

Directory of Businesses

COMMERCIAL FISHING

Compass Rose Fisheries Ltd	07772 543105
Green Isle Fisheries Ltd	07973 560947
Lily's Pride Fisheries	07811 707081
S&P Fish Ltd	01271 865923
Walrus Fishery Ltd	01271 867206

FISHING TRIPS & PLEASURE BOATS

Blue Fin Charters	01271 864957
Bristol Channel Charters	01271 863398
Chopper's Crazy Boat Trips	07816 304383
Ilfracombe Boat Charters	01271 867959
Ilfracombe Princess Coastal Cruises	01271 879727
Kingfisher Charters	07811 707081
Obsession Charters	01271 866325
Osprey Charters	07970 101407
The Hampshire Rose	07818 094228

EATERIES ON THE HARBOUR

11 The Quay	01271 868090
Dolphin Fish & Chip Restaurant	01271 879297
Harbour Lights	01271 862778
Lynbay Traditional Fish & Chips	01271 866850
Take Thyme Fish Restaurant	01271 867622
The Royal Britannia	01271 862937
The Smugglers	01271 863620

OTHER BUSINESSES

Ilfracombe Aquarium	01271 864533
Variety Sports	01271 862039

Many more around the harbour – too many to mention!

www.visitilfracombe.co.uk

Ilfracombe fish trail

The Ilfracombe Harbour Fish Trail, a set of 8 information boards around the harbour, describes the activities of the harbour and the importance of fishing and maritime activities to the town both now and in the past.

The trail takes about 15 minutes to walk without stopping, so the time it will take depends on what you find on your travels!

If you go to our website www.visitilfracombe.co.uk you will find other related activities and information.

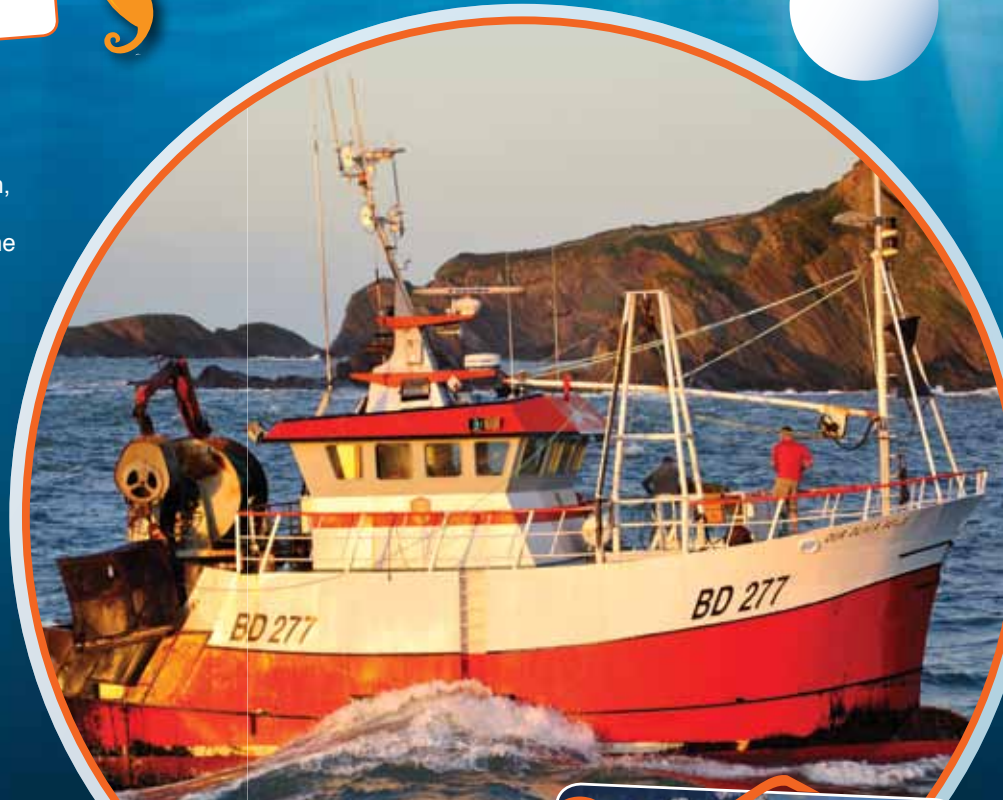


Ilfracombe fish trail

Eat Fresh Fish...

Find out where to eat locally caught fish, or find other businesses involved in the maritime and fishing industry through the directory inside this leaflet. If you scan the QR code below, you will be able to access more information about the fish trail, and about Ilfracombe.

