

History & Heritage

One week holiday for couples

The South East is a prime destination for romantic holidays in England. Discover the beautiful South East coast and countryside full of historic towns in a one week holiday in our wonderful B&B's. You'll stop by some of the most famous England's castles used to protect the coast from invasions, visit some of the most historically important cathedrals and some of the most exquisite and intriguing historic houses in England.

Day 1: White Cliffs Country



Start your trip in [Dover](#), a vibrant and historic seaside town, known for its famous White Cliffs. Spend the morning discovering the 2000 years of [Dover Castle](#)'s history. Step inside the Great Tower and immerse yourself in the royal court of King Henry II. Travel deep into the white cliffs to explore the atmospheric Underground Hospital and learn more about the drama of the Dunkirk evacuation in Secret Wartime Tunnels.

Have lunch at NAAFI Restaurant, housed in the 1868 Regimental Institute used by soldiers stationed in Dover castle.

In the afternoon, take a one hour walk along the coastal path towards the historic [South Foreland Lighthouse](#), which was the first to display an electrically powered signal in the world. Enjoy stunning views across the English Channel at the top of the White Cliffs and see the French coast on a clear day.

Have a romantic dinner with fantastic sea views of the harbour at The Hythe Bay Seafood Restaurant or at The Smugglers Bar and Restaurant if you stay in St Margaret's at Cliffe.

Choose to stay overnight in the town centre at the 4 Star B&B Guesthouse Maison Dieu or in Lenox House, set in the heart of St Margaret's Bay above the White Cliffs.

Day 2: From Canterbury Cathedral to Leeds Castle



Only 30min drive from Dover, [Canterbury](#) is home to some of the most historic buildings in Britain. See the town's historic heart with a romantic 40min river tour offers by [Canterbury Historic River Tours](#).

Visit the towering [Canterbury Cathedral](#), a stunning piece of architecture, as well as a place of worship and pilgrimage. You won't miss the ancient crypt beneath the monastery through a 40 min audio tour with an optional-additional 20min tour of the Great Cloister and Chapter House.

Choose to have your lunch in a traditional English pub such as The Foundry or The Old Brewery Tavern, or try the finest cuisine of the Michelin-starred chef Michael Caines at Abode Canterbury.

Spend the afternoon at [Leeds Castle](#), one of the best preserved historic castles in South East England, as well as one of the most iconic, situated about 40min from Canterbury. Admire the stunning and somewhat eclectic range of antiques, paintings and tapestries; then take a relaxing stroll in over 500 acres of parkland and gardens.

After your visit, have a three-course dinner in [The Great British Kitchen](#) and stay overnight in the lovely [Stable Courtyard Bed & Breakfast](#), both within Leeds Castle estate.

Day 3: 1066 County



Head for the East Sussex town of [Battle](#), located less than one hour south of Leeds Castle. It is the site of the most famous battles in England's history - [the 1066 Battle of Hastings](#). Visit the abbey built by William the Conqueror to celebrate his victory and don't miss the spot King Harold fell. The inclusive audio guide tour will tell you more about the fascinating Battle of 1066.

After your visit, travel the 15min that separate the bustling town of [Hastings](#) from Battle. Take in the breath-taking views of the Hastings coastline while you explore the remains of William the Conqueror's first English castle. Learn more about this iconic castle with a 20 min audiovisual presentation.

What better way to have lunch in a fish and seafood restaurant such as Black Pearl or White's Seafood & Steak Bar, in the Europe's largest beach-launched fishing fleet.

In the afternoon, take the United Kingdom's steepest funicular railway - [the West Hill Cliff Railway](#), offering remarkable views of Beachy Head and the Channel. Enjoy these sights from inside the West Hill Café which is open throughout the summer and offers a wide range of drinks and meals.

Finish your day by wandering in meandering alleyways of the Old Town and pick one of the numerous historic pubs and restaurants of George Street.

Hastings has a large choice of Bed & Breakfast to suits all tastes and budgets, you can choose from the country-house style Summerfields House, the elegant Old Rectory or the medieval Minstrel's Rest.

