

VISITKENT

2018 GROUP TRAVEL GUIDE



KENT ON THE FRONTLINE

News from heritage attractions

WHAT'S NEW FOR GROUPS?

Updates for 2018

THEMED IDEAS

Suggestions for garden visits and a host of experiences



KENT GARDEN of ENGLAND

visitkent.co.uk

The essential guide for Group Travel Organisers planning a visit to Kent



visit **CANTERBURY**

Escape for a short break to the historic city of Canterbury

Canterbury is home to a captivating mix of history, culture and architecture. Easily explored on foot, the city offers plenty of surprises. Winding lanes and cobbled streets enrich the imagination and transport visitors back to another age.

The Canterbury district, in the heart of Kent, boasts a UNESCO World Heritage Site, award winning beaches and breath-taking countryside.

For more information phone the Visitor Centre on 01227 862 162



www.canterburygroups.co.uk



FOR FURTHER INFORMATION:

Visit Kent, 28-30 St Peters Street,
Canterbury, Kent, CT1 2BQ
EMAIL: trade@visitkent.co.uk
WEB: www.visitkent.co.uk/travel-trade
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Leeds Castle, Maidstone

WELCOME TO THE GARDEN OF ENGLAND



Viking Bay, Broadstairs. ©Thanet Tourism

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Hever Castle & Gardens, Edenbridge
© VisitBritain - Pete Seaward

Welcome to Kent, the Garden of England. There are few other places where London is so near, and yet feels so far away, making us one of the best destinations for a day trip, or longer break in the UK. In 2018 join in the celebrations of 400 years of the Historic Dockyard, Chatham, get on your bike at Betteshanger Country Park and pay a visit to their brand new Visitor Centre and the Kent Mining Museum, or step

into Kent's rich heritage as attractions across the county continue to commemorate the role the county has played in defending the realm. Read on for a selection of group options to help you plan a visit in 2018. Visit Kent is always available to answer your questions, and offer recommendations or advice, so do get in touch with us and we'd be happy to assist. Don't forget to visit our dedicated groups and travel trade website at

www.visitkent.co.uk/travel-trade, and sign up to our dedicated monthly groups' e-newsletter for lots of information on special offers, itineraries and news. See the 'for further information' box above for details on how to contact us, and make sure you're following Visit Kent on Twitter, Facebook and Instagram (@VisitKent). We can't wait to welcome you to the Garden of England in 2018.



National Trust

Knole Past to Present Tour

Discover Knole's fascinating 600-year past and its historic residents on this tour exclusive to groups. Your knowledgeable guide will welcome you in the courtyards before ending at the conservation studio to see precious items awaiting treatment.

The tour lasts 45 minutes and costs £5 per person (including NT members). After the tour, we invite you to explore the rest of Knole at your leisure (normal admission applies). Please get in touch for further details and to book your group visit.

Call 01732 462100 for details
nationaltrust.org.uk/knole

When you visit, donate, volunteer or join the National Trust, your support helps us to look after special places like Knole for ever, for everyone.

© National Trust 2017. The National Trust is an independent registered charity, number 205846. Photography © National Trust Images\John Miller.



Further Information No. 2

Be ready to discover our past

Celebrating Kent's mining heritage on the site of the county's last coal mine.

Like the collieries and surrounding villages of Kent, people are at the heart of Betteshanger Park's new museum. Your group could be one of the first to visit and discover the unique heritage of the East Kent Coalfield. Opening spring 2018.

Come and find us
betteshanger-park.co.uk
#Betteshanger
Sandwich Road, Deal, Kent

Further Information No. 3



KENT'S MINING HERITAGE AT BETTESHANGER PARK

Built on the site of Kent's last working coal mine close to Deal at **Betteshanger Park, The Kent Mining Museum** aims to share and celebrate the story of energy in the county – from coal mining through to sustainable energy. Opening within the new state-of-the-art Visitor Centre in 2018, the museum will include exciting, interactive displays telling visitors how coal was discovered, how it was mined and about the day-to-day lives of the miners who worked at the collieries and insights into the communities that surrounded them. The unique collection includes photographic records, personal stories and memories, formal records and documents plus remarkable artefacts. The museum will provide a focus for the four Kent collieries of Betteshanger, Snowdown, Tilmanstone and Chislet and their nearby communities of Aylesham, Elvington and Hersden. Providing opportunities for formal and informal learning, the museum will enable a wide range of people to participate in, and learn about, the largely untold story of Kent's rich mining heritage.

WHAT'S NEW?



© Thanet Tourism

ROYAL HARBOUR HISTORY FESTIVAL

The first **Royal Harbour Festival** will take place in Ramsgate, Britain's only Royal Harbour, from 15th to 17th June 2018. Taking place in the harbour and at other nearby sites in the town, the event will showcase the town's extraordinary coastal and maritime history and will raise money for local charities supporting both education and heritage regeneration projects.

EASTGATE HOUSE REFURBISHED

In Rochester, the Grade I listed 16th and 17th century **Eastgate House** has reopened following a major restoration. Once the family home of Sir Peter Buck, a senior officer at the Royal Tudor Dockyard, the house has also been a Victorian boarding school, a hostel, a museum and an inspiration to the author Charles Dickens. During the works, original features and decorative schemes have been restored, new heating and lighting has been installed and access upgraded with a lift at the back of the building. The second floor of the house is open to visitors for the first time in 40 years. Groups can combine a visit to Eastgate House with a trip to **Rochester Cathedral**.



© Medway Council



COACH FRIENDLY DOCKYARD

The Historic Dockyard, Chatham is the first Kent attraction to be awarded Coach Friendly Status by the Confederation of Passenger Transport UK. The award recognises that the attraction understands the needs of coach passengers and drivers offering facilities such as dedicated drop-off and collection points, great access and information. A dedicated groups team is on hand to help GTOs plan their day around the Dockyard's historic maritime buildings, ships and interactive galleries as well as booking tours taking in the site's story as a location in films such as *Les Miserables* and TV series including *Call the Midwife*.



HIDDEN HEVER CASTLE

Hever Castle near Edenbridge is to offer a new tour in 2018 for groups. Hidden Hever will provide access to Hever Castle's rooms that are not open to the general public. Discounts are available for groups of over 15 people and there is free coach parking.

WINE SANCTUARY OPENS

A new state-of-the-art tasting room has opened at the **Chapel Down winery** in Tenterden. This custom-built tasting room with a bespoke wine bar enables Chapel Down to meet the growing demand for knowledge of high quality wines and it can welcome up to 60 guests at a time. In-depth tastings of the range are carried out with one of the Wine & Spirit Education Trust trained tour guides and, on occasion, with Head Winemaker Josh Donaghay-Spire. Tours of the winery and vineyards are also available and The Swan Wine Kitchen serves lunches and dinner. Joint group itineraries are available with local attractions including the **Old Dairy Brewery** and the National Trust property, **Smallhythe Place**. Minimum group size is 15 people.



CATHEDRAL GARDEN TRAIL

Since medieval times, **Canterbury Cathedral** has welcomed visitors and the building together with **St Augustine's Abbey** and **St Martin's Church** make up **Canterbury's World Heritage Site**. The Cathedral's Christian heritage, architecture, stained glass and other artefacts can be explored as part of a pre-booked themed guided tour or through a self-guided audio visual tour. New is a garden trail taking in the beautiful and tranquil areas around the historic building. The **Memorial Garden** pays tribute to those who lost their lives during the Great War, and other peaceful spaces include the **Friends' Garden**, **Herb Garden** and the **Water Tower Garden**. Ruins from the old monastery can also be seen in places and private garden tours can be booked. Events run in the Cathedral throughout the year and include choral concerts while choirs have the chance to sing informal midday recitals. Groups can also book accommodation in the **Cathedral Lodge** - next to the Cathedral.



