



Margate Press Pack

www.visitthanet.co.uk

28 September 2019
to 12 January 2020
Turner Contemporary
hosts the
Turner Prize 2019

Come to Margate?

This very vibrant seaside resort on the Isle of Thanet, rests on the most easterly point of the 'Garden of England'.

Margate is easily accessible by car, coach and train. The country's only high-speed train service, HS1, from London St Pancras to Margate takes just 90 minutes.

There are regular train and bus services, including the Thanet Loop, to the neighbouring resorts of Broadstairs (3.4 miles/5.5 km) and Ramsgate (5.3 miles/8.5 km). The City of Canterbury is just 17 miles (27.4 km) away and the Port of Dover, with cross-Channel services to mainland Europe, is 22.6 miles (36.4 km). The Eurotunnel terminal in Folkestone is 34.5 miles (55.5 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.





Turner Contemporary



© Dreamland-Margate



Escape to Margate

- World-class art and cultural exhibitions at Turner Contemporary which has been chosen to host the **Turner Prize 2019** (see p.11)
- Dreamland Margate, the UK's original pleasure park, re-imagined for the 21st century
- Vibrant and expanding creative sector, known as 'Shoreditch-on-Sea'
- Classic seaside heritage featuring magnificent sands, water sports, rockpools, cockles and whelks, fish 'n chips and candyfloss
- Margate Old Town - independent galleries, vintage and retro hotspots, and quirky shops along cobbled streets
- Major attractions and entertainments alongside many hidden gems
- Time and space to relax and enjoy the resort's famous Turner sunsets, clifftop walks and contemporary culture
- Full diary of events and festivals

Margate was one of the first English seaside destinations to start entertaining visitors to the coast for the health benefits of exhilarating sea air and salt water bathing.

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

Unsurprisingly, many visitors wanted to hold on to their holiday experiences and set up home on the coast. High quality estates were built in adjoining Cliftonville. Initially these were detached and semi-detached houses with gardens but were quickly followed by newly fashionable bungalows, set along wide avenues leading down to the seafront.

Cliftonville accommodated the newer residents and provided numerous guest houses and smaller private hotels for visitors to Margate. Larger hotels took pride of place high on the chalk cliffs overlooking the sea.

Visitors today 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 innovative and revived seaside pleasures alongside internationally-acclaimed exhibitions.

Along with the main town's 53,470 residents, visitors find themselves at the heart of the cultural and creative arts revolution sweeping the Kent coast.



Margate Main Sands



Coastal Explorer Packs



Beaches and bays

Paddling, rockpools and sandcastles alongside swimming and water sports ensure Margate's many beautiful bays are perfect for all ages and abilities.

Margate Main Sands, a Blue Flag Award winner, is a spacious family favourite with golden sands, children's rides and all beach facilities. Plenty of ice creams, lollies, candyfloss, cockles and whelks, and fish 'n chips are available nearby.

Walpole Bay, a Seaside Award beach, includes a 1930s tidal pool still loved by 'wild' swimmers today. The long bay is perfect for exploring rockpools and crabbing. The bay is named in honour of the former British Prime Minister Robert Walpole.

Westbrook Bay is a Blue Flag winning family beach officially designated for water sports including water-skiing.

(2019 Awards applied for and awaiting confirmation)

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

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

Discover more of Thanet's award-winning beaches at www.visitthanet.co.uk/beaches-bays

Galleries

Turner Contemporary is an internationally-renowned gallery showing contemporary and historical art. Entry is free, making great art accessible to all.

In a striking building designed by award-winning architect Sir David Chipperfield, on the site where JMW Turner stayed in the 18th and 19th centuries, Turner Contemporary presents a rolling programme of temporary exhibitions, events and learning opportunities. See Turner Contemporary's website www.turnercontemporary.org for full information about current exhibitions and upcoming events.

From 28 September 2019 to 12 January 2020 Turner Contemporary will be hosting the Turner Prize 2019.

Great art can also be found in the many galleries dotted around Margate Old Town and along Northdown Road in Cliftonville.

Attractions

The Shell Grotto

(www.shellgrotto.co.uk) – tucked away just a short walk inland, this memorable attraction and its myriad of shell patterns still intrigues visitors as its many mysteries have never been resolved.

