

White Cliffs Country: Dover, Deal & Sandwich

Discover White Cliffs Country including Dover, Deal and Sandwich. With historic villages, rolling countryside and the “iconic” White Cliffs, recognised throughout the world.



Did you know about.... ??

History

- Sandwich, Dover and Deal all have Roman settlements due to their proximity to the rest of the Roman Empire. Dover received its name during Roman Times when it was called DUBRIS after DUBRAS, the British name meaning 'waters'. From the fifth century onwards, Germanic tribes crossed the North Sea to settle in Kent. Dover, then known as DOFRAS, became a major settlement in the new Kingdom of Kent. By the middle of the 10th century, Dover was prosperous and established cross channel trading links, while Sandwich did not become a thriving town until the Saxon period.
- Deal, Dover and Sandwich have all been invaded throughout history, The Confederation of the Cinque Ports was founded around 1050 when 5 main ports grouped together for mutual support, Sandwich, Dover, Hythe, Romney, and Hastings were formed and became known as the Cinque Ports. The obligation of the ports was to supply ships and men to the King once a year. During the 11th and 13th centuries Sandwich was seen as the most important port in England.
- Tudor and Stuart kings and queens took a particular interest in the area and financed expensive repairs and enlargements on Dover harbour. Henry VIII also made improvements to Dover's defences and built castles at Deal, Sandown and Walmer to protect the Downs anchorage. The sea walls were built at Sandwich Haven to protect the town, as the River Stour used to be large enough for big trading and war ships to sail to and from the quay. It was also large enough for invading ships! The two town "gates" The Barbican and Fishergate still stand today, however Sandwich is now 2 miles from the sea, and the River is now much narrower.
- The proximity of Deal's shoreline to the notorious Goodwin Sands has made its coastal waters a source of both shelter and danger through the history of sea travel in British waters. Deal was named as a 'limb port' of the Cinque Ports in 1278. Due to its position the town grew to become one of busiest ports in England. The water between the town and the sands provided a naturally sheltered anchorage, which allowed the town to become a significant shipping and military port in past centuries despite not having a harbour.
- The 19th century was a period of great change for Dover, Deal and Sandwich. The coming of the railways, combined with the ferries at the Dover and Sandwich led to an increase in industries in the area. However as Deal and Sandwich declined as ports due to the reclining sea, Dover grew and the harbour was redeveloped in the 19th century to accommodate Britain's growing population.
- History was made on the 25th July 1909 when Louis Blériot became the first person to fly solo across the English Channel. He took off from France and landed in "Northfall Meadow" behind Dover Castle. Today this is the location of his memorial in the form of an airplane.
- During World War I Dover became one of the most important military centres in Britain. The harbour hosted a collection of warships and fishing vessels which protected Britain's vital control of the channel. The first bomb to be dropped on England fell near Dover Castle on Christmas Eve 1914. During the Second World War, Dover again became a town of considerable military importance. In May 1940, over 200,000 of the 338,000 men evacuated from Dunkirk passed through Dover filling the town and railway station with soldiers, sailors and airmen. The tunnels beneath Dover Castle became one of the main headquarters for the British Army to carry out controls.

Countryside:

A natural landscape combining coast and country, White Cliffs Country makes the perfect day out!

The White Cliffs of Dover are world famous and stretch from Kingsdown for 8 miles to Dover, then a further 8 miles from Dover to Folkestone. Made of solid chalk and over 100 metres high, the cliffs at Dover are famous for their bright white colour; due to erosion each year. The white cliffs are the nearest point of mainland England to the continent. There is only 21 miles between the white cliffs of the South Foreland and the white cliffs of Cap Blanc Nez, near Calais, in France. The white cliffs are protected as two stretches of Heritage Coast, which form an important part of the Kent Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

Whinless Down is an area of ancient chalk grassland, rich in wildlife with dramatic views of Dover and the surrounding Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. The local nature reserve is being developed as an ecological park with a tree trail and a wild arboretum.

