



Margate Press Pack

www.visitthanet.co.uk



Escape to Margate



Turner Contemporary



Dreamland, Margate



The Old Town, Margate

- World-class art and cultural exhibitions at Turner Contemporary which celebrates its 10th anniversary since opening in 2011
- Dreamland Margate, the UK's original pleasure park, re-imagined for the 21st century
- Vibrant and expanding creative sector, known as 'Shoreditch-on-Sea'
- Classic seaside heritage featuring magnificent sands, water sports, rockpools, cockles and whelks, fish 'n chips and candyfloss
- Margate Old Town - independent galleries, vintage and retro hotspots, and quirky and contemporary shops along cobbled streets
- Major attractions and entertainments alongside many hidden gems
- Time and space to relax and enjoy the resort's famous Turner sunsets, clifftop walks and contemporary culture
- New galleries and music venues in Cliftonville enhance the cultural offering and give the area a trendy vibe
- Full diary of events and festivals

Margate was one of the first English seaside destinations to start entertaining visitors 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 became synonymous with family holiday fun, weekend escapes (including romantic liaisons) and daytrips.

Unsurprisingly, many visitors wanted to hold on to their holiday experiences and set up home on the coast. High quality estates were built in adjoining Cliftonville. Initially these were detached and semi-detached houses with gardens but were quickly followed by newly fashionable bungalows, set along wide avenues leading down to the seafront.

Cliftonville accommodated the newer residents and provided numerous guest houses and smaller private hotels for visitors to Margate. Larger hotels took pride of place high on the chalk cliffs overlooking the sea.

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 innovative and revived seaside pleasures alongside internationally-acclaimed exhibitions.

Along with the main town's 54,060 residents, visitors find themselves at the heart of the cultural and creative arts revolution sweeping the Kent coast.



Margate Main Sands

Beaches and bays

Paddling, rockpools and sandcastles alongside swimming and water sports ensure Margate's many beautiful bays are perfect for all ages and abilities.

Margate Main Sands, a Blue Flag award winner, is a spacious family favourite with golden sands, children's rides and all beach facilities. Plenty of ice creams, lollies, candyfloss, cockles and whelks, and fish 'n chips are available nearby.

Walpole Bay, includes a 1930s tidal pool still loved by 'wild' swimmers today. The long bay is perfect for exploring rockpools and crabbing. The bay is named in honour of the former British Prime Minister Robert Walpole.

Westbrook Bay is a Blue Flag winning family beach officially designated for water sports including water-skiing.

(2021 Awards applied for and awaiting)



Coastal Explorer Packs

Coastal Exploration

All you need to explore Margate, Broadstairs and Ramsgate, linking coastal delights and great heritage. Explorer packs include trails, historic maps, binoculars, compass, rock pooling nets and marine life identification sheets. www.visitthanet.co.uk/coastalexplorers

Beach within Reach is a small Thanet-based charity that provides all-terrain wheelchairs to some of the beautiful beaches around the Isle of Thanet. www.beachwithinreach.org.uk

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



ANOTHER TIME, Antony Gormley, Margate - photo Thierry Bal

Galleries

Turner Contemporary is an internationally-renowned gallery presenting a rolling programme of contemporary and historical art, events and learning opportunities. Entry is free, making great art accessible to all.

Since opening 10 years ago, the gallery has welcomed 3.6 million visits from all over the world.

On the beach beside Turner Contemporary, at low tide, you can see one of a series of one hundred, solid cast-iron figures by Antony Gormley that explore the experience of being human. The figure is to remain until 30 November 2030.

www.turnercontemporary.org

Great art can also be found in the many galleries dotted around Margate Old Town and along Northdown Road in Cliftonville.



Attractions

NEW for 2021

Crab Museum and Margate Caves

(see What's New page 11)

The Shell Grotto

(www.shellgrotto.co.uk) – tucked away just a short walk inland, this memorable attraction and its myriad of shell patterns still intrigues visitors as its many mysteries have never been resolved.

Walpole Bay Hotel, Living Museum and Napery

(www.walpolebayhotel.co.uk) – a popular destination for celebrity guests with exhibits throughout the hotel and in the Napery. The Napery is a gallery of textile art on table linen.

Margate Museum

(www.margatemuseum.org) – a real gem set in a former police station and magistrate's court. Exhibitions and standing exhibits reflecting Margate's history and its wartime experiences.

