

KENT GARDEN of ENGLAND

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Kent on screen - top filming locations across the Garden of England



Images (L-R): Penshurst Place and Gardens (Please Credit: Peter Smith) and Call the Midwife at the Historic Dockyard Chatham (Please Credit: © Neal Street Productions/ BBC One). High-res versions of these images can be downloaded here: <https://we.tl/t-Kr1q1gtOBf>.

Press Release

28th January 2020

Kent has long been a magnet for film crews, and the county's gorgeous castles, villages, sea and sky have had starring roles in numerous box office hits. So, in recognition of our lovely county's star quality, we've pulled together a list of our favourite filming locations in the Garden of England that you can visit for a spot of 'set-jetting'.

Take a trip by car or travel by train with Southeastern and discover why the camera loves Kent...

CALL THE MIDWIFE

Speaking of the Dockyard, the immense visitor attraction has been welcoming film crews and stars to its historic buildings and cobbled alleyways for decades. *Victoria and Abdul*, *Les Misérables*, *Suffragette*, *Victor Frankenstein*, *Mr Holmes* and 2019's *Pokémon: Detective Pikachu* are just a few of the flicks to have featured the Dockyard but perhaps most famous is the hit TV series *Call The Midwife*, which has made the attraction its home. Visitors can even take special themed tours of the key filming locations.

LOUIS WAIN

This upcoming biographical film of the 19th century artist saw Benedict Cumberbatch (*Sherlock Holmes*, *Doctor Strange*) and Claire Foy (*The Crown*) spend four weeks in Deal filming, primarily on the beach in Walmer, with the film due to be released this year. However, it's not just Benedict who has been to Deal, with *The Tunnel* and *Liar* also being shot in the idyllic seaside town.

83

Considered one of the greatest all round cricket players is 1983 World Cup winner Kapil Dev, who played a legendary match at the Nevill Ground in Royal Tunbridge Wells. Indian cricket fans who marvel in the score of 175 not out still visit the ground to this day, and now with the film to be released in April 2020, people will be exploring not only the greens but the spa town itself - perfect after a match.

ONLY FOOLS AND HORSES

Still a household name across Britain is *Only Fools and Horses*, and the 1989 Christmas special was one of the classics. A day out to Margate in the Isle of Thanet played host to The Jolly Boys' Outing with scenes including a walk along the sea front, time in the sea, fish and chips and of course Dreamland. You can still head on the Scenic Railway just like David Jason and co, as many people still come along to the park to recreate scenes from the show.

THE OLD GUARD

Sandwich may well have its own French festival, but never before has the small town been so much like a ville de France, than when the crew for *The Old Guard* came to town. Starring Charlize Theron and Chiwetel Ejiofor, the made for Netflix film is based on the comic and is about a captain and his soldiers working as mercenaries through the ages. Unfortunately, the French accessories may have long gone, but you'll be able to spot the historic buildings that line the Sandwich streets.

WONDER WOMAN

2017's DC film made good use of the little Swale village of Lower Halstow with it being the landing place of Hollywood superstars Chris Pine and Gal Gadot on their hunt for Ares, as it was turned into Belgium during WWI. Tiller and Wheel's very own sailing barge Edith May was used as the Green Room for the film's stars and features briefly in the epic itself. If you want to recreate your own landing, then you can not only visit the barge but head out on a sailing trip during the summer too.

THE LADY IN THE VAN

With its typical British seaside town streets and beach front, Broadstairs and its surrounding area is often the location for a coastal day out for British films and TV shows. Ricky Gervais' *Derek* came on a group beach day out, Maggie Smith's *Lady In The Van* spent two days along Viking Bay while eating Morelli's gelato, and Hollywood romantic comedy *Juliet, Naked* filmed throughout the Isle of Thanet for a lot of its exterior shots - you'll have seen Broadstairs everywhere!

MARY QUEEN OF SCOTS

Depicting the story and life of Mary Stuart and her impact on England's history as she attempted to overthrow her cousin Queen Elizabeth I, it's only fitting that filming for this historical drama took place at one of Kent's best-preserved manor houses, Penshurst Place. As the backdrop for Mary's execution the house has a solemn role in the film but pay a visit for yourself and you'll discover gorgeous Elizabethan gardens and a rich history for a far more cheerful visit than Mary's.

