

DAY TRIPS FROM KENCH HILL



Kench Hill is in rural Kent, the bountiful garden of England. There are many visitor attractions and educational sites nearby. Inspirational gardens, historical monuments, picturesque villages, farms, orchards, beaches, and a variety of natural habitats all provide exciting, stimulating and memorable trips. Some places charge an entrance fee, but many are free of charge. Kench Hill has National Trust group membership for free entry to their sites.

Some full day trips require coach hire or additional minibus at a cost of £250-400 to transport a group of up to 45 pupils. Kench Hill's 16-seat minibus is an economical option for groups of up to 30 pupils for local half-day trips (up to 15 miles). Cost varies according to distance @ £1.25 per mile. Or save money on coaches by visiting an attraction on the way to or from the Centre on the first or last day of your residential trip. Please contact us to discuss the best transport options and for advice on suitable locations to support your curricular requirements.

* Most popular trips; recommended for value for money and suitability.

NB Visitor attractions and coach hire get booked up early, especially in Summer term. Contact us as soon as possible to arrange a day trip – up to 3 months in advance.

Prices quoted are for the 2021 season, where possible.

Historical Places: Castles

Bodiam Castle (National Trust) FREE entry + coach OR minibus cost *



C14th castle built both as defence and a luxury home. Optional taught activities (tours, armour room) **£2.50-4.50pp**. 30-minute drive. Usually visited as a half-day trip using our minibus but can combine with a walk or visit Rye/Camber Sands for a full day outing. Gift shop, WC's. No indoor lunch facility except function room (£25 booked in advance). Limited wheelchair access, steep steps.

In summer term you can travel by steam train from Tenterden @ £7.25pp return (single trips

available). www.kesr.org.uk/educational-visits

Leeds Castle From £7.25* + coach hire.

Possible subsidised rate for London schools.

Norman castle, residence of kings and queens, lovely gardens, aviaries, maze, grotto, dog collar museum, moats. 1930's interior – pre-booked time and guided tour essential (but guides do not always pitch to age group.) Educational trail and teachers' notes. Gift shop, WC's. 35 minute drive. Wheelchair access, but long walk from car park.

www.leeds-castle.com/Visit/Education/School+Visits/

Save money on coach hire - visit Friday on the way home (or for smaller groups it is possible to access the grounds and view the Castle via free public footpaths, using minibus transport.)



Sissinghurst Castle Gardens (National Trust) FREE + minibus



Not really a castle, but a Tudor manor house with access to tower & library. Home of Vita Sackville-West, with stunning gardens, kitchen garden, woodlands, and lakes, oast house exhibition and farm buildings. Excellent stimulus for art.

Minibus option for up to 15 pupils, half-day. 30-minute drive. Gift shop, WC's, wheelchair access to most areas.

Other Historical Sites: Museums

Brenzett Aeronautical Museum £1 + minibus TEMPORARILY CLOSED DUE TO COVID

Low key, volunteer-run museum dedicated to the heroes and victims of WW2. Exhibitions on the Girls Land Army, real planes, examples of engineering including radar etc. Exhibits brought to life with guided tours by WW2 veterans, chance to sit in a cockpit. Gift shop, WC's, wheelchair access. Full or half-day trip. 20-minute drive.



Hastings Fishing Museum **FREE + coach hire to Hastings**

Small local museum with a real fishing boat, artefacts, video clips. Located amongst the old fish 'shops'; bizarre tall huts where are nets hung to dry. The area still supports a lively fishing industry. Close to Underwater World. No need to book, but opening times not guaranteed as staffed by volunteers. Useful indoor venue to spend half an hour at Hastings.

Rye **FREE + coach OR minibus costs**



Picturesque cobbled streets, mediaeval houses and walled citadel make Rye unique, an old Cinque Port left marooned from the sea. Follow a fun I-Spy trail to focus observation and provoke curiosity. A convenient half-day stop in combination with Camber Sands or Rye Harbour. 30-minute drive.

- **Castle Museum** Small local museum in C13th Ypres Castle, former town prison, telling history of Rye and the sea. Can be combined with Rye Museum. Suitable for small groups. £1 per pupil. Not suitable for wheelchairs.
- **Rye Town model** £1 per pupil. At Rye Heritage Centre, a sound and light show telling the history of Rye, based on a small-scale hand-built model. Wheelchair access.

Smallhythe Place (National Trust) **FREE + minibus costs**

(Can also travel by foot from Kench Hill cross country).

Home of Ellen Terry, Edwardian actor (1899-1928). Display of old theatrical costumes. Early Tudor house, former Port House for local shipyard. Gardens, Thatched Barn theatre. Quiz, trail. WC's. Open March-October only. Limited wheelchair access (ground floor and gardens only).

Woodchurch Village **FREE + minibus costs** *

Ideal for a comparative locality study; worksheets and discovery trail available.

