Welcome to Maidstone and the heart of the Garden of England

visit Maidstone

MAIDSTONE Borough Council

Bringing a Group to Maidstone

Maidstone is the perfect destination for any group visit, whatever their age or interests, whether it be a day visit, short break or a longer stay. Maidstone is great for sightseeing excursions wherever you come from in the UK or Europe, and is a popular destination for overseas visitors.

Special Interest Groups particularly enjoy our castles, gardens and historical tours, while sports clubs and societies of all kinds can enjoy a mass of activities.

Senior citizens will have fun trying new experiences or honing and improving existing skills.

For Schools

Maidstone is great for school groups, with the strong educational aspects of our Museums and the opportunity to discover some fascinating countryside, along with the chance to see agricultural practices first hand and perhaps develop some life skills.

For Business

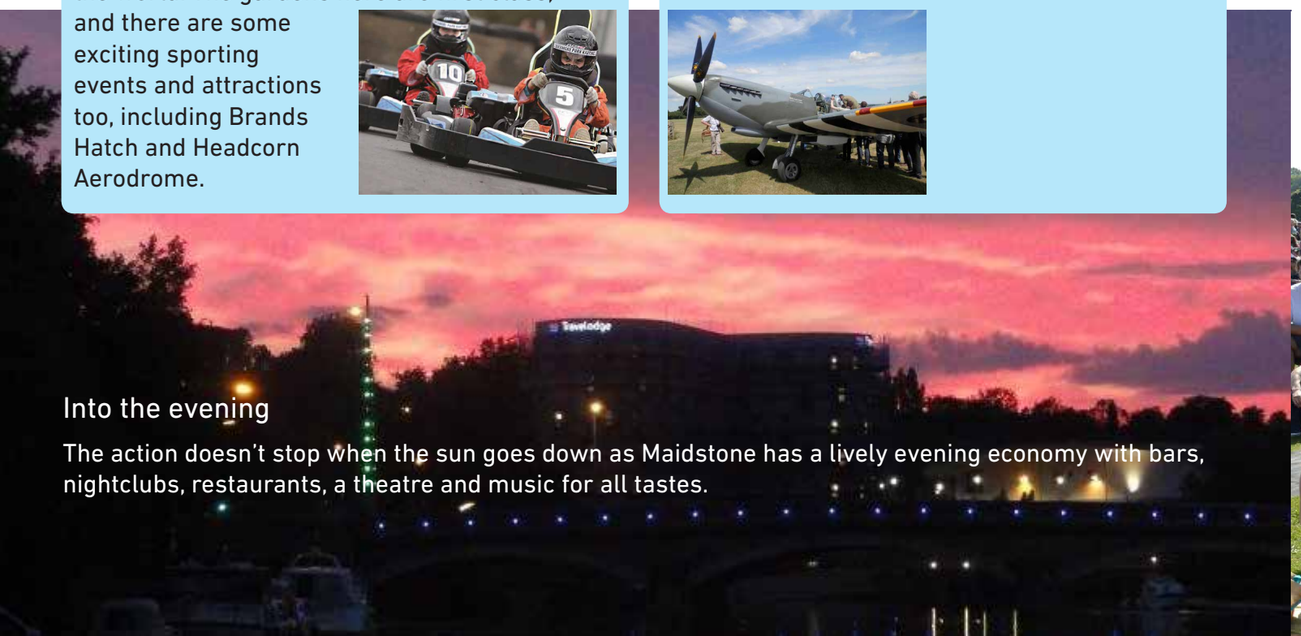
For business travellers or those looking for conferencing, Maidstone is a fantastic location. It is close to the Channel Tunnel and Europe, with high speed rail links to Ebbsfleet and just 20 minutes from the M25 and the road network. Visit www.conferencemaidstone.com for further details

Tailored itineraries & Special events

Whether you are travelling for business or pleasure, itineraries or special events can be organised to suit your group. Historic and heritage tours are popular not only in Maidstone, and Kent is probably one of the best places in the world. The gardens here are first class, and there are some exciting sporting events and attractions too, including Brands Hatch and Headcorn Aerodrome.

Unusual experiences

Maidstone offers some unusual photographic experiences, such as the Wildlife Heritage Foundation and AeroLegends where you can fly alongside historic Spitfires.



Into the evening

The action doesn't stop when the sun goes down as Maidstone has a lively evening economy with bars, nightclubs, restaurants, a theatre and music for all tastes.

How we can help you

- Booking accommodation - our buying power enables us to negotiate the most competitive rates on your behalf
- Venues for refreshments/rest stops - our fabulous range of restaurants, bars and cafes can accommodate those wanting light refreshments to banquets. Special dinners and events can be arranged at a number of attractions
- Coach Parking information - advice on drop-off points and where to park
- Itineraries - we are really good at this! With our unrivalled knowledge of Maidstone and the Heart of Kent area we can help you plan the perfect itinerary
- Attraction information - opening times, facilities, etc. We can also sometimes get exclusive visits for your group outside normal opening hours. Some venues only open for groups, giving you a unique experience
- Events - we can help with up-to-date information on 'What's On' including exhibitions and festivals
- Tours - exclusive tailor made walking tours of the town with one of our professional guides. A great way to explore Maidstone's hidden gems.

