



# Ramsgate Press Pack

[www.visitthanet.co.uk](http://www.visitthanet.co.uk)

# Come to Ramsgate?

Ramsgate is a seaside resort situated on the Isle of Thanet, the most easterly point in Kent, 'The Garden of England'.

The resort is easily accessible by car, coach and train. The country's only high-speed train service, HS1, brings travellers from St Pancras, London, to Ramsgate in just 75 minutes.

There are regular train and bus services, including the Thanet Loop, to the neighbouring resorts of Broadstairs (2 miles/ 3.2km) and Margate (5.3 miles/ 8.5km). The City of Canterbury is 17.3 miles (27.8km) away and the Port of Dover, with its cross-channel services, just 20.5 miles (33km) distant taking the A256. The Eurotunnel terminal at Folkestone is just 34.5 miles (55.5 km) away.

Cyclists are always welcome in Thanet to explore the numerous cycling opportunities including the [www.vikingcoastaltrail.co.uk](http://www.vikingcoastaltrail.co.uk) (Regional Cycle Network 15).





# Escape to Ramsgate



Westcliff Arcade



Elegant Architecture



Royal Harbour

- UK's only Royal Harbour
- Elegant Georgian, Regency and Victorian architecture – hundreds of listed buildings
- Golden sands, famous family-friendly beach and bay, boat trips and clifftop walks
- Modern marina filled with luxury yachts
- Thriving continental café culture along the waterfront, cosmopolitan atmosphere
- Fine eateries serving local produce including seafoods
- Retro and contemporary boutique hotels, guesthouses, B&Bs, self-catering.

Ramsgate, a favourite destination for Princess Victoria, is an architectural jewel in the coastal crown of the Isle of Thanet on the north eastern edge of Kent – the Garden of England.

The importance of the town's long maritime history as a port, and its fine hospitality, were recognised by King George IV when he awarded the harbour Royal status – a unique accolade in mainland Britain.

He was particularly impressed by the harbour, the warm welcome and the hospitality he received when he set off from Ramsgate with the Royal Squadron for Hanover in 1821.

Today the historic harbour and its thriving modern marina are the perfect setting for a relaxing Mediterranean-style waterfront filled with a wealth of bustling bistros and restaurants. The resort's fine weather, superb sands, sea air and stunning views from the chalk cliffs alongside elegant side streets, independent shops, galleries and seaside entertainments add even more flavour to the resort's popular café culture.



Ramsgate Main Sands



Coastal Explorer Pack



## Beaches, Bays and Royal Harbour

**Ramsgate Main Sands** – a south-facing Seaside Award winning, spacious, sandy beach, next to the Royal Harbour, is popular throughout the day and into the long summer evenings. The sands slope gently into the sea and are ideal for young children as well as more confident swimmers. Plenty of beach activities to enjoy with ice creams and fish 'n chips readily available just a few steps away.

**Pegwell Bay** – a rewarding destination for landscape lovers, geologists seeking rare cliff faces, birdwatchers, photographers and outdoor enthusiasts. Country park.

Discover more of Thanet's award-winning beaches and bays at [www.visitthanet.co.uk/beaches-bays](http://www.visitthanet.co.uk/beaches-bays)

**Ramsgate Royal Harbour** [www.portoframsgate.co.uk](http://www.portoframsgate.co.uk) - historic buildings and attraction in a working harbour. The port was at the heart of the WW2 Operation Dynamo when the 'little ships' helped rescue troops from the beaches of Dunkirk. The stunning Marina has a Four Gold anchor Award with 700 berths serviced by first class facilities.

### Coastal Explorer packs

All you need to explore Margate, Broadstairs and Ramsgate, linking coastal delights and great heritage. Explorer packs include trails, historic maps, binoculars, compass, rock pooling nets and marine life identification sheets. [www.visitthanet.co.uk/coastalexplorers](http://www.visitthanet.co.uk/coastalexplorers)

**Beach within Reach** is a small Thanet-based charity that provides all-terrain wheelchairs to some of the beautiful beaches around the Isle of Thanet. [www.beachwithinreach.org.uk](http://www.beachwithinreach.org.uk)

## Galleries

Ramsgate's numerous galleries offer a wide range of artworks and crafts, many inspired by the Thanet coast and the surrounding countryside, to suit all tastes.

