



The birthplace of a maritime legend
on the Kent & East Sussex coast

THE CINQUE PORTS



www.cinqueports.org



Kent & East Sussex

The Lord Warden

I was deeply honoured to be asked by His Majesty the King to assume the ancient offices of Lord Warden and Admiral of the Cinque Ports and Constable of Dover Castle; the more so because I follow in the footsteps of Admiral the Lord Boyce with whom I worked closely for many years and particularly when he was Chief of the Defence Staff. Previously, only one of our predecessors in the 800-year history of the position of Lord Warden in its current form, was a 'real admiral'; Admiral Robert Blake, appointed in the mid-17th century.

After a career in the Royal Navy spanning 36 years, and now in business and charity work, it is giving my wife Amanda and me great pleasure visiting the fourteen member towns of the Confederation of the Cinque Ports, which once provided the backbone of the English navy, meeting the military and transportation needs of successive Kings for 500 years. With very good reason, the Cinque Ports have been dubbed the Cradle of the Royal Navy. Although most are no longer major ports, Dover being the obvious exception, they remain proud of their maritime heritage and their centuries old connection with the British Crown. I hope you will enjoy exploring them as much as we are.



Admiral Sir George Zambellas
GCB DSC DL

*Lord Warden and Admiral of the
Cinque Ports and Constable of Dover
Castle.*



Welcome...

Over the centuries the rugged coastline of Kent and East Sussex has beckoned men to battle, smuggling and trade, and what could be more invigorating than discovering the maritime adventures of the past and the unique Confederation of the Cinque Ports?

With a coastline that was permanently exposed to potential attack it's no wonder that the ports of Hastings, Romney, Hythe, Dover and Sandwich were seen as the perfect launch point for a defensive force before England had a formal navy.

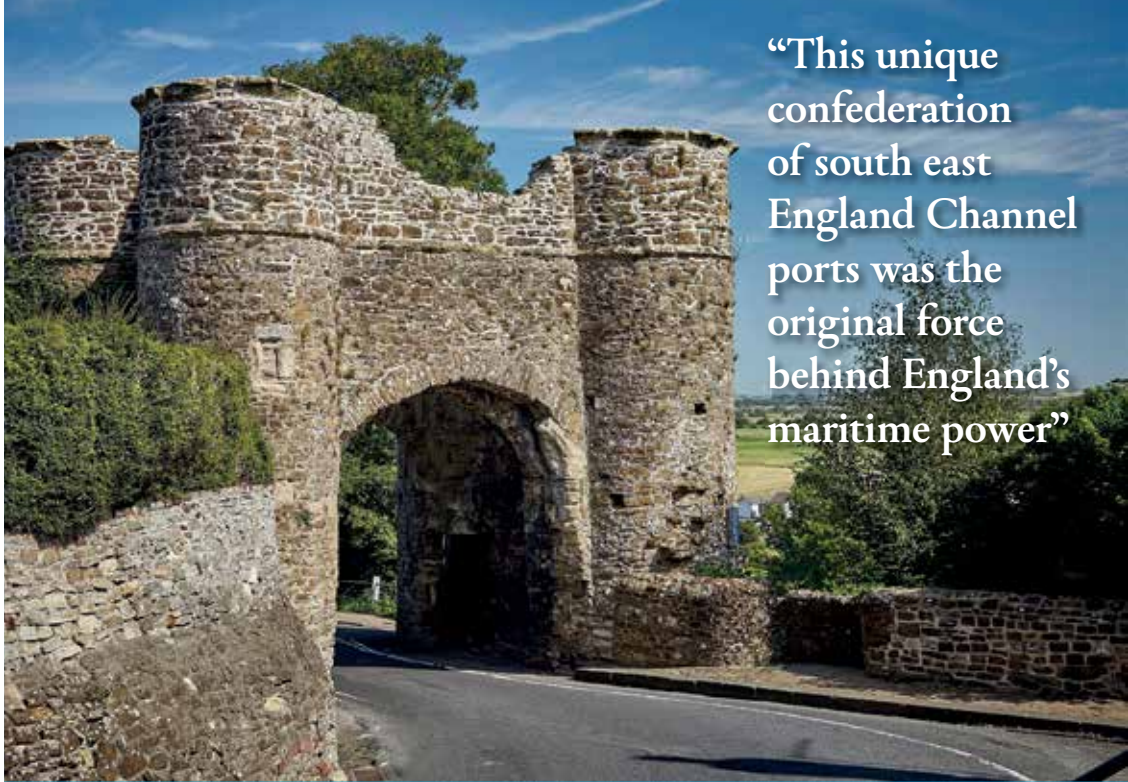
This part of the south east coast offers visitors a truly historical experience – discover the relics and ruins from the past in the museums, castles and smugglers' haunts that are scattered throughout the towns and villages.