EVENTS

You may be organising a trip to coincide with a local event and you may wish to stay overnight or find out about other things to do and see whilst on your trip. Our fully interactive website www.visitmaidstone.com is the perfect place to look!

We also produce a small leaflet about our events, which we are happy to send out to you upon request.

If you would like further details or advice on planning your visit, contact:

The Marketing Team

Maidstone Culture & Leisure

Maidstone Borough Council

King Street

Maidstone

Kent

ME15 6JQ

Tel: 01622 602169

info@visitmaidstone.com

www.visitmaidstone.com

Attractions

LEEDS CASTLE
Leeds, nr Maidstone,
ME17 1PL
01622 767865
groups@leeds-castle.co.uk
www.leeds-castle.com

Once described as 'the loveliest castle in the world'. Easily accessible and surrounded by 500 acres of parkland and gardens. Attractions include the maze and grotto, unique dog collar museum, a temporary exhibition space with regular new exhibits and an interpretation centre with an excellent video of the castle. Seasonal events throughout the year. Land train runs between the entrance and the castle and can take wheelchairs.

Open daily
Apr - Sept: 10:30 - 18:00 (last admission 16:30)
Oct - Mar: 10:30 - 17:00 (last admission 15:00)
Average length of visit: 5hrs
Min number: 15 Max number: Unlimited
Adult prices from £15.25. Concessions available.

Facilities	
Restaurant	Yes
Café	Yes
Disabled facilities	Yes
Ground floor access	Yes
Other floor access	Yes, some restrictions
Disabled parking	Yes
Disabled toilets	Yes

MAIDSTONE MUSEUMS
St Faith's Street, Maidstone,
ME14 1LH
01622 602838
www.maidstonemuseum.org

Maidstone Museum is housed in a charming Elizabethan Manor House in the centre of Maidstone. Each gallery will fascinate and surprise with a wealth of objects to see and enjoy. The Natural History Gallery, Japanese Gallery and costume gallery remain very popular and the local exhibits celebrate Maidstone's uniqueness. Travelling exhibitions generate new and interesting things to do and see all year, and the café is great for refreshments during your tour.

Open
Tuesday - Saturday: 10:00 - 17:00
Sunday (Apr - Oct only): 12:00 - 16:00
Min number: 10 Max number: 10 coaches

Facilities	
Café	Yes
Disabled facilities	Yes, some restrictions
Ground floor access	Yes, some restrictions
Other floor access	Yes, some restrictions
Disabled toilets	Yes

MAIDSTONE CARRIAGE MUSEUM
Mill Street, Maidstone, ME15 6YE
01622 602838
museuminfo@maidstone.gov.uk
www.maidstonemuseum.org

Probably the largest collection of horse-drawn vehicles in the country, including outstanding examples of State, commercial and private carriages, offering a fascinating insight into life in a bygone era. Housed in the 14th century Archbishops' Stables. Guided tours by prior arrangement.

Open
May - September
Friday & Saturday: 10:00 - 16:00
Sunday: 12:00 - 16:00
Min number: 3 Max number: 1 coach
Adults £2, Concessions £1, Family ticket £5
Out of season tours can be organised

Facilities	
Café	No
Disabled facilities	No
Ground floor access	Yes
Disabled parking	No
Disabled toilets	No

KENT LIFE
Lock Lane, Sandling, Maidstone
0622 763936
enquiries@kentlife.org.uk
www.kentlife.org.uk

This is Kent's premier farm attraction which portrays rural life in Kent over the past 100 years. With 28 acres of fun including educational and family activities, indoor and outdoor play areas, traditional farm breeds, discovery trails and a hands-on cuddle corner. Lots of excellent events year round.

Open daily
From 10am, closing times vary according to season
Min number: 15 Max number: 10 coaches

Facilities	
Café	Yes
Disabled facilities	Yes
Ground floor access	Yes
Other floor access	Yes, some restrictions
Disabled parking	Yes
Disabled toilets	Yes

ARCHBISHOPS' PALACE
Mill Street, Maidstone,
ME15 6YE
01622 701926

This important heritage site, first mentioned in the Domesday Book as land held by the Archbishop of Canterbury at 'Meddestane' was redeveloped as a Palace in 1384. It was one of several medieval palaces serving the Archbishops travelling between Canterbury and London. It is now Maidstone's Register Office and not open to the public. However, it is possible to walk around the outside and to visit the Infirmerers' Garden, which is a little gem.

