

TORCH HOLIDAYS

All prices
fully
inclusive

Specialist holidays for
people with sight loss

TORCH
HOLIDAYS 

What's special about a Torch Holiday?

Gail Millar, Torch Holidays Leader



The warm family welcome

It's easy to see why people with sight loss come back year after year to stay at Torch Holiday & Retreat Centre. For them it's simply 'home from home'! This isn't just a holiday centre in the conventional sense of the words. It's a lovely comfortable country house with beautiful grounds that's home to Holidays Leader Gail Millar and her own family and becomes home for every guest who arrives at the front door. And every guest and sighted companion becomes a friend. Torch holidays are about enjoying being together. Gail leads all the holidays and has many years of experience of working with blind and partially sighted people.

'As soon as we arrive it's like coming home! Torch is so special to us and we now come three or four times a year.'
- Brian and Margaret

'... such a beautiful home. All the staff and volunteers are always willing to do anything and everything for you. I know I am loved there.'
- Pat

'The hospitality is off the scale. Torch should be awarded 10 stars!' - Jeff

'We have been waited on, served, loved, spoilt, cherished. It is a special place on this earth. The comfort and the food are second to none.'
- Nora



'I was very apprehensive ... since losing my sight I have been very afraid of strange places and new people. But I have never felt more comfortable in my life ... everyone was so helpful and understanding.'
- Anne

What's special about a Torch Holiday?

The understanding and acceptance

Torch Holiday & Retreat Centre is a place where, as one guest said, 'it's normal to be blind.' This is emphasised in the accessibility of all the facilities and in the provision of braille and giant print materials and, most importantly, in the experience and training of Gail and her team. All outings and activities – many of them ambitious – have been thoroughly researched in terms of suitability for people with sight loss, with attention to detail that's exceptional.

'Torch Holidays ... they organise and think of everything.'
- Molly

'Torch is new to me, but I have fallen in love with the place already. The people are so friendly, kind and helpful. It's nothing like anywhere else I have been and I am now 92.'
- Joan

'Everyone is so friendly, the atmosphere is unique. The kindness shown from first thing in the morning to last thing at night is amazing.'
- Rose

What's special about a Torch Holiday?

The holistic care

Another special feature of a Torch holiday is the daily opportunity for guests to take time to think about their spiritual wellbeing and welfare as well as being refreshed physically and mentally. The centre welcomes blind and partially sighted people of all faiths and none; it is a place of peace, prayer, personal retreat and renewal. There is a strong Christian ethos which is reflected not only practically in the care offered by all the staff and volunteers, but also in the daily opportunities to take part in the spiritual programme offered. A number of Christian speakers lead this aspect of the holidays and all are encouraged to participate. A Torch holiday means renewal for body, mind and spirit. Some guests may choose to come with sighted companions, who always find they themselves have a very fulfilling holiday too. But Gail and the team, many of them volunteers, have all been appropriately trained to give support such as guiding and audio description for blind guests. They become 'eyes' for the week as well as friends.

'... a place where I know I will be loved, fed really well by Gail's wonderful food and also fed well spiritually.' – Lynn

'... an amazing place! The people here live out their faith, it is a living example of Christianity. I love the community ... everyone is so friendly, from the young to the old. We will definitely be back. My husband lost his sight five years ago ... finding Torch and coming here has been the best thing that has happened in those years.'
– Isobel and Bill

'We have had so much fun, my ribs are aching with laughter. The food is fantastic. The people here are amazing, so full of God's love.'
– Marion



'Something for everyone...'

Both general and special interest holidays

The general holidays

always include trips out to places of interest such as National Trust properties and gardens, animal farms and the coast. Often the holidays include a shopping expedition, where guests can be given one-to-one support in choosing clothes, shoes or gifts.

Torch Holidays also offer a growing range of **special interest breaks** based at the centre. The annual activity holiday is always very popular.

Activities-based holidays

offer more adventurous experiences – everything from horse riding, climbing and abseiling to swimming, boating and bowling. The full programme extends to the evenings when there may be fellowship times and talent shows at the centre, or visits out to the theatre or a concert. Because everything on the programme has been thoroughly researched with blind people in mind, all the activities are relaxing and stress-free. Most

guests report that attempting new activities within the secure support of the Torch team has really broadened their horizons and boosted their confidence.

Other breaks that have a wide appeal include computer skills, reading, walking, Bible study, crafts, cookery and gardening. The major Christian festivals of Christmas and Easter are celebrated with houseparties. We also run weekend breaks especially designed for those new to the onset of sight loss.



For details of all Torch holidays and terms and conditions go to www.torchtrust.org or call **01273 832282**.

A gracious country house that's home from home



Torch Holiday & Retreat Centre is on the edge of the historic village of Hurstpierpoint in West Sussex. The secluded grounds have wonderful views of the South Downs and there are many lovely local countryside walks. A number of places of interest are within easy reach, and the seaside town of Brighton is just nine miles away.



The house itself accommodates up to 22 guests in single, twin and family rooms, all with their own washing facilities and radio. Priority for ground floor rooms is given to those unable to manage stairs.

The **large lounge** is fitted with a loop system for the benefit of the hearing impaired. There is also a smaller south-facing sun lounge with views over the garden and the hills.



The **dining room** at Torch Holiday & Retreat Centre is the setting for lively family-style mealtimes with plenty of delicious home-made meals. All holidays include full board – from early morning tea brought to your room through to breakfast, lunch, three-course dinner, supper and all refreshments. Packed lunches are provided for all days out. Special diets can be catered for.

Transport for trips out in the accessible minibus is included in the cost – **in fact, the holidays are completely fully inclusive.**



Other facilities include **internet access, a TV room, and tea and coffee making stations.** Attached to the house is a **beautiful chapel**, available for private prayer or meditation.



The grounds of the centre include a recently established small **sensory garden** and a new decked **quiet area**. Adjacent to the house is a large terraced area, much used in the summer.



Torch Holiday & Retreat Centre

for specialist holidays where what's most special is you!



Torch Holiday & Retreat Centre

4 Hassocks Road, Hurstpierpoint, West Sussex BN6 9QN, UK

For more details or to book, ring **01273 832282** or email **holidays@torchtrust.org**

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