



Broadstairs Press Pack

www.visitthanet.co.uk

How to reach Broadstairs?

Broadstairs is a seaside town situated on the Isle of Thanet, the most easterly point in Kent the 'Garden of England'. In the past, Thanet was separated from the mainland by the river Wantsum but it is now no longer an Island.

Broadstairs is easily accessible by car, coach and train. The country's only high speed train service, HS1, brings visitors from St Pancras, London, to Broadstairs in just 85 minutes.

There are regular train and bus services, including the Thanet Loop, to the neighbouring resorts of Margate (3.4m / 5.5km) and Ramsgate (2.3m / 3.7km). The City of Canterbury is 18.8 miles (30.25km) away and the Port of Dover, with its cross-Channel services to mainland Europe, just 22.6 miles (36.4km) distant.





Botany Bay



Viking Bay



Surfing

Escape to Broadstairs

- Seven sand-filled, family-friendly beaches and bays, three with Blue Flag Awards and one with a Seaside Award
- Stunning chalk cliffs including caves and much-photographed stacks at Botany Bay
- Best surfing beaches in the south east and closest to London
- Timeless seaside charm
- Traditional fishing harbour, cobbled and narrow streets
- Vibrant nightlife economy and exciting eateries
- Classic ice cream parlours and coffee shops
- Cliff top gardens and bandstand
- Cliff top and foreshore strolls, cycling and golf
- Blues Bash in February, Spring Fair at Easter, Annual Dickens Festival in June, Folk Week and Water Gala in August, Food Festival in October

Broadstairs succeeds in more than satisfying the needs of today's generations of short break, weekend visitors and daytrippers who flock to its beaches. Yet the coastal honeypot retains all the charms and features of a traditional seaside destination.

Morelli's, the quintessential 1950s ice cream parlour, still stands at the top of the chalk cliffs overlooking the floral displays along the promenade and the gently sloping sands and rock pools of Viking Bay.

Charles Dickens, one of the town's most famous former visitors and residents, would easily recognise the narrow streets and flint walls in the older parts of the town and the streets winding down to the small fishing harbour.

Throughout the summer demand is high for the town's many guesthouses, B&Bs, self-catering houses and apartments.

As a resort, and a long-standing favourite destination for people of all ages and interests, Broadstairs has more than held its own and is thriving in the 21st century. The town is now home to more than 24,900 people enjoying the changing delights of the seaside throughout the seasons.



Joss Bay



Botany Bay



Stone Bay

Beaches and bays

Sunseekers, sandcastle builders, surfers, fossil hunters, rock pool enthusiasts and more will be delighted with the wide choices of beaches and bays to be discovered in Broadstairs.

Botany Bay – Thanet's most photographed beach with towering chalk stacks and golden sands. The bay is a great place for rock pools and fossil hunting when the tide is out.

Kingsgate Bay – some of the finest examples of sea caves in the country. Secluded sands but cut off at both ends at high tide. Check times and tides before setting out.

Joss Bay – a surfer's paradise with a 200-metre long sandy beach surrounded by fields, a golf course and space to play.

Stone Bay – as the tide goes out beautiful sands and superb rock pools are revealed. Hours of fun within a short distance of Viking Bay.

Viking Bay – a wide horseshoe bay with superb sands, tidal pools, beach huts and children's activities and rides as well as surf and belly boards. Refreshments, including traditional fish 'n chips, ice creams and lollies, are readily available.

Louisa Bay – a small popular bay with refreshments nearby for when the tide is high and the beach is washed clean by the sea. Sand and delightful rock pools.

Dumpton Gap – quiet sands and rock pools with dramatic chalk cliffs and a great coastline walk to Ramsgate at low tide. Check times and tides before setting out.

Discover more of Thanet's award-winning beaches and bays at www.visitthanet.co.uk/beaches-bays

Picture perfect

With its memorable sea views, snug bays and open sands flanked by chalk cliffs, Broadstairs has a long tradition of attracting artists and the galleries to display their works.