Look out for:

**Something Fishy** – The Little Arch Gallery with ceramics and crafts by Suzy Curtis;

**York Street Gallery**

[www.yorkstreetgallery.co.uk](http://www.yorkstreetgallery.co.uk);

**AiR** [www.artsinramsgate.weebly.com](http://www.artsinramsgate.weebly.com);

**McGillan & Woodell**

[www.mcgillanandwoodell.co.uk](http://www.mcgillanandwoodell.co.uk);

**Nice Things** [www.nice-things.co.uk](http://www.nice-things.co.uk) and

**Silverland Studios** [www.joe-allen.de/en](http://www.joe-allen.de/en) .

## Attractions

### **Maritime Museum**

[www.ramsgatemaritimemuseum.org](http://www.ramsgatemaritimemuseum.org) – recording the harbour’s seafaring history and including Ramsgate’s own Meridian – five minutes and 41 seconds ahead of GMT.

**Steam Tug Cervia** Discover the history of this hard-working 320 tonne vessel and the people who served on board. Open to visitors during summer weekends.

### **The Ramsgate Tunnels**

[www.ramsgatetunnels.org](http://www.ramsgatetunnels.org) – the UK’s largest network of civilian wartime tunnels. The tunnels were capable of sheltering 60,000 people in WW2. Guided tours bring the history of the tunnels into the 21st century.

**The Micro Museum** [www.themicromuseum.org](http://www.themicromuseum.org) – a celebration of vintage computers, video gaming and micro-electronics and their roles in our lives.

**The Grange** [www.landmarktrust.org.uk](http://www.landmarktrust.org.uk) – the first ‘modern house designed and lived in by architect Augustus Pugin, who designed the interiors of the Houses of Parliament. The Grange, now Grade I listed, is on the clifftop with stunning views.

**The Shrine of St. Augustine and The National Pugin Centre** [www.augustine-pugin.org.uk](http://www.augustine-pugin.org.uk) - the place to discover the life of St. Augustine who brought Christianity to England and became the first Archbishop of Canterbury and the distinctive designs of architect Augustus Pugin.

**Italianate Glasshouse** [www.visitthanet.co.uk](http://www.visitthanet.co.uk) – an early 19th century delight constructed for Sir Moses Montefiore and now exquisitely restored.

### **Montefiore Mausoleum**

[www.ramsgatemontefioreheritage.org.uk](http://www.ramsgatemontefioreheritage.org.uk) – a replica of Rachel’s Tomb on the road from Jerusalem to Bethlehem. The tomb is the resting place of Sir Moses Montefiore, Jewish campaigner and great philanthropist, and his wife Judith, Lady Montefiore.

### **Petticoat Lane Emporium**

[www.petticoatemporium.com](http://www.petticoatemporium.com) - offers 202 stalls, three shops filled with vintage, retro, craft and antique goods.

**St. Augustine’s Cross** [www.english-heritage.org.uk](http://www.english-heritage.org.uk) – the 19th century cross with Saxon design marking where it is thought the missionary Augustine landed in AD 597 bringing Christianity to England.

**Spitfire and Hurricane Memorial Museum** [www.spitfiremuseum.org.uk](http://www.spitfiremuseum.org.uk) and **RAF Manston History Museum** [www.rafmanston.co.uk](http://www.rafmanston.co.uk). An RAF airfield was established at Manston in 1916. Manston served as a forward airbase in the Battle of Britain. The museums capture the lives of the pilots and the challenges they faced. Genuine aircraft on site to admire. The Spitfire and Hurricane Museum now feature a full-size Spitfire cockpit simulator.

The **Hugin Viking Ship** at Pegwell Bay, near the popular nature reserve, is a longstanding family favourite.



