



CANTERBURY, MARGATE & WHITSTABLE

The area which includes the towns of Margate, Broadstairs, and Ramsgate is referred to as the Isle of Thanet, because until after the arrival of the Romans it was indeed an island separated from the rest of Kent by the Wantsum Channel which the Romans protected by building forts at each end. The channel filled with silt many years ago, but the towns of Thanet have a different feel to those on 'mainland' Kent and are well worth exploring for their history as well as for their food.

The area is easily accessible from London by train and the three main towns are linked by rail and bus services with a variety of options, or as they are within five miles of each other they are easily accessible by bike too.

Day 1 – Canterbury

10h12 Train to Canterbury – journey time as little as 54 minutes from London St Pancras arriving 11h06 at Canterbury West station

Check into [The Falstaff Hotel](#) or [ABode Canterbury](#). The former is set in a 15th century coaching inn in only a few minutes' walk from the station. This characterful hotel has many rooms with four-poster beds, beamed ceilings, and wood panelling. By contrast the ABode, despite being set in a traditional style building has a far sleeker and contemporary feel in the rooms and public areas. Both properties are close to the jewel in Canterbury's crown – its beautiful cathedral.

Lunch: There are many characterful pubs and restaurants to choose from, but we recommend [The Goods Shed](#), a combined farmers' market, food hall and restaurant set in a converted railway shed, and just a short stroll from either hotel.

After lunch visit [Canterbury Cathedral](#), a UNESCO World Heritage Site. The cathedral was founded in 597 though the amazing structure you're visiting was built in 1070. The cathedral and once home to the shrine of Thomas a Becket, and still houses the tomb of The Black Prince, eldest son of Edward III. This stunning structure dominates the city providing sudden views from the streets when least expected.



You can also book the new Medieval Monk Herb Garden experience, which culminates in a trip to [The Foundry](#) a brewer and distiller in the heart of Canterbury for a gin tasting in which the botanicals from the garden have been used to flavour the spirit.

Explore Canterbury either with [Guided Walking Tour](#) or take to the water with a [Canterbury River Tour](#)

Dinner at [The Shakespeare](#) a traditional pub restaurant set down on of the medieval streets of the city celebrating local produce from the Garden of England.

Day 2 – Margate



Depart 10h08 from Canterbury West Station to Margate arriving 10h38

[Margate](#) (left) is one of the original seaside resorts in Britain but has recently reinvented itself and has developed a rather cool, bohemian vibe with lots of cutting-edge shops and restaurants, with masses of options for those who enjoy exploring vegetarian and vegan options.

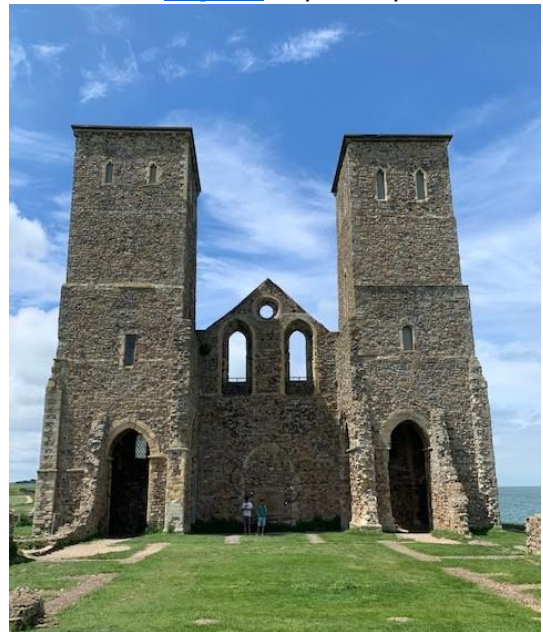
Once you arrive in Margate the station is only a short walk from Margate Old Town along the sea front, so you can start enjoying the sea air as

soon as you step off the train. One of the key attractions on the sea front to the [Turner Contemporary](#) with its frequently changing exhibitions

Explore [Margate Old Town](#) thriving with independent shops, bars and restaurants and home to the unique [Crab Museum](#) the [Tudor House](#), the oldest building in Margate.

Lunch at the [Buoy & Oyster](#), famous for its seafood, or the Michelin rated [Angela's](#) or you may choose to take a more traditional English option and enjoy some fish and chips from [Peter's Fish Factory](#) right opposite the Turner Contemporary and eat them on the beach! Or alternatively you can meet [Dr Forager](#) and join a 2-hour foraging walk along the coastline from Margate to Westgate-on-Sea, followed by cookery demonstration and warm lunch made from foraged food

After lunch book a tour with [Col's Bike Tours](#) and explore some of the coastal Viking Trail perhaps as far as the old Roman fort at [Reculver](#) (right) which can be seen from the harbour arm at Margate. The imposing twin towers of the medieval church dominate the skyline of Herne Bay, acting as a navigation marker for ships at sea. This was the site of one of the earliest Roman forts built against Saxon raids on the 'Saxon Shore'. It later became the site of an Anglo-Saxon monastery. Return to Margate in time for the train at 17h55 from Margate arriving in Canterbury West at 18h26



Dinner at the [Black Griffin Pub](#) in the centre of Canterbury

Day 3 Blean Woods and Whitstable

After breakfast pick up a bike from [Kent Cycle Hire](#) for the 7.5-mile journey along the Crab & Winkle Way which largely follows a disused railway line. The journey will take you through Blean Wood Nature Reserve where bison have recently been reintroduced, and down to the pretty coastal town of Whitstable (right) . Here you can Join a [Wilder Kent Safari](#) with your guide to hear how the animals are looked after and how their presence should breathe life back into Kent, and UK landscape.



For lunch seafood is high on the agenda and places to consider include the [Whitstable Oyster Company](#), [The Lobster Shack](#), and [Samphire](#). You can also book a tour with the [Saltmarsh Walking Company](#) (left) and find out more about this historic port and its beautiful surroundings.



Return to Canterbury by bike or drop it off in Whitstable and take the train back to Canterbury – about 45 minutes with one change at Faversham.

Day 4

Return to London on one of the frequent services from Canterbury to London

KENT GARDEN *of* ENGLAND

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