

YEAR OF THE ENGLISH COAST 2021

Headline events 2021

Year of the Pier

The National Piers Society will be celebrating the Year of the Pier in 2021. The Year of the Pier will celebrate and cherish our seaside pleasure piers. From Easter to October various events will be held on the 61 piers around the UK coast that will entertain, delight and inform visitors of the marvels of seaside piers. As part of the Year of the Pier the National Piers Society will launch a Pier Passport, encouraging visitors to 'collect' all the piers that they have visited as part of this year-long celebration.

In addition a number of piers will be celebrating special anniversaries including:

Lowestoft South Pier 175 years

Swanage Pier 125 years

Great Yarmouth Britannia 120 years

Seafood FEAST

The English Riviera is at the heart of England's Seafood Coast. Brixham Fish Market lands the biggest catch by value in England, with over 40 varieties of seafood sold at auction each year. Come and experience some of the freshest seafood in the world, right where it's caught. For 2 weeks you will be able to immerse yourself in England's Seafood FEAST, eating some of the best seafood in the world.

Creative Coast

England's Creative Coast is one of the most vibrant cultural destinations in the UK. Kent, Essex, East Sussex and West Sussex have some of the most outstanding galleries, arts organisations, events and festivals in the country. Each unique destination features work by the world's leading artists, littoral towns pulsating with creativity, and a breath-taking 1400km coastline that spans from the Thames Estuary to the English Channel. In 2021 experience the world's first geo-caching art trail across the Creative Coast.

Blackpool – Year of Coast

In addition to the opening of the new Blackpool museum ShowTown, Blackpool Pleasure Beach will be celebrating its 125 year anniversary, Blackpool Transport 100 year anniversary and the Winter Gardens Film Festival will be themed "Seaside on the Screen"

Key anniversaries

Ramsgate Royal Harbour 200th Anniversary of royal proclamation

150th Anniversary of the Bank Holiday Act which started seaside tourism

150th Anniversary Clacton Pier

To add your event to this list, please send details to hello@coastaltourismacademy.co.uk

YEAR OF THE ENGLISH COAST 2021

January 2021

South West

South Coast

South East

Ramsgate Royal Harbour 200th Anniversary of royal proclamation - can fly standard on 29th January
Fort Talk: The edged weapons of Waterloo, Portsmouth
Holocaust Memorial Day Service, Southsea Seafront

East

Yorkshire

Hardmoors 15 and Hardmoors 30
Redcar & Cleveland's Walking Festival

Durham, Northumberland and North East

North West

Blackpool Winter Gardens Film Festival – Seaside on the Screen event
Festival Bowland, Cumbria

YEAR OF THE ENGLISH COAST 2021

February 2021

South West

St Ives Feast – Hurling Silver Ball

South Coast

Light Up Poole

South East

Brighton Half Marathon

Pancake Olympics, Littlehampton

Magical illuminated forest of the Electric Woods, Isle of Wight

Worthing Half Marathon

Guildhall Games Fest, Portsmouth Guildhall

Valentine's High Teas, Emirates Spinnaker Tower

Last chance to see 'The Many Faces of Tudor England' Exhibition, The Mary Rose

Fort Talk: Isambard Kingdom Brunel, Fort Nelson

1878: The War That Never Was (Evening promenade performance), Fort Nelson

War Games Week (February half term activities), Fort Nelson

East

The Viking Festival, Sheringham, Norfolk

Yorkshire

Whitby Steampunk Weekend, 8-9

Coastival, Scarborough, 21-23

Dark Skies Festival

Build a bird box, Ravenscar

Nature's Magic at Bempton Cliffs

Durham, Northumberland and North East

Festival of Food: Rockliffe Hall, Durham

North West

Southport Jazz on a Winters Weekend

Festival Bowland

YEAR OF THE ENGLISH COAST 2021

March 2021

South West

17th March - 20yrs Eden Project since opened
West of England Brass Band Championships
St Pirans Day
Boscastle Walking Week
Falmouth Spring Festival
The Big Breakfast at Ilfracombe Yacht Club
Woolacombe 10k Beach Run

