

Torquay, South Devon

A seaside town in need of regeneration



[http://www.ecampervanhire.com/wp-content 1](http://www.ecampervanhire.com/wp-content)



<https://www.instantstreetview.com/@50.46 1>

Torquay is a seaside town with a population of about **70,000 in South Devon**, which like many seaside towns, has become run-down in recent years. As shown by the pictures above, Torquay has much to offer, but also **areas of deprivation**.

Why is regeneration needed?

- **2013: 11.4% of businesses closed** and Torquay has a **71.4% employment rate**.
- Town centre: **201 crimes per 100 people**, which is 3x the Torquay average.
- **2004 – 2015: The multiple deprivation score increased by 14.**
- In the late 1990s and early 2000s, new pubs and night clubs opened around the harbour, leading to an increase in **binge drinking**. However, in recent years a **better police presence** has improved the situation.

Why and when did it decline?

- Torquay's economy was initially based on **fishing and agriculture**, but in the **early 19th century**, it began to develop into a **fashionable seaside resort**.
- When railways were built to Torquay in the **late 19th century**, **1902** saw its first marketing campaign to summer tourists.
- The advent of **cheaper foreign travel in the 1970's** triggered a **depleted economy**, low skills base and high levels of **family breakdown**. Many of the jobs in Torquay are **seasonal, and low-paying**.

Connectivity

- A new road was built, the **South Devon Link Road**, into Torquay. This project involved the construction of a **5.5km dual carriageway**, providing a faster route into Torbay.
- The scheme was awarded **£76.4 million toward the £110 million cost**. The rest was funded by local councils.
- The road removes **90% of congestion**.
- It is also to have said to bring **8000 jobs** to South Devon.
- For every **£1 invested in the road, there will be £9 in return** due to creating the right conditions for investment



Abbey sands building

- The former **Palm Court Hotel** was a derelict Victorian hotel in a prime spot on Torquay seafront. The empty hotel **burned down in 2012**.
- A new building, costing more than **£10 million** became a prestigious landmark building for Torbay.
- The scheme created a **mixed-use complex** comprising of bars and restaurants, holiday apartments and residential properties.
- The before and after images are shown below:



Before



After

<http://www.blandarch.com/wp-content/upl 1>

Promoting the cultural assets of the area

- In 2007, Torbay received international recognition as a **UNESCO Geopark** for its geological heritage.
 - This is being used to **reimage** Torbay into a sophisticated holiday resort.
 - It is also making **Torbay a year-round resort**, promoting the natural beauty means that it can be visited all year round.
 - The **English Riviera geopark organisation** holds **events all year round** and has a website where tourists can find out lots of information about Torbay.
 - Lastly, **prehistoric caves** (Kent's cavern) in Torquay are being promoted by the Geopark organisation as an **all-weather attraction** – The warmest cave in Britain. It also offers **educational programs**.
- Agatha Christie, the famous writer, was born and lived in Torbay and this is promoted.
 - There is an **Agatha Christie Literary trail**.
 - Greenway house, her former home, is **open to the public**.