Open
Garden and grounds 24 hour access

Facilities	
Café	No
Disabled facilities	Yes
Ground floor access	Yes
Disabled parking	Yes
Disabled toilets	Yes

ALL SAINTS CHURCH
Mill Street, Maidstone,
ME15 6YE
01622 843298
www.maidstoneallsaints.co.uk

This historic church was rebuilt in the 14th Century by Archbishop Courtenay to become one of the grandest perpendicular churches in England. A memorial to local man Lawrence Washington shows the family coat of arms, which inspired the 'Stars & Stripes'. Fascinating building with musket shots in doors and sword slashes in the stone - a truly authentic building. Guided tours can be arranged.

Open
May - Sept: Mon - Thurs: 10:00 - 16:00 Sat: 10:30 - 12:30

Facilities	
Café	No
Disabled facilities	No
Ground floor access	Yes
Disabled parking	No
Disabled toilets	No

THE MAIDSTONE DISTILLERY
www.themaidstonedistillery.com

Opening Summer 2019. Enjoy tours and tastings, with a big emphasis on Maidstone's gin producing history.

Facilities	
Disabled facilities	Yes
Disabled toilets	Yes

LASHENDEN AIR WARFARE MUSEUM
Headcorn Aerodrome, TN27 9HX
01622 890226
lashendenairwar@aol.com
www.lashendenairwarfare museum.co.uk

Aviation exhibits from 1911 to the present day, and wartime memorabilia including a V1 piloted flying bomb.

Open
Easter - Oct (weekends & bank holidays): 10:30 - 18:00
Nov - Easter Sunday: 10:30 - 15:30
Min number: 10 Max number: 56
FREE entry Hangar tour £2

Facilities	
Café	No
Disabled facilities	Yes
Ground floor access	Yes
Disabled parking	Yes
Disabled toilets	No

TEAPOT ISLAND
Yalding, nr Maidstone, ME18 6HG
01622 814541
www.teapotisland.com
A collection of over 3,500 teapots each with its own unique history. Creative pottery on site. Pottery available for children to paint.

Open
Summer Season, Monday - Friday: 10:00 - 16:00
Saturday, Sunday & Bank Holidays: 9:00 - 17:00
Winter season: please telephone

Facilities	
Café	Yes
Disabled facilities	Yes
Ground floor access	Yes, some restrictions
Disabled parking	Yes
Disabled toilets	Yes

ANNO DISTILLERY
Pattenden Lane, Marden,
TN12 9QJ
01622 833278
www.annodistillers.co.uk
Small artisanal spirits producer blending natural ingredients into premium spirits. Guided tours and tastings can be arranged.

Facilities	
Café	No
Disabled facilities	Yes
Ground floor access	Yes, some restrictions
Disabled parking	Yes
Disabled toilets	Yes

Vineyards & Gardens

HUSH HEATH ESTATE
Five Oak Lane, Snoad Lane,
Staplehurst, TN12 0HT
01622 832794
info@hushheath.com
www.hushheath.com

Hush Heath Estate produces England's most exclusive pink fizz - Balfour Brut Rose, made from the three classic Champagne grape varieties - Chardonnay, Pinot Noir and Pinot Meunier. The estates apples, handpicked for maximum ripeness, are turned into a range of still and sparkling ciders - Jake's Orchard. Experience perfectly manicured vineyards, orchards and woodland, a new state of the art winery, great people, world class awards and recognition. Come along to the winery, taste the wines and ciders, and take a walk through the estate following the vineyard trail.
Guided tours of the vineyard and winery are available, however they must be pre-booked in advance.
Min number: 4 Max number: 6+ coaches

Facilities	
Disabled facilities	Minimal restrictions
Ground floor access	Yes
Disabled toilets	Yes

BIDDENDEN VINEYARD
Gribble Bridge Lane,
Biddenden, TN27 8DF
01580 291726
info@biddendenvineyards.co.uk
www.biddendenvineyards.com

Biddenden Vineyards is Kent's oldest commercial vineyard, established by the Barnes family in 1969. The Vineyard produces award-winning still and sparkling English wines, Kentish ciders and farm pressed juices.
Open daily
Monday - Saturday: 10:00 - 17:00
Sunday and Bank Holidays (except Jan/Feb, Christmas Eve and New Years' Day): 11am - 17:00
Admission and tasting FREE
FREE guided tours run on specific dates
Evening tours can be arranged
Min number: 15 Max number: 2 coaches

Facilities	
Cafe	Yes
Disabled facilities	Yes, some restrictions
Ground floor access	Yes
Disabled toilets	Yes

IDEN CROFT HERB GARDEN
Frittenden Road, Staplehurst,
TN12 0DH
01580 891432
www.uk-herbs.com

Enjoy these Herb Gardens and a 15th Century Walled Garden. The National Oreganum and Mentha collections, aromatic wild flowers, and bee/butterfly plants are just some of the attractions. Tours and talks by prior arrangement.
Open
Mar - Sept Friday - Tuesday: 11:00 - 17:00
Small groups only. Fewer than 10 people, no need to book
Groups of 15-20 must be pre-booked