Walpole Bay Hotel, Living Museum and Napery

(www.walpolebayhotel.co.uk) – a popular destination for celebrity guests with exhibits throughout the hotel and in the Napery. The Napery is a gallery of textile art on table linen.

Margate Museum

(www.margatemuseum.org) – a real gem set in a former police station and magistrate's court. Exhibitions and standing exhibits reflecting Margate's history and its wartime experiences.

The Tudor House

(www.margatemuseum.org) one of Margate's oldest buildings dating from the first half of the 16th century.

Hornby Visitor Centre

(www.hornby.com/uk-en/hornby-visitor-centre) – a journey through the history of Britain's best loved toys.

Margate Caves

Due to re-open in Summer (see page 11).
www.margatecaves.co.uk

Quex Park, The Powell Cotton Museum, Quex House and Victorian gardens, The Secret Garden Centre, Jungle Jim's indoor and outdoor children's play area, Quex Barn indoor farmers market and restaurant, offering top quality local produce and more in nearby Birchington – year-round entertainment and fun for all the family. The Powell-Cotton Museum has been named as one of the most inspiring museum and heritage attractions in the UK. (www.quexpark.co.uk)

Dreamland

(www.dreamland.co.uk) – the UK's original pleasure park is full of a host of stylishly restored, recreated and retro-fitted rides and amusements from the Golden Age of British seaside hols. Thrills and spills for all the family as well as a popular destination for a strong programme of music events.

Drapers Windmill

(www.draperswindmill.org.uk) – a 19th century Kentish smock mill, built in 1845 by master millwright John Holman of Canterbury. Worked by wind until 1916 and then by gas engine, restored in the 1970s.



Shell Grotto



Powell-Cotton Museum



Hornby Visitor Centre

Entertainment and Outdoor Adventures

The Theatre Royal

(www.theatreroyalmargate.com) – a regional theatre with a reputation for offering lively professional and community entertainments.

The Winter Gardens

(www.margatewintergardens.co.uk) – set on the clifftops, the famous large venue stages a wide range of events, concerts and entertainments throughout the year.

The Tom Thumb Theatre

(www.tomthumbtheatre.co.uk) – one of the smallest theatres in the world created in a former coach house. Look out for comedy nights, burlesque, off-beat cinema, live music and more.

Escape Rooms

Margate has two escape rooms to try out: Ctrl Alt Esc (www.ctrlaltesc.co.uk) - select from either Frankenscape, Spacescape or Detention and do your best to escape in 90 minutes.

Tom Thumb Theatre



The Escapement

(www.escapementmargate.co.uk) - three highly themed rooms to choose from The Pit, Egyptian Exodus and Pirates of Pilates. Winner of the Golden Key Award.

Take the opportunity to swim or water-ski at the resort's main bays. Stride out for exhilarating walks on the cliffs along the foreshore or take to two wheels on the **Viking Coastal Trail**.

The Trail (32 miles/51.4km), with mini routes for walkers and cyclists, explores Smugglers' Haunts and Beaches & Bays. Alternatively, create your own path along the trail walking or cycling from Margate and Birchington to Reculver Towers or set off from Margate to the popular resorts of Broadstairs and Ramsgate. Download the Viking Coastal Trail map at www.vikingcoastaltrail.co.uk

Viking Coastal Trail at Minnis Bay



The Active Coast itinerary planner

offer even more outdoor fun and adventures to enjoy www.visitthanet.co.uk/activecoast including 'Great Days Out Whatever the Weather' suggesting a wealth of ways to discover and explore different aspects of Margate and its neighbouring towns and villages. www.visitthanet.co.uk/itinerary-planner

Uncover the hidden depths of Margate past and present along the Margate Heritage Trail or step out along a restored ancient footpath between Turner's Margate and Dickens' Broadstairs (4 miles/6.4km). www.visitthanet.co.uk/turner-and-dickens-walk/

Don't forget to take advantage of a Coastal Explorer Pack
www.visitthanet.co.uk/coastalexplorers

Coastal Explorer





Turner sunset



'Mrs Booth' Shell Lady



'I never stopped loving you', Tracey Emin

Artistic impressions

JMW Turner's time living with his landlady and companion Mrs Sophia Booth in Margate made a lasting impression on his work as he rose to the challenges of capturing the qualities of light. Turner Contemporary now stands where he used to live. Turner (1775-1851) wrote: 'The loveliest skies in Europe are over the Isle of Thanet'.

