



Press Release

Issued on behalf of Visit Kent

Coasting Along In Kent

With more coastline than any other county in the UK, Kent is the perfect place to escape to. With stunning sandy beaches and award winning seafood, Kent has a little something for everyone, whoever you are.

For more information visit:

www.visitkent.co.uk

www.kentsplash.co.uk/ - where you can enter our competition to win a short break to Kent, including a watersports taster session for two.

Adrenaline Junkie

Joss Bay, Broadstairs

Joss Bay is perhaps the 'Mecca' for all adrenaline junkies in the South East as the long sandy beach and excellent wave swell translate into lots of fast-paced fun. Learning to surf isn't just an excuse to wear flowery shorts and buy an old VW camper van. The Joss Bay Surf School teaches students with all levels of ability and is a great day out with friends and family.

The Joss Bay Surf School's junior department will be running a progressive surf lesson programme through the summer that enables youngsters to learn to surf safely whilst having fun.

The school has also adopted a new Snurfkling craze for the calmer days on the water. Snurfkling consists of wearing a snorkel mask to explore the sea life and rock pools with the added enjoyment of paddling on a surfboard.

www.jossbay.co.uk

Scuba diving at Margate

Kent may not have the crystal blue seas of the Caribbean but it does have excellent wreck dives and interesting fish life. Kent Scuba has training lessons or full qualification courses available.

www.kentscuba.com

Kitesurfing in Thanet

Kitesurfing is one of the fastest-growing new watersports and Ride Kitesurfers in Thanet teach everything for rigging the kit up, to riding waves safely.

www.ridekitesurfing.com

History Buff

White Cliffs of Dover

Perhaps one of the UK's most iconic landmarks, the White Cliffs played a pivotal role in World War II with a labyrinth of secret wartime tunnels built deep within the chalky cliffs. The tunnels can be accessed by visiting Dover Castle and visitors can explore the tunnels and rooms where Sir Admiral Ramsay planned the 'miracle of Dunkirk'. Above ground visitors can discover more about one of Europe's best preserved Roman lighthouses, and explore the magnificent medieval castle.

www.english-heritage.org.uk

The Cinque Ports of Kent

In the late Anglo-Saxon era the threat of the Norse invasion was constant. Edward the Confessor needed to control the English Channel to protect the security of the realm. He granted Sandwich, Dover, New Romney and Hythe the right to keep all legal fees assigned in court cases - a concession that made them quite rich in exchange for a sea defence. Visitors can explore each of these historical towns and discover more about their defence strategies.

www.visitkent.co.uk

Historic Dockyard, Chatham

Visitors can discover more than four hundred years of maritime history and the world's most complete dockyard of the Age of Sail. Attractions include a Second World War destroyer, submarine, an RNLi exhibition and a Victorian sloop.

NEW for 2010 – the opening of The No.1 Smithery, a new cultural venue and centre for world-class maritime collections in July. A unique partnership between Chatham Historic Dockyard Trust, the National Maritime Museum and the Imperial War Museum, No.1 Smithery is an exciting fusion of museum, heritage and culture. Magnificent maritime models, art and other artifacts come together in a historic industrial building to provide an inspiring and thought provoking collection.

www.chdt.org.uk/

For the Family

Beaches

From main resort beaches with lots of entertainment to quieter bays with rock pools to explore, Kent has it covered, including nine prestigious Blue Flag beaches.

Seal Watching in Herne Bay

This is a fantastic opportunity to get up close and personal with the wildlife off Kent's coast and five mile sandbank frequented by colonies of common and grey seals. The tour also includes a visit to the Kentish Flats wind farm and the Knock John Naval Fort ruins.

www.bayblast.co.uk

Ramsgate Week

From 16 to 21 August Ramsgate is host to many boats from the UK and Europe, which gather at the famous Royal Harbour. The Regatta is the third largest in the UK and is a great day out for all the family.

www.ramsgateweek.com

Foodies

Whitstable

For seafood lovers, it's got to be Whitstable, with its working harbour and outstanding fish market. Whitstable is also very well known for its Native Oysters served in the finest restaurants nationwide. Above the big shed of the fish market is the Crab & Winkle, named after the first passenger steam railway of the same name. From Native Oysters and scallops to monkfish, wild halibut and gilt head bream, this is English seaside food at its best, without a hint of chip or batter.

www.visitkent.co.uk

The Sportsman, Seasalter

Close to the seafront and the Saxon Shore Trail, The Sportsman is a big hit with walkers. There was once an inn on the site back in 1642, but the surrounding area is much older and appears in the Doomsday Book as belonging to the kitchens of Canterbury Cathedral. Today, The Sportsman is a splendid gastropub with a menu that changes daily, depending on the ingredients that come from local farms, boats and game dealers. Booking in advance is advisable.

www.thesportsmanseasalter.co.uk

Quex Park, Birchington

Quex Park is home of the Powell-Cotton Museum, a collection of cultural object and natural history specimens collected from expeditions to Asia and Africa. As a producer of its own meats and vegetables, Quex also has its own farmers market, offering a butchery, fishmonger, café, fresh fruit and vegetables, home made bread and Kentish jams and honey.

www.quex.co.uk

Anglo Bavarian Beer Festival at The Historic Dockyard, Chatham

In keeping with Munich's world famous 'Oktoberfest', The Dockyard will be hosting a German beer festival on 28 and 29 August with beer swilling, foot stomping entertainment and of course a variety of award winning Bavarian beers. British beers, real ales and ciders will also be served plus a selection of regional delicacies including bratwurst and a hog roast.

www.chdt.org.uk/

Culture Coast

The Creative Quarter, Folkestone

Over the last few years important changes have been taking place in the old town area of Folkestone. A ground-breaking regeneration project, led by the Creative Foundation, has seen the development of a new Creative Quarter populated by artists, independent retailers and creative businesses.

Alongside shops, galleries, cafes, bars and restaurants the Quarter is also home to University Centre Folkestone, Quarterhouse (the live entertainment venue) and The Cube adult education centre.

The area also boasts permanent installations from well-known artists such as Tracey Emin and Richard Wilson from the 2008 Triennial. The Triennial is set to return next year and so it is a great time to visit and find out more.

A Cross Channel Trip

OK, so it's not strictly in Kent but ferries do leave from the Kent coast! With France only 21 miles away, families can enjoy a ferry ride to France waving goodbye to the White Cliffs of Dover. They can spend a few hours going continental, before filling up with wine and other presents and cruising home.

Ferry operators include Norfolkline, Seafrance, LD Lines and P&O and travel takes between one and two hours depending on which operator is chosen. For an even quicker journey across the channel the Eurotunnel is located in Folkestone and takes only 35 minutes!

www.norfolkline.com

www.seafrance.com

www.ldlines.com

www.poferries.com

www.eurotunnel.com

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For enquiries please contact Chloe Buchanan on 01732 779087 or chloe@westgatecomms.com

About Visit Kent:

Visit Kent Limited is a public/private sector partnership supported by Kent County Council, Medway Council, the district and borough councils, Tourism South East and the leading sector tourism businesses in Kent. Visit Kent champions Kent's £2.5 billion tourism industry by targeting UK and overseas markets.

For further information visit www.visitkentbusiness.co.uk.