

# Stay a little longer...

## Suggested Itineraries



### Kent

Rich in history and culture, Kent has long been a destination for pilgrims and travellers. The vaulted splendour of **Canterbury Cathedral** continues to attract a million tourists a year, while literary buffs reverently follow the footsteps of **Charles Dickens** across the atmospheric landscapes made famous in his novels. Discover also the proud naval and maritime traditions of the region.

#### Day 1: Rochester & Chatham

**AM** - In just over an hour, you can reach Rochester (M25/A2). The great keep of **Rochester Castle**, the tallest in England, towers over the River Medway, dominating the skyline together with its inseparable twin, the magnificent **Rochester Cathedral**, a place of worship for over 1400 years. For literary fans, visit **Gads Hill Place** a few miles out of Rochester, once the home of famous novelist **Charles Dickens**.

**PM** - Kent's fine naval traditions and years of maritime history are perfectly displayed at **Chatham Historic Dockyard**. It includes the R.N.L.I. national lifeboat collection; Kent Police Museum; a working ropery; plus 3 historic ships to explore – HMS Cavalier, Britain's last remaining WWII destroyer, the submarine HMS Ocelot and after restoration, the last Victorian sloop, HMS Gannet.



HMS Gannet, Historic Dockyard Chatham

#### Day 2: Canterbury

**AM** - Visit the famous **Canterbury Cathedral**. It is a stunning piece of architecture, as well as a place of worship and pilgrimage. It's these pilgrimages (which began after the murder of Thomas Beckett in 1170) which inspired the timeless Geoffrey Chaucer classic, the **Canterbury Tales**. You can watch live re-enactments of the **Canterbury Tales** which really brings them back to life.

**PM** - The perfect way to explore some of the well known historic sites of **Canterbury**, plus some of the hidden gems - available in 8 languages. Enjoy an audio tour & travel at your own pace. Alternatively, see the city from the water. Take a trip on the River Stour with **Canterbury Historic River Tours**.

Knight in the Canterbury Tales re-enactment



Rochester Castle

## Day 3: Margate

**AM** - Visit the **Turner Contemporary** art gallery, Margate, inspired by JMW Turner which celebrates its first birthday in 2012. The gallery hosts temporary exhibitions, events and learning opportunities enables intriguing connections to be made between art from 1750 to the present day.

Visit the **Shell Grotto**, Margate whose passageways and rooms are covered with a beautiful shell mosaic. The Grotto's discovery in 1835 came as a complete surprise to the people of Margate and debate has raged about the Grotto's origins ever since.

**PM** - Visit the **Dickens House Museum**, Broadstairs. This lovely old house has been adapted as a museum to commemorate the novelist's association with Broadstairs. It was once the home of Miss Mary Pearson Strong on whom Charles Dickens based much of the character of Miss Betsey Trotwood, in his novel David Copperfield.

**Return to London Gatwick (90 minutes from Margate)**



## Extend your stay

- Set in 500 acres of beautiful parkland, **Leeds Castle**, Maidstone, 'the loveliest castle in the world' is the perfect backdrop to your day out. The historic castle, glorious gardens, attractions and programme of events make this a year-round venue.
- **Kent Life** near Maidstone has plenty of fun and exciting things to do for all the family. Explore 28 acres of fun from hands-on activities for kids to age-old farming traditions that bring back memories from way back when.
- Beer, otherwise known as the 'Drink of England', has been produced in Faversham for over 850 years and the **Shepherd Neame Brewery**, Faversham, is open to visitors who wish to discover more about this proudly independent family company and its wide range of award winning beers.
- **Dickens World**, Chatham, is an amazing, multi-sensory, interactive experience where you can leave behind the modern world and immerse yourself in the sights, sounds and smells of nineteenth-century England.
- For garden lovers, **Sissinghurst Castle Garden**, near Cranbrook is a must-see. The garden, including a stunning rose garden, was created by Vita Sackville-West & Harold Nicolson in the 1930's.
- Visit the fishing town of **Whitstable** whose main claim to fame is its oysters which remain an intrinsic part of its character and are celebrated every July at the Oyster Festival. Oysters and other delicacies can be enjoyed at the local restaurants and pubs or bought home from the fresh fish market at the harbour.

## Further Information

### Where to stay:

[www.visitsoutheastengland.com/accommodation](http://www.visitsoutheastengland.com/accommodation)  
[www.visitmedway.org/places-to-stay](http://www.visitmedway.org/places-to-stay)  
[www.visitkent.co.uk/stay](http://www.visitkent.co.uk/stay) <http://www.visitkent.co.uk/stay>

### Useful websites:

[www.aroundgatwick.com](http://www.aroundgatwick.com)  
[www.visitsoutheastengland.com](http://www.visitsoutheastengland.com)  
[www.visitmedway.org](http://www.visitmedway.org)  
[www.visitkent.co.uk](http://www.visitkent.co.uk)  
[www.thedockyard.co.uk](http://www.thedockyard.co.uk)  
[www.leeds-castle.com](http://www.leeds-castle.com)  
[www.kentlife.org.uk](http://www.kentlife.org.uk)  
[www.shepherdneame.co.uk](http://www.shepherdneame.co.uk)  
[www.dickensworld.co.uk](http://www.dickensworld.co.uk)  
[www.nationaltrust.org.uk/sissinghurst-castle](http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/sissinghurst-castle)

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