



Romance is in the sea air

Brighton, 3 Days

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Guide Description



AUTHOR NOTE: Get reacquainted with your partner in Brighton and clear your head. You'll have so much fun together here, wandering around the old streets, greenery and opulent architecture. The main attractions aren't very far apart and Brighton is made for couples to stroll and sunbathe. From old to new, from the Pavilion to Kemptown, I've made you a romantic itinerary that will revitalize you. Brighton is for lovers!

Itinerary Overview

things to do
restaurants
hotels
nightlife

Day 1 - Brighton

DAY NOTE: For your first loved-up day in Brighton, I've scheduled a visit to many of the major sites. The North Laines will open your heart and your wallet! Or just your heart. Ha ha. Trust me, you'll have a blast going into the boutique shops and soaking up the general atmosphere. Dumb Waiter is a good place to grab a quick bite on the Laines if you are hungry, not like "The wolf" but for actual food. The Royal Pavilion is an important stop and it's regal facade certainly was build to impress. Many couples sneak an impromptu caress staring up at the Pavilion. The South Lanes are more upscale and historical than the North Laines. Take a break by the fountain and take it all in. Afterwards, head over to Hove to escape the hustle and bustle. Have a cocktail at Koba. End the day at Hove Seafront walking back towards your hotel.



Maison Mascara Boutique Hotel
Home away from home



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



Dumb Waiter
Somewhere between a college hangout and luncheonette serving British favorites and vegetarian burgers and sandwiches.



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.



Lanes (The)
Walk the old winding streets in Brighton's Lanes and have a look at the jewelry shops and designer boutiques.



Koba
Cocktail bar in the trendy Brunswick area, specializing in vodka shots.

Day 2 - Brighton

DAY NOTE: I've started your day off at Brighton Marina, so I recommend you get a Day Saver Bus ticket (available from many convenience shops) to get around. If you decide to get a bite to eat, try the Brighton Pagoda. There are many restaurants to choose from in the Marina, so you'll definitely find

something. Take the undercliff path for a scenic detour or head into Kemptown for a nice stroll. You will feel true bliss sitting outside on Mermaid Walk at the Marina on nice day and attending some cover charge free entertainment in Kemptown (I do it all the time). Enjoy!



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



Brighton Pagoda
Culinary worship of the Orient



Kemptown
The gay heart of the city where the majority of the scene unfolds in pubs, clubs and saunas.



Maison Mascara Boutique Hotel
Home away from home

Day 3 - Brighton

DAY NOTE: For your final day, check out Preston Park and Preston Manor. The area around it is a bit grimy, but the park itself is enormous and multi-faceted and a good place to find a bench and just hang out. Afterwards, head back into the city centre and have another look around the Laines or Lanes. I know you want to! Food for Friends is a really good choice for your last significant bite to eat. Just call in advance to be sure of getting a seat.



Preston Manor
Museum of a restored Edwardian home with walled gardens.



Preston Park
The biggest park in Brighton complete with an adjacent Japanese Rock Garden. The official Brighton Pride event is held yearly in Preston Park.



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



Food For Friends
Famous vegetarian restaurant that doesn't skimp on price nor quality.

Day 1 - Brighton

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contact:

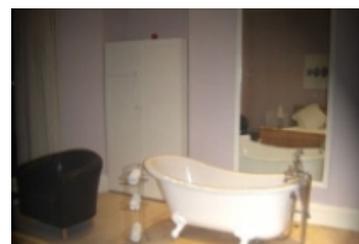
tel: +44 1273 38 5959
http://www.maisonmascara.co.uk

location:

33 Montpelier Road
Brighton East Sussex BN1 2LQ

1 Maison Mascara Boutique Hotel

DESCRIPTION: Conveniently located next to the shops at Laines and restaurants at Preston Street, this boutique hotel offers a comfortable stay at reasonable rates. Start your day with a breakfast served in your room. Take a walk along the beach. Recharge yourself by eating at the in-house restaurant Maison, which serves up international cuisine. Relax at the pool and the garden. End your day in your room with wi-fi access, so that you can browse the net and check your email. © wcities.com



wcities

contact:

tel: +44 906 711 2255

location:

Church Street
Brighton BN1

2 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



wcities

contact:
tel: +44 1273 60 2526

location:
28 Sydney Street
Brighton East Sussex BN1
4EP

3 Dumb Waiter

DESCRIPTION: If you want to grab some breakfast with Brighton locals, then this might be the place for you. It looks like it was designed by a new age hippie straight out of art college, and in fact it probably was. Staff and customers are friendly and relaxed. Full breakfasts, sandwiches, salads, pies and all manner of filling fodder will have you pushing your plate away in satisfied surrender. There is equal choice and value for vegetarians too. If you're not hungry, then grab a tea, creamy hot chocolate or generous "mugachino" and take a seat out on the pavement and let Brighton bustle by. © wcities.com



wcities

contact:
tel: +44 1273 29 0900
fax: +44 1273 29 2871
<http://www.royalpavilion.org.uk/>

location:
4/5 Pavilion Buildings
Brighton BN1 1EE

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

4 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



wcities

contact:
tel: +44 (0)1273 29 2589
(Tourist Information)

location:
East Street
Brighton

hours:
24hrs

5 Lanes (The)

OUR LOCAL EXPERT SAYS:
Make sure to visit the vintage teddy bear store near the fountain. The only place you'll find a stuffed black swan and 50's dolls. If you like inanimate friends, you'll love this shop.

DESCRIPTION: The Lanes house some of the best shops and restaurants in the city. A lot of the more upscale brands can be found here, like MAC cosmetics and Karen Millen. Dukes Lane is particularly visually attractive and you'll love having a cuppa tea by the fountain. Honestly, for many the highlight of the city. © NileGuide



Photo courtesy of Frank Jepsen

contact:
tel: +44 1273 72 0059
<http://www.kobauk.com>

location:
135 Western Road

6 Koba

DESCRIPTION: Although Koba is equipped with five spacious bars, you'll be lucky if you can find a vacant spot. The resident music club boasts of an endless loyal clientele and they are the culprits when it comes to full houses. And of course, the eclectic range of cocktails and a cozy dining area with a fireplace add to Koba's charm. In addition to its cool ambience, the crowd puller is the

Brighton East Sussex BN1
2LA

impressive repertoire of DJ's and jazz bands every evening. The club can also be reserved for corporate events and family gatherings. © wcities.com

Day 2 - Brighton

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contact:

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

location:

Merchants Quay
Brighton BN2 5UF

1 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 81 9053
<http://www.brightonpagoda.co.uk/pagoda/index.html>

location:

Brighton Marina, West Jetty
Brighton East Sussex BN2 5WA

hours:

Daily Noon-2p & 6p-10:30p

2 Brighton Pagoda

DESCRIPTION: The inside of the floating Brighton Pagoda is rather old and traditional, but gives a warm and cosy ambience. The best thing about this restaurant is the view over the sea. The Pagoda has a bright upper deck and a more subdued lower deck, for evening dining. With seating for over 100 - it could be the ideal venue for parties. The menu is quite extensive and should feature something for every taste. The shredded duck spring roll starter was delicious at just over £3 and for mains no dish tops £6.50. The fillet of beef was good, if a little dry, but vegetarians are also amply catered for. © wcities.com



wcities

contact:

tel: +44 1273 29 2594
http://www.visitbrighton.com/interests_themes/brightons_villages/35.asp

location:

St Georges Road
Brighton BN2

3 Kemptown

OUR LOCAL EXPERT SAYS:

Don't forget to go to Sunday Afternoon cabaret at the Queens Arms. Some of the best drag performers gig there and drink prices are low. Don't be afraid to be heckled!