The Tudor House

(www.margatemuseum.org) one of Margate's oldest buildings dating from the first half of the 16th century.

Hornby Visitor Centre

(www.hornby.com/uk-en/hornby-visitor-centre) – a journey through the history of Britain's best loved toys.

The Powell-Cotton Museum, Quex House and Gardens

(www.powell-cottonmuseum.org) - currently undertaking an exciting 'Reimagining'. During this time they are closed for day to day visits but will be open for special events and educational visits.

Quex Park

(www.quexpark.co.uk) - Estate with a wide range of attractions including activities for children, adventure golf, alpaca trekking, farmers' market, craft village and garden centre. Plus full and varied diary of annual events including Big Truck Monster Show in July 2021

Dreamland

(www.dreamland.co.uk) – the UK's original pleasure park is full of a host of stylishly restored, recreated and retro-fitted rides and amusements from the Golden Age of British seaside hols. Thrills and spills for all the family as well as a popular destination for a strong programme of music events.

Drapers Windmill

(www.drapperswindmill.org.uk) – a 19th century Kentish smock mill, built in 1845 by master millwright John Holman of Canterbury. Worked by wind until 1916 and then by gas engine, restored in the 1970s.



Shell Grotto



Quex Activity Centre



Hornby Visitor Centre

Entertainment and Outdoor Adventures

The Theatre Royal

(www.margate-live.com) – a regional theatre with a reputation for offering lively professional and community entertainments.

The Winter Gardens

(www.margate-live.com) – set on the clifftops, the famous large venue stages a wide range of events, concerts and entertainments throughout the year.

The Tom Thumb Theatre

(www.tomthumbtheatre.co.uk) – one of the smallest theatres in the world created in a former coach house. Look out for comedy nights, burlesque, off-beat cinema, live music and more.

Escape Rooms

Margate has two escape rooms to try out:

Ctrl Alt Esc (www.ctrlaltesc.co.uk) - select from either Frankenscape, Spacescape and new

game, The Undefusable Bomb, and do your best to escape in 90 minutes.

The Escapement

(www.escapementmargate.co.uk) - three highly themed rooms to choose from The Pit, Egyptian Exodus and Pirates of Polaris.

Take the opportunity to swim or explore at the resort's main bays. Stride out for exhilarating walks on the cliffs along the foreshore or take to two wheels on the **Viking Coastal Trail**.

The Trail (32 miles/51.4km), with mini routes for walkers and cyclists, explores Smugglers' Haunts and Beaches & Bays. Alternatively, create your own path along the trail walking or cycling from Margate and Birchington to Reculver Towers or set off from Margate to the popular resorts of Broadstairs and Ramsgate. Download the Viking Coastal Trail map at www.visitthanet.co.uk/cycling

Digital Discovery Plaques -

Three eye-catching plaques at key locations across Margate tease the reader with a hint of information. Then, upon entering a code into their mobile, the location and its stories come alive through video, audio and imagery. www.visitthanet.co.uk/digitaldiscovery

Uncover the hidden depths of Margate past and present along the Margate Heritage Trail or step out along a restored ancient footpath between Turner's Margate and Dickens' Broadstairs (4miles/6.4km). www.turneranddickenswalk.co.uk

New Murky Margate guided historical murder town trail (see What's New page 11)

Don't forget to take advantage of a Coastal Explorer Pack www.visitthanet.co.uk/coastalexplorers

Tom Thumb Theatre



Viking Coastal Trail at Minnis Bay



Digital Discovery Plaques





The Libertines in Room by Jason Knott



'Mrs Booth' Shell Lady



'I never stopped loving you', Tracey Emin

Artistic impressions

JMWTurner's time living with his landlady and companion Mrs Sophia Booth in Margate made a lasting impression on his work as he rose to the challenges of capturing the qualities of light. Turner Contemporary now stands where he used to live. Turner (1775-1851) wrote: 'The loveliest skies in Europe are over the Isle of Thanet'.

Tracey Emin, one of the famous Britartists, grew up in Thanet and now has a studio in Margate. She announced her affection for the town in pink neon: I Never Stopped Loving You.

English rock band **The Libertines** opened The Albion Rooms boutique residence overlooking the sea in September 2020. In addition to the seven individually designed rooms, the venue boasts The Restaurant, Arcady Coffee House and The Waste Land, which is the artistic hub of The Albion Rooms and named in homage to the T. S. Eliot poem.

