

The Week-end is the Beginning

Brighton, 2 Days

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Guide Description



AUTHOR NOTE: Our weekend away in Brighton is packed, but not jam packed. I've scheduled you in a Guided Tour to maximise what you are able to see. Make sure to have a walk around the North Laine and visit the Royal Pavilion. Top of your first night with a visit to Audio (one of the city's hottest clubs.) Day 2 gives you time to explore Brighton Marina before heading back to the North Laine for an afternoon pint, some shopping and a trip to the always delicious Pizza Express. Ace.



Day 1 - Brighton

DAY NOTE: I've started you off with the Guide Friday Tour so you can get your barrings and decide which areas you'd like to get on and off at. The North Laines are unmissable landmarks and you'll enjoy grabbing a quick health conscious bite to eat at Infinity Cafe. Make sure to stop at the Royal Pavilion and top the night off at Audio, one of the cities finest clubs.



Pizza Express

Although Pizza Express is a chain restaurant, this is a good chain restaurant and the Brighton branch has its own definite local vibe due to the multicolored pictures on the walls of Brighton's colorful characters.



Kings Hotel

Panoramic sea views



Guide Friday Discover Brighton Tour

Tour of Brighton by open-top bus that takes you to all the major Brighton attractions.



North Laine

The North Laine is Brighton's main shopping drag and full of one-of-a-kind boutiques with attitude.



Infinity Foods Cafe

Healthy organic food that is mostly lunch fare for your inner earth mother or father.



Royal Pavilion (The)

Brighton's best-known attraction looks like a homegrown Taj Mahal and is decorated in period furnishings. The cafe on the top allows you to have an English Tea while sitting on a balcony overlooking the balconies.



Audio

Hear the circuit's top DJs in a first class venue on the waterfront.

Day 2 - Brighton

DAY NOTE: Begin your day at Brighton Marina, then head back into the city centre for an afternoon drink at the Brighton Tavern. Have a stroll around the shops and then end a perfect weekend with Pizza Express. Good times.



Brighton Marina

The UK's biggest yacht harbor with a casino, modern restaurants, special events and weekly markets.



Brighton Tavern (The)

North Laine Pit-Stop



Day 1 - Brighton

QUICK NOTE

DAY NOTE: I've started you off with the Guide Friday Tour so you can get your barrings and decide which areas you'd like to get on and off at. The North Laines are unmissable landmarks and you'll enjoy grabbing a quick health conscious bite to eat at Infinity Cafe. Make sure to stop at the Royal Pavilion and top the night off at Audio, one of the cities finest clubs.

contact:

tel: +44 1273 82 0854 fax: +44 1273 82 8309 http://www.kingshotelbrighton .co.uk/

location:

139-141 Kings Rd Brighton East Sussex BN1 2NA



Kings Hotel

DESCRIPTION: Why not stay in one of The Kings Hotel's seafront rooms for something different? This centrally located hotel offers fabulous panoramic sea views with all attractions within walking distance. There are plenty of restaurants along the seafront, should you not fancy going right into the city centre for dinner, some serving excellent fish and seafood. The seafront promenade is perfect for an evening walk before returning to your hotel for a wonderful night's sleep on that waterbed! © wcities.com



wcities

contact:

tel: +44 (0)1273 54 0893 http://www.guidefriday.com/

location:

Grand Junction Road (starting point)
Brighton BN

Guide Friday Discover Brighton Tour

OUR LOCAL EXPERT SAYS:

If you are new to UK style buses, if you sit on the top sit on the inside. You'll feel like you will fall out of your seat, if you choose the outer seat. You won't. It'll just feel like it.

DESCRIPTION: The Guide Friday Discover Brighton Tour takes you from Hove to the Marina and all around the city. The double-decker bus is a common site weaving it's way around. You can get on and off at the different attractions. The tour lasts an hour and a half round trip. A good way to get a sense of the city and the best places to stop. © NileGuide



contact:

tel: +44 906 711 2255

location:

Church Street Brighton BN1



North Laine

OUR LOCAL EXPERT SAYS:

Don't forget to get some "Brighton Rock" or fudge whilst on the Laines. Brighton Rock can be found in most sweet shops. Some of the smaller shops sell homemade fudge.

DESCRIPTION: The North Laine is generally thought of as the focal point of Brighton. This what they call "The Main Drag". The North Laine is mostly comprised of boutique shops and small cafes. Sometimes walking on the North Laine, you'll spot a stray musician or a bubble blower, adding to the overall effect. One of the main clubs Komedia in Brighton is also notably on the North Laine. © NileGuide



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contact:

tel: +44 1273 67 0743 fax: +44 1273 41 7739 http://www.infinityfoods.co.uk/

the-cafe.html

location:

50 Gardner Street Brighton East Sussex BN1 1UN

hours:

M-Sa 9:30a-5p

contact:

tel: +44 1273 29 0900 fax: +44 1273 29 2871 http://www.royalpavilion.org.u

k/

location:

4/5 Pavilion Buildings Brighton BN1 1EE

hours:

Apr-Sept daily 9:30am-5:45pm; Oct-Mar daily 10am-5:15pm

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Infinity Foods Cafe

OUR LOCAL EXPERT SAYS:

This place is packed in the afternoons. Come after the lunch rush to get a seat.

