



# Tour Information



# Agatha Christie on the English Riviera





# Travel

The tour commences and concludes at **The Grand Hotel, Torquay**.

Sea Front

Torbay Road

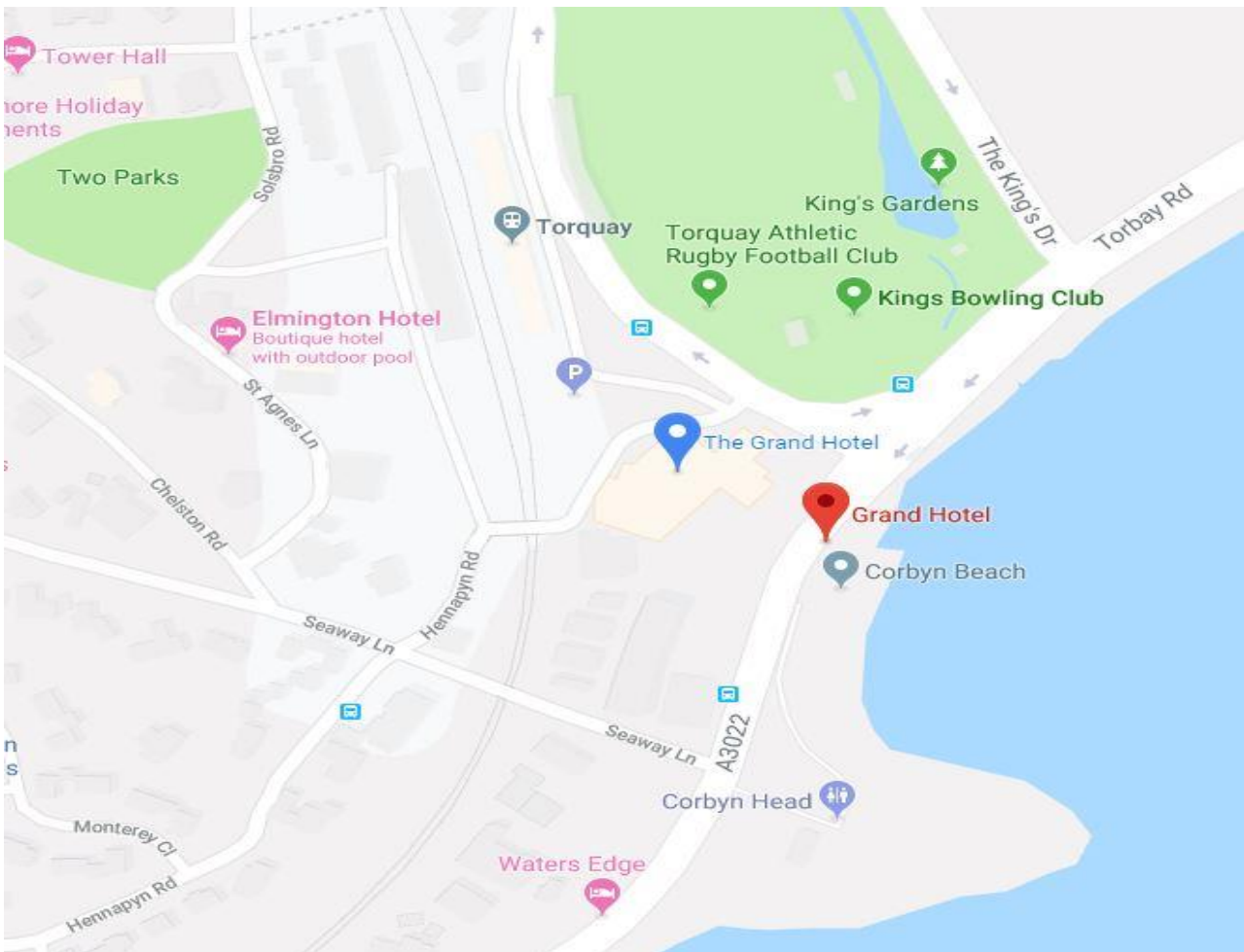
Torquay

TQ2 6NT

Tel: 01803 296677

## Transport

Please note that transport to the hotel is not included in the price of the tour.