DARKEST HOUR

2018 was Gary Oldman's year, after scooping the Best Actor Oscar for his powerhouse performance as Winston Churchill in *Darkest Hour*. Perhaps it's no surprise that key scenes from the film were shot at Churchill's former home, Chartwell, in rural Kent. Why not visit the estate (also featured in *The Crown*)?

DUNKIRK

While the action for Christopher Nolan's heart-stopping depiction of the infamous evacuation was shot on location in France, you can visit the very place where Operation Dynamo was masterminded in the Secret Wartime Tunnels beneath Dover Castle. If, however, you are after a filming location at the same time, and a Marvel one at that - *Avengers: Age of Ultron* was partially filmed at Dover Castle!

THE PRINCESS BRIDE

Is there anyone out there who doesn't love this film? Pirates, giants, miracles, monsters, true love! And did you know that Inigo and Count Rugen's final duel – and possibly one of the most famous lines in cinema history – was filmed in the Baron's Hall of gorgeous Penshurst Place? Say it with us... "Hello. My name is Inigo Montoya. You killed my father. Prepare to die".

TUDORS GALORE

When it comes to tales about the Tudors, Kent is the go-to location for big and small screen adaptations. Leeds Castle, Penshurst Place and Dover Castle have all had starring roles in the likes of *The Other Boleyn Girl* and the much-lauded miniseries *Wolf Hall*. Even the last of the Plantagenets, Richard III, came to Kent for *The Hollow Crown* series in 2016 (and we heard that venue staff were very keen to work on the day dreamboat Benedict Cumberbatch was filming scenes...).

GREAT EXPECTATIONS

Since the landscape provided inspiration for Charles Dickens himself, the misty, mysterious marshes across Swale were obvious location choices for key scenes in the 2012 big screen adaptation of this classic novel. Film buffs can book a break in a luxury shepherd's hut on Elmley Nature Reserve and soak up the scenery.

THE NAME'S BOND...

Ian Fleming reportedly took *James Bond's* famous 007 tag from the number of the London to Dover coach and lived for some time in the coastal hidden gem St Margaret's Bay. In a nod to the super spy's creator, many Bond films have been shot on Kent's shores - Sir Hugo Drax's *Moonraker* plant was filmed at Kingsdown, the Port of Dover appeared in *Diamonds are Forever*, and the speedboat chase in *The World Is Not Enough* was partially shot at The Historic Dockyard Chatham. It's enough to leave you shaken!

THE DARLING BUDS OF MAY

A small screen outing but one that won the nation's heart – much loved TV series *The Darling Buds of May* captured Kent's rural splendor in the 1990s and made a million families yearn for a slice of idyllic country life. Luckily, you can still visit the famous farm where the series was shot – it's as beautiful as ever, and you can even stay the night in self-catering or charming B&B accommodation.

PRIDE AND PREJUDICE

Groombridge Place provided a beautiful backdrop for the lavish 2005 film adaptation of Jane Austen's classic novel, as the 17th-century moated manor was chosen to be Longbourn, the Bennet's family home. Visitors today can walk through the gorgeous gardens or take a trip along the river and imagine they're in their very own Austen adaptation (gowns, bonnets and parasols optional).

WILD CHILD

Shot on location, 2008 teen comedy *Wild Child* was mostly filmed at Cobham Hall, near Gravesend. Already a boarding school for girls, the location was the perfect fit. The country house has since become an increasingly popular filming location playing host to many productions including *The Great Fire* (2014), the BBC's adaptation of *Bleak House* (2005), and *Agent Cody Banks* (2003).

For further information inspiration on things to do in Kent, head to www.visitkent.co.uk.

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NOTES FOR EDITORS

For further media information on Visit Kent and images please contact Brand Manager Lana Crouch on lane.crouch@visitkent.co.uk or call 01227 812914.

About Visit Kent

Visit Kent Ltd is the Destination Management Organisation for Kent (the Garden of England), welcoming 65million visitors a year, championing the county's £3.8 billion tourism industry and supporting more than 77,000 jobs.

It is recognised as one of the country's leading DMOs, targeting UK and overseas markets to raise Kent's profile as a premier destination, improving quality and skills within the industry, and growing investment in tourism. Visit Kent is a public/private sector partnership supported by Kent County

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