TS Eliot (1888 – 1965) wrote large sections of The Waste Land while convalescing in Margate.

David Watkin (1925 – 2008) the award-winning cinematographer was born in Margate. He worked with such directors as Ken Russell and Franco Zeffirelli. His work can be seen in such classics as Out of Africa and Chariots of Fire.

Famous entertainers with Blue Plaques to be discovered in Margate include Eric Morecambe, Hattie Jacques and John Le Mesurier.

Download a copy of the Margate Heritage Trail at www.visitthanet.co.uk.



Place, Space and Who, Barbara Walker. Photography by Stuart Leech



Margate Meltdown



POW! Thanet 2020 - Credit Lisa Valder

Top Events

TURNER CONTEMPORARY EXHIBITIONS

Exhibitions during its 10th anniversary year include:

- The Tourists - February – June
- Steve McQueen's video installation 'Ashes' (2002-2015) - February – June
- Barbara Walker's 'Place, Space and Who' - ongoing
- Antony Gormley's 'Another Time' - until 2030

www.turnercontemporary.org

DREAMLAND EVENTS

A calendar of events including family days out, musical performances and the frighteningly good Screamlend in October. www.dreamland.co.uk/events

MARCH

POW! Thanet - POW! stands for Power of Women and this is one of the UK's only festivals celebrating International Women's Day. www.powthanet.com

EASTER

Thanet Easter Beer and Cider Festival
CAMRA annual festival at the Winter Gardens, www.thanet-camra.org.uk

MAY

Margate Mod & 60s Festival - Celebrate the town's connections with the Mods and 60s. www.gbmusicculture.co.uk

Margate Melt down a motorcycle ride from Ace Cafe, London. Motorcycles, memorabilia, music and more. www.acecafe.com/events

JULY

Skagate – the best in original 60s Ska, Reggae and Soul with guest live performances and DJs. www.olbyssoulcafe.co.uk

AUGUST

Margate Soul Festival – Enjoy the best of soul music and the resort's traditional seaside carnival filled with colourful floats. www.margatesoulfestival.co.uk

Margate Pride - celebrates LGBTQIA+ life

SEPTEMBER

Oh So Retro Show - Over 1,500 classic & retro cars, scooters & motorcycles, live music, trade stands and lots more www.ohsoretro.co.uk

SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER

Margate NOW 2021 - is a multi-disciplinary arts festival celebrating Margate's rich cultural life, heritage & talent. www.margatefestival.org

OCTOBER

Looping the Loop - Looping the Loop creates adventures in performance, producing affordable (and often free) live performances in unexpected places. www.loopingtheloopfestival.org.uk

Events may be subject to change or cancellation due to Covid-19 and changing restrictions. Further event information can be found on www.visitthanet.co.uk/whats-on





Food and drink

WHAT'S ON THE MENU?

Margate is home to a wide range of eateries and excellent dining opportunities which showcase the area's local produce, and new venues pop up all the time. Enjoy a variety of cuisines alongside award-winning fish 'n chips. Or a real taste of the traditional seaside with cockles and whelks from **Manning's Seafood** stall on Margate harbour arm.

A Michelin Guide listing is testament to a venue's quality food offering and foodies have three mouth-wateringly good options in the town. **Hantverk and Found** serves fish and seafood with an Asian twist - 'dishes bursting with freshness'. **Angela's** is a small, sustainable seafood restaurant which considers people and the planet first and whose 'cooking is pleasingly unfussy'. **Bottega Caruso** is a 'sweet little deli-cum-osteria offering southern Italian fare' where the service is 'engaging and heartfelt'.

Two of the town's micro pubs, **Fez** and **The Two Halves** feature in the Good Beer Guide 2021.

Northdown Brewery won Kent Beer of the Year for its Pale Ale Mary in the Taste of Kent Awards 2020.

Go to www.visitthanet.co.uk/foodawards to see more award winning restaurants.

Local produce is readily available at Cliftonville's Farmers' Market, as well as in shops across the Isle.

WHERE TO STAY?

Visitors are spoiled for choice in the many places to stay in Margate and its villages from new and restored state-of-the-art boutique hotels alongside the Old Town, to fine rooms embracing views over the sea and sands; contemporary guest houses and B&Bs, as well as self-catering cottages and houses or camping opportunities.

