



Southeast England: London, Kent, and Sussex
10-26 June 2022
Tentative Itinerary Highlights

PLEASE NOTE: IF ANY OF THE ATTRACTIONS HAVE TO CLOSE BECAUSE OF THE PANDEMIC, OTHERS WILL BE ADDED IN THEIR PLACE.

KENT

- **Canterbury Cathedral** (<https://www.canterbury-cathedral.org/>)— the oldest and most famous cathedral in England, the Mother Church of the worldwide Anglican Communion and the seat of the Archbishop of Canterbury. It is not only a cathedral but a World Heritage Site.
- **Dover—the white cliffs** (<https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/the-white-cliffs-of-dover>) are iconic, the chalk face of the cliff representing both home and war time defense against invasion. The text of **Mathew Arnold’s famous poem “Dover Beach”** can be found at <https://www.poetryfoundation.org/poems/43588/dover-beach>
- **Sissinghurst Castle Garden** (<https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/sissinghurst-castle-garden>). This world-reknown garden was designed by Vita Sackville-West and Harold Nicolson. Among the most famous gardens in Britain, it is Grade 1 on Historic Britain’s register of historic parks and gardens (which means that it is of “exceptional interest”).
- **Chartwell** (<https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/chartwell>) — Winston Churchill’s home from 1922 until his death in 1965. The home remains essentially as it was when he lived there, with mementos, household furnishings, books, and the like still in place.
- **Royal Tunbridge Wells** (<https://www.visittunbridgewells.com/>)— Formerly a spa town where the aristocrats and royalty often went on holiday. Surrounded by the natural beauty of the High Weald, the town is still a popular attraction away from the crowds and bustle of London. The charming Pantiles, walks paved with clay tiles baked in a pan, were a favorite of the upper classes and common folk alike.

- **Hever Castle** (<https://www.hevercastle.co.uk/>)—The 700-year-old double-moated castle was once the childhood home of Anne Boleyn.
- **Leeds castle** (<https://www.leeds-castle.com/>) was a Norman stronghold, the private property of medieval queens, a Jacobean country house, a Georgian mansion, and now one of the most visited historic buildings in Britain.
- **Rochester** (<https://www.travelaboutbritain.com/kent/rochester.php>)—A true Dickens town, with shops named for characters in the novels and many sites appearing in the novels, especially *The Mystery of Edwin Drood* and *Great Expectations*. Rochester is **Cloisterham**, the setting of *The Mystery of Edwin Drood*.
- Both **Rochester cathedral** (<https://www.rochester-cathedral.org/>) and **Rochester Castle** (<https://www.english-heritage.org.uk/visit/places/rochester-castle/>) figure in *The Mystery of Edwin Drood*. Dickens based his version of the old cathedral on his boyhood memories and more recent impressions of Rochester, a town still dominated by the twin relics from the middle ages, its cathedral and castle. These, Dickens notes, dominate the skyline and the psyche of Cloisterham in *Edwin Drood*.
- **Call the Midwife Location Tour** (<https://thedockyard.co.uk/whats-on/call-the-midwife-location-tours/>)—In the PBS series *Call the Midwife*, the dockyard scenes are filmed at **the Chatham Dockyards** (<https://thedockyard.co.uk/>). This 90-minute walking tour features sets and costumes from the latest series.
- **Eastgate House** (<https://www.friendsof-eastgate-house.org/>)—A Grade 1 Elizabethan townhouse; appears as the "Westgate House Establishment for Young Ladies" in *The Pickwick Papers* (Chapter 16) and as the Nuns' House in *Edwin Drood*, where Rosa is at school, and Edwin visits her (<http://www.victorianweb.org/authors/dickens/rochester/7.html>)
- **Gads Hill Place**— Dickens' country home, the acquisition of which had been a goal stemming from a childhood walk with his father, who told him that one day, if he persevered and worked hard, he might one day live there. Dickens bought it in 1856 and lived there till his death in 1870. Now a school for boys and girls.
- **The Guildhall Museum** ([Rochester Guildhall Museum - Visit Medway](#)) — Dickens Discovery Room has objects related to the author on show. The museum's labyrinthine exhibition rooms also contain an exhibition on the "hulk" prison ships moored in the Medway River. The hulks figure prominently in *Great Expectations*, as does the courtroom in the Guildhall.

