

VISIT MEDWAY

GROUP TRAVEL GUIDE

2020





Welcome to Medway, a place of great expectations with more than 2,000 years of history just waiting to be discovered.

Medway is just 30 miles from central London and 40 miles from the channel ports and Eurotunnel. It has been the stopping off point for visitors throughout the centuries. Although there have been many famous people associated with Medway, none is more celebrated than Charles Dickens, who lived in the area and based many novels on the places you can visit today.

There's so much to see and do in Medway for groups. In Rochester, you'll find England's second oldest

cathedral and one of the tallest Norman keeps at Rochester Castle. Plus several historic houses, museums, walking tours, specialist shops and an excellent range of eateries to choose from. Nearby, in Chatham, you'll find The Historic Dockyard with fascinating galleries, tours and history to discover, plus a Napoleonic fortress at Fort Amherst and military history at the Royal Engineers Museum.

More information can be found at visitmedway.org.

A blue coach bus is parked in the foreground on the right side of the image. The background features a large, multi-story stone castle wall with several windows and a tower on the left. A black street lamp with a white globe is visible in the middle ground. The sky is blue with some light clouds.

NEW COACH ARRANGEMENTS

Passengers will be dropped off/collected outside the Visitor Information Centre, Rochester (SatNav – ME1 1NH). Coaches will then go to Curtis Way Coach Park (SatNav ME1 2XQ) for FREE parking.

For a downloadable map, along with all other information including terms and conditions, please go to – visitmedway.org.



MILITARY AND MARITIME THEMES

● The Historic Dockyard Chatham

Chatham ME4 4TZ
01634 832800
thedockyard.co.uk

Spectacular naval heritage site spanning over 400 years of history.

● Royal Engineers Museum

Gillingham ME4 4UG
01634 822839
re-museum.co.uk

Tells the story of military heritage from 1066 to the present day.

● Fort Amherst

Chatham, Kent ME4 4UB
01634 847747

Built during the Napoleonic period to defend Medway from landward attack.

● Upnor Castle

Rochester ME4 2XG
01634 718742
visitmedway.org

Built on the orders of Queen Elizabeth I to protect the dockyard at Chatham.

GUIDED WALKING TOURS

Guided walks for groups can be booked through the following organisations:

City of Rochester Society

90-minute circular walking tours, led by a local society guide.
city-of-rochester.org.uk

Footsteps in Time

Costumed guided tours for groups of 10 or more, led by a character from one of Dickens' novels.
footstepsintimerochester.co.uk





HERITAGE AND CHARLES DICKENS

● Rochester Castle

Rochester ME1 1SW
01634 332091
visitmedway.org

One of the tallest and best preserved Norman keeps in England.

● Rochester Cathedral

Rochester ME1 1SX
01634 843366
rochester-cathedral.org

The second oldest cathedral in England has been a place of worship and prayer since 604AD.

● Guildhall Museum

Rochester ME1 1PY
01634 332091
visitmedway.org

One of the finest 17th century civic buildings on local history. New Dickens exhibition from June 2020.

● Eastgate House

Rochester ME1 1EW
01634 332700
visitmedway.org

Impressive Grade I listed building with Charles Dickens' writing chalet located in the gardens.

● Huguenot Museum

Rochester ME1 1LX
01634 789347
huguenotmuseum.org

Britain's very first museum of Huguenot history.

● Six Poor Travellers House

Rochester ME1 1LX
01634 823115
richardwatts.org.uk

A Tudor charity house founded to provide board and lodgings to poor travellers.

● Restoration House

Rochester ME1 1RF
01634 848520
restorationhouse.co.uk

Historic city mansion that featured in the works of Charles Dickens.

● Temple Manor

Strood ME2 2AH
01634 332091
visitmedway.org

13th century house used by the Knights Templars on their Crusades to the Holy Land.

More information can be found at visitmedway.org

FESTIVALS AND EVENTS



Sweeps Festival

Fri, 1 (from 2pm),
Sat, 2 Sun and 3 May 2020
Rochester

A weekend not to be missed! Come along and witness the modern day Sweeps Festival. A colourful array of live folk music, dancing and entertainment with Morris sides and entertainers celebrating throughout the festival. You'll be able to browse the musical instrument fair, record fair as well as sample artisan produce.

Don't miss Sur Les Docks headlining the opening night on Friday, 1 May.

Dickens Festival

Sat, 13 and Sun, 14 June 2020
Rochester High Street

Welcome to a weekend of colourful celebration, enlightening entertainment and Dickensian discovery, as we honour one of England's greatest writers. From costumed parades and street acts to competitions, readings and a fair, Rochester's streets and green spaces will be awash with entertainment.





In 2020 we're celebrating all things Dickens to commemorate 150 years since his death. From April onwards there'll be exhibitions, poetry trails and art projects. As well as guided walks, dramatic adaptations and even an open top bus tour. Not to mention the much-loved Dickens Festival that will be held on 13 and 14 June 2020. There's so much to see and do. Keep up to date @ Enjoy Medway.

Rochester Christmas Market

28, 29 Nov,

4 - 6 Dec,

11 - 13 Dec, 2020

Rochester Castle Gardens

Browse the stalls for unique gift ideas and unusual stocking fillers. Wander the Bavarian food village or visit the funfair. There will also be live performers and even guaranteed snowfall.



Dickensian Christmas Festival

Sat, 5 and Sun, 6 Dec 2020

Uncover a feast of Victorian delights, familiar costumed characters and parades and join in our open air carol concerts. Visit Rochester Christmas Market for unique gift ideas and shop for festive goodies along Rochester's historic high street.



For more information on Events and Festivals taking place in Medway, go to visitmedway.org. Coaches need to pre-book their visit for the Christmas Markets and Dickensian Christmas.

ACCOMMODATION FOR GROUPS

The following hotels can accommodate groups of 15 or more.
Please contact the hotels directly for group rates and availability.

Bridgewood Manor Hotel, Chatham

01634 201333

bridgewoodmanorhotel.com

Holiday Inn Chatham/Rochester

0871 942 9069

holidayinn.com

King Charles Hotel, Gillingham

01634 830303

kingcharleshotel.com

Premier Inn

Medway Valley Park, Rochester | 0333 321 8451

Victory Pier Chatham/Gillingham | 0333 321 9353

Gillingham Business Park | 0333 777 7281

Rainham | 0333 321 9211

premierinn.com

Travelodge

Rochester Riverside | 08719 846555

Chatham Maritime | 08715 591878

Gillingham M2 Services | 08719 846198

travelodge.co.uk

Medway Visitor Information Centre

95 High Street

Rochester ME1 1LX

01634 338141

visitorcentre@medway.gov.uk

visitmedway.org

Medway
COUNCIL
Serving You