

Fab DAILY



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HOMES & FAMILIES

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A recent report shows that more than half of Brits would love to relocate to a seaside location. But one woman who has trippers looking to party have turned her

of Brits would love to relocate to a done just that reveals how the day dream into a nightmare...

THE HELL OF A HOLIDAY TOWN

By **MARTHA CLIFF**

STROLLING along Brighton's promenade on a Sunday morning, Kate Thomas draws in a deep breath.

But it's not to enjoy the fresh smell of sea air – rather to avoid the sickening stench of vomit from the night before that wafts from streets and pavements.

Having moved to the East Sussex holiday hotspot just one year ago with dreams of a quieter life, Kate, 40, now dodges some areas after dark during the peak summer season.

The actress grew up in Basildon, Essex, before moving to east London at the age of 19. She was one of 23,000 Brits to relocate to Brighton in 2022, in the hope of finding a peaceful retreat from inner-city living.

A recent report found that more than half of the nation would love to up sticks and start a new life on the coast.

In fact, some 37 per cent have active plans to flit to a waterside location, according to the study by estate agent Strutt & Parker.

Kate says: "I got to a certain age and I really wanted to find somewhere to settle as my forever home and live a quieter existence."

"I'd always loved Brighton and it seemed like the ideal place to do exactly that."

Kate says that she's made great friends and has a lot of respect for the locals and business owners. And she insists that, out of season, Brighton is an idyllic place to be.

But, between the months of April and October, she revealed some parts can become a cesspit of unsavoury daytrippers.

She admits: "Now that I'm no longer a visitor myself, I see them with completely different eyes. Some daytrippers seem to have no respect for the fact that this is someone's home. They just see it as a party town."

Trail of destruction

"There are areas of the city I avoid entirely because I know that they're a hotbed for hen and stag dos."

"West Street, one of the main shopping streets, is lined with tipsy groups tottering about in heels while local businesses tout for custom outside bars. It's more like the Magaluf strip than a historical seaside town."

She adds: "The pier is a no-go zone for the entire summer season, as it is packed with holidaymakers. There's barely room to move. As soon as they've had a few drinks, they become rowdy and sometimes violent."

"With 700 pubs in the area, it's not difficult to get lairy. Just a few weeks ago I saw an inebriated daytripper punch an innocent cyclist for getting in his way."

"All the residents are as horrified as me, but they have been here for years so knew to avoid these areas long before I did."

"You won't find a Brighton local using the penny machines in the arcade let's face it."

But daytrippers aren't wholly responsible for making locals' lives a misery. Tourists who book out one of the area's 2,000 holiday lets also play their part.

Kate, who lives alone in the trendy Kemp Town area of the city,



SHATTERED DREAM... Kate didn't get quiet life she wanted

says that Airbnb guests are an increasing problem during the summer months.

Houses typically sell for an average of £500,000 compared to Brighton's most expensive property at £2.5million on Western Esplanade known as Millionaire's Row.

She says: "For residents, the growing number of Airbnbs is a huge problem."

"For much of the year, the properties surrounding them might be totally empty. But then for weeks at a time they will be

packed out with party-goers playing music for the entire night.

"I knew a group who did the same and I hated being associated with the tourist crowd, something that fellow residents agree on."

"They were up into the early hours playing music in a residential area and received tons of complaints. And they were banned from booking the place again. That's all well and good, but when people know they aren't coming back they have no respect whatsoever. For them, it's a home

for one night, whereas for us we have to live with this behaviour for the entire season."

She says: "There are people who just treat our city like a bin. The amount of rubbish that is left on the beach is absolutely appalling."

"Families will just up and go, leaving behind disposable barbecues, empty drink bottles and even discarded tents and picnic rugs. It's just so far from what Brighton as a city represents."

"We're known for being incredibly green and eco-friendly, and the piles of rubbish I am met with

DUMPING GROUND... rubbish left behind on the beach

'I wanted to settle here as my forever home... but visitors just treat it like a bin'

SHOPS CLOSE AT 5PM ... IT'S NOT 24/7

NATASHA HARDING, 48, is a yoga teacher and freelance journalist. She moved to Cornwall in 2020 with her husband Paul, 54, who works in insurance, 17-year-old Zak and Lexi, who's nine. She says:

● In 2020, a lifelong dream of moving to Cornwall finally came true and, although I don't regret it, it wasn't as smooth as I expected and it certainly hasn't been without issues.

If you're expecting London by the sea, you're going to be disappointed.

When you meet someone new, one of the first things they'll ask is where you're from and how long you've lived there. I've never been asked that before.

It is a very different way of living and there isn't the 24/7 culture that you might be used to.

The shops close promptly at 5pm and if you manage to get a roast after 2pm on a Sunday, you're winning. The smaller shops don't think anything of

closing early if the surf is good, and pinning down a tradesman with an exact date and time to visit is mission impossible. They tend to give you a two week window and look aghast if you ask for a confirmed slot.

As expected, from July, the town is besieged by tourists and things such as driving in, trying to find a parking space or getting a table at your favourite restaurant aren't worth the hassle.

If you do make the mistake of going into town on a sunny day in August, you'll encounter hundreds of slow-moving tourists in full-on holiday mode – which is lovely, unless you have things to do.

The driving standards in the summer are awful and you're constantly stuck behind slow-moving caravans and

camper vans. Drivers think nothing of stopping dead to take in the view, or pooling along a major road at 25mph.

Even getting an online food delivery in the school holidays is like trying to get tickets for Glastonbury. I've got into the habit of booking well in advance.

Places with NHS dentists are like gold dust and current wait times in the county are between three and five years. At the moment, potential new patients are advised to go to Bristol, over two hours away. I've had to wait more than 18 months to get a wisdom tooth extracted.

But I wouldn't want to live anywhere else. The space, the low crime rate and the close proximity to the beach more than make up for the quirks and frustrations. The biggest lesson I've learnt is you have to just go with it.



HASSLE... Natasha and Lexi

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