Ramsgate Tunnels



Pugin Tomb at St. Augustine's Church. Photo: Ludmila Griffin



Spitfire and Hurricane Museum



## Entertainment

Look out for impromptu entertainments on the waterfront overlooking Ramsgate Royal Harbour, theatrical performances and cinema screenings after enjoying the many outdoor activities on offer.

**Granville Theatre** [www.granvilletheatre.com](http://www.granvilletheatre.com) – cinema and theatre on Ramsgate’s East Cliff.

**Ramsgate Music Hall** [www.ramsgatemusichall.com](http://www.ramsgatemusichall.com) – an intimate venue with a capacity of just 125, offering a passionate music experience.

**Escape Rooms**  
Ramsgate has two escape rooms to try out:  
Real Life Games ([www.reallifegames.co.uk](http://www.reallifegames.co.uk))  
Extinction - can you save humanity in 60 minutes or sooner? New adventure opening summer 2018. Breakout Room ([www.breakout-room.co.uk](http://www.breakout-room.co.uk)) Breakout - plan, solve, escape. New escape room opening soon.

Granville Theatre



## Outdoor adventures

**Active Ramsgate** has a wealth of walks for everyone keen to explore the history and architecture of the town as well as the superb bays and beaches. Beach Roamer takes walkers from Ramsgate to Margate while longer distance walkers can follow The Way of St Augustine from his shrine in Ramsgate to the city of Canterbury. Explore the Active8 opportunities on the website to see the full range of activities available locally – some of with special offers attached. [www.ramsgatetown.org/activeramsgate](http://www.ramsgatetown.org/activeramsgate)

Head out on bike or on foot along the 32-mile (51.4 km) **Viking Coastal Trail** and discover dramatic scenery and a wealth of local historical gems. The trail can be split into smaller themed sections and is also known as Regional Route 15 of the National Cycle Network [www.vikingcoastaltrail.co.uk](http://www.vikingcoastaltrail.co.uk)

Join a **Costumed Walk** to uncover some of Ramsgate’s more colourful past or follow a

King George VI park



themed trail to discover the town during the Blitz. There is also a **Pugin Town Trail**, tracing Augustus Pugin’s architectural legacy – [www.visitthanet.co.uk](http://www.visitthanet.co.uk)

**Boat trips** [www.go2sea.co.uk](http://www.go2sea.co.uk) or [www.seasearcher.co.uk](http://www.seasearcher.co.uk) – seal trips, harbour tours, fishing or offshore windfarm trips.

**Sandwich & Pegwell Bay National Nature Reserve** [www.kentwildlifetrust.org.uk](http://www.kentwildlifetrust.org.uk) – In winter, thousands of wading birds gather here. In summer, orchids and other wild flowers flourish in the grasslands.

**Golfing** opportunities include [www.staugustinesgolfclub.co.uk](http://www.staugustinesgolfclub.co.uk), [www.manstongolfcentre.co.uk](http://www.manstongolfcentre.co.uk); and [www.stonelees.com](http://www.stonelees.com). There is also the fun filled Rascal Bay Mini Golf [www.rascalbay.co.uk](http://www.rascalbay.co.uk) featuring huge dinosaurs.

Guided canoe trip





Montefiore mausoleum



Pugin's Grange



St. Augustine's Church

## Artistic impressions

**Princess Victoria** enjoyed visiting and staying in the resort and, as Queen, she was eager to capture those memories and buy William Powell Frith's popular painting *Ramsgate Sands (Life at the Seaside)* completed in the 1850s.

Artist **Vincent Van Gogh** taught at a local school when he was 23 years old and made his home at Spencer Square.

**Karl Marx** (1818-1883) stayed in the town on several occasions as did his mentor and supporter Frederik Engels.

**Jane Austen's** brother, Frances Austen (1774-1865), who served as Admiral of the Fleet, lived in Ramsgate. Jane Austen visited him in the town and in her novel *Pride and Prejudice* Georgiana Darcy spends a summer in the town.