Facilities	
Cafe	Yes
Disabled facilities	Yes
Ground floor access	Yes, steps in garden
Disabled toilets	Yes

STONEACRE
Otham, Nr Maidstone
ME15 8RS
01622 863247
stoneacre@nationaltrust.org.uk
www.nationaltrust.org.uk/
stoneacre

Owned by the National Trust, this idyllic half-timbered 15th Century Yeoman's house features a central hall and is furnished in period style. The romantic cottage garden has a large collection of unusual plants. No WC.
Open
mid Mar - early Oct
Saturdays only: 11:00 - 17:30
Small coaches only

Facilities	
Disabled facilities	No
Ground floor access	Yes
Disabled parking	Yes
Disabled toilets	No

Other wonderful gardens in Kent

Some large, some small, but all interesting to visit:

Leeds Castle; Infirmerers' Garden at Archbishops' Palace; Hever Castle; Sissinghurst Castle; Penshurst Place; Lullingstone Castle World Garden; Godinton Manor; Groombridge Place and Gardens; Finchcocks; Beech Court Gardens; Pashley Manor Gardens and Great Dixter

Wild & Beautiful Places

KENT WILDLIFE TRUST VISITOR CENTRE
Tyland Barn, Sandling,
Maidstone, ME14 3BD
01622 662012
info@kentwildlife.org.uk
www.kentwildlifetrust.org.uk

A wonderfully restored 17th Century barn, headquarters of the Kent Wildlife Trust. The Visitor Centre attractions include wildlife displays, educational centre and a nature park. Full wheelchair access. Gift shop.
Open daily (except 23 Dec to late Jan):
Monday - Friday: 10:00 - 17:00
Weekends and bank holidays: 11:00 - 16:00
Min number: 1 Max number: 2 coaches

Facilities	
Cafe	Yes
Disabled facilities	Yes
Ground floor access	Yes
Disabled parking	Yes
Disabled toilets	Yes

KENT DOWNS AREA OF OUTSTANDING NATURAL BEAUTY
01303 815170
mail@kentdowns.org.uk
www.kentdowns.org.uk

These rare chalk Downland hills dotted with ancient beech woodland, carpeted with grassland rich in wild flowers and native orchids offer panoramic views over the fields and medieval farmhouses of the Kentish Weald. Walkers can follow well-established trails to appreciate the views of this unique landscape, notably the North Downs Way National Trail. Several historic country pubs along the Pilgrims' Way cater for families and groups of thirsty walkers alike.
Open all the time

MAIDSTONE MILLENNIUM RIVER PARK
River Medway (Visitor Information Centre)
01622 602169

No visit to Maidstone is complete without a walk along the tranquil banks of the River Medway. The Medway Millennium River Park runs for 10km from rural Teston to Allington Lock, with easily accessible paths and footbridges linking the town centre to its surrounding countryside. Walking in one direction and catching the river boat home is an ideal choice. Walking on to Yalding is also possible, and the train can be caught back to Maidstone.
Open all the time

River Boat Trips

KENTISH LADY
Undercliffe Boathouse,
Bishops Way, Maidstone
01622 753740
boattrips@kentishlady.co.uk
www.kentishlady.co.uk

Take in the idyllic scenery of the Maidstone Millennium River Park the easy way - on board the totally enclosed, centrally heated pleasure boat. The Kentish Lady offers a unique experience of the River Medway with a 3hr cruise.
On Tuesdays each week, combine your trip with a visit to **ALLINGTON CASTLE** the home of Sir Robert Worcester. **This exclusive trip involves a tour around the castle grounds and a look at the courtyard and Great Hall to find out more about it's fascinating history.**
The Kentish Lady also offers the perfect setting for a private party. Why not combine a river boat trip with a visit to Kent Life for a real day out in the country? Good access for wheelchairs.

Open
School holidays and weekends: Regular one hour round trips from Maidstone Town Centre to Allington.
Easter - October: 100 seats undercover.
Boat available for private hire
Max number: 100

Facilities	
Disabled facilities	Yes
Disabled parking	No, but some nearby
Disabled toilets	Yes

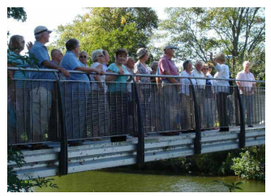
ALLINGTON BELLE DAY BOAT HIRE
Fords Wharf Marine, Allington
ME16 0BP
01622 661064
enquiries@allingtonbelle.co.uk
www.allingtonbelle.co.uk

Self-drive river boats available for small groups of up to 10 people. Relax and unwind at a different pace of life on the tranquil waters of the River Medway. Travel through East Farleigh lock and beyond, there are plenty of places to stop and picnic and several places to stop for lunch or just watch the world go by.