Tracey Emin, one of the famous Britartists, grew up in Thanet and now has a studio in Margate. She announced her affection for the town in pink neon: I Never Stopped Loving You. **TS Eliot** (1888 – 1965) wrote large sections of *The Waste Land* while convalescing in Margate. **David Watkin** (1925 – 2008) the award-winning cinematographer was born in Margate. He worked with such directors as *Ken Russell* and *Franco Zeffirelli*. His work can be seen in such classics as *Out of Africa* and *Chariots of Fire*.

Famous entertainers with *Blue Plaques* to be discovered in Margate include *Eric Morecambe*, *Hattie Jacques* and *John Le Mesurier*. Download a copy of the Margate Heritage Trail at www.visitthanet.co.uk.



Margate Meltdown



Top Events

Turner Contemporary Exhibitions 2019

A place that exists only in moonlight: Katie Paterson & JMW Turner - until 6 May

The largest UK exhibition of Scottish artist Katie Paterson to date, whose work explores our relationship as humans with the vastness and wonder of the universe. The exhibition will also include over 20 watercolours and paintings by JMW Turner, selected by Katie Paterson.

Seaside: Photographed - 25 May to 8 September - This will be Turner Contemporary's first photography exhibition, curated by Val Williams and Karen Shepherdson. This major exhibition will examine the relationship between photographers, photography and the British seaside from the 1850s to the present.

The Turner Prize 2019 - 28 September 2019 to 12 January 2020.
See page 11 for further information.
www.turnercontemporary.org

EASTER

Thanet Easter Beer and Cider Festival – CAMRA annual beer festival with real ales, ciders and perries at Margate Winter Gardens.
www.margatewintergardens.co.uk

MAY

Margate Mod & 60s Festival – celebrate the town's connections with the Mods and 60s over the Whitsun bank holiday weekend.
www.gbmusicculture.co.uk

Margate Meltdown is a major motorcycle ride from the Ace Café, London, to Margate for a celebration of motorcycles and memorabilia, music and entertainments.
www.acecafe.com/events/

JULY

Skagate – the best in original 60s Ska, Reggae and Soul with guest live performances and DJs.
www.olbyssoulcafe.co.uk

AUGUST

Margate Soul Festival – visitors from across the world enjoy the best of soul music and the resort's traditional seaside carnival filled with colourful floats.
www.margatesoulfestival.co.uk

SEPTEMBER TO JANUARY 2020

Margate Now – an ambitious and dynamic festival of arts, events and performances. This year, in response to the Turner Prize, the programme runs from 28 September 2019 to 12 January 2020.
www.margatefestival.org

OCTOBER

Screamland – the multi award-winning Screamland, dubbed by industry experts as 'the best scare event on any UK park', returns to Dreamland.
www.dreamland.co.uk/events

Food and drink

WHAT'S ON THE MENU?

Look out for opportunities to enjoy a great Kent Breakfast – fare to suit all tastes for a morning boost with more than 60 per cent of the food and drink served produced in Kent.
www.producedinkent.co.uk/kent-breakfast

Margate is home to a wide range of eateries and excellent dining opportunities, with new venues popping up all the time. Enjoy a variety of cuisines alongside award-winning fish 'n chips. Many restaurants in the town serve local produce including the Buoy and Oyster – Restaurant of the Year in the Taste of Kent Awards 2018.

Thanet has a wide range of eateries and fine dining opportunities.

Angela's Margate aims 'to serve delicious, ethically sourced, sustainable seafood, alongside simple, seasonal vegetable-based dishes', and is



featured in The Good Food Guide, receiving the Editors Award in a new category, 'Best for Sustainability'.

Hantverk and Found is a fish and seafood restaurant, with a small selection of vegetarian dishes and local cheese and charcuterie on offer, which is listed in the Michelin Guide.

Go to www.visitthanet.co.uk/stay-and-eat/eating-and-drinking/food-awards/ to see more award winning restaurants.

Local produce is readily available at Cliftonville's Farmers Market, as well as in shops across the Isle. For a real taste of the traditional seaside, sample Mannings' cockles and whelks on Margate harbour arm. Find out more at www.visitthanet.co.uk



WHERE TO STAY?

