

DISCOVER RYE BAY

2019



59th
EDITION

THE
OFFICIAL
GUIDE

find out more



The Jewel of Sussex!

download an Eco-friendly version at
VisitRyeBay.com/guide



How to get to here

By Road

Rye is situated on the A259 between Hastings to the west and Folkestone to the east and on the A268 from the north.

Visit www.theaa.co.uk for a detailed route planner to Rye from your starting destination. From London/M25, take the A21 and follow signs to Rye or the M20 (Junction 10) following the signs to Brenzett and then Rye. Upon arrival, follow the signs to any one of the numerous car parks in town.

By Train

Trains depart from London Charing Cross, London Bridge, St Pancras (High Speed Link) and Waterloo East (change at Ashford International for Rye) approx 1 hour 5 minutes. Trains also depart from London Victoria and Gatwick Airport (change at Hastings for Rye).

Rail information: 08457 484950
www.nationalrail.co.uk

By Taxi

All taxis are listed at www.VisitRyeBay.com

By Bus

Traveline (public transport information):
0871 200 2233.

By Coach

Coaches are most welcome in Rye. (Avoid Deadman's Lane). There is ample parking for coaches in a specially designated area adjacent to the station (TN31 7AB). There is also plenty of extra parking at Harbour Road call 01797 224778 for more details.

By Sea

The Harbour of Rye is open to visiting boats. For more information contact the Harbour office: **01797 225225** or email: rye.harbour@environment-agency.gov.uk

By Air

International flights into Gatwick (LGW). Flights also from Le Touquet, France and private planes into Lydd Aiport.

By Bicycle

Rye can easily be reached using NCN Route 2.

For further information contact Sustrans Information Line: **0845 113 0065**
email info@sustrans.org.uk
www.sustrans.org.uk or
East Sussex County Council: **01273 482652**,
email cycling@eastsussex.gov.uk
www.sustrans.org.uk/what-you-can-do/cycling



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Useful Numbers

ASSOCIATIONS

Age Concern	01424 426162
ARRCC (for the physically disabled)	01797 227939
Rye & District Lions Club	08458 332825
Royal British Legion	01797 225852
Rye & Winchelsea Rotary Club	01797 226451

BANKS

Nationwide	0845 2660497
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CHEMISTS

Boots The Chemists	01797 222308
Day-Lewis Pharmacy	01797 222241
Pharmacy at Station Plaza	01424 425051

CHIROPODY

Feet First (Karen Luff)	07826 142808
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CHURCHES

St Mary's Church	01797 224935
Church Of The Holy Spirit	01797 222430
Rye Baptist Church	07766 585503
St Anthony of Padua	01797 222173

DENTISTS

Davies & Seeley	01797 222834
Rye Dental Surgery and Associates	01797 223311

HOSPITALS

Conquest Hospital (with A&E)	01424 755255
Rye Memorial Hospital (no A&E)	01797 224499

DOCTORS

Ferry Road	01797 223230
Rye Medical Centre	01797 223333
SEADOC (out of hours)	03000 242424
NHS Direct	111

For locations of the Public Access Defibrilators in the town see town map, for surrounding areas visit: www.rothercfr.co.uk/public-access-defibs

East Sussex County Council	0345 6080190
Environment Agency	03708 506506
Harbour Master	01797 225225
Library	0345 608 0196
Lydd Airport	01797 322400
National Rail	08457 484950
Osteopath	01797 225099
Police Station (non-emergency)	101 or 01273 470101
RNLI	01797 223631
Rye & District Community Transport	01797 227722
Rye Community Centre	01797 222850
Rye Town Council	01797 223902
Stagecoach Buses	08456 00 22 99

Swimming Pool & Sports Centre	01797 224747
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TAXIS

All taxis are listed at www.VisitRyeBay.com

VETS

Cinque Ports Veterinary Assoc.	01797 222265
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For queries or further information with regards to this Guide and the work of Rye Bay Marketing Ltd contact: info@visitryebay.com

To get more copies of this Guide contact: advertising@visitryebay.com

Welcome to our Guide

This is the 8th consecutive guide that Rye Bay Marketing Ltd have produced for Rye Bay and the surrounding areas.

The purpose of our Guide is two-fold:

Firstly, to bring people to our beautiful town and area. We use the Brochure Connect distribution network to reach people far and wide.

Secondly, once here the guide offers the perfect resource for places to stay, eat, shop and places to go, not to mention the handy town map.

We look forward to its continuing success bolstering the local economy and spreading the fame of this wonderful area. We hope that you will enjoy your visit to our truly unique town; Rye has so much to offer by way of art, history and architecture. Little changed over the past few centuries, you can soak up the culture and the atmosphere of this magical place.

