



Press Release

Issued on behalf of Visit Kent

Enjoy Halloween with Visit Kent

According to findings* Kent has the highest incidence of phantoms and poltergeists than any other county and so for visitors who dare to venture into Kent during Halloween, there will be several special events taking place.

For more information on any of the attractions listed below, or for recommendation for places to stay, please see:

www.visitkent.co.uk.

The Haunted Castle at Dover Castle (26th -31st October)

Be prepared to be scared this autumn half term as a frighteningly great day out awaits youngsters and the young at heart. Spooky characters will lead families through one of England's most haunted castles. Dare you walk through the tunnel of terror? Enjoy a chillingly fun day out and see if you can unnerve and scare enough to win a prize for the best children's Halloween costume, bestowed on the most bloodcurdling attire each day. With over nine ghosts reported to have been seen and heard at Dover Castle, you'd better keep your wits about you!

www.english-heritage.org.uk

Pumpkin Day at The Secret Garden, Quex Park in Birchington (26th -31st October)

This is your chance to impress the judges with a winning pumpkin at this *free* family event. Open to all ages and featuring squashes and novelty vegetables. Visitors will be able to browse the rows of entries or register in advance and join in the heats on the day. Enjoy spooky goings-on with activities including Halloween mask-making and tales of African ghost stories.

www.quexpark.co.uk

Haunted Adventure at Bewl Water (24th October-1st November)

Take a terrifying trip on the Ghost Ship to visit the Haunted Hall, home of the famous Headless Horseman. Tip toe through the wild woods to find the vampire house, enjoy blood cocktails but beware of the scary monsters-they're out to find you! Catch real fearsome fish in the freaky fishing lake pond, try the hydroball horror, and make your own lantern to take on the Wild Woods Witch Hunt. Come along for all the Halloween family fun in your normal clothes or dress up for Halloween and become a part of the experience.

www.bewl.co.uk

Halloween Spooktacular at Canterbury Environmental Education Centre (Friday 30th October)

Guided spooky walks by lantern light, games, gory face painting and art activities. Suitable for children aged 5 – 12 years. Fancy dress welcome and bring a torch! Bring outdoor clothing and footwear. All children must be accompanied by an adult. Booking required on 0845 247 600.
www.naturegrid.org.uk

Halloween Fun Week at Kent and East Sussex Railway (26th October-1st November)

Families can enjoy return train rides to Bodiam station with 'spooktacular' entertainment on board.

Friday 30th and Saturday 31st October are 'Fright Nights' when families can really get in the spirit of things as they take part in exciting activities including scary face painting and pumpkin carving.

When the clock strikes 6pm the creepy fun really begins as the Railway's Fright Night Steam Train pulls away from the station. The vintage steam train will take visitors on a return ride to Bodiam and families will want to keep their eyes peeled for characters along the way including Chainsaw Man and the fantastic firework display at Northiam station! On board Mr Mystery and Billy the Magic Rabbit will be performing a spell binding magic act for passengers and every child will receive a yummy snack box to enjoy. Wendy the Witch also joins the Fright Night trains with a selection of concealed creatures – be afraid, be very afraid! Families are encouraged to come in fancy dress, the scarier the better!

www.kesr.org.uk

Spooky Stories and Unexpected Sights at Smallthorpe Place (31st October)

A unique guided tour of the whole property in the dark, where you will encounter a host of spooky experiences. Booking essential.
www.nationaltrust.org.uk

The Mummy's Tale at Penshurst Place (1st November)

Halloween Stories for children presented by aardvark Productions followed by a spooky fancy dress costume competition and prizes for all.
www.penshurstplace.com

Halloween Tricks and Treats at Chiddingstone Castle (29th October)

There is plenty of Halloween fun to be had at Chiddingstone Castle on Thursday 29 October when families can enjoy a Lantern Lit Trick or Treat.
www.chiddingstonecastle.org.uk

Haunted Hever Evening at Hever Castle (29th October, 1st, 4th, 5th, 6th November)

Experience the darker side of the castle with new and old chilling tales of its mysterious past involving accident, beheading, suicide and cold-blooded murder.

Arrive to a relaxing glass of Winter Pimms while waiting for your ghostly guide to collect you for a chilling tour of the castle. Continue to soak up the Halloween atmosphere in the Moat Restaurant over a reviving three-course meal.

www.hevercastle.co.uk

Ghost & Gourmet Evening at Ightham Mote (31st October)

Enjoy a mulled wine reception before a ghostly tour of the house followed by a two-course buffet supper. Booking essential on 01732 811314

www.nationaltrust.org.uk

“The Shorne Scream” at Shorne Woods Country Park (30th-31st October)

A self-led spooky trail after dark in the woods. Fancy dress welcome. Booking essential on 01474 823800.

www.kent.gov.uk/kentcountryparks

Halloween Beer and Food Evening at Shepherd Neame Brewery (31st October)

Take a guided evening tour of Britain's oldest, and possibly most haunted Brewery. See how Shepherd Neame's award winning ales and speciality lagers are brewed and discover a little of the strange sightings and unexplained happenings that have occurred on site. Then savour a superb four course "Beer Dinner" - freshly prepared with local ingredients. Each course is matched by a specially selected beer whose flavours complement the food. Learn how Master Brewers and Taste Panel assess every batch of beer, discover fascinating facts about each beer, and take part in a fun "Beer Quiz". The Visitor Centre bar will be open serving beer, wine....and spirits!

www.shepherd-neame.co.uk

Halloween Experience at Kent Life (31st October)

Bring your children trick or treating, knock on the doors and see who is hiding behind them. Venture through the 'tunnel of doom' and see how many films you recognize only if you dare! Spot the wicked witches casting troublesome spells. Enter the fancy dress competition (including adults) and win a spooky prize. Listen to the stories of ghosts at Kent Life and discover who is lurking in the shadows. www.kentlife.org.uk

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For enquiries please contact Sarah Whelband on 01732 779087 or sarahw@westgatecomms.com

*Research found on www.telegraph.co.uk by Lionel Fanthorpe.

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.

Visit Kent and Southeastern are currently running a 2FOR1 campaign. Aimed particularly at the London market, the campaign aims to get people out of London on the train to experience the best of what Kent has to offer. Attractions participating in the campaign include Canterbury Cathedral, Leeds Castle and Dover Castle. For more information see www.visitkentbytrain.co.uk or contact lynette.clark@visitkent.co.uk