Victorian Gothic architect **Augustus Pugin** created his family home at The Grange. Pugin's son Edward completed the work his father had started at St Augustine's Church.

A Blue Plaque in Wellington Crescent marks the lodgings of **Samuel T Coleridge** (1772-1834) poet and author famed for *The Rime of the Ancient Mariner*.

A plaque in Nelson Crescent records time spent in the town by **Wilkie Collins** (1824-1889) who wrote the detective novel *The Woman in White*.

Other celebrated residents include: **Anthony Buckeridge** (1912-2004) author of the *Jennings* school stories; actor **John Le Mesurier** (1912-1983) much remembered as *Sgt. Wilson* in the BBC comedy series *Dad's Army*; and Golden Globe winner and Academy Award nominee **Brenda Blethyn**.



Great Bucket and Spade Run



Pugin's The Grange



Ramsgate Illuminations

## Annual events

### MARCH

#### **Ramsgate International Film and TV**

**Festival** : the festival showcases new works, helps promote film makers and bring a different screening experience encouraging people to view and appreciate independent cinema. Screenings are complemented by a strong line-up of quality events and seminars with industry professionals. [www.ramsgateiftvfest.org](http://www.ramsgateiftvfest.org)

### JUNE (first weekend)

**The Great Bucket and Spade Run:** classic cars head to Ramsgate gathering at Government Acre. This fun event for all the family is presented by the Ramsgate Old Motor and Motorcycle Club. Vehicles dating from the 1920s to the 21st century. Sideshows and children's rides. [www.rommcc.org.uk](http://www.rommcc.org.uk)

### JULY

#### **Ramsgate Festival and Ramsgate Week:**

Ramsgate Week is the Royal Temple Yacht Club's annual international regatta, known as the friendly alternative to Cowes, plus special events and entertainments around the harbour and waterfront. [www.ramsgateweek.com](http://www.ramsgateweek.com)

**Ramsgate Festival** is a feast of creative and performance workshops, exhibitions, film, theatre and dance at venues across the resort. [www.ramsgatefestival.org](http://www.ramsgatefestival.org)

### SEPTEMBER

**Heritage Open Days** – explore behind the scenes in historic and heritage buildings many of which are not usually open to the public. [www.heritageopendays.org.uk](http://www.heritageopendays.org.uk)

### DECEMBER

Memorable displays of **Christmas lights** in Ramsgate's modern marina and across the resort.



## Food and drink, where to stay

As King George IV noted, Ramsgate has a long tradition of providing great hospitality for all its guests. Today that tradition flourishes.

### ON THE MENU

Restaurants and cafés across the town serve local fish and seafoods often alongside chips made with Thanet potatoes. Meanwhile, as well as a growing range of wines, ciders and fruit juices produced in Kent readily available, there are plenty of opportunities to sample **Gadd's No 3** from Ramsgate Brewery who run regular brewery tours. [www.ramsgatebrewery.co.uk](http://www.ramsgatebrewery.co.uk). Gadd's No 3 was selected as Kent Beer of the Year in the 2018 Taste of Kent Awards.

Look out too for **Sorbetto Ice Cream Parlour**, at Harbour Parade, with its freshly-made traditional recipes and a wealth of different flavours [www.sorbetto.co.uk](http://www.sorbetto.co.uk).

### WHERE TO STAY?

Ramsgate has a long tradition of providing visitor accommodation from clifftop hotels overlooking the sea, quality guesthouses and B&Bs, self-catering town houses and cottages to camping.

One of the latest additions to the long list of places to stay is the restored late 18th century **Albion House** boutique hotel - once a favourite with Royalty and politicians.

The ever-popular **Royal Harbour Hotel** now has additional rooms and The Empire Rooms restaurant which serves quality food in a club-style setting.