Rye Bay Marketing Ltd

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Welcome to Rye Bay

Visitors to the historic town of Rye come from far and wide, attracted by the many delights of a small town that really does offer something for everyone. Whether it's a weekend escape from the city, a stop-off on the East Sussex leg of a European tour, or simply a relaxing few hours, Rye's undoubted charm is hard to resist.

Perched neatly on top of a hill that enjoys wonderful views of Romney Marsh, it's not immediately obvious that this ancient town was once a port and busy medieval trading post. The canons pointing out to sea from Gun Gardens at Rye Castle Museum provide a visible reminder that Rye was once the Western seat of navel defence against the Napoleonic hordes that amassed across the English Channel.

Rye has not only retained but celebrates much of its original character and to explore the town's quintessentially English streets is like taking a step back in time. You will find a traditional butcher's shop, bakery and dozens of small independent businesses offering an incredibly diverse range of goods, from the essential to the quirky. Our Antique pages (pages 40-41) include many shops and there are also some excellent secondhand bookshops in which to browse.

The dedication of Rye's shopkeepers to good old-fashioned quality and customer service also helps to make shopping in the town an enjoyably unique and rewarding experience.

The town is home to a thriving creative community and the work of local artists, painters, sculptors and photographers is showcased in several galleries. Whilst strolling around, you're never far away from a welcoming tavern or tearoom where you can enjoy a relaxing drink or bite to eat.

For those looking to unwind further, Rye offers a wide choice of award-winning accommodation, ranging from luxurious hotels to excellent B&Bs, or comfortable self-catering. There are even camping and contemporary glamping options available for the slightly more adventurous.

Picture-perfect cobbled streets, panoramic vistas and a splendid selection of venues combine to make Rye a popular and enchanting location for weddings and civil ceremonies. For a truly memorable experience, it's even possible to arrange for the Town Crier to be on hand to welcome guests and 'cry' the union from the Town Hall steps.

Rye is not only an historic town but also a rather chic one. Famed as one of the fashion destinations of the South East, you can find everything from tailored suits and bespoke hats to vintage clothing. Boutiques offer seasonal collections of stylish clothing, jewellery and accessories such as handmade leather bags, belts and scarves. For that personal touch, the designers and craftsmen themselves run many of the outlets.

photo: Rye Town Model (which can be seen at Rye Heritage Centre)

Rye Heritage Centre

Housed in a converted Victorian sail loft on the quayside, Rye Heritage Centre is the home of both the unique 'Story of Rye' Town Model Sound & Light Show and the Old Pier Penny Arcade, in addition to being your main source for all visitor information in Rye.

The Story of Rye Town Model Show

A perfect way to start your visit to Rye! This unique and delightful show uses a beautifully handcrafted vintage 1:100 scale model of Rye as the basis for a history show unlike any other. Hear tales from 700 years of Rye's history including royal visits, smugglers and dastardly crimes whilst the dramatic light effects show Rye in a way that you have never seen before. Shows last 20 minutes, and are at regular intervals throughout the day.

Old Pier Penny Arcade

Fun for all the family! On the first floor of the Centre, we host one of the UK's largest collections of working vintage amusement machines. Dating

from 1900 to 1960, these animatronic models have been gathered from piers and arcades all over the UK, and lovingly restored to run on pre-decimal pennies. Have your fortune told by The Wizard, see Barnacle Bill, the famous laughing sailor, or watch the creepy delights of The Haunted Churchyard unfold. Admission is free, and pennies are available for purchase in the Centre.

Guided Ghost Walks

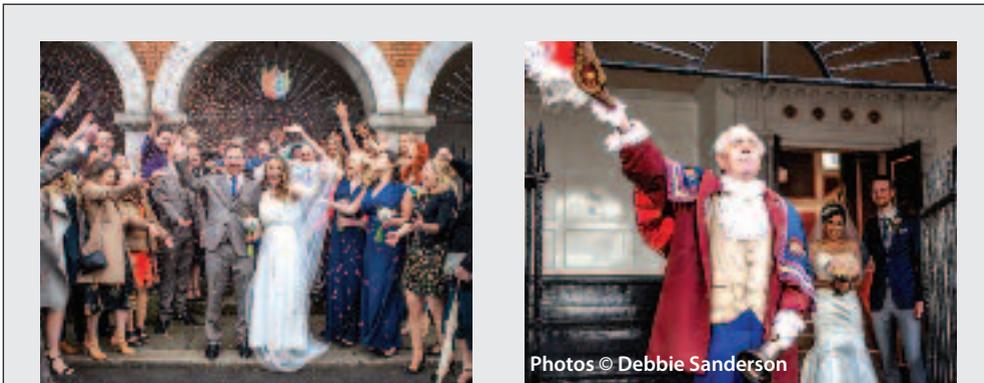
On selected dates throughout the year, join us for special evening walks around the Citadel of Rye exploring the haunted spots and ghostly happenings of the town. See our website or contact us for 2019 dates and times. Pre booking recommended.