© Canterbury Cathedral

Bluewater – Brilliant for Groups

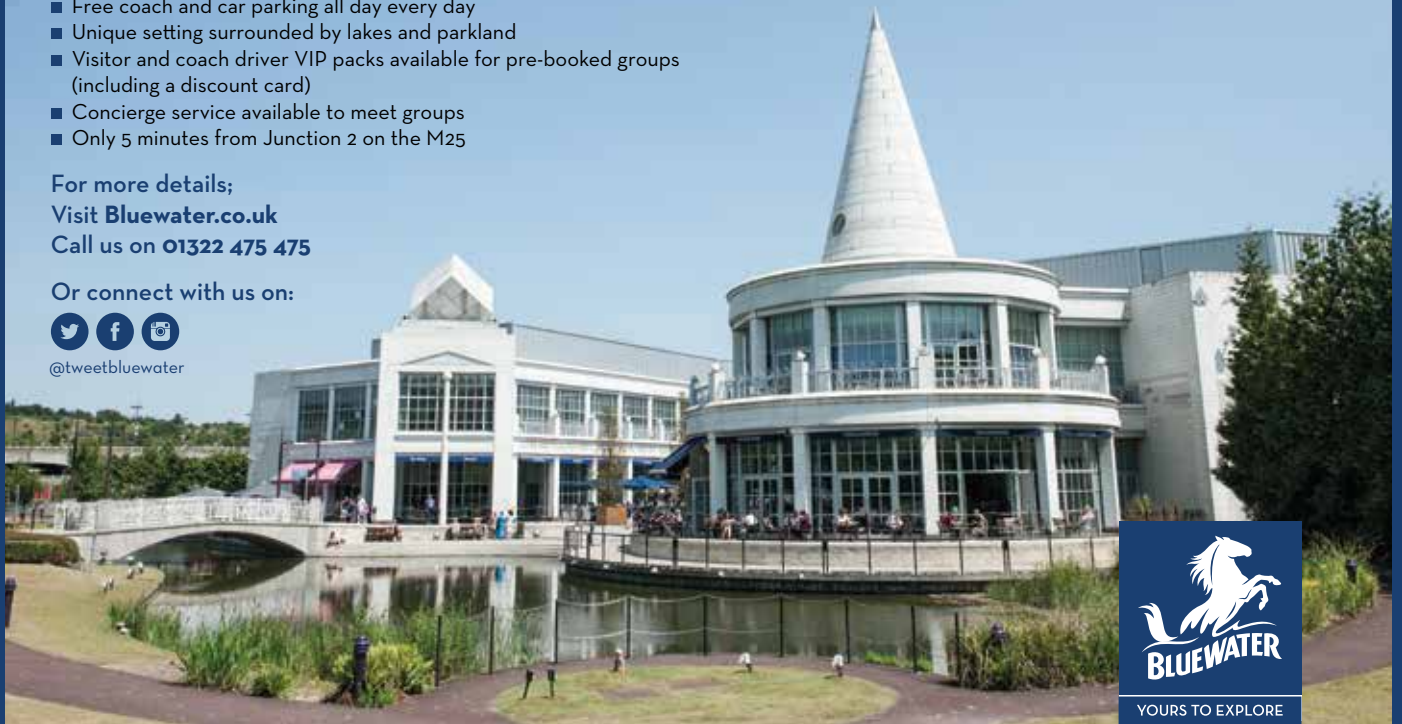
- 300 leading UK and International retail brands
- 50 choices of places to eat
- Free coach and car parking all day every day
- Unique setting surrounded by lakes and parkland
- Visitor and coach driver VIP packs available for pre-booked groups (including a discount card)
- Concierge service available to meet groups
- Only 5 minutes from Junction 2 on the M25

For more details;
Visit Bluewater.co.uk
Call us on **01322 475 475**

Or connect with us on:



@tweetbluewater



Further Information No. 4

DREAMLAND MARGATE



Welcome to the entertainment park of the future!

Dreamland Margate is the seaside day out with a difference. The newly-landscaped amusement park is full of meticulously restored vintage rides, interactive art installations, delicious street food from around the world, eclectic bars, a roller disco, pop-up entertainment, vintage arcades and a whole host of events throughout the year.

- Group discounted wristbands with access to unlimited rides
- Food outlets offering a variety of cuisines
- Roller Disco
- Coach parking available nearby
- Close proximity to the beach

For more info and to book your group visit dreamland.co.uk.

Further Information No. 5



Ightham Mote

"Ightham Mote's an island in time. Within its walls a single life is only a brief thing, and a century is little more than a pause." Dr Iain Mortimer
Once the home of medieval knights, Tudor courtiers, and high society Victorians; Ightham Mote is set within a tranquil garden and estate.

Exclusive guided house tours. Café and Gift Shop. Buggy service to house.

Open daily: March-October. See website for prices.



#IghthamMote

Ightham Mote, Ivy Hatch, Sevenoaks, Kent, TN15 ONT
www.nationaltrust.org.uk/ightham-mote
01732 810378 ighthammote@nationaltrust.org.uk

© National Trust 2017. The National Trust is an independent registered charity, number 205846. Image © National Trust images / Andrew Butler.

Further Information No. 6



Discover medieval Sandwich from above

Enjoy the view with a tower tour at St Peter's Church

- Learn about the history of St Peter's
- See the bells up close
- Tea and coffee available
- £3.00 per person (groups of over 8)

visitchurches.org.uk/sandwich

01223 324442 | sandwich@theccct.org.uk
St Peter's Church, Market Street, Sandwich, CT13 9DA



Further Information No. 7

CHIDDINGSTONE CASTLE & GARDENS

An Englishman's home...

Discover a charming country house, home to a fascinating collection of art and antiques, with a Tea Room serving scrumptious cream teas.

Group visitors welcome throughout the year.
Pre-booking essential.

www.chiddingstonecastle.org.uk
01892 870347

Further Information No. 8

Relive Britain's finest hour – at the Battle of Britain Memorial

"Never in the field of human conflict was so much owed by so many to so few"

The Battle of Britain Memorial is a place of wonder, excitement and inspiration and a place of pilgrimage, remembrance and reflection.

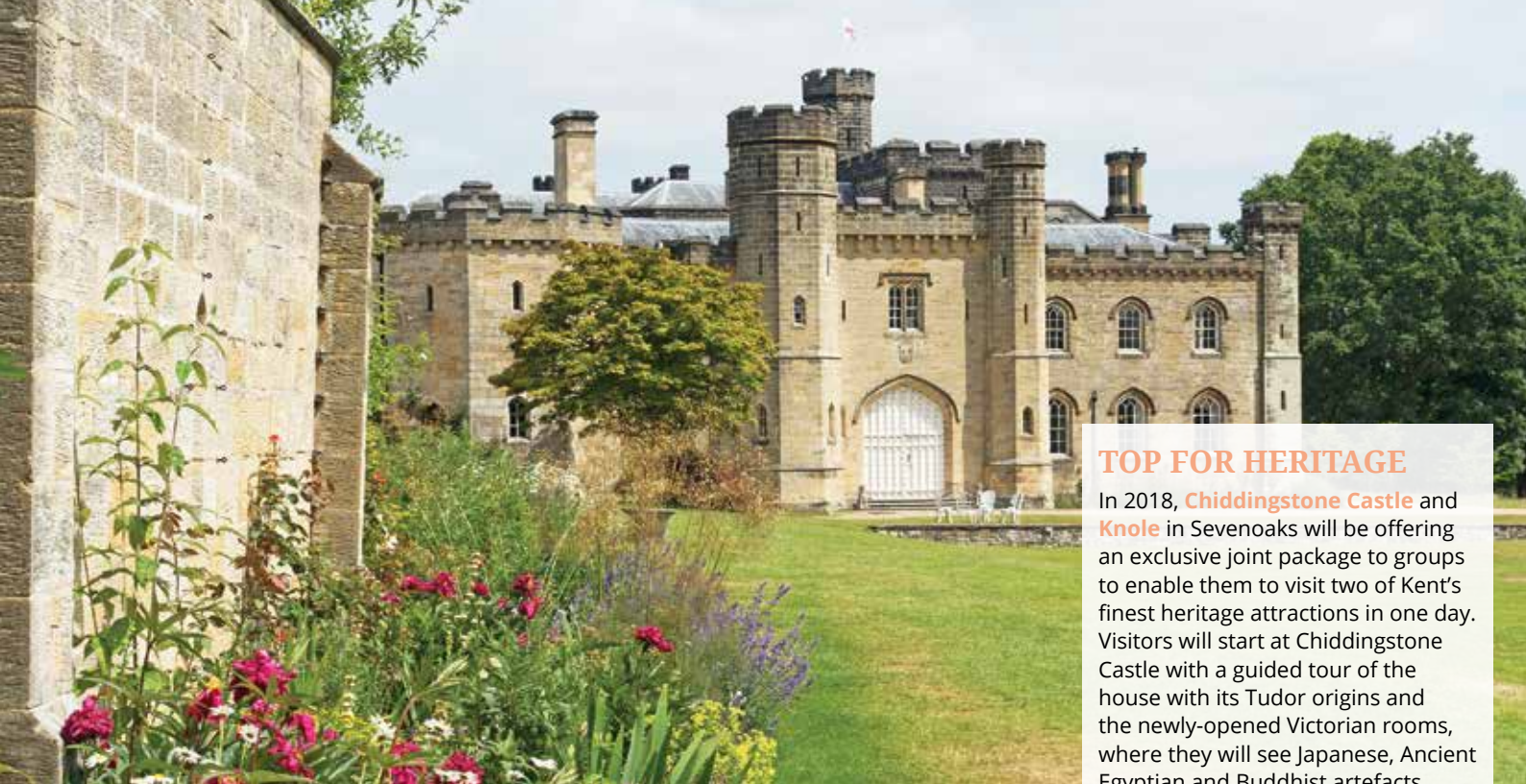
This clifftop home of the National Memorial to the Few tells a story of worldwide significance. Look for well-known names on the Memorial Wall, get close to our Spitfire and Hurricane replicas, shoot down enemy aircraft in our interactive Scramble Experience or simply enjoy a coffee and unrivalled views of the Channel from our first floor cafe.

SPECIAL RATES & FREE PARKING FOR PRE-BOOKED COACH TOURS

For more information, please call +44 (0)1303 249 292,
email enquiries@battleofbritainmemorial.org
or visit www.battleofbritainmemorial.org

Registered charity No. 1169005

Further Information No. 9



TOP FOR HERITAGE

In 2018, **Chiddingstone Castle** and **Knole** in Sevenoaks will be offering an exclusive joint package to groups to enable them to visit two of Kent's finest heritage attractions in one day. Visitors will start at Chiddingstone Castle with a guided tour of the house with its Tudor origins and the newly-opened Victorian rooms, where they will see Japanese, Ancient Egyptian and Buddhist artefacts and uncover a story of unrequited love and attempted murder. After enjoying a ploughman's lunch at the Castle, travel to Knole (National Trust and 20-minutes away) to discover 600 years of history at the vast property, which is more like a town than a house! Its world-class furniture and art includes the newly acquired portrait of the Chevalier de Champcenetz by Gainsborough. Following restoration, the **Ballroom**, **Reynolds Room**, **Cartoon Gallery**, **King's Closet** and **King's Room** have re-opened, with other state rooms now being refurbished to open in spring 2019. Groups are welcome on weekdays during school term time, and, as part of a visit, groups can get insights into how the conservation of precious treasures is being carried out.