Discover a range of accommodation at: www.visitthanet.co.uk/stay-and-eat/places-to-stay/





Margate Old Town



Roots, revival and regeneration

Once a small coastal village, Margate's development as a health and pleasure destination and then into one of the most popular seaside holiday spots in the country led to rapid expansion along the seafront and inland.

Early growth was fuelled by the need for accommodation, not only for visitors, but all the people working in the tourism industry and everyone keen to acquire permanent and retirement homes for all-year enjoyment of the coast and its stunning landscapes.

Thanks to public and private investment, including the arrival of the internationally acclaimed gallery at Turner Contemporary in 2011 and the re-opening of Dreamland in 2015, the resort is once again a leading, must-see UK destination meeting the needs of weekenders, day trippers and classic family holiday fun enthusiasts. Today, taking advantage of high speed trains, many Londoners have relocated to the town to enjoy its cultural buzz and stunning coast.

Luxury and themed boutique hotels, stylish B&Bs and guest houses and a range of restaurants have opened to welcome the new generation of visitors.

The golden sands of Margate and the rockpools of Walpole Bay promise hours of entertainment in the fresh air while the energetic can test their skills in a wide range of water sports, coastal walking routes and cycle paths.

Taking in an exhibition at Turner Contemporary can be followed by gentle strolls through the cobbled streets of Margate Old Town with galleries and workshops, vintage and retro shops, plus a wide range of contemporary eateries and cafés.

Visitors can regularly sit back and marvel at the dramatic sunsets that so inspired JMW Turner when he lived and painted in the town, before selecting from an excellent choice of fine dining venues and exploring the numerous entertainments on offer at the town's theatres and venues.

Margate Town Deal

Margate was one of 101 towns from across England selected by the Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) to bid for funding as part of the government's £3bn.

A ten-year 'Town Investment Plan' was submitted to the MHCLG which identified £29m of investments. It has been confirmed that Margate will receive £22.2m, which will be transformative for the town and act as a catalyst for future investment and regeneration.

Further information on Margate Town Deal can be found here www.thanet.gov.uk/campaigns/margate-town-deal/



What's new and coming soon

Murky Margate

A new, guided historical murder town trail launching in Spring/Summer 2021.

Join Johanne Edgington on a guided tour, in and around the Old Town, to hear tales unfold about the darker side of Margate's history. Tales include:

- Murder at the Metropole
- Margate's link to the Chocolate Cream Killer
- A suspicious death off Margate's jetty
- An unusual discovery in The Parade cinema
- The murder of Mary Ann Bridger

www.murky-margate-tours.business.site

Crab Museum, Margate

Crab Museum is a totally new and unique, all-ages visitor attraction opening in the heart of Margate Old Town in 2021.

Beyond just the science of the seas and the scandalous, forgotten story of the Margate crab, a visit to the Crab Museum will baffle and delight with it's combination of philosophy, humour and critical thinking. As well as their quirky, interactive exhibits, they invite the public to enjoy their cafe and gift shop, and sample their flat whites and lobster repellent!!

www.crab.mu

England's Creative Coast 2021 - 1 May to November

As part of England's Creative Coast and working

with Turner Contemporary, Michael Rakowitz will be producing a specially commissioned artwork for Margate.

England's Creative Coast is a ground-breaking new cultural tourism experience. It aims to connect outstanding galleries and arts organisations across the Kent, Essex and Sussex coastlines. This will be via seven new site-specific artworks by leading contemporary artists and the world's first ever art digital geocaching tour.

The project will launch at Turner Contemporary on 1 May. Turner Contemporary leads on the project with Visit Kent (Go to Places) www.turnercontemporary.org/whats-on/englands-creative-coast/

Margate Caves

Whilst it opened towards the end of 2019, Margate Caves is still little-known due to closures as a result of the COVID-19 restrictions.

The Caves were originally dug as a chalk mine in the 18th century. Visitors today can share the rich history of the caves through exhibition and interpretation spaces, which explain how the landscape, ecology and geology of the area has become entwined in the town's rich social and cultural history.

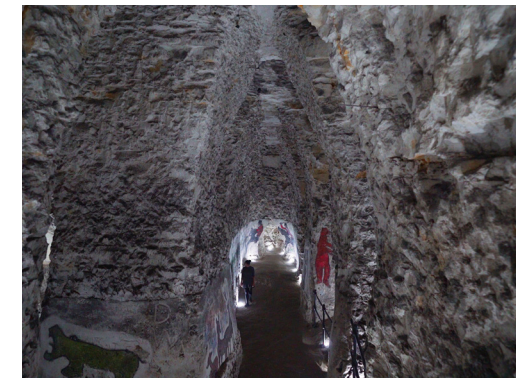
www.margatecaves.co.uk



Crab Museum



Murky Margate



Margate Caves



All Saints Church, Birchington



Seaside Room, Margate Museum



TS Eliot shelter

Did you know?

