserved attractions this city has to offer.

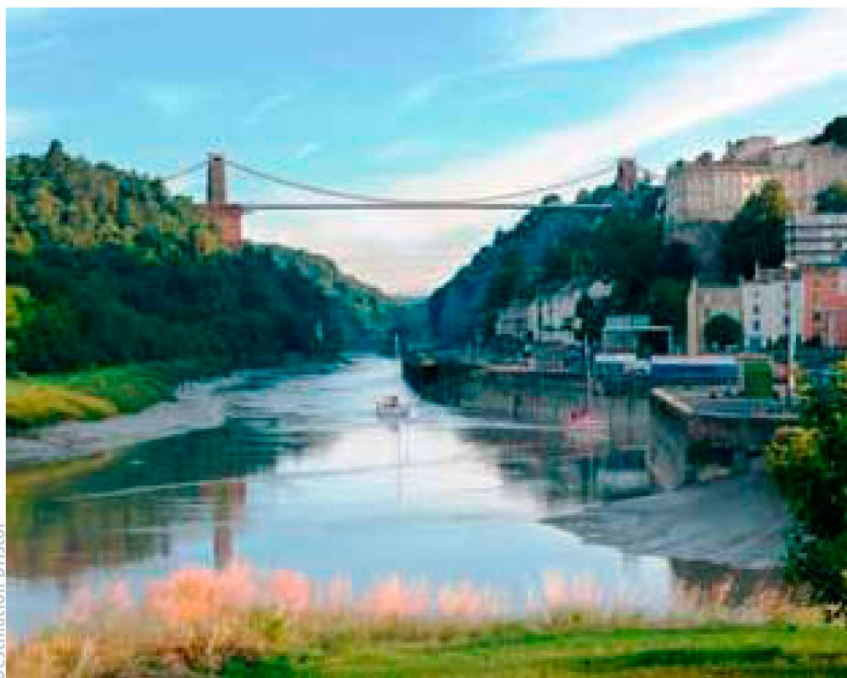


After this you will have time to explore the city, to visit any attractions you may want to, or spend some time shopping.

Battlefield Live

Half Day

This great infra red paintball-style game is 2 hours of fun and games set over a brilliant and authentic three acre battlefield. It is similar to paintball but without any of the pain. You will have a full briefing before you start



Top: Brunel's suspension bridge at Bristol. Above left: Bays Beer. Above right: Birmingham.



and each 10 – 20 minute game will be explained and supervised by very experienced marshals.

Overalls are provided to keep you from getting muddy, but make sure you wear full length trousers and flat shoes.

Bays Brewery

Half Day

Bays have become one of the most celebrated breweries in Devon for their distinctive ales and traditional ciders.

On this tour you will see everything that goes into the production of these fine products, and you will also

have the chance to sample a couple of the drinks Bays has to offer.

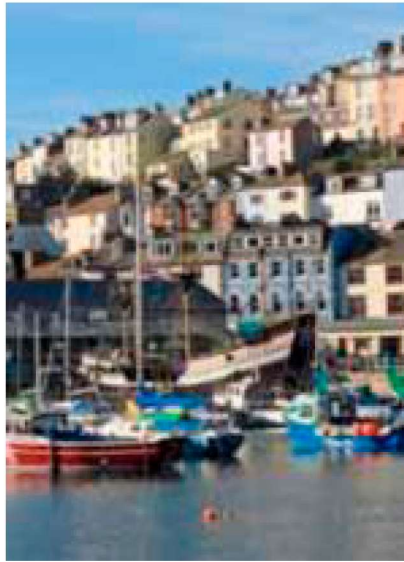
Birmingham

Full Day

Birmingham is generally regarded as England's second city and as such has a rich and diverse history.

During our visit we will focus on the history that made Birmingham the thriving city it is today, from the businesses that shaped the city to the current times which has seen Birmingham nominated as a city of culture for 2013.

After a tour with your guide you will have some time to explore the city.



Bristol

Full Day 🚶🛒☕

Visit the largest city in the west of England. Bristol is a modern and vibrant city with an interesting history.

Your guide will take you on a tour of the city showing you the many attractions and the history this city has. It will also include time for you to explore the city and modern shopping centres.

Brixham

Half Day 🚶🦢🚶🛒☕

Visit Brixham, the smallest town in Torbay, along with a stop off at the natural beauty of Berry Head Country Park and Nature Reserve.

At Berry Head your guide will walk you around the cliff top showing you some breathtaking views of Torbay.

Brixham is a picturesque port, famous for its fish market and harbour, and is a popular destination within Torbay. During your visit your guide will tell you about the history of Brixham as well as what happens there today.

