

Visit MEDWAY

visitmedway.org



Beyond your
**GREATEST
EXPECTATIONS**

Welcome to Medway

Imagine a place where you can explore a 12th century castle or step back into the world of Charles Dickens, wander cobbled streets and browse independent shops, escape to greenspaces or immerse yourself in the 'age of sail' at The Historic Dockyard Chatham.

You'll find it all here in Medway. With great transport links from Europe, into London and with the Kent coast on your doorstep, Medway is the perfect place for group tours, unique outings or longer weekend breaks.

History and heritage



ROCHESTER CATHEDRAL

Be amazed at this spectacular cathedral that has been celebrating Christian worship since 604AD. Exhibits include Britain's first written law book, the 12th century Textus Roffensis.

Tel: 01634 810073



GUILDHALL MUSEUM

Discover the story of Medway's fascinating history in this beautiful 17th century building. The museum is home to a full-size reconstruction of a prison hulk and the Making of Mr Dickens exhibition.

Tel: 01634 332900



RESTORATION HOUSE

Stand in the footsteps of Charles II at Restoration House, where the 'Merry Monarch' stayed the night before he reclaimed his English throne. Located in the heart of historic Rochester.

Tel: 01634 848520



ROCHESTER CASTLE

Enjoy breathtaking views from one of the best preserved and finest examples of Norman architecture in England, built in 1127 by William de Corbeil the Archbishop of Canterbury.

Tel: 01634 335882



EASTGATE HOUSE

Explore this striking 16th century house located on Rochester High Street, once the family home of Sir Peter Buck, a senior officer at the Royal Tudor Dockyard.

Tel: 01634 332700



SIX POOR TRAVELLERS HOUSE

Relish the peace and calm of this Tudor almshouse with its pretty courtyard and herb garden founded by MP Richard Watts. The charity continued to provide food and lodging right up until the Second World War.

Tel: 01634 823115



HUGUENOT MUSEUM

Discover the dramatic story of the Huguenots' escape to Britain from persecution in France and the lives they built here.

Tel: 01634 789347



UPNOR CASTLE

Wander the picturesque streets of Upnor and visit beautiful Upnor Castle, built in 1559 by Queen Elizabeth to protect the dockyard at Chatham from attack. Situated on the bank of the River Medway set against rolling wooded hills.

Tel: 01634 718742



THE HISTORIC DOCKYARD CHATHAM

Be transported back to the age of sail at The Historic Dockyard Chatham. Explore historic ships and enjoy a fantastic range of interactive exhibitions and iconic buildings.

Tel: 01634 823800



ROYAL ENGINEERS MUSEUM

Dedicated to the amazing technical feats of the Royal Engineers through the centuries, from the Battle of Waterloo to the present day.

Tel: 01634 822839



FORT AMHERST

Tour Britain's biggest and best preserved Napoleonic Fortress. Fort Amherst is a stone's throw away from the Great Lines Heritage Park, with 20 acres of green space to explore.

Tel: 01634 847747



TEMPLE MANOR

A rare surviving 13th century house belonging to the Knights Templar, soldiers who fought for the Holy Land during the crusades. Groups must prebook their visit.

Tel: 01634 332901

Attractions



DIGGERLAND

An ultimate adventure park where families can ride, drive and operate real JCB diggers in a fun and family-friendly environment.

Tel: 01634 711711



CHATHAM SNOWSPORTS CENTRE

Thrill seekers will love a turn on the 200m artificial main slope and the UK's longest toboggan run.

Tel: 01634 827979



BUCKMORE PARK

Feel the adrenaline rush of outdoor karting at Buckmore Park's award-winning circuit where Lewis Hamilton learnt to race.

Tel: 01634 201562



PLANET ICE

The South East's premier ice rink offering sporting excellence in both ice hockey and figure skating.

Tel: 01634 388477

MEDWAY'S THEATRES

Create memories to treasures at one of Medway's two theatres in Chatham, the Central Theatre and the Brook Theatre. From old favourites to comedy shows, children's theatre to jazz and folk evenings, there's something for everyone.

Website: medwayticketslive.co.uk

Tel: 01634 338 338

Email: boxoffice@medway.gov.uk



WALKING TOURS

Guided tours are a great way to discover Medway's hidden gems and pick up local knowledge.

CITY OF ROCHESTER SOCIETY

The City of Rochester Society was founded in 1967 and their guides are well informed local history enthusiasts.

The society run free circular walks around historic Rochester that last 90 minutes. There is no need to book and they typically take place every Saturday, Sunday, Wednesday and Bank Holiday from the first Saturday in April to the end of October.

They also offer private group tours which can be tailored to suite your group's interests including Charles Dickens, architecture or industrial heritage.