Open
May - September
Max number: 10

Facilities	
Disabled facilities	Yes
Disabled parking	No, but some nearby
Disabled toilets	Yes

Guided Historic Walks



CIRCLING THE SQUARE TOURS
07913 904997
circlingthesquaretours@hotmail.co.uk

Circling the Square Tours offer tours of Maidstone and the surrounding area. Peter Batty is able to provide tailor made tours for group visitors on a variety of themes. He is able to join your coach on arrival in Maidstone or prior to that on request. Presentations to groups also a speciality.
See boxes below for suggested themes. Tours can be taken as they are, or adapted for specific interests. Detailed information is available from Peter.

FOOTSTEPS UK
Castle Road, Maidstone
01622 754451
footstepstravel@aol.com

Footsteps UK offers a varied programme of personal guided tours of Maidstone, with multi-lingual professional guides. Discover Maidstone's hidden secrets and unveil its colourful history of mad priests, rebels and Civil War battles.
Group rates on request.

The Garden of England in Blossom Tour	Kent - Royalty, Revolt and Rebellion	Inspirational Writers of the Region
The tour starts at Maidstone Museum to set the scene, then goes on to Kent Life for a hands-on experience in the discovery of hop gardens, oasts and orchards. Then out to Yalding area to discover the orchards themselves and finishing at TeaPot Island, which is a unique and quirky collection of this traditional vessel for brewing tea.	The tour starts from Maidstone Museum enabling discovery of the famous figures in history which have shaped Britain today. This is followed by a walking tour of this historic town, where inspirational ideas and battles for change took place. This can be followed by a visit to Leeds Castle.	This tour takes in some of the famous writers from Kent, including Dickens, Hazlitt, Wyatt and Kipling, as well as many who travelled to and through Kent, such as Defoe, Pepys, Cobbett and Orwell.

A Tour on the Wine Side	Tea, Talk and Walk Tours
Wine has been grown in England for centuries and now it is producing some high quality products, which are internationally recognised. Visits to Sissinghurst and Biddenden Vineyards and a visit to Maidstone Museum to discover the traditions of food production in Kent.	These start at Maidstone Museum and allow visitors to discover all that is interesting and exceptional in the Museum and Maidstone town centre. This is normally a 2-3hr tour, making an excellent half day. Make it a full day by adding - Allington Belle, Aylesford Priory, Leeds Castle, Lenham, Kent Life, Aylesford Village

Shopping in Maidstone

Maidstone boasts one of the largest selections of independent retailers in the country, so exploring the amazing choice is great fun.

FREMLIN WALK
62 Earl Street
Maidstone, ME14 1PS
01622 356584
info@fremlinwalk.co.uk
www.fremlinwalk.co.uk

Located in the heart of Maidstone's vibrant town centre, Fremlin Walk boasts over 50 top high street stores, as well as a number of coffee shops. A coach drop-off point in St Faith's Street, outside the Museum, offers easy access for group visitors. By prior arrangement, free coach parking can be organised with Fremlin Walk shopping centre and vouchers or special offers for stores within the complex can often be available.

Open
Normal shop opening hours

Facilities	
Cafe	Yes
Disabled facilities	Yes
Disabled parking	Yes
Disabled toilets	Yes

House of Fraser Retail Shopping Experience

House of Fraser welcomes groups of shoppers for a special day out. You will be met on arrival with a glass of Prosecco and a goody bag.

A personal shopper can help you explore the store and assist you in finding things you like, and they offer space in their shopping suite. Make-overs and beauty treatments are available and two-for-one vouchers for the cafe.

The shopping experience can be tailored to meet your needs.

Contact Jayne Jones for details:

jayjones@hof.co.uk

01622 697700

ROYAL STAR ARCADE
High Street
Maidstone, ME14 1JL
01622 690395
www.royalstararcade.com

A delightful shopping centre over 2 levels, with access from the High Street. Discover a maze of beautiful shops in an historic and elegant setting that make this indoor shopping centre a treat.

Open
Monday - Saturday: 9:00 - 17:30
Sunday: 11:00 - 16:00
(Individual shop opening times may differ)

Facilities	
Cafe	Yes
Disabled facilities	Yes
Disabled toilets	Yes

THE MALL - CHEQUERS CENTRE
Pad's Hill, Maidstone, ME15 6AT
01622 691130
amp.maidstone@themall.co.uk
www.themall.co.uk/maidstone

Right in the heart of town, The Mall offers 3 floors of exciting high street shops, with a good selection of independent retailers to make your shopping experience that little bit different. Find something unusual for that special gift, or relax with a cup of coffee or freshly squeezed juice. All of this under one glass ceiling, with escalators to carry you between floors. Coach drop-off and pick-up can be organised in the bus depot directly below the shopping centre.

Open
Normal shop opening hours

Facilities	
Disabled facilities	Yes
Disabled parking	Yes
Disabled toilets	Yes

Night Time Maidstone

Maidstone is one of the best places to go for an evening out in Kent. With an extensive mixture of bars, restaurants, clubs, theatre and cinema you're sure to find fun things to do as the sun goes down.