- Margate was originally Meregate (meaning marsh gate) because, until modern times, the town lay between two tidal creeks.
- Margate was one of the first seaside resorts, the first to have donkey rides and the first to introduce deckchairs.
- Margate was one of the pioneers to offer bathing facilities and with its proximity to London was a perfect resort for the city's middle classes to enjoy the horse drawn 'machines' which offered privacy while bathing.
- The dome in the Shell Grotto acts as an accurate solar calendar.
- Margate's Theatre Royal is Kent's oldest theatre.
- Comedian Eric Morecambe (1926-1984) held his wedding reception at the Bull's Head, Market Place.
- George Bernard Shaw (1856-1950), regarded by many as the greatest English dramatist since Shakespeare, visited Margate in 1907. Arriving on the Granville Express, he went straight to the Theatre Royal to coach a new actor appearing in his play John Bull's Other Island.
- Dante Gabriel Rossetti (1828-1882), one of the founders of the pre-Raphaelite brotherhood, moved to Birchington, near Margate, in 1882 hoping to recover from a serious illness. He died soon after his arrival. His grave is marked by a Celtic cross by the south door at All Saints Church, Birchington.
- TS Eliot (1888-1965), Karl Marx (1818-1883) and Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958) all cited their time in Margate as being pivotal in the creation of their most famous works
 - The Waste Land, Das Kapital and The Lark Ascending respectively.
- Margate pioneered mixed bathing in the early 1900s.
- Samuel Pepys used to get his colleagues drunk on 'Northdown Ale' imported from Margate.
- The most famous self portrait of JMW Turner, aged 24, is now on £20 notes.



- The Beatles topped the bill and played for six consecutive nights at the Winter Gardens in July 1963. Their debut album, Please, Please Me, had been released a few months earlier and at the top of the charts for many weeks. They were being mobbed by fans so to escape at the end of their shows they used a little known tunnel leading to a side entrance. During World War II, cells leading off the tunnel were used to hold and interrogate German prisoners of war – usually pilots who had bailed out over Thanet.
- Self-styled nobleman 'Lord' George Sanger was a showman, circus proprietor and legend in his lifetime. He founded the Hall-by-the-Sea in Margate (now part of the Dreamland complex) which was a combination of pleasure gardens, zoo and entertainment centre. His burial place in Margate Cemetery is marked by a striking horse statue and can be seen on a Margate Cemetery Tour.
- The Margate Museum of today, in the busy Old Town, was the magistrates' court until 1972. It hosted two hearings marking high points of moral panics concerning the sale of saucy postcards which were banned as a result. In 1964 the magistrates were busy again after Mods and Rockers came to the town over the Whitsun Weekend. Their behaviour led to press outrage and public outcry condemning gang warfare and the battle of the beaches.
- A Royal Naval Air Service Station, used by seaplanes and land planes, was opened at St Mildred's Bay, Westgate, at the start of WWI. The site was soon the scene of several night accidents. As a result, in the winter of 1915-16 aircraft started to use open farmland at Manston for emergency landings. Shortly afterwards, Manston officially developed into a Royal Naval Station. In WWII it became a frontline Battle of Britain airfield.



Margate Cemetery



Walpole Bay, Tidal Pool



St Mildred's Bay



Kingsgate Bay



Viking Bay

So close

BROADSTAIRS

Broadstairs succeeds in more than satisfying the needs of today's generations of short break, weekend visitors and daytrippers who flock to its beaches. This 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 flowers planted 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 resident, 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 and B&Bs, self-catering houses and apartments. As a resort, and

a longstanding favourite destination for people of all ages and interests, Broadstairs has more than held its own and is thriving in the 21st century.