The Coalfield Parishes were once home to coal mines and other industry, served by the East Kent Light Railway. The attractive rolling downland countryside of the Coalfield Parishes is a rich landscape with ancient woodlands.

South Foreland Valley is an area of chalk downland offering fantastic views. From the stretch of cliff-top you can view the English Channel, as well as enjoy views of St. Margarets Bay and the beautiful surrounding area.

Dover's Western Heights were built to defend England against invasion by Napoleon, and are now surrounded by a local nature reserve with magnificent views over the town & port of Dover.

Folkestone Downs is of national and European importance for wildlife. There are a variety of trails to explore with dramatic views. Further along the downs, Creteway Down provides a link between Folkestone Downs and the Folkestone Warren. The Downs feature wildlife of the ancient chalk grassland combined with breathtaking views over Folkestone.

Samphire Hoe Picnic Site is the perfect place to enjoy the peace and tranquillity of the countryside. The site was made when material was dug from here to create the channel tunnel. Today it offers a wealth of wildflowers, birds and walks that are accessible to all.

Beaches:

Sandwich Bay is situated on the Eastern coast of Kent, about five miles south of Ramsgate. It's a long sandy beach popular with the local golf club.

Deal castle Beach is a shingle beach facing Deal Castle which was built by Henry VIII. Visitors can take a dip and try and spot the wrecks on the infamous Goodwin Sands. Cafes, pubs and great food can be found at the end of Deal Pier all within an easy walking distance.

St Margarets-at-Cliffe offers fantastic views across the Channel, and on a clear day you can even see France! Refreshments are available at the Coastguard Pub serving fresh produce and the local car park has refreshment and toilet facilities.

Dover Harbour & Shakespeare Beach display amazing views across the world's busiest straits and Dover's most impressive cliff. It was said that Shakespeare depicted in King Lear, and the inspiration for many famous literary figures at this point.

Towns & villages:

Dover is known as Britain's frontline and gateway; it has a deep history from Dover Castle to its white cliffs. The town offers visitors a perfect day out because there is so much to do!

Deal still has a small fishing community which dates back from when it was a busy port. Today Deal is a mixture of old and new, its history began with Deal Castle, but the town also has many maritime connections such as the Kings Old Naval Yard. Deal features many cobbled, winding streets, which was once a popular place for smugglers.

Sandwich is an historic town, which was one of the Cinque Ports and still features many medieval buildings today including the three churches St Peter, St Mary and St Clement. Sandwich is known for having the highest density of listed buildings of any town in England.

St Margarets-at-Cliffe is a three part village situated just off the coast road between Deal and Dover. The heart of the village is about two miles from the sea, while the residential area of *Nelson Park* is further inland, and then *The Bay* area is situated along and below the cliffs.

Kingsdown is a village to the south of Walmer and Deal. The beach and downs around the village are popular for walkers. The beach and cliffs are part of the Site of Special Scientific Interest for the wildlife and birds that migrate in the area.

Cycling & Walking Routes:

Kingsdown and Walmer Walk is a short walk offering views from Hawkshill Freedown. Hawkshill was once a World War I aerodrome and now the site of a memorial to pilots who flew from here and were killed fighting in France. The walk can then continue from Walmer Castle to Deal Castle.

Samphire Hoe Country Park Walk gives magnificent views over Dover, as far as Shakespeare Cliff. The walk is 2 miles with two distinct sections. The sea wall can be followed for up to 1 mile, followed by the next section through the middle of the Hoe.

South Forelands Lighthouse Walk hosts fantastic views along the high chalk cliffs at the edge of the North Downs. Starting at the White Cliffs Visitor Centre, the marked route is 4 miles and follows around Langdon Hole and Fan Point towards the South Foreland Lighthouse.

Frontline Britain Trail follows along Margarets-at-Cliffe on an exciting circular walk. Starting from the car park within the village, discover a series of information panels about history and wildlife as you follow the way-marked trail.

Coast to Cathedral - from Dover to Canterbury cycle route 16 and 17 is a 50. Cyclists can do the circular route or shorter linear rides from Canterbury and Dover to Folkestone are also an option.