South Coast

South East

Worthing Observation Wheel opens (largest observation wheel on South Coast)
Mother's Day High Teas, Emirates Spinnaker Tower
Dover Film Festival

East

Film Festival Day, Screen next the Sea, Wells-next-the-Sea, Norfolk

Yorkshire

Scarborough Blues Festival
Ryedale Festival Weekend

Durham, Northumberland and North East

North West

Festival Bowland (continues all year-round)
Winter Gardens Film Festival 2019

YEAR OF THE ENGLISH COAST 2021

April 2021

South West

Torbay and South West England Festival
Porthleven Food Festival

South Coast

Dream Machines Motor Cycle evenings, Poole Quay (until Sept)

South East

Brighton Marathon
16th - 10 years since Turner Contemporary Margate opened
Kent Big Weekend to align with English Tourism Week
Switching on of Seafront Lights, Bognor
Easter Weekend – events at a host of Isle of Wight attractions including English Heritage’s Osborne
Worthing Pedal along the Prom
Shipwreck Explorers (also May), The Mary Rose

East

11th – 85 years since Butlins Skegness opened
INK Festival, Halesworth, Suffolk - festival of new short plays, musicals, radio and film

Yorkshire

Scarborough Sci-Fi, 4-5
Books by the Beach, Scarborough
Spring Cup, Olivers Mount, Scarborough, 24-26
Tomorrow Ghosts Festival, Whitby, 24-26
Discover National Parks

Durham, Northumberland and North East

Durham Heritage Coast 20th Anniversary

North West

Southport, Radox Health Grand National

YEAR OF THE ENGLISH COAST 2021

May 2021

NATIONAL

150th Anniversary of the Bank Holiday Act which started seaside movement 26th anniversary of law, 29th anniversary of first Bank Holiday

South West

Pirate Festival, Brixham
OCRDA Aqua Adrenaline, Torquay
Brixfest, Brixham
The Padstow Obby Oss
Fal River Festival
St Agnes Bolster Festival
Bude & Stratton Folk Festival
Black Prince Parade
Helston Flora Day
Fowey Festival of Words and Music
Open Studios Cornwall
Ilfracombe Art Trail
'The Scrumpy Run' – Devon
The Big Lunch – Fore Street, Ilfracombe

South Coast

Lyme Regis May Fete
Lyme Regis Fossil Festival
Bournemouth 7s
Christchurch Food & Wine Festival
Mudford Seafood Festival
Spring Tide Food Festival at Burton Bradstock
Jazz Jurassic, Lyme Regis
Thomas Hardy exhibition at Poole Museum

South East

Gosport Marine Festival, bi-annual event, Hampshire
Brighton Foodies Festival
Brighton Festival
Brighton Fringe
Brighton Great Escape
Brighton Artists Open Houses
Brighton Mini Run
Isle of Wight Walking Festival
Margate Meltdown (Ace Cafe ride out to the town) - Late May bank holiday
Arundel Cathedral Corpus Christi, Carpet of Flowers (60 days after Easter)
Isle of Wight Real Ale Festival
Isle of Wight Randonnee
Wolverton Folk & Blues Fair, Isle of Wight
Hullabaloo, Isle of Wight
Isle of Wight Walking Festival
Steam Gala at the Isle of Wight Steam Railway

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Victorian Grand Fete at Osborne, Isle of Wight
Isle of Wight Jazz Festival
3 Forts Marathon, Worthing
Selsey Walking Festival
Chichester Cathedral Fest of Flowers
Portsmouth Comic Con – International Festival of Comics, Portsmouth Guildhall
Lord Mayor's Rural and Seaside Show, Castle Field, Southsea
VE Day Events, Southsea
South Central Music Festival, King George V Playing Fields, Portsmouth
Deal Classic Motor Show
Walmer Brocante, Dover
Sandwich Food Fayre
Sandwich Salutes the 40's
Crabble Corn Mill Beer & Cider Festival, Dover

East

Cromer Crab & Lobster festival, Norfolk
Folk on the Pier, Pavilion Theatre, Cromer Pier, Norfolk
Poetry-Next-the-Sea, Wells-next-the-Sea, Norfolk
Alde Valley Spring Festival, Suffolk - food, farming, landscape and the arts
Suffolk Walking Festival
Aldeburgh Festival, Snape Malting, Suffolk – music
Maldon Mud Race

Yorkshire

Whitby Fish and Ships Festival
Wolds Walking Festival
Ravenscar Coastal Half Marathon
Hardmoors 110 Ultramarathon
29 – 31 May 2021 WalkFest!