And with great walking, cycling and sailing activities plus every kind of accommodation to choose from, this area is perfect for a short break, to enjoy at your own pace.

www.cinqueports.org

Supported by the Confederation of the Cinque Ports
and its member towns, 1066 Country Marketing and Visit Kent.
Printed locally on recycled paper. Produced by Hastings Borough Council.





“This unique confederation of south east England Channel ports was the original force behind England’s maritime power”

The History...

Long before the towns were formally recognised as the Cinque Ports, around the time of the Norman conquest in 1066, the five original ‘head ports’ of Hastings, Romney, Hythe, Dover and Sandwich were busy fishing and trading centres.

For more than 500 years the five towns provided the ships and men who guarded king and country from frequent and vicious attacks in return for special privileges. This unique confederation of south east England Channel ports was the original force behind England’s maritime power and can justly be called the Cradle of the Royal Navy.

Under the system of ‘ship service’, the ports were required to supply 57 ships, each with a crew of 21 men and a boy, for 15 days every year. In return the ports were granted special rights which included, amongst many other things, exemption from the jurisdiction of certain courts and the right to levy their own local taxes. These ships were used not only in warfare, but also to transport the King, his family and armies between England and Europe. Neighbouring towns and villages eventually joined the original five towns and were known as

‘limbs’ and helped fulfil the quotas of ships and crew. The ‘two Antient towns’ of Rye and Winchelsea later became head ports in their own right.

The early 14th century saw a sharp decline in the power and influence of some members of the Confederation. The south east coast had been devastated by extremely violent storms in the previous century, permanently changing the coastline and making some harbours unusable. When a permanent navy was founded in the 16th century by Henry VIII the days of the Cinque Ports as a collective force were numbered.

Today, the Confederation (now consisting of the original five ports and two Antient towns, together with the surviving limbs of Deal, Faversham, Folkestone, Lydd, Margate, Ramsgate and Tenterden) still plays an active part in the ceremonial affairs of state. Places of honour are reserved for the Cinque Ports Barons at Westminster Abbey, during coronations. The Lord Warden is still installed in office with great ceremony, at Dover.

The coastline before the storm of 1287



How it was...

In 1287, a storm hit the southern coast of England with such ferocity that whole areas of coastline were redrawn. It caused the cliff at Hastings and half its castle to fall into the sea, ruining its harbour. The town then moved eastward. What remained of 'Old' Winchelsea was completely destroyed. Its replacement, 'New' Winchelsea, was already being built on its present site. Further along, the storm silted up the New Romney harbour and the town became landlocked, a mile from the coast. The River Rother, that had previously entered the sea at New Romney changed course and now entered at Rye. It also turned Lydd's harbour into farmland and marsh, and the land grew around the island.

Tenterden ■

Rye ■

Winchelsea ■

Hastings ■

Faversham ■

New Romney ■

Lydd ■

Hythe ■

Folkestone ■

Dover ■

Deal ■

Sandwich ■

Ramsgate ■

Margate ■





Today...

Today the Confederation of the Cinque Ports is made up of seven head ports and seven limbs, from Hastings in the west to Margate in the east.

Each of the 14 towns has a wealth of rich heritage and strong maritime traditions to discover. Explore narrow cobbled streets and passageways where you can see medieval houses and ancient landmarks. Visit the many museums, attractions, forts and castles that dominate the rugged coastline and re-live the days of fearsome battles at sea, smuggling and piracy.



The Speaker, mayors, town sergeants and barons of the Cinque Ports at the installation of the Lord Warden Sir George Zambellas GCB DSC DL.

