

visit EASTBOURNE BREATHE IT IN

Tourism fast facts!

Over 4.9 million visitors per year come to Eastbourne

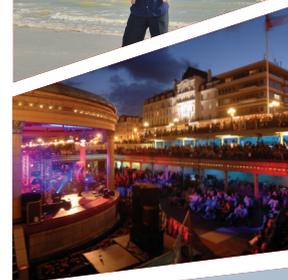
- Spend average £287 million each year in the town
- £129 million is spent by day visitors alone
- Biggest spend is £55 million on accommodation and £101 million on food & drink
- Tourism is worth over £388 million to the local business economy
- The majority of visitors are aged under 55, with 4 in 10 aged from 35 – 54 years old
- A third of all visitors are families with children
- 1 in 5 visiting Eastbourne have never been before
- Overseas visitors account for 13% of all spending due to Newhaven, Gatwick Airport and the Channel Tunnel all being within easy reach

Award-winning Destination

- Number 1 spot in top ten places to visit in England - Shearings Holidays.
- 2nd most popular beach escape in the UK (Expedia July 2014)
- In the top 10 of the UK's Happiest Towns (ONS 2014)
- Sunniest street in Britain - Burton Road with an average 1,934.5 hours annual sunshine, also named sunniest place by GMTV (2010) and Telegraph (2012)
- MCS Good Beach Guide rated for 'Excellent' water quality
- The Grand Hotel Eastbourne was named among the world's top 20 venues at the prestigious Star Awards 2015
- BRADA Best Brochure Cover 2014 runner up
- Towner awarded Architect of the Year and top 5 place at the Conde Nast Traveller Innovation & Design Awards
- Eastbourne Tourist Information Centre, Gold winner of the Beautiful South Awards for Visitor Information Provider of the Year and Customer Service Superstar 2016

Other Accolades

- England's only 5 star luxury seaside hotel, the 5* Grand Hotel, awarded Most Excellent Waterside Hotel 2012 and Best Champagne List 2015 at the Conde Nast Johansens awards
- Ocklynge Manor and The Guesthouse East both feature in the Independents top 50 B&B's, with the latter voted as best blog by lastminute.com
- Popular filming venue for TV and movies such as Harry Potter, Brighton Rock, Made in Dagenham, Notes on a Scandal, Angus Thongs & Perfect Snogging, Pearl Harbour and Diana
- An official training camp for the 2012 Olympics and Rugby World Cup 2015



Official Gateway to the South Downs National Park

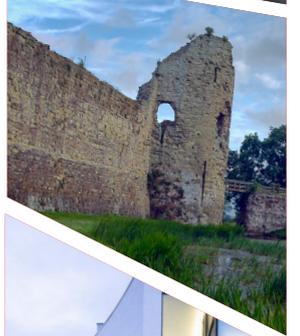
- National beauty spot Beachy Head is the UK's highest chalk sea cliff, popular for paragliding and once a notorious smugglers spot
- Eastbourne marks the start of the 100 mile long South Downs Way national walking trail
- The Seven Sisters Marine Conservation Area begins in Eastbourne with rock pooling and fossil hunting both popular activities
- The Downs produce amazing wines and includes the UK's largest vineyard at Rathfinny Estate just outside of the town
- Eastbourne is protected by the Downs, giving a unique microclimate and year round sunshine

Attractions

- Six theatres and the UK's busiest seafront Bandstand, with weekly fireworks and nightly outdoor concerts in summer, past acts include Toploader, Seth Lakeman & Military Wives
- Towner, part of the Coastal Cultural Trail, is Eastbourne's award winning contemporary art gallery attracting major UK and international artists, and includes a new room dedicated to South Downs artist Eric Ravilious
- Sovereign harbour is Northern Europe's largest man-made marina and rated best on the south coast, with a range of waterside cafes, bars and boutiques
- The Redoubt Fortress is one of only three Napoleonic Fortresses in the UK – named in the Art Fund's Top Ten Military Museums 2011 and a hidden treasure by BBC National Treasures Live
- Grade II* listed Victorian Pier re-opened in September 2014 with two thirds of the structure unharmed by the July fire
- Skate parks, tennis courts, watersports centre, swimming pool complex, splashpad and boating lake offer plenty of active fun
- The south east's first family outdoor water park can be found at Fort Fun
- Nearby Drusillas Park is an award winning zoo and includes Europe's first Hello Kitty theme park
- Impressive wedding venues – from the 1930's Bandstand to the historic Redoubt Fortress and the 1870's Winter Garden

Unique History and Heritage

- Debussy completed his symphony 'La Mer' at the Grand Hotel in 1905
- Ocklynge Manor is a former monastery and Commandery for the Knights of St John of Jerusalem and once the home of Peter Pan illustrator, Mabel Lucie Attwell
- Sherlock Holmes is believed to have retired in East Dean and a blue plaque marks this today. New Sherlock Holmes book 'Gods of War' by New York Times best selling author James Lovegrove, is set in Eastbourne
- Lewis Carroll holidayed in Lushington Road, Tommy Cooper lived in Old Town and Charles Dickens was renowned for holidaying at Pilgrims performing theatrical events upstairs at The Lamb Inn
- Eastbourne borders with the historic town of Pevensey, the landing place of William the Conqueror in 1066, it is on the Magna Carta trail and contains one of the oldest surviving seals of the Cinque Ports



Busiest Events Programme in the UK

- High profile, jam-packed events programme including Magnificent Motors, Eastbourne Cycling Festival, Beer and Cider By The Sea, AEGON International tennis, Beach Life Festival, free airshow Airbourne, Eastbourne Beer Festival, Beachy Head Marathon & 10K and much more!
- Airbourne - Gold winner of the Beautiful South Awards, Tourism Event of the Year 2015/6 and winner of the Airscene Award for Best Free Airshow 2015

A Dynamically Changing Town

- Fastest growing town in East Sussex, popular with families, with an increase in the under 45's at twice the national rate
- Second fastest growing UK seaside resort (CSMA 2011)
- £85million town centre regeneration began in 2015
- Coastal Communities Fund £1.8m created 118 jobs in high tech industries, culture & construction in 2015
- Innovation Mall at Sovereign Harbour opened in 2015 for new start-ups, creating 300 jobs
- A £1.2m project begins in 2017 to develop a new signature restaurant at the Wish Tower
- £47,800 Coastal Revival Fund awarded to the Redoubt Fortress will see external improvements such as interactive sculptures, interpretation boards and restoration of the Glacis and 68lb cannon
- Devonshire Park £44m Development from 2017 will enhance the cultural, sporting, theatres & conference offer in Devonshire Park

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