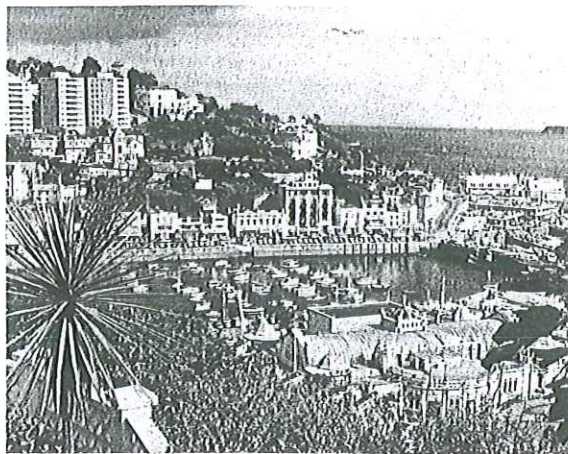


Along the coast 6

Torquay

Continuing our series on British seaside resorts, Kay Mellish visits the high spot of the 'English Riviera'.



Situated in the South West of England, between Exeter and Plymouth, Torquay is one of the most popular holiday resorts in Britain. It provides sophisticated entertainment, sports of every kind and cultural facilities, all set in a position of outstanding natural beauty. Visitors can choose between luxury hotels by the sea, with private suites, swimming pools and saunas, and comfortable but less expensive guest houses. There are camping sites, too, and hundreds of houses displaying 'B & B' signs.

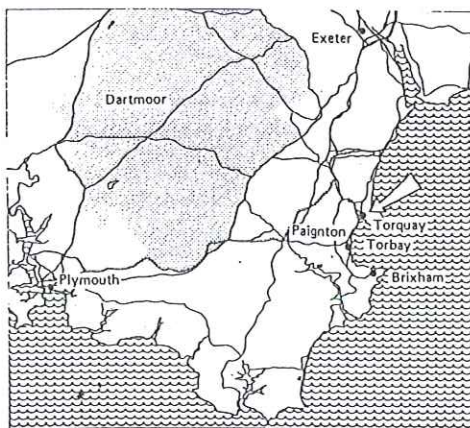
As well as a number of secluded coves (which are ideal for beach barbecues away from the crowds), Torquay has large sandy beaches where you can buy refreshments and hire deck chairs, boats and even beach huts. There are large areas of grassland overlooking the sea, and miles of winding cliff paths for walkers who just want to enjoy the scenery and what is often said to be the healthiest air in the country. For the sportsman there are opportunities not only for golf, tennis, squash and bowls, but also for water-skiing, hang-gliding and deep-sea fishing.

After a day in the open air, there's lots to do in the evenings, too. There are plenty of discos, the occasional opera or ballet, and summer variety shows in the seafront theatres. For the children, there is a beautiful model village with a complicated railway layout which is remarkably

realistic – especially when the lights are all on at night.

Of course, there's no need to spend your whole holiday in Torquay. Only a short drive away is Dartmoor National Park, where you can walk for miles through dramatic, unspoiled countryside, or picnic by beautiful rivers and streams. Or, nearer to home, you can sail across Tor Bay to the lovely old fishing village of Brixham.

Torquay seems to have something for everyone. But don't take my word for it – come and see for yourself.



1 Which of these pairs of adjectives best describes Torquay?

- a) sophisticated and expensive b) crowded and lively c) remote and beautiful

2 What information does the writer give about:

- a) accommodation in Torquay?
b) beaches around Torquay?
c) the cliffs around Torquay?
d) entertainment in Torquay?
e) the sea around Torquay?

3 If you *don't* like crowded places, where can you go?

- a) near Torquay?
b) further away from Torquay?

4 What is special about the model village?

5 Look at the photo. What is it a photo of, and what is there in it?

6 Imagine that you are visiting Torquay for *one* day only. What would you do there? What wouldn't you do? Why?