Find out more about quality places to stay in Ramsgate at [www.visitthanet.co.uk](http://www.visitthanet.co.uk)





Viking Ship Hugin



Ramsgate Town

## Roots, revival and regeneration

Ramsgate's roots lie in fishing, boat building and farming – a history still reflected in the town's passion for local produce and fish dishes. Construction of the Royal Harbour started in the mid-18th century and finished approximately 100 years later. Much of the fine maritime architecture around the harbour – the main embarkation position for the Napoleonic Wars – still stands today.

The town was perfectly placed to be adopted as a fashionable health and pleasure destination by the wealthier aristocracy during the 18th century with many aspiring to have a second residence at the seaside.

Development of the railways in the mid-19th century made the town and its beaches even more accessible to holiday makers, group excursions and day trippers from the capital and beyond. The growing number of tourists gave a welcome boost to the local economy well into the 20th century.

Today, Ramsgate's many visitors are a new generation of weekend breakers, day trippers, family holiday makers, outdoor enthusiasts seeking sailing and water sports alongside walking and cycling opportunities, second homers and boat owners taking advantage of the marina and its service trades.

Their enthusiasm for coastal escapes, staycations and short breaks away from major towns and cities in exhilarating landscapes is rapidly regenerating Thanet's three distinctive resort towns and their neighbouring villages.

Exciting 21st century attractions, entertainments, outdoor activities and events are now on offer alongside state-of-the-art boutique hotels, B&Bs, waterfront cafés, bistros and restaurants. Further investment in the seaside town is planned for new attractions and high-quality accommodation.

The Heritage Lottery Fund supported the development of a state-of-the-art Pugin and St Augustine education, research and visitor centre at St. Augustine Church. Guided tours and self-guided audio tours are available for visitors keen to discover more about St Augustine and the outstanding architect Augustus Pugin.

The revival of Ramsgate's visitor economy is greatly enhancing the quality of life for the town's 42,000 plus residents and leisure and pleasure seekers alike.

Ramsgate was among the first Heritage Action Zones created by Historic England in the Country - partnerships between local authorities and organisations in towns rich in architectural heritage. The aim is to boost local economies through celebrating and restoring significant buildings and involving more people in the development and restoration of their communities.



Maritime Museum



Pugin's The Grange



St Augustine's Cross

## Did you know?

- The earliest naming of the town in the later 13th century refer to Remmesgate. The name is believed to be from the late Anglo Saxon hremmes, meaning raven, and gate for a gap in the cliffs. In the 14th century the town was referred to as Ramesgate.
- Ramsgate was a member of the Confederation of Cinque Ports.
- Ramsgate is an amalgamation of two settlements – a fishing community on the coast and an inland farming community at St Lawrence.
- An international hoverport used to be based at Pegwell Bay offering speedy crossings of the Channel to France.
- In WW1 Ramsgate suffered the first air raids from Zeppelins.
- The Sailor's Church and Harbour Mission, close to the foot of Jacob's Ladder, was built in 1878 by Canon Eustace Brenan.
- The Rolling Stones performed at Ramsgate's West Cliff Hall to raise funds for the town's football club in 1964.
- St George's Church, a Grade I listed building just off the High Street, has a lantern turret on its west tower, funded by Trinity House, which is used as a navigation aid.
- The popular 19th century Paris society artist James Tissot visited and painted in Ramsgate. A pen and ink drawing in the Tate collection shows a room overlooking the seaside town.
- The English novelist and playwright Wilkie Collins stayed at 14 Nelson Crescent in the 1870s.
- Ramsgate has its own Meridian Line and 'mean time', being 5 minutes and 41 seconds faster than Greenwich Mean Time. This can be seen at the Maritime Museum.
- In 597AD St. Augustine's arrival marked the introduction of Christianity to this country. St. Augustine was the first Archbishop of Canterbury. St. Augustine's Cross marks the area where he is thought to have landed.
- Augustus Pugin and Sir Moses Montefiore both chose Ramsgate as the place to build their ideal communities.





Dreamland ©Oliver Dixon



Margate Main Sands



Margate Old Town

## So close

### MARGATE

Margate was one of the first English seaside resorts with deep roots in the development of visits to the coast for the health benefits of exhilarating sea air and saltwater bathing.