The Cliffs and Castles Route National Cycle Route 1 - From Dover to Deal – visitors can choose from two routes from the seafront up the hill crowned by Dover Castle: either push your bike up a cliffside path, or ride into the town centre, then up north of the castle.

The Cliffs and Castles Route National Cycle Route 1 - from Deal to Sandwich takes Route 1 north from Deal Pier along Beach Street, then inland to cross marshlands. Visitors can stop for a picnic or bird watch on the beach or in the dunes at the end of the route.

The Sandwich Way Route 15 starts near the Dover Transport Museum and goes under the A2 to Whitfield, there it joins Route 16, a way up from the Docks via the Market Square and then up the top of the hill is Dover Castle. It features many historic sites of the town.

The Attractions

Wildlife & Nature:

Little Farthingloe Farm

Folkestone Road, Dover,
Kent, CT16
Tel: (01304) 212040

Rare Species Conservation Centre

Bellar's Bush,
A256 Dover Road Roundabout,
Sandwich, Kent, CT13 0DG
Tel: (01304) 611578
Fax: (01304) 611528
Email: info@rarespeciesconservationcentre.org
Website: www.rarespeciesconservationcentre.org

Samphire Hoe

Off the A20 carriageway,
between Dover and Folkestone
Tel/Fax: (01304) 225649
Email: paulholt@whitecliffscountryside.org.uk
Website: www.samphirehoe.com

Western Heights

South Military Road,
Dover, Kent
Tel: (01304) 241806
Website: www.whitecliffscountryside.org.uk

Whinless Down Local Natural Reserve

Elms Vale Recreation Ground,
Dover, Kent
Tel: (01304) 241806
Website: www.whitecliffscountryside.org.uk

White Cliffs of Dover

Langdon Cliffs, Upper Road,
Dover, Kent, CT16 1HX
Tel: (01304) 202756
Email: whitecliffs@nationaltrust.org.uk
Website: www.nationaltrust.org.uk

Wingham Wildlife Park

Rusham Road, Wingham,
Canterbury, Kent, CT3 1JL
Tel: (01227) 720836
Email: gabr@winghamwildlifepark.co.uk
Website: www.winghamwildlifepark.co.uk

Sailing & Boat Trips:

Coker Sea Fishing Charters

Gardens & Parks:

Battle of Britain Memorial

Capel-le-Ferne, Nr Folkestone,
Kent, CT18
Tel/Fax: (01732) 870809
Email: battleofbritain@btinternet.com
Website: www.battleofbritainmemorial.org

Connaught Park

Dover, Kent, CT16
Tel: (01304) 201211

Goodnestone Park Gardens

Nr Wingham, Goodnestone,
Canterbury, Kent, CT3 1PL
Tel / Fax: (01304) 840107
Email: fitzwalter@btinternet.com
Website: www.goodnestoneparkgardens.co.uk

Kearsney Abbey

Alkham Valley Road,
Temple Ewell,
Dover, Kent, CT16
Tel: (01304) 824880

The Pines Garden

Beach Road, St Margaret's Bay,
Dover, Kent, CT15 6DZ
Tel: (01304) 851737
Email: enquiries@baytrust.org.uk
Website: www.baytrust.org.uk /
www.pinescalyx.co.uk

The Secret Gardens of Sandwich

Knightrider Street, Sandwich,
Kent, CT13 9EW
Tel: 01304 619919
Email: stephanie@he-salutation.com
Website: www.the-salutation.com

Leisure facilities:

Dover Leisure Centre

Townwall Street,
Dover, Kent, CT16
Tel: (01304) 201145
Fax: (01304) 214840
Email: headoffice@vistaleisure.com
Website: www.vistaleisure.com

Tides Leisure Centre

Viking Park, Dover, Kent

Dover Marina, Near Western Dock,
Dover, Kent, CT16 9TF
Tel: (01303) 872329
Email: cokerseafishingcharter@hotmail.co.uk
Website: www.royalcharlotte.co.uk