DESCRIPTION: Infinity Foods Co-operative also own this cafe, in the North Laine area. Everything is freshly produced and fair traded with many organic items. On two levels, this is the place to stop for a healthy snack or lunch. Frequented by a wide range of customers, you won't find greasy fry-ups here. Drinks include herbal teas, coffees, juices and soya milk is available on request. Chunky salads are great value, soups and other snacks look tasty and as fresh. Organic cakes are delicious - try the tofu cheesecake, you won't be disappointed and it's filling too. © wcities.com



Royal Pavilion (The)

DESCRIPTION: Built on a prince's whim in the 1700's, the Royal Pavilion is Brighton's most famous landmark and a UK tourist treasure. You'll have to pay to see inside but the charge will be soon forgotten when you see Salvatore Dali's lip shaped sofa inside. The rooms inside have a particular theme. © NileGuide



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contact:

tel: +44 1273 60 6906 http://www.audiobrighton.com

location:

10 Marine Parade Brighton BN2 1TL



Audio

DESCRIPTION: A long-standing venue in Brighton's partying circuit, Audio promises to drown guests in music that is loud and catchy. With a schedule that is buzzing with gigs and performances by upcoming artists, this club is a favorite among those looking for something different. Usually crowded on shows and weekend nights, Audio is the place to be for exceptional music and cheap drinks. © wcities.com



Photo courtesy of Audio



Day 2 - Brighton

QUICK NOTE

DAY NOTE: Begin your day at Brighton Marina, then head back into the city centre for an afternoon drink at the Brighton Tavern. Have a stroll around the shops and then end a perfect weekend with Pizza Express. Good times.

contact:

tel: +44 (0)1273 69 3636 fax: +44 (0)1273 81 8171 http://www.brighton-marina.c o.uk/

location:

Merchants Quay Brighton BN2 5UF



Brighton Marina

OUR LOCAL EXPERT SAYS:

Don't miss the Undercliff Walk which goes on for miles from The Marina. It can get very busy at the weekend or during peak times.

DESCRIPTION: Spend part of an afternoon whiling away the hours in Brighton Marina. The idyllic Mermaid Walk has many fine restaurants and free entertainment is common in the summer. Whether you are looking to dine under the sun or spend time at the movies or in the casino, you'll find what you are looking for at Brighton Marina. © NileGuide



wcities

contact:

tel: +44 1273 68 0365

location:

99-100 Gloucester Road Brighton BN1 4AP



Brighton Tavern (The)

DESCRIPTION: Having undergone two refurbishments in recent years, the Brighton Tavern is now a cosy, comfortable, traditional pub. Large wooden tables are good for groups. An old fireplace, big mirrors, wooden floors and candles add to the quaint feel. The crowd are mainly late twenties onwards and on a Friday evening at 9pm seats were still available. Harveys ales, Hoegarden white beer, lagers, ciders, wines and spirits may be purchased. Food is served M-Su from noon-4p and 1p-4p on Sundays when booking might be advisable. © wcities.com



wcities

contact:

tel: +44 1273 32 3205 http://www.pizzaexpress.co.u k

location:

22 Prince Albert Street Brighton East Sussex BN1 1HF

hours:

Daily 11:30a-mid



Pizza Express

DESCRIPTION: A firm favourite across the whole country, Pizza Express always satisfies and rarely disappoints. If the comfort of a nationwide chain, but with plenty of individuality is for you, look no further. The decor is sleek and chic, with clean modern lines throughout. Despite dark flooring; the strategic lighting and bright touches gives the interior a warm, but elegant feel. In some branches (Hove), the pizzas are prepared and cooked in an open plan kitchen so you can see what is going on. As far as clientele goes, it attracts just about everyone but seems particularly popular with the younger generation. My personal favourite is the American Hot, fabulous succulent pepperoni, with a beautifully crisp base. Add a drizzle of their spicy oils and hey presto! Of course, the selection of Italian and French wines will help to put out the heat. The branch at Church Road, Hove, has jazz music sessions at 7:30p every Tuesday. © wcities.com



Brighton Snapshot

Local Info

If the sun shines anywhere in the, it will shine on the coast. So whilst finding sun in Britain can seem like winning the National Lottery, you will most likely find the sun shining inBrighton. However, the fantastic thing is that Brighton is a city, not just a seaside resort so the enjoyability of your holiday does not depend on Mother Nature's whims. If the sun plays games with you, you can always head over to theNorth Laines to do a spot of shopping. Brighton has more of an upper-end vibe than most seaside resorts in the UK.