Optional extras include:

- **Village Life Museum (£1 per pupil donation)** Wheelchair access. Newly refurbished volunteer-led local village history museum with artefacts from Bronze Age to present day, with sections on WW2, rural life, transport. Audio records. Guided talk available, quiz. Limited gift shop. www.woodchurchmuseum.com Highly recommended – excellent value.
- **Windmill (£1 per pupil donation)** A recently refurbished C 18th Kentish smock mill. Guided visits inside the mill are possible by prior arrangement with volunteers. www.woodchurchwindmill.co.uk



The village also has a C13th church, a large green, and wonderful examples of historical homes from different centuries. WC in car park, children's playground. Suitable for a half-day visit – take half the class morning/afternoon, combined with a choice of on-site activities for the rest of the group. Also suitable for a longer visit with a packed lunch. 15 mins drive

General Interest: Natural habitats

Bedgebury Pinetum FREE if Self-led + coach hire* OR minibus + car parking

10 000 conifer trees from around the world in beautiful natural parkland, set in 2000 acre forest. Education centre, woodland trails, adventurous play structures, orienteering. Visits can be self-led with our tutors, or opt for a programme taught by Pinetum staff. WC's. Wheelchair access. 40-minute drive. www.bedgeburypinetum.org.uk
ALSO Mountain biking £7 (extra cost inc. bikes for disabled users). Junior Go Ape £18 pp



Camber Sands Coach hire OR minibus (£60) + car park fees in summer *



The longest sandy beach in England! Collect shells, see the dramatic rise and fall of the tide, explore ecology and plant adaptations amongst the fragile sand-dunes, play a game on the beach, make sand-castles, collect shells and paddle in the sea. Safe beach. Can be very windy! Public WC's April-October only. We recommend a half-day trip taking half the group am/pm, with lunch at Kench Hill. 30-minute drive.

Hastings

Hastings is a typical seaside resort; a shingle beach with an Old Town, fishing industry, lifeboat station, Crazy Golf & beach amusements, plus Jerwood Art Gallery. 40-minute drive

Hastings Attractions £4.75 each, 1 adult free per 10 + extra minibus hire

Combined tickets possible, but we recommend you choose one option only.

- **Smugglers Adventure** Explore St Clements Caves labyrinth, history of C18th smuggling with fun interactive exhibits, sound and light shows (Limited disabled access)
- **Blue Reef Aquarium** Marine nursery, shark tank, ray pool, good interpretation. (Wheelchair access) www.blureefaquarium.co.uk
- **Hastings Castle & the 1066 story** Audio-visual show within a siege tent. (Limited wheelchair access) Gift shops, WC's.

Park Wood

Minibus (£10+) *

A local ancient woodland with mixed deciduous trees (oak, hazel) and a conifer plantation. Suitable for a half-day visit to explore woods using a variety of Earth Education and sensory activities. Ideal to take half a class, whilst others work on-site. Or take a whole class for a full day, with a picnic lunch at Appledore Recreation ground and visit to the village. 15-minute drive, nearest WC's 5-minute drive in Appledore. Wheelchair accessible to most areas in dry weather, flat paths.

Rare Breeds Centre

£5.50 each + minibus *



HIGHLY RECOMMENDED! A firm favourite for all ages all year, even in wet weather. A great full day out combining close-up encounters with farm animals, birds of prey, woodland walks, and challenging physical adventures at Mysterious Marsh and the Zip wire. Plenty of stimulus for Life cycles and Adaptations, with piglets and chicks all year. Excellent value for money. Run by Canterbury Oast Trust, a charity supporting adults with learning disabilities. Good wheelchair access in most areas. 15-minute drive. Gift shop, WC's, café. See www.rarebreeds.org.uk

Homewood School Farm £1.50 per pupil

A low-cost option for groups on a budget. 1-hour tours with plenty of hands-on contact with the farm animals and pets, including ferrets, llamas, snakes. Led by experienced tutors and Homewood School's own young farmers. Just 5-minute drive.

Retreat Animal Rescue

Minibus £1 per pupil donation



Unique farm animal rescue charity at High Halden, with a strong vegan ethos. Suitable for a half-day visit WC's, café. Meet and feed some really special friendly animals – horses, cows, pigs, sheep, goats, turkeys, chickens etc. 20-minute drive. April-Oct only.

Rye Harbour Nature Reserve & Discovery Centre Minibus *

Rare habitats and plants (shingle ridge, salt marsh), pebble beach with shells and sand at low tide, birdwatching, channelled river estuary. Ideal for River and habitat studies. A flat, wheelchair accessible walk to the beach. WC's, new Discovery Centre with education rooms & optional activities. 30-minute drive. Suitable for 2 half-day trips.

Tenterden

FREE

A small town with a big history based on the wool trade! Ideal for comparative settlement studies, the High St has a wealth of historic buildings, including local museum, churches (a climb to the top of the tower can be arranged), interesting shops, and even a steam railway. Just 10 minutes away by minibus, it is also the site of the Leisure Centre with its popular swimming pool and adjacent playground.

Royal Military Canal, Appledore Village

FREE + minibus shuttle

An easy walk with views across Romney Marsh, World War II pill-box to explore, plus history of the Canal, built as a defence against Napoleon's army 200 years ago. The church has an interesting tapestry telling the history of the village, including its Viking ancestors.

The following are suitable options on the journey home to extend your final day.

Kent Life (Maidstone)

£5.50 per pupil + coach hire

28 acres of fun celebrating 150 years of Kent history, with farm buildings through the ages, the story of hop-picking, farm animals, workshops on Victorians, WW2, play areas etc. Good value venue. Shop, WC's, café, education packs. 40-minute drive www.kentlife.org.uk/education/

Wildwood Trust (Herne Bay)

£4.25-6.75 per pupil + coach hire

A unique collection of native British animals in their own woodland habitat, including species now extinct in UK – beavers, wolves, lynx etc. A wonderful chance to learn about our own wildlife and the threats to its survival. 1 hour drive <https://kent.wildwoodtrust.org/education/>

Historic Dockyard (Chatham) £8 pp + coach hire

80-acre site with exciting displays about Victorians and WWs, museum galleries, old warships, submarines, railway, Victorian ropery and the history of sail. Teacher packs, tours etc www.thedockyard.co.uk

We can facilitate adventurous outdoor activities at other sites on request: Water-skiing, paddle-boarding, high ropes/abseiling/climbing walls etc. See Activities list for details.