HAZLITT THEATRE
Earl Street, Maidstone,
ME14 1PL
01622 758611
hazlitt.boxoffice@
parkwoodtheatres.co.uk
www.parkwoodtheatres.co.uk

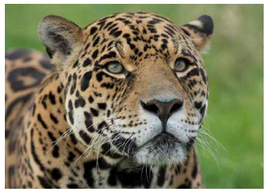
The Hazlitt Theatre has some brilliant productions, from drama and comedy nights to great music. The Theatre Gallery exhibits quality work by both local and well-known artists.
Dancing also takes place at the Hazlitt Theatre with Ceroc every Thursday evening with lessons for beginners from 8pm and advanced from 9pm. Tea Dances take place two Thursday afternoons each month, and it is best to check the website for dates. Special arrangements can be made for all types of dance events, should your group wish to dance.

HIGH STREET & EARL STREET
In the centre of town, these offer a number of great evening locations for more sophisticated evening entertainment. Dancing, bars, restaurants and a lively pavement café scene.

LIVE MUSIC VENUES
There are a variety of venues offering live music around the town. You could try Rafters in the High Street or Pizza Express.

LOCKMEADOW AREA
Situated next to the river, Lockmeadow has a youthful feel and is full of bright lights and big names. It contains an Odeon multiplex cinema, clubs, bars, and restaurants. There is also a Hollywood Bowl for ten-pin bowling and a Gravity trampoline park, both of which are great fun for the family.

Experiences



THE BIG CAT SANCTUARY
Headcorn Road, Smarden,
TN27 8PJ
01233 771915
enquiries@whf.org.uk
www.whf.org.uk

From the biggest to the smallest, The Big Cat Sanctuary works to save the Big Cats of the World from extinction. The main breeding programmes are for the Amur leopard, Amur tiger, Sumatran tiger and the Snow leopard. The ultimate aim is to safely reintroduce these Big Cats to their natural habitat, free from danger of poaching and other hazards. The Sanctuary is not open to the public and you must book in advance. Bookable experiences include: Big Cat Encounter, Ranger for the Day and Photographic Workshops.

Facilities	
Disabled facilities	Yes
Ground floor access	Yes
Disabled parking	Yes
Disabled toilets	Yes

GO APE
Leeds Castle, Maidstone,
ME17 1PL
0845 094 9573
www.goape.co.uk/days-out/leeds-castle

Go Ape is the UK's number one tree-top adventure. Take to the trees and speed down zip slides. They are part of an exciting course of rope bridges, Tarzan swings and crossings all set high above the forest floor. Lush green forest and a healthy dollop of breath-taking scenery. Brilliant fun. Go Ape can also be found at Bedgebury Forest, nr Tunbridge Wells, Kent TN17 2SL.

Facilities	
Disabled facilities	Yes
Disabled parking	Yes
Disabled toilets	Yes

AERO LEGENDS
Headcorn Aerodrome,
Headcorn, TN27 9HX
01622 812830
info@aerolegends.co.uk
www.aerolegends.co.uk
www.goactionstations.co.uk

There's nothing quite like the feeling of flight experiences with vintage world war two aircraft. Fly with or alongside legendary aircraft like the Spitfire and Tiger Moth over Kent's Battle of Britain landscape and coastline. Aero Legends has also recently launched a new brand called 'Action Stations!' offering exciting new group experiences, some of which have not previously been available to the public. Options include a flight in a Spitfire or the D-Day Airborne Experience. This is a unique 3.5 day adventure including full training with the Parachute School, a drop from the C-47 Dakota onto a drop zone in Normandy and a visit to key battlefields in historic vehicles from the time.
Experiences can be purchased as 'open tickets' and group bookings are available.

Facilities	
Disabled facilities	Yes
Ground floor access	Yes
Disabled parking	Yes
Disabled toilets	Yes

UK ELECTRIC BIKE TOURS
Bloomsbury Retreat,
Sissinghurst Road, Biddenden
TN27 8DQ
07734 108393
www.ukelectricbiketours.co.uk

Electric bikes are a great way to explore the Kent countryside. You ride it the same way as a pedal bike, but when you pedal, the motor kicks in to assist you - great for any hills. UK Electric Bike Tours offer a range of scheduled tours or self-guided electric bike hire. Visit many of Kent's great attractions including historic castles, churches, pretty market towns and some of Kent's cycle trails. A popular trip is around the Kent Weald visiting hop farms or award-winning vineyards

Facilities	
Disabled parking	Yes
Disabled toilets	Yes

ADVENTURE ZONE, MOTE PARK
Mote Park, Maidstone
ME15 7RN
A new Adventure Zone is opening in Mote Park in early 2019.

It will feature a high ropes course, a climbing wall and crazy golf. Check out visitmaidstone.com for updates on opening times and charges.

