



# **Broadstairs** Press Pack

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

# Come to Broadstairs?

Broadstairs is a seaside town situated on the Isle of Thanet at the most easterly point of the Garden of England.

Broadstairs is easily accessible by car, coach and train. The country's only high-speed train service, HS1, brings visitors from St Pancras, London, to Broadstairs in just 85 minutes.

There are regular train and bus services, including the Thanet Loop, to the neighbouring resorts of Margate (3.4m / 5.5km) and Ramsgate (2.3m / 3.7km). The City of Canterbury is 18.8 miles (30.25km) away and the Port of Dover, with its cross-Channel services to mainland Europe, just 22.6 miles (36.4km). The Eurotunnel terminal at Folkestone is just 36 miles (57.9 km) distant.

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





Botany Bay



Bleak House and Viking Bay



Surf School

# Escape to Broadstairs

- Seven super sandy, family-friendly beaches and bays, two with Blue Flag Awards and two with Seaside Awards
- Stunning chalk cliffs including caves and the much-photographed stacks at Botany Bay
- Best surfing beaches in the south east and the closest to London
- Timeless seaside charm
- Traditional fishing harbour, cobbled narrow streets and squares
- 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 in February, Spring Fair at Easter, Annual Dickens Festival in June, Folk Week and Water Gala in August, Wheels and Fins Festival in September and acclaimed Food Festival in October

Broadstairs succeeds in more than satisfying the needs of today's generations of 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, stands at the top of the chalk cliffs overlooking floral displays along the promenade and the gently sloping sands and lower tide rock pools of Viking Bay.

Charles Dickens, one of the town's most famous former visitors and residents, would easily recognise the narrow streets winding down to the small fishing harbour and the distinctive flint walls of the older parts of the town.

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

As a resort, and a long-standing favourite destination for people of all ages and interests, Broadstairs is thriving in the 21st century. The town is now home to more than 25,000 people enjoying the changing delights of the seaside throughout the seasons.

## Beaches and bays

Sunseekers, sandcastle builders, swimmers, surfers, fossil hunters, rockpool enthusiasts and more will be delighted with the wide choice of different beaches and bays to be discovered in Broadstairs.

**Botany Bay** – Thanet’s most photographed beach with towering chalk stacks, golden sands and long sea views. This is a great beach for rockpools and fossil hunting when the tide is out. Blue Flag Award

**Kingsgate Bay** – some of the finest examples of sea caves in the country. Secluded sands but cut off at both ends at high tide. Checking times and tides is essential before setting out.

**Joss Bay** – a surfer’s paradise with a 200-metre long sandy beach surrounded by fields, a golf course and space to play. Seaside Award

**Stone Bay** – as the tide goes out beautiful sands and superb rockpools are revealed. Hours of fun within a short distance of Viking Bay. Blue Flag Award

**Viking Bay** – a wide horseshoe bay with outstanding sands, tidal pools, beach huts and children’s activities and rides as well as surf and belly boards. Refreshments, including traditional fish ‘n chips, ice creams and lollies, are readily available. Seaside Award

**Louisa Bay** – a small popular bay with refreshments nearby for when the tide is high and the beach is washed clean by the sea. Sand and delightful rockpools.



Coastal Explorer Packs



The Little Art Gallery

**Dumpton Gap** – quiet sands and rockpools with dramatic chalk cliffs and a great coastline walk to Ramsgate at low tide. Checking times and tides is essential before setting out.

- New **Coastal Explorer Packs** include binoculars, compass, rockpool nets and marine life identification sheets alongside special trails and historic maps for self-guided discovery of the Thanet coast and heritage [www.visitthanet.co.uk/coastalexplorers](http://www.visitthanet.co.uk/coastalexplorers)
- **Beach with Reach** is a small Thanet-based charity providing all-terrain wheelchairs to some of the beautiful beaches and surrounding countryside around Margate and Broadstairs. [www.beachwithinreach.org.uk](http://www.beachwithinreach.org.uk)

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

## Picture perfect

Visitors to **Kent Coast Gallery**, [www.kentcoastgallery.com](http://www.kentcoastgallery.com), are treated to a magnificent overview of the superb coastal sights on offer throughout the seasons across Thanet and beyond.

**The Broadstairs Gallery**, near Viking Bay, displays the work of local and international artists [www.broadstairsgallery.com](http://www.broadstairsgallery.com).

**The Little Art Gallery** is a great visitor destination featuring the work of local artists. The gallery is tucked away just off Harbour Street. Paintings to see and buy [www.thelittleartgallerybroadstairs.com](http://www.thelittleartgallerybroadstairs.com).

