

# Welcome to Clevedon

**Clevedon has retained its Victorian elegance and charm with the stunning pier stretching out into the sea and the many Victorian buildings that stem from its heyday as a popular seaside resort.**

Clevedon's population has grown since building plots, measured out along The Beach and Hill Road, were first advertised in 1820. Before then, it had been a quiet, agricultural village. Two centuries ago, the most important buildings in the village would have been Clevedon Court, St Andrew's Church, and Highdale Farm.

## Ladye Bay

Ladye Bay is a lovely, secluded cove much loved by visitors, approached by the coastal path beyond the Pier known as Lovers' Walk, or by steps leading down from Bay Road.

## Salthouse Fields

Clevedon's playground where many residents and visitors come to relax. There's a miniature railway, children's playground, bouncy castle, crazy golf, tennis courts, and refreshment kiosk. Donkey rides are often available during the summer.



## The Pier

Clevedon Pier is one of the most important Victorian Piers in the country. The Grade 1 listed pier dates from 1869 and is recognised as one of the finest in the country and a national monument. It was constructed from eight spans made of curved Barlow rails from Brunel's surplus material from the South Wales railway. The Waverley paddle steamer and her sister ship, the Balmoral pleasure cruiser are frequent callers at the pier during the summer months. Take a walk along the pier and enjoy a cream tea on the pavilion, absorbing views of the Welsh coast.

The Toll House comprises a gift shop and a gallery on the first floor, where the work of a number of local artists is exhibited throughout the year. The Pier and Toll House are open everyday of the year except Christmas day. A small admission fee is charged to go on the pier to help with the upkeep of the pier.

The tidal range at Clevedon is the second highest in the world, with a rise of over 47 feet from low water on Spring Tides. **WARNING** – strong tides.

## The Balmoral and The Waverley

The Waverley is the last sea-going paddle steamer in the world, magnificently restored with towering funnels, timber decks, gleaming varnish and brass. See and hear the mighty engines – they will provide a whiff of nostalgia for some and are sure to impress all.

The Balmoral is a beautifully maintained pleasure cruiser with restored period lounges and unrivalled access to the stunning scenery of some of the most picturesque parts of the UK's coastline.

## The Heritage Centre

The Heritage Centre, housed in Waterloo House on The Beach was built in 1829 by a local man, George Somerton, whose family owned it until 1926. The Grade II listed building now houses a comprehensive selection of photographs and artefacts from Clevedon's past. It also has a gift shop selling quality souvenirs and local history books. An ideal place to visit and it's free!



## The Bandstand

Built in 1887 by William Green, the Bandstand was lit by gas and originally had no windshields, these were added later to protect bandsmen and improve acoustics. Listening to one of the many bands who play in the summer months brings a quality of a time long ago.

## Clevedon Court

Clevedon Court is one of the oldest manor houses in England dating from the 14th century. It was built by Sir John de Clevedon incorporating parts of a 13th century tower and great hall. This once fortified manor house has now been the home of the Elton Family since 1709.



The Elton's played a large part in the development of Clevedon from a small farming community to a select Victorian resort. Through Sir Charles Elton, the poets Tennyson and Thackeray came to know Clevedon, and his grandson, Sir Edmund, was the maker and designer of Elton Ware pottery.

Clevedon Court, located on Tickenham Road, displays the Elton Ware pottery collection and Elton Ware decorates the Clock Tower in the Triangle.

Clevedon Court is now owned by the National Trust, it is open to the public on certain days of the week from Easter – end of September (Wednesday, Thursday and Sunday 2pm – 5pm).

## Craft Centre

Housed in a 17th century farm building, Clevedon Craft Centre is a must see for any visitor. Enjoy watching jewellery being made, leatherwork, painting and pottery or even feed the farm ducks, chicken and geese.

The centre is a free all year round attraction with plenty to see and do. The many varied crafts provide an opportunity to purchase craftwork of the highest quality directly from the designer makers themselves. Open during the day from Tuesday to Saturday, and Sunday afternoons, the Craft Centre is located on Moor Lane, on the outskirts of Clevedon.

## Curzon cinema

Opened in 1912, Curzon cinema is the oldest, continuously operated cinema in the country, the original building had 200 seats. By the following year the building had been expanded to 389 seats, and was the first public building in the town to have electricity.

The cinema was saved from closure in 1996 largely thanks to community support and is now run and owned by the Clevedon community.

Today Curzon Cinema is still a popular venue for new film releases with at least one viewing daily, more during school holidays, as well as special events showing Silent Movies or Golden Oldies organised by the Film Club.

## The Clock Tower

The Clock Tower proudly standing in the Triangle of Clevedon's centre was originally built to mark Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee in 1897, and still marking time after more than a century. The original mechanism is wound each week by the second generation of the Davis family.