IGHTHAM MOTE'S SINGER EXHIBITION EXTENDED

Ightham Mote's special exhibition **'The Queen of Ightham, - An American Interlude: Queen Palmer, John Singer Sargent and the Circle'** will be continuing at the National



© NTPL Andrew Butler

Trust property near Maidstone, until at least June 2018. The exhibition looks at the period in the late 1880s when Ightham Mote was a hub for the Aesthetic Movement. It's hoped that Singer Sargent's painting **'A Game of Bowls'**, originally painted on Ightham Mote's north lawn, will be included, and that monies can be raised to purchase it for the collection forever.

MAIDSTONE'S TRIPLE LAUNCH

Three new attractions will open in Maidstone in 2018. The town's Mote Park will introduce an adventure zone, while **Maidstone Museum & Art Gallery** will reveal a fresh look to the **Ancient Civilisations Wing**. This includes a facial reconstruction of the famous mummy Ta-Kush created following its scan in a MRI scanner, and the resulting model can be touched by partially and non-sighted visitors. Nearby, at **Tonbridge's Headcorn Aerodrome**, the **Lashenden Air Warfare Museum** will be redeveloped and a new wing is planned to open at the end of June.

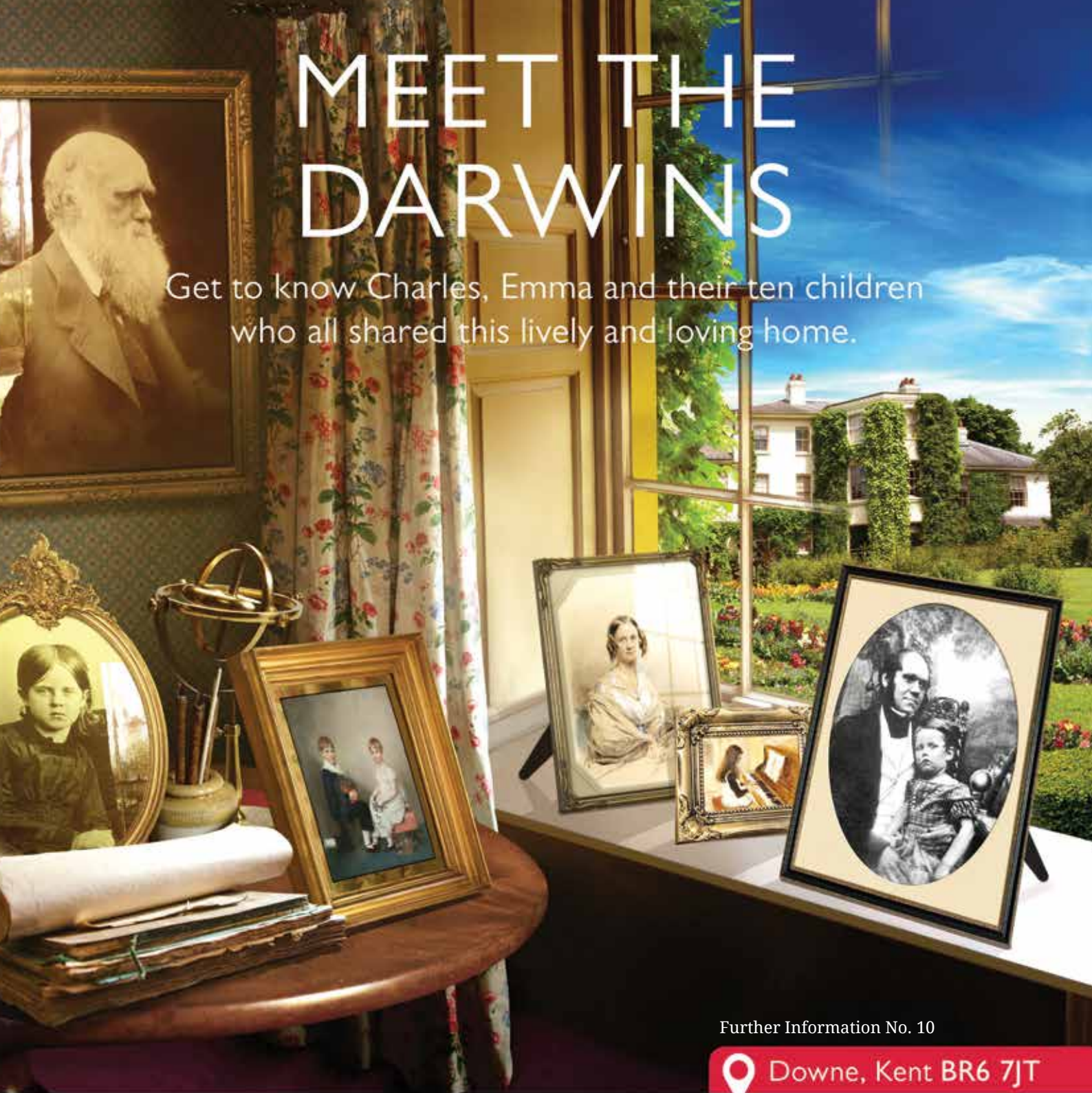


VR EXPLORES MEDIEVAL ABBEY

In Canterbury, **St Augustine's Abbey** once rivalled Canterbury Cathedral in stature and influence, and it now offers visitors the chance to experience many of its key features through a virtual reality experience. Introduced in summer 2017, visitors can sit inside a high-tech 'pod' and use VR headsets to experience a medieval virtual reality which 'rebuilds' significant parts of the abbey and allows them to view the ornate buildings as they would have looked in the early 16th century. A joint ticket is available with the nearby **The Canterbury Tales** visitor attraction.

MEET THE DARWINS

Get to know Charles, Emma and their ten children who all shared this lively and loving home.



Further Information No. 10

 Downe, Kent BR6 7JT



ENGLISH HERITAGE

THE HOME OF CHARLES DARWIN

DOWN HOUSE

Step into England's story

To order a Group Visits Guide call 0117 975 1349 or email traveltrade@english-heritage.org.uk

ANIMAL ADVENTURES

From big cats to cute Guinea pigs, Kent's wildlife parks are home to creatures great and small. Each offers a fantastic day out for your group.



For encounters with exotic animals, head to **Howletts Wild Animal Park** near Canterbury and **Port Lympne Reserve** in Hythe. At Howletts, walk alongside free-roaming lemurs, spot the UK's largest elephant herd, and prowl the open top monkey enclosure. At Port Lympne stroll the primate trail, hop on a safari vehicle to watch giraffe, rhino and wildebeest, before entering carnivore territory to discover lions, tigers, cheetah and more. You'll encounter hordes of British wildlife, past and present, at Herne Bay at **Wildwood Trust**, where more than 200 native animals live in a 40-acre forest. Stand-by to meet wolves and owls, as well as beavers, badgers, bison and boar.



At **Wingham Wildlife Park** close to Canterbury, the animals range from ants to wallabys, with countless creatures in between. This reserve specialises in exotic birds and small animals - sign up for an Experience Day and do everything from Meet the Tiger, to Shadow a Reptile Keeper. For a more gentle adventure, experience life on the farm at the **Rare Breeds Centre**, at Woodchurch, near Ashford, with a stroll around some of its 100 unspoilt acres revealing rare breed pigs, chickens, lambs, horses and ducks and more.

AT FULL STEAM!



A nostalgic trip taking in one or more of Kent's heritage railways captures the imagination - there's a lot of history to discover alongside amazing views.

www.visitkent.co.uk/heritage-railways

With quintessentially English stations and lovingly restored steam and diesel engines, Kent's heritage railways offer a range of experiences. Five railways run through the county, each distinctly different and offering a combination of fabulous views, fantastic destinations and fascinating history. Ride the small steam trains on the **Romney, Hythe and Dymchurch Railway** from Hythe to Dungeness, or journey on the 13-mile **Kent & East Sussex Railway** between Tenterden and Bodiam. Groups can also steam through the beautiful countryside, enjoying a destination at every station with the **Spa Valley Railway**, which runs for five miles from Eridge to Tunbridge Wells West via Groombridge and High Rocks. Elsewhere, uncover the industrial pasts of the **East Kent Railway** running between Shepherdswell and Eythorne, and the **Sittingbourne & Kemsley Railways** running from Sittingbourne to Kemsley Down. Meet the friendly volunteers, enjoy charming afternoon teas, and enjoy a great day out with your group.






BELMONT
FAVERSHAM • KENT


*Unique
& family home
& stunning grounds*
Open Wednesdays, Weekends &
Bank Holidays

www.belmont-house.org
01795 890 202

Further Information No. 11






The Italian Garden


PENSHURST PLACE
AND GARDENS
An Historic Family Home

Nestled in the Weald of Kent, Penshurst Place boasts one of the finest medieval halls in England, exquisitely set within one of the oldest Elizabethan gardens in private ownership.

