

## Royal Connections

### Crossing over Royal Counties

From storybook castles and famous cathedrals to seaside stately homes and ancient battlefields, South East England has a wealth of attractions and destinations with connections to royalty. Leeds Castle is one of the most iconic properties in South East England and had frequently been visited by King Henry VIII. Edward the Black Prince was buried in Canterbury Cathedral in 1376. Today, visitors can view a number of original relics associated with him. Battle Abbey in East Sussex is the place where the last Anglo-Saxon King of England, King Harold II, was slain during the 1066 Battle of Hastings. Brighton's royal connections include the beautiful but outrageous Royal Pavilion in East Sussex, built by the extravagant King George IV as a seaside pleasure palace.

#### Day 1: Royalty in Kent



The 60 miles (1hr20) that separate [Canterbury](#) from London worth it. Visit the towering [Canterbury Cathedral](#), a stunning piece of architecture, as well as a place of worship and pilgrimage. View original relics of Edward the Black Prince who was buried in the cathedral in 1376. You won't miss the ancient crypt beneath the monastery through a private guided tour or a 40 min audio tour with an optional-additional 20min tour of the Great Cloister and Chapter House.

Wander through the city winding lanes and cobbled streets and enjoy the splendid award-winning [Dane John Gardens](#).

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. A private tour guide or an audio tour will tell you about film stars, politicians and royalty, whose King Henry VIII, who frequently visited Leeds Castle. You will definitely be amazed by the 900 years of Leeds Castle's history and its 500 acres of parkland and gardens.

The castle is also home to the oak-beamed 17th century restaurant in which you can dine and stay overnight in a B&B, cottage or even in a Knight tent all located within the castle estate.

For something more common, see the wide range of restaurants and accommodations in Maidstone, just 15min drive from Leeds Castle, at [www.visitmaidstone.com/where-to-stay](http://www.visitmaidstone.com/where-to-stay) and [www.visitmaidstone.com/food-and-drink](http://www.visitmaidstone.com/food-and-drink).

## Day 2: 1066 country



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](#), where the last Anglo-Saxon King of England, King Harold II, was slain. Visit the abbey built by William the Conqueror to celebrate his victory and don't miss the spot King Harold fell. Learn more about the fascinating Battle of 1066 with a one-hour guided tour for your group or an inclusive audio guide tour.

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 panel of accommodation to suit all tastes and budgets. For more information, please visit [www.visit1066country.com/accommodation](http://www.visit1066country.com/accommodation).

### Day 3: Brighton and the Royal Pavilion



Located one hour west of Hastings, [Brighton](#) is one of the UK's most vibrant destinations. Visit the [Royal Pavilion](#) which was the seaside palace of the Prince Regent (George IV). Learn more about its furniture and artworks, including original pieces lent by HM The Queen, with an inclusive one-hour audio guide. The Royal Pavilion also offers tours, cream teas and discounts package for groups.

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](#).

*Families will have fun at the oldest operating aquarium in the world - [Brighton Sealife Centre](#), set in a stunning Victorian building next to the pier entrance.*

Travel the 50 miles (1hr30) that separate you from London while keeping the beautiful memories of the Royal South East England.

If you need any further information, please visit [www.visitsoutheastengland.com/](http://www.visitsoutheastengland.com/).