

Kentish Explorer

8th to 10th September

On this short break we explore the beautiful countryside and coastline of Kent, the Garden of England. We visit the lovely town of Tenterden, take a ride from the desert at Dungeness to the Cinque port of Hythe on the Romney, Hythe & Dymchurch Railway, learn about the role that RAF Manston played in WW2, visit the coastal towns of Margate and Whitstable, the Battle of Britain Memorial at Capel-le-Ferne and end with a visit to Leeds Castle, "the loveliest castle in the world".



£295 PER PERSON

Single Room Supp: £36

What's Included

- ✓ 2 nights Dinner, Bed & Breakfast
- ✓ All rooms are en-suite with TV, telephone, WiFi & hospitality tray
- ✓ Ride on Romney, Hythe & Dymchurch Railway
- ✓ Entry to RAF Manston Museum
- ✓ Visit to Spitfire & Hurricane Memorial Museum
- ✓ Time to explore Tenterden, Hythe, Margate & Whitstable
- ✓ Visit to Battle of Britain Memorial
- ✓ Entry to Leeds Castle

★★★★ BEST WESTERN BURLINGTON HOTEL

Folkestone

This charming Victorian building in the west end of Folkestone is set in tranquil surroundings overlooking the English Channel and offers all the mod cons you'd expect of a contemporary hotel

Sunday 8 September

Departing Oxted 9.00am, we take a scenic drive to the 'Jewel of the Weald': Tenterden. Rich in history, the town has largely escaped modern development and has consequently retained its charm. Here we shall have time to explore and find lunch in the attractive,



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broad tree-lined High Street brimming with interesting shops. Early afternoon we continue on through the Kent countryside to Dungeness at the southernmost point of Kent and designated as a Site of Special Scientific Interest. Here we board a Romney Hythe & Dymchurch Railway train to Hythe. An integral part of the landscape of the Romney Marsh since 1927, the RH & D is known as "Kent's Mainline in Miniature", with the world famous one-third full size steam & diesel locomotives powering their way along the 13½ miles of track from Dungeness to the Cinque Port town of Hythe. Hythe retains the central locomotive shunting line, and it is worth waiting to watch the locomotive that has just hauled your train reverse down this line and marshal itself onto the turntable, and then return to the train ready for the journey back towards New Romney. We shall have a little time to explore before making the short journey to our hotel in Folkestone.

Monday 9 September

After breakfast we travel northwards across the tip of Kent to the Manston Airfield, formerly RAF Manston. Here we shall find the Spitfire & Hurricane Memorial Museum, with its beautifully restored Spitfire MK XVI and Hurricane IIC, and the RAF Manston History Museum, which tells the story of the airfield from 1916 to the present day. See how the inhabitants of Manston lived during WW2, learn about the 1945 World Air Speed Record attempt, see one of the few recovered practice 'Bouncing Bombs' designed by Barnes Wallis to breach the dams of the Ruhr Valley in 1943: 617 Squadron, The Dambusters, operated from Manston to perfect the delivery of the weapon off the coast of Herne Bay. There are also exhibits on the Cold War, ejection seats, weapons and munitions and much more. Early afternoon we journey on to Margate, then Whitstable, with time to explore in both towns before returning to the hotel late afternoon.

Tuesday 10 September

Leaving the hotel this morning we drive the short distance to the Battle of Britain Memorial at Capel-le-Ferne. Here we shall have time to find morning coffee, visit the Scramble Experience (cost not included) and enjoy the unbeatable view of the Channel and (on a clear day) the coast of France. Our next stop is Leeds Castle, "the loveliest castle in the world" set on two islands on the River Len and rising majestically from the moat. Here we shall be free to explore the castle, Culpeper Garden, and the Lady Baillie Mediterranean Garden Terrace, perhaps watch the falconry display and get lost (or not) in the maze. There is a pleasant walk to the castle through the woods or beside the river, or you may wish to take advantage of Elsie the Castle Train (a charge of 50p per person each way applies, but is complimentary for the less mobile). Following our visit we return to Oxted, arriving late afternoon.