Groups welcome throughout the year

For more information and to book, call us on
(+44) 01892 870 307 or visit www.penshurstplace.com

Further Information No. 12



**HEVER CASTLE
& GARDENS**

CHILDHOOD HOME OF ANNE BOLEYN

GROUP VISITS FOR ALL SEASONS



**DAZZLING
DAFFODILS**
Mar 21 – 25



**TULIP
CELEBRATIONS**
Apr 18 – 27



**HEVER
IN BLOOM**
Jun 26 – Jul 1



**AUTUMN
COLOUR**
Oct 1 – 29

FOR MORE DETAILS VISIT
hevercastle.co.uk/groups

01732 861701
groups@hevercastle.co.uk

CASTLE & GARDEN
PRIVATE TOURS

Further Information No. 13

A YEAR IN THE GARDEN OF ENGLAND

Whatever the season there's much to enjoy in Kent's gardens, parklands and woodlands – and there are some 180 of all shapes and sizes to choose from!

FEBRUARY

SNOWDROP TIME

Set in 14 acres, Goodnestone Park Gardens near Dover include woodland and a walled garden, along with spectacular early flowerings of snowdrops.

www.goodnestoneparkgardens.com

MARCH

DAZZLING DAFFODILS

During this special event at Hever Castle, Edenbridge, groups can enjoy free garden tours and talks with master grower, Johnny Walker of Walkers Bulbs.

www.hevercastle.co.uk

APRIL

TULIP CELEBRATIONS

Over 7,000 tulip bulbs will be in bloom at Hever Castle in April and special guided tours can be booked, while floral arrangements by the resident florist will be in the castle rooms.

www.hevercastle.co.uk



Penshurst Place © David Fenwick

MAY

CHERRY BLOSSOM

The orchards at Brogdale near Faversham contain more than 2,220 varieties of apples, 550 of pear, 350 of plum and 320 of cherry and are spectacular at blossom time.

www.brogdalecollection.co.uk

JUNE

PRETTY IRISES

The Elizabethan Garden at Penshurst Place in Tonbridge features 11 acres of individually designed rooms providing a variety of form, foliage and colour throughout the year. In June, the Blue and Yellow Border is in full flower – and it features two varieties of iris specially bred for Penshurst Place.

www.penshurstplace.com

JULY

SUMMER COLOUR

Amongst the extensive gardens at Leeds Castle, close to Maidstone, the Culpepper Garden and Lady Baillie's Mediterranean Garden promise a profusion of colour and scent as roses, lupins, poppies and many more species burst into flower.

www.leeds-castle.com

AUGUST

MELLOW SHADES

Throughout the year there's lots to see at Belmont House & Gardens, Faversham but in late summer the Kitchen Garden designed by Lady Arabella Lennox-Boyd is replete with soft fruits, traditional apples and pears and vegetables. Alongside the Victorian Greenhouse there are figs peached on the walls of the garden and arbours festooned in golden hops.

www.belmont-house.org

SEPTEMBER

GORGEOUS HUES

Late flowering agapanthus, cannas and dahlias take centre stage at Hole Park, Rovenden, and the woodlands are a spectacular mix of red, yellows and golds as September turns to October – many trees have been chosen specifically with autumn colours in mind.

www.holepark.com

STUNNING SALVIAS

At the gardens at Great Comp, near Sevenoaks, the Salvias remain in flower well into November.

www.greatcomparden.co.uk

GET CLOSE TO NATURE AT THE NATIONAL TRUST

National Trust properties to explore in Autumn include Sevenoaks' Emmetts Garden's exotic tree collection in fiery reds as well as golds and the 100-year-old purple cut-leaved Japanese Maples below the Bastion at Scotney Castle, Tunbridge Wells. While the parkland at Knole and Ightham Mote (both Sevenoaks) is beautiful as the leaves fall to the ground mingling with fungi and chestnuts.

www.nationaltrust.org.uk

AUTUMN'S RICHES

Appreciate the warm tones of the season at Bewl Water, close to Lamberhurst – the largest stretch of open water in Kent – and surrounded by woodland. Groups can cycle or walk around the lake, dine at the Boat House Bistro or enjoy the scenery from the Bewl Belle as she cruises across the water.

www.bewlwater.co.uk

DECEMBER

BEDGEBURY FOREST

The National Pinetum with world-class collections of dramatic conifers and the 2,000 acre Bedgebury Forest is a fine setting for a winter walk.

www.forestry.gov.uk/bedgebury

WOODLAND GARDEN

Look out for the development of the Woodland Garden at Leeds Castle over the next few years as it is transformed into six new gardens including a Winter Garden that will include shrubs and trees with winter fragrance and colours, and a floor carpeted with winter and spring flowers.

www.leeds-castle.com



Down House

DARWIN'S GARDEN BLOOMS

In late April, Charles Darwin's Garden at Down House in the village of Downe springs into colour as rhododendrons come into bloom and flowers in the meadow such as sorrel and buttercups unfurl their petals. In the Sandwalk wood, where Darwin took daily walks, bluebells and wood anemones flower.

www.english-heritage.org.uk/visit/places/home-of-charles-darwin



Belmont House & Gardens

FIND LUXURY IN KENT

Why not try our selection of ideas for exploring some of Kent's lesser-known but important tourism treasures.

1 PORT LYMPNE RESERVE

Stay at Europe's first animal-focused holiday destination and get closer than ever before to some of the 700 magnificent animals that call the reserve home. With over 300 rooms available, this is no ordinary stay, with treetop hotels, mansion rooms, glamorous and authentic safari tents, plus the brand-new **Tiger Lodge**, **Bear Lodge** and **Rhino Cottage**.



2 CHAMPNEYS SPA AT EASTWELL MANOR

The brand new Champneys Spa at **Eastwell Manor** combines country house charm with the UK's original health spa, with offers on day visits and overnight stays.



3 HEVER CASTLE

Step inside romantic **Hever Castle** after dark on a private guided tour of the childhood home of Henry VIII's ill-fated second wife, Anne Boleyn, where Henry VIII wooed Anne. The exclusive tour will take in the stunning 13th century castle, followed by a superb evening meal within the castle.



4 KENT & EAST SUSSEX RAILWAY

Five minutes from Chapel Down Winery is the well-known and loved, **Kent and East Sussex Railway**. Steam through the stunning Kent countryside on your own private steam train and enjoy a delicious evening meal, with silver service in the historic Pullman dining cart.



5 CHAPEL DOWN WINERY

Reputedly served at the Royal Wedding, **Chapel Down** is just one of Kent's award-winning sparkling wine producers. Situated in the charming town of Tenterden, enjoy a bespoke



tasting experience and private guided tours with the new cellar door experience. Pair that with an amazing meal in **The Swan Restaurant** at Chapel Down, with a private dining Chef's Table and outdoor terrace with spectacular views across the vineyards.

7 LEEDS CASTLE

Experience the luxury of being a guest in the "loveliest castle in the world" with fine dining at the Medieval **Leeds Castle**, once host to notable guests from Charlie Chaplin to Winston Churchill. Within the historic Henry VIII banqueting hall, groups will enjoy a traditional meal, set to a theme of their choice, whether medieval or 1930s!



6 AFTERNOON TEA AT BLUEWATER

Indulge in the quintessentially English experience of afternoon tea at the brand new **Cream's British Luxury** at **Bluewater**. Here, you'll be surrounded by sumptuous furnishings and grand décor, while treated to speciality teas and hand-crafted cakes and sandwiches.



CANTERBURY GUIDED TOURS
Canterbury Tourist Guides Ltd
www.canterburyguidedtours.com

The heart of Canterbury can be explored only on foot, so why not join our daily tour to discover more about its cultural and artistic heritage. Canterbury Tourist Guides provide the only tours offering a fascinating guided walk through its historic streets, including a walk around the outside of the Cathedral.

Our enthusiastic, entertaining and knowledgeable guides can respond to your questions and specific interests. Lasting 90 minutes, our tours are ideal for visitors with limited time or those wishing to combine essential sight-seeing with other activities.

Tickets are available from the Canterbury Visitor Centre, the Roman Museum or our website. Daily 11am tour departs from the Buttermarket (except Christmas Day). Additional 2pm tour from April to October.

TRIPADVISOR **EXCELLENCE**

f /canterburytouristguidesLtd **t** @CburyCityTours
e guides@canterburytouristguides.co.uk **☎** 01227 459779

Further Information No. 14

Powell-Cotton Museum
Quex House & Gardens

10% DISCOUNT per person Just quote VK2018

EXPECT THE UNEXPECTED

Start your adventure at **WWW.QUEXPARK.CO.UK**

- Natural History • Ethnography • Handling Objects • Historic Country House • Victorian Walled Garden • Woodland Walks • Boutique Cafe

Quex Park, Park Lane, Birchington, Kent CT7 0BH

Powell-Cotton Museum Trust, Registered Charity No. 1167218

t **f**

Further Information No. 15

FOR GARDENERS WHO DIG HISTORY

Explore eight acres of thriving formal and wild gardens at the castle where the Duke of Wellington once lived.

Deal, Kent CT14 7LJ

ENGLISH HERITAGE
WALMER CASTLE
& GARDENS

Step into England's story

To order a Group Visits Guide call 0117 975 1349 or email traveltrade@english-heritage.org.uk

The English Heritage Trust is a charity, no. 1140351, and a company, no. 07447221, registered in England.

