

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **Deck the Docks: Dive into a Sea of Festive Fun Along England's Coast**

England's Coast vows to offer a Christmas Cracker this festive period. With a nifty website planning tool making it easy to browse more than 2,300 coastal gems from cosy hotels, B&Bs, self-catering properties to thrilling activities, attractions and eateries. Enjoy the breathtaking English coastline this festive season and check out low and no-cost family events.

*IMAGES L-R: Free skating rink in Blackpool; Floating sauna in the Isle of Wight; Carving wall in Bridlington*

It's the most wonderful time of the year! Welcome glittering festive lights and the sound of popping corks. Whether planning to explore bustling markets with a hot toddy in hand or a blustery Boxing Day walk along the coast, visitors can find the perfect escape across every part of England's beautifully varied coastline.

### **East Yorkshire is a Snow-stopper!**

The seaside town of Bridlington is all set to sparkle on Saturday 16 November with a brand-new free event – the Bridlington Ice Trail. From 10.30 to 5.30pm, *Christmas on the Coast* will feature a series of stunning ice sculptures, forming a magical trail through the heart of this Victorian coastal town. Discover interactive displays and live ice carving depicting Christmas scenes and maritime wonders, lit up as a dazzling display at night.

Pick up an ice trail map and have fun exploring Bridlington's picturesque old town, don't miss the grand finale at 5.30pm - the Brid Christmas Lights Switch-on! Better still, turn it into a weekend and visit Bridlington's two-day Christmas Food Festival, tuck into artisan produce, street food, real ales and presents galore across more than 50 stalls, not forgetting a visit to Santa in his Grotto.

### **Dreaming of a Wight Christmas**

The UK's first public floating sauna is now open at Tapnell Farm on the Isle of Wight. Bringing a Scandi-inspired wellness experience to the island. The Slomo Winter Warmer contrast therapy hub features two Nordic saunas with lake views, a seven-foot ice plunge tank for six people and a hygge-inspired lounging area with fire pit. Slomo Sauna sessions start at £15 per person.

Check out the winter markets for last-minute presents at the Donkey Sanctuary, Briddlesford Lodge arm and Wildheart Animal Sanctuary as well as the pop-up shop at the Garlic Farm.

### **Santa swaps North Pole for Seaham: Ho-Ho-Holidays on the Durham Heritage Coast**

Guests looking for breath-taking winter seascapes, head to the Durham Heritage Coast, stroll the dramatic clifftops and warm up with a luxury hot chocolate at the harbour town of Seaham. Visit 14-15 December for the Victorian themed Step Back into Christmas experience. Guests can immerse themselves in this memory-making Victorian wonderland, create festive take-home treats, greet Father Christmas himself, and end the day with the

seasonal production that tops them all, A Christmas Carol. It's a day out so merry that even Scrooge would crack a smile.

Opens 10am Saturday 14 and Sunday 15 December, tickets £8, family tickets £30.

### **Celebrate in Skegness**

'Tis the season to be jolly and nowhere celebrates the season like Skegness! Head to this fun-loving Lincolnshire town for the Skegness Christmas Market on Saturday 23 November from 10am to 6pm. There'll be plenty of warming drinks and scores of local craft and artisan stalls to pick up extra special gifts while enjoying free live entertainment throughout the day.

If holidaymakers want to burn off the mince pies, join the five-kilometre Santa Fun Run on Sunday 8 December from 10.30am to 1pm. Run, walk or crawl along Skegness seafront, it'll be raising money for the RNLI and other charities.

Adults £12, children £8 and the first 150 registrants receive a Santa suit, book [here](#).

### **Jingle all the way to Essex**

Starting Saturday 30 November, visit Southend-on-Sea for Christmasville at Wonderland Adventure Inside. An enchanting Christmas village where kids can meet the red-suited man himself and receive a special toy. Each child's £15 ticket includes a free admission for an adult.

Vouchers for free activities like Adventure Golf, Sealife Adventure and arcade games are up for grabs[CH1] as well as access to all rides including The Polar Express Christmas Sleigh ride. There's free hot chocolate or berry juice, free mulled wine for parents and festive fun letter writing, reindeer food and special appearances by the Grinch, Mother Christmas and elves. Book [here](#)

### **Who Can Resist a Christmas Sandwich in Kent?**

Further south on the coast in Kent, the medieval alleyways in medieval Sandwich will be transformed into a twinkling wonderland on Saturday 30 November with Christmas lights switch-on at 6pm. Head to The Guildhall Square from 10am for packed market stalls, live music, face painting, lights parade at 5pm, and plenty of festive food and drink.

### **Have Yours'elf' a Creative Christmas in Thanet!**

Nowhere will be Santa busier than on the Isle of Thanet this year! He's setting up his grotto right across fun-loving Margate, Broadstairs and Ramsgate. His elves will be on-hand to welcome guests at Westwood Cross, Broadstairs, in a sparkling subterranean setting at Margate Caves and on-board the Elf Express at Quex Adventure Park.

Get creative shortbread- and bauble-decorating at The Wonderworks, join Christmas Art Rebels - workshops with an alien twist - at the Turner Contemporary on 17 and 18 December, there's also carols, lantern parades and lots more.

### **Brighton up the Christmas Spirit!**

There's always plenty of cheer in buzzing Brighton, but new this year is the Brighton Winter Fayre featuring a free-to-enter Christmas Market. From 5 to 22 December, three long weekends will provide creative workshops, live performances, music nights, cabaret, and children's activities plus free festive entertainment in St Peter's Square.

This runs alongside the Burning of the Clocks lantern parade which marks the shortest day, the Royal Pavillion Ice Rink, big shows at Brighton Dome, light trails at Stanmer Park, Leonardslee Illuminated, and Glow Wild at Wakehurst

### **Step into Christmas by the Sea in Blackpool**

On the north west coast, Brits are in for a festive treat. Blackpool will shimmer with six miles of its legendary Illuminations to 5 January 2025 alongside a spectacular Christmas by the Sea display. From 15 November to 5 January, shop in cosy Christmas Chalets, marvel at romantic simulated snowfalls, glide on the free ice rink, zip down the snow slide and ride on festive trams. With seasonally-themed fairground rides, visitors can wrap up warm and immerse themselves in Christmas on a different scale, Blackpool-style.

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**For more information on England's Coast visit** [www.englishcoast.com/en](http://www.englishcoast.com/en) or contact Sheron Crossman, National Coastal Tourism Academy Marketing & Communications: [Sheron.crossman@coastaltourismacademy.co.uk](mailto:Sheron.crossman@coastaltourismacademy.co.uk) or [cass@c-pr.co.uk](mailto:cass@c-pr.co.uk) or 07968 255 464.

**Notes to editors:** The England's Coast project is delivered by the National Coastal Tourism Academy, whose partners include: Discover Yorkshire Coast, The North York Moors National Park Authority, Visit Hull & East Yorkshire, Visit Lancashire, Visit Cumbria, This is Durham, Visit Essex, Visit Thanet, Dover/White Cliffs Country, Visit Brighton, Visit Portsmouth, Visit Isle of Wight and Coastal Cruises Poole.

The NCTA was established in 2013 to help job creation and economic growth in the tourism economy of coastal towns. It is a not-for-profit organisation, working with industry, coastal destination partners, government departments, academia and national coastal organisations and is the recognised voice of coastal tourism.