Facilities	
Disabled parking	Yes, in car park
Disabled toilets	Yes

BUCKMORE PARK KARTING CIRCUIT
Maidstone Road, Chatham,
ME5 9QG
01634 201562
sales@buckmore.co.uk
www.buckmore.co.uk

This is the kart circuit where British F1 drivers Lewis Hamilton and Jenson Button learned their craft. Hire carts, practice and compete, from children to adults. Explore your skills and have fun. See website for dates, times and prices. Open all year

Facilities	
Disabled facilities	Yes
Disabled parking	Yes
Disabled toilets	Yes

MOTE PARK WATERSPORTS CENTRE
Mote Park, Maidstone
07595 539555
info@moteparkwatersportscentre.com
www.moteparkwatersportscentre.com

Mote Park was voted the third best park in the UK in the national Green Flag awards 2015, and the watersports centre is located on the 30 acre lake. Hire a classic rowing boat or take a less traditional swan pedalo to explore the lake. You can also enjoy the sailing boats, canoes, kayaks or even paddle-boarding. Surfing, scuba diving, power boating, swimming and windsurfing are also available. This is great for families and groups and is suitable for all ages, including mixed age groups. Please make bookings for groups in advance.

Facilities	
Disabled facilities	Yes, depending on activity
Disabled parking	Yes, but some distance
Disabled toilets	Yes, in car park

SEGWAY TOURS
Leeds Castle, Maidstone,
ME17 1PL
0845 619 0007
info@segwaytours.co.uk
www.segwaytours.co.uk

Tour history whilst riding the future! Easily mastered in a matter of minutes, the Segway is the iconic personal transporter as seen on TV and films. Two tours to choose from. 35 minute scenic tour or a 1hr adventure tour.
Prices start from £20
Min number: 1 Max number: 12

Facilities	
Disabled facilities	Yes
Disabled parking	Yes
Disabled toilets	Yes

Tailor made attractions

EAST MALLING
RESEARCH STATION &
BRADBOURNE HOUSE
New Road, East Malling,
ME19 6BJ
01732 843833
www.emr.ac.uk

A visit here is really only available for groups or on organised tours with a guide. Tours can include how fruit development has changed since the 1920's, how grafting root stock was started here and so many more techniques which are now feeding the world. This is a world-class research facility and works incredibly well with a garden tour. They also run workshops which can potentially be put on for your group to have a hands-on experience. Often useful for gardeners.
Tours of Bradbourne House are also available. This dates from the 15th - 16th Century and is a marvellous historic house not open to the public.
Min number: 10 Max number: 100
Coach parking: plenty of space

Facilities	
Restaurant	Yes
Disabled facilities	Yes
Ground floor access	Yes
Disabled toilets	Yes

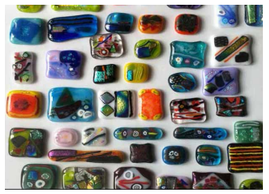
Why not treat your group to a hands-on experience at one of our fantastic venues?

Whether you're interested in gardening or arts and crafts, we have something for everyone!

AYLESFORD POTTERY
The Friars, Aylesford, ME20 7BX
01622 790796
www.aylesfordpottery.co.uk

At Aylesford Pottery, Alan Parris and Mark Byles are producing fine pottery to suit all tastes. Everything is created by hand, combining traditional methods with the occasional modern twist at their Kent showroom, based at the historic Aylesford Priory, where you are welcome to come and see them at work.
Group visits for up to 12 people need to be booked in advance to ensure the potters are available to put on a demonstration for visitors. This is FREE.
Workshops are available to have a go at making something, which can be booked in the teaching studio and normal workshop prices would apply. There is a small additional charge for firing/glazing which takes up to 6 weeks, so someone would need to collect the items later.
Min number: 1 Max number: 20 - 25
Coach parking at The Friars

Facilities	
Disabled facilities	Yes, but a bit of a walk
Ground floor access	Yes



THIS ART OF MINE
Little Budds Farm, Coldblow Lane, Thurnham, ME14 3LR
01622 735312 / 07792 541149
info@thisartofmine.co.uk
www.thisartofmine.co.uk

Fabulous Arts and Craft workshops set in the countryside. Courses include silvery clay jewellery, enamelling and other crafts. Many seasonal events and different types of crafts, such as rug making, weaving, painting, ceramics and frequent specialist areas. See website for times and courses.
Open all year
Tuesday: 19:00 - 21:00; Thursday: 10:00 - 13:00
Last Saturday & Sunday of each month: 10:00 - 17:00
Prices from £6 per head.
Groups welcome but need to book in advance
Min number: 1 Max number: 20 - 25
Coaches welcome but narrow lanes

Facilities	
Disabled facilities	Yes
Ground floor access	Yes

Hotels for groups

The Black Horse Inn
Pilgrims Way,
Thurnham
Maidstone, ME14 3LD
01622 737185
www.wellieboot.net
30 bedrooms

