

# TOURISM SOUTH EAST

## Visit South East England - Coast, Countryside & Culture – 6 day Itinerary



Rye (1066 Country)



Eastbourne



Portsmouth

### About South East England

The beautiful South East England is the gateway to England on Europe's doorstep – discover amazing history, stunning landscapes and the great outdoors.

The area covers Berkshire, Buckinghamshire, Dorset, Hampshire, Isle of Wight, Kent, London, Oxfordshire, Surrey and Sussex.

**Locations for Trip:** 1066 Country, Eastbourne, Portsmouth, Maidstone and White Cliffs Country.

[www.visitsoutheastengland.com](http://www.visitsoutheastengland.com)



Leeds Castle



Sandwich (White Cliffs Country)



### GATWICK AIRPORT GATEWAY TO LONDON & SOUTH EAST ENGLAND

The Gatwick Express provides a non-stop service to London Victoria station departing every 15 minutes and taking about 30 minutes journey time. Regular rail services link the airport directly with destinations to London and to the south coast including Brighton and Eastbourne, as well as to Portsmouth, Southampton and Guildford.



Rye Castle



Camber Sands



Winchelsea Cellars



Full Throttle Boat Charters



Rye Harbour Nature Reserve



Charles Palmer Vineyards

Start your trip in **1066 Country** ([www.visit1066country.com](http://www.visit1066country.com)). Set deep in history, where the Sussex Weald meets the sea, lie the ancient settlements and rich landscapes of 1066 Country. Open skies and broad horizons inspire the imagination. 1066 Country is home to some of Sussex's finest coast and countryside including the famous historic site on which the Battle of Hastings was fought. It encompasses 30 miles of coast, 22 Festivals, 15 museums, 4 galleries and 6 castles! Discover the unique towns and villages of Battle, Bexhill, Bodiam, Camber, Hastings, Herstmonceux, Pevensey, Rye and Winchelsea.

### Where To Stay

#### [Flackley Ash Hotel](#),

Peasmarsch - A cosy country house hotel, set in 5 acres just outside Rye. 44 rooms, including garden suites and four poster rooms, a la carte restaurant and small indoor swimming pool and spa facilities.



#### [The Gallivant, Camber](#) - A

boutique hotel across the road from the sand dunes and beautiful beach of Camber Sands. Good restaurant serving local produce. Yoga and Wellness.



[Wickham Manor](#), Winchelsea - A National Trust-owned 16th Century Manor House nestled within the 750-acre mixed farm and the Charles Palmer vineyard.

Accommodation is in two self-contained areas of the house.

Take a look at other [accommodation options](#) on the 1066 Country website.

### What To Do:

[Full Throttle Boat Charters](#) - Boat trips from Rye Harbour out to sea for an exhilarating experience. 9 seater RIB speedboat is the best way to see the Sussex coast line.

[Discovery Centre](#) at [Rye Harbour Nature Reserve](#) – An important wildlife site set in an exceptional coastal and wetland landscape. Home to more than 4,355 species of plants and animals.

Wine tasting and tour of [Charles Palmer Vineyard](#) at Winchelsea - an ideal climate for vines; proximity to the sea, south facing slope and its terroir.

Tour [Winchelsea](#). Once one of England's most thriving ports, now landlocked, it was planned as a medieval new town, set on a hill and constructed with hidden vaults beneath. Book a [Cellar Tour](#).

[Rye Heritage Centre](#) – Housed in a converted 19th century sail loft, it includes the Rye Town Model 'Story of Rye' Sound and Light Show, a vintage, hand built 1:100 scale model of Victorian Rye.

[Discover Rye](#) - A medieval citadel huddled against invaders and the sea. It's home to a myriad of art, curiosities, cosy pubs, as well as modern boutique hotels, contemporary restaurants and Rye Castle Museum (Ypres Tower).

[Lamb House](#) (National Trust) – the former home of author, Henry James.