Dover White Cliffs Boat Tours

Next to the Clock Tower, Dover Marina,
Western Docks, Dover, Kent
Tel: (01303) 271388
Mobile Phone: 07971 301379
Email: enquiries@whitecliffsboattours.co.uk
Website: www.whitecliffsboattours.co.uk

Fire Fox Fishing Charters

Dover, Kent, CT16
Tel/Fax: (01580) 891198
Mobile Phone: 07885 643017
Email: info@mandtcharters.fsnet.co.uk
Website: www.firefox-fishingcharters.co.uk

Sandwich River Bus

The Quay, Sandwich, Kent, CT13 9EN
Tel: 07958 376183
Email: captaincolin@hotmail.com
Website: www.sandwichriverbus.co.uk

Historical Houses & Sites:

Deal Castle

Victoria Rd, Deal,
Kent, CT14 7BA
Tel: (01304) 372762
Fax: (01304) 372762
Email: sue.pearson@english-heritage.org.uk
Website: www.english-heritage.org.uk

Dover Castle

Castle Hill Road, Dover,
Kent, CT16 1HU
Tel: (01304) 211067
Fax: (01304) 214739
Website: www.english-heritage.org.uk

Richborough Roman Fort

Richborough, Sandwich,
Kent, CT13 9JW
Tel: (01304) 612013
Website: www.english-heritage.org.uk

Roman Painted House

New Street, Dover, Kent, CT16
Tel: (01304) 203279

Museums:

Deal Maritime & Local History Museum

22 St George Road, Deal,
Kent, CT14 6BA
Tel: (01304) 373684
Email: dealmuseum@lineone.net

Sandwich Guildhall

Cattle Market, Sandwich, Kent, CT13 9AH
Tel: (01304) 617197
Fax: (01304) 620170
Email: tracey@sandwichtc1@wanadoo.co.uk
Website: www.sandwichtowncouncil.co.uk

South Foreland Lighthouse

The Front, St Margaret's Bay,
Dover, Kent, CT15 6HP
Tel: (01304) 852463
Fax: (01304) 815484
Email: southforeland@nationaltrust.org.uk
Website: www.nationaltrust.org.uk

The Grand Shaft (groups only)

The Dover Museum,
Market Square, Dover, Kent, CT16
Tel: (01304) 201066
Email: mark.frost@dover.gov.uk
Website: www.dovermuseum.gov.uk

Walmer Castle

Kingsdown Road, Walmer, Deal,
Kent, CT14 7LJ
Tel: (01304) 364288
Website: www.english-heritage.org.uk

Crabble Corn Mill

Lower Road, River,
Dover, Kent, CT17 0UY
Tel: 0870 145 3857
Email: info@crabblecornmill.org.uk
Website: www.crabblecornmill.org.uk

Dover Transport Museum

White Cliffs Business Park,
Whitfield, Kent
Tel: (01304) 822409

Dover Museum & Bronze Age Boat Gallery

Market Square, Dover,
Kent, CT16 1PB
Tel: (01304) 201066
Fax: (01304) 241186
Email: museumenquiries@dover.gov.uk
Website: www.dovermuseum.co.uk

Kent Battle of Britain Museum

Aerodrome Road, Hawkinge,
Folkestone, Kent, CT18 7AG
Tel: (01303) 893140
Email: kentbattleofbritainmuseum@btinternet.com
Website: www.kbobm.org

Princess of Wales Royal Regiment Museum

Dover Castle, Dover,
Kent, CT16 1H
Tel: (01304) 211067
Email: pwrqueensmuseum@tinyworld.co.uk
Website: www.english-heritage.org.uk

Sandwich Guildhall Museum

Cattle Market, Sandwich,
Kent, CT13 9AH
Tel: (01304) 617197
Fax: (01304) 620170
Email: tracey@sandwichtc1@wanadoo.co.uk
Website: www.sandwichtowncouncil.co.uk

Shopping:**De Bradelei Wharf**

Cambridge Road, Dover,
Kent, CT17 9BY
Tel: 01304 226616
Email: clund@debradelei.com
Web: www.debradelei.co.uk

