

10 DREAM HOLIDAY HOMES

Looking for a place to spend the summer holidays, a long weekend or crafty mid-week break? East Kent offers an incredible variety of accommodation; choose from cute fishermen's cottages to stylish contemporary homes and historic buildings that are fit for a Lord



VIEWS
THAT SAY
WOW!

Photos clockwise from left: Just 20 miles from the Continent —the shingle beach at St Margaret's Bay; a 'land girl' works the local fields; all dressed up for a 1940s Weekender


 MODERN
&
MINIMAL


4

1 THE PROSPECT TOWER, NEAR FAVERSHAM

You needn't be a fan of the summer game to stay here, but it helps. The tower is on the edge of a private cricket pitch on the Belmont House estate. It was built by the first Lord Harris as a gardener's lodge but served as a family summerhouse and later as a cricket pavilion—the players' coat hooks remain fixed to the walls and their spiked studs pit the floorboards of the upper room. A roof terrace offers grandstand views of the main house and gardens as well as rural Kent beyond.

Sleeps 2 / £413 (4 nights)

www.landmarktrust.org.uk

2 ABBOTS CLIFF HOUSE, CAPEL LE FERRE

Perched at the top of a cliff outside Folkestone, Abbots Cliff House is a luxury seaside retreat. Regal grandeur is the theme inside and it's had a thoroughly modern makeover that retains all the best original period features including floor-to-ceiling windows. Right outside await bracing cliff walks and a sandy beach at the bottom. The sea views towards France are truly hard to beat.

Sleeps 10 from £1,008 per week

www.mulberrycottages.com

3 SHANTY, WHITSTABLE

Located in the heart of Whitstable's conservation area and only a short walk from the buzzy Harbour Street boutiques and the beach, this spacious and stylishly refurbished fisherman's cottage comes with a sun deck and 120-foot west-facing garden. Upstairs there are three bedrooms an—unusually for Whitstable—two bathrooms. Flexible family accommodation with bags of character.

Sleeps 6 / from £600 per week

www.whitstablecottagecompany.com

4 THE SHINGLE HOUSE, DUNGENESS

Designed by Scottish architects NORD, the Shingle House is just one of the stunning properties on the books of Living Architecture, Alain de Botton's not-for-profit venture which aims to let people experience fantastic contemporary building design.

Outside the house, which is clad in tarred black shingles, is the bleak but beautiful desert which has inspired artists such as the late film maker Derek Jarman, whose cottage and driftwood garden are nearby. The interior doesn't disappoint either and it features glazed concertina doors in the living areas and a beautiful sunken black concrete bath that looks out to sea.

Sleeps 8 / from £720 (4 nights)

www.living-architecture.co.uk



5



6

“What do you expect to see from the window of a guest house near Hythe?”



7 8
9 10

FOR COSY COUPLES



QUIRKY SEASIDE FUN!



5 OYSTER SHELL, NEAR WHITSTABLE

This stylish, architect-designed retreat just off Seasalter beach couldn't further from your traditional fisherman's cottage. The living areas shout out contemporary coastal-chic while each bedroom has its own en suite bathroom— the twin room even has a wet room with monsoon rain shower.

Also equipped with underfloor heating, Bang & Olufsen stereo, Nespresso coffee machine and a whopping 50-inch TV, it's got more mod cons than Paul Weller and Bradley Wiggins! **Sleeps 8 from £1,400 (8 people sharing)** www.uniquehomestays.com

6 THE GRANGE, RAMSGATE

A stay at Grade I-listed The Grange offers not just a relaxing seaside break but also an insight into the life of Victorian architect Augustus Pugin, who built it for himself and his family. Guests are welcome to enjoy the panelled dining room, library, tower, and private chapel as well as the remarkable hand-crafted wallpaper, tiles and furniture.