Left: Brixham. Below: Totnes.
Bottom: Coast at Tintagel.



Maniple

Boscastle and Tintagel

Full Day 🚶🏰🚶🦢🚶☕

Take a trip to one of the most beautiful and rugged parts of North Cornwall's Atlantic coastline.

Your day will start with a visit to Boscastle, where you can explore this picturesque village and maybe visit the Witchcraft Museum.

Then, as long as the weather allows, your guide will give you the option of a 2-3 hour walk along the coast path to Tintagel. For people who would prefer a shorter walk, your guide will drive you back to Rocky Valley, half way between Tintagel and Boscastle, where you can join the coast path.

At Tintagel you hear all about the legend of King Arthur and will have a chance to visit the ruins of the castle down by the sea, the Old Post Office or the wonderful Great Halls.



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Top: Cardiff. Above: part of Castle Drogo.

Castle Drogo

Half Day 🏰 🚶 🚗

Visit the last castle to be built in England. Castle Drogo has the appearance of a mediaeval fortress but because it was built between 1910 and 1920 has the modern comforts of a 20th century property.

Travel through time as you explore the castle, from the Norman-themed library, to the 'Georgian' drawing room complete with intricate Venetian chandeliers. Look out for the electric table cloth in the Jacobean-styled dining room.

Cardiff

Full Day 🏰 🏰 🏰 🛍️ 🚶

On our way to Cardiff, the capital city of Wales, you will cross over the River Severn and enjoy some spectacular views down the Bristol Channel.

Your guide will first take you on a tour of the historic City, after which there will be time in the city centre to explore the various attractions and shopping areas that Cardiff has to offer.

The centre of the city houses its main attractions, including the famous and well preserved St David's Castle and, unusually, some very historic loos.

Castles of South Devon

Half Day 🏰 🚶 🏰 🏰

Visit three of the best known castles in South Devon.

First we visit the ruined castle at Berry Pomeroy. It is set in beautiful woodlands but beware: it is the most haunted castle in England!

After this we will go to the ruins of Totnes castle, which



Left: Dartmouth Castle Below: coast near Torbay. Bottom: Cockington village.



stands high above the town as a mighty legacy to the power of the Norman era.

The third castle in this tour will be the magnificent 600-year old Dartmouth Castle. It was built on the bank of the river Dart in the perfect position to defend the wealthy merchant port.

At each stop you will hear about the history of these unique castles.

Coast Drive

Half Day 🚗 🍷 🦢 ☕ 🌸

Take a drive along the beautiful South Devon coastline. First we go through Torquay to the popular Victorian seaside town of Teignmouth where you will have time to take a look around this traditional British holiday destination.

We then move further along the coast to the town of Dawlish, famous for being Sir Winston Churchill's regular and favourite holiday retreat and for the black swans that live freely on the river that runs through the town to the sea.

Cockington and Torquay

Half Day 🚗 ☕ 🌸 🛒

First we visit the village of Cockington, a unique village with traditional thatched cottages, tearooms and the old blacksmith's shop.

Your guide will take you around the beautiful gardens, set in the grounds of the Great Hall, where you will be shown the wonderful array of trees and plants along with the fishing lakes and wildlife.

After this there will be time to visit the Hall itself, which now houses craft shops, glass and basket making displays, a rose garden and various exhibitions.

We will then move on to Torquay town and harbour for a chance to explore the town.

Coleton Fishacre House and Gardens

Half Day   

A short drive will bring us to the National Trust property of Coleton Fishacre.

It was designed in 1925 for Rupert and Lady Dorothy D'Oyly Carte.

The elegant art deco interior and spectacular gardens include a wide range of rare and exotic plants.

You will be given a tour of the house followed by a walk through the gardens with your Guide.

Dartington Hall and Highcross House

Half Day    

Dartington is a beautiful estate just outside Totnes. It was originally built as a medieval playground, but in the 1970s Dartington became famous for glass and pottery which is still collected throughout the world. As well as the Hall and gardens, there are a selection of shops.

This will be followed by a visit to Highcross House, which was at the forefront of 1930s design.

Dartmoor National Park

Dartmoor is a wild area of Devon which is famous for its landscape and heritage. Heather-covered moor, tree-filled valleys, waterfalls, a patchwork of fields and huge rock tors surround market towns and villages. Nearly half of Dartmoor's 368 square miles (942 square km) is open moorland, home to a unique breed of horse, the Dartmoor Pony. There are more archaeological sites, including standing stones, ancient settlements and tombs, than anywhere else in northern Europe. You can also find more modern features hidden under rocks in the form of 'letterboxes', which have visitors' books to sign and stamps to collect.

