

Frinton-on-Sea: A Stylish Town On the Essex Coast

By Karen Dabrowska



All quiet on the waterfront

As the summer approaches many small seaside towns on Britain's Essex Coast will be welcoming visitors who have come on a day trip or for a longer stay.

Frinton-on-Sea is no exception. It's a town with style. Even the ice-cream shop has a menu, elegant sofas and an array of newspapers and books to read while slowly savouring the unique flavours.

The main attractions in the family resort are Connaught Avenue and the beach, officially recognised as one of the best in Britain. The tree-lined avenue, which stretches from the railway station to the beach has been dubbed East Anglia's Bond Street. It is the place for high class hotels with exquisite restaurants, craft shops and Art Deco & Antiques which showcases the elaborate styles of a world of luxury and

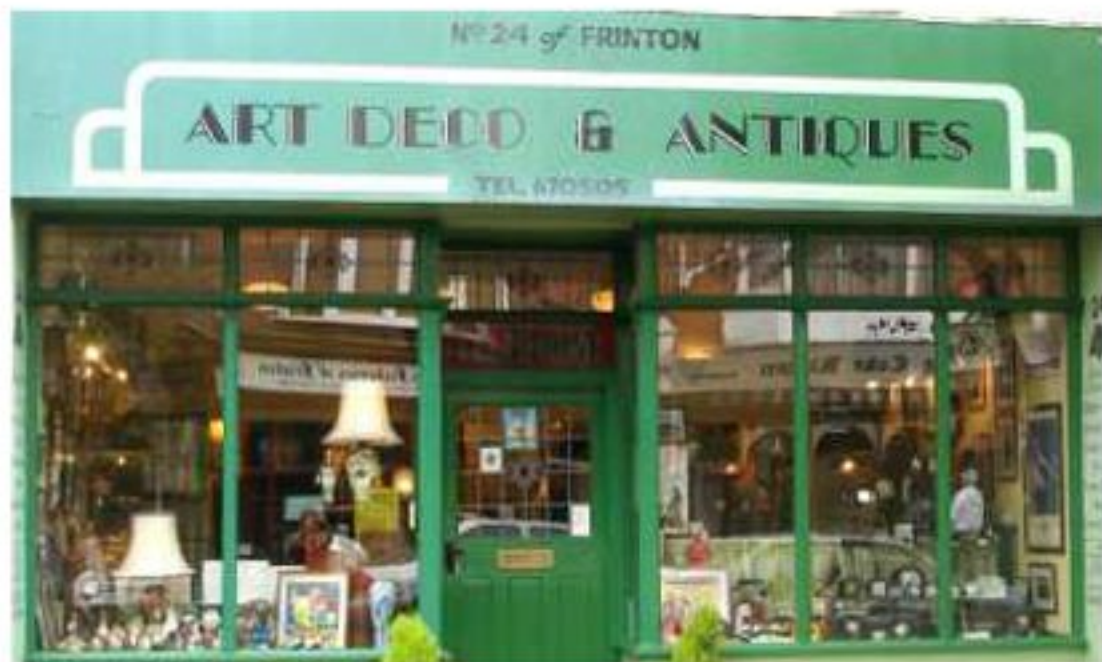
decadence sandwiched between two world wars: ceramics, perfume bottles, porcelain, jewellery, classic radios and phones.

Many of the town's buildings are Victorian and art deco and it lays a disputed claim to Britain's oldest church. In fact there is no shortage of churches - one even occupies a converted cinema. There is also a theatre with summer shows. The golf course is challenging, with tidal ditches.

The town has over a mile of sandy beach and an area of sea zoned for swimming, sailing, and windsurfing. The shore is lined by a promenade with several hundred beach huts recalling the days when Frinton was a favourite retreat for the aristocracy. Noted for its cleanliness and gentility, the area places special emphasis on relaxed family fun. There are plenty of enjoyable walks along the extensive greensward.

Beach huts





Those looking for more lively seafront activities can take a stroll along the promenade to the neighbouring resort of Walton-on-the-Naze. A short walk in the other direction brings you to Frinton Golf Club and Holland Haven Country Park Local Nature Reserve. There is also Pedlars Wood Nature Reserve, located between Frinton-on-Sea and Walton-on-the-Naze. The woodland walk on the Frinton side is open to the public whilst an educational nature trail on the Walton side can be visited by appointment.

Until late Victorian times Frinton was a church, several farms and a handful of cottages. In the 1890s, the original developer of the town, Peter Bruff, was bought out by R Powell Cooper, who had already laid out the golf course. Powell Cooper rejected Bruff's plans for a pier, stipulated the quality of housing to be built and prohibited boarding houses and pubs. The Sea Defence Act 1903 established a project to stabilise the cliffs, with the Greensward, which separates the Esplanade from the sea, put in place to stabilise the land further.

Railway station



The coast



improve performance and safety, and to reduce costs.

The morning following the gates' removal, around a hundred people gathered to protest over the decision. The past is respected and the locals do all they can to preserve their heritage.

Frinton-On-Sea is quiet, exclusive and discerning, with no brash commercialisation.

England's sea side experience ast its best. Its easy to reach in one hour and 45 minutes by train from London's Liverpool Street Station with one change at Thorpe-le-Stoken. If there are engineering works don't despair. The replacement bus service is a ride through the idyllic countryside with endearing cottages and plenty of stops for a an ice cream and a welcome soft drink.