The passion and fashion for seaside fun and frivolity became more accessible with boat trips from London and the arrival of the railways. Margate and neighbouring Cliftonville rapidly became synonymous with family holiday fun, weekend escapes (including romantic liaisons) and daytrips.

Today's visitors soak up the sun, sands and sea with all the enthusiasm of previous generations of the bucket 'n spade brigade as well as a wealth of retro and vintage seaside pleasures presented in 21st century style.

The re-opened and re-imagined Dreamland Pleasure Park celebrates the age of the Great British seaside amusement experience, including the country's oldest wooden roller coaster, and a lively programme of special events.

Visitors to Margate find themselves at the heart of the cultural and creative arts revolution sweeping along the coast of Kent.

- World-class art and cultural exhibitions at Turner Contemporary. In 2019 Turner Contemporary will host the Turner Prize.
- Dreamland, the UK's original pleasure park.
- Margate Old Town, a vibrant and expanding creative sector, affectionately dubbed 'Shoreditch-on-Sea', boasts independent galleries, vintage and retro hotspots, and quirky shops along cobbled streets.

- Classic seaside heritage – magnificent sands, beaches and bays, water sports, rockpools, cockles and whelks, fish 'n chips and candyfloss.
- Major attractions and entertainments alongside many hidden gems.
- Time and space to relax and enjoy the resort's famous Turner sunsets, clifftop walks and trails, and contemporary culture.
- GEEK (Games Expo East Kent–February), Easter Beer Festival (March/April), Mods and 60s Festival, Margate Meltdown (May), Skagate (July), Margate Soul Festival and Carnival (August), Screamlend (October).

*A Margate press pack is available, see back cover.*



Botany Bay



Joss Bay



Viking Bay

## BROADSTAIRS

Broadstairs succeeds in more than satisfying the needs of today's short break, weekend visitors and day trippers who flock to its beaches. Yet the coastal honeypot retains all the charms and features of a traditional seaside destination.

Morelli's, the quintessential 1950s ice cream parlour, still stands at the top of the chalk cliffs overlooking the flowers planted along the promenade and the gently sloping sands and rock pools of Viking Bay.

Charles Dickens, one of the town's most famous visitors and residents, would easily recognise the narrow streets and flint walls in the historic town and the narrow streets winding down to the small harbour.

Throughout the summer, demand is high for the town's many guesthouses and B&Bs, self-catering houses and apartments.

As a resort, and a long-standing favourite destination for people of all ages and interests, Broadstairs more than holds its own and is thriving in the 21st century.

- Seven sand-filled, family-friendly beaches and bays, four with Blue Flag or Seaside Awards.
- Stunning chalk cliffs including caves and the much-photographed stacks at Botany Bay.
- Closest surfing beaches to London and the best in the southeast.
- Timeless seaside charm.
- Traditional fishing harbour, cobbled squares and narrow streets.
- Vibrant nightlife economy and exciting eateries.
- Classic ice cream parlours and coffee shops.
- Clifftop gardens and bandstand.

- Clifftop and foreshore strolls, cycling and golf.
- Blues Bash (February), Spring Food Fair (Easter), Dickens Festival (June), Folk Week and Water Gala (August), Wheels and Fins (September), Broadstairs Food Festival (September/October).

*A Broadstairs press pack is available, see back cover.*



Quex House



Spitfire and Hurricane Memorial Museum



West Bay

## THANET VILLAGES

A short distance from the coast, visitors discover a treasure chest of delights in Thanet's traditional villages.