LAL runs tours all year round. Please wear stout, comfortable shoes for these tours.

Dartmoor

Half Day    

Take a trip to Dartmoor National Park and sample its tors, history, culture & legends. We will also visit the picturesque village of Widecombe in the Moor and the grave of Kitty Jay.

Dartmoor by Dusk

Evening (Summer only)



This evening drive to Dartmoor will give you a different perspective of the National Park. Your Guide will take you on a drive on to the moor and then head up to Hay Tor, where we will park the bus and take a walk. We will then finish with a visit to traditional pub.



Top: Dartington Hall. Bottom: ferry to Dartmouth.



Dartmouth

Half Day 🌸 🏰 🛒 🌅 ☕

A scenic drive brings us to the beautiful town of Dartmouth at the estuary of the River Dart.

Your guide will take you on a tour of the town showing you Bayard's Cove, the Butterwalk and the Royal Avenue Gardens.

After some time to explore, you will meet your guide to cross the river to Kingswear by ferry.



Dartmoor Highlights

Extended Half Day



On this extended visit to Dartmoor National Park the places you visit will include Princetown, which is the largest town on the moor and also home to the notorious Dartmoor Prison, Buckfast Abbey, one of England's finest Benedictine abbeys and situated right on the edge of the moor, and the famous clapper bridge, Dartmeet, where the East and West Dart rivers join.

There will also be time to eat out at a traditional Dartmoor pub.



From the top: the Eden Project; ancient and modern in Exeter.

British seaside town of Seaton, with its beach, shops and miniature Tramway.

Eden Project

Full Day 🌸 🐦 🌅

Visit one of Britain's top attractions the Eden Project. The huge 'biomes' are effectively Britain's largest greenhouses with plants from all over the world, including huge rainforest trees in a tropical environment. It also features crops, landscapes and wild plants which reflect the amazing diversity of our planet.

Exeter

Half Day 🏠 🛒 🏰 ☕

This beautiful city is steeped in history that dates back to the Roman times, when it became the furthest Roman settlement in the west of England. It has one of the finest cathedrals in England, which was begun in the 11th Century and completed in the 16th Century.

The city has some of England's finest Tudor

East Devon

Half Day 📖 🐦 ☕ 🌅

Our first port of call will be the award-winning Darts Farm, suppliers of some of England's finest home produced food, wines, ciders, liqueurs & local products.

A short drive through the beautiful Axe Valley then brings us into the typically



From the top: The beach at Seaton; spring flowers in Greenway Gardens; fossil hunters flock to the Jurassic Coast.



Architecture. Your Guide will take you on an historic walk around the centre pointing out highlights such as Sir Francis Drake's favourite Inn, the old Guildhall and Court House and Rougemont Castle.

After a tour with your guide, there will be time to sample the large variety of shops in the city centre.

Greenway Gardens

Half Day 🌸🔪

A short but scenic drive down to the edge of the River Dart will bring us to the magnificent former home of crime writer, Agatha Christie. The house is open to view and your guide will take you for a leisurely stroll around the extensive garden.

Jurassic Coast

Half Day 📖🌿👤

This tour includes the trip along the Jurassic coast to the historic town of Lyme Regis.

On this tour you will have some amazing photographic opportunities while viewing



Makio Kusahara



Karolina Przybysz

the spectacular scenery that the area has to offer. When you arrive at Lyme Regis your guide will tell you about the links to Thomas Hardy and other pillars of the English literary past.

You will also have the chance to visit Lyme Bay winery, where they make many traditional fruit wines and ciders as well as many other locally produced products.



Jazz Night

Evening 📺 🎵

See *Pub Tours*

Kents Cavern with a taste of Devon

Half Day 🍷 🍷

Take a fascinating tour of the oldest caves in Europe and one of Torbay's top visitor attractions. The tour of the caves will be fully escorted by one of Kent's Cavern's professional Guides.

You will see the natural formations of the caves as well as many items that have been discovered over years of excavation. These include human and animal skulls dating as far back as the last ice age, and a 450,000 year old flint hand axe.

After the tour there will be time to look around their visitors' centre and then try a traditional cream tea in the Red Rock Café.

Kents Cavern Ghost Tour

Evening 🍷 ★

This fascinating evening tour will be an experience you will not forget. Dare you enter the caves at night and experience the Kents Cavern Ghost Show? This is scary and not recommended for the fainthearted or people of a nervous disposition!



Land's End and St Ives

Full Day 📺 🍷 🍷 🍷 🚶

On this full day tour you will travel down to the far west of England to Land's End. During the journey your guide will tell you about the people and culture of England's most beautiful county. On the way we will visit Marazion to see St Michael's Mount and perhaps walk out to it if the tide is out.