Durham, Northumberland and North East

Amble Puffin Festival
Riding of the Bounds, Berwick-upon-Tweed
Crimdon Coastal Hub launch and opening

North West

Southport Triathlon
Southport Food & Drink Festival
Barrow Soapbox Challenge
Taste Cumbria Ulverston
Marsh Mill - National Mills Weekend 2019
Blackpool Dance Festival 2019
Beyond The Sea Festival, Fylde
Fairhaven Food 2019 - The Feast, Fylde

YEAR OF THE ENGLISH COAST 2021

June 2021

- 7th National Fish & Chip Day
- 8th World Ocean Day
- 28th National Afternoon Tea Day

South West

Torbay Air Show
Torbay Half Marathon
Golowan Festival, Penzance
Polperro Festival Week
Falmouth International Sea Shanty Festival
Saltash Regatta & Waterslide Festival
Falmouth Classics Regatta
Mevagissey Feast Week
Grand Victorian and Steampunk Festival
Ilfracombe Golf Club Open Week
Gold Coast Oceanfest
North Devon AONB Marathon and Half Marathon

South Coast

Chesil Rocks at Langton Herring
Poole Harbour Boat Show
Harry Paye Pirate Day, Poole Quay
Thomas Hardy exhibition at Poole Museum

South East

London to Brighton Bike Ride
Portsmouth Seafood festival
Kitsurf Armada Festival, Hayling Island
Broadstairs Dickens Festival
Drive Through Time Motor Gala
Arundel Cathedral Corpus Christi, Carpet of Flowers (60 days after Easter)
Isle of Wight Festival
Isle of Wight Festival of Running
Isle of Wight Mardi Gras
Round the Island Yacht Race, Isle of Wight
Royal Isle of Wight County Show
Worthing Artists Open House
Worthing Triathlon
Worthing Summer of Circus
Beach Dreams Fest, Shoreham
Shoreham Wordfest
Portsmouth Festivities
Venues across the city
D-Day Anniversary Service, Southsea
Sunset Sundays, Emirates Spinnaker Tower (also July and August)
Seafood Festival, Portsmouth
Portsmouth Pride, Southsea

YEAR OF THE ENGLISH COAST 2021

Armed Forces Day, Southsea Common
Little Gardens of Sandwich
Le Weekend
St Margaret's Garden Safari
Western Heights Open Weekend

East

8th - Cromer Pier 120th Anniversary
Cromer Pier Show – the only end of the pier variety show (summer is June to September)
First Light Festival (summer solstice weekend), Lowestoft South Beach, Suffolk
Harwich Festival of Arts
Southend Yoga Festival
The Southend Festival (BID)

Yorkshire

Northern & Modern Soul Weekend, Whitby 3-5
Robin Hoods Bay Folk Weekend, 5-7
Scalby Fair, Scarborough, 14-20
Scarborough Seafest, 17-19
Cock O' The North, Olivers Mount, Scarborough, 20-21
Filey Lifeboat Weekend, 31-2
Diesel Gala, North Yorkshire Moors Railway
North Yorkshire Open Studios
Open Farm Sunday
Redcar & Cleveland's Walking Festival

Durham, Northumberland and North East

Seaham Food Festival

North West

Blackpool Rebellion Punk Festival
Blackpool International Soul Festival
Silloth Vintage Rally
Silloth Pride
Fleetwood Carnival 2019
Blackpool Pride
Blackpool Armed Forces Week
Catch the Wind Kite Festival, Morecambe
Lytham Beer, Cider & Gin Festival