If you've enjoyed exploring our harbour, why not visit one of the other fishing ports in northern Devon? Bideford, Appledore, and Clovelly are all great places to visit with long and varied fishing histories.



Ilfracombe
curious coastal charm



www.visitilfracombe.co.uk

1 Ilfracombe Harbour

For many years, even after it was regularly being used by small ships, Ilfracombe harbour was just a natural haven protected by a ridge of rocks and stones.

At high Spring tides the sea would cover the lower parts of this ridge and turn Lantern Hill into a temporary island. Gradually the gaps between the rocks were filled in with boulders and stonework until a causeway was created which was practically free from flooding and provided additional protection to the harbour.

The larger rocks forming this causeway may still be seen in the yards of some of the houses on The Quay and from Cheyne Beach. A deep layer of pebbles and shingle beneath Pip and Jim's Church and a deposit of washed gravel indicate that, until comparatively recent times, the area lying between St. James Place and Fore Street was part of the harbour strand and that the Wilder Stream originally entered the sea at the harbour and now enters at Wildersmouth Beach.

2 Bristol Channel

The Severn bore is a tidal bore seen on the tidal reaches of the River Severn.

The Severn Estuary, which empties into the Bristol Channel, has the second largest tidal range in the world — about 15m (49ft), exceeded only by the Bay of Fundy. During the highest tides rising water is funnelled up the estuary into a wave that travels upstream against the river current at a speed of 8 to 13 miles per hour. The largest bores occur in Spring but smaller ones can be seen throughout the year. River surfing enthusiasts attempt to surf along on the wave, which can be 2 metres (7 ft) high.

The Bristol Channel is home to many species of marine life, but one species which has proved to be very popular is the bottlenose dolphin. They often put on a display for those watching and their playful nature has charmed locals and visitors. The picture below shows one of the visiting dolphins playing just off the end of the harbour.



3 Rapparee

Looking across the bay from the Pier you will see Rapparee Cove. In 1796 the transport ship 'London', carrying prisoners from the West Indies, was wrecked off Rapparee Cove and some 40 prisoners were said to have drowned, as well as many local people trying to save them.

Four chests of treasure were said to have been recovered but one was lost. In January 1978 the beach was particularly low after a storm and several 18th century gold coins were found by people digging in the sand.

In 1991 the wall at the back of the beach was breached by the sea and a few years later some human bones were found there. There is still controversy over their origin, which has not yet been fully resolved.

4 Harbour Master

Ilfracombe Harbour has been in existence for 100's of years but was not formally recognised and established until the 1800's.

The Harbour Master is the Council's appointed officer responsible for managing the Harbour Authority area and it's pilotage district. He monitors and enforces compliance with maritime, national and local legislation and ensures that the harbour is a safe place for people to navigate within. He is also responsible for business development including the needs of the resident leisure boats, commercial operators and the fishing fleet as well as that of the many visiting yachts and motorboats. Perhaps the biggest responsibility is ensuring that Ilfracombe Harbour is safe for all to enjoy.

Close to the Harbour Master's Office is the Ilfracombe Aquarium which was originally the lifeboat station.

5 Old Quay Head

The Inner Harbour is protected by the Old Quay Head, a Grade II* listed structure built originally in the early medieval period with alterations and improvements made over the years. The top of the quay has been used for centuries as a boat landing and a commercial fishing area particularly by the potters. These days it is used as a storage area for the crab and lobster stores and a landing area for pleasure craft.

6 Beach Conservation

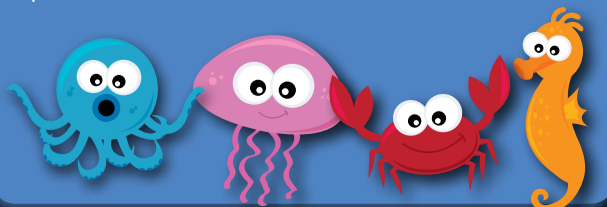
Beach conservation is important to Ilfracombe. The Marine Conservation Society (MCS) have created a Seashore Code, which can be found overleaf, to help you to enjoy our beaches responsibly.

For more information see: www.mcsuk.org

Small Fry's Trail

Small Fry has a section on each fish trail board. Meet the gang – Chris the crab, Jess the jellyfish, Oli the Octopus, and Susie the seahorse. Watch out for them though, as these pesky little creatures like to go and hide...

There is a separate kids leaflet available. Complete the quiz, and claim your sticker! If you can't find the leaflet around town, you can download a pdf to print here: www.visitilfracombe.co.uk/fishtrail.



