

## CLEETHORPES.

Cleethorpes, with its miles of golden sands is one of the East Coast's premier seaside resorts. It is a great place for a holiday or a day out. With a pier and promenade, donkey rides, bowling alley, leisure centre, theme park, cinema, boating lake, discovery centre, narrow gauge railway and museum, all close to the beach, it is an ideal place for a traditional British seaside holiday. There are also many shops to explore on St Peters Avenue, Sea View Street, High Street and Market Place. Food outlets are plentiful too. Accommodation is well catered for with many B/Bs, guest houses and small hotels, caravan and camping sites. There is also a thriving nightlife with several night clubs.

Before the arrival of the Manchester, Sheffield and Lincolnshire Railway in 1863 linking Cleethorpes with the major industrial areas of Yorkshire, Lancashire, and the Midlands, it was a small fishing village famous for its oysters, catering only for better off middle-class people. The coming of the railway changed all this. Thousands of working-class people from the industrial heartlands now flocked to the resort. Recognising the potential of the town as a seaside resort the railway company invested heavily in the construction of the pier and promenade, and rescued the south end of the town from coastal erosion. The original station buildings and beautiful recently restored four faced clock are still to be seen. The station is also one of the very few in the country where the trains terminate almost on the beach. Due to the increase in rail traffic into the town the line from Grimsby was doubled in 1875. In its hey-day it had a turntable and a large sidings and signal box, now all gone. In the 1980s the line reverted back to a single line, with a passing loop at Grimsby Docks, as it remains to this day.

During both world wars Cleethorpes played an important role in helping to protect the busy Humber shipping lanes from enemy action, as evidenced by the two Forts that can still be seen today across the Humber estuary. Across the estuary can be seen Spurn Lighthouse and Lifeboat Station. The lighthouse was switched off in the 1980s but still remains as a navigation point for inbound ships.