The Speaker acts as chairman and principal representative of the Confederation.

The office is held by the mayor of each of the head ports and two ancient towns, in turn. It passes from one town to the next, on 21 May each year, by a process quaintly described as 'septennial revolution'. It is not known exactly when the office was first created, but it has certainly existed continuously since 1357. It is therefore older than the Speakership of the House of Commons, which dates from 1376. For centuries, these were the only two offices with that title but, in more recent times, it has been adopted for the chairperson of a number of legislatures based on the Westminster model and, since 2006, for the presiding officer of the UK House of Lords who replaced the Lord Chancellor in that role.

DEAL



- Deal is a limb of Sandwich and its motto is 'Welcome the Stranger'.
- Lacking a harbour, Deal had the benefit of the Downs Anchorage, the stretch of water between the shore and the Goodwin Sands.
- The town rapidly rose to prosperity as the local boatmen earned a profitable livelihood from servicing naval and merchant ships which anchored there.
- Today, Deal is a popular seaside town with a thriving high street.

Did you know?

Deal Pier opened in 1957 and is 1026 feet long. It was the last pleasure pier to be constructed in Britain. Deal's Timeball Tower is one of only 4 working in the world. Lord Nelson stayed at the Royal Hotel with Emma Hamilton.

📞 01304 361999 🌐 www.deal.gov.uk

DOVER



- Known since the height of the Cinque Ports' power as the 'key to England' and famous for the iconic White Cliffs.
- The Port of Dover is the UK's busiest international ferry port.
- The area's massive fortifications have been used in every phase of England's history.
- Overlooking the harbour are the vast grey walls of Dover Castle, enclosing a Saxon church and the ruins of a Roman lighthouse.
- See an original 17th century Cinque Ports banner at the Maison Dieu and the Bronze Age Boat at Dover Museum.

Did you know?

There are many monuments including those to Bleriot, the first man to fly the Channel, and Captain Webb, the first man to swim the Channel. Nearby Samphire Hoe is made from Channel Tunnel spoil.

📞 01304 201066 🌐 www.whitecliffscountry.org.uk

FAVERSHAM



- The Mayoralty dates to 1256, Robert Dod, the first to be styled 'Mayor', is commemorated in a wall painting in the parish church, others are listed in the Guildhall, built in 1574.
- The Guildhall just a few minutes' walk away from the tidal creek, which in the 16th century became the leading port for the export of English wool.
- The only town in the UK whose leopard coat of arms is linked to the Royal Arms of England.
- In 1847, the world's first high explosives were manufactured in Faversham.

Did you know?

The town is home to Shepherd Neame, the UK's oldest brewery.

The Chart Gunpowder Mills made powder for Nelson at Trafalgar & Wellington at Waterloo. Traces of a ruined Abbey, the resting place of Queen Matilda and King Stephen and the Maison Dieu founded, by Henry III, attest to Faversham's links to Royalty.

📞 01795 534542 🌐 www.visitfaversham.org

FOLKESTONE



- It is thought that people first settled in Folkestone 70,000 years ago.
- There is a suggestion that Folkestone comes from Folca's stone, a rock marking the meeting place of local people.
- St Eanswythe, daughter of King Eadbald of Kent, founded the first nunnery on the cliff top at Folkestone in AD 630.
- In 1313, King Edward II granted the Town a Charter of Incorporation, by which it could elect a Mayor, bailiff and 12 jurats. It was at about this time that Folkestone joined the Cinque Ports as a "corporate limb" of Dover.

Did you know?

Every beauty pageant can be traced back to Folkestone's first pageant in 1908. The Channel Tunnel, built in 1994, is the world's longest marine subway. Leas Lift: only the 3rd lift in England to be built operating by water balance.

📞 01303 257946 🌐 www.folkestoneandhythe.co.uk

HASTINGS



- The original port of Hastings lies deep below today's town centre.
- In 1287 the Great Storm ruined its harbour and the town moved east.
- Today, Hastings Old Town is a charming mix of half-timbered houses, narrow streets and passageways, known locally as 'twittens'.
- Based on the Stade (an old Saxon word for 'landing place') Hastings is home to the largest beach-launched fishing fleet in Europe.
- Two maritime museums located in the Stade area vividly recall old seafaring days and famous local sunken ships.

