

Hastings & 1066 Country



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Easy to get to!

Hastings & 1066 Country is in the county of East Sussex, bordering with Kent, with an extensive coastline and beautiful countryside.

Road

60 minutes by road from the Channel Tunnel/ferry ports at Dover/20 mins from Eurostar at Ashford International. 95 kms by road to London.

By Rail from London

Direct rail links of 1h30 to Hastings/1h15 to Battle. One hour to Rye, changing at Ashford. Direct rail to Gatwick airport 1h30 to Bexhill and Hastings.

Good public transport links within 1066 Country to reach our 35+ attractions.

What's in a name?

This is where one battle, fought in the year 1066, changed the course of English history. Today, you'll find the unique charm of Hastings combining a mediaeval fishing port and Old Town and cosmopolitan town centre, the Edwardian seaside resort of Bexhill on sea, the delightfully unspoilt medieval town of Rye, and historic Battle, dominated by the great Abbey gatehouse, where you can see the spot on which King Harold died fighting William the Conqueror.

Many attractions close together

Five majestic castles, five splendid gardens, five golf courses, two vineyards and walking and cycling trails to suit all abilities are set in rolling countryside, with superb coastal views. Over 35 attractions, most of which are open all-year round, make 1066 Country the ideal short-break destination.

1066 Country likes to party!

Our busy programme of festivals begins in February with the Rye Scallops Week and stretches right through to the spectacular Sussex bonfire season in November, making 1066 Country the ideal destination whose season extends longer than most.

Sleeping, eating and drinking

With over 200 places to stay, from luxury B&Bs to good value hotels, and top quality restaurants serving locally sourced produce from our fishing fleets, farms and vineyards, you need look no further than Hastings & 1066 Country for your perfect holiday.

Attractions:

- **Battle** – Battle Abbey & Battlefield, Yesterday's World, Sedlescombe, Battle Golf Clubs and Battle Museum.
- **Bexhill** – De La Warr Pavilion, the newly refurbished and extended Bexhill Museum.
- **Hastings** – East & West Hill Cliff Railways, Fishermen's Museum, Hastings Museum and Art Gallery, Shipwreck Museum & Coastal Heritage Centre, Hastings Lifeboat Station, Old Town Museum of Local History, 1066 Story in Hastings Castle, Smugglers Adventure, Hastings Blue Reef Aquarium, Jerwood Gallery (20c & 21c British Art).
- **Herstmonceux and Pevensey** – Herstmonceux Castle Gardens & Grounds, Observatory Science Centre, Pevensey Castle, Drusillas Park.
- **Rye** – Rye Castle Museum, The Story of Rye (town model in the Heritage Centre), Rye Art Gallery
- **Gardens** – Great Dixter, King Johns Garden, Merriments, Pashley Manor, Bedgebury National Pinetum & Forest.
- **Historical** (other than the above) – Bateman's, Bodiam Castle.
- **Novelty** – Kent & East Sussex Railway, The Giants of Brede, The Mill Toy & Pedal Car Museum, Flowermakers' Museum, Bodiam Boating Station (river boat trips to Bodiam Castle/Kayaking)
- **Other** – Carr Taylor Vineyards, Sedlescombe Organic Vineyards, Bewl Water Reservoir.



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Hastings & 1066 Country

Key Themes:

Maritime Heritage

- Hastings Old Town and The Stade ..sustainable methods of fishing.
- Rye fishing fleet and Maritime Festival in August.
- Hastings was chief port of the Cinque Ports Confederation, Rye and Winchelsea the two 'antient' towns.
- Smuggling – adds a bit of spice to the stories of Rye, Winchelsea and Hastings.

History

- Battle of Hastings and medieval connections are a strong theme for the area. Battle Abbey, Hastings Castle, Pevensey Castle all have Norman links.
- Rye – best preserved medieval town in the UK.

Gardens, vineyards and beautiful walking country

- 5 beautiful gardens.
- Hastings Country Park (300 hectares of coastal, cliff top walking), 50 kms long 1066 Country Walk, Rye Harbour Nature Reserve, Camber Sands.
- Bedgebury Pinetum -walking and cycling trails for all levels
- Bawl Water -reservoir offering numerous outdoor activities
- Sussex is the wine-making capital of the UK and we have 3 vineyards in our area.

Quirky and unusual

- Flowermakers Museum in Hastings Old Town – working museum with national collection of cutting tools and flower irons, whose clients include Disney, West End theatres, and top fashion designers.
- Mad Jack Fuller's Follies, sited in the beautiful High Weald countryside.
- East Hill Funicular – steepest cliff railway in the UK.
- Bexhill – the home of British motor racing – see Bexhill Museum.
- Smugglers Adventure



Battle re-enactment

Contact details for trade enquires:

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Mermaid Street, Rye

The Arts

- Grade 1 listed De La Warr Pavilion, Bexhill. Now a major arts centre on the south coast.
- Jerwood Gallery of 20th & 21st C British art, Hastings.
- Rye Art Gallery – 400+ works of artists from Burra to Whistler.
- Thriving artistic community in Hastings & St Leonards and Rye. September is a great time for the arts events in the area.

Literary Connections

- Lamb House, Rye – Henry James. Bateman's – Rudyard Kipling. Rye – Mapp & Lucia.

Local produce/ local life

- Romney Marsh lamb, sustainably caught fish and seafood, wine, fruit juice and cheese. Michelin starred restaurant, The Curlew, reflects the high standard of the restaurants and cafes in the area. Micro breweries exist in various pubs – where you can often hear live music performed by talented local musicians.
- For antiques and collectables, works of art by talented local artists, visit Rye and St Leonards & Hastings Old Town.

Annual Events:

(Feb) Rye Bay Scallops Week, (March) Hastings Half Marathon, (May) Jack in the Green, (August) Old Town Carnival week, (Sept) Rye Arts Festival, (Sept) Hastings Seafood and Wine Festival, (October) Hastings Week – National Town Criers Comp, Hastings Bonfire and Procession, Battle of Hastings Re-enactment, (November) Battle, Rye and Robertsbridge bonfires.

Directions and distance from central London:

60 miles (approx. 96km) to the south of London by road along the A21. 45 miles (approx. 72km) from the Ferry Ports and Channel Tunnel. Fastest route into 1066 Country is via the M20 towards Ashford, then the A2070 via Brenzett towards Rye.

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