YEAR OF THE ENGLISH COAST 2021

July 2021

NATIONAL

27 Jul - 11 Aug National Marine Week

South West

Geopark Triathlon, Paignton
Paignton Harbour Festival Day
Paignton Festival
Riviera Classic Car Show
Torbay Steam Fair
Charlestown Regatta week
Penzance Literary Festival
Tropical Pressure Festival, Porthtowan
Looe Carnival Week
Lundy Yacht Race
Croyde Ocean Triathlon

South Coast

Weymouth Seafood Festival
Sandbanks Polo Championships
Sandfest Poole
Dorset Seafood Festival, Weymouth
Lyme Regis RNLI Lifeboat Week
Poole Goes Vintage Poole Quay
Pier to Pier Swim Bournemouth
Thomas Hardy exhibition at Poole Museum

South East

Whitstable Oyster Festival, Kent
19th - Ramsgate Royal Harbour 200th Anniversary of royal proclamation
Ramsgate Week (annual sailing championship)
Paddle Round the Pier, Brighton
Drive Through Time Motor Gala
Littlehampton Arts Festival, including Arts Trail and Shoreline Sculptures
Littlehampton Waterfront Festival
Rhythm Tree Festival, Isle of Wight
Panerai British Classic Week, Isle of Wight
Southsea Food Festival, Palmerston Road
Pretty Muddy, Southsea Seafront
Junior Assault Course (also August), Fort Nelson
Deal Festival of Music and the Arts
Deal Carnival & Regatta
The Band of HM Royal Marines Concert at Deal Bandstand
Sandwich Folk & Ale Festival
Dover Carnival

East

27th - Clacton Pier 150th Anniversary
Cromer Pier Show – the only end of the pier variety show (summer is June to September)

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Holt, Wells, Sheringham and Worstead Carnival / Festival(s), Norfolk

Maverick Festival, Americana Music Festival, Suffolk

Latitude Festival, Southwold, Suffolk

King's Lynn Festival

Maldon Festival

Harwich Maritime Festival

Maldon Car Show

Wivenhoe Regatta July

Southend Pride 11th – 18th

Yorkshire

Northern & Modern Soul Weekend, Whitby 3-5

Scarborough Seafest, 17-19

Filey Lifeboat Weekend, 31-2

Whitby Steampunk Weekend

60s Fest, North Yorkshire Moors Railway

Whitby Sea Festival

Whitby Lifeboat Station Flag Weekend

Whitby Traction Engine Rally

Saltburn Food Festival

Durham, Northumberland and North East

North West

Maryport Trawler Race, Cumbria

Elvis Festival, Blackpool

Southport Air Show

Southport Half Marathon

Cumbria Steam Gathering

Fleetwood Festival of Transport - Tram Sunday

The Midland Seafood Festival 2019

Classic Car Rally at Leighton Hall

Heysham Viking Festival

Lytham Festival

YEAR OF THE ENGLISH COAST 2021

August 2021

NATIONAL

27 Jul - 11 Aug National Marine Week

South West

RNLI – Seaside Special
Torbay Royal Regatta
Falmouth Week
Fowey Royal Regatta and Carnival Week
Boardmasters, Newquay
Bude Jazz Festival
St Philip and St James Church Annual Flower Festival
Ilfracombe Carnival
North Devon Show

South Coast

Bournemouth Air Festival
75th anniversary of Bournemouth pier re-opening
Swanage, Christchurch, Bridport, Lyme Regis and Weymouth Carnivals
Stompin' on the Quomps, Christchurch
Thomas Hardy exhibition at Poole Museum

South East

Brighton Pride
12th - Ramsgate Royal Harbour 200th Anniversary of royal proclamation
Herne Bay 'bayfest'
Broadstairs Folk Week
Proms in the Park, Hotham Park, Bognor Regis
Illuminations Gala (as featured on the BBC's Staycation programme, filmed August 2019 and currently on BBC iPlayer)
Arundel Festival, 10 days in August, including, Theatre Trail, Shakespeare in the Castle, Gallery Trail and Duck race on the River Arun
The Great Wonderfest, Isle of Wight
Ventnor Fringe
Cowes Week
Jack up the Summer, Isle of Wight
The Island Steam Show, Isle of Wight
Isle of Wight Proms
Worthing Rowing Regatta
Worthing Strongest Man
Selsey Festival
Victorious Music Festival, Southsea Seafront
International Kite Festival, Southsea Common
Beach Dubbin', Southsea Common
Walmer Picnic of the Green
Port of Dover Community Regatta
Sandwich Festival
White Cliffs Walking Festival

