

# Why choose to study in **Torquay**?

Climate... Beauty... Quality of Life... History... Culture... Attractions...



## Climate...

- ✓ Torquay has the **warmest climate in the UK**, giving it the title of 'The English Riviera'. You can see exotic flowers and palm trees, as well as several vineyards nearby which produce award winning wines!

## Beauty...

- ✓ **Torquay is built on seven hills**, giving stunning panoramas across the bay and lending the town an exotic appearance.
- ✓ Torquay, on the English Riviera, is considered the **most beautiful seaside resort** in the UK. The English Riviera covers 35km of stunning South Devon coastline including many blue flag beaches, find out more at [www.englishriviera.co.uk](http://www.englishriviera.co.uk).
- ✓ Thanks to its dramatic geology, the English Riviera has been designated a **UNESCO Global Geopark** ([www.englishrivierageopark.org.uk](http://www.englishrivierageopark.org.uk))

## History...

- ✓ The Devon and Cornwall coastline has a **rich and fascinating history** of **pirates, smugglers** and **shipwrecks**.
- ✓ Torquay was first developed as a seaside resort by the **"Victorians"** who were the first generation to bring the railway to the South West of England. The town is full of their majestic architecture and indeed the TIS building was formerly a Victorian Villa.
- ✓ Torquay is famous for its prehistoric human finds! A human jawbone found in Kents Cavern near Torquay (a series of caves open to the public) has recently been declared the oldest modern human fossil in north-western Europe!



*TIS Students and host family dressed as pirates on a TIS day out*



## Culture...

- ✓ Torquay is the **birthplace and former home of Agatha Christie**, the world famous crime writer. Her house, Greenway, is now open to visitors [www.nationaltrust.org.uk/greenway](http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/greenway). An annual Agatha Christie festival is hosted in Torquay, ask us for this years dates!

- ✓ **Brad Pitt** is currently working on a blockbuster film called **'The Lost City of Z'**, which tells the story of **Percy Harrison-Fawcett**, born in Torquay in 1867 and raised here. Percy was a famous explorer who dedicated his life to exploring the vast jungles of South America. He went missing in the Brazilian Jungle on an expedition in 1925 to find the legendary Lost City of Z and was never seen again. It is also rumoured that the character **Indiana Jones** was based on Percy.
- ✓ Famous authors with links to Torquay include **Rosamunde Pilcher** and **Sir Arthur Conan Doyle**, who often stayed in Torquay and used nearby Dartmoor as the setting for his book **The Hound of the Baskervilles**.
- ✓ The famous British comedy series **'Fawlty Towers'** with John Cleese was set in Torquay, and the 2003 hit comedy film **'Blackball'** was also filmed here.

### Quality of Life...

- ✓ Torquay has a very **good quality of life**. People really look out for each other here; our host families have lots of time for our students and look after them very well.
- ✓ Torquay has recently been awarded a **purple flag status**, deeming it one of the safest and most enjoyable towns in the UK for a night out ([www.purpleflag.co.uk](http://www.purpleflag.co.uk))
- ✓ Torquay is a very **safe environment** for foreign students.
- ✓ The area has **low living costs** in comparison to other English Language School destinations in the UK.

### Attractions...

- ✓ Torquay has a **diverse and vibrant nightlife**, including many pubs, restaurants, bars and clubs, all centred on the **picturesque harbour side**.
- ✓ There are **countless tourist attractions** to be found in the Torquay area; highlights include:

#### Fun Days out:

**Kents Cavern** [www.kents-cavern.co.uk](http://www.kents-cavern.co.uk)

*A world famous cave system which was home to Britain's first humans!*

**The Babbacombe Model Village** [www.babbacombeamodelvillage.co.uk](http://www.babbacombeamodelvillage.co.uk)

*Britain's largest model village!*

**Bygones** [www.bygones.co.uk](http://www.bygones.co.uk)

*Explore what it was like to live in Torquay over the last 200 years!.*



#### Beautiful country houses:

**Cockington Court** [www.cockingtoncourt.org](http://www.cockingtoncourt.org)

**Collaton Fishacre** [www.nationaltrust.org.uk/coletonfishacre](http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/coletonfishacre)

**Torre Abbey** [www.torreabbey.org.uk](http://www.torreabbey.org.uk)

#### Exciting wildlife parks:

**Paignton Zoo** [www.paigntonzoo.org.uk](http://www.paigntonzoo.org.uk)

**Living Coasts** [www.livingcoasts.org.uk](http://www.livingcoasts.org.uk)