For more information on tours available in Medway go to visitmedway.org

Web: city-of-rochester.org.uk

COUNTRY PARKS

Medway is surrounded by stunning natural environment and has a wide variety of parks, wetlands and green spaces to enjoy.

CAPSTONE FARM COUNTRY PARK

Explore 280 acres of ancient woodland, orchards and meadows. Includes a visitor centre and café.

RANSCOMBE FARM RESERVE

Famous for its wildflowers, this 620 acre nature reserve offers breath taking views of the North Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

RIVERSIDE COUNTRY PARK

Ideal for walkers, runners or cyclists set on the banks of the Medway estuary with a backdrop of meadows and marshes. Includes a visitor centre and café.



Planning your trip

Here's our guide to a two-day stay in Medway. With so many historical and cultural attractions you'll be spoilt for choice and could easily extend this to a longer stay. Adjust the itinerary based on your interests and sightseeing pace.



Historic Dockyard Chatham



Day one: Dickens and historic Rochester

Start the day marvelling at the magnificence of England's second oldest cathedral, **Rochester Cathedral** and then walk over the road to **Rochester Castle** where you can enjoy breathtaking views from one of the tallest keeps in the country.

On your doorstep is **Rochester High Street**, with its Victorian architecture, cobbled streets and independent shops, a great spot to hunt for antiques or enjoy a delicious bite to eat at one of the many cafes and restaurants. Once you've refuelled, take a short walk to the **Guildhall Museum** where you can discover Medway's rich history from pre-historic times to the present day.

Don't miss the **Charles Dickens** exhibition 'The Making of Mr Dickens' where you can learn all about his childhood years spent in Medway, the inspiration for many of his novels' colourful characters and atmospheric settings.

Finish by taking a stroll down **Rochester High Street** to **Eastgate House**, a handsome Grade I listed building which featured in Dickens' *The Mystery of Edwin Drood* and *The Pickwick Papers*.



Day two: Military and maritime

For your second day in Medway start at the **Royal Engineers Museum** and its fascinating retelling of the achievements of Britain's military engineers through the centuries. Next pay a visit to the **Historic Dockyard Chatham** with its interactive galleries and three historic warships. Find out how the dockyard played a crucial role in helping to establish Britain's command of the oceans.

Fans of the popular television series *Call the Midwife* can take a tour of locations filmed at the dockyard. Drop by the **Copper Rivet Distillery** and grab a bite to eat at The Pump Room Restaurant before sampling some delicious artisan, locally brewed gin, whisky and vodka.

Bargain hunters won't want to miss the nearby **Dockside Outlet** which is home to more than 40 leading retailers offering great discounts. Contact the shopping centre directly for coach parking arrangements.

History and nature lovers will want to head to Chatham and the vast green open spaces of the **Great Lines Heritage Park** which is also home to **Fort Amherst**, Britain's largest Napoleonic Fortress.

Festivals and events

Medway boasts over 30 days of free festivals and events each year from vibrant street festivals to a charming Christmas market. For all our events and festivals go to visitmedway.org.



ROCHESTER SWEEPS FESTIVAL

This international celebration of folk music and dance takes to the historic streets of Rochester for three days with Morris dancing, parades and stalls.



ROCHESTER DICKENSIAN CHRISTMAS FESTIVAL

Celebrating the life and times of Medway's most famous resident and one of England's greatest novelists with street entertainment, live music, readings, costumed characters and parades.



ROCHESTER CHRISTMAS MARKET

Enjoy the magical festivities of Rochester Christmas Market and funfair with its traditional German wooden chalets, twinkling at the foot of Rochester Castle. Take home handmade gifts and treats or indulge in a delicious hog roast while listening to live entertainment.



ENGLISH FESTIVAL

A fun-packed day out celebrating English culture, history and traditions. Attractions include bird of prey displays, a performance of St George and The Dragon, as well as helter skelters, donkey rides, live bands and fresh local food.

Accommodation for groups



BRIDGEWOOD MANOR HOTEL (★★★★ hotel)

Bridgewood Roundabout,
Walderslade Woods,
Chatham ME5 9AX

Tel: 01634 201333

Email: reception@
bridgewoodmanorhotel.com
Web: bridgewoodmanorhotel.
com

Rooms: 100, all en-suite

Coach parking: On site

Situated at the edge of historic Rochester with links to the M2 (J3) and the M20 (J6). Modern conference hotel, well appointed bedrooms, restaurant and bar, leisure/spa/pool.

4 miles south of Rochester
➤ Chatham 3 miles



KING CHARLES HOTEL (★★★ hotel)

Brompton Road,
Gillingham ME7 5QT

Tel: 01634 830303

Email: kch@fcdhotels.co.uk

Web: kingcharleshotel.co.uk

Rooms: 97 en-suite

Coach parking: On site

A privately owned modern hotel with a cosy restaurant and first class conference and banqueting facilities. Ideal base for exploring South East England and London.

