

5 FOR THE LOVE OF THEATRE

Tower Road: **West Cliff Theatre** hosts top names in show business and celebrates its 125th anniversary in 2019.

The history dates back to 1894 when Bert Graham formed an open air Concert Party nearby and by 1899 they were performing on the land at West Cliff Gardens where eventually the West Cliff Theatre was built in 1928 as you see it today.



7 THE PLACE TO BE

After the war Clacton's popularity as a holiday destination grew.

Walking back towards the Pier you can imagine the throngs of people flocking to the beaches on sunny days and catching the **Punch and Judy** shows.



8 GOLDEN SANDS & CHAMPAGNE AIR

Tendring's coastal resorts played a key role in the establishment of the nostalgic British seaside holiday. From the late Victorian era visitors would flock here by **paddle steamers**, then rail, coach & car. Posters enticed tourists with the promise of, 'Golden Sands and Champagne Air'. We are proud of our seaside heritage and invite you to enjoy it too!



6 RED COATS & CHALETS

Marine Parade West: Note the **Martello Tower**, the only surviving moated tower with its drawbridge still intact, built during the early 19th century during the Napoleonic Wars to defend the east coast.

Clacton's entertainment theme continued along Marine Parade West with a Palace-by-the-Sea and a boating lake. Best known will be Butlin's holiday camp, 1938-1983. Loved for the freedom it gave children and the relaxation for parents, it was a popular holiday spot for many years. Local school children, 'barrow boys and girls', would earn some tips by carrying visitors' luggage to their accommodation, which was sometimes a long walk away.

Credits

Walk commissioned by Juliana Vandegriff, **Resorting to the Coast**.
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The Clacton Heritage Walking Trail has been developed in conjunction with:



RESORTING TO THE COAST

TELLING THE STORY OF THE UNIQUE SEASIDE HISTORY OF TENDRING RESORTS

CLACTON-ON-SEA HERITAGE TRAIL



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THE HEART OF THE UK'S SUNSHINE COAST

Clacton holds a special place in Britain's nostalgic seaside history. From its long stretch of sandy beaches and vibrant pier, to its scenic gardens, traditional entertainments and exciting history, the town has something for everyone to enjoy. This heritage walking trail will take you to a few of the town's main landmarks, bringing to life its journey from one man's dream to a holiday hotspot teeming with visitors.



1 NO. 1 NORTH SEA

In 1865 entrepreneur, Peter Bruff, bought land where Clacton town now stands, with a vision to transform it into a new seaside resort. **The Pier** was built and opened for paddle steamers to use in 1871. Past pier theatres include: Ocean Theatre and entertainer Clown Bertram's Children's Theatre. (Bertram's ventriloquist's dummy, Filbert, is now at **Clacton Museum** in the town's library, Station Road.)

2 A LITTLE TASTE OF ITALY

1914: **Venetian Bridge** was built to span the road, now Pier Gap, as part of Clacton's 'General Beautifying Programme'. Nearby is the Pavilion entertainment complex. Formerly a Band Pavilion, now Armstrong's, it pays tribute to Henry Armstrong, an American boxer who used the Pavilion to train for a World Championship fight in 1939.



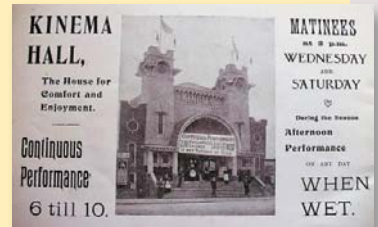
3 THE BEGINNINGS OF A COMMUNITY

On Pier Avenue is Magic City. Dating from the 1870s, the building was originally a boys' boarding school before it was converted to Brunswick hotel and restaurant, then Marshall's amusement arcade in the 1930s and Magic City in the 1980s. From here you can spot Clacton's first **Town Hall** with clock tower.



4 CINEMAS & THEATRES GALORE

West Avenue: home to some of Clacton's six cinemas, including Kinema Hall, 1913 to 1962 and since demolished. Ellis Road: the police station resembles ship, was originally the site of 'Rigg's Retreat' an entertainment complex. Rigg's catered for 2,500 in high season and had a skating rink and dance hall. Only **The Century** cinema remains, on the corner of Pier Avenue and Old Road.



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KEY
..... WALKING ROUTE - 2M
Clacton Pier POINTS OF INTEREST