**New Kent Art Gallery and Studio** is an intimate gallery space showcasing local artists [www.newkentart.com](http://www.newkentart.com).

## Attractions

### **Dickens House Museum**

([www.dickensmuseumbroadstairs.co.uk](http://www.dickensmuseumbroadstairs.co.uk)): a celebration of the life and times of the great British campaigner, journalist and writer set in the cottage that was the inspiration for the home of Miss Betsey Trotwood in David Copperfield.

### **Bleak House**

([www.bleakhousebroadstairs.co.uk](http://www.bleakhousebroadstairs.co.uk)): an unmissable Charles Dickens connection perched above the historic harbour offering luxury accommodation and memorable afternoon teas. Dickens spent holidays in the house in the 1850s and 1860s.

### **Crampton Tower Museum**

([www.cramptontower.co.uk](http://www.cramptontower.co.uk)): visitors discover the inventions of the Victorian engineer Thomas Crampton, his work for the town and his role in the development of the railways and communication. He was born in Broadstairs on 6 August 1816 and trained on Brunel's Great Western Railway. He laid the first successful cable for a submarine telegraph between Dover and Calais. His tower housed the first waterworks for the resort.

### **St Peter's Village Tours**

([www.villagetour.org.uk](http://www.villagetour.org.uk)): a delightful destination, the village offers visitors four award-winning tours – including two War Graves tours, a Churchyard tour and a chance to explore the village's history with a selection of colourful costumed characters.

### **Revolution Skatepark and Climbing Centre**

([www.revolutionskatepark.co.uk](http://www.revolutionskatepark.co.uk)): Kent's premier indoor Skatepark since 1998, this is the popular destination for skateboarders and climbers to test their skills and enjoy learning new techniques and approaches to their sport.

### **Lillyput Mini Golf**

([www.minigolfbroadstairs.com](http://www.minigolfbroadstairs.com)): a championship mini-golf course, complete with tea garden.



Crampton Tower Museum



Betsey Trotwood's Parlour, Dickens House Museum



St. Peter's Village Tour

## Entertainment

Broadstairs has its own professional performers offering high quality entertainment. The Sarah Thorne Theatre Company presents summer rep, plays, pantomimes, concerts and musical evenings in the intimate Memorial Theatre at Hilderstone College. The company is named after Sarah Thorne, actress and theatre manager of The Theatre Royal, Margate, in the 19th century and originator of the first Drama Schools in the country. Patrons include Dame Judi Dench, David Suchet CBE and Julian Fellowes DL. [www.sarahthornetheatre.co.uk](http://www.sarahthornetheatre.co.uk)

Overlooking Viking Bay and the harbour, The Pavilion and Garden on the Sands is a great destination for a relaxing evening with a lively programme of special musical events and entertainment. [www.pavilion-broadstairs.co.uk](http://www.pavilion-broadstairs.co.uk)

Cinema lovers are bound to want to experience the cosy Palace Cinema – a 111-seat, family-run cinema in the resort's historic Harbour Street. [www.thepalacecinema.co.uk](http://www.thepalacecinema.co.uk)

**Broadstairs Bandstand** was opened in 1892 by Princess Louise, daughter of Queen Victoria. The Bandstand is a focal point for entertainment throughout the year, and it is particularly busy during the summer.

## Outdoor adventures

The Active Coast itinerary planner is the perfect resource for everyone seeking outdoor fun and adventure [www.visitthanet.co.uk/activecoast](http://www.visitthanet.co.uk/activecoast).

Enjoy invigorating and gentle walks exploring inlets and quiet bays cut into the chalk cliffs.

Follow the Viking Coastal Trail (32 miles/51.4 km) or mini routes including Historic Broadstairs and Smugglers' Haunts on foot or on two wheels. Download from [www.vikingcoastaltrail.co.uk](http://www.vikingcoastaltrail.co.uk)

Broadstairs Town Walks (guided) take visitors on a gentle stroll through 600 years of history in just under an hour – Charles Dickens, Hans Christian Anderson and Ronnie Barker are all included! Walks take place from Easter to the end of August, weekends only at 2pm from the Information Kiosk by the Albion Hotel.

**Broadstairs Town Trail** (leaflet) is a self-guided walk around the town with illustrated boards



along the route giving an insight into some of the town's people, history and buildings.