The next stop will be Sennen Cove for its stunning views and, if the weather allows it, a coastal walk from here to Land's End.

Land's End, the most westerly point of both Cornwall and England, has spectacular views and interesting local attractions.

The final stop is at the picturesque town of St Ives on the Atlantic Coast. This is famous for its slate roof houses, the Tate Gallery and artists who work around the harbour, enjoying the special quality of the town's daylight.



Living Coasts

Half Day 🚗

Living coast is the seaside conservation side of Paignton Zoo. They have one of the largest breeding colonies of penguins in the UK and operate a fun and educational approach to conservation.

You will find out about the lifestyles of the animals and have the chance to interact with the penguins as they are cared for in an open environment.

Looe and Polperro

Full Day 🚗 🍷 🌅 🚶

Taking in the stunning south Cornish coast, this tour will take you over the River Tamar from Devon into

Top left: Kents Cavern. Bottom Left: Living Coasts. Top right: St Ives. Above: Polperro.

Cornwall and then along the coastal town of Looe.

Here you will have a chance to explore the narrow streets, visit the fishing port, and maybe enjoy the sandy beach or a stroll along the river Looe. The town also boasts many good restaurants, pubs and cafes to enjoy some local food and drink including the famous Cornish Pasties.

We will then take a short drive along the coast to the old fishing port of Polperro. Here you will be able to enjoy the peaceful surroundings of this beautiful village.



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Left, from top: Lost Gardens of Heligan; Nature boat cruise. Top right: Raddiffe Camera at Oxford. Right: Paignton Zoo.

Lost Gardens of Heligan and Mevagissey

Full Day 🌿 🦆 🌅

Visit one of the most popular botanical gardens in the UK. Here you have a guided tour around these unique gardens, which were rediscovered in 1990. After this there will be a short stop in the typical Cornish fishing village of Mevagissey.

Mystery Pub Tour

Evening 🍷

See [Pub Tours](#)

Nature Boat Cruise

Evening 🦆 🍷 🌅

The nature boat cruise offers a unique insight into the wildlife and geology of the beautiful coastline of Torbay.

The tour starts from Paignton harbour where you will be introduced to your experienced captain as he takes you on this exciting and informative voyage.

Your captain will try and show you the varied wildlife on offer including dolphins and seals. The boat offers a fully stocked bar and a friendly and relaxed atmosphere to enjoy the tour while watching the beautiful scenery float by.

Oxford

Full Day 🏠 🚶

Oxford is known worldwide for its university; this is the oldest one in the English speaking world. The city benefits from having one of the most diverse education opportunities in the country. Because of this the area has a unique feel, with things happening at every turn. The history on offer has to be seen to be believed.

Alan Rainbow



ERTC / Ray Wiltshire



Our tour of the city begins with Oxford Castle, which has been everything from a place of power, a prison, up to the modern day when it is a museum and restaurant complex. Your guide will explain the importance of the city throughout the centuries and how it developed into the educational centre it is today. From here you will be taken through the narrow walkways of the old city where you will learn about the diverse learning opportunities the city has to offer, while soaking in the glorious old architecture of the area. You will learn the extraordinary history of the Bodleian library and how it links back to Devon and the town of Totnes.

After the tour you will have time to explore and experience the many varied cafes and restaurants, as well as the incredible range of independent shops that Oxford has to offer.

Paignton Zoo

Half Day 

Paignton Zoo is the third largest zoo in the UK and as such offers a unique view into the conservation efforts to protect many endangered species.

This tour includes the admission to the zoo and you will be able to explore the wide and varied range of animals that the zoo has to offer.



Pub Tours

The pub is a great British institution. Pubs started life when the Romans arrived, and spread until nearly every town and village had its own alehouse. Pubs are not just places for drinking; they are often at the very heart of communities as social centres where people can get together to relax. Whole families will go to pubs for a meal and a drink, and friends will often meet up in pubs for a chat or game of darts.

A good pub will have plenty of traditional British drinks such as hand-pumped pints of real ale and local cider, served in a lively bar with a friendly atmosphere and a blazing log fire.

Jazz Night Evening 🎷🎵

The Jazz night provides a unique experience, not only for those lovers of Jazz but also to those who wish to soak in the atmosphere of a very quirky environment.

The tour includes two pubs. The first is hidden along the South-Devon coast and offers a range of traditional ales, beers, and ciders many of which are brewed in the local area. This is a lovely place to start your night as it offers a very relaxed atmosphere and gives you the chance to unwind with a

drink, while getting to know the other students.