Did you know?

Rare basking sharks have been spotted off the Hastings coast. The remains of the Dutch East Indiaman 'Amsterdam', wrecked in 1749 can be seen at low tides (lowest spring tides are best). 18th century smugglers stored contraband goods in hidey holes throughout Hastings Old Town.

🌐 www.visit1066country.com

HYTHE



- Hythe is in south east Kent, where the countryside meets the sea.
- It is on a broad bay of the English Channel, and on a clear day you can see France.
- The town has one of the longest and best high streets in Kent with many specialist shops.
- Its military history dates back to the Roman times and it is still a major training area for the Ministry of Defence.

Did you know?

Hythe has medieval and Georgian buildings, the Royal Military Canal, winding streets leading up to St. Leonard's church with its collection of ancient skulls, a glorious seafront promenade and the famous Romney, Hythe and Dymchurch railway.

📞 01303 266152 🌐 www.hythe-tc.gov.uk

LYDD



- The settlement of Lydd is ancient and by the 8th century there was a manor encompassing the whole area.
- Around 1150 Lydd was established as a limb of the Cinque Ports.
- Because of Lydd's rivalry with New Romney, Lydd only gained borough status in 1885, and became a parish again in 1974.
- The Parish Church, dedicated to All Saints is known as a landmark and referred to as the Cathedral of the Marsh.
- The Rype, given to the Lords of Lydd by the Archbishop of Canterbury in AD 904 for successfully resisting an attack by the Danes.
- The area offers fine beaches and a unique wildlife habitat.

Did you know?

The high explosive lyddite was named after the town. In the church is the tomb of Thomas Edgar, who served with Captain Cook on the Discovery.

📞 01303 258594 🌐 www.discoverfolkestone.co.uk

MARGATE



- Margate's Old Town Hall is housed in a 17th century building.
- The Turner Contemporary art gallery built in honour of JMW Turner is now open and proving very popular.
- The resort has a golden mile of beach with lots of activities on offer and traditional seaside food to enjoy – fish and chips, cockles and whelks, as well as a wide variety of other fare.
- You can go 'seal watching' off Margate's coast.
- Dreamland has now been re-opened as a Heritage Amusement Park with the oldest scenic railway in the country and the only ride of its kind to be listed with Grade II*

Did you know?

Benjamin Beale rolled out the first fully fledged Bathing Machine here in 1750. The Tudor House in King Street is believed to be the oldest of its type, built in 1525.

📞 0870 264 6111 🌐 www.visitthanet.co.uk

NEW ROMNEY



- Capital of the Romney Marsh; also referred to as 'The Fifth Continent'.
- New Romney lost its historic port following the Great Storm of 1287 which changed the course of the River Rother. Mooring rings can still be found on the walls of St. Nicholas Church – over a mile from the current coast.
- A bustling small town; a centre for green tourism.
- Wonderful wildlife and beautiful coastline with views to France.
- The world's smallest railway 'The Romney Hythe and Dymchurch Railway' is based at New Romney.
- There is evidence that William Shakespeare may have visited New Romney in 1609 and 1612 with the King's Players.

Did you know?

In 1923, 'The Course Doctor' – Alister MacKenzie, co-designer of the USA's famed Augusta National, re-designed Littlestone Golf Course.

📞 01797 362348 🌐 www.newromney-tc.gov.uk

RAMSGATE



- The original town of Ramsgate was at St Laurence.
- Today it nestles between two chalk cliffs, with a fine array of Regency buildings and one of the largest marinas on the south coast.
- A lifeboat station was established at Ramsgate as early as 1802.
- The 19th century Clock House has maintained strong maritime connections for nearly 200 years.
- The town has the only 'Royal' harbour in the UK, a title bestowed by King George IV in 1821.

Did you know?

Princess Victoria (later Queen Victoria) spent summer holidays in Ramsgate. The lantern on St. George the Martyr Church acted as a navigational aid for shipping. Augustine, the 1st Archbishop of Canterbury, who brought Christianity to Britain, landed at Ramsgate in AD596.