Visitor Information Point

Our knowledgeable and friendly staff provide visitors with a wide range of local information. Pick up a copy of the Rye Town Trail, hire an audio tour handset or book onto a guided walk around the town. We can also assist you in booking any last minute accommodation in the town should you decide to extend your visit.

Gift Shop

We stock a huge range of locally produced crafts and exclusive Rye souvenirs, in addition to a comprehensive selection of maps and books on the area, to help you make the most of your visit.



Photos © Debbie Sanderson

Get Married at Rye Town Hall

Have your marriage proclaimed from the steps of the Town Hall by Rye's own Town Crier. The elegant Georgian Town Hall in historic Rye is a unique setting for your special ceremony.



Rye Town Hall • Market Street • Rye • East Sussex • TN31 7LA

Tel: 01797 223902 email: townhall@ryetowncouncil.gov.uk www.ryetowncouncil.gov.uk



FUN FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY!

Rye Town Model

Old Pier Penny Arcade

Audio Walking Tours

OPEN HOURS

February – October: 10am-5pm, 7 days a week
November – January: 10am-4pm, weekends only

The Old Sail Loft, Strand Quay, Rye, TN31 7AY
ryeheritagecentre@gmail.com

01797 226696 • www.ryeheritage.co.uk



Photos courtesy of Chie Sawyer Photography
www.justtengallery.com

Special offers available on combined town model and audio tour hire. Discounted rates available for groups of 10 or more. Please contact us for further details.



Historic Rye

Watchbell Street and Church Square

Rye's important place in history can be traced back as far as Roman times when the town's original location on a huge embayment of the English Channel offered safe anchorage and a place to store iron.

Before the Norman Conquest, Rye was a small fishing community almost surrounded by water that lay within the Manor of Rameslie. When forced to flee the Danes in 1014, Ethelred the Unready promised the Manor as a gift to the Abbey of Fécamp in Normandy where he was given shelter. The name Rye is thought to originate from the Norman French word 'rie' meaning bank, although some suggest it actually comes from a mangling of Saxon words for 'an island'.

The town grew in stature as a trading port and wasn't returned to the English Crown until 1247 when Henry III finally restored order. Back in English hands, the town was fortified with a wall and four gates around 1380 under Edward III's reign.

Contemporary evidence suggests that the South Eastern coastal towns of Sandwich,

Romney, Dover, Hythe and Hastings; were first grouped together, in defence of the realm, by Edward The Confessor during the 11th century.

A general Charter of the Cinque Ports granted by King Henry III in 1260 collectively formalised the arrangement under which the five key towns benefitted in return for providing safe harbour, a quota of ships and men to sail them. These privileges and common rights included exemption from tax, trading concessions and the retention of self-government.

The great storm of 1287 relocated the outlet of the River Rother from New Romney to Rye (resulting in Rye becoming the major harbour in the area) and two years later the 'Antient Towns' of Rye and Winchelsea became full members of the Cinque Ports Confederation.

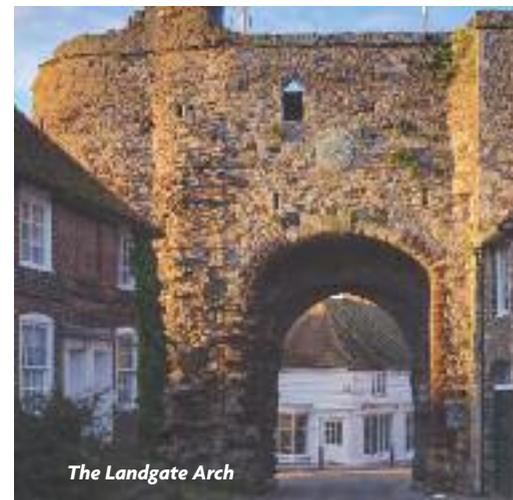
The Royal Charter served both the Crown and population well, until the 13th century introduction of the customs system, which resulted in heavy taxes being slapped on the export of wool to help fund the military endeavours of Edward I and successive monarchs.

This new taxation triggered a crime wave across Sussex and Kent and when luxury goods also became taxable, smuggling became a criminal pursuit for local gangs who armed themselves and were highly organised. Several centuries passed until this illegal trade was suppressed in 1821 by National Coastguard Service patrols and the subsequent reformation of customs laws finally quashed the gangs.