Day 4: Brighton and the Royal Pavilion



Located one hour west of Hastings, [Brighton](#) is one of the UK's most vibrant destinations. Visit the dazzling and exotic [Royal Pavilion](#) which was the seaside palace of the Prince Regent (George IV). Admire its furniture and artworks, including original pieces lent by HM The Queen, with an inclusive one-hour audio guide.

After your visit, walk through [Brighton Lanes](#) and [North Laine](#) full of independent, retro and craft shops. Take advantage to bring back souvenirs for friends and family.

Head towards the seafront and have some fish and chips at the famous Palm Court Fish Restaurant, then pop in to Horatio's Bar for a drink.

Spend the afternoon relaxing on the beach, enjoying the amusement arcades on the world famous [Brighton Pier](#), getting breathtaking and panoramic views of the coastline at the top of [Brighton Wheel](#), or chugging along the seafront from the Pier to [Brighton Marina](#) on the world's oldest operating electric railway - [Volk's Electric Railway](#).

Stay on the seafront and have dinner at The Restaurant at Drakes, or try some grilled meat or fish at The Coal Shed Restaurant on Boyces Street.

Brighton has a lot of nice places to stay such as the traditional and relaxed Amblecliff Bed & Breakfast or the funky and quirky Snooze.

Day 5: The Great Waterfront City



A little bit more than one hour, [Portsmouth](#) has miles of sea views and centuries of maritime and naval history. Learn more about this maritime history at [The Historic Dockyard](#), home to the remains of the famous Tudor warship Henry VIII's Mary Rose, housed at the new Mary Rose Museum. Don't miss the fantastic HMS Victory, one of the oldest and best preserved ships in the country.

Just a short walk from the Historic Dockyard, do some shopping at the bustling [Gunwharf Quays](#), before heading to one of over 30 pubs and restaurants for your lunch.

After eating, enjoy the incredible views over the city from the top of the nearby [Spinnaker Tower](#), looming high above the waterfront.

Take the frequent [Gosport Ferry](#) service across the Harbour to [Gosport](#), which lasts 5min, and dive into history at the [Royal Navy Submarine Museum](#). Take a 45 min tour with a veteran submariner and go onboard a WWII submarine - The HMS Alliance.

Have dinner in the seafood and grill restaurant Loch Fyne, just a few minutes south of Gunwharf Quays.

Stay at Fortitude Cottage, sit in the Old Town or in the Georgian building of The Pier, situated in Southsea.

Day 6: Historic Winchester



Situated 30min from Portsmouth, the ancient capital of England - [Winchester](#), is a fascinating mix of legend, myth, history, and heritage. Explore more than 1000 years of history in the magnificent [Winchester Cathedral](#), the Europe's longest medieval cathedral. An inclusive 1½ hour tour will tell you about its spectacular architecture and its remarkable hidden treasures such as the beautiful illuminated Winchester Bible and Jane Austen's grave, one of the most popular literary figures in British history. Don't miss the crypt with a 20min tour.

Have lunch in a cosy and traditional country pub such as The Golden Lion or The Plough Inn.

In the afternoon, admire the impressive legendary Arthurian Round Table at the [Great Hall](#), one of the largest and finest surviving medieval halls in England.

Spend the rest of the day in the buzzing atmosphere of the city centre streets, dipping in and out of shops housed in majestic ancient buildings.

Have a romantic dinner in the traditional British restaurant Chesil Rectory or at The Old Vine award winning restaurant, opposite Winchester Cathedral.

Spend your last night in the South East England at The Old Vine which is also a four-star hotel offering wonderful breakfasts or at the 4 Visit England Stars Magdalen House B&B.

Day 7: Final chapter in Literary Hampshire or Designer Kent



On your way back to Dover, if you fancy literature stop at [Jane Austen's House Museum](#) in Chawton village, only 25min drive from Winchester. Visit the house in which this popular literary figure in the British history wrote and revised her novels, including *Pride and Prejudice*.

Finally travel the 140 miles, less than 2 ½ hours that separate you from Dover.

Or choose to stop in Ashford, just 25 miles (30min) before Dover, to do some shopping in over 75 stores of [Ashford Designer Outlet](#) and have a last good old English fish and chip at Harry Ramsdens.

If you need any further information, please visit www.visitsoutheastengland.com/.