**Turner and Dickens Walk** along the restored four-mile route between Dickens' Broadstairs and Turner's Margate, much of which follows an ancient footpath between St. Peter's and St. John's churches. [www.visitthanet.co.uk/turner-and-dickens-walk/](http://www.visitthanet.co.uk/turner-and-dickens-walk/)

**North Foreland Golf Club** offers seaside golf at its very best with panoramic views from every tee and every green. It is an 18-hole par 3 course. [www.northforeland.co.uk](http://www.northforeland.co.uk)

Discover the fun of surfing and stand up paddle boarding, SUP, with Joss Bay Surf School [www.jossbay.co.uk](http://www.jossbay.co.uk) and Kent Surf School at Viking Bay [www.kentsurfschool.co.uk](http://www.kentsurfschool.co.uk).





Charles Dicken's Study, Bleak House



Dickens House Museum



North Foreland Lighthouse

## Artistic impressions

The Victorian writer **Charles Dickens** (1812-1870) is probably Broadstairs' most famous regular visitor and it is not difficult to follow in his footsteps around the town and find the inspiration behind many of his colourful characters and settings. Many of his novels were completed during his visits.

Author of *The Thirty-Nine Steps* and other novels, **John Buchan** spent time writing during his 1914 visit to the town's North Foreland area near Stone Bay.

**Frank Richards** (Charles Hamilton), the creator of *Billy Bunter*, made his home at Kingsgate, Broadstairs. **Oliver Postgate**, of *Bagpuss*, *Noggin the Nog* and *Clangers* fame, also lived in the town while **Annette Mills**, creator of *Muffin the Mule*, settled in St Peter's.

English Impressionist **Walter Richard Sickert** (1860-1942) regularly painted at his home in St Peter's village.

The artist and illustrator **Sir Samuel Luke Fildes** lived for many years at Holland House, Kingsgate. He illustrated *The Mystery of Edwin Drood* before moving into portraiture and gaining a large and fashionable clientele, including Royals such as **Edward VII**, **Queen Alexandra** and **George V**. These state portraits hang in Buckingham Palace.



Broadstairs Food Festival



Broadstairs Folk Week - ©Dan Bass



Wheels and Fins ©Ben Wilks

## Key Annual Events

### FEBRUARY

#### Blues Bash

[www.broadstairsbluesbash.com](http://www.broadstairsbluesbash.com) – a festival of blues music at venues across the town.

### EASTER

#### Spring Fair

[www.broadstairsfoodfestival.org.uk](http://www.broadstairsfoodfestival.org.uk) – launching the main visitor season with a feast of regional produce and a celebration of culinary delights.

### JUNE

#### Dickens Festival 80th Anniversary

[www.broadstairsdickensfestival.co.uk](http://www.broadstairsdickensfestival.co.uk) – a major celebration of author Charles Dickens' enthusiasm for Broadstairs which he regularly visited between 1837 and 1859. He described the town as 'Our English watering place'. Costumed characters of all ages, Victorian entertainments and special events.

### AUGUST

#### Folk Week

[www.broadstairsfolkweek.org.uk](http://www.broadstairsfolkweek.org.uk) – a major event attracting musicians and folk enthusiasts from across the world. Performances and colourful events are held at venues throughout the resort. Beware of Hooden Horses... but the dragon is friendly.

#### Water Gala

[www.broadstairswatergala.co.uk](http://www.broadstairswatergala.co.uk) – beach competitions, nautical characters, bandstand events, funfairs and fireworks.

### SEPTEMBER

#### Wheels and Fins Festival

[www.wheelsandfins.co.uk](http://www.wheelsandfins.co.uk) – at Joss Bay with skateboard and surf comps, soap box derby, beach volleyball tournament, live music, beer tent and much more.

#### Broadstairs Food Festival

[www.broadstairsfoodfestival.org.uk](http://www.broadstairsfoodfestival.org.uk) – a must-visit for local and visiting foodies alike. In 2018 the festival is celebrating its 10th anniversary (see page 9).

Throughout the summer months there is also a variety of entertainment and events at Broadstairs Bandstand.