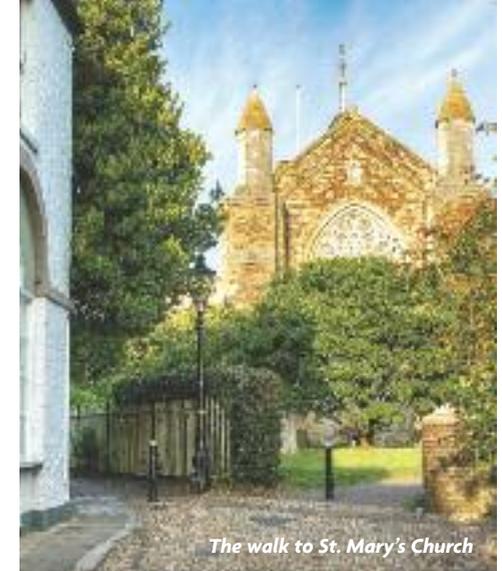
During the Middle Ages, Rye developed into a major port and it was raids by the French, rather than illegal trade, that threatened the town's prosperity most. Major attacks in 1339 and 1377 destroyed almost every building in Rye and even the bells from St Mary's Church were stolen.

New stone walls were built and additional gates added after the second raid and improvements made to the Landgate. 1449 saw yet another attempted raid by the French but on this occasion, Rye's improved defences held firm.

Of the four original gates, only the Landgate survives today, although a few remains of the destroyed Strandgate have been incorporated into the Old Borough Arms Hotel and fragments of the town wall can still be seen. Ypres Tower may have been part of a 13th century royal castle but is thought more likely to have been built during the late 14th century, at the same time as the town wall into which it



The Landgate Arch



The walk to St. Mary's Church

was incorporated. Originally known as Baddyngs Tower, the imposing forty feet high stone structure was leased to one John de Ypres in 1430, hence the name.

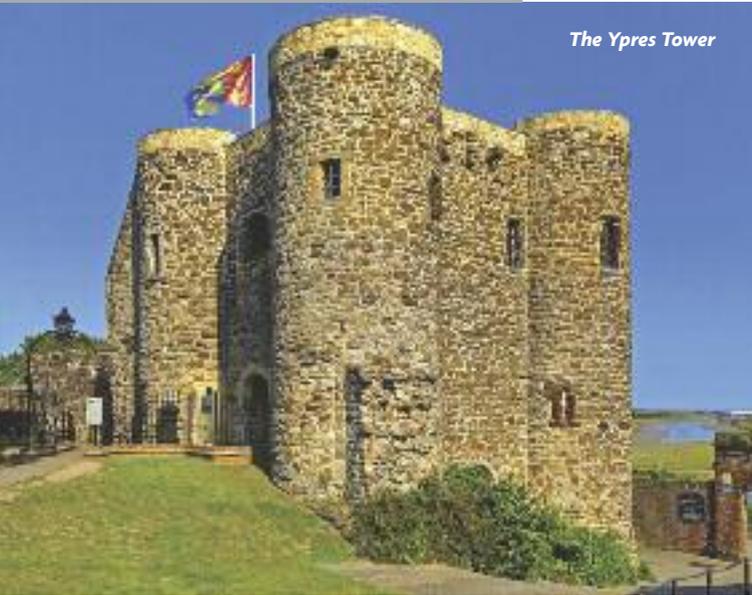
Over the years, the Tower has been a defensive position, court, prison, soup kitchen, mortuary, and is now a fascinating museum, telling visitors the story of a building largely unchanged from the original.

Camber Castle lies between Rye and Winchelsea and was completed in 1544 under the orders of Henry VIII. The symmetrical artillery fort was second only in size to Deal Castle and a garrison of 29 men was based there. Years of relentless silting caused the harbour entrance to shift eastwards, rendering Camber Castle obsolete and the garrison was disbanded in 1637.

Winchelsea was once a flourishing port and of particular importance to the wine trade. The hilltop town had its own significant defences and was planned on a grid pattern to facilitate defence movements if attacked. Unfortunately, French and Spanish raids, the silting of the harbour, and a Black Death epidemic all contributed to the town's eventual demise.

The town boasts one of the largest collections of medieval wine cellars in the country and many of the original stone gates and buildings remain intact to this day.

Rye Castle Museum



The Ypres Tower



John Breeds' gibbet

The Ypres Tower was built about 1249 to defend Rye against attacks from across the Channel and is the oldest secular building open to the public in Rye. It is one of the highlights of this beautiful East Sussex Cinque Ports town with its enchanting cobbled streets, medieval church and beautifully preserved historic houses from medieval, Tudor and Georgian times. Rye is almost suspended in time and has a uniquely unhurried atmosphere.

The Ypres Tower has served the town as a castle, private dwelling, Court Hall, gaol and finally now as a Museum. Inside you can see where murderer John Breeds was held prisoner, and what happened to him, where prisoners were chained and the cells in which they were incarcerated. You can see a smugglers' lantern and a relief model that shows the changes to the Romney Marsh coastline and the defences against Napoleon.

