**Day trip to Ilfracombe from Barnstaple**

Ilfracombe has been popular with tourists since the 1800s.

The town is surrounded by beautiful coastline and beaches and there is plenty to discover in the town on a day visit.

The 21 bus to Ilfracombe runs from Barnstaple railway station, the main bus station in town or stops in Boutport Street and takes approximately an hour. There are usually buses every half hour on weekdays and Saturdays, hourly on Sundays.

Ilfracombe has a bustling town centre with some lovely independent shops.

Head to the picturesque harbour and seafront in Ilfracombe for beautiful views and the famous (some say infamous) Damien Hirst sculpture ‘Verity’.

The sculpture divides opinion but love her or hate her, she’s hard to miss as she stands at the end of the pier looking out over the Bristol Channel.

There are lots of places to eat and drink around this area but for a very traditional pub, head to the George and Dragon at the bottom of Fore Street.

If your budget can stretch to Michelin starred restaurants, then head to The Olive Room.

Chef Thomas Carr is one of the reasons that Ilfracombe has been establishing a reputation as a haven for foodies and the restaurant is just a short walk from the harbour.

A trip to Ilfracombe wouldn’t be complete without a visit to Tunnels Beaches.

This network of tunnels, carved by hand in the 1820s, link to sheltered beaches and a Victorian bathing pool.

There is an exhibition into the history of the tunnels as well as an on-site café but depending on the weather, you may just want to sit back and relax and enjoy the view.

Ilfracombe has a fine Museum too, close to the seafront and not far from the entrance to Tunnels Beaches.

Buses back to Barnstaple run fairly late into the evening so you have plenty of time to enjoy this lovely seaside town before heading back home.