DESCRIPTION: Kemptown is a grittier area of the city but it's so alternative and gay friendly, you'll love it. Kemptown is quite

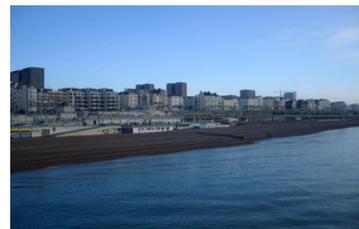


Photo courtesy of dan taylor

a hip place and there are many great restaurants to choose from. Make sure to head toward Upper St. James Street past all the antiques shops to where it looks like it ends, and you'll find Kemptown Village, a hidden hotspot. © NileGuide

contact:

tel: +44 1273 38 5959
<http://www.maisonmascara.co.uk>

location:

33 Montpellier Road
Brighton East Sussex BN1
2LQ

4 Maison Mascara Boutique Hotel

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contact:
tel: +44 1273 29 0900
<http://www.prestonmanor.virtuuseum.info/>

location:
Preston Drove
Brighton East Sussex BN1 6SD

1 Preston Manor

DESCRIPTION: This manor house evokes the "Upstairs, Downstairs" atmosphere of an Edwardian gentry home. There are more than 20 rooms over four floors, all superbly renovated, from the servants' quarters, kitchens and butler's pantry to attic bedrooms and nursery. Notable collections of silver, furniture, portraits and other memorabilia give a rare insight into the conventions of Edwardian upper-class life. Also features walled garden, pet cemetery and 13th century parish church. © wcities.com



Photo courtesy of Harry Brignull

contact:
tel: +44 (0)1273 29 2060 (City Parks)

location:
London Road
Brighton BN1

2 Preston Park

OUR LOCAL EXPERT SAYS:

Make sure not to miss the Rookery Rock Garden and the nearby Preston Manor, an old church decorated in Edwardian furnishings. The area around the park is up and coming so it is a bit rough around the edges, but you'll love the park itself or the area if you're a hipster.

DESCRIPTION: Preston Park is an enormous park in Brighton. The annual Gay Pride Summer Festival is held here every year in August. Make sure to also stop at Preston Manor, a nearby cottage. Preston Park has won a green flag award, which basically means it is a good park with cultural significance. © NileGuide

contact:
tel: +44 906 711 2255

location:
Church Street
Brighton BN1

3 North Laine

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contact:

tel: 01273202310
www.foodforfriends.com

location:

17-18 Prince Albert St
Brighton BN1 1HF

hours:

Mo to Th from 12:00 PM to
10:00 PM, Fr to Sa from 12:00
PM to 10:30 PM, Su from
12:00 PM to 10:00 PM

4 Food For Friends

DESCRIPTION: This locals' favourite restaurant has an airy feel from the many tall windows and bright, green walls. Parents can rest assured that children are most welcome in this warm and friendly find. They have an excellent self-service selection of pick 'n' mix salads, bakes, pasta and rice dishes, and a collection of roasted/stuffed/fried vegetables of all kinds. The food here is exclusively vegetarian and vegan, and if you have diabetes, an allergy, or are on a gluten-free diet, then there's something on the menu for you. There is a healthy selection of organic wines, beers, ciders and soft drinks. © wcities.com

contact:
tel: +44 (0)1273 29 0000
(Tourist Information)

location:
Kings Road Arches
Brighton BN1 1NB

1 The Doughnut

OUR LOCAL EXPERT SAYS:

Take some photos of the doughnut. Sit your kid in it. Or your lover. Make a joke "Ahh...look at Tom , he's such a doughnut". Laugh to yourself about your familiarity with British Slang. Rinse. Repeat.

DESCRIPTION: The Doughnut is right near the pinnacle of all Brighton attractions, the Pier. The Pier is the centre of everything. You have the arcades and the candy floss, the rides and the terrible foods that are terribly naughty to eat. The statue itself is a marmite sort of deal, either you like it or you don't. It's kind of a weird looking thing. © NileGuide



wcities

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 in Brighton. 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 the North 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.

The North Laines and The 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 mouth-watering but not pocket breaking Piccolo.

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 jewelry 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 a lot to do in Central Brighton and the many smaller areas part of the city, like Kemptown, which is the gay district. Kemptown has the best gay bars and clubs like the Amsterdam, the Queen'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 in the UK during the first week of August, look at Brighton Pride at Preston Park, which is a massive park with a Japanese rock garden across the street. The park also borders Preston 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 no-brainer 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 it's 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.

©