

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**.