Visitors can try on medieval helmets, feel the weight of medieval weapons and see the uniforms of the Cinque Ports Volunteers. From the Tower balcony you can look out

across the Marsh and view what was once one of the most important harbours in the country, so important that Elizabeth I visited the town in 1573 and called it Rye Royale. The Women's Tower is also open and you can see and hear how Victorian women prisoners were kept.

The Tower is open daily (except Christmas Day), April to October 10.30am to 5.00pm and November to March (weather permitting) 10.30am to 3.30pm. In all cases last entry is 30 minutes before closing. A virtual tour is available.

Please see the website at www.ryemuseum.co.uk for further details or email info@ryemuseum.co.uk



A smugglers' lantern

photos: Rye Castle Museum

Art and Literature

Rye and Winchelsea both have long associations with art and literature, inspiring the many great artists and writers that either lived or spent time in the towns. One of the most celebrated was Flemish Baroque artist Sir Anthony van Dyck, who made several detailed drawings of Rye and became the leading court painter in England.

J.M.W. Turner, one of the greatest masters of British watercolour landscape painting, took inspiration from the area's land and seascapes, as did the influential American-born artist James Whistler.

Also the renowned Edward Burra not only lived in Rye but was given his early art classes in Rye by Miss Bradley in 1921 when he was just 16. His good friend the Surrealist Painter and War Artist Paul Nash also lived in and around Rye, Iden and Dymchurch.

An artists' colony was established towards the end of the 19th century and Lamb House in

West Street, Rye was home to several notable writers over the years. American-born Henry James, author of literary classics *The Portrait of a Lady* and *Turn of the Screw*, lived in the house for 18 years and entertained many eminent figures of the day including Rudyard Kipling and Ford Maddox Ford.

After James' death in 1916, the house became the home of brothers A.C. and E.F. Benson, the latter achieving fame for his series of *Mapp and Lucia* novels. More recently, Rumer Godden, the Indian-born novelist and biographer, author of *Black Narcissus*, *A Kindle of Kittens* and *The Diddakoi* lived at Lamb House between 1967 and 1974.

Between 1923 and 1939, Jeake's House on Mermaid Street was home to Conrad Aiken, an American Pulitzer Prize-winning poet. Aiken's daughter, Joan, was born in the house and went on to become the celebrated children's author of *The Wolves of Willoughby Chase* and other popular stories.

John Fletcher, the noted Jacobean playwright was born in Fletcher's House in front of St. Mary's Church. A contemporary of William Shakespeare, Fletcher succeeded the Bard as house playwright for the King's men. Between 1928 and 1943, the poet and writer Radclyffe Hall lived in several houses around town including the Grade 1 Listed King Charles in the High St. where in 1928 she published her best known work "The Well of Loneliness".

Rye Harbour, home of children's writer Monica Edwards, was fictionalised as Westling in her series of fifteen *Romney Marsh* novels and many of the *Lone Pine* stories created by the children's adventure writer Malcolm Saville were set in Rye. *Romney Marsh* itself was the inspirational location for *Doctor Syn*, the smuggler hero of novels by Russell Thorndike.

Rye Castle Museum
YPRES TOWER
 Women's Tower & Medieval Herb Garden
 The Ypres Tower was built around 1249 to defend Rye. Later it was a private dwelling, the Court Hall and, for 400 years, a prison. See where the murderer John Breeds was held, learn about smuggling and the history of Romney Marsh. View the Medieval herb garden and visit the Women's Tower.
 Open daily: April to October 10:30am to 5pm
 November to March: 10:30am to 3:30pm
 Last entry 30 minutes before closing.
 Admission charges apply.
 East Street Museum open Summer weekends.
 Check our website for the latest information.
 Rye Castle Museum
 Administration: 3 East Street, Rye, TN31 7JY
 Phone: 01797 226728 - email: info@ryemuseum.co.uk
www.ryemuseum.co.uk

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Mary, Mungo and Midge was another popular children's animated television series created by Ryan who moved from London to Rye towards the end of his life. Much of his work is still in print, with details available from the Rye Heritage Centre on Strand Quay.

Husband and wife Howard Gull Stormont and Mary Elizabeth Sapworth were artists and collectors who lived in Rye. More than one hundred pictures in the Stormont collection were bequeathed to the Rye Art Gallery Trust founded by Mary in 1957 for the benefit, education and enjoyment of the people of Rye. The gallery is located on the High Street.

Another highly influential husband and wife team was Robert George Sang MacKechnie and Margaret Barnard. The Seven and Five Society, an association of progressive British artists, was established by MacKechnie in 1919 and played an important role in encouraging the development of abstract art in Britain.

Children's fiction has strong ties with Rye, perhaps the most famous being cartoonist John Ryan who is best known for his character Captain Pugwash that began as a short-lived comic strip in the Eagle. Commissioned by the BBC to produce a series of animations shorts featuring the character, 126 episodes were made in total with the last one airing in 1975.