- Seven sand-filled, family-friendly beaches and bays, one with a Blue Flag Award and three with Seaside Awards
- Stunning chalk cliffs including caves and much photographed stacks at Botany Bay
- Closest surfing beaches to London and best in the south east
- Timeless seaside charm
- Traditional fishing harbour, cobbled squares and narrow streets
- Vibrant nightlife economy and exciting eateries
- Classic ice cream parlours and coffee shops

- Clifftop gardens and bandstand
- Clifftop and foreshore strolls, cycling and golf
- Attractions include Dickens House Museum and Crampton Tower Museum
- St. Peter's Village Tour, guided costumed walk, plus Churchyard and War Graves tours
- Guided Broadstairs Heritage walks
- Events include Blues Bash (February), POW! Thanet (March), Dickens Festival (June), Summer entertainment at the Bandstand (July and August), Folk Week (August), Food Festival (September/October) and Looping the Loop (October)

Further event information can be found on www.visitthanet.co.uk/whats-on

A Broadstairs 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, celebrating 200 years of Royal status in September 2021
- One Seaside Award beach, golden sands, famous family-friendly beach, boat trips and clifftop walks

- Modern marina filled with luxury yachts
- Augustus Pugin's house, The Grange
- St. Augustine & Pugin: Shrine and Visitor Centre
- Mico Museum - the history of personal computing and the inventors of the digital age.
- Elegant Georgian, Regency and Victorian architecture – hundreds of listed buildings
- Ramsgate Tunnels - deep shelter tunnels built to protect civilians during WWII
- Active Ramsgate - fun and active ways to discover the town by foot, by bike or on the sea
- 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
- Italianate Glasshouse
- Petticoat Lane Emporium with over 200 stalls
- Maritime Museum and Steam Tug Cervia
- Rotten Ramsgate and Blitz guided walks, plus Ramsgate guided costumed walks
- Events include POW! Thanet (March), Ramsgate International Film and TV Festival (June), Ramsgate Week (July), Ramsgate Festival of Sound, National Kite Surfing Championships (August/September), Royal Harbour of Ramsgate 200 (September) and Looping the Loop (October)

Further event information can be found on www.visitthanet.co.uk/whats-on

A Ramsgate press pack is available, see back cover.



Minster Abbey



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:

- Birchington and Westgate – Coastal villages with Blue Flag beaches at Minnis Bay, West Bay and St.Mildred's Bay.
- Internationally acclaimed Powell-Cotton Museum, Quex House and Gardens (currently closed and undertaking an exciting 'Reimagining' project) www.powell-cottonmuseum.org
- Quex Park Estate with a wide range of attractions including activities for children, farmers market and craft village. Plus full and varied diary of annual events including Big Truck Monster Show in July 2021, www.quexpark.co.uk
- The Spitfire and Hurricane Memorial Museum, Manston, now with a Spitfire cockpit simulator
- RAF Manston History Museum
- MinsterAbbey – possibly the oldest inhabited house in the country near where St.Augustine led the first Christian mass in Britain
- Minster Show – (www.minstershow.org.uk) Since 1886, Minster and neighbouring villages work together to present entertainment, celebrating the success of flower and vegetable growers, cooks, jam and preserve makers and more.
- Monkton Nature Reserve – trails, UK's first artificial bat cave, fossils and visitor centre
- St.Mary the Virgin Church at Minster – a large Roman Catholic church with 18 fine medieval misericords, which are amongst the best in south east England.



Margate Harbour Arm



Botany Bay



Royal Harbour, 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 a **peninsula**.

There's a **quirky and convivial** feel to these harbour towns, with their friendly creative scene, their remarkable 18th and 19th century **architecture**, their **classic seaside heritage**, their eclectic attractions and events, their galleries and music venues large and small, and their **special one-off places** to eat, drink, shop and stay, year round.

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 – from Van Gogh and TS Eliot to Bob & Roberta Smith and the Libertines – 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 **Turner Contemporary and Dreamland**, and high-speed trains from the capital ... a new generation is discovering this original seaside escape.

Key Tourism Stats

The Cambridge Model Economic Impact Study 2019 shows:

- The value of tourism to the local economy is £365m.
- We welcomed 4.6 million visitors to the area.
- Tourism in Thanet supports 8,644 jobs.

To see the full report go to www.visitthanetbusiness.co.uk

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For further media information including packs on Margate, Broadstairs and Ramsgate, 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

For further information on the Isle of Thanet, attractions and accommodation go to www.visitthanet.co.uk
for visitor stats go to www.visitthanetbusiness.co.uk



@VisitThanet www.visitthanet.co.uk/blog

VISIT THANET

Margate • Broadstairs • Ramsgate

