

Places To Visit

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Bodiam Castle

This moated fairytale castle is one of Britain's most romantic and picturesque, set in the heart of 1066 country. With spiral staircases, battlements and a portcullis, 14th-century Bodiam Castle is the real thing. Windows where arrows were once fired, a tower that was once a look-out and ruins that were once walked upon by knights; this is a place where you can re-live your childhood memories and let your imagination run riot. £8.20 (+44) 01580 830196, 9.4 Miles (19 minutes).

Bateman's

Jacobean house, home of Rudyard Kipling . Surrounded by the wooded landscape of the Sussex Weald, this 17th-century house, with its mullioned windows and oak beams, provided a much needed sanctuary to this world-famous writer. The rooms, described by him as 'untouched and unfaked', remain much as he left them, with oriental rugs and artefacts reflecting his strong association with the East. Kim was his first major piece of writing that he wrote from his study at Bateman's which links him and his fond childhood memories to India with real clarity and devotion, truly a master piece of descriptive writing. Kipling was awarded the Nobel Prize for literature in 1907. Bateman's is very much a family home that feels as though the Kiplings have just gone out for the day. 01435 882302, £10, 10-17:00, Bateman's Lane, Burwash, TN19 7DS, 14 miles (30 minutes)

Brede High Woods

This stunning mosaic of ancient and secondary woodland, open heathland and acid grassland is located on the north-east shore of Powdermill Reservoir in East Sussex, in the High Weald Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. It has a rich history and a diverse range of wildlife. In 2013 the wood was awarded funding from SITA Trust through the Landfill Communities Fund towards key management works. The grant contributed to the annual ride management and coppicing programme which is helping to create a more diverse woodland which will benefit a wide range of wildlife. Car park: B2089, Broad Oak, Rye TN31 6EX

Sissinghurst Castle Garden

Sissinghurst Castle Garden was created in the early 1930s by Vita Sackville-West, poet and gardening writer, and her husband Harold Nicolson, author and diplomat. It is among the most famous gardens in England and is designated a Grade I listed structure. The garden comprises a series of "rooms", amounting to ten in number, and was one of the earliest examples of this gardening style. The castle, garden, and wider estate are now owned and maintained by the National Trust. It is one of the Trust's most popular properties. Biddenden Rd, Cranbrook, TN17 2AB

Dungeness

Dungeness, the RSPB's oldest nature reserve, occupies nearly 1,000 hectares of the Dungeness peninsula: the largest shingle formation of its kind in Europe. The reserve is part of the Dungeness National Nature Reserve and a Site of Special Scientific Interest. In winter, you can see hundreds of waterbirds on the lakes. In spring and autumn, migrating birds pass through on their way to their breeding grounds or winter homes. In spring and summer, there's plenty of other wildlife to spot too: from dazzling dragonflies and fluttering butterflies to croaking frogs and colourful wildflowers. TN29 9PN

Rye

Perched on a hill, overlooking the River Rother and Romney Marsh, this ancient town is the sort of place you thought existed only in your imagination. With enchanting cobbled streets, medieval church and beautifully preserved historic houses from Medieval, Tudor and Georgian times, Rye is almost suspended in time and has a uniquely unhurried atmosphere. 01797 226696. 10.1 Miles (21 minutes) away.

Great Dixter

Great Dixter was the family home of gardener and gardening writer Christopher Lloyd. It was the focus of his energy and enthusiasm and fuelled over 40 years of books and articles. Now under the stewardship of Fergus Garrett and the Great Dixter Charitable Trust, Great Dixter is an historic house, a garden, a centre of education, and a place of pilgrimage for horticulturists from across the world. 01797 252878 ext. 3
7 Miles (13 minutes) away.

Hastings Old Town

The Old Town Hastings offers a unique visitor experience. Independent fashion boutiques jostle for your attention with fine art galleries, antique dealers and bookshops many offering unique products you simply won't find anywhere else! The place exudes a heady bohemian atmosphere and it is hard not to fall in love with the place and the people. 5.2 Miles (15 minutes) away.