Chilston Park Hotel
Sandway, Lenham,
ME17 2BE
0845 072 7426
www.handpicked
hotels.co.uk
53 bedrooms

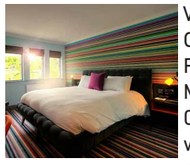
Weald of Kent Golf
Course & Hotel
Maidstone Road,
Headcorn, TN27 9PT
01622 890866
www.weald-of-kent.
co.uk
19 bedrooms

Hilton Maidstone
Bearsted Road,
Maidstone,
ME14 5AA
01622 734322
www.hilton.co.uk
146 bedrooms

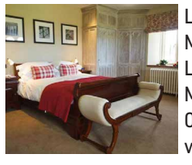
Mercure Great Danes
Hotel, Ashford Road,
Hollingbourne,
ME17 1RE
0844 815 9045
www.mercure
maidstone.co.uk
126 bedrooms

Oakwood House
Oakwood Road,
Maidstone,
ME16 8AE
01622 620720
www.oakwoodhouse
hotel.co.uk
40 bedrooms

Tudor Park Marriott
Hotel & Country Club
Ashford Road,
Bearsted, ME14 4NQ
01622 734334
www.marriott.co.uk
120 bedrooms



Village Hotel
Castle View, Forstal
Road, Sandling
Maidstone, ME14 3AQ
0844 980 8044
www.village-hotels.
co.uk
122 bedrooms



Leeds Castle
Maiden's Tower
Leeds Castle,
Maidstone, ME17 1PL
01622 767823
www.leeds-castle.
com
8-10 small groups

Group catering

Bull Inn
Penenden Heath
Maidstone
01622 752888

Frederic Bistro
Market Buildings
Maidstone
01622 297414

Grange Moor Hotel
4 St Michaels Road
Maidstone
01622 677623

Hilton Hotel
Bearsted Road
Maidstone
01622 734322

Mercure Great
Danes Hotel
Hollingbourne
01622 631163

Kent Life
Lock Lane
Sandling
01622 763936

Oakwood House
Tonbridge Road
Maidstone
01622 626600

Pizza Express
32 Earl Street
Maidstone
01622 683548

Sir Thomas Wyatt
Beefeater
London Road
Maidstone
01622 752515

Cafe Rouge
44 Earl Street
Maidstone
01622 769928

Zizzi Italian
Restaurant
46-50 Earl Street
Maidstone
01622 675248

Weald of Kent
Golf Club
Maidstone Road
Headcorn
01622 891671

Black Horse Inn
Pilgrims Way
Thurnham
Maidstone
01622 737185

Bull Inn
Linton Hill
Linton
Maidstone
01622 743612

Chequers Inn
63 High Street
Aylesford
Maidstone
01622 717286

Cobtree Golf Club
Chatham Road
Boxley
Maidstone
01622 753276

The Cock Inn
Heath Road
Boughton
Monchelsea
01622 743166

The Friars
Aylesford
Maidstone
01622 717272

Leeds Castle
Leeds
Maidstone
01622 765400

Tudor Park Marriott
Hotel & Country Club
Ashford Road
Bearsted
01622 734334

Park Gate Inn
Ashford Road
Hollingbourne
01622 880985

Ringlestone Inn
Ringlestone
Harrietsham
01622 859900

The Hawkenbury
Hawkenbury Road
Nr Staplehurst
01580 890567

White Horse Inn
Bearsted Green
Bearsted
01622 738365

Getting here and getting around

By Road

From London, major airports and the rest of the UK via the M25 and M26/M20 motorways. Maidstone is accessed from junctions 5, 6, 7 and 8 of the M20.

From Dover, Ashford and the Channel Tunnel via the M20 motorway. Maidstone is accessed from junctions 5,6,7 and 8.

By Rail

Maidstone Town Centre is easily accessible through its main railway station: Maidstone East: London / Ashford services

Hourly direct services from London Victoria Station.

When arriving at Maidstone East, turn right at the station exit into Week Street and you are in the Town Centre.

Coach Parking

Coaches can drop off in the bus lane in St Faith's Street, right outside the Visitor Information Centre at Maidstone Museum.

Coaches can also drop off in the Bus Station at The Mall, Chequers shopping centre by prior arrangement. Contact The Mall on 01622 691130.

Coach parking is available at the Sittingbourne Road Coach Park (ME14 5DX). Fremlin Walk shopping centre also offers free coach parking, but this must be booked in advance. Email elizabeth.freeman@cbre.com or call 01622 356584 to arrange.

Free coach parking facilities are available at Kent Life, Leeds Castle and other countryside attractions.

MAIDSTONE VISITOR INFORMATION CENTRE

Maidstone Museum

St Faith's Street

Maidstone

ME14 1LH

01622 602169

tourism@maidstone.gov.uk

www.visitmaidstone.com