Visitors are spoiled for choice in the many places to stay in Margate and its villages from new and restored state-of-the-art boutique hotels alongside the Old Town, to fine rooms embracing views over the sea and sands; contemporary guest houses and B&Bs, as well as self-catering cottages and houses or camping opportunities.

Discover a range of accommodation at:
www.visitthanet.co.uk/find-accommodation/





Margate Harbour Arm



Roots, revival and regeneration

Once a small coastal village, Margate's development as a health and pleasure destination and then into one of the most popular seaside holiday spots in the country led to rapid expansion along the seafront and inland.

Early growth was fuelled by the need for accommodation, not only for visitors, but all the people working in the tourism industry and everyone keen to acquire permanent and retirement homes for all-year enjoyment of the coast and its stunning landscapes.

Thanks to public and private investment, including the arrival of the internationally-acclaimed gallery at Turner Contemporary in 2011 and the re-opening of Dreamland in 2015, the resort is once again a leading, must-see UK destination meeting the needs of weekenders, day trippers and classic family holiday fun enthusiasts. Today, taking advantage of high

speed trains, many Londoners have relocated to the town to enjoy its cultural buzz and stunning coast.

Luxury and themed boutique hotels, stylish B&Bs and guest houses and a range of restaurants have opened to welcome the new generation of visitors.

The golden sands of Margate and the rockpools of Walpole Bay promise hours of entertainment in the fresh air while the energetic can test their skills in a wide range of water sports, coastal walking routes and cycle paths.

Taking in an exhibition at Turner Contemporary can be followed by gentle strolls through the cobbled streets of Margate Old Town with galleries and workshops, vintage and retro shops, plus a wide range of contemporary eateries and cafés.

Visitors can regularly sit back and marvel at the dramatic sunsets that so inspired JMW Turner when he lived and painted in the town, before selecting from an excellent choice of fine dining venues and exploring the numerous entertainments on offer at the town's theatres and venues.

WHAT'S NEW AND COMING SOON

Turner Contemporary will host the **Turner Prize 2019** from 28 September 2019 to 12 January 2020. One of the best-known prizes for the visual arts in the world, the Turner Prize aims to promote public debate around new developments in contemporary British art. Every other year, the prize leaves Tate Britain and is presented at a venue outside London.

Victoria Pomery OBE, Director of Turner Contemporary said: "This is a truly transformative opportunity for Margate to be part of something which invites conversations on an international scale, connecting our audiences to outstanding contemporary art and inspiring future generations of creative talent."

New Digital Discoveries Plaques Three eye-catching new plaques can be seen at key locations across Margate. The plaques tease the reader with a hint of information that can be discovered, then upon entering a code into their mobile device, the location and its stories come alive through video, audio and imagery. www.visitthanet.co.uk/digitaldiscovery

Dreamland is one of Britain's oldest surviving amusement parks and has been an essential part of Margate's identity for nearly 100 years.

Thanet District Council's efforts to secure the site has unlocked significant regeneration works and, along with the Heritage Lottery Fund, the Dreamland Trust and other public organisations, has helped secure £18m of public funding. It is likely that the site's jewels – the Grade II* listed Scenic Railway; the Grade II* listed cinema complex and the Grade II listed menagerie cages - would have further degenerated without this intervention.

Alongside the operator's new and rejuvenated offer which opened on 26 May 2017, the council has undertaken the next phase of redevelopment to restore the front of the cinema building and bring the iconic Sunshine Café back to life. www.thanet.gov.uk/dreamland

Margate Caves are set to open to the public in 2019 following a long campaign to develop a new tourist attraction in the town. They were closed in 2004 following a structural survey. Since 2011, campaigners determined to save the caves have gained major funding from the Big Lottery Fund and Heritage Lottery Fund, boosted by a crowdfunding initiative. Find out more about this exciting project at: www.margatecaves.co.uk.

Ghosts on the Go is a brand new outdoor game from Ctrl Alt Esc escape rooms - an interactive, puzzling adventure around Margate which involves hunting clues and solving local mysteries before they disappear. www.ctrlaltesc.co.uk



©Dreamland Margate



© Frank Leppard



All Saints Church, Birchington



Seaside Room, Margate Museum



TS Eliot shelter

Did you know?

