

## Kent Short Break

Day 1 Travel into Kent with a visit to Eltham Palace.

On route from London we make a stop at Eltham Palace, a 1930s Art Deco mansion designed for Stephen and Virginia Courtauld. A masterpiece of 20th century design.

Day 2 Chartwell and Sissinghurst Castle Gardens.

Today we make a visit to Chartwell the family home of Sir Winston Churchill which is still furnished as it was when he lived there. Many of his paintings are also on display. Sissinghurst Castle Gardens are remarkable gardens created by Vita Sackville West and her husband Harold Nicolson in the 1930s.

Day 3 Canterbury and Leeds Castle.

Once an important Roman town Canterbury is where Christianity gained a firm foothold on English soil 1,400 years ago with the arrival of St Augustine. The fine cathedral was built over many centuries and embraces all the stages of Gothic architecture. The site of Thomas Becket's martyrdom in 1170, Canterbury Cathedral holds a unique place in the history of the Church of England and it is still today the seat of its senior Archbishop and the mother church of the worldwide Anglican Communion. Leeds Castle is often considered to be the most romantic castle in England. It has 900 years of history. In the 1920s it became the stately home of Lady Baillie, an American, and got new interiors by Albert Armand Rateau and Stephan Boudin.

Day 4 Dover Castle and Rye.

Dover Castle has defended England from attack from 1198 until the Second World War when it was a command post for the Dunkirk evacuations. Parts of the present structure date from the 1160s and you can explore the secret World War II tunnels.

Rye is a charming fortified town which was one of the Cinque Ports from the 12th century.

Day 5 return to London

4 nights in a hotel in Maidstone or the surrounding area.