Further Information No. 16

KENTISH VINEYARDS

Vineyard tours and wine tasting experiences are available at many of Kent's grape-growing specialists. Amongst those welcoming groups are several in the Ashford and Tenterden area including [Chapel Down Winery](#), [Biddenden Vineyards](#) and [Gusbourne](#), [Squerryes](#) in Westerham and [Hush Heath Estate](#) in Staplehurst. At Hush Heath, the winery's experts offer pre-booked guided vineyard tours of the estate (minimum six people) where visitors can learn all aspects of grape-growing before discovering the state-of-the-art winery where the process of still and sparkling winemaking is explained before a tutored tasting of six Hush Heath Estate wines and ciders.



FOOD & DRINK

No visit to Kent is complete without sampling some of its exceptional food and drink, all produced in the county. You will be spoilt for choice!

EXCELLENT CIDER AND ALE

[Tiddly Pomme](#), at [Brogdale Farm](#), the home of the National Fruit Collections, specialises in local ciders hand-pressed using fruit from the orchards - which groups can tour from April to October. [Shepherd Neame Brewery](#) (pictured), Britain's oldest brewer, is in the centre of Faversham. Here, special tours introduce groups to the art of brewing from start to finish with chances to taste mineral water from the on-site well and to smell locally grown hops. Learn about the past in the Old Brewery Store with its historic delivery vehicles, bygone pub signs and end a tour with a tutored tasting of fine Kentish ales and speciality lagers. A new state of the art brewery is set to open in Ashford, run by Chapel Down, it will be called the [Curious Brewery](#).



HAND CRAFTED SPIRITS

[Copper Rivet Distillery](#) at Chatham Dockyard offers tours and tastings to allow groups to see how gin, vodka and whisky are hand crafted from raw ingredients to the finest finished product. The tour includes learning the secrets of distilling and botanicals plus seeing the traditional stills created from copper by Chatham craftsmen. Tours take around an hour and end with a tasting in the visitor centre or on the [Distillers Lawn](#) overlooking the river on sunny days.

HIMALAYAN AFTERNOON TEA

Afternoon teas with homemade cakes and biscuits are a popular part of a day out, and an unusual place amidst gorgeous surroundings to indulge in this luxury is at [Riverhill Himalayan Gardens](#) close to Sevenoaks. Teas can be booked as part of a visit to the gardens or independently.





VISIT FAVERSHAM

KENT'S MARKET TOWN OF KINGS



Discover Faversham, located in the heart of Kent and surrounded by distinctive maritime history

The oldest market town in the county and recorded in the Domesday Book, Faversham is bursting with history and located on a winding creek. With an amazing array of independent shops, regular markets, fascinating places to visit, beautiful countryside walks and a reputation for fine foods, Faversham is the perfect place to unwind and enjoy a short break.

For further information on Faversham and the surrounding area, including accommodation, visit www.visitfaversham.org or contact Hannah Tilley on 01795 503287 or hannah.tilley@favershamtc.co.uk

Further Information No. 17



GROUP BREWERY TOURS

FAVERSHAM, KENT



PRICES FROM
£10.95PP

01795 542016

SHEPHERDNEAME.CO.UK/VISITOR-CENTRE

Further Information No. 18

FAVERSHAM'S TASTY FOOD

Faversham market takes place three times a week with an array of seasonal fruits and vegetables - many grown by local producers - as well as meat, artisan bakers, and makers of fine cakes. Open every day is the south east's leading food hall, **Macknade Fine Foods** (pictured). The independent retailer is offering bespoke group packages in 2018. There's something for everyone, with produce ranging from exotic fruit to craft beers, fresh bread to Italian truffles. The delicatessen has one of the largest ranges of cheese and charcuterie in the UK, with 150 cheeses alone, and the adjacent café makes exceptional dishes using ingredients found in-store. Private tasting sessions are available to book directly and include samples from the delicatessen counter and a brief history of the family owned company, which has just celebrated its 170 year anniversary. Packages can include lunch, afternoon tea or drinks alone and there is ample parking for coaches.



PRODUCED IN KENT

Throughout the county there are specialities and protected food names to look out for and, more importantly sample! Alongside Kentish Ales and Romney Marsh Lamb, groups can tuck into Whitstable Oysters in the town of the same name - or even try Dover Sole flavoured with Whitstable Sea Salt. Find out more at www.producedinkent.co.uk

SQUERRYES EXPERIENCES

Squerryes is a new winery in Westerham. Finest vintages and other Kentish drinks can be enjoyed alongside locally sourced charcuterie and cheese, while visitors are welcome to wander in the vineyard amongst the vines. Groups (six to 16) are advised to book ahead - both for tutored experiences in the **Tasting Room** and for the tours of the vineyard. There's also an option to visit **Squerryes Court**, home to Henry and Claire Warde, owners of the estate and the eighth generation of Wardes to live in the house, which is furnished with fine art and furniture.



CULINARY CANTERBURY

Visitors to **Canterbury** can sample local ales at many hostleries including the **Foundry Brew Pub**, a craft brewery in **White Horse Lane**. Step back in time in the old **Buttermarket** which was once linked to the Cathedral by a series of tunnels and where there has been a pub for 500 years. Try its cask ales and British food or head to the **Goods Shed** (pictured) for a farmers market, food hall and restaurant stocking and serving locally sourced products.



PRE-BOOK YOUR TICKETS



Additional group discounts available

Free coach parking

Contact the Show Office for information.



6,7,8 July

www.kentshow.co.uk

01622 633060



[kentcountyshow](https://twitter.com/kentcountyshow)

[kentcountyshow](https://www.facebook.com/kentcountyshow)

Further Information No. 19

HERITAGE FARM PARK

DISCOVER KENT LIFE
WITH 28 ACRES TO EXPLORE
FAMILY FARMYARD

Kent Life

INDOOR PLAYBARN
THE KENTISH GARDENS
& **THE VINTAGE VILLAGE**

**DISCOVER KENT LIFE WHERE
HERITAGE AND FAMILY FUN
SIT SIDE BY SIDE!**

- Visit our vintage village
- Stroll around the gardens
- Meet friendly farmyard animals
- Take a tour on our land train
- Enjoy homemade cakes in Dotty's tea room
- Events for all seasons



GROUP BENEFITS

- Discounted rates
- Free entry for organiser & driver
- Welcome & free heritage trail
- Free all day coach parking




www.kentlife.org.uk or call 01622 763936

Kent Life, Lock Lane, Sandling, Maidstone, Kent, ME14 3AU (just off jct.6 of the M20)

Further Information No. 20

Visit Maidstone

Kent's Historic County Town



**NEW for
Groups in
2018**

- Discover the new Ancient Lives gallery, a multi-sensory experience at Maidstone Museum
- Explore Allington Castle Gardens on an exclusive tour with the Kentish Lady River Boat
- Enjoy the thrills of high and low adrenaline activities at the Adventure Zone, Mote Park

www.visitmaidstone.com



Further Information No. 21



TRAVEL TO KENT

Rail travel to and around Kent is operated by Southeastern. London Bridge, Charing Cross, London Waterloo East, Victoria and St Pancras International stations all connect to Kent destinations, with St Pancras International operating the High Speed service, taking less than 40 minutes from London. Eurostar services from Europe also stop at Ashford and Ebbsfleet international stations.

If travelling by **coach** and it's the group's first trip to Kent, the best way to get into the county from the UK is to head to London and the M25. Once on the M25, there are 2 directions into Kent; picking up either the M20 or M2 motorways which run through the centre of the county.

Kent is all accessible by **sea** and groups can find their sea legs with P&O Ferries and DFDS Seaways who both operate 90 minute services from Calais to the Port of Dover. DFDS operates an additional 2-hour crossing to Dunkerque. Coaches can also drive straight onto the Eurotunnel le Shuttle at Calais, for a 35-minute journey to Kent.

If arriving by **air**, London Gatwick and Heathrow offer worldwide connections into the south-east, and both airports are within easy reach of Kent, with both road and rail connections to each airport

THEND
PORT

KEY



Eurostar



ISLE OF SHEPPEY

MARGATE

RAMSGATE

FAVERSHAM

CANTERBURY

SANDWICH

M20



ASHFORD

DOVER

FOLKESTONE

DUNGENESS

RECOMMENDED COACH HIRE COMPANIES IN KENT

Chalkwell Coaches www.chalkwell.co.uk

Crosskeys www.crosskeys.uk.com

Buzzlines www.buzzlinestravel.co.uk

Carol Peters www.craolpeterstravel.co.uk

Scotland & Bates www.scotlandandbatescoaches.co.uk



Discover A World Of Conservation!

01227 721286

 aspinallfoundation.org/howletts

NR. CANTERBURY, KENT SAT NAV CT4 5EL



Further Information No. 22

BATTLE OF BRITAIN LIBRARY OPENS

In 2018, while commemorating important anniversaries such as the centenary of the forming of the RAF, the **Battle of Britain Memorial Trust** continues to look to the future. The Trust will celebrate the 25th anniversary of the unveiling of the **National Memorial to the Few** at Capel-le-Ferne on its cliff top site between Dover and Folkestone, and a new library and resource centre dedicated to the Battle of Britain, and those who fought it, will open there. Attractions such as the **Christopher Foxley-Norris Memorial Wall** and a replica **Spitfire** and **Hurricane** have year-round appeal, but the highlight of the Trust's year is **Memorial Day**, which, in 2018, falls on Sunday 1st July.



ON THE FRONTLINE

For centuries, Kent's position as the 'Front Line' of Britain's defences has been vital. Research continually sheds light on the county's role and opens up ways to connect with the past.