Sleeps 8 / £635 (4 nights) www.landmarktrust.org.uk

7 LIVINGSTONE COTTAGE, PORT LYMPNE RESORT

What do you expect to see from the window of a guest house near Hythe? Herds of wildebeest and rhino sweeping majestically across the plain? Well, actually yes, providing you are staying at Livingstone Cottage set in 100 acres of prime Kentish savannah, otherwise known as Port Lympne Wild Animal Park.

Guests enjoy a magical night in luxury which begins with traditional African cocktails followed a guided safari and a five-course dinner. The bridal suite includes a four poster bed and en suite with stunning views and a roll top bath.

Sleeps up to 8 / from £650 a night

www.aspinallfoundation.org/shortbreaks

S THE BUTLERY, SANDWICH BAY

Tucked away within the exclusive Sandwich Bay Estate (access is via a toll gate and there are five miles of private beaches), this well-appointed half-timbered cottage boasts interiors that inspired by the Arts and Crafts movement led by William Morris. If the solitude all gets a bit too much, Sandwich town and its shops and cafes are just a short hop across the golf course.

Sleeps 2-8 / from £600 per week

www.uniquehomestays.com

9 SEA VIEW HOUSE, WHITSTABLE

This Grade II-listed Victorian house is situated on Reeves Beach just a couple of minutes' walk from the harbour. A quintessential Kentish weather boarded home, it has been renovated throughout whilst retaining its original folksy feel. And if the sun shines, you'll get good use of the decked area in front and there is direct access to the beach.

Sleeps up to 6 / from £1,200 per week

www.whitstablecottagecompany.com

10 TIPIS, ST MARGARET'S BAY

The 4-star Wallett's Court near St Margaret's Bay offer a unique 'glamping' experience within the grounds of their country house hotel. While home comforts are admittedly a little thin on the ground (at least you are able to use the hotel and spa facilities next door!), what better place to revitalise the soul and feel close to Mother Nature? Note: tipis are deceptively spacious and have queen-sized beds with cosy Siberian goose down duvets and genuine Lapland reindeer skins for extra warmth.

Sleeps 2 / £135 a night midweek, £165 weekends (inc. breakfast)

www.wallettscourthotelspa.com



How to let your holiday home

DE-CLUTTER AND DE-PERSONALISE your property. Provide plenty of space in the kitchen, bathroom and bedrooms. **PEOPLE EXPECT TO STAY SOMEWHERE** better than their own home, so invest in things like good quality linen. It's the little things that count.

A FEW CAREFULLY-CHOSEN DECORATIVE TOUCHES to reference the locality of your holiday home will enhance your guests' experience.

PROVIDE A WELL-PRESENTED INFORMATION PACK to include everything a guest might need to know about your home; appliance instructions, heating controls and any little quirks. Include useful information about your town; doctors, dentists, hospitals, as well as the fun things.

BE SURE TO HAVE PROFESSIONAL PHOTOS TAKEN; a good picture speaks a thousand words.

WHEN WRITING YOUR PROPERTY DESCRIPTION, talk up your home, not the town. There will be information about the town online but only you can sell your lovely home.

PROVIDE THE RIGHT AMOUNT OF CUTLERY, crockery etc for the amount of guests your property accommodates. Everyone needs a seat and a bowl.

IF YOU WELCOME CHILDREN, be sure to provide a high chair, cot and child-friendly crockery and cutlery.

IF YOU ARE MAINTAINING THE PROPERTY YOURSELF, remember that cleaning must be of the highest standard. Guests don't want to be reminded that others have stayed there before them. Use professional cleaners (via a management company) for best results.

ENSURE YOU MEET THE PROPER REGULATIONS for a holiday rental property; a gas safety certificate, a fire blanket, smoke alarms and landlord's public liability insurance are a must.

Advice from Garrie Keays from The Whitstable Cottage Company / www.whitstablecottagecompany.com

HOLIDAY RENTAL COMPANIES IN KENT

ownersdirect.co.uk/england-kent.htm

kentholidaycottages.co.uk

gardenofenglandcottages.co.uk

freedomholidayhomes.co.uk

kent-cottage-holidays.co.uk

cottagesinkent.co.uk

curllewcottages.co.uk