### Popular visitor gems include:

- Birchington and Westgate – Coastal villages with Blue Flag beaches at Minnis Bay, West Bay and St. Mildred's Bay.
- Quex Park Estate and the Powell-Cotton Museum, Birchington, [www.quexpark.co.uk](http://www.quexpark.co.uk) has a wide range of attractions including the internationally acclaimed museum, restored gardens, activities for children and opportunities to enjoy the best of Kent produce. Full and varied calendar of events.
- The Spitfire and Hurricane Memorial Museum, at Manston, [www.spitfiremuseum.org.uk](http://www.spitfiremuseum.org.uk) now has a Spitfire cockpit simulator so visitors can experience the thrills of wartime flight. Booking is essential for the simulator.
- RAF Manston History Museum at the former wartime airfield.
- Minster Show [www.minstershow.org.uk](http://www.minstershow.org.uk) is celebrating its 132nd anniversary in July 2018. Minster and neighbouring villages work together to present action-packed entertainment, celebrating the success of flower and vegetable growers, cooks, jam and preserve makers and more.
- St. Mary the Virgin Church, Minster – A large roman catholic church with 18 fine medieval misericords, which are amongst the best in south east England.
- Minster Abbey at Minster [www.minster-in-thanet.org.uk/abbey.html](http://www.minster-in-thanet.org.uk/abbey.html) is possibly the oldest inhabited house in the country near where St. Augustine led the first Christian mass in Britain.
- Monkton Nature Reserve and Observatory [www.monkton-reserve.org](http://www.monkton-reserve.org) offers many attractions including trails, UK's first artificial bat cave, fossils and visitor centre.





## Margate, Broadstairs, Ramsgate – why visit?

Londoners have been **escaping** to the Isle of Thanet for more than 200 years for the **relaxed** seaside vibe, brilliant sandy beaches, **fresh** sea air and **romantic** Turner skies.

Here, at the very **edge** of the **Garden of England**, three **Georgian** and **Victorian** resorts, each with its own distinctive character – Margate, Broadstairs and Ramsgate – **cluster** around the **bays** at the far end of the **peninsula**.

There is a **retro** feel to these harbour towns, with their remarkable 18th and 19th century **architecture**, their **classic seaside heritage** and kitsch, their eclectic attractions and live arts and music venues. And there is a variety of **independent** places to shop, eat, drink and stay.

Miles of low **chalk cliffs** edge the peninsula, sheltering a string of **secluded, unspoiled sandy bays**. Chalk **rockpools**, chalk stacks and

**rare** chalk reefs teem with **wildlife**. These are also the closest **surfing beaches** to the capital city and a popular choice for south east boarders.

**Artists, writers** and **musicians** have long been inspired by this almost-island and continue to be drawn here. **Turner** said Thanet had *'the loveliest skies in all Europe'* while, for **Dickens**, Broadstairs was 'the freshest, freest place'. Meanwhile, Tracey **Emin** declares in pink neon on Margate seafront: 'I never stopped loving you'.

The Isle's a **historic landing place** steeped in symbolism for the story of Britain. The **first Saxons, Hengist** and **Horsa**, arrived and settled here; the Romans launched their invasion of Britain, led by **Julius Caesar**, from Pegwell Bay; and **St. Augustine** first stepped on these shores on his way to nearby **Canterbury**.

Now, with **Turner Contemporary**, the return of the iconic pleasure park **Dreamland**, reimagined for the 21st century, and **high-speed trains** from **the capital**, **new generations are discovering this original seaside escape**.

**In person**

Ramsgate Visitor Information  
Customs House  
Harbour Parade  
Ramsgate CT11 8LN

**Visitor Information**

Thanet Visitor Information Centre  
The Droit House  
Stone Pier  
Margate CT9 1JD  
Tel: 01843 577577  
visitorinformation@thanet.gov.uk



@VisitThanet



VisitThanet

[www.visitthanetblog.com](http://www.visitthanetblog.com)

For further information about all Thanet visitor destinations and attractions go to Visit Thanet [www.visitthanet.co.uk](http://www.visitthanet.co.uk). For further media information, press trips and access to up-to-date images, please contact Julie Edwards, Senior Tourism Officer at Visit Thanet, tel: 01843 577671 or email: [Julie.edwards@thanet.gov.uk](mailto:Julie.edwards@thanet.gov.uk)

**VISIT THANET**  
Margate • Broadstairs • Ramsgate