# Food and drink, where to stay

## ON THE MENU

Start the day with an accredited **Kent Breakfast** with 60% of the ingredients produced in the Garden of England. [www.visitkent.co.uk/kentbreakfast](http://www.visitkent.co.uk/kentbreakfast)

With a town boasting two major three-day food festivals each year in Spring and Autumn, it is not surprising to learn that Broadstairs is a popular destination for foodies. The **Broadstairs Food Festival** attracts thousands of visitors to the seaside town to taste rare and special foods, many featuring produce from the Garden of England such as superb wines, cask ales and Kent's famous fruit juices. Look out for the Chefs' Theatres and Ask the Experts sessions alongside hundreds of opportunities to sample culinary creations. The 2018 Autumn Food Festival, September 28-30, is celebrating its **10th anniversary** with more than 100 regional produce stalls, regular favourite features, a vintage tea garden and children's activities. [www.broadstairsfoodfestival.org.uk](http://www.broadstairsfoodfestival.org.uk)

Broadstairs has numerous independent cafés, bistros and restaurants welcoming visitors throughout the year and serving a wide range of cuisines. Look out for **Bessie's Tea Parlour** [www.bessiesteaparlour.co.uk](http://www.bessiesteaparlour.co.uk), a touch of nostalgia offering homemade delights crafted from local ingredients whenever possible. Bessie's has been named Kent Food Producer of the Year 2018 by Produced in Kent.

Few visitors to Broadstairs fail to take advantage of the resort's classic ice-cream parlours **Morelli's** and **Chiappini's** overlooking the seafront and Viking Bay.

## WHERE TO STAY?

There are boutique hotels, guest houses and contemporary B&Bs in historic buildings alongside self-catering apartments, fishermen's cottages and houses full of character in the heart of the town and overlooking the sea. Discover the full range of quality assessed accommodation at [www.visitthanet.co.uk/find-accommodation/](http://www.visitthanet.co.uk/find-accommodation/)

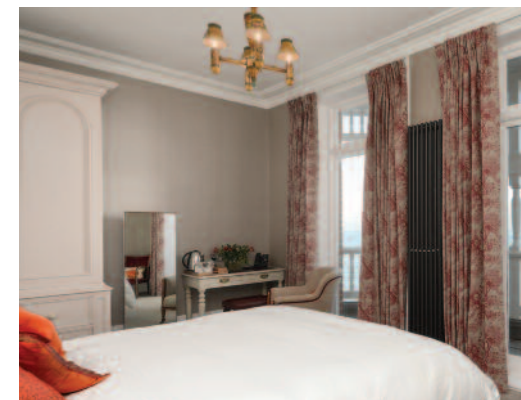
**The Yarrow Hotel** [www.yarrowhotel.co.uk](http://www.yarrowhotel.co.uk) opened just two years ago and its success has been rewarded with four stars as part of the VisitEngland Quality Assurance Scheme. It is the only hotel in the country run by a further

education college as a training ground for the hospitality industry's future leaders. The hotel, which offers a luxurious restaurant for lunch or dinner as well as a hair and beauty salon, is totally focused on the comfort of its guests throughout the day and night.

The popular **Bay Tree Hotel**, [www.baytreebroadstairs.co.uk](http://www.baytreebroadstairs.co.uk), has re-opened following a major refurbishment. The clifftop hotel and restaurant has 10 en-suite bedrooms, many with sea views, furnished with flat screen TVs and tea-making facilities. One double or twin room is accessible to wheelchair users and has a wet room. The hotel has recently been awarded three stars as part of the Visit England Quality Assurance Scheme.



©Alice Horner



Bay Tree Hotel



Beach Huts



Victoria Gardens



Overlooking Viking Bay

## Roots, revival and regeneration

Originally Broadstairs was a fishing settlement much smaller than the inland village of St. Peter's, which was established around the parish church. The coastline, with its many bays, was popular with smugglers and the residents of Broadstairs and St. Peter's had a reputation for being very good at outwitting customs agents.

In the early 19th century, steam packets, closely followed by the railways, made trade and travelling links with London much easier and faster. New residents and visitors began to arrive and by the beginning of the 20th century the population in the now rapidly growing resort topped 10,000. Today Broadstairs is home to approximately 25,000 people.

Grand houses, impressive estates for wealthy Londoners and their families, and hotels were built along the clifftops and in the town. Broadstairs was quickly established as a highly desirable place to live and visit throughout the year.

Investment and the development of new retail parks and a major modern shopping leisure centre at Westwood Cross, on the outskirts of the historic town, has enabled businesses to restore and revive many of Broadstairs' traditional buildings as independent shops, contemporary visitor accommodation and weekend escapes for second homers.

A multi-million pounds investment has transformed East Kent College's historic Yarrow Building into a four-star training hotel with luxury restaurant for lunch and dinner, and a hair and beauty salon.