The Broadstairs Gallery, just a short distance from Viking Bay, features original works by local and international artists alongside limited edition prints. www.broadstairsgallery.com

Artists Vicki Griggs and Kevin Malone provide the ultimate in bespoke paintings online and a great choice for visitors to **The Little Art Gallery**, tucked away in Eldon Place just off Harbour Street. Paintings to see and buy. www.thelittleartgallerybroadstairs.com

New Kent Art Gallery and Studio is an intimate gallery space showcasing local artists, with exhibitions changing every fortnight. www.newkentart.com

Attractions

Dickens House Museum

(www.dickensmuseumbroadstairs.co.uk)

A celebration of the life and times of the great British campaigner, journalist and writer set in the cottage that was the inspiration for the home of Miss Betsey Trotwood in *David Copperfield*.

Bleak House

(www.bleakhousebroadstairs.co.uk)

An unmissable Charles Dickens connection perched above Broadstairs' picturesque harbour offering luxury accommodation and memorable afternoon teas. Dickens spent holidays in the house in the 1850s and 1860s.

Crampton Tower Museum

(www.cramptontower.co.uk)

Visitors discover the inventiveness of the Victorian engineer Thomas Crampton, his work in Broadstairs and in the development of the railways and communication. He was born in Broadstairs on 6 August 1816 and trained on Brunel's Great Western Railway. He laid the first successful cable for a submarine telegraph between Dover and Calais. His tower housed the first waterworks for the resort.

St Peter's Village Tours

(www.villagetour.org.uk)

A delightful destination in its own right, the village offers visitors four award-winning tours. These include two War Graves tours, a Churchyard tour and a chance to explore the village's history with a selection of colourful costumed characters.

Lillyput Mini-Golf

(www.minigolfbroadstairs.com)

A championship designed mini-golf course, complete with tea garden.



Crampton Tower Museum



Betsey Trotwood's Parlour, Dickens House Museum



St. Peter's Village Tour

Entertainment

Broadstairs has its own professional performers offering high quality entertainment for visitors and residents alike. The Sarah Thorne Theatre Company presents summer rep, plays, pantomimes, concerts and musical evenings in the intimate Memorial Theatre. Patrons of the theatre company include Dame Judi Dench, David Suchet CBE and Julian Fellowes DL. www.sarahthorne-theatrecompany.co.uk

Overlooking the Viking Bay sands and delightful harbour, The Pavilion and Garden on the Sands is a great destination for a relaxing evening with a lively programme of special musical events and entertainment.

www.pavilion-broadstairs.co.uk

Cinema lovers are bound to want to experience the cosy Palace Cinema – a 111-seat, family-run cinema in the resort's historic Harbour Street www.thepalacecinema.co.uk



Outdoor adventures

Invigorating and gentle walks discovering inlets and quiet bays cut into the chalk cliffs.

The Active Coast itinerary planner gives more detail on outdoor fun and adventure www.visitthanet.co.uk/activecoast.

Follow the Viking Coastal Trail (32 miles/51.4 km) or mini routes including Historic Broadstairs and Smugglers' Haunts on foot or on two wheels. Download from www.vikingcoastaltrail.co.uk

Broadstairs Bandstand was opened in 1892 by Princess Louise, daughter of Queen Victoria. The Bandstand is a focal point for entertainment throughout the year, but is particularly busy during the summer months.

Broadstairs Town Walks Enjoy a gentle stroll through 600 years of history in just under an hour – Charles Dickens, Hans Christian Anderson and Ronnie Barker are all included! Walks take place from Easter to the end of August, weekends only at 2pm.



Discover the fun of surfing and stand up paddle boarding, SUP, with Joss Bay Surf School www.jossbay.co.uk and Kent Surf School at Viking Bay. www.kentsurfschool.co.uk

Broadstairs Town Trail (leaflet) is a self-guided walk around the town with illustrated boards on route giving an insight into some of the town's people, history and buildings.