## DAY THREE IN EASTBOURNE



Stroll along three miles of pristine palm-lined promenade in [Eastbourne](#), take in a show at the elegant art-deco inspired Bandstand, admire the views from the iconic Victorian Pier or simply admire the breath-taking beauty of the coastal landmarks at Beachy Head and along the Heritage Coastline to the world-famous Seven Sisters. Follow the many walking routes to take in some of the panoramic views from the highest chalk cliffs in the UK! Eastbourne is the perfect seaside escape. Art and culture seekers can take in a show at one of Eastbourne's theatres, or admire the collections at the award-winning Towner Gallery.

### Where to Stay & Eat

#### [The Grand Hotel](#) -

"England's finest resort hotel" - as described by the RAC. 152 bedrooms and suites, two restaurants and luxurious lounges. Facilities: health club, hair and beauty salon.



#### [The View Hotel](#) -

Situated on the seafront with stunning panoramic views to all air conditioned public rooms. Many bedrooms have furnished balconies. Less than 5 minutes walk from the Congress theatre and the Winter Garden.



Take a look at other accommodation options on the [Eastbourne website](#).

[Bistrot Pierre](#) - Enjoy stunning panoramic sea views, overlooking Beachy Head whilst enjoying a relaxing dining experience at Bistrot Pierre.

### Things to Do

#### [Towner Art Gallery](#)

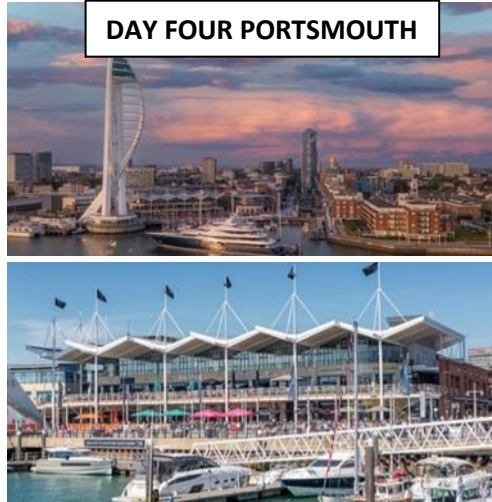
(host of the 2023 Turner Prize) - Collecting and exhibiting contemporary art for nearly 100 years, it presents a programme of historic, modern and contemporary art. Best known for its modern British art, including the largest and most significant body of work by Eric Ravilious (1903–1942), and a growing collection of international contemporary art including works by Dineo Seshee Bopape, John Akomfrah, and Wolfgang Tillmans.

#### [Beachy Head Story](#) -

The dramatic 530 feet high cliffs of Beachy Head give stunning views over Eastbourne and the English Channel. Walk from the foot of Beachy Head or climb to the top for dramatic views of the famous red and white-striped lighthouse. The exhibition will explain the ever changing nature of the headland in both use and appearance

#### [Seven Sisters Country Park](#) -

Found at the point where the South Downs meets the sea, the Sisters were created when ancient rivers cut valleys into the chalk, creating seven peaks. Haven Brow, the highest of them at 253 feet (77 metres), stands majestically to the west of her other sisters. Now part of the Heritage Coast, an 'Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty' and also a 'Site of Special Scientific Interest'.



**DAY FOUR PORTSMOUTH**

Start your visit to Portsmouth ([www.visitportsmouth.co.uk](http://www.visitportsmouth.co.uk)) on a high at the **Spinnaker Tower** then enjoy a maritime themed visit to **Portsmouth Historic Dockyard** to discover centuries of history - including Henry VIII's **Mary Rose**, Nelson's **HMS Victory**, **HMS Warrior**, boat trips around the harbour plus lots more. Visit **The D-Day Story**, now including a visit on board the massive landing craft LCT7074. Nearby Henry VIII's **Southsea Castle** offers free visits (Apr- Oct). For those who like a spot of shopping, stop off at Gunwharf Quays.