SUSSEX

- **The Royal Pavilion** (<https://brightonmuseums.org.uk/royalpavilion/>)— An exotic palace in the center of Brighton with a colorful history. Built as a seaside pleasure palace for King George IV, this historic house mixes Regency grandeur with the visual style of India and China.
- **Brighton Palace Pier** (<http://brightonpier.co.uk/>) — Begun in 1881 and, after a few setbacks, finished in 1899. Brighton touts the 1,722-foot pier as “the finest pier ever built” and features rides and attractions found at large fairs.
- **The Lanes** (<https://www.visitbrighton.com/shopping/the-lanes>) —A collection of narrow lanes in Brighton and Hove lined with shops selling antiques, vintage clothing, jewelry and the like as well as many cafes and restaurants.
- **Bateman’s** (<https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/batemans>)—Jacobean home of Rudyard Kipling in the Sussex Weald. The rooms remain much as Kipling left them, with oriental rugs and artefacts reflecting his strong association with the East. *Kim* was the first major work that Kipling wrote in his study here.
- **Chichester Cathedral** (<https://www.chichestercathedral.org.uk/>)—Founded in 1075, it is the seat of the Anglican Bishop of Chichester and serves as the Mother Church for East and West Sussex. Chichester is the smallest medieval cathedral in England, the only one with a separate bell tower, and the only one visible from the sea.
- **Chichester Market Cross** ([http://www.thenovium.org/article/28846/Chichesters Market-Cross](http://www.thenovium.org/article/28846/Chichesters-Market-Cross))—An elaborate cross constructed of Caen stone, the creamy yellow Jurassic limestone quarried near Caen, France. Standing at the center of Chichester, where four streets meet, and dating to 1501, it is now a grade 1 listed building and a scheduled monument under the Ancient Monument Areas Act.
- **Chichester Walls** ([https://www.visitchichester.org/activity/chichester-city-walls walks](https://www.visitchichester.org/activity/chichester-city-walls-walks)) —Chichester has the most intact Roman walls in the country, constructed 1,800 years ago, with over 75% of the original wall remaining.
- **Weald and Downland Living Museum** (<https://www.wealddown.co.uk/>) —In the South Downs National Park, this museum consists of more than 50 historic buildings across 40 acres. The buildings come from Kent, Surrey, Hampshire, and Sussex and had been scheduled for demolition before they were carefully taken down and reconstruction for the Living Museum.
- **Fishbourne Roman Palace** ([https://sussexpast.co.uk/properties-to discover/fishbourne-roman-palace](https://sussexpast.co.uk/properties-to-discover/fishbourne-roman-palace))—the largest Roman residence unearthed in England, dating to 75 A.D. Much of the palace has been excavated and preserved, including impressive mosaic floors. There is ALSO a museum on site.

- **Rye** (<https://www.ryesussex.co.uk/>) A hilltop fortified town once surrounded by the sea, Rye played a key role in defending the south coast of England. This charming town has ancient buildings, cobbled streets, secret passages, and timbered houses with terra cotta roofs.

LONDON

- **Churchill Museum & War Rooms** (<https://www.iwm.org.uk/visits/churchill-war-rooms>) Amazing interactive museum covering Churchill's entire life. Also includes the Cabinet War Rooms as they were when Churchill and the Cabinet occupied them during WWII. (K.A. editorial comment: This is one of the best museums in London, truly. Just incredible.)
- **Legal London**, including the **Inns of Court** and the **Royal Courts of Justice**:
 - **The Inns of Court** (<https://www.barcouncil.org.uk/about-the-bar/what-is-the-bar/inns-of-court/>) —Gray's Inn, Lincoln's Inn, Inner Temple, and Middle Temple— are professional associations for barristers in England and Wales, formerly largely responsible for legal education. Anyone who wants to join the Bar must join one of the Inns, which are responsible for "Calling" barristers to the bar.
 - **The Royal Courts of Justice** (<https://theroyalcourtsofjustice.com/>)— the Law Courts, which handle civil trials.
- **Covent Garden tour** (<https://www.coventgarden.london/>) Situated close to our hotel, Covent Garden is a lively, historic area to visit, shop, watch street performers, and/or get a bite to eat.
- **Panoramic tour of Mystery Writers' London**—a tour of the City and West End with particular emphasis on as many mystery links as possible.
- **The Dickens House Museum** (<https://dickensmuseum.com>), London home of Charles Dickens from 1847-1849. While living there, he finished *Pickwick Papers* and wrote *Nicholas Nickleby* and *Oliver Twist*.
- **Thames River boat ride**. Enjoy a leisurely sightseeing cruise to view historic landmarks that lie on both sides of this famous river that runs through the heart of London.
- **The Sherlock Holmes Museum, 221B Baker Street** (<https://sherlock-holmes.co.uk>) Charming recreation of the residence of perhaps the world's most famous fictional private detective, Sherlock Holmes.