## Did you know?

- North Foreland Lighthouse was the last manned lighthouse in the country. It was automated in 1998. The lighthouse inspired the author Wilkie Collins' famous novel *The Woman in White* (1859).
- The large dome 'beehive' at Crampton Tower Museum has an amazing echo and was used, along with the Tower, as an Air Raid Precautions (ARP) centre during WWII.
- St. Peter's church tower was used as a signalling station by the Royal Navy during the Napoleonic wars. The church still claims the right to fly the White Ensign.
- Viking Bay served as a training ground for British troops, stationed in Chandos Square, during the Napoleonic Wars.
- St. Peter's churchyard is one of the longest in the country and the largest "Closed Churchyard" in England.
- Broadstairs gained the first lifeboat to be stationed on the south coast in 1850. One year later it carried out a rescue from the Goodwin Sands.
- Joss Snelling (1741-1837), known as The Famous Broadstairs Smuggler, was born in Lanthorn Road. The lifestyle must have suited him as it is recorded he was fined for smuggling when he was 89 years old .
- Thomas Russell Crampton (1816-1888), the Victorian inventor and engineer, was born in Broadstairs and brought gas and water works to the town.
- Broadstairs Dickens Festival started in 1937.
- Broadstairs has seven beautiful beaches and bays, two with Blue Flags and two with Seaside Awards.
- Morelli's, at Victoria Parade, Broadstairs, is a coffee bar and ice cream cafe preserved almost unaltered since its refurbishment in 1957. It's one of very few original 1950s coffee bars left in the country and described by one enthusiast as 'a symphony of Formica, vinyl and lino'. Morelli's opened at this location in 1932.
- In 1827 the widowed Duchess of Kent and her young daughter Victoria lived at Pierremont Hall, Broadstairs, for three months. The house belonged to Edward Fletcher. He rented it to the Duchess for 25 guineas per week. This was just one of many visits to different parts of the Isle of Thanet before 18-year-old Victoria became Queen in 1837.



St. Peter's Churchyard



North Foreland Lighthouse



Pierremont Park



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.*



Westcliff Arcade



Royal Harbour



Ramsgate Tunnels

## RAMSGATE

Ramsgate, a favourite seaside destination of Princess Victoria, is an architectural jewel in the coastal crown of Thanet.

The town's long maritime history as a port, with the country's only Royal Harbour, and its thriving modern marina have contributed to the development of a relaxing waterfront with bustling bistros and restaurants.

The resort's fine weather, superb sands, sea air and stunning views from the cliffs alongside elegant side streets, independent shops, galleries and seaside entertainments add even more flavour to Ramsgate's popular café culture.

- UK's only Royal Harbour.
- Golden sands, famous family-friendly beaches and bays, boat trips and clifftop walks.
- Modern marina filled with luxury yachts.
- Augustus Pugin's house, The Grange, and St. Augustine's Church.
- Elegant Georgian, Regency and Victorian architecture with hundreds of listed buildings.
- Ramsgate Tunnels built to protect civilians during WWII.
- Active Ramsgate itinerary including two canoe trails and coastal walks.
- Continental café culture along the south-facing waterfront.
- Fine eateries serving local produce including seafoods.
- Retro and contemporary boutique hotels, guesthouses, B&Bs and self-catering.
- Events include Great Bucket and Spade Run (June), Ramsgate Week, an alternative to Cowes, including Ramsgate Festival (July) and Heritage Open Days (September).

*A Ramsgate 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 diary of annual 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 at 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](http://www.minster-in-thanet.org.uk/abbey) 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 **laidback** seaside vibe ... breathtaking 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's 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, unspoilt sandy bays**. Chalk **rockpools**, chalk stacks and **rare**

chalk reefs teem with **wildlife**. These are the closest **surfing beaches** to the capital city: a popular choice with 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" ... for **Dickens**, Broadstairs was "the freshest, freest place" ... and 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 ... and **St Augustine** first stepped onto these shores on his way to nearby **Canterbury**.

For this is the **furthest** south east you can go in Britain ... almost touching mainland **Europe** ... yet these days only 75 minutes from central London ...

And now with the **Turner Contemporary** gallery, the return of the iconic pleasure park **Dreamland**, reimagined for the 21st century, and **high-speed trains** from the capital ... a **new generation** is discovering this **original seaside escape**.

Find out more at [www.visitthanet.co.uk](http://www.visitthanet.co.uk) or:

**In person**

Broadstairs Information Kiosk,  
Royal Albion Garden Kiosk,  
Victoria Promenade, Broadstairs, CT10 1AN  
[www.broadstairsinfokiosk.co.uk](http://www.broadstairsinfokiosk.co.uk)

**Visitor Information**

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



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[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