📞 01843 598 750 🌐 www.ramsgatetown.org.uk

RYE



- Rye was reclaimed from the Abbey of Fécamp, Normandy by Henry III in 1247 when a castle (now Rye Museum) was built to defend the town.
- Until recently Rye was surrounded on three sides by the sea. Today, it retains a busy fishing fleet and pleasure craft moorings in the town itself at Strand Quay.
- Fine views of the town and Romney Marsh may be had from the tower of St Mary's Church.
- The Rye Heritage Centre contains the Rye Town Model Sound and Light Show and old pier amusement machines.

Did you know?

John Ryan, the creator of Captain Pugwash lived in Rye. The Town Hall attic houses a gibbet cage containing the remains of John Breeds, an aggrieved local butcher who attempted to murder the Mayor in 1742. The author EF Benson's Mapp and Lucia series is based on Rye.

🌐 www.visit1066country.com/rye

SANDWICH



- The complete town is a conservation area and a maze of ancient streets, alleyways and attractive old buildings.
- There are four historic churches; St Clement's, St Peter's, St Mary's and a 17th century United Reformed Church.
- Strand Street has what is considered to be the longest continuous stretch of timber-framed buildings in the country.
- A museum reflecting the history of the town is incorporated within the Elizabethan Guildhall; guided tours are available; free admission.
- Sandwich is today recognised as a Heritage Harbour

Did you know?

Thomas Paine, the remarkable political writer and radical thinker of the 18th century, came to Sandwich in 1759 and opened a shop in New Street. Celery was first grown in Sandwich. The sandwich was invented by John Montagu, the 4th Earl of Sandwich in 1762.

📞 01304 617197 🌐 www.whitecliffscountry.org.uk

TENTERDEN



- Tenterden joined the Cinque Ports Confederation as a "limb" of Rye in 1449, supplying ships and men against French raiders.
- Today, Tenterden, the 'Jewel of the Weald', is an attractive market town with independent shops, cosy cafes, a beautiful tree-lined high street and an abundance of historic buildings.
- The Kent & East Sussex Railway takes visitors on a nostalgic steam ride through unspoilt countryside.
- A vineyard and brewery trail with tours and tastings showcases Tenterden's world class offer.
- The town's compelling history is revealed at Tenterden Museum with hopping, brewing and the Cinque Ports as highlights.

Did you know?

St. Mildred's Church served as a beacon for ships and remains a beautiful landmark for miles around.

📞 01580 762271 🌐 www.exploretenterden.co.uk

WINCHESEA



- Old Winchelsea was built on a shingle spit in the English Channel and inundated by the sea after the Great Storm of 1287.
- By 1300 Edward I had rebuilt the town on a hill, using a grid system to provide housing for around 6,000 inhabitants. Only 500 people live here now.
- He also built two hospitals, a monastery, a half-mile-long harbour (now 2 metres below ground level), 12ft high defensive walls, three town gates and a cathedral-like church. Only the beautiful chancel is left.
- There is a Grade I listed Court Hall and Museum. The Museum is open 6 days a week from April to the end of October

Did you know?

There are 34 early mediaeval wine cellars open and approximately 30 more are known in the surrounding fields. For details of cellar tours please visit www.winchelsea.com

🌐 www.winchelsea.com



How it is... The coastline today



How to get here... it's easy

By train: Less than 1 1/2 hours from London, with train stations at most of the towns. Please note: The nearest station for Hythe is Sandling.

By road: There are good road links with a number of major motorways and A roads into and around the area.

For more details when planning your journey visit www.nationalrail.co.uk or www.theaa.co.uk



Discover the area...

Whether you enjoy walking, cycling, water sports or just strolling on the beach, there is something for everyone. Within the Cinque Ports you'll find large expanses of outstanding natural beauty, plenty of adventure and many tranquil locations.

Cycle through the Cinque Port towns and explore...

Romney Marsh - various routes to enjoy including:

Folkestone to Rye, 32 miles (52km) - see unique Marsh wildlife and learn about local Marsh legends.

Sheep ahoy, Romney Marsh, 13miles (20km) - travel around Romney Marsh and discover churches, inns and the famous Romney lamb.

Chalk and Channel Way, 8 miles (13km) - lies within the Dover/ Folkestone Heritage Coast and is a designated area of national importance for its unspoilt natural beauty.

