



Visit Kent Cruise Partnership
Connecting cruise guests to Kent

MAKE THE RIGHT CONNECTIONS IN KENT

Britain's second busiest port, Dover is now better placed than ever to welcome visitors to the UK, experiencing a record year in 2010 with 170 ships and 300,000 passengers passing through its state-of-the-art facilities.

With the new high speed rail links from London, visitors can be whisked down to the Kent coast at Dover in just 67 minutes, while new daily flights between the county and Edinburgh make Kent ideally placed as a destination from which to explore the UK.

For people arriving in the county before boarding their cruise ship there's the chance to linger a while. There is a wide range of accommodation to choose from, including quaint cottages, farmhouses, ancient pubs and boutique hotels. Enjoy the hospitality, with a delicious pint of Kent beer and fresh, locally sourced good food.

Looking forward to 2011 the Kent Cruise Partnership has introduced some exciting new opportunities for shore excursions.

Green Kent

In the Garden of England what Nature has provided, man has carefully harvested. Enjoy brewery or vineyard tours, visit Kent's world famous fruit orchards, and explore its rolling open countryside. To find out more about its diverse range of wildflowers, birds and animals visit one of Kent Wildlife Trust's 60 nature reserves.

Golfing Kent

Kent has more than 100 golf courses, including some fine championship links courses. The eyes of the sporting world will be on Kent in July 2011 when the prestigious Royal St George's Golf Club at Sandwich is hosting the British Open Championships.

Heritage Kent

Winston Churchill, James Bond's creator Ian Fleming, the infamous King Henry VIII with his six wives – all have strong links with Kent. At Leeds Castle see the sumptuous home created by Henry VIII for his first wife Catherine of Aragon. Follow a trail of saintly sacrifice at the recently refurbished Great Tower at Dover Castle before seeing the very spot where Thomas Becket was slain at the majestic Canterbury Cathedral. Tread in the footsteps of monarchs, mistresses and martyrs and find out more about the true life stories that continue to fascinate a modern audience.

Visit Kent Cruise Partnership

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Local experts

Kent can provide a wealth of people with enthusiasm and expertise. Meet the guides who can advise about the best country walks, talk to the stonemasons and gardeners who keep the county's historic buildings and flourishing flowerbeds alive. Some lucky visitors may meet the lords and ladies whose families have lived in our castles and stately homes for generations.

Quirky Kent

Kent is both unusual and quintessentially English, with its picturesque little villages, grand castles and seaside towns. Discover some of the eccentric sights of Kent, such as the magical Shell Grotto at Margate, the intriguing Dog Collar Museum at Leeds Castle, and the Dreamland Heritage Park in Margate, which is to open in 2011.

Incoming passengers and crews are met at Dover by the Cruise Welcome team of local tourism professionals who can offer advice to independent day trippers. Crew members also benefit from a complimentary pass which allows them free entry into many Kent attractions.

Fran Warrington, head of Visit Kent, at Kent County Council, said: "We pride ourselves on making passengers and crew feel welcome. Our tourism professionals have a wide range of knowledge and a real passion for their job.

"Kent is not only well connected but offers visitors a wealth of different experiences across the county, from the spa town of Royal Tunbridge Wells in the west to the traditional seaside towns of Margate, Ramsgate and Broadstairs in the east."

Visit Kent is a key member of the Kent Cruise Partnership, which also includes the Port of Dover, English Heritage, Leeds Castle, Canterbury Cathedral, Dover District Council and The Kings Ferry Ltd.

Kate O'Hara, Head of Commercial and Marketing at the Port of Dover, said: "We are enjoying a record year in 2010, welcoming over 300,000 passengers.

"Adding to the full programme is Disney Magic, which will sail from Dover on its five Northern European Capital cruises, as well as first-time visits from three AIDA vessels – a result of our increasing partnership with this premium brand.

"Other vessels calling for the first time include: Tui Cruises Mein Schiff, the MV Empress from Pullmantur, NCL's Norwegian Sun, the brand new Seabourn Sojourn, the Ocean Princess, the Grand Mistral from Iberocruceros and the Costa Deliziosa.

Holland America Line's Maasdam is set to call for the first time, with the signature class Eurodam operating a variety of cruises from our port.

"Fred Olsen and Saga continue to retain a strong presence, choosing Dover as one of their preferred turnaround ports. All-in-all it's an exciting and busy year ahead for Dover."

Come and meet us

Kent Cruise Partnership is a group dedicated to maximising cruise passengers' experience of the county when they start or end their cruise or during a port of call visit. Visit us at the Cruise Britain stand, Number 428 to find out more about Kent.

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To find out more about Visit Kent go to www.visitkent.co.uk, the official tourism website for the county of Kent in south east England.

For further media/trade information, please contact Cheryl Parker Tel: 01227 862785 email: Cheryl.parker@visitkent.co.uk

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