Ilfracombe fish trail

Each of the 8 information boards on the Fish Trail describe different activities, habitat and the history of Ilfracombes thriving fishing industry.

Take this leaflet with you on the Fish Trail around the harbour to learn more!



8 Trawling

Ilfracombe's fishing fleet is a mix of potters and trawlers.

Trawling is a method of fishing that involves pulling a fishing net through the water behind one or more boats. The net that is used for trawling is called a trawl.

The boats that are used for trawling are called trawlers or dragners. Trawlers vary in size from small open boats with only small engines to large factory trawlers. Trawling can be carried out by one trawler or by two trawlers fishing cooperatively (pair trawling).

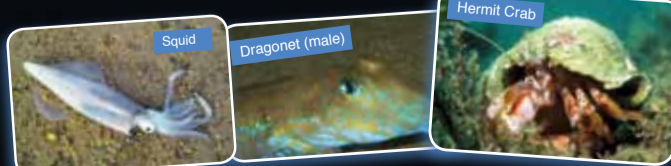
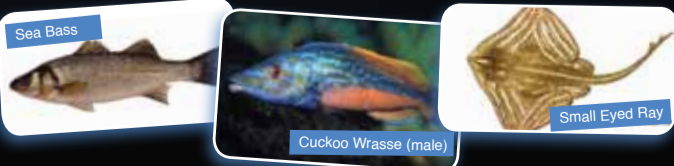
Trawling can be contrasted with trolling, where baited fishing lines instead of trawls are drawn through the water. Trolling is used both for recreational and commercial fishing whereas trawling is used mainly for commercial fishing. Trawling is also commonly used as a scientific sampling, or survey, method.

7 RNLI & Slipway

Ilfracombe has had a lifeboat station for almost 190 years. The two lifeboats respond to a wide variety of 'shouts' and the crew have received four medals for gallantry.

Ilfracombe is a 'Discover' lifeboat station which means that visitors are welcome to look around. The station is open to visitors throughout the summer months.

Before the construction of the new boathouse and slipway, the lifeboat had to be manoeuvred out of its house on the Pier, towed along the Quay past the front of the Royal Britannia Hotel and into the bus station car park, then pushed round a tight corner and down a narrow slipway. In 1997 the new slipway was constructed giving direct access from the new boathouse to the harbour beach. These major improvements have cut launching times by up to ten minutes – vital minutes to a casualty in distress.





Ilfracombe Harbour

There has been a port here since at least the 12th century and a settlement for much longer. Today the predominant use is for leisure and tourism but this is still a working harbour with fish and seafood landed daily with the tide. Enjoy the spectacle of a proper working boat or watch the gig crews practise their sport.

Try a trip on one of the many charter boats operating from the harbour and see seals, porpoises and sea birds nesting on the cliffs, or try your hand at mackerel or deep sea fishing. You may even see our resident dolphin, Dave, doing his tricks.

Along the Quay and in the surrounding streets there are restaurants, cafes, tea gardens and pubs, many with outside eating and drinking areas. There is also a great selection of shops and galleries around the harbour and the town.



Look out for the fish trail boards!



Northern Devon Fisheries Local Action Group (FLAG)

The Ilfracombe Fish Trail was created by the Ilfracombe and District Tourism Association in partnership with North Devon Council. Funding came from both organisations, and also from the North Devon FLAG.

FLAG is a partnership that has come together to support all aspects of 'Northern Devon Fisheries' and has been successful in securing funding from the European Fisheries Fund, known as Axis 4, which is there to support the sustainable development of fisheries.



North Devon Fisheries



Marine Conservation Society Seashore Code

Stretching around 16,000km, the coastline around the British Isles is a huge playground for everyone to enjoy. Follow the MCS Seashore Code and enjoy the coast, without harm to yourself or wildlife.

Explore Responsibly:

- Leave animals where you find them.
- Carefully lift and replace any rocks you move and leave attached seaweed in place.
- Seashells nurture an interest in nature amongst children, so if you want to take a couple home only take empty open shells, like limpets and mussels and leave the shells that can provide a home for hermit crabs, like whelks and periwinkles.

Keep it Tidy:

- Take your rubbish home. Don't bury it or burn it.
- Poop scoop your dog's waste then bin it responsibly.

Mind your Step:

- Keep to established paths and dune boardwalks.
- If you dig holes in the beach, please fill them up again.
- Don't climb up or go near the top or bottom of a cliff.
- Check tide times to avoid being cut off.
- Keep away from soft sand and mud, and beware of slippery rocks.

Watch with Care:

- Watch quietly from a distance, especially near birds and seals with pups.

Control your Dog:

- Keep your dog on a lead near birds and seals.