**Where to Stay & Eat**

- **Royal Maritime Hotel & Club** - Established in 1850, it gained 'Royal patronage' in 1855, after Prince Albert visited the hotel. Queen Victoria became patron. Royal visits include Queen Elizabeth II and King Charles III (patron since 2007). Membership is open to all serving and retired members of the Armed Forces and their families as well as those of the Royal Navy, Royal Marines and Merchant Navy. It has 90 comfortable bedrooms, a restaurant, café, bars and leisure facilities: swimming pool, spa pool, sauna, skittles alley and billiards room.
- **Ibis** - In a prime location in the centre of Portsmouth close to popular annual events including Goodwood Festival of Speed, and Victorious music festival. 144 rooms are an ode to the naval history of Portsmouth, with porthole-shaped windows.
- **Abarbistro** – Family-run bistro & bar situated in the heart of Old Portsmouth. Back in 1784 there was a pub on the site called the Shipwrights Arms. By 1887, it was known as the American Hotel, legend has it, that it used to house convicts waiting to be deported to penal colonies in Virginia during the 18th century.



**Things To Do**

- **The Mary Rose** - 2022 marks 40 years since the Mary Rose, Henry VIII's favourite ship, was raised from the sea bed. Now on view in world-class museum within the Dockyard
- **Portsmouth Historic Dockyard** - Historic ships, include Vice-Admiral Lord Nelson's flagship HMS Victory, Queen Victoria's HMS Warrior and the only surviving ship from the First World War's Gallipoli campaign, HMS M.33. Take the complimentary waterbus to Gosport and explore Cold War submarine HMS Alliance.
- **Spinnaker Tower** stands at 170 metres tall, offering breath-taking 23 mile views over the city, Portsmouth Harbour, the Solent and the Isle of Wight. It has a high speed lift and 3 sky-high viewing decks. The thrilling glass 'Sky Walk' is 100m above sea level.
- **The D-Day Story** - Following a £5 million transformation project (Heritage Lottery Fund) - the museum provides an engaging insight into the lives of those who took part in D-Day; individuals on the shore in Portsmouth, or those who went over to Normandy. Take a guided tour of the massive landing craft LCT7074. Audio guides to the museum itself available in French and German as well as English.
- **Southsea Castle** - Built in 1544, it was part of a series of fortifications constructed by Henry VIII around England's coasts to protect from invaders.
- **Gunwharf Quays** - home to over 95 premium retail outlet stores offering famous brand names at discount prices.

## DAY 5 MAIDSTONE



On the way to Maidstone, break your journey at [Devil's Punchbowl, Hindhead](#) (National Trust). Take a short walk and cup of tea. This serene heathland with far-reaching views is home to myths, legends and dark tales of highway men. Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, author of Sherlock Holmes, used to walk the Commons and it's said that he used Hindhead as the inspiration for the book 'The Hound of the Baskervilles'.



[Maidstone](#) in the heart of the Kent countryside has some wonderful events each year, both at the Kent County Show Ground and at many other venues in the town including the theatre, the museum and Leeds Castle. The town is just 39 miles from Central London and is an ideal base for exploring the county of Kent. The River Medway running through the heart of the town provides a great place to walk, cycle and enjoy a number of independent cafes and riverside views.

### Where to Stay

[Mercure Maidstone Great Danes](#) - Set in 26 acres of glorious countryside adjoining the famous Leeds Castle. Enjoy tennis, golf, the health club, gym or swimming pool in one of the finest spa hotels Kent offers.



[Tudor Park Marriott Hotel & Golf Club](#) - Surrounded by 200 acres of ancestral deer parkland, the hotel offers a wide range of great amenities and comfortable rooms perfect for a relaxing stay.

[Orida Maidstone Hotel](#) - Located off the M20, less than 10 minutes from central Maidstone. With 146 spacious bedrooms, quality restaurant, lounge bar, Starbucks cafe and ORIDA Health featuring an indoor pool, whirlpool, sauna, spa and gym.