Turner and Dickens Walk

Take a walk along the restored four mile route between Dickens' Broadstairs and Turner's Margate, much of which follows an ancient footpath between St. Peter's and St. John's churches. www.turneranddickens.co.uk

North Foreland Golf Club

Seaside golf at its very best with stunning panoramic views from every tee and every green and a stunning 18 hole par 3 golf course www.northforeland.co.uk





Charles Dicken's Study, Bleak House



Dickens House Museum



North Foreland Lighthouse

Artistic impressions

The Victorian writer **Charles Dickens** (1812 - 1870) is probably Broadstairs' most famous regular visitor and it is not difficult to follow in his footsteps around the time and find the sources of inspiration behind many of his colourful characters and settings. Many of his novels were completed during his visits.

Author of *The Thirty-Nine Steps* and other exciting novels, **John Buchan** spent time writing during his 1914 visit to the town's North Foreland area near Stone Bay. The North Foreland lighthouse is said to be the inspiration for the title of **Wilkie Collins'** detective novel *The Woman in White*.

Frank Richards (Charles Hamilton), the creator of *Billy Bunter*, made his home at Kingsgate, Broadstairs. **Oliver Postgate**, of *Bagpuss*, *Noggin the Nog* and *Clangers* fame also lived in the town while **Annette Mills**, creator of *Muffin the Mule*, settled in St Peter's.

English Impressionist artist **Walter Richard Sickert** (1860 - 1942) regularly painted at his home in St Peter's village.

Sir Samuel Luke Fildes the artist lived for many years at Holland House, Kingsgate. He illustrated *The Mystery of Edwin Drood* before moving into portraiture and gaining a large and fashionable clientele, including Royals such as Edward VII, Queen Alexandra and King George V. These state portraits hang in Buckingham Palace.

Year of Literary Heroes VisitEngland has declared 2017 the 'Year of Literary Heroes'. Discover more about Broadstairs' literary heroes in 'Write Around Thanet – Literary Heroes in Margate, Broadstairs and Ramsgate'. www.visitthanet.co.uk/literary



Broadstairs Dickens Festival



Broadstairs Folk Week - ©Dan Bass



Wheels and Fins ©Ben Wilks

Key Annual Events

FEBRUARY

Blues Bash

www.broadstairsbluesbash.com – a festival of blues music at venues across the town

EASTER

Spring Fair

www.broadstairsfoodfestival.org.uk – launching the main visitor season with a feast of regional produce and a celebration of culinary delights.

JUNE

Dickens Festival 80th Anniversary

www.broadstairsdickensfestival.co.uk – a major celebration of author Charles Dickens' enthusiasm for Broadstairs which he visited, many times between 1837 and 1859. He described the town as "Our English watering place". Costumed characters of all ages, Victorian entertainments and special events.

AUGUST

Folk Week

www.broadstairsfolkweek.org.uk
Broadstairs Folk Week attracts musicians and folk enthusiasts from across the world. Performances and colourful events are held at venues throughout the resort. Beware of Hooden Horses (but the dragons are friendly).

Water Gala

www.broadstairswatergala.co.uk – beach competitions, nautical characters, bandstand events, fun fairs and fireworks.

SEPTEMBER

Wheels and Fins Festival

www.wheelsandfins.co.uk – at Joss Bay with skateboard and surf comps, soap box derby, beach volleyball tournament, live music, beer tent and much more.

SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER

Broadstairs Food Festival

www.broadstairsfoodfestival.org.uk - a must visit for local and visiting foodies alike.

Throughout the summer months there is also a variety of entertainment and events at Broadstairs Bandstand.

Food and drink, where to stay

ON THE MENU

Start the day with an accredited Kent Breakfast with 60% of the ingredients produced in the Garden of England.

www.visitkent.co.uk/kentbreakfast

With a town boasting two major three-day food festivals each year at Easter and in October - it is not surprising to learn that Broadstairs is a popular destination for foodies.

The festivals alone attract thousands of visitors to the seaside town to taste rare and special foods, many featuring produce from the Garden of England, including superb wines, cask ales and Kent's famous fruit juices. Look out for Chefs' Theatres and Ask The Experts sessions alongside hundreds of opportunities to sample the many culinary creations.

Beyond the festivals, Broadstairs has numerous independent cafés, bistros and restaurants welcoming guests throughout the year.

