



# Brighton

Here are plenty of ideas on what to see and do, whatever your reason for visiting the popular and glamorous seaside resort on the south coast

Ever since the Prince of Pleasure (George IV) made the dirty weekend fashionable, Brighton has been a magnet for youthful frolics and visitors wanting to behave badly. Generations have let off steam here, from Regency rakes to 60's Mods and Rockers and clubbers in the noughties.

There's something to float everyone's boat – kids will love the candyfloss and white-knuckle rides on the pier, while for grown-ups there are designer shops, hip cafés and classy restaurants in the famous Lanes. Here's what you need to know about what makes Brighton rock.

## GETTING THERE

Try to avoid bringing your car to Brighton: it's an expensive pain to park, and platoons of wardens are waiting to pounce. As you can do everything on foot, you don't need a car to get around once you're there. Travelling by train or bus is a better idea. Depending where you live in the UK, you'll probably be coming via London if you're using public transport.

As well as trains from Victoria, there are First Capital Connect (formerly Thameslink) services via Kings Cross and London Bridge. Brighton train station is central and a short walk from the Lanes. If you leave the station and head down Trafalgar Street, you can take the scenic route via the North Laine area. Buses stop at Pool Valley station, just off the seafront near to the Palace Pier.

## GUIDEBOOK AND WEBSITE



- Cheeky Guide to Brighton, £7.95 (ISBN 0953611078)
- [www.visitbrighton.com](http://www.visitbrighton.com)

## THINGS TO SEE AND DO

### Get lost in The Lanes

This is the old Brighthelmstone of ancient flint-fronted fishermen's cottages, pot-bellied Regency facades and tiny passages or 'twittens' sneaking between classy designer boutiques, antique shops and jewellers – pick up the twitten trail by the Cricketers pub.

### A taste of royal eccentricity

Brighton Royal Pavilion, Tel 01273 290900  
[www.royalpalace.org.uk](http://www.royalpalace.org.uk)

Beneath the iconic Moghul turban domes the Prince of Pleasure's eccentric party palace is an extravaganza of oriental opulence. Try to get on one of the occasional 'Bottle to Basement' guided tours when you have a rare chance to go through the secret tunnel to the Dome theatre. Admission £7.70, Bottle to Basement tour £22.

### Learn about Brighton's cheeky history

Brighton Museum and Art Gallery  
Tel 01273 292882

You could spend all day in this brilliant free museum checking out the Dali-inspired lips sofa, Art Deco treasures and the superb 'Images of Brighton' display that takes you through a couple of centuries worth of naughty business.

### Hang out with the bohemian North Laine café society

North Laine shops [www.northlaine.co.uk](http://www.northlaine.co.uk)  
Leave the pier and beach to the families and track down Brighton's quirky soul. Bond St, Kensington Gardens and Sydney St are lined with offbeat shops, such as Eclectic Threads and Vegetarian Shoes – others specialise in comics, Goth gear, kites or bonsai.

### That's entertainment

Komedia, Tel 01273 647101,  
[www.komedia.co.uk](http://www.komedia.co.uk)

Brighton's top venue for alternative comedy, cabaret, contemporary theatre and dance and performance art. There's a bistro, café and late bars too if you fancy making new friends.

### Fun of the fair on the Palace Pier

[www.brightonpier.co.uk](http://www.brightonpier.co.uk)

It's free to walk around the pier, but this is a giant fairground on stilts with brain-scrambling rides and candyfloss, so the kids aren't going to let you off that easily. Buy tokens or a £20 wristband for unlimited rides.

### Volks electric train

[www.watertours.co.uk](http://www.watertours.co.uk)

The lazy way to go from near the Palace Pier along Marine Parade to the Marina for a coffee on the boardwalks by the yachts. Adult return £2.50. On a calm day, go mackerel fishing: £12 + £2 rod hire and bait.

There's much, much more to do in Brighton than we had space to fit into our magazine report in *Holiday Which?* March 2008.

Here are some alternatives:

### Explore Kemp Town

Head east of the Old Steine (the main road that takes you to the seafront right by the Palace Pier) along St James Street, and you'll find yourself in the area known as Kemp Town (or 'Camp Town' as it is known locally) – the heart of Brighton's gay and lesbian community.