NEW EXHIBITION AT DEAL CASTLE

Deal Castle, with its cannons, turrets, moat and maze of passageways, is one of the earliest and most elaborate of Tudor artillery castles. It was built rapidly and 'without sparing any cost' between 1539 and 1542 by order of King Henry VIII. A new permanent exhibition at this English Heritage attraction with displays, audio and activities, supported by contemporary artefacts, reveals how Henry VIII's fear of invasion shaped the country's defences and his own married life. Never-before-seen objects, including the breech chamber from a late 16th century gun and a copper powder flask lid with intricate horse decoration dating from the 17th century, highlight the castle's purpose as an artillery fort with an active garrison. The stories of the people who lived and worked there for over 400 years are explained and in the newly-opened Captain's apartments, the story of General Sir John French, 1st Earl of Ypres, who commanded the British Expeditionary Force in 1914-15 and established a chapel in the castle is told.



DEFENSIVE GEMS

Kent's many other attractions tell the story of how the county protected the realm. In Folkestone the **Kent Battle of Britain Museum** holds the country's largest collection of artefacts connected to the battle; the **Royal Military Canal** in Hythe dates from Napoleonic times and its 28 miles provide cycling and walking routes – or you can hire a boat for a cruise; at **Upnor Castle** (pictured), built by Queen Elizabeth I, learn about the disastrous Dutch raid in 1667 – groups can opt for a **Jetstream Tour** for a view from the River Medway. Elsewhere, **Tonbridge Castle** is one of England's finest motte and bailey fortifications!



© Medway Council

UNDERGROUND RAMSGATE

As World War II approached, **Ramsgate Borough Council** embarked on ambitious plans to construct over two miles of bomb-proof deep shelter tunnels to protect the civilian population of the town. These tunnels became the most extensive public underground system in the country and a 'town within a town' where, on 24th August 1940, around 300 families took to living in the tunnels on a permanent basis when 500 German bombs were dropped on Ramsgate in just five minutes. Tours of the tunnels are now available and using recordings from those who took refuge there, they give insights into life underground and a unique glimpse of Ramsgate's heritage.



ENGLAND'S GUARDIAN

For over 900 years **Dover Castle** has commanded the gateway to the realm from the white cliffs overlooking the English Channel. Early access tours, avoiding busy times and queues, have recently been introduced by English Heritage exclusively for pre-booked groups. These include the popular **Operation Dynamo Tunnel Tours** (pictured) - which reveal where Churchill and Ramsay masterminded the evacuation of 338,000 British and French troops from Dunkirk in 1940. And, for the first time, groups can enjoy private guided tours of the Great Tower, King Henry II's magnificent 12th-century palace, at the heart of Dover Castle. Expert guides take groups through the king's private chambers, kitchen, armouries and great hall. The special tours - available either individually or as a package at an exclusive price - are in addition to the castle's discounted group admission rates.



OCEAN WATCH

Amongst the 17 listed churches cared for by the **Churches Conservation Trust (CCT)** in Kent is **St Peter's** in the Cinque Port of Sandwich. (The CCT is the national charity with the remit of saving historic churches at risk.) St Peter's has 800 years of history and a curfew bell is still rung each day at 8.00pm. Visitors journey through the ages as they climb to the top of the newly re-opened medieval tower - where there's a bird's eye view over England's most complete medieval town! Hand-held guides help locate landmarks and on a clear day it's possible to catch a glimpse of France. There's discounted entry for groups of more than eight people.

400 YEARS OF MARITIME EXCELLENCE

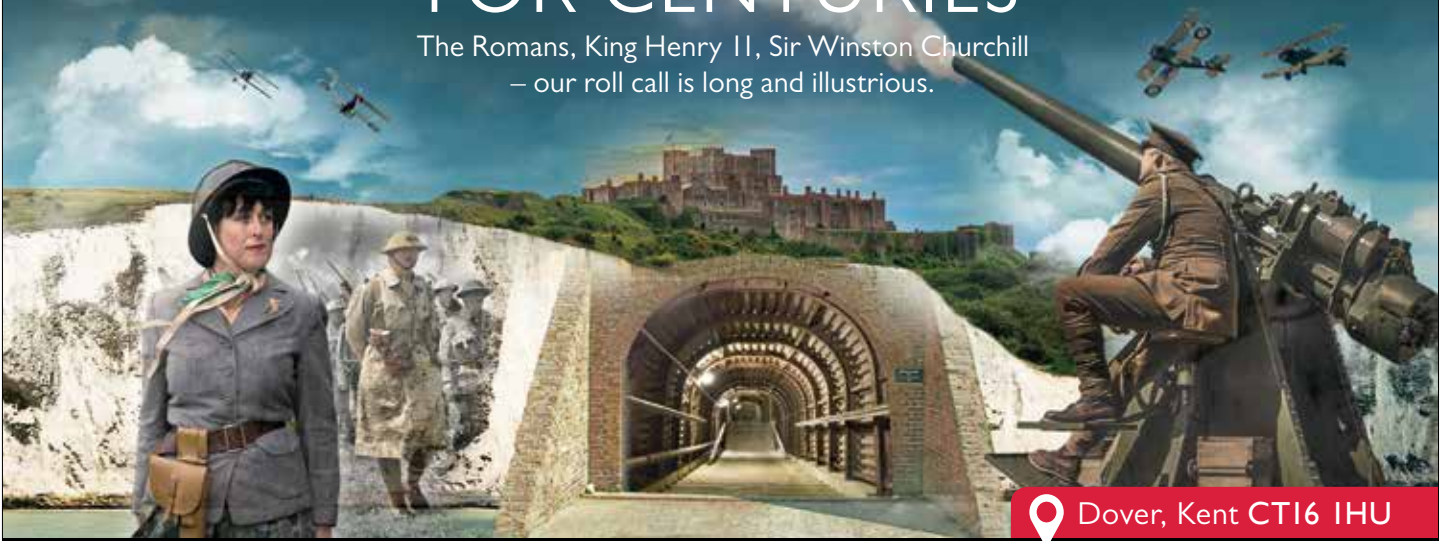
The **Historic Dockyard Chatham** is the only place in the world where a complete dockyard from the age of sail and beyond can be explored and in 2018 it celebrates 400 years of history. The Dockyard had a unique role in the country's maritime past and has made an unmatched contribution to the Royal Navy's shipbuilding excellence that led to worldwide command of the oceans. Chatham offers unrivalled access to ships that shaped the world, from a Victorian anti-slavery sailing ship and a Second World War Destroyer to a Cold War submarine, as well as telling the stories of the people who made them. From historic buildings such as the **Commissioner's House** and **officers' quarters**, and the remarkable **Victorian ropery** (where the rigging for HMS Victory was made) to its collection of maritime archaeology, the Dockyard forms an indispensable part of Britain's naval heritage.

Activities, exhibitions and celebrations to captivate all ages are planned for 2018. In March, the exhibition '**Time, Tide and Power**' - featuring objects from national institutions such as Tate Britain - will open and, in the summer, a major temporary exhibition, '**Brick History!**' will see famous scenes from history recreated in Lego® including the death of Nelson on board HMS Victory.



DEFENDING THE REALM FOR CENTURIES

The Romans, King Henry II, Sir Winston Churchill
– our roll call is long and illustrious.



 Dover, Kent CT16 1HU

 ENGLISH HERITAGE
DOVER CASTLE

Step into England's story

To order a Group Visits Guide call 0117 975 1349 or email traveltrade@english-heritage.org.uk

The English Heritage Trust is a charity, no. 1140351, and a company, no. 07447221, registered in England.

Further Information No. 23

Group organiser 2017 –

'A CRACKING DAY OUT'

Itineraries designed especially for groups

*Celebrating
400 YEARS!*

Registered Charity No. 292101. Fully Accredited Museum

NEW GUIDED TOURS FOR 2018

*Featuring the popular
'Call the Midwife' Tour.*

EXCLUSIVE CATERING PACKAGES

*Including our famous
fish & chips.*

THE BEST NOSTALGIC EVENTS

*Festival of Steam and
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THE HISTORIC
DOCKYARD
CHATHAM



FESTIVAL
400
1618 - 2018

Further Information No. 24



Kent's must-visit FASHION DESTINATION

With our exclusive group benefits, fashion lovers can enjoy the perfect day out at Ashford Designer Outlet.

OUR BRANDS

Choose from French Connection, Ted baker, Kurt Geiger and many more.

EXTRA 10% OFF

Group members will receive a Fashion Passport entitling them to an extra 10% off outlet prices.

FREE COACH PARKING

We provide a designated parking area for coaches.

FOOD AND DRINK VOUCHERS

Groups can also enjoy a complimentary voucher.

BOOK TODAY

To take advantage of these benefits please pre-book: coaches@ashforddesigneroutlet.com

CONTACT

Ashford Designer Outlet,
Kimberley Way, Kent, TN24 0SD
Tel: 01233 895 900

Further Information No. 25

In Kent, the Garden of England, visitors will find designer brands for up to 60% less all year round. With over 80 leading brands to choose from, plus cafés, restaurants and tax-free shopping, we're the region's must-visit outlet shopping destination.