Award-winning Wyatt and Jones, an independent restaurant putting local produce at the heart of its cuisine, and Albariño, which offers freshly prepared, full-flavour tapas dishes, are listed in the Michelin Guide 2017. They are both popular choices, alongside, of course, the resort's classic ice-cream parlours Morelli's and Chiappini's overlooking the seafront and Viking Bay.

Thanet Farmers' Market takes place on the second Sunday of each month (except August), providing a regular opportunity to buy food and drink which is sourced from East Kent and predominantly from Thanet.

WHERE TO STAY?

There are boutique hotels, guest houses and contemporary B&Bs in historic buildings alongside self-catering apartments, fishermen's cottages and houses full of character in the heart of the town and overlooking the sea.

Discover the full range of quality assessed accommodation at www.visitthanet.co.uk

The Yarrow Hotel opened last year and is the only hotel in the country run by a further education college. The hotel will act as a training ground for the hospitality industry's future leaders. www.yarrowhotel.co.uk

The Bay Tree Hotel will re-open in July following a major refurbishment. The seafront hotel and restaurant has been extended to include 10 ensuite rooms, eight of which have sea views and one room that is accessible to wheelchair users and is dog friendly. www.baytreehotelbroadstairs.co.uk

Morelli's



Broadstairs Food Festival



Yarrow Hotel





Beach Huts



Victoria Gardens



Harbour Master's Office

Roots, revival and regeneration

Originally Broadstairs was purely a fishing settlement much smaller than the inland village of St Peter's, established around the parish church. The coast was extremely popular with smugglers and the residents of Broadstairs and St Peter's had a reputation for being very good at outwitting customs agents.

In the early 19th century, steam packets, closely followed by the railways made trade and travelling links with London much easier and faster. New residents and visitors began to arrive and by the beginning of the 20th century the population in the now rapidly growing seaside town topped 10,000. Today Broadstairs is home to approximately 25,000 people.

Grand houses, impressive estates for wealthy Londoners and their families, and hotels were built along the cliff tops and in the town. Broadstairs quickly established itself as a highly desirable place to live and visit throughout the year.

Investment and the development of new retail parks and a major modern shopping leisure centre at Westwood Cross, on the outskirts of the historic town, has enabled businesses to restore and revive many of Broadstairs' traditional buildings as independent shops, contemporary visitor accommodation and weekend escapes for second homers.

A multi-million pound investment has recently transformed East Kent College's historic Yarrow Building in Broadstairs into a Three Star Training Hotel, which has been open since July 2016.

NEW COASTAL EXPLORER PACKS

The packs enable self-guided exploration of Margate, Broadstairs and Ramsgate, linking coast and heritage. Materials include trails, historic maps, binoculars, compass, rock pooling nets and marine life identification sheets.

www.visitthanet.co.uk/coastalexplorers

Interesting Facts

- North Foreland Lighthouse was the last manned lighthouse in the country until its conversion to automatic operations in 1998.
- The large dome 'beehive' at Crampton Tower Museum has an amazing echo and was used as an ARP centre along with the Tower during WWII.
- The church tower of St. Peter's was used as a signalling station by the Royal Navy during the Napoleonic wars and to this day still claims the right to fly the White Ensign in recognition of this connection
- St. Peter's churchyard is one of the longest in England
- Broadstairs got its first lifeboat in 1850. It was the first lifeboat to be stationed on the south coast and in 1851 was the first to carry out a rescue from the Goodwin Sands.
- Joss Snelling (1741 to 1837), known as 'The Famous Broadstairs Smuggler', was born in Lanthorn Road. He was fined for smuggling at 89.
- Thomas Russell Crampton (1816-1888), Victorian engineer, was born in Broadstairs. He brought gas and water works to Broadstairs.
- Broadstairs Dickens Festival started in 1937 and celebrates its 80th anniversary this year.
- Broadstairs has seven beautiful beaches and bays, three with Blue Flags and one with a Seaside Award
- The North Foreland Lighthouse was the inspiration behind Wilkie Collin's novel *The Woman in White* (1859)
- Viking Bay served as a training ground for British troops stationed in Chandos Square during the Napoleonic Wars.
- Morelli's, on Victoria Parade, Broadstairs, is that rare thing, a coffee bar and ice cream cafe which is preserved more or less unaltered since its last refurbishment in 1957. It's one of very few original 50s coffee bars left in the country: 'a symphony of Formica, vinyl and lino' as one enthusiast described it. In fact Morelli's dates back to 1932 in this location, and the firm's story is one of astonishing staying power and finally growth, in a business which is better known for the downward spiral.
- For over three months (towards the end of 1827), the widowed Duchess of Kent and her little daughter Victoria lived in Pierremont Hall, Broadstairs. One of many stays in different parts of Thanet before Victoria became Queen in 1837 at the age of 18. Pierremont Hall belonged to one Edward Fletcher, who rented it to the Duchess for the considerable sum of 25 guineas per week.