1 mile south of Gillingham
➤ Gillingham 1 mile



HOLIDAY INN ROCHESTER/ CHATHAM (★★★★ hotel)

Maidstone Road, Rochester
ME5 9SF

Tel: 0800 0285880

Email: frontdesk@
hirochesterhotel.co.uk

Web: holidayinn.co.uk

Rooms: 149, en-suite and air
conditioned

Coach parking: On site

Modern and friendly 24hr service hotel. Health club/ indoor pool. Restaurant, bar and lounge. Accessible rooms and conference facilities. Ideally located for historic areas of Kent.

3.5 miles from Rochester
➤ Chatham 3.5 miles



TRAVELODGE CHATHAM MARITIME

Western Avenue, Chatham
Historic Dockyard, Chatham,
ME4 4NT

Tel: 08715 591878

Web: travelodge.co.uk

Rooms: 90 ensuite

Coach parking: Yes, using an
overflow car park

Situated at Chatham Historic Dockyard this is a great location for the University of Greenwich, Medway Campus, which is a few steps away.

➤ Chatham 3.5 miles



PREMIER INN GILLINGHAM BUSINESS PARK

Will Adams Way, Gillingham,
ME8 6BY

Tel: 0333 777 7281

Web: premierinn.com

Rooms: 80 beds

Coach parking: Yes

An ideal location for exploring Medway and within easy reach of London, Folkestone and Dover and the Kent County Showground.

➤ Gillingham 3 miles



PREMIER INN ROCHESTER HOTEL

Medway Valley Leisure Park,
Chariot Way, Strood, ME2 2SS

Tel: 0333 321 8451

Web: premierinn.com

Rooms: 161 beds

Coach parking: Yes

In a riverfront location among all the attractions of Medway Valley Leisure Park, you'll also be well placed for business and leisure destinations around Rochester too.

➤ Rochester 2 miles

Visiting Medway

TRAVELLING TO MEDWAY

Situated just 30 miles from London and 40 miles from the Channel ports and Eurotunnel, it's an easy place to get to by road, rail or air.

BY ROAD

From north, south, west via M25/A2/M2 (Junctions 1-4). From London via M25/M26/M20 (Junction 4 for A228 or 6 for A229). From the Channel ports/Eurotunnel via the M20 (Junction 6 for A229 or via A2/M2 for Junctions 1-4).

BY AIR

Medway is 43 miles from Gatwick airport via the M23/M25/A2/M2. It's 75 miles from Heathrow airport via the M25/A2/M2 and 52 miles from Stansted via M11/M25/A2/M2.

BY SEA/TUNNEL

The area has excellent links to the Channel ports and Eurotunnel. Medway is just 40 miles from Dover and Folkestone and can be reached via the A2/M2 and M20/A229. Rail travel to Medway from Europe is fast and convenient with Ebbsfleet International Station just 20 minutes by coach from Medway.

Visit: [eurostar.com](https://www.eurostar.com)

BY RAIL

Medway has five main rail stations: Strood, Rochester, Gillingham, Chatham and Rainham. Frequent services run from London Victoria, Charing Cross and St Pancras International Stations. **Visit:** [nationalrail.co.uk](https://www.nationalrail.co.uk)

High speed trains link Medway to London St Pancras International Station in just 35 minutes.

Visit: [southeasternrailway.com](https://www.southeasternrailway.com)

COACH PARKING

In Rochester free parking is located at Curtis Way Coach Park, Rochester ME1 2XQ. There is a coach drop off and collection point at the rear of the Medway Visitor Information Centre. Please contact the centre for more information.

There is also a coach drop-off located at Chatham Waterfront bus station. Booking must be done in advance by emailing **cwbs@medway.gov.uk** and **parking@medway.gov.uk**.

CAR PARKING

For the location of car parks visit **Web:** [medway.gov.uk](https://www.medway.gov.uk)





Medway Visitor Information Centre

Medway's Visitor Information Centre's friendly and knowledgeable staff are here to help you make the most of your visit. Conveniently located on Rochester's historic High Street the centre is a great place to get up-to-date information and advice on what to see and do on your trip.

The centre offers first class facilities for visitors, including the Rochester Art Gallery and Huguenot Museum and a shop where you can pick up

souvenirs to take home. Self-guided walking tour leaflets are available. Other facilities include public toilets and an ATM. The centre is fully wheelchair accessible throughout and leads directly to Rochester High Street.

95 High Street, Rochester ME1 1LX
01634 338141

visitmedway@medway.gov.uk

   **[visitmedway.org](https://www.visitmedway.org)**

Medway
COUNCIL
Serving You