

A Taste of South East England with English Heritage:

Day 1:

Arrival to hotel in Kent. En route to Kent from London/North:

The Home of Charles Darwin

Down House

Downe

Kent BR6 7JT

Tel: 01689 859119

It was at Down House that Charles Darwin worked on his scientific theories, and wrote 'On the Origin of Species by Means of Natural Selection – the book which both scandalised and revolutionised the Victorian world. Today the house remains much as it was when Darwin lived here.

- Enter the study where 'On the Origins of Species' was written.
- Get a glimpse of domestic life of the family in the ground floor rooms.
- The first floor offers an interactive exhibition on his life, research and discoveries.
- Use the audio tour narrated by Sir David Attenborough.
- Relax in the tearoom serving light lunches, morning coffee and afternoon tea.

English Heritage has restored the gardens to their appearance in Darwin's time. Some of his outdoor experiments on natural selection are recreated in the garden and the greenhouse, with its orchids and carnivorous plants.

- See honeybees working in the fascinating observatory beehive - just as Darwin did almost 150 years ago when trying to prove his theory of evolution.
- Follow in the footsteps on Darwin on his famous thinking path 'The Sandwalk'.
- Marvel at the carnivorous plants in Darwin's garden "laboratory" and unusual varieties of vegetables growing in vegetable garden.

Alternatively or in combination with:

Lullingstone Roman Villa

Lullingstone Lane

Eynsford

Kent DA4 0JA

Tel/Fax: 01322 863467

One of England's most exciting archaeological finds with wonderful mosaic floors, wall paintings, bath suite and skeletal remains.

New for 2008: Discover the story of one of the 20th century's most important and exciting archaeological finds through our dramatic film and lightshow. A new exhibition will display many items excavated on site for the first time.

Day 2:

Full-day excursion to Canterbury:

St Augustine's Abbey

Canterbury

Kent CT1 1TF

Tel/Fax: 01227 767345

Only a short walk from Canterbury Cathedral and the perfect introduction to the fascinating history of Canterbury.

Part of the Canterbury World Heritage site, and one of the most important historic religious centres in the country. Founded in 598 by St Augustine, today you can marvel at the fascinating artefacts that have been uncovered on site, which are now on display in the museum. See the burial place of the Kentish Kings and gain an insight into the abbey's history with the interactive audio tour.

Day 3:

Full-day excursion to:

Dover Castle and the Secret Wartime Tunnels

Dover

Kent CT16 1HU

Tel: 01304 211067

Magnificently standing on the famous White Cliffs, no fortress in England boasts a longer history than Dover Castle, having served as a vital strategic centre since Roman times.

Today the big draw for visiting groups are the Secret Wartime Tunnels in the cliffs beneath the castle where in 1940 Vice Admiral Ramsay oversaw Operation Dynamo – the evacuation of British and allied troops from the beaches of Dunkirk in France.

New for 2008 – see the newly opened Fire Control Post and the Port War Signal Station at Admiralty Lookout.

- Book an inclusive guided tour through the tunnels and see the Command Centre where Sir Winston Churchill viewed the Battle of Britain, and relive the drama as a surgeon struggles to save an injured pilot.
- Experience life as a medieval soldier in the 'Siege of 1216' sound and light presentation.
- Explore the reconstruction of a visit from Henry VIII's court in the Keep.
- Enjoy superb views across the White Cliffs from Admiralty Lookout.
- Let the land train transport you around.

- Relax in the Tunnels Tea Bar or enjoy lunch in the NAAFI Restaurant.

Afternoon visit to:

Walmer Castle and Gardens

Kingsdown Road

Deal

Kent CT14 7LJ

Tel: 01304 364288

Walmer Castle has everything you need for a quintessential English Day Out: a beautifully furnished stately home, glorious gardens and history to immerse yourself in.

Originally built during the reign of Henry VIII, Walmer Castle has evolved over time into an elegant residence.

- Choose from three pre-booked guided tours for groups: At Home at Walmer, Garden Tour and Behind the Scenes Tour.
- Feel how Wellington's spirit lives on in the bedroom where he died in 1852.
- Get an intimate view of the rooms used by the HM Queen Elizabeth, the Queen Mother to entertain her visitors and relax in the garden created for her 95th birthday.

The beautiful gardens surrounding the house also include a commemorative lawn, woodland walk, croquet lawn and a working kitchen garden. The remainder of the grounds are mostly wildlife gardens, a great place to spot birds.

Home-made lunches and teas are available at the Lord Warden's Tearoom, and the well-stocked gift shop is well worth a visit.

Round off the day with a visit to Sissinghurst Castle Garden (non-EH site). One of the world's most celebrated gardens - created by Vita Sackville-West.

Day 4:

1066 Battle of Hastings Abbey & Battlefield

Battle

East Sussex TN33 0AD

Tel: 01424 775705

One date in English history stands out above all others. Visit the site of the Battle of Hastings, where England's history changed forever on October 14th 1066 and relive that fateful day at our major new visitor experience.

Be at the heart of the battle, brought to life through interactive exhibits, film and the abbey and battlefield itself. William the Conqueror founded 'Battle' Abbey to atone for the bloodshed and its High Altar is said to stand where King Harold fell.

New Visitor Centre

- Interactive exhibition and interactive displays draw a vivid picture of the events leading up to the conflict.
- Spectacular new film bringing to life the drama of the battle.
- A new audio tour re-creates the sounds of the battle.
- New shop with 1066 themed souvenirs, unusual gifts and plant sales.
- Café serving refreshments and meals made with local produce.

Autumn and winter visits can be most atmospheric. As the mist rises over the battlefield and the sun drops low in the sky, it is not difficult to imagine you are back in 1066. The new visitor centre will create a day you won't forget...whatever the weather!

Enjoy a private lunch upstairs in the Gatehouse before continuing to Yesterdays World (not English Heritage – but we do offer a joint ticket!) for an enjoyable free-flow visit.