Illustration of Captain Pugwash © John Ryan Estate

Rock-a-Nore Road, Hastings TN34 3DW
01424 437452
info@shipwreckmuseum.co.uk
www.shipwreckmuseum.co.uk

Shipwreck Museum

Free Entry
Museum and Gift Shop Opening Hours:
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November to March - Weekends only 11.30am to 4pm
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Many events including visits inside Camber Castle.

Find out much more at
www.sussexwildlifetrust.org.uk/ryeharbour

Torchlit Bonfire Events in Rye Bay

Remember, Remember the Fifth of November, Gunpowder, Treason and Plot...

Probably everybody in England is aware of Guy Fawkes and the gunpowder plot but here in Sussex the tradition is steadfast and probably the strongest of anywhere in the land.

Why should this tradition be so strong in our area? The answer is that it comes down to Henry VIII who not only formed the Cinque Ports (of which Hastings and Rye are both members) to defend the realm from aggressors across the channel but was also responsible for establishing Britain's vast naval power. This naval power needed gunpowder and as any schoolboy knows charcoal is a major constituent mixed with saltpetre. In East Sussex long established oak being a very dense hard wood produced the highest calorific charcoal, which in turn gave the most powerful gunpowder. To this day at the end of November/beginning of December in Mayfield they re-enact the Kings Men's gunpowder test.

If you look in the base of an anvil there is a notch. A sample of gunpowder is placed in this notch and whoever's gunpowder, when lit, throws the anvil furthest/highest is bought by the King. Hence the famous Powder Mills in Battle that are now an Hotel.

The various bonfires are held on approximately the same dates every year in Rye Bay starting with Northiam which is one of the smaller bonfires.

Hastings celebrate their bonfire on the nearest Saturday to the fixed day of "Hastings Week" which this year makes them on 12th October. This is a very large event with the bonfire and fireworks on the beach.

In Battle, who claim to be the oldest society in the country, they always go on the Saturday nearest to the 5th, so this year it will be on Saturday 2nd November and their celebrations and torchlit procession revolve around their bonfire on The Green in front of the historic Battle Abbey gates.

In Rye, we always go the following weekend to Battle, so this year it will be Saturday 9th November. Rye's celebrations are really known as Rye Fawkes, rather than Guy Fawkes, which reflects this Cinque Port's towns history of raiding parties to and from France and the burning of their own boats to stop them being stolen by French raiding parties. This involves towing a burning boat through the narrow medieval streets and always a boat is burnt on the 'normous bonfire.

As far as we are concerned in Rye Bay the bonfire season finishes with the event at Robertsbridge which is always held the following week to Rye's, which this year will be Saturday 16th November.

There are many more smaller bonfire events such as The Robin Hood Bonfire Society at Icklesham and the Ewhurst and Staplecross Bonfire Societies event which generally falls between the Hastings and Battle events, or just after.

Bonfires in Sussex are family friendly events and the majority are preceded by large torchlit processions with up to 30 Bonfire Societies and a growing number of drum bands attending each one. The events are free to attend but street collections are made, the proceeds of which go to local charities raising many thousands of pounds each year.

Maintaining this tradition gives a nice break at, what would normally be a very dismal time of the year.



TORCHLIT PROCESSION DATES 2019

Northiam	05/10/19
Hastings	12/10/19
Ewhurst & Staplecross	26/10/19
Battle	02/11/19
Robin Hood at Icklesham	Date TBC
Rye	09/11/19
Robertsbridge	16/11/19

Northiam Bonfire Society
www.northiambonfiresociety.co.uk

Hastings Bonfire Society
www.HBBS.info

Ewhurst & Staplecross Bonfire Society
www.ESBS.org.uk

Battle Bonfire Boyes
www.battlebonfire.co.uk

Robin Hood Bonfire Society
www.robinhoodbonfiresociety.co.uk

Rye Bonfire Society
www.ryebonfire.co.uk

Robertsbridge Bonfire Society
www.robertsbridgebonfiresociety.com

For confirmation of dates please see websites

Article courtesy of Rye & District Bonfire Society

The Rye Christmas Festival



On Saturday 7th December, Rye will once again come alive with the spirit of Christmas as it hosts it's 5th Rye Christmas Festival.

The festival, organised by a group of local volunteers has become more and more popular, set to a different theme each year, it displays great creativity and imagination.

The theme will be decided and announced later on in the year and information is fed out through the facebook page so make sure you keep an eye out for updates.

The day begins with Father Christmas' entrance to town at 11. Father Christmas then makes his way to his grotto where he will reside until it's time for the procession.

Every year, there are many food and drink outlets, rides and activities to keep the kids entertained while you shop.

The high street will see a range of busking style performances as well as the ever-popular High Street Races which kick off at 2pm. Many shops and businesses are running their own special offers, events and drop in activities so you will be sure to find things to fill your day.

