

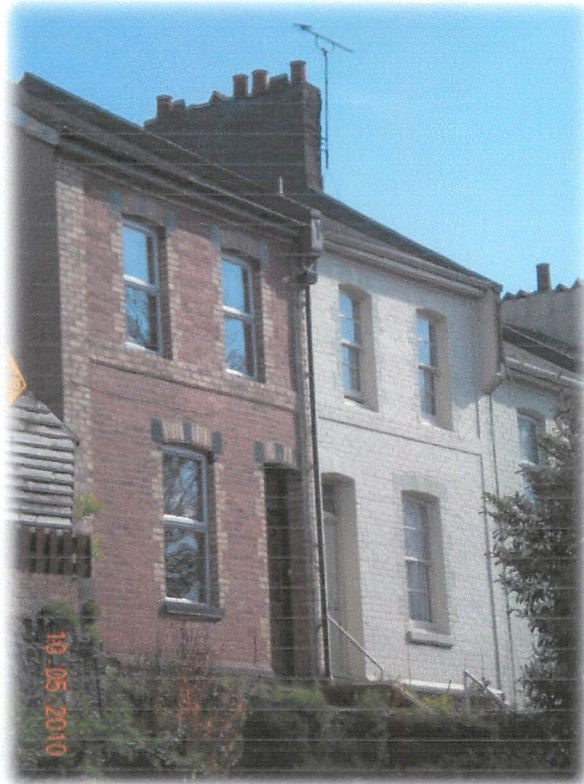
England-Torquay



Von: Nadine Weging

My life for 4 weeks in England

I have spent the last 4 weeks living in Torquay as a family with a guest mum and a Spanish student whose name is Ainara. They are really friendly and helpful and after my first few days I felt at home. My guest mum has taken students in for 20 years, because of that she knows what students like to eat and do. She takes students, because then she is not alone and she must not go to work the whole day.



Our days start normally about 8 o'clock and everyone has their breakfast and leaves the house and goes to work. At 6 o'clock pm it is dinner time and the Spanish student and I eat together but my guest mum eats her dinner a little bit earlier. My guest mum cooks really nice meals with different things every day and pays attention that we eat healthy every day, providing fruits at breakfast and some salad at the dinner. She prepares everything for the breakfast in the evening. She put the dishes on the table and put the cornflakes, fruits and the croissants or the waffles on the table.



My guest mum works as a residential care for people until mental health problems in Newton Abbot from 9 to 1 o'clock pm and Ainara works as an assistant at Harrier in Newton Abbot from 9-16 o'clock.

Tuesdays is my guest mums evening out at the quiz nights and Thursday evenings is for darts, which are at her local pub. On the weekends every one wakes up whenever they want to and normally on Saturday mornings my guest mum cleans the house. But at the weekend everyone goes out and Ainara and I do something in Torquay or go to visit another town. My guest mum also goes out at the weekend, sometimes with her family or she goes to a football game, because she loves football.



My town - Torquay:

Torquay is a part of the English Riviera. With 22 miles of stunning South Devon coastline. The English Riviera a beautiful place which has been a popular holiday destination for centuries and is what is known as a seaside resort where the population can triple over the summer months. Torquay was initially a town of fishing and agriculture, its name comes from being the quay of the ancient village of Torre. In the early 1900's it became fashionable with the Victorians as a Holiday resort.



The Victorians likened the area to its French Equivalent and so named it the English Riviera. Torquays climate is one of the reasons it is popular with tourists and foreign exchange students. It has a mild microclimate and often receives the highest hours of sunlight per day in the United Kingdom where sub tropical plants grow along with the celebrated Torbay Palm. It is not a true palm, it is a cabbage tree which were imported from New Zealand in the 1800's.

Torquay is a beautiful place to take holiday, because of the sandy beaches, rocky coves, picturesque harbour and the wonderfully mild climate.



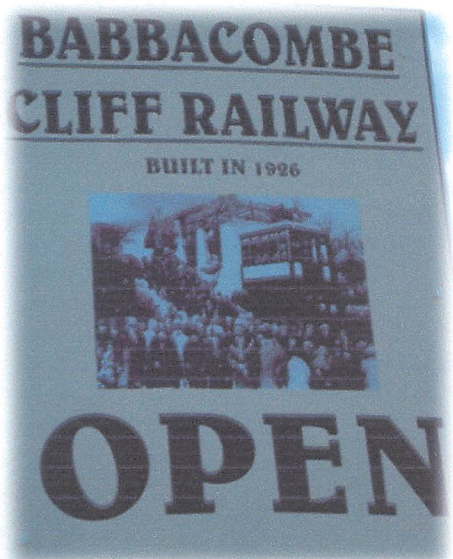
Torquay is also set along a coastline renowned for its beaches, having nine popular beaches. The standards of water quality and beach facilities mean that many carry coveted awards, including no fewer than three European Blue Flags- more than any other resort in the United Kingdom. The main beaches of Torquay are: Maidencombe Beach, Warcombe Beach, Oddicombe Beach, Babbcombe Beach, Anstey's Cove, Redgate Beach, Meadfood Beach, Torre Abbey Sands, Corbyn Sands and Institute Beach. A lot of beautiful places.