Central Brighton, The North Laines and The Lanes

Brighton is a cheerful place, where basically anything goes. Movements would that would be marginalised elsewhere in the country, like the punk, goth or gay scenes co-exist alongside day trippers and yummy mummies. No head-butting with mohawk spikes, this is a peaceful place. Brighton is 1 hour by train from London, so it is a popular weekend destination or holiday extension.

Most visitors check out the Pavillion, which might be the most striking building you have ever seen and is even better inside. The rooms are furnished in historical decadence with Oriental touches. Upstairs you can also order a proper English cream tea and sit on the balcony overlooking the Pavilion gardens.

TheNorth Laines andThe Lanes give Brighton its village-y feel. You can literally spend hours weaving in and out of the small streets shopping in the boutiques or having an inexpensive bite at eat mouthwatering but not pocket breakingPiccolo.

There are a lot of restaurants near The North Laines and The Lanes and they are often good value for money and are not at all touristy. If you are wondering the difference between the North Laines and The Lanes, it involves the North Laines being shop-lined and funky and The Lanes(also called The South Lanes) looking more like the old fishing village streets that they are.

The Lanes are more up-market and have stores like MAC cosmetics, the classy England at Home furnishings and house the jewelery district. One of the best things about Brighton is that the whole city hasn't gone corporate like many other places and the landscape is still dominated by individually owned businesses. If you are particularly into vintage clothing, try Snoopers Paradise. If you go insane for fudge, try Roly's. If you fancy corporate high street fashion, go to American Apparel near Churchill Square, between Brunswick and Churchill Square. If you like to accumulate material possessions or want to pick up some punk fashions, you'll find something suitable in Brighton.

Kemptown And Preston Park

There is lot to do inCentral Brighton and the many smaller areas part of the city, likeKemptown, which is the gay district. Kemptown has the best gay bars and clubs like theAmsterdam, theQueen's Arms and Club Revenge. Pick up a copy of Gscene magazine, which is the gay magazine for Brighton and Hove at Prowler Shop on St. James Street. If you happen to be the UK during the first week of August, look at forBrighton Pride atPreston Park, which is a massive park with a Japanese rock garden across the street. The park also bordersPreston Manor.

Brunswick And Hove

Brunswick and Hove are two areas that are quieter than Central Brighton but still have a lot going on. Check out St Ann's Wells Park in Hove with its lovely flower garden and have a picnic. This park has a playground and tennis courts as well.

Hove is a good place to stop for several reasons. The relative quietness can be a breath of fresh, salty air. This rings particularly true if you are trying to sunbathe on the beach or clear your mind. Central Brighton's buzz in the summer months is obviously infectious but if you require something more subtle, you'll find respite in Hove.

Brighton Seafront And Marina

Saving the best for last, theseafront is really the biggest and best attraction. The seafront stretches for miles and miles and houses the World Famous Brighton Pier, which is a pier filled to the brim with rides and junk food. Further from the seafront is Brighton Marina, the largest marina in the UK where you will find many restaurants and the occasional farmers market. The

scenic Mermaid Walk in the marina is a great place to stop and have a bite to eat and overlook the boats.

© NileGuide

Restaurants Insights

Brighton is a traditional food mecca and an"alt" food haven. Aside from the nobrainer but seriously good fish and chips, you can find basically any cuisine in Brighton.

There are really great upper end-eateries like Havana, which serves Cuban food in a romantic atmosphere and the famous Food For Friends, which is THE vegetarian Brighton restaurant. These places are great for a special night out but most of the restaurants in the city are far less expensive. One underrated place that is great for lunch is The Cherry Tree, a cafe in Kemptown. The salad plates and soups here are great value and the owner is likely to come over and speak to you personally. Bill's Produce Store is fantastic whether you stop there for a quick snack or for a proper meal. The bread is freshly baked and this place is practically a local institution. Not enough can be said about the fantastic Lick, which serves soft-serve frozen yogurt and ice cream. Try the dark chocolate chips for a perfect finish. Lick was voted" Best frozen yogurt in Europe" in a recent contest and it is really, really good yogurt. If you have a family, you will be really hard to find anyone unhappy at the Harvester, despite different dietary requirements. The salad bar is amazing and you just can't go wrong for a simple dinner.

© NileGuide

Nightlife Insights

If you're looking for hip, cosmopolitan and relaxed, look no further. This place is big on entertainment and is a renowned weekend getaway.