Viking Coastal Trail, 27 miles (43km) - linking Margate and Ramsgate, by way of chalk cliffs and historic villages.

Cinque Ports Circuit, total circuit approx 150 miles (241km) – circular route connecting all the 14 historic towns taking you through the beautiful surrounding countryside, wherever possible following designated cycle routes and avoiding major roads.

Walk through the beautiful countryside...

Royal Military Canal Path, 28 miles (45km) - begins near Folkestone, passes through Hythe and Rye to Cliff End, near Hastings and is a haven of wildlife and plants.

The Saxon Shore Way, 160 miles (257km) running from Gravesend to Hastings, including Faversham, Deal, Dover, Rye and Hastings. Tracing the coast as it was in Roman times and offering 'some of the finest coastal walking'.

North Downs Way, from Farnham, Surrey to Dover. Follows the North Downs ridge across Kent before ending near the famous White Cliffs at Dover. Dramatic chalk hills dotted with ancient beech woodlands, carpeted with grassland rich in wild flowers and native orchids, offering panoramic views. The Via Francigena follows part of the route, see www.viafrancigene.org/en/english-path

1066 Country Walk, 31 miles (50km) following William the Conqueror's footsteps from Pevensey to Rye via Battle and Winchelsea and joining the Saxon Shore Way with the South Downs Way including links to Hastings and Bexhill.

Nature Reserves...

Witness all kinds of wildlife in its original habitat by visiting the many and varied nature reserves including: **RSPB at Dungeness, Rye Harbour, Pett Pools, Sandwich & Pegwell Bay, Gazen Salts and the Sandwich Bay Bird Observatory.**



These are just a sample of activities in the area, there is so much more to enjoy, and with an abundance of events you will see why a day or two is not enough time to spend in this beautiful part of the South East.

Take to the High Seas...

Sail at Hastings, Rye Harbour, Dover, Sandwich, Hythe and Ramsgate. Visit the annual regattas at Dover and Ramsgate or invigorate yourself with extreme water sports at Rye Harbour. Take a dip from the blue flag beaches at Margate and Ramsgate, plus Hastings beach, which has also received a prestigious award from the Environment Agency for its cleanliness. Dover encourages swimming in specific areas that are monitored for water quality. Check out Camber Sands, a very popular sandy beach, with picturesque dunes and interesting wildlife, and frequently used for filming.



Discover Smugglers' haunts...

and re-live the fascinating story of the notorious Kent and Sussex smugglers.

Smuggling, or 'owling' as it was originally termed, developed around the year 1300 after customs duty was introduced on the export of wool. Fleeces were smuggled to weavers on the Continent and the famous Romney Marsh sheep provided high profits. During the 18th and 19th centuries high taxes led to a dramatic increase in illegal imports and this stretch of coastline was ideally placed as a drop off point for contraband.

Many of the area's secluded spots are steeped in the intrigue and violence of the smugglers' activities, from the Marsh's isolated churches (Snargate Church is believed to have been used to hide smuggled goods) to Rye's Mermaid Inn (where the infamous Hawkhurst Gang would sit and drink with loaded pistols on the table) and Hastings' All Saints graveyard (reputedly haunted by the ghost of a young priest who was hanged on the beach for helping local smugglers). Deal was renowned for building 'Guinea boats' - large, fast rowing boats used for smuggling contraband across the English Channel and capable of outpacing the customs cutters.

Whether you're looking for a major seafront hotel, a boutique B&B, a country house or a self-catering fisherman's cottage, we have every kind of accommodation at highly competitive prices.

Visit the following websites for more details and ideas

www.visitkent.co.uk

www.visit1066country.com

Tourist Information Centres

Deal

Deal Town Hall
High Street
Deal CT14 6TR
01304 361999
info@deal.gov.uk
deal.gov.uk

Dover

Dover Museum,
Market Square,
Dover CT16 1PH
01304 201066
VIC@dover.gov.uk
whitecliffscountry.org.uk

Faversham

12 Market Place, Faversham
Kent ME13 7AE
01795 534542
visitfaversham.org
vic@favershamsociety.org

Folkestone

The Town Hall
1-2 Guildhall Street
Folkestone CT20 1DY
01303 257946
tourism@folkestone-tc.gov.uk
visitfolkestone.co.uk

