

Eastbourne



Eastbourne Beach



Eastbourne Promenade





Eastbourne Pier





Belle Tout Lighthouse

Beachy Head Lighthouse [zonic.tv](https://www.zonic.tv)





Birdcage Bandstand



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Statue of 7th Duke of Devonshire

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Eastbourne Beach

Eastbourne is on the south coast, 19 miles east of Brighton. Its seafront has several Victorian hotels, a pier (19th century) and a bandstand (1930s).

Nearby is a “Redoubt Fortress”, built during the Napoleonic Wars, and which now houses a military museum. Eastward along the coast is Beachy Head and its lighthouse (1902).

Eastbourne is comprised of 4 former hamlets; Bourne (the Old Town), South Bourne, Meads (to the West) and Sea Houses (to the East).



Eastbourne Promenade



In 1780, when George III's children stayed in The Roundhouse, a former windmill (demolished 1841), in Sea Houses, the area was developing into a modest but select resort for sea-bathing.

Ownership of 6000 acres by the Gilbert (Lawyers) and Cavendish (Dukes of Devonshire) families, combined with stagnation after the Napoleonic war, development was slow. But from 1850, when the Cavendish family released some land, the town grew, becoming a fashionable holiday destination. Restrictions on the types and locations of development resulted in “a well manned type of garden city, fully exploiting the marine setting and varied landscape.

William Cavendish, 7th Duke, influenced the development to avoid some of the pitfalls of Brighton and Worthing. The resort still maintains many late Regency and early Victorian buildings.

Martello Towers and the two lighthouses all have listed status.



Eastbourne Pier



The Pier was designed by Eugenius Birch (a famous Victorian architect of seaside towns) & opened in June 1870. A Concert Hall and Pavilion were added in 1888, and a “Camera Obscura” in 1901, designed by Nicholas Ridley.

It's mostly a wooden structure, but with some iron parts. Roofs are zinc clad.

In 1877 a storm destroyed some of the structure, since rebuilt, and in 2014, it was damaged by fire, but prompt action saved the day.



Belle Tout Lighthouse

Belle Tout Lighthouse was designed by Thomas Stevenson (son of Robert Stevenson, who also built lighthouses, and father of Robert Louis Stevenson) and was one of more than thirty he designed. Begun in 1831, it was operational by 1834.

It was superseded by Beachy Head lighthouse in 1902, and became a residential building in 1996.

The whole structure was moved 56m further inland in 1999, away from the eroding cliff edge. Moved in one piece, without damage to the structure!



Beachy Head Lighthouse was designed by Sir Thomas Matthews and built between 1900 & 1902. Built of granite, it still contains original features including the central staircase and bunk beds, but it was fully automated in 1983.



Birdcage Bandstand

“The Birdcage” was the first bandstand. Built in 1893, it lasted 50 years.



Modern Bandstand

The Central Bandstand, built in 1935, has an audience capacity of 3000, and is built in amphitheatre style.



Eastbourne Railway Station

The 1st Railway Station was built in 1849. A wooden structure, it was replaced in 1866, and again in 1886, each time to reflect an increase in services to the town. The present station was given Grade II listed status in 1981.



Seven Sisters Cliffs

Beachy Head, the highest chalk cliff in Britain (575ft high), and the Seven Sisters cliffs provide a magnificent backdrop to the east of the town. Beachy Head is, of course, famous (or infamous!) for suicides.



Statue of 7th Duke of Devonshire

Devonshire Place (1873) and Devonshire Park (1874) are part of Eastbourne's main attractions.

The place has a statue of the 7th Duke, The Park is bordered by the Winter Gardens (1875) and the Devonshire Park Theatre (1884).

Some Interesting Facts:

- Charles Darwin wrote part of his “Origins of the Species whilst visiting in 1850;
- The town's first proper sewage system was built in 1886;
- Eastbourne College, built by the 7th Duke in 1867, was a “school for sons of noblemen and gentlemen”. It's now a mixed school of 600, of whom about half are boarders;
- The Royal Hippodrome Theatre (1883) is one of the oldest variety theatres in England.