North Foreland Lighthouse



St. Peter's Churchyard



Morellis



Dreamland ©Oliver Dixon



Margate Main Sands



Margate Old Town

So close

MARGATE

Margate is a classic seaside destination with deep roots in the original development of visits to the coast for the health benefits of exhilarating sea air and salt water bathing.

As the passion and fashion for seaside fun and frivolity became more accessible with boat trips from London and the arrival of the railways, Margate and neighbouring Cliftonville became synonymous with family holiday fun, weekend escapes (including romantic liaisons) and daytrips.

Visitors today soak up the sun, sands and sea with all the enthusiasm of previous generations of the bucket 'n spade brigade as well as a wealth of retro and vintage seaside pleasures presented in 21st century style.

The re-opened and re-imagined Dreamland Pleasure Park is the newest addition and celebrates the age of the Great British seaside amusement experience, including the country's oldest wooden roller coaster, the Grade II* listed Scenic Railway.

Along with the resort's 50,300 residents, visitors find themselves at the heart of the cultural and creative arts revolution sweeping along the coast of Kent.

- World-class art and cultural exhibitions at Turner Contemporary gallery
- Dreamland, the UK's original pleasure park - Lonely Planet named Kent the Best in Europe for family holidays 2015 citing the retro thrills of Dreamland
- Margate Old Town, vibrant and expanding creative sector, affectionately referred to in the media as 'Shoreditch-on-Sea'.

- Classic seaside heritage – magnificent sands, beaches and bays, water sports, rock pools, cockles and whelks, fish 'n chips and candyfloss
- Major attractions and entertainments alongside many hidden gems
- Time and space to relax and enjoy the resort's famous Turner sunsets, clifftop walks and trails, and contemporary culture
- Margate Old Town independent galleries, vintage and retro hotspots, and quirky shops along cobbled streets
- GEEK (Games Expo East Kent – February), Easter Beer Festival (March/April), Margate Beach Cross (March and October), Mods and 60s Festival, Margate Meltdown (May), Skagate (July), Margate Soul Festival and Carnival (August), Screamland (October)

A Margate press pack is available, see back cover.



Westcliff Arcade



Royal Harbour



Ramsgate Tunnels

RAMSGATE

Ramsgate, a favourite seaside destination of Princess Victoria, is an architectural jewel in the coastal crown of the Isle of Thanet.

The town's long maritime history as a port, with the country's only Royal Harbour, and its thriving modern marina have contributed to the development of a relaxing Mediterranean-style waterfront filled with a wealth of bustling bistros and restaurants.

The resort's fine weather, superb sands, sea air and stunning views from the chalk cliffs alongside elegant side streets, independent shops, galleries and seaside entertainments add even more flavour to Ramsgate's popular café culture.

- UK's only Royal Harbour
- Golden sands, famous family-friendly beach and bay, boat trips and clifftop walks
- Modern marina filled with luxury yachts
- Augustus Pugin's house The Grange and St. Augustine's Church
- Elegant Georgian, Regency and Victorian architecture – hundreds of listed buildings
- Ramsgate Tunnels - deep shelter tunnels built to protect civilians during WWII
- Active Ramsgate itinerary – including two new canoe trails and a new coastal walk

- Thriving continental café culture along the south-facing waterfront
- Fine eateries serving local produce including seafoods
- Retro and contemporary boutique hotels, guesthouses, B&Bs and self-catering
- Events include Great Bucket and Spade Run (June), Ramsgate Week, an alternative to Cowes (July), Ramsgate Festival (August) and Heritage Open Days (September).