YEAR OF THE ENGLISH COAST 2021

Dover Pride

East

World Pier Crabbing Championships on Cromer Pier
Cromer Pier Show – the only end of the pier variety show (summer is June to September)
Hunstanton Kite Festival, Norfolk
Snape Proms, Snape Maltings, Suffolk
SO Festival, Lincolnshire
Mersea Regatta
Smoke and Fire Festival Maldon
Burnham Week & Regatta

Yorkshire

Whitby Regatta, 15-17
Whitby Folk Week, 22-28
Staithes RNLI Lifeboat Weekend
Hinderwell Show
North York Moors Chamber Music Festival
Saltburn Folk Festival
Ravenscar rumble
East Coast War Channels walk

Durham, Northumberland and North East

Easington Colliery Miners Picnic

North West

13th - 70th Anniversary of Lake District N.P.
Blackpool Punk Weekender
Southport flower show
Festival of the Seaside, Blackpool
Southport Flower Show
Southport Circus Zyair
Blackpool Air Show, 7/8th
Ride the lights, Blackpool, 31st August
Solfest
Silloth Carnival
Race the Tide Challenge, Muncaster
Gosforth Show
Vintage by the Sea Festival 2019, Morcambe
Lytham 1940s Wartime Weekend
Lytham Kite Festival

YEAR OF THE ENGLISH COAST 2021

September 2021

NATIONAL

HERITAGE OPEN DAYS

South West

Seafood FEAST, English Riviera, Devon
International Agatha Christie Festival
Brixham Heritage Sailing Rally
St Ives September Festival
Looe Live! Music Fest
South East Cornwall Walking Festival
Sea Ilfracombe Maritime Festival
Ilfracombe Bike Show

South Coast

Bournemouth Arts by the Sea Festival
Food Rocks Lyme Regis
Thomas Hardy exhibition at Poole Museum

South East

Ace Café Reunion, Brighton
Brighton Triathlon
Broadstairs Food Festival
Southdowns Folk Festival, Bognor Regis
Charity Classic Car Show, Isle of Wight
Bembridge Harbour Food Festival
Isle of Wight Day
Worthing Lights Festival
Worthing Food Festival
Worthing Vintage Arts Fest
Chichester Walking Festival
Blakefest Bognor Regis
Portsmouth Triathlon, Southsea Seafront
Heritage Open Days
Sandwich Arts Week
Deal Braderie
Aylesham Carnival

East

Cromer Pier Show – the only end of the pier variety show (summer is June to September)
North Norfolk Food & Drink Festival, Holkham Hall, Norfolk
North Norfolk Railway's 1940s weekend
Aldeburgh Food & Drink Festival, Suffolk
Art on the Prom, Felixstowe, Suffolk
Great Yarmouth Maritime Festival
Maldon Regatta

YEAR OF THE ENGLISH COAST 2021

Yorkshire

Goldwings Light Parade, Scarborough 12
Scarborough Jazz Festival, Scarborough Spa, 25-27
Staithes Festival of Arts & Heritage
Yorkshire Fossil Festival
Hardmoors 60
Annual Steam Gala

Durham, Northumberland and North East

Lindisfarne festival
Alnwick Food Festival

North West

Blackpool illuminations
Blackpool International Fireworks Championships
Blackpool British Country Music Festival
24 Hour Yacht Race
Southport British Musical Fireworks Championships
Southport Comedy Festival
World Gurning Championships at Egremont Crab Fair
Silloth Music & Beer Festival
Chilli fest Holker
Taste Cumbria Cockermouth
Running and Walking Festival, Millom and Whitehaven
Heritage Open Days
Blackpool Jazz & Blues Weekend 2019
Food, Arts and Music Festival, Blackpool