Hythe

Visitor Centre
Hythe Railway Station
Scanlons Bridge Road
Hythe CT21 6LD
01303 266421

Margate

The Droit House,
Stone Pier,
Margate CT9 1JD
(Closed Sun & Mon)
01843 577577
visitorinformation@thanet.gov.uk
visitthanet.co.uk

Ramsgate

Custom House, Harbour
Parade
Ramsgate CT11 8LP
01843 598 750
visitorinformation@thanet.gov.uk
ramsgatetown.org.uk

Sandwich

Guildhall, Sandwich CT13 9AH
01304 617197
tourism@sandwich
towncouncil.gov.uk
sandwichtown
council.gov.uk

Tenterden

Tenterden Gateway,
2 Manor Row, High Street,
Tenterden TN30 6HP
01580 762271
towncoord@
tenterdentowncouncil.gov.uk
exploretenterden.co.uk
experienceashford
andtenterden.co.uk

1066
Country



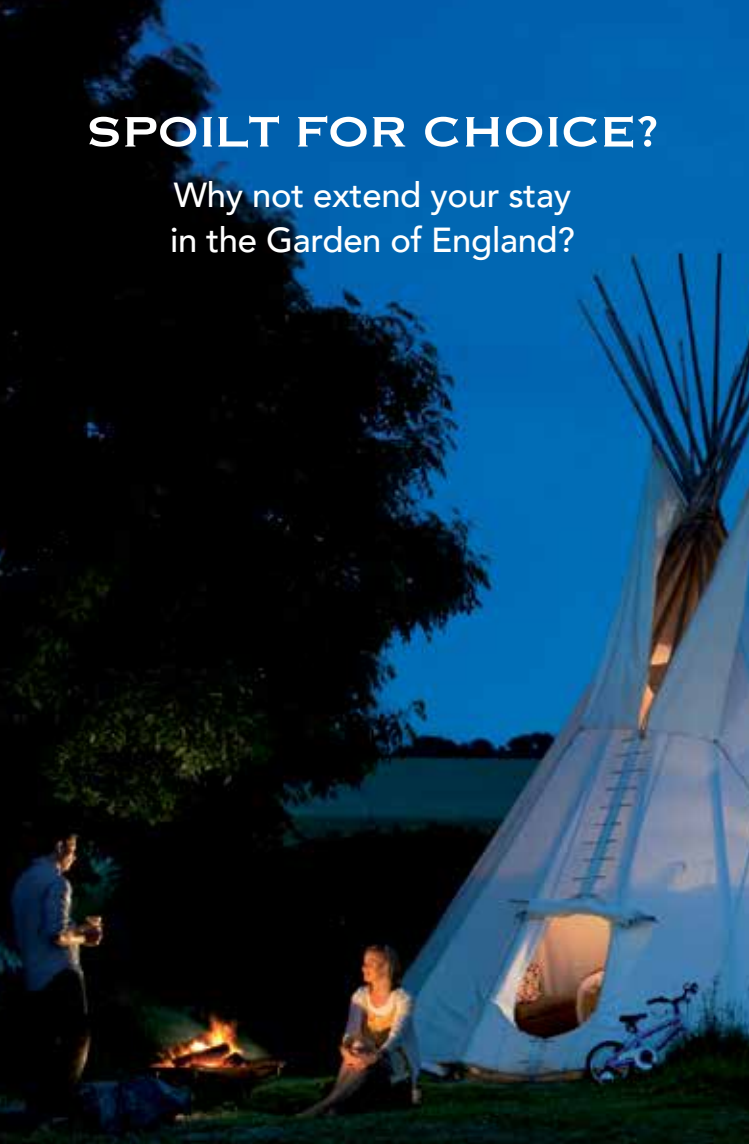
VISIT

HASTINGS & 1066 COUNTRY

www.visit1066country.com

SPOILT FOR CHOICE?

Why not extend your stay
in the Garden of England?



From cosy B&B's to quaint cottages, chic city hotels to glamorous camping, Kent has everything you need for an extra special short break.

For more info, go to www.visitkent.co.uk

KENT
GARDEN *of* ENGLAND

visitkent.co.uk