A Ramsgate press pack is available, see back cover.



Quex House



Spitfire and Hurricane Memorial Museum



West Bay

THANET VILLAGES

Just a short distance from the coast, visitors discover a treasure chest of delights in Thanet's traditional villages.

Popular visitor gems include:

- Quex Park Estate and the Powell-Cotton Museum, plus their annual events diary, including I Love Vintage (April), Museum at Night (May), Gears of Change and Fought for Freedom (September), Quexmas (November)
- The Spitfire and Hurricane Memorial Museum at Manston
- RAF Manston History Museum
- Minster Show
www.minstershow.org.uk
 Minster and neighbouring villages work together to present action-packed, entertainment celebrating the success of flower and vegetable growers, cooks, jam and preserve makers and more.
 131st anniversary in July 2017
- Minster Abbey at Minster – possibly the oldest inhabited house in the country near where St Augustine led the first Christian mass in Britain
- Monkton Nature Reserve and Observatory – trails, UK's first artificial bat cave, fossils and visitor centre
- Birchington and Westgate – coastal villages with Blue Flag beaches at Minnis Bay, West Bay and St. Mildred's Bay
- St. Mary the Virgin Church – A large Norman church with later additions and some unusual architecture. Also, eighteen fine medieval misericords, which are amongst the best in south east England.



Margate, Broadstairs, Ramsgate – why visit?

Londoners have been **escaping** to the Isle of Thanet for more than 200 years ... for the **laidback** seaside vibe ... breathtaking sandy beaches ... **fresh** sea air ... and **romantic** Turner skies ...

Here at the very **edge** of the **Garden of England**, three **Georgian and Victorian** resorts, each with its own distinctive character – Margate, Broadstairs and Ramsgate – **cluster** around the **bays** at the far end of the **peninsula**.

There's a **retro** feel to these harbour towns, with their remarkable 18th and 19th century **architecture**, their **classic seaside heritage** and kitsch, their eclectic attractions and live arts and music venues. And there is a variety of **independent** places to shop, eat, drink and stay.

Miles of low **chalk cliffs** edge the peninsula, sheltering a string of **secluded, unspoilt sandy bays**. Chalk **rockpools**, chalk stacks and **rare**

chalk reefs teem with **wildlife**. These are the closest **surfing beaches** to the capital city: a popular choice with south east boarders.

Artists, writers and musicians have long been inspired by this almost-island ... and continue to be drawn here. **Turner** said Thanet had "the loveliest skies in all Europe" ... for **Dickens**, Broadstairs was "the freshest, freest place" ... and Tracey **Emin** declares in pink neon on Margate seafront: "I never stopped loving you".

The Isle's a **historic landing place** steeped in symbolism for the story of Britain ... the **first Saxons, Hengist and Horsa**, arrived and settled here ... and **St Augustine** first stepped onto these shores on his way to nearby **Canterbury**.

For this is the **furthest** south east you can go in Britain ... almost touching mainland **Europe** ... yet these days only 75 minutes from central London ...

And now with the **Turner Contemporary** gallery, the return of the iconic pleasure park **Dreamland**, reimagined for the 21st century, and **high-speed trains** from the capital ... a **new generation** is discovering this **original seaside escape**.

Find out more at www.visitthanet.co.uk or:

In person

Broadstairs Information Kiosk,
Royal Albion Garden Kiosk,
Victoria Promenade, Broadstairs, CT10 1AN
www.broadstairsinfokiosk.co.uk

Visitor Information

Thanet Visitor Information Centre
The Droit House
Stone Pier
Margate CT9 1JD
Tel: 01843 577577
visitorinformation@thanet.gov.uk



@VisitThanet



VisitThanet

www.visitthanetblog.com

For further information about all Thanet visitor destinations and attractions go to Visit Thanet www.visitthanet.co.uk. For further media information, press trips and access to up-to-date images, please contact Julie Edwards, Senior Tourism Officer at Visit Thanet, tel: 01843 577671 or email: Julie.edwards@thanet.gov.uk

VISIT THANET
Margate • Broadstairs • Ramsgate