- Margate was originally Meregate (meaning marsh gate) because, until modern times, the town lay between two tidal creeks.
- Margate was one of the first seaside resorts, the first to have donkey rides and the first to introduce deckchairs.
- Margate was one of the pioneers to offer bathing facilities and with its proximity to London was a perfect resort for the city's middle classes to enjoy the horse drawn 'machines' which offered privacy while bathing.
- The dome in the Shell Grotto acts as an accurate solar calendar.
- Margate's Theatre Royal is Kent's oldest theatre.
- Comedian Eric Morecambe (1926-1984) held his wedding reception at the Bull's Head, Market Place.
- George Bernard Shaw (1856-1950), regarded by many as the greatest English dramatist since Shakespeare, visited Margate in 1907. Arriving on the Granville Express, he went straight to the Theatre Royal to coach a new actor appearing in his play John Bull's Other Island.
- Dante Gabriel Rossetti (1828-1882), one of the founders of the pre-Raphaelite brotherhood, moved to Birchington, near Margate, in 1882 hoping to recover from a serious illness. He died soon after his arrival. His grave is marked by a Celtic cross by the south door at All Saints Church, Birchington.
- TS Eliot (1888-1965), Karl Marx (1818-1883) and Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958) all cited their time in Margate as being pivotal in the creation of their most famous works –The Waste Land, Das Kapital and The Lark Ascending respectively. • Margate pioneered mixed bathing in the early 1900s.
- Samuel Pepys used to get his colleagues drunk on 'Northdown Ale' imported from Margate.
- The most famous self portrait of JMW Turner, aged 24, will appear on the £20 note by 2020.

- The Beatles topped the bill and played for six consecutive nights at the Winter Gardens in July 1963. Their debut album, Please, Please Me, had been released a few months earlier and at the top of the charts for many weeks. They were being mobbed by fans so to escape at the end of their shows they used a little-known tunnel leading to a side entrance. During World War II, cells leading off the tunnel were used to hold and interrogate German prisoners of war – usually pilots who had bailed out over Thanet.
- Self-styled nobleman 'Lord' George Sanger was a showman, circus proprietor and legend in his lifetime. He founded the Hall-by-the-Sea in Margate (now part of the Dreamland complex) which was a combination of pleasure gardens, zoo and entertainment centre. His burial place in Margate Cemetery is marked by a striking horse statue and can be seen on a Margate Cemetery Tour.

- The Margate Museum of today, in the busy Old Town, was the magistrates' court until 1972. It hosted two hearings marking high points of moral panics concerning the sale of saucy postcards which were banned as a result. In 1964 the magistrates were busy again after Mods and Rockers came to the town over the Whitsun Weekend. Their behaviour led to press outrage and public outcry condemning gang warfare and the battle of the beaches.
- A Royal Naval Air Service Station, used by seaplanes and land planes, was opened at St Mildred's Bay, Westgate, at the start of WWI. The site was soon the scene of several night accidents. As a result, in the winter of 1915-16 aircraft started to use open farmland at Manston for emergency landings. Shortly afterwards, Manston officially developed into a Royal Naval Station. In WWII it became a frontline Battle of Britain airfield.



Margate Cemetery



Walpole Bay, Tidal Pool



St Mildreds Bay



Botany Bay



Viking Bay

So close

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), 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.



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, 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 St. Augustine Week (May/June), 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



Minnis 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 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 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 is celebrating its 133rd anniversary in July 2019. 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.minsterabbeynuns.org 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 offers many attractions including trails, UK's first artificial bat cave, fossils and visitor centre.
- Birchington and Westgate – coastal villages with Blue Flag beaches at Minnis Bay, West Bay, and St. Mildred's Bay.
- St. Mary the Virgin Church – A large Norman church with later additions and some unusual architecture. 18 fine medieval misericords, which are amongst the best in south east England.



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**.

Key Tourism Stats

The Cambridge Model Economic Impact Study 2017 shows:

- The value of tourism to the local economy is £319m.
- We welcomed 4.2 million visitors to the area.
- Tourism in Thanet supports 7,950 jobs.

To see the full report go to www.visitthanetbusiness.co.uk

For further media information including packs on Thanet, Broadstairs and Ramsgate, 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

For further information on Margate the Isle of Thanet, attractions and accommodation go to www.visitthanet.co.uk
for visitor stats go to www.visitthanetbusiness.co.uk



VISIT THANET
Margate • Broadstairs • Ramsgate