There are no 'sights' as such, it's just an interesting and characterful place to nose

For the full magazine report on Brighton,  
see p36 of the March 2008 issue of *Holiday Which?*

around, full of trendy cafés, quirky shops, antique emporia. Go for a facial in the Pink Pamper – a men's beauty parlour – or a fine pint in good old-fashioned pub, like the Hand in Hand.

### Hove's seafront squares

Officially speaking, Brighton is Brighton and Hove, and some of the city's most elegant architecture can be found over the invisible Brighton/Hove border.

Walk west along the seafront from the Palace Pier, making sure to call into the free Fishing Museum. Keep going past the kids' playground and the burnt-out wreck of the West Pier to the Peace Statue by the institution that is the Meeting Place seafront café.

Just opposite the Hove promenade greens are Brunswick Square, a glorious sweep of Regency townhouses, and next along is equally lovely Palmeira Square.

### Brighton Festival

[www.brightonfestival.org](http://www.brightonfestival.org)

A must for culture on all levels, with something for everyone from kids' parades to classical concerts, contemporary theatre and open-air street performances.

To keep in touch with what's on for the 2008 festival (due to run 3-25 May 2008), visit the website.

### Go to church

St Michael's church (in St Michael's Place) has stunning stained-glass windows designed by pre-Raphaelite Edward Burne-Jones, and Arts and Crafts designers Philip Webb and William Morris. St Bartholomew's (in Ann Street) has the highest nave of any English parish church.

## PLACES TO EAT AND DRINK

### Bankers

[www.bankersrestaurant.co.uk](http://www.bankersrestaurant.co.uk)

Take it from a local who has lived in Brighton for 12 years – Bankers fish and chips are the best in town, consistently good with crisp, thin, non-greasy batter and faultless chips. Eat-in cod and chips £5.90.

### Billie's Café

34 Hampton Place

Tucked around the back of Waitrose off Western Road, this locals' haunt is hard to beat for a top-grade plate of breakfast – go for the jumbo plate.

### Gingerman at Drake's

[www.drakesofbrighton.com](http://www.drakesofbrighton.com)

Romantic basement hideaway with Gingerman's top-notch modern cuisine. Menus feature the finest regional and seasonal bounty – locally caught fish,

Sussex beef and Glynde pheasant. Two courses £27, three courses £32.

### The Dumb Waiter café

28 Sydney St

A Brighton institution for hangover fry-ups in the North Laine. Read the flyers on the walls and rubber neck at local eccentrics.

### The Mock Turtle café

4 Pool Valley

Just dig in to the best homemade cakes in Brighton – try the mind-blowing fresh cream meringues.

### Pinocchio

[www.pinocchio.co.uk](http://www.pinocchio.co.uk)

A busy, family-friendly Italian pizza and pasta joint offering great value fixed-price menus. Buy the local paper for vouchers that knock house wine down to £5.95 a bottle.

### Pintxo People

[www.pintxopeople.co.uk](http://www.pintxopeople.co.uk)

Basque-style tapas – pronounced 'Pincho' – in a galleried dining room that's all red and black leather beneath domed skylights. Try the vanilla cod with pumpkin and oranges or even the scallops with salmon roe mayo. £3-£12 per dish.



## As a Holiday Which? subscriber you enjoy...

### Four magazines a year

Every issue is packed with independent expert advice. Read about the latest travel news, the rip-offs to look out for and our top tips – saving you time and money. We also visit destinations worldwide so we can recommend holidays.

### FREE legal support

*Holiday Which?* subscribers get FREE unlimited telephone access to Which? Legal Service lawyers, who will provide you with advice on holiday and travel-related problems. Just call 0800 252100.

### Access to our website

Log on to [www.which.co.uk/holiday](http://www.which.co.uk/holiday) and download our FREE *which* and download our FREE destination factfiles. You can also send us feedback or contact our experts.

### FREE factfiles

Want to find out more about the places we visit on our travels? Then go online to our website and download our FREE factfiles.

### Reliable product tests

Identifying Best Buys and Don't Buys, whether it be luggage, travel gadgets or guidebooks.

### Member benefit packs

Regular packs with special offers for paid-up members.

### Which? local

Visit [www.which-local.co.uk](http://www.which-local.co.uk), a website for members, created by members, featuring local services – perfect if you're looking for a restaurant or pub while on holiday in the UK.

### Expert help

Got a travel query? Email us at [holiday@which.co.uk](mailto:holiday@which.co.uk) or call us on one of our phone-in days.