Walking down the Mint to the Strand, you will find the main performance stage, host to a wide range of acts throughout the day.

Street performers walk through the town in costumes to suit the theme. So far we

have seen jugglers, stilt walkers, fire artists, human puppets and many more!

The Christmas procession leaves the station at 4:30 and walks through the high street, ending at the Strand. All of the usual characters will be walking with the children including Father Christmas on his sleigh, the mayor, the street performers and many more.

The day ends with a community singalong carol concert at St Mary's church at 6pm which is sure to leave you with a warm, festive feeling.

We hope that you enjoy your day!
www.ryechristmasfestival.co.uk



SATURDAY 7TH DECEMBER
www.ryechristmasfestival.co.uk

Photos © Debbie Sanderson, Liz PenDennis

Coast & Country

Situated on the edge of Romney Marshes just a few miles from the sea, Rye is the perfect place from which to explore diverse natural landscapes on foot, by bicycle or boat.

photo: Clive Sawyer

The popular summer destination of Camber Sands is nearby, offering a huge expanse of white sandy beach and a large dune system to explore.

The area is of historic military interest, being the location for a variety of fortifications from the 16th, 17th and 20th centuries. There is also a disused lifeboat station, which once housed the Mary Stanford lifeboat, tragically lost at sea in 1928 with no survivors.

Although called Camber Castle, the 16th century fort is actually situated between Rye Harbour and Winchelsea. At the time of construction, the site was a shingle spit offering protection to Rye Bay and the approaches to the local towns. The area has since silted up over time and is now situated inland. Camber Castle opens to the public on the first Saturday of July, August and September at 2pm and as part of guided walks around Rye Harbour Nature Reserve (see events page).

Rye Bay offers excellent sailing throughout the year and the rivers Rother and Tilling are both popular with canoeists. The Royal Military Canal passes through Rye. Winchelsea Beach is a small community located at the foot of the hill upon which stands Winchelsea. It is largely residential but the long shingle beach offers magnificent views across the Rye Bay and Rother estuary.

For walkers several long distance footpaths pass through Rye – 1066 Country Walk, High Weald Landscape Trail, Saxon Shore Way and Royal Military Canal Path. Stretching for 32 miles from Seabrook in Kent to Cliff End in East Sussex, the Royal Military Canal passes through Rye offering visitors lots of opportunities for boating and fishing. The canal was originally designed as a defensive structure for keeping out invaders rather than for navigation. Now a popular waterway, walkers and cyclists share the towpath that runs alongside, enjoying the surrounding scenery and wildlife.



Rye Bay Countryside

Rye Bay has a great variety of countryside and coastline that you can explore at any time of year to discover its rich wildlife and cultural heritage.



There is spectacular wildlife throughout the year that can be seen among areas of ancient woodland, farmland, grazing marsh, reedbeds, saline lagoons, saltmarsh, sandstone cliffs, sand dunes, shingle beaches and the open sea. From west to east the main wildlife sites are: Hastings Country Park, Brede High Woods, Pett Level, Rye Harbour Nature Reserve, Rother Estuary, Camber Dunes & Gravel Pits and Dungeness RSPB Reserve.

Rye Harbour Nature Reserve has International wildlife designations and is managed by the Sussex Wildlife Trust. Explore on foot or by bike from Rye, Rye Harbour village or Winchelsea Beach along a network of footpaths with five birdwatching hides that have wheelchair access. See a great variety of plants, birds and other animals all year round.

It's not just about wildlife; there is much interesting history in Rye Bay's countryside. Discover changing coastlines and military defences from Henry VIII's Camber Castle, to the Napoleonic War's Martello Towers and Royal Military Canal and the blockhouses of

World War II. Then there are the churches and the tragedy of the Mary Stanford Lifeboat.

Rye Bay is a good destination to arrive by rail (London is only an hour away) and then explore by bus, bike or on foot. If you are planning a walk through the area there is a comprehensive network of public footpaths, but there are also several long distance footpaths that converge on Rye – 1066 Country Walk, the Saxon Shore Way, the High Weald Landscape Trail and the Royal Military Canal Path. For cyclists the Sustrans National Route 2 passes through Rye Bay on its way from Dover to Brighton.

Rye Bay is "Sussex by the sea" at its best.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:
www.sussexwildlifetrust.org.uk/ryeharbour for maps, wildlife, travel and events run throughout the year at Rye Harbour Nature Reserve and Camber Castle.
www.ryemuseum.co.uk for history from Rye Museum.

photos: Barry Yates, Sussex Wildlife Trust.



Steaming across the Romney Marsh

Romney, Hythe & Dymchurch Railway runs for 13½ miles from the picturesque Cinque Port town of Hythe, through the family friendly seaside village to Dymchurch, towards the railways headquarters at New Romney and finally reaching the National Nature Reserve of Dungeness.