### **If you are travelling by car:**

#### **From the M5:**

From the M5, take the Devon Expressway A38 towards Torquay and continue on to the A380. Follow the A3022 and turn left onto Hamelin Way, then right onto Riviera Way. Continue to follow the A3032 onto Avenue Road, then Torbay Road and turn right onto Rathmore Road, after 250 yards turn left and your destination will be in the left.

### **If you are travelling by train:**

The closest railway station is Torquay which is approximately 3 minutes' walk from the hotel.

# Accommodation

## The Grand Hotel, Torquay

The Grand Hotel first opened in Torquay in 1881 in response to the Great Western Railway's expansion into the South West. The Grand has a unique association with the much-loved author, Agatha Christie, and is the place where she spent her honeymoon in 1914. The hotel has 2 restaurants, the AA rosette-rated Restaurant 1881 and Sea View Brasserie. Overlooking one of the finest bays, this elegant Victorian hotel offers 132 individually styled bedrooms, period embellishments and contemporary styling. The hotel features an indoor and outdoor pool, fitness centre with gym, free Wi-fi, spa and sauna and a sun terrace overlooking the beach. Each of the comfortable bedrooms has a TV, safe, tea and coffee making facilities, telephone and complimentary toiletries.

Parking at the station or rugby club car parks is free of charge - permits available at reception and you can park outside the hotel for a few minutes to drop bags off and collect the permit. These spaces are on a first come first serve basis and cannot be booked (though not normally an issue). If you wish to reserve a guaranteed place in the hotel garage, there is a cost of £10.00 per night per car.

There is also free on street parking outside the hotel if spaces are available.

Please note that the main entrance to the hotel can be found towards the rear of the building, away from the promenade.

More information can be found via the hotel's website:

<https://www.grandtorquay.co.uk/>

## Check-in and departure from the hotel

On the day of arrival, you will be able to check-in at the hotel from 15.00, and the tour manager will meet you in the evening at the welcome reception.

On the last day, the tour will not finish until approximately 17.00 so you should check with your tour manager, or the hotel reception, where luggage should be stored until your departure.

## Extra nights

If you have booked to stay an extra night at the hotel, this is on bed and breakfast basis and check out from the hotel is at 11.00.

## Dining

On the first and second night, a private 3-course dinner with wine is served and a 2-course lunch with wine is included whilst on Burgh Island – all are included in the price of the tour. Breakfast on all days of your stay is included in the price but meals other than these stated are not included.

## Special requests

If you haven't already done so, please notify Travel Editions of any special requests as soon as possible to allow sufficient time to make the necessary arrangements.



## Places Visited

### Burgh Island

Burgh Island is an iconic South Devon landmark, located directly opposite Bigbury on Sea beach. The island is accessible at low tide by a strip of sand which at high tide is completely covered, leaving a ride on the unique sea tractor as the only means of access. As well as the sea tractor the island is famed for its links to Agatha Christie, the art-deco inspired Burgh Island Hotel and as well as a onetime haunt for pirates and smugglers. The tidal passageway that separates the mainland from Burgh Island is a beautiful sandy beach and a walk around the island will let you explore the remains of the chapel or discover an abundance of wildlife that lives on its shores.

#### **Crossing to Burgh Island:**

This is subject to weather conditions allowing the operation of the sea tractor. At low tide it is also possible to walk the short distance across the sands to Burgh Island so we recommend that you bring suitable footwear for walking across the bay (approx. 500 meters). Should it not be possible to reach the island an alternative lunch on the mainland will be arranged (subject to availability). In this instance a partial refund only of the cost of the lunch on Burgh Island will be made.