Babbacombe Beach:

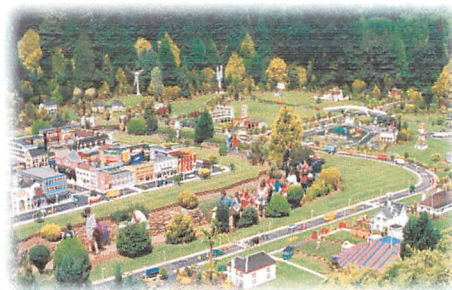


A trip on the Babbacombe cliff railway that has safely carried passengers to the seaside to the Babbacombe beach and back since 1926. It Babbacombe beach is a fantastic and beautiful place in Torquay and the cliff railway is a sight.



There are a lot of things to do in Torquay.

For example the Babbacombe Model Village. There are thousands of miniature buildings, people and vehicles capture the essence of England's past, present and future.



Another place to visit is Bygones. When you walk into Bygones you are transported about 100 years back in time to the reign of Queen Victoria. Bygones is four fantastic attractions one including; a life size street with Victorian shops, period display rooms from the Golden Victorian age, a 28 foot model railway and railwayana and World War 1 Trench and Militaria Displays.

The Torquay Zoo - Sea life. Is equally a beautiful place. It near the harbour and on the seafront. It is a Zoo with sea animals and birds.



My work for four weeks - Cheque King

The start of Cheque King.

L.King & Co Ltd. was founded in 1958 in Chester, as a finance provider to people at their homes. The first shop opened under the name of Cheque King was in 1996 in Exeter.

Since then they have opened another shop in Torquay in 1998 and the latest shop in Taunton in 2002.

Cheque King continues to provide an expanding service in the West Country, along with linked businesses in Wiltshire and South West Scotland.

They pride themselves in being highly computerised and keep up with the latest forms of technology making them more efficient. Customers can ask for a statement of their account and they can produce the information back to their first transaction.

Their experience in the collected credit business within the parent company gives them a great understanding of the customers' needs.

They can process a customer's business fast, a key to loyalty, and are now looking at ways to improve through the internet. Customers do not like to be kept waiting.

The function of Cheque King is to provide a service in the financial industry that banks do not provide and to compete and offer services that are not provided by others giving the customers greater choice.

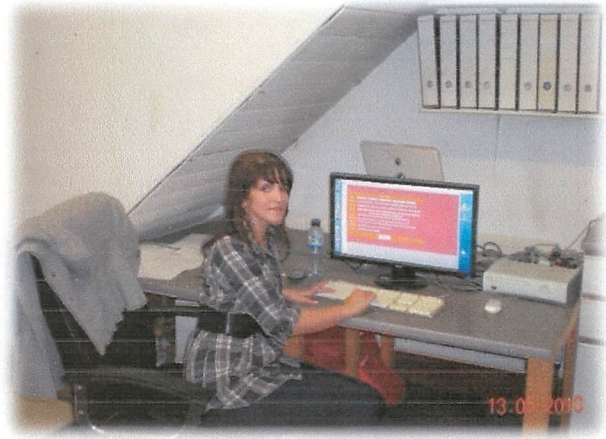
In the three shops there are 5 people employed and the customers come from all over the world but the most come from the Great Britain.

This is the shop in Torquay, my work:



My days at Cheque king start normally at 10 o'clock and I finished work at 4 o'clock pm.

I start with entering the new rates into the exchange board and then I carry out the banking from the last day. When I get back I serve any customers that come into the shop for the different services provided. I have been trained to serve all customers and am able to change money at the bureau de change, reload some prepaid Mastercards, check the different cheques and pay out the money, transfer money through western union, send packages through DHL and enter all the different data into the computer.



I worked with 2 people, Chris and Tracey. Chris works Monday and Friday in Torquay and the rest of the week at the headoffice in Exeter. Tracey works from Tuesday to Thursday and Saturday. The shop is open from Monday to Wednesday 9.30am to 5.30pm, Thursday 9.30am to 6pm, Friday 9.30am to 7pm and Saturday 9.30am to 5.30pm. Chris and Tracey are very nice and have been very helpful in training me for everything, because they trust me I have been able to deal with many situations. They have shown me all aspects of their jobs and have corrected me when I am wrong by explaining why it is wrong and that helps a lot.

All in all it was a great time in England. I would repeat it every time and can recommend it to any.