YEAR OF THE ENGLISH COAST 2021

October 2021

South West

30th - 70th Anniversary of Dartmoor N.P.
Falmouth Oyster Festival
Lowender Peran
Falmouth Beer Festival

South Coast

Run Bournemouth

South East

Brighton Early Music Festival
Traditional Sussex Bonfire event, Littlehampton – usually last Saturday in October, part of a series of historic bonfire events
Classic Beer, Buses and Walks weekend, Isle of Wight
Festival of Light at Robin Hill Country Park
Worthing Lanterns Festival
Great South Run, Southsea Seafront
Halloween themed Family Fun, Emirates Spinnaker Tower
City Lights, Emirates Spinnaker Tower (also November)
Oktoberfest, Portsmouth

East

Coast Arts (Cromer and Sheringham Art and Literary Festival), Norfolk
Norfolk Walking & Cycling Festival
Festival of Fabric, Felixstowe, Suffolk
Framlingham Sausage Festival, Suffolk
Harwich Shanty Festival

Yorkshire

Whitby Gothic Weekend (Tomorrow's Ghosts Festival, Whitby 30-1)
Railway in Wartime
Endurance Life Coastal Trail Series
Musicport Festival
Illuminated Abbey
Redcar & Cleveland's Walking Festival

Durham, Northumberland and North East

North West

Blackpool illuminations
Lightpool Festival
BID Halloween Event
Southport Comedy Festival
Muncaster Castle Halloween

YEAR OF THE ENGLISH COAST 2021

November 2021

South West

Clovelly Herring Festival, Devon
Lanterns, Lights and Luminations, Brixham
Combe Christmas

South Coast

Christmas Tree Wonderland, Bournemouth

South East

Veteran Car Run, Brighton
Brighton CineCity
Royal Pavilion Ice Rink, Brighton
Brighstone Christmas Tree Festival
Fireworks Events, King George V Playing Fields
Victorian Christmas Festival, Historic Dockyard
Christmas Lights Switch On events, Dover

East

Birdwatching - north Norfolk's brilliant migratory birdlife, including the pink footed geese or take a boat trip to Blakeney Point to see the seals and their pups.
Cromer Pier Show – the only end of the pier variety show (Christmas is November to December)
Aldeburgh DocFest - Documentary Film Festival, Suffolk
Aldeburgh Poetry Festival, Suffolk
Illuminate Festival

Yorkshire

Durham, Northumberland and North East

The Art of Sound, Berwick-upon-Tweed

North West

National firework championships (usually Blackpool)
Holker Christmas Fair
World's Biggest Liar – Santon Bridge
Ulverston Dickensian Festival
Blackpool Christmas Lights Switch On

YEAR OF THE ENGLISH COAST 2021

December 2021

South West

Mousehole Lights
Padstow Christmas Festival
Montol Festival, Penzance
Fowey Christmas Market

South Coast

Christmas Tree Wonderland, Bournemouth

South East

Royal Pavilion Ice Rink, Brighton
Burning the Clocks, Brighton (shortest day of year)
Artists Open Houses, Brighton
Carols in the Park, historic Hotham Park, Bognor Regis
Ice Rink, on the Prom, Bognor Regis
Pagham Pram Race (Over 70 years old, annual fun charity race, huge crowds)
Brighstone Christmas Tree Festival
Christmas at Quarr Abbey
Arundel by Candlelight
Selsey Xmas Lights & Lantern parade
Tower Toymakers Workshop, Emirates Spinnaker Tower
Victorian Christmas, Fort Nelson
Ice Rink, Guildhall Square
White Cliffs Christmas at Dover Cruise Terminal 1

East

Cromer Pier Show – the only end of the pier variety show (Christmas is November to December)

Yorkshire

Robin Hood's Bay 26th Victorian Weekend
Whitby Lion's Boxing Day Dip

Durham, Northumberland and North East

Allendale Tar Bar'l, Northumberland

North West

Santa Express- Ravenglass and Eskdale Railway
Taste Cumbria Christmas Festival