Clubs

Outside London, Brighton has one of the most vibrant clubbing cultures in Britain, easily rivaling Leeds and Manchester. For a big night out its definitely worth visiting some pre-club bars around The Lanes, near the seafront- The Fishbowl, Ali-Cats,



Brighton Snapshot continued

The Prodigal, The Western Front- and then depending on your tastes, a visit to Kings Road Arches down by the beach or West Street which spreads down from the Clock Tower in the centre of town. The West Street vibe is more young and populist, while Kings Road Arches attracts the more discerning clubber. West Street has Event II which puts on major gigs in town as well as huge club nights and traveling road shows. At Kings Road Arches look to The Zap, probably Brighton's best known club which plays host weekly to the big names in DJ club culture. Just along from the Zap is The Beach, another draw for the big name record spinners, whilst down at the other end of the beach strip, the Honeyclub puts on equally well-attended, pumping nights of club anthems. Other choices include Phonic: Hoop at The Enigma, Casablanca or the Jazz Rooms.

Music

The live music scene isn't half bad either. With regular showcases each month entitled Brighton Rocks! at the Concorde 2 there's an explosion in indie-based sound. while venues such as The Freebutt and Sussex Arts Club cater for the hip-hop crew, punk rockers from abroad, electronic wizardry, folk and more mainstream pop. The Event II puts on the bigger gigs along with the Brighton Centre. For a touch of classical, there's the Brighton Dome, St Bart's Church, the Old Market Theatre, St Peter's Church, Sallis Benney Theatre, the Pavilion Theatre and Glyndebourne(near Lewes). Look out for the best in classical orchestras around the time of the Brighton Festival in May.

Art

Brighton is brimming with artistic talent, it's a creative town and one of the leading lights in multi-media digital arts. The Lighthouse company based in the Brighton Media Centre organizes many digital arts exhibitions which are put on usually at the Fabrica Gallery, renowned for its trail-blazing shows.

Other galleries leading the way include the George Street Gallery, Gallery 73, Gardner Arts Centre, University of Brighton Art Gallery and Phoenix Arts Centre. Hove Museum and Brighton Museum& Art Gallery house more established works but also play host to notable national touring exhibitions.

Cinema

Brighton is blessed with all manner of cinematic delights including the oldest independent cinema in the country,
The Duke Of York. Come here for low budget, independent films as well as themed festivals and art flicks. It has a beautiful art deco interior. For all Hollywood blockbusters, there's the Odeon multiplex along the seafront and the UGC multiplex at Brighton Marina boasting more than ten screens. There's also mainstream showings at the Gardner Arts Centre and the Sallis Benney Theatre shows occasional films as does Ali Cats bar.

Comedy

Brighton is awash with stand-up comedians. The main place to see them is Komedia. Here you can see The Krater Club, a brilliantly conceived comedy showcase. Gardner Arts Centre also puts on big-name acts to rival the Komedia.

Theater

Theater is well catered for in Brighton from the big west end shows to the more experimental cutting edge theater. The Theatre Royal is the place to see the bigger performances, Oscar Wilde, Shakespeare, even Ben Elton. Komedia, the Sallis Benney, the Pavilion Theatre, the Corn Exchange and the Gardner Arts Centre also put on nationally acclaimed performances as well as those shows just breaking through. There's a wealth of smaller and more locally based drama to be found at the New Venture Theatre, Marlborough Theatre, Little Theatre, Ray Tindle Centre or the Sussex Arts Club- if you wanted you could probably take in a different performance every night of the week.

Dance

Dance is a Brighton specialty. The Gardner Arts Centre, The Komedia and the Sallis Benney Theatre have regular dance shows. These are often experimental in nature and feature world renowned companies.

Museums

Brighton has a number of museums from the mainstream Brighton Museum in the center of town to the more specialist Booth Museum of Natural History, the Fishing Museum and the British Engineerium. There's also the old Museum of Penny Slot Machines along the seafront. All of these museums offer free admission.

Whatever your age or interest, come rain or shine, day or night, there is always something new to do in Brighton.

Photo by: JP Oakar ©

Fun Facts

Brighton State/Province: England Country: United Kingdom

Brighton by the Numbers: Elevation: 30 feet Population: 121,000 Average January temp: 5 degrees C(41 degrees F) Average July temp: 15 degrees C(64 degrees F)

Quick Facts: Time zone: GMT Electricity: 240 volts AC, 50Hz; square three-pin plugs are standard Country dialing code: 44

Did you know? Brighton is one of the most famous seaside resorts in Great Britain. Beginning in 1783, the Prince of Wales(later King George IV) patronized the city, transforming it from a fishing town into a fashionable resort. He also commissioned the Royal Pavilion in the city. In the 18th century, Dr Richard Russell published his thesis on sea bathing, which declared Brighton's salt water as a health benefit, prompting both the sick and the rich to visit the city.

Orientation: A city in Southeast England, Brighton is located on the English Channel, south of London.

