



PRESS RELEASE

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The Top Ten Bucket and Spade List 2023

The Seaside Heritage Network is delighted to announce its inaugural **Bucket and Spade List, the Top Ten favourite seaside places and experiences** as voted for by members of the public.

1. Saltburn Cliff Tramway, Saltburn-by-the-Sea
2. Blackpool Tower
3. Morecambe Winter Gardens
4. Silcock's Carousel, Southport
5. Donkey Rides, Weymouth
6. Papa's Fish & Chips, Cleethorpes
7. South Cliff Gardens, Scarborough
8. Dreamland Margate
9. Bournemouth Beach Huts
10. Babbacombe Model Village

The Bucket and Spade List was announced in the superb setting of Blackpool Winter Gardens on 11 September when the top three finalists were awarded with certificates by designer and seaside regeneration expert, Wayne Hemingway MBE.

Dr Kathryn Ferry, a founder member of the Seaside Heritage Network, said how important it was to see people and communities getting behind the vote: 'There's a strong nostalgic element to these finalists but that's no bad thing, it shows how embedded the seaside holiday and seaside resorts are within our island culture. Too often, these towns get a bad press but it's time to change perceptions and celebrate the joy and entertainment the seaside has brought to generations of Britons.'

Embracing the power of seaside heritage to connect with people anew can help places that have been suffering social and economic problems. Morecambe Winter Gardens and Dreamland Margate are examples of the potentially transformative power of seaside heritage and we congratulate all of our worthy finalists – not least the donkeys!

Here are some of the reasons voters gave for their choices:

Saltburn Cliff Tramway

'It's aesthetically beautiful, mechanically inventive, exciting to ride, practical and the staff are fun.'

'It's in my hometown and I love to hear people waiting to board the lift getting excited and talking about its history.'

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Blackpool Tower

'It's a true icon, ambitious, brash, showy and full of fun.'

'It has many different activities for all types of visitors and hosts Strictly! Blackpool is open all year round...and the Tower provides entertainment, whatever the weather.'

Morecambe Winter Gardens

'The winter gardens would be a fantastic venue for talent to shine in the future, helping the building to become self-sustaining and reward the extremely dedicated volunteers that have helped to save this magnificent theatre'

Silcock's Carousel, Southport

'It's not only heritage and tradition, its moving art and part of a limited remaining collections of organs...it's timeless and family owned and loved by the town.'

Donkey Rides, Weymouth

'The donkeys at Weymouth have always been there. They are part of our seaside history and the ones at Weymouth are very well cared for.'

'It's the one thing my grandchildren always pester me for when we visit.'

Papa's Fish and Chips, Cleethorpes

'Cleethorpes has everything you need for a traditional seaside holiday and a chippy on the pier is the icing on the cake.'

South Cliff Gardens, Scarborough

'The stunning coastal views, beautiful gardens, beautifully restored historic shelters to sit in for picnics or shade, wonderful traditional cafe halfway down, all the activities of the beach and the Spa buildings at the bottom, and finally a historic tram ride to get back up the hill.'

Dreamland Margate

'Amazing heritage theme park, at an affordable price for a family day out, right on a beautiful golden sandy beach, plus easily accessible public transport links... what's not to love!'

Bournemouth Beach Huts

'Pretty beach huts with a beautiful outlook onto the sea, perfect for a day of seaside fun. These huts are such lovely colours and represent the unique style of the UK's beaches. Something Bournemouth gets perfectly right!'

Babbacombe Model Village

'This is my favourite place in the world! The work that has gone into the tiniest details is amazing to me.'

REACTION FROM OUR WINNERS:

From Saltburn

Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Climate Change, Environment and Culture, Cllr Carrie Richardson said: 'This latest award for the Cliff Tramway comes hot on the heels of it receiving the accolade of being among the top 10% of listings on TripAdvisor's Travellers' Choice Awards.'

‘Both awards are a clear recognition of the hard work and dedication of the team who provide a great experience for visitors and how highly regarded this charming seaside attraction is by locals and visitors to the area. I would like to thank everyone who took the time to vote for the Cliff Tramway to beat off some really strong opposition.’

From Blackpool

Carl Carrington, Head of Planning and Conservation at Blackpool Council said: ‘We’re delighted to have been nominated for an award and despite coming second, we’re really grateful to everyone who voted for Blackpool Tower. It’s great that the Seaside Heritage Network has been re-formed and is working to highlight how important our seaside heritage is to the cultural life and economies of seaside resorts and towns and we look forward to working closely with the Network in the future. Congratulations to Saltburn too!’

From Morecambe

Professor Vanessa Toulmin, Chair of the Morecambe Winter Gardens Preservation Trust and Professor of Early Film and Popular Entertainment the University of Sheffield said: ‘The Morecambe Winter Gardens is delighted to be in the top three of the Bucket and Spade List and this is testament to both the love of Morecambe and also the amazing journey we have been on as a volunteer run organisation over the past three years. We are humbled to be on the same list as many of our great seaside attractions and thank everyone for voting for us - the seaside is an important part of our heritage and our future so let’s celebrate it.’

Notes to editors:

For further information, contact seasideheritage@gmail.com or call Kathryn Ferry on 07941 805673 / Allan Brodie on 07810 263337

The event in Blackpool Winter Gardens is sponsored by Blackpool Council.

If you would like to attend the event at Blackpool on 11th September to interview representatives from the Top 10 or the Seaside Heritage Network please contact us

The Seaside Heritage Network aims to connect people, groups and businesses who care about the heritage of Britain’s seaside resorts. It is run by volunteers who are specialists from the tourism, academic, history and heritage sectors.



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