



Press Release

Issued on behalf of Visit Kent

Explore Kent this Half Term

Kent is a great place to enjoy some family fun this October half term and Halloween. The county is packed with a number of great attractions and events that will keep the whole family entertained throughout the week long break.

During the half-term week (26th October to 30th October 2009), children can enjoy the following great Kent attractions.

For more information on any of the attractions listed below, or for recommendations on places to stay, please see:
www.visitkent.co.uk.

Canterbury Festival (17th-31st October)

Enlivening the Autumn with a thrilling new line up, Canterbury Festival includes over two hundred events in two weeks from a wide variety of art forms - from theatre, classical music and dance, to world music, comedy and talks, visual arts, walks and youth driven Festival Fringe. Canterbury Festival invites audiences to join them on a wildly entertaining journey of discovery in 2009 - with new and exciting venues and performances - and appearances from some of today's most loved and well-known entertainers, artists and companies.

Full details of the Festival events are at www.canterburyfestival.co.uk. Tickets are available from the Festival Box Office on 01227 787787 or on the Festival website.

Half Term Heraldry at Leeds Castle (24th-30th October)

Entertain the family with a visit to the castle at half term. Trace Leeds Castle's previous owners and find out how to research your own family tree. Young visitors have fun designing their own coat of arms and other heraldry-themed activities. www.leeds-castle.com/events

Happy Halloween Half Term at The Hop Farm Family Park (24th-30th October)

The Hop Farm presents a week of spooky Halloween fun for all the family – filled with dressing up, sing-a-longs and games! The Magic Factory will have

children spell-bound with its dazzling illusions and tricks, the mirrored maze and incredible disappearing acts, while the Chamber of Horrors “Torture Cellar” live experience will put the gore into Halloween!

www.thehopfarm.co.uk

The Haunted Castle at Dover Castle (24th-30th October)

Be prepared to be scared this autumn half term as a frighteningly great day out awaits. With over nine ghosts reported to have been seen and heard at Dover Castle, you had better keep your wits about you, as spooky characters lead you through one of England's most haunted castles. Beware of the horrible hag! Dare you walk through the tunnel of terror? Enjoy a chillingly fun day out, there will be a prize for the best children's Halloween costume, bestowed on the most bloodcurdling attire each day. www.english-heritage.org.uk

Half Term Spooky Fun at Hever Castle (24th October-1st November)

Throughout the week, the pumpkin trail will challenge families to find information about Hever Castle's intriguing past. Pumpkins will be scattered around the castle's grounds, each one containing a clue, making up the names of Hever Castle's past residents. All of the trails will be entered into a prize draw at the end of the week. On Saturday and Sunday afternoons, the suspense continues as the ‘Lady from the Wildwoods’ will take visitors through to the low-lit inner hall of the castle for spine tingling stories of the castle's ghostly residents. Afterwards, families can continue on their own tour, and explore the castle's many rooms.

www.hevercastle.co.uk

Kent Coastal Week (24th October-1st November)

A celebration of Kent's magnificent coastline, with numerous free events are taking place round 350 miles of beautiful and varied coastline. This year's programme of events is sponsored by the Environment Agency and Natural England. Everything from guided walks, cycling, boat trips, conservation tasks, markets, stalls, exhibitions, family events and art events will be available. The full programme is now available to download from the Explore Kent website.

www.kent.gov.uk

The “Big Draw” at Bedgebury National Forest (27th October)

The Big Draw is the UK's biggest free art event with over a million people getting back to the drawing board. Come to our drop-in, all-day event and be part of Bedgebury's contribution to this national sensation.

www.bedgeburypinetum.org.uk

Kent Life “Big Draw Competition” (24th October-1st November)

Kent Life is a 28 acre, premier Kent heritage farm attraction with a nature trail, aviary, boat trips, tractor rides and stilt walking as well as other activities to entertain visitors during holidays and weekends. In addition, the specially

designed outdoor adventure play area is complete with Oast house climbing tower and the indoor soft play barn provides hours of entertainment for kids of all ages.

During the Big Draw Competition, children are invited to keep warm in the indoor play area and get creative by drawing their favourite part of Kent Life. Keep a look-out for sneaky ghosts hidden around the site - find them all and be entered into a draw to win a spooky special prize.

www.kentlife.org.uk

The “Big Draw” at Shorne Woods Country Park, Gravesend (28th October)

The Big Draw is also taking place at Shorne Woods so be inspired by Autumn and get creative for this national event. Shorne Woods' sensory garden has been developed for everyone to enjoy. The plant life and tactile sculptures provide colour, scent, texture, shape and sound. The Green Man - representing the spirit of the trees, and a symbol of fertility recognised around the world - lives in the centre of the garden. The arboretum contains almost every species of native tree found in Kent, all carefully labelled for your information so there is lots to inspire you.

www.kent.gov.uk/kentcountryparks

Autumn Trail at Knole, Sevenoaks (28th October-30th October)

Knole Park is one of the few deer-parks in England to have survived the past 500 years and the only one in Kent. Follow Trusty the Hedgehog's fun autumn trail through the deer park this half term. For more information please visit www.nationaltrust.org.uk

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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.