*Groups receive
an extra 10% off
outlet prices*



BLUEWATER'S VIP OFFER

Bluewater in Greenhithe is Europe's largest retail and leisure destination and although it is just five minutes from Junction 2 on the M25, it is in a unique setting surrounded by lakes and parkland. Pre-booked groups of 10 or more people are welcomed by a concierge at the dedicated coach drop-off and pick-up bays and every member receives a VIP pack, which includes a mall and dining guide, and a VIP card giving exclusive discounts in a variety of shops. There's also free, secure coach parking and a VIP pack for coach drivers. At Bluewater there are over 300 leading UK and international retail brands, 50 restaurants as well as cinema and leisure choices.

SHOP 'TIL YOU DROP

From historic towns to contemporary shopping centres, Kent has got it covered.

ELEGANT TUNBRIDGE WELLS SHOPPING

The covered and colonnaded walkway known as the **Pantiles**, with buildings dating from the 18th and 19th centuries, makes **Royal Tunbridge Wells** one of the most elegant places to shop in Kent. Whilst the iron

rich water from the spa may not be to everyone's taste there's plenty else to delight in the town with its host of independent specialist shops, family-owned businesses and art galleries. Farmers' markets take place every two weeks and September is Food Month when all types of local food is celebrated in pop-up events and markets.



© David Hodgkinson

CANTERBURY'S CITY CENTRE SHOPPING

There's plenty to satisfy all tastes in **Canterbury** with a variety of boutique and independent stores alongside well-known national chains. Whitefriars in Canterbury takes its name from the former monastic complex occupied by the Austin or 'white' friars, which was dissolved by Henry VIII in 1538, and originally located on the site. As a shopping centre, it brings together a vibrant selection of department stores and smaller shops as well as cafés and restaurants. Close by, the **Kings Mile** is home to fashion stores, homewares, speciality goods and a designer ceramicist.



ASHFORD DESIGNER OUTLET

During 2018 the **McArthur Glen Ashford Designer Outlet** will be expanded to add 38 new luxury and premium brands to the existing 80 names already trading in the famous tented shopping centre designed by Sir Richard Rogers. During the development it will be business as usual however, and a range of new benefits are now available for pre-booked groups. This includes multi-lingual VIP Welcome Packs, a Fashion Passport entitling all members of your group to 10% discount in participating stores and meal vouchers for offers in selected restaurants and cafes; reserved coach parking subject to availability and a chance to win a £50 gift card in a prize draw.

DISCOVER VIBRANT ARTS AND A HERITAGE-RICH PAST ON KENT'S COASTLINE

In the quaint regenerated streets of **Folkestone**, you'll discover cutting-edge art in its unique **Creative Quarter**, which houses over 100 artistic enterprises within its cobbled centre. Explore pastel-painted studio-galleries, and indulge in quirky stores, or head to the **Folkestone Harbour Arm** for an eclectic mix of food, drink and entertainment.



COASTAL DELIGHTS

Kent's coastline is a magical place to visit combining a heritage-rich past with a vibrant present.

QUEX HOUSE

The **Powell-Cotton Museum, Quex House and Gardens** in Birchington on Sea offers groups a relaxed, engaging and enjoyable day out, with amazing collections, a stunning house and beautiful gardens on an estate that dates back to the 15th century. Knowledgeable staff offer themed guided tours or groups can enjoy self-led visits to take in the natural history galleries, the art and archaeology collections or the seven acres of gardens. Afternoon teas can be enjoyed at **Mama Feelgood's** and the **Quex Barn** restaurant uses fresh, local ingredients. There is disabled access across the site.



PUGIN'S HAUNTS

Ramsgate was the home of world renowned architect Augustus Pugin who designed Big Ben at Westminster and many other churches around the country in the then popular Gothic Revival design style. In Ramsgate, Pugin built **St Augustine's** next door to his own home, **The Grange**, and the new Visitor Centre aims both to increase knowledge about the architect and about St Augustine who brought Christianity to southern England.

OLD WORLD CHARM

Broadstairs' old-world seaside charm comes from its fishermen's cottages and narrow streets. It was a favourite haunt of Charles Dickens and you can learn more about the author at the **Dickens House Museum** and at **Bleak House** on the cliff top – where he wrote *David Copperfield*. The annual Dickens festival is just one of the many events to take place in the town and 2018 will see the 10th anniversary of the food festival and a brand new harbour festival to celebrate the town's maritime links.

ART AND PLEASURE!

The amusement park, **Dreamland**, with its historic rides and classic side shows, is based in Margate. As well as the famous **Scenic Railway** there's much to enjoy from singers and spinners performing on a live stage to art installations and a year round calendar of events from **GEEK** in February to **Screamland** at Halloween and **Frosted Fairground** at Christmas. Visitors can dine from vintage trucks with a choice of street food from around the world including Mexican tacos, Asian cuisine, wood-fired pizzas and good old fish and chips.

The coastal town is also home to the **Turner Contemporary**, an iconic art gallery showcasing art by JMW Turner and avant-garde artists such as the locally born Tracey Emin. The gallery is on Margate's seafront, on the same site where Turner stayed when visiting the town and it has a rolling programme of exhibitions including next year's 'Journeys with The Waste Land'. This explores T. S. Elliot's famous poem, which he worked on when staying in the town in 1921.



Margate, Broadstairs and Ramsgate

Find out why your group would love it here...

NEW
FOR 2018:
Royal Harbour
History Festival
15-17 June



Ramsgate Royal Harbour



Phyllida Barlow's sculptures tower over visitors. Credit Manu Palomeque

Turner Contemporary – art by the sea



Spitfire and Hurricane Museum – legendary fighter aircraft



Broadstairs Food Festival 10th anniversary (Autumn)

- **Broadstairs** – Charles Dickens' favourite seaside holiday resort
- **Dreamland** – a great British seaside experience
- **Pugin and St Augustine Visitor Centre** – celebrate England's first missionary and discover more about remarkable Pugin architecture
- **Quex Park** – historic house, internationally important museum, extensive gardens, farmers market and more

- **Ramsgate Tunnels** – underground home for over 1000 people during WWII
- **RAF Spitfire and Hurricane Museum** – see these iconic fighters up close
- **Turner Contemporary** – world class art for free

Look out for
free admission,
onsite coach
parking and
onsite catering

**GROUP
BROCHURE
AVAILABLE**

For group visit ideas and information go to
www.visitthanet.co.uk/groups or call **01843 577577**

Further Information No. 26

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TOP EXPERIENCES

There's so much to see and do in Kent – here's a selection of experiences not to be missed.

1 BUCKMORE KART RACING

Since 2015 the facilities at the historic 1,000-metre international **Buckmore Park** kart circuit in Chatham have been upgraded. The investment covered new karts and the circuit, and the park is now one of the most advanced places to enjoy the sport in the world. There are exclusive events for groups of 10 or more drivers of all ages, and packages include children's birthday parties and stag and hen groups. All safety equipment is provided.



2 30 YEARS OF TALES

At the **Canterbury Tales** in Canterbury, groups are transported back in time to explore the sights, sounds and smells of 14th century England in a unique, immersive experience. Meet costumed guides and walk alongside Chaucer's pilgrims and revel in recreated medieval scenes as five colourful tales of love, infidelity, intrigue, courtship and death are brought vividly to life.

The **Canterbury Tales**, celebrating its 30th Birthday in 2018, is still the only attraction in the world devoted to Chaucer.



3 SAMPLE THE GARDEN OF ENGLAND

The **Kent County Show** is the region's showcase event for farming, countryside and rural life. Taking place in July, groups can experience Food Halls, a Countryside area, a Flower Show, show jumping and vintage vehicles displays and see hundreds of cattle, sheep and goats. Meet exhibitors and learn about their expertise, observe the stockman caring for animals or be entertained by birds of prey. Sit back and listen to live music, judge the floral art competition or watch the Kent Spitfire flying overhead.



4 SWING INTO GOLF

With The Open Championship returning to Kent in 2020, head out and try out the greens

at one of Kent's many courses. Don't miss the championship links at Royal St George's, Royal Cinque Ports and Prince's, located in Sandwich and Deal, as well as a number of both downland and parkland tracks, set in lush, tranquil settings and recognised as leading courses in the UK.



5 SPECIALIST INSIGHTS

Canterbury can only be explored by foot and by river. The **Canterbury Tourist Guides** provide daily tours giving specialist insights into the city's cultural and artistic heritage. Discover historic streets, anecdotes about former residents and walk around the outside of the Cathedral on the 90-minute tours

- that can be tailored to a groups' interests. Meanwhile, **Canterbury Historic River Tours** enable groups to see the city from the waterside and gain a different perspective into the past and the importance of the River Stour to the city.



6 DISCOVER TRADITIONAL WAYS

For a unique look back at traditional customs and ways of living and working in the county, **Kent Life** offers a range of experiences. There's a collection of historic buildings and gardens to explore as well as refreshments

in **Dotty's Tea Room**. Groups are welcomed from the coach with a short talk giving a history of the site and an overview of what there is to see. Throughout the year, special events take place including seeing new born lambs at Easter, the **Hops 'n; Harvest Beer Festival** and a World War Two Event, '**Christmas on the Home Front**'.



DINOSAURS ARE BACK!



At England's Biggest Outdoor Dinosaur Exhibition

 aspinallfoundation.org/portlympne

NR. ASHFORD, KENT, SAT NAV CT21 4PD

STAY IN TOUCH



UNIVERSITY OF KENT



Great value group accommodation in Canterbury

- Stunning 350 acre parkland campus overlooking the historic city of Canterbury and the Cathedral
- Self-catering houses and flats, ensuite B&B single and double rooms for up to 5,200
- Good links to London and Dover
- A range of award winning catering outlets across campus
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Awarded 'Best University Accommodation for Groups' by Group Travel Organiser readers for the tenth year running.