From here we head to The Crown and Sceptre, one of the most celebrated pubs for traditional jazz music and its wide range of award winning beer. You will be given a warm welcome by the experienced staff who are on hand to explain the beer on offer.

Every week the bands change but you can always be sure that they will be of a high calibre and will make you appreciate the art of the jazz musician even more.



Country Pub Tour Evening 📅

The country pub tour is a fantastic way to explore the countryside while enjoying the atmosphere of a traditional English pub.

On our tour, we will take you to two very different pubs. Our guide will join you every step of the way regaling you with stories and tales from the ancient history of the establishments you will visit and provide you with the knowledge to choose the right drink for you.

The tour will take you deep into the Devon countryside, where you will arrive at your first pub in the beautiful village of Stoke Gabriel. At this location our guide will take you into the mediaeval graveyard that is situated very close to the first pub, where you will be told stories of the history, superstitions and folklore surrounding the area. It is now time to sample the delights of locally produced ales and ciders; our guide is on hand to provide advice and

suggestions to help you find your choice of tipple.

From here our next destination is the wonderful Churston Court, this traditional manor house became a coaching inn during the 19th century and has been entertaining and enthralling guests ever since.

Mystery Pub Tour Evening 📅

The mystery pub tour is a wonderful experience and one that changes each time you take it, because the only person who knows where you will be going is our guide.

It could be anything from sipping beer while looking over the River Dart or maybe a visit to a Traditional cider bar.

Our guide will try and provide you with a night of fun and will tailor the experience to the needs and desires of the students.



Above: Smeaton's Tower - the old Eddystone Lighthouse - at Plymouth. Right: Stonehenge.



Plymouth

Half Day 🚶🛒☕

In Plymouth your guide will start a tour in the Barbican and old Sutton Harbour area where you will get a taste of a time when Plymouth was one of the largest and most important sea ports in England. Included in this we will show you where the first European settlers of America finally set sail on their epic journey across the sea in 1620.

We will then continue around to Plymouth Hoe where we can enjoy some splendid views across Plymouth Sound and out to sea. Your guide will tell you about Sir Frances Drake's epic battle with the Spanish in 1588.

After this there will be time in the city centre for shopping or to explore more attractions.

South Hams

Half Day 📖🌅🍷

We will start by taking a short journey to Kingswear, where we cross the River Dart by ferry taking us from Torbay into Dartmouth and the South Hams. We then head along the coast to one of England's finest beaches at Blackpool Sands.

After this we continue further along the picturesque coastline to reach Slapton Sands, one of the largest training sites for British and allied troops in preparation for the historical D-Day Landings that took place in June 1944.

Stonehenge and Salisbury

Full Day 🏠🏰🛒

Visit one of Great Britain's most famous landmarks set in the heart of the Wiltshire countryside and now a World Heritage Site. Described as one of the wonders of the world it is believed to have been constructed between 2400



Top: Salisbury. Middle: South Hams. Bottom: Slapton.



SXC/ happy14



and 2200 BC. To this day it is still interesting and mysterious. It has been said that the stones contain many kinds of mythical and magic powers that have attracted many people and religious sects over the years.

We will travel to the city of Salisbury in Wiltshire. Here your guide will point out many of this beautiful and picturesque city's landmarks including the famous Cathedral.





Alan Mort

Top: Totnes. Above: Wookey Hole.

Totnes

Half Day 🏰 🚶 🛒 ☕ 🍴

Totnes is a unique town steeped in history. It has remains of Norman and Saxon settlements and legend says that it was the site where the first people arrived in Britain.

In more recent history Totnes became one of the first 'alternative' communities in the country.

Modern Totnes is at the forefront of 'new age' therapy and as such is a focal point for those who wish to live a slightly alternative way of life.

Your guide will take you on a tour of the town to show you the historical landmarks and then give you time to explore this interesting town.

Wookey Hole and Weston-Super-Mare

Full Day 🏰 🚶 🛒 ☕ 🍴

Wookey Hole has some of Britain's most spectacular caves and is the home of the infamous Witch of Wookey. The earliest men lived in this valley 50,000 years ago, hunting bear and rhinoceros with stone weapons.

At Wookey Hole you can wander through the prehistoric Valley of the Dinosaurs featuring King Kong and relax in the magical fairy garden. The 19th Century Paper Mill has a variety of attractions including a Victorian Penny Arcade, Magical Mirror Maze, Hall of Crazy Mirrors and the Cave Museum

Then a stop off at Weston-super-Mare, one of Britain's most traditional seaside resorts, famous for a huge beach and donkey rides.