The Model Exhibition at New Romney Station is a must-see attraction. Showcasing RH&DR memorabilia, past headboards and of course a working model railway. The interactive features are sure to keep the children intrigued whilst displays depicting the railways history always engage the grown-ups. Set alongside these extensive indoor features, over the bridge, you will find the train themed outdoor play area, ideal for older children. The younger children will enjoy the Tiny Tots play area situated behind the play hut alongside platform 1.

Catering is available at most stations including the End of the Line Restaurant at Dungeness, take in the

spectacular panoramic views during the day or pre-book onto one of our evening Dungeness Diners. The Heywood Buffet at New Romney serves up a warming lunch and bite sized children's menu. Looking for something sweet? The vintage style Tea Room at Hythe Station has plenty of treats to whet the appetite.

Hythe, Dymchurch, New Romney and Dungeness Stations are all host to quality souvenir shops, whether it's a gift for the children or a nostalgic treat for yourself, there is something for everyone.

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Rye Harbour: *Rye's Hidden Gem*

Just a mile and a half outside Rye, at the mouth of the river Rother, sits Rye Harbour. It's a quirky collection of Victorian and modern cottages with its own sailing club, large donation-based car park, art gallery and a couple of pubs.

The harbour has something for everyone: if you like nature there is a beautiful reserve in which to lose yourself and the cares of the world for a day. Beach-lovers need only walk to the end of the tarmac road to find the gorgeous Rye bay sweeping round to Fairlight cliffs and to enjoy the soothing sound of surf on shingle. If art is your thing, Avocet Gallery shows the work of over 60 local professional artists, ceramicists, photographers and print-makers and, if you are a history buff, the village has a Napoleonic-era Martello tower, old pill-boxes from WWII and the wonderful tar-covered Watch House, established to stamp out the smuggling that was once rife in the area.

The nature reserve is a real haven of peace and quiet if you want to get away from it all. It is also home to exceptionally rare birds, insects and flora. The vegetated shingle, which makes up much of the reserve, is an unusual environment and some of the species that exist here are found in only one or two other sites in the country. You don't need to be an

expert to enjoy the surroundings but if you do want to learn more, there is an information office with friendly staff who'll tell you which birds to look out for and supply you with guides to the flora and fauna you might encounter.

Many of the artists who live around the bay are influenced by the changing vistas of sea, sky and the wildlife of the area. This influence is reflected in the work they produce, which often features seascapes, sea birds and the restful colours of the coast. Many local artists exhibit their work at Avocet Gallery. The gallery is open Friday to Sunday and it regularly changes its exhibitions; it also serves fabulous homemade cakes, light lunches and excellent coffee. If a pub lunch is more your cup of tea, the busy William the Conqueror looks onto the river, has plenty of outdoor seating and specialises in Greek cooking.

All in all Rye Harbour makes a perfect day out if you are visiting the area... so why not come and see us sometime?

Avocet Gallery
Open Friday to Sunday
01797 223005
www.avocetgalleryandtea.co.uk

photo: Peter Greenhalf

Rye was once a thriving trading port and strategic garrison town with a defensive naval force protecting England's medieval south coast but that was 600 years ago. During the centuries that followed, the effect of violent storms in the Channel and land reclamation combined to block the port entrance and the open sea gradually receded two miles.

As maritime trade dwindled, the town became increasingly reliant on tourism and its attraction as a destination for visitors and holidaymakers.

However, there are encouraging signs that the ancient Cinque Port of Rye might once again become a hive of activity and an international trade hub. Rastrum Ltd, established in 1996 and one of the largest privately owned employers in the locality, has been a major force in the redevelopment of Rye Wharf in recent years, helping to bring the area back to life.

The once dormant wharf, looking neglected and without a ship to be seen, is now a busy enterprise covering in excess of one quarter of a million square feet of clean, dry and secure storage facilities and office space. The 30-acre site makes an attractive base for businesses wanting to take

Rye Wharf

advantage of the skilled workforce, low cost housing, proximity to London, and excellent transport links to mainland Europe.

With the capacity to accommodate large vessels up to 90 metres in length, the fully functioning dock enables companies to ship a wide variety of goods around the world. Imported talc from China and stone from France, milling wheat exports to Rotterdam and Belfast, and concrete sections for sea defences, are just some of the goods to have been handled by Rye Wharf. There will be a new industrial development in 2019 with additional units built to accommodate all new businesses.

Amber Rudd, MP for Hastings & Rye said during the opening of new business units at Rye Wharf... "It is great news to see the wharf expanding in difficult times and with the prospect of an interesting development providing jobs and also increasing the size of the salt marsh."



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Further developments took place in the 1930's and 1940's when a third Giant joined its two smaller sisters.

Today two of these original Pumping Engines can be seen operating during the Society