## St Andrews Church

Perched on the cliffs at the West End of Old Church Road, St Andrews Church is believed to have Saxon origins. A number of corbels on the outside of the south wall have distinctly Celtic roots, depicting ravens, two-faced men, a shiela-na-gig (fertility goddess) and horses heads.

## Poets and writers with Clevedon associations

Alfred Lord Tennyson was Poet Laureate (a poet officially appointed by government often expected to compose poems for State occasions). St Andrew's Church features in Lord Tennyson's poem 'In Memoriam AHH' as the burial place of his friend, Arthur Hallam.

William Makepeace Thackeray was an English novelist of the 19th century and regularly visited the Elton family at Clevedon Court.

Samuel Taylor Coleridge was an English poet, critic and philosopher. He and his wife, Sarah Fricker, were known to have stayed in a cottage in Old Church Road which is marked by a blue heritage plaque.

The famous author of The Chronicles of Narnia, CS Lewis, lived in Clevedon for nearly ten years in the 1920s.

JRR Tolkien, the well known author of The Lord of The Rings trilogy also visited Clevedon for his week long honeymoon.

## Shopping

For the keen shopper, Clevedon has many very attractive specialist shops along Hill Road, Alexandra Road and a good mix of shops around The Triangle. There are also many smaller local shops distributed throughout the town – Old Church Road, West End and Six Ways. Souvenir shops and tearooms can be found along Beach Road and in the Salthouse Fields area.

## WALKS

### Poet's Walk

Clevedon's fine coastal walks offer stunning views which have inspired many great poets and writers including Tennyson, Thackeray and Coleridge.

The popular coastal route that starts near Marine Lake and goes up into woodland before stretching out on the coast above with excellent sea views. The walk with its views of the Bristol Channel and Wales is said to have inspired the poets.

## Coastal Path – Clevedon to Portishead (Ladye Bay to Redcliffe Bay)

Taste the sea air with this walk along the coast. Stop at the many rock 'balconies' by the sea and rock pools. Surface: firm, narrow in places. Obstacles: **caution** – steep drops from the path and rocks. Parking: on-street parking in Bay Road, Clevedon.



## Clevedon Court Woods

Climb through evergreen oak woods to discover caves and rocky outcrops. Paths loop round the contours and there is always something new to discover around the corner like the woodman's cottage or the limestone seats. Surface: woodland paths. Obstacles: some step paths and gates. Parking: All Saints Lane, Clevedon or Hill Lane, Tickenham.

## Parks and Gardens

These are situated at Alexandra Road, Herbert Road, Princes Road and Pier Copse off The Beach and opposite the Pier. Pier Copse also has a garden for the blind.

## Garden Centres

- Garden Park, Clevedon Road, Tickenham, Clevedon, BS21 6RE.
- Golden Acres Nursery, 35 Clevedon Rd, Tickenham, Clevedon, BS21 6RA.
- Roundtrees at Tickenham, Church Lane, Tickenham, Clevedon, BS21 6SD.

## EVENTS

### Marlens Marine Lake Festival

The Marine Lake Festival is a popular community festival held every year at Salthouse Fields in mid September. The Festival is a free fun weekend for all the family to join in and enjoy.

### Clevedon Flower Show

The Clevedon and District Horticultural Society holds an annual Flower Show on the in over the August Bank Holiday weekend.

### Farmers' Markets

The Farmers Markets sell local goods produced by farmers in North Somerset, and is held every fourth Saturday of each month from 9am to 12.30pm in Queen's Square. It offers a wide range of products including fresh meat, dairy produce, vegetables, handmade chocolates, cider and craft gifts.

## OTHER INFORMATION

### Public Toilets

The Chalet, Elton Road (by the Little Harp), The Triangle, Queens Square (by Morrisons) are accessible to people with disabilities. A gents toilet is available opposite the pier.

### Strode Leisure Centre

Strode Way, Clevedon, BS21 6QG.  
Tel. 01275 879 242

Opening times: Monday to Friday 7am to 10pm  
Saturday and Sunday 8.30am to 9pm.

Facilities: 25m swimming pool, teaching pool, multi-purpose four court sports hall, Kinetika gym, solarium, crèche, under fives' structured soft play sessions, outdoor football pitch.



## Clevedon Library and Visitor Information Centre

37 Old Church Road, Clevedon, BS21 6NN.

Tel: 01934 426 020

www.n-somerset.gov.uk email: clevedon.library@n-somerset.gov.uk

www.visitsomerset.co.uk

Clevedon Library and Visitor Centre can provide information about the area, places to stay, attractions to visit and opening times. They have local history books, DVDs and internet access

The centre is open from 9.30am until 5.00pm on Monday, Thursday and Saturday; from 9.30am until 7pm on Tuesday and Friday; closed on Wednesday.