### Things to Do

[The Maidstone Distillery](#) - Situated in the historic market buildings of Maidstone town centre, the beautiful still and equipment sit at the heart of the distillery, nestled beneath grand arches dating back to the 1800's. Enjoy a double George Bishop gin and tonic at the bar before being guided to the experience room to start the tour. Delve into the fascinating story of distilling right here that spans over 200 years, and demonstrate the processes used to create the fine hand crafted spirits today. You'll see the beautiful still and equipment up close, before you're back at the bar for a tutored tasting of the spirits and hear about the inspiration behind them.

[Leeds Castle](#) - Set in 500 acres of Kentish parkland, it has been a Norman stronghold; the private property of six of England's medieval queens; a palace used by Henry VIII and his first wife Catherine of Aragon; a Jacobean country house; a Georgian mansion; an elegant early 20th century retreat for the influential and famous. The Castle's last private owner, Lady Baillie, bought the Castle in 1926 and transformed it into an elegant setting for glorious weekend parties. Sir Winston Churchill, Charlie Chaplin and John F. Kennedy are amongst the roll-call of many other influential guests who enjoyed Lady Baillie's hospitality during this time.



**DAY 6 WHITE CLIFFS COUNTRY**

Where coast meets countryside, ancient meets modern, relaxation meets adventure and England meets Europe. [White Cliffs Country](#), in the south east of England, with its world-famous heritage coast, fascinating history, characterful towns and picturesque villages is where you will find a warm welcome, sea air and plenty of space for adventure or relaxation.

Lonely Planet listed Kent's Heritage Coast as one of the world's best regions to visit and we're sure you'll agree. With fantastic local produce, quirky and traditional places to stay, beautiful routes for walking and cycling and plenty of memorable things to see and do, White Cliffs Country is somewhere you'll want to visit again and again.

**Where to Stay & Eat**

Overnight at the [Bell Hotel](#), Sandwich - A grand Edwardian Hotel, brimming with character with a chic, modern magic. Set in a beautiful spot overlooking the River Stour. Recently refurbished, There's a vibrant bar and dining area with an alfresco terrace,



[George and Dragon](#) - A restaurant and pub in the medieval cinque port town of Sandwich in Kent. The inn was originally built in the 24th year of the 1st reign of Henry VI, in 1446.

[The Drill Hall Restaurant, Bar & Gelateria](#) - Erected in 1869. It was the HQ of a Territorial Army detachment of The Buffs Regiment (5 Bn. The Buffs, TA Royal East Kent Regiment), now The Princess of Wales Regiment.

[The Coastguard](#), St Margaret's Bay - A historic sea-side pub and restaurant it has kept watch on the sea-front for more than 300 years. Take a walk on the beach to see where Ian Fleming lived.

**Things To Do**

Historic Tour of Sandwich with [Sandwich Local History Society](#) including visit to the [Guildhall and Museum](#).

[River Runner](#) - Cruise to see the seals with River Runner hosted by Paul Cannon and Wayne

Take in a film at the [Art Deco Cinema](#) - On 26th June, 1937 the Empire Cinema in Sandwich opened its doors for the first time. It re-opened in 1993, and has still retained the art deco architecture

[Walmer Castle and Gardens](#) - Explore over eight acres of award-winning gardens in the grounds of a Tudor fortress turned country house. Built on the orders of Henry VIII to defend England's southern shores, Walmer Castle later became a home for the Lords Warden of the Cinque Ports — among them the Duke of Wellington and the Queen Mother.

[Sapphire Hoe](#) - Sapphire Hoe is an amazing place. There is something for everyone who enjoys the outdoors and wildlife: a stunning location and outstanding scenery, peace and quiet, walks, wildflowers, birds and picnics. And the further you go from the car park, the wilder the site becomes.