Battle Abbey

The 1066 Battle of Hastings, Abbey and Battlefield site is operated by English Heritage and includes the abbey buildings and ruins, a visitor centre with a film and exhibition about the battle, audio tours of the battlefield site, and the monks' gatehouse with recovered artifacts. The visitor centre includes a children's discovery room and a café, and there is an outdoor themed playground. 01424 775705. 6.4 Miles (14 minutes) away.

Country Walk Route 1066

The route commemorates 1066, the year of the Battle of Hastings, and seeks to link the places and the people of that important year. It runs through East Sussex from Pevensey, where William of Normandy gathered his invading army and prepared to meet King Harold. The walk passes through rolling countryside beside oast houses, windmills and rivers. You can access Route 1066 at the far end of the Orchard.

Bowl Water

Bowl Water is the largest stretch of open water in the South East. The 800 acre site is set in an area of outstanding natural beauty, in the heart of the High Weald. Open all year, a visit to this stunning lake is fantastic family fun and great value. Looking for healthy outdoor fun for all ages and abilities? Bowl Water offers a fantastic range of leisure and recreational activities, including fishing, cycling and boating, on and around the reservoir with a centre, conference venue, restaurant and café on the shoreline. 01892 890000, £2 to park, Bowlbridge Lane, Lamberhurst, Kent, TN3 8JH. 18 Miles (32 minutes)

Tenterden

Widely regarded as one of the most charming towns in the South East, Tenterden, and its surrounding villages and countryside, is a fascinating place to visit and explore. With its unique mix of fascinating history and heritage, traditional shopping, family fun, great country activities and events. 14.4 Miles (26 minutes) away.

Brede Steam Giants

In the 1960s many of our Victorian and Edwardian engineering masterpieces were demolished. Fortunately some survived, the Giants of Brede offer a chance to return to the 'good old days' and see the past in action! Open first Saturday of every month 10-4 and Bank Holiday Mondays. Waterworks Lane, Brede, TN31 6HG Tel. 01323 897310 2.6 Miles (6 minutes) away.

Jerwood Gallery

Situated next to the historic fishing beach in Hastings' picturesque Old Town, the award winning Jerwood Gallery is home to the Jerwood Collection of 20th and 21st century British art, and a diverse temporary exhibition programme. Tuesday-Friday 11am-4pm Saturday- Sunday 11am-6pm Closed Mondays 01424 728377 5.2 Miles (15 minutes) away.

Kent & East-Sussex Railway

The Kent & East Sussex Railway is the country's finest example of a rural light railway, often with steam engines. The line gently wends its way from Tenterden - "The Jewel of The Weald" for ten and a half miles, through the unspoilt countryside of the Rother Valley, to terminate in the shadow of the magnificent National Trust castle at Bodiam. This is a great day out if you have lunch either in Tenterden or at Bodiam. 01580 765155 or for 24 Talking Timetable call 01580 762943

Carr Taylor Vineyard

If you're looking into English wines, you are probably aware that the industry's reputation is going from strength to strength. Whether your motivation is keeping your carbon footprint low, supporting local producers, or simply that you're interested in sourcing exciting new, good quality, authentic English wines, we hope you will like what you find here. 01424 752501. 1.3 Miles (4 minutes) away.

Fairlight Cove

A lovely hidden beach in Hastings County Park on the coast between Hastings and Fairlight. The nearest car park is at Fireheights (on top of a cliff with a pretty view). It's a steep walk down to the beach, down into a valley, then up over a headland, then back down to the top of the trail down to the beach. It's well signposted. The last part of the trail down is "at your own risk", but quite easy. Duck under the fence by the warning sign, and carry on down steps cut into the cliff. Be aware that this beach is popular with naturists! 7.5 Miles (18 minutes) away. Satnav: TN35 4AB.

Herstmonceux Castle

Herstmonceux Castle is one of the oldest significant brick buildings still standing in England; brick was an unusual material for the time in Britain. The builders of Herstmonceux Castle concentrated more on grandeur and comfort than on defence. The Gardens and Grounds of Herstmonceux Castle is a 300 acre estate including woodland, formal themed gardens and of course a 15th century moated castle. Opens late March – late October. £7 (for garden) + £2.50 (for castle). 01323 833 816, BN27 1RN, 14.5 Miles (30 minutes)