For further information contact: Rachel Walmesley
T: +44 (0)1227 827161 E: conferences@kent.ac.uk www.kentgroups.co.uk



University of
Kent | Conferences
and Events

Further Information No. 28



ESCAPE TO THE GARDEN OF ENGLAND

Make the most of your visit to Kent at Tudor Park. Only minutes from Leeds Castle and with outstanding golf and leisure facilities on-site your perfect getaway awaits.



TUDOR PARK
MARRIOTT HOTEL & COUNTRY CLUB

Tudor Park Marriott Hotel & Country Club - a gem in the Kent countryside. Call 01622 632006 to find out more.

Further Information No. 29

THE HEART OF BRITISH KARTING

BUCKMORE PARK 



RACING
REDEFINED

CORPORATE EVENTS | JUNIORS | EXCLUSIVE GROUPS | ADULTS
CHATHAM, KENT | 01634 661636 | BUCKMORE.CO.UK

Further Information No. 30

CANTERBURY CHOICES

Around Canterbury, hotel choices includes the University of Kent where group accommodation can be booked from mid-June to mid-September with self catering, B & B ensuite single and double rooms for up to 5,200 people. The University has been the winner in the group accommodation category in the annual Group Travel Awards for 10 years in a row. A new cycle hub means groups can hire a bike including electric bikes to explore routes such as the Crab & Wrinkle Way, that passes through the grounds. Groups bringing their own bikes can store them securely free of charge. Meanwhile, in Canterbury centre the Cathedral Lodge, next door to the Cathedral, offers accommodation for up to 50 people.



ACCOMMODATION

Groups visiting Kent are spoiled for choice when it comes to accommodation options. For more ideas, visit www.visitkent.co.uk/travel-trade

STAYING IN TUNBRIDGE WELLS

One Warwick Park hotel in Royal Tunbridge Wells has 38 rooms and is a great base for groups looking to explore the Regency town and the surrounding beautiful Kentish Weald with traditional unspoilt villages, stunning scenery and many outstanding historic attractions, such as Salomons Estate. Here, a museum tells the story of Sir David Salomons, the first Jewish Lord Mayor of London and his family and it's home to one of only two operational Welte Organs in the country.

MEDWAY OPTIONS

Close to Chatham, Bridgewood Manor offers 100 bedrooms and is ideally located for groups looking to visit Rochester and attractions around the Medway.

COASTAL HOTELS

For coastal adventures, groups can choose from five hotels in Dover including the appropriately named the White Cliffs Hotel. In Folkestone, The Grand offers a stylish choice of apartment style suites and in Hythe, the Hythe Imperial Hotel and Spa, is within walking distance of the town, a stone's throw from the beach and has panoramic views of the English Channel. The historic Port Lympne Mansion Hotel is close by and offers the chance to go 'on safari' at the wildlife park. Further north, Princes Golf Club in Sandwich has 38 ensuite rooms and overlooks the coast.

ASHFORD
Eastwell Manor
Holiday Inn
Ashford Central
Holiday Inn
Ashford North
Ashford International
Hotel

CANTERBURY
Abode Canterbury
Cathedral Lodge
Holiday Inn Express

CHATHAM
Bridgewood Manor

BROMLEY
Bromley Court Hotel

DOVER
Best Western Dover
Marina Hotel & Spa
Marquis at Alkham
Ramada Dover
Wallets Court
White Cliffs Hotel

FAWKHAM
Brands Hatch Place

FOLKESTONE
The Grand

HYTHE
Hythe Imperial

Hotel and Spa

MAIDSTONE
Chilston Park Hotel
Hilton Maidstone
Mercure Maidstone
Great Danes Hotel
Tudor Park Marriott
Hotel & Country Club
Village Hotel

SANDWICH
Princes Golf Club

TENTERDEN
London Beach Country
Hotel, Spa & Country
Club

TUNBRIDGE WELLS
Hotel Du Vin
One Warwick Park Hotel
The Spa Hotel

**UNIVERSITY
ACCOMMODATION**
CANTERBURY
Christchurch University
University of Kent

HOLIDAY COTTAGES
Kent and Sussex Holiday
Cottages
Mulberry Cottages

COUNTRY STYLE IN MAIDSTONE

In Maidstone, the Tudor Park Marriot Hotel & Country Club, surrounded by beautiful countryside, offers 120 bedrooms including 47 twin rooms, an 18-hole championship golf course and leisure facilities include a pool. The Cast Iron Grill serves a range of stylishly presented food.



CALENDAR OF EVENTS 2018

Throughout Kent there are a variety of colourful and themed events all year round and this monthly listing is a selection of what's taking place. For full details visit www.visitkent.co.uk/travel-trade
Please check for last minute updates before you travel as events are subject to change.



JANUARY

TURNER CONTEMPORARY

MY BED!
www.turnercontemporary.org

TURNER CONTEMPORARY

JOURNEYS WITH THE WASTE LAND
www.turnercontemporary.org

FEBRUARY

TURNER CONTEMPORARY

JOHN DAVIES SCULPTURES
www.turnercontemporary.org

MARCH

THANET

POW! THANET INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY FESTIVAL
www.visitthanet.co.uk/events

RAMSGATE

RAMSGATE INTERNATIONAL FILM AND TV FESTIVAL
www.visitthanet.co.uk/events

IGHTHAM MOTE

(also May, July, September)
HOUSEKEEPING DAYS
www.nationaltrust.org.uk/ightham-mote/whats-on

APRIL

THE HISTORIC DOCKYARD CHATHAM

FESTIVAL OF STEAM & TRANSPORT
www.thedockyard.co.uk/whatson

HEVER CASTLE

TULIP CELEBRATIONS
www.hevercastle.co.uk/whatson

KENT SHOWGROUND

HERITAGE TRANSPORT SHOW
www.kentshowground.co.uk

MAY

LEEDS CASTLE

GRAND MEDIEVAL JOUST
www.leeds-castle.com/whats+on/

CHIDDINGSTONE CASTLE

LITERARY FESTIVAL
www.chiddingstonecastle.org.uk

ROCHESTER

SWEEPS FESTIVAL
www.medway.gov.uk

JUNE

BELMONT HOUSE AND GARDENS

WORLD WAR I EVENT
www.belmont-house.org

RAMSGATE

ROYAL HARBOUR HISTORY FESTIVAL
www.rhhf.co.uk

BROADSTAIRS

BROADSTAIRS DICKENS FESTIVAL
www.broadstairsdickensfestival.co.uk

ROCHESTER

ROCHESTER DICKENS FESTIVAL
www.rochesterdickensfestival.org.uk

HEVER CASTLE

HEVER IN BLOOM
www.hevercastle.co.uk/whatson

JULY

KENT SHOWGROUND

KENT COUNTY SHOW
www.kentshowground.co.uk

IGHTHAM MOTE

IGHTHAM AND DISTRICT GARDENERS' CLUB SUMMER SHOW
www.nationaltrust.org.uk/ightham-mote/whats-on

MEMORIAL DAY

CAPEL-LE-FERNE NATIONAL MEMORIAL TO THE FEW
www.battleofbritainmemorial.org

WHITSTABLE

WHITSTABLE OYSTER FESTIVAL
www.whitstableoysterfestival.co.uk

AUGUST

BROADSTAIRS

BROADSTAIRS FOLK WEEK
www.broadstairsfolkweek.org.uk

CANTERBURY

BOING! FESTIVAL
www.boingfestival.org



SEPTEMBER

THE HISTORIC DOCKYARD CHATHAM

SALUTE TO THE 40S
www.thedockyard.co.uk/whatson

FAVERSHAM

HOP FESTIVAL
www.favershamhopfestival.org

LEEDS CASTLE

FESTIVAL OF FLOWERS
www.leeds-castle.com/events

IGHTHAM MOTE

APPLE AND ORCHARD DAY
www.nationaltrust.org.uk/ightham-mote/whats-on

OCTOBER

HEVER CASTLE

AUTUMN COLOUR
www.hevercastle.co.uk/whatson

CANTERBURY

CANTERBURY FESTIVAL
www.canterburyfestival.co.uk

DREAMLAND MARGATE

SCREAMLAND
www.dreamland.co.uk

TENTERDEN

TENTERDEN FOLK FESTIVAL
www.tenterdenfolkfestival.org.uk

NOVEMBER

FOLKESTONE

FOLKESTONE BOOK FESTIVAL
www.folkstonebookfest.com

HEVER CASTLE

HEVER CASTLE AT CHRISTMAS
www.hevercastle.co.uk/whatson

DECEMBER

LEEDS CASTLE

CHRISTMAS AT THE CASTLE
www.leeds-castle.com/events

ROCHESTER

DICKENSIAN CHRISTMAS
www.rochesterdickensfestival.org.uk

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BOAT TRIPS

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Boat Trip with Afternoon Tea

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Boat Trip with 2 Course Lunch

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Terms and conditions can be found at www.bewlwater.co.uk

Further Information No. 31

Kent is full of exciting attractions which are suitable for everyone, from centuries-old heritage sites, glorious gardens, stately homes and historic attractions as well as many fun filled activities, there are plenty of reasons to explore The Garden of England.

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Christmas at the Castle	1st December 2018 to 2nd January 2019

leeds-castle.com/groups | groups@leeds-castle.co.uk | 01622 767865

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Further Information No. 32