Capel le Ferne Farmers Market

Every Tuesday from 10am to 1pm
Village Hall, Lancaster Avenue, Capel-le-Ferne, Folkestone, Kent CT18 7LX
Telephone: 07899 082356
E-mail: capelfarmersmarket@yahoo.co.uk
Website: www.capelleferne.info

Deal Farmers Market

Deal Town Hall - St Georges Street
Every 1st and 3rd Wednesday of the month
Email: dealtowncouncil@deal.gov.uk
Tel: 01304 361999
Fax: 01304 380546

Sandwich Farmers Market

Guildhall Forecourt, Cattle Market,
Sandwich, Kent CT13 9AH
Last Saturday of every month March to November

Email: tracey@sandwichtc1.wanadoo.co.uk
 Website: www.sandwichtowncouncil.co.uk
 Tel: 01304 617197
 Fax: 01304 620170

Tourism figures: Key headline figures for Dover for 2006

- 424,335 overnight tourism staying trips were made to Dover in 2006. Of these trips, domestic visitors made 84% of trips (357,828) and overseas visitors made 16% of trips (66,507).
- £70,474,881 was spent by staying visitors on their trip to Dover in 2006. Of this expenditure, 73% was spent by domestic visitors and 27% by overseas visitors.
- 3.3 million Tourism day trips were made to Dover in 2006, generating a further £96,647,613 trip expenditure.
- In total, around £167,122,494 was spent on trips to Dover in 2006 by staying and day visitors.
- In addition, expenditure by friends and relatives on visitors, and visitors spend on second homes (i.e. maintenance) generates a further £9,890,000. With the addition of other expenditure tourism activity generated £177,012,494 expenditure.
- Of this expenditure, £165,423,000 translates into direct income for local business; and a further £33,084,600 of income is generated through indirect and induced effects (a total of £198,507,600 business turnover.)
- This income supported 3,036 FTE jobs and 4,152 Actual jobs. Overall it is estimated that tourism expenditure supported 10% of local employment in Dover.

*Figures from Cambridge Model 2006

Accommodation figures:

Type of Accommodation	Bedrooms/ Units/Pitches	Bed spaces
Caravan & Camping	1,138	5,783
Self catering (Cottages, Barns & Houses)	53	215
Serviced (Hotels, B&B's & Inn's)	1,346	2,860
Group (shared accommodation)	35	199

*Information sourced by Tourism South East

Population Figures

	Male	Female	Total
Population (Mid 2006)	51,100	55,200	106,400
Population Forecast	-	-	-
2011			106,200
2016			106,800

Source: Population Estimates Unit, Office for National Statistics (ONS)

To find out more visit your local Visitor Information Centre:

Dover Visitor Information Centre

The Old Town Gaol, Biggin Street, Dover
Tel: (01304) 205108
Email: tic@doveruk.com
Website: www.whitecliffscountry.org.uk

Deal Visitor Information Centre

The Landmark Centre, High Street, Deal, CT14 6BB
Tel: (01304) 369576
Email: info@deal.gov.uk
Website: www.whitecliffscountry.org.uk

Opening hours:

Monday to Friday: 10.00 – 16.00; Saturday: 10.00 – 14.00

Sandwich Visitor Information Centre (seasonal)

Guildhall, Sandwich, Kent
Tel: (01304) 613565
Email: info@ticsandwich.wanadoo.co.uk
Website: www.whitecliffscountry.org.uk www.open-sandwich.co.uk

Useful Tourism Contacts:

White Cliffs Country Tourism Association

PO Box 150, Dover, Kent, CT16 3UR
Tel: 01304 872061
Fax: 01304 872316
E-mail: sandrakillick@dover.gov.uk
Website: www.whitecliffscountry.org.uk

Visit Kent

Kent County Council
Invicta House
County Hall
Maidstone
Kent, ME14 1XX
Tel: +44 (0) 1622 671411
Website: www.visitkent.co.uk
www.visitkent.co.uk/business