<https://www.visitsouthdevon.co.uk/things-to-do/burgh-island-p1541123>

### Torquay

Torquay, situated on the English Channel in Devon, south west England, its coastline is nicknamed the English Riviera due to the mild climate. Torquay Harbour near the town centre offers shops, cafes and a marina. Torre Abbey, a monastery founded in 1196, has art galleries and extensive gardens featuring plants from local writer Agatha Christie's novels.

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Torquay>

### Torquay Museum

Travel back through 400 million years of time at Torquay Museum. A wide variety of exhibitions are hosted throughout the year by the Museum, including fascinating exhibitions about South Devon's amazing archaeology, geology and people. Detect your way through Britain's only Agatha Christie gallery at Torquay Museum, which is dedicated to the life story of the Queen of Crime. Re-developed and improved in 2013, the new gallery now enables visitors to step inside Poirot's study and lounge, including furniture, books, pictures and even fireplaces from his beautiful London Art Deco apartment.

<http://www.torquaymuseum.org/homepage>

### Greenway

This relaxed and atmospheric house is set in the 1950s, when Agatha and her family would spend summers and Christmases here with friends, relaxing by the river, playing croquet and clock golf, and reading her latest mystery to their guests. The family were great collectors, and the house is filled with archaeology, Tunbridgeware, silver, botanical china and books. In the garden a large and romantic woodland drifts down the hillside towards the sparkling Dart estuary. The walled gardens are home to a restored peach house and vinery, as well as an allotment cared for by local school children. A visit to Greenway isn't complete without seeing the Boathouse, scene of the crime in 'Dead Man's Folly', and the battery complete with cannon.

Greenway has been accredited by the International Camellia Society as a 'Garden of Excellence.' It is the first National Trust garden with this accreditation, and one of just seven gardens in the UK to be recognised as a 'Garden of Excellence' by the International Camellia Society.

<https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/greenway>

## Your Guide

**Jane Tapley** will be your guide during the trip. Jane has been a Blue Badge Guide for over thirty years and regularly accompanies groups of all kinds from students to senior citizens around Bath and the West Country.

In addition, she has worked as an adviser and guide for several TV companies in Bath when they have been filming period dramas.

**Jane will give a lecture during the tour:**

*'Agatha Christie – Queen of Crime'*

## Practical Information






**Tour manager** - Your tour manager will be on hand throughout the tour to ensure that everything operates according to plan. If you have any problems or questions please see him or her immediately – it is often possible to resolve complaints or problems very quickly on the spot, and do everything to help you enjoy your holiday.

**Tipping** –To keep our tours affordable, we do not increase the tour price by adding in tips. However, in the tourism industry, there is a certain level of expectation that when receiving a good service, one does award with a tip. Tour Managers, Representatives, Guides and Drivers appreciate a tip at the end of their involvement with the tour, but this is entirely at your discretion. We believe in allowing you to tip according to your level of satisfaction with their services.

**Walking Content** – This tour has been graded a 4 out of 5 for walking difficulty.

Walking difficulty: 

**Please see the key below for an explanation of the footprint symbols:**

Very little walking involved	
Relaxed easy pace, mainly walking from coach to site	
Some walking between sites, good, flat walking surfaces	
Walking between sites, lots of standing for viewings	
On your feet all day, uneven terrain (cobblestones etc)	



## Insurance

Although this is a UK holiday please note that, should you cancel your holiday, the amount paid is non-refundable. For this reason you may wish to take out insurance just in case an unforeseen event caused you to have to cancel the tour. As well as covering cancellations, your travel insurance will also cover your baggage and personal belongings in case they are lost or stolen.



## Emergencies

**Should an emergency arise, please call our offices on:**

020 7251 0045

Outside office hours (Mon-Fri 0900-1700), telephone our emergency staff on:

07841 023807

**PLEASE USE THESE NUMBERS ONLY IN THE EVENT OF A GENUINE EMERGENCY.**

Travel Editions

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