

County Pursuits

From castles and cathedrals to Blue Flag beaches and Bluewater, Kent offers visitors a diverse mix of exciting tourism and leisure destinations.

As England's oldest county, Kent is alive with history. Visitors can follow Chaucer's pilgrims to Canterbury or trace Dickens to his favourite haunts in Rochester. Or unravel royal romances at Leeds and Hever Castles and unlock the private worlds of Winston Churchill or Charles Darwin at their homes, Chartwell and Down House. Then there are the opportunities to explore the maritime adventures that have shaped Kent from Roman invasion to World War II.

The rich variety of Kent's landscapes is ideal for outdoor enthusiasts. Over 4,000 miles of footpaths criss-cross the county and many are through protected countryside. Attractions include the iconic White Cliffs, Bedgebury Pinetum near Tunbridge Wells and golf at over 90 courses. Kent's gardens are rightly world-renowned and there are over 180 to experience, including the formal walled garden at Penshurst Place or the spring bluebells at Goodnestone Park Gardens.

Kent also offers clean family-friendly sand and pebble beaches. Blue Flag and award-winners can be found across the county, including some 15 sandy beaches and bays along the

Thanet coast encompassing the popular resorts of Margate, Broadstairs and Ramsgate. Surfers can head to Joss Bay while kite surfing is available at Whitstable. Visitors can also enjoy the Edwardian elegance of Folkestone.

A visit to Kent is incomplete without savouring the county's authentic tastes. Visitors can lunch on fresh fare at Canterbury's The Goods Shed, England's only six-days-a-week farmers market, or enjoy a glass of handcrafted ale from Britain's oldest brewer, Shepherd Neame. Kent is home to several Michelin-starred restaurants and dishes as diverse as local marsh lamb or oysters can be enjoyed in the weaver's cottage setting of The West House, Biddenden.

For shoppers, Kent contains a wealth of retail experiences from a growing network of local markets to Bluewater, the largest retail outlet in Europe. The shops, boutiques and markets of northern France meanwhile are only an hour away.

Each of these leisure opportunities combined with improving transport connections make Kent an attractive location for weekend

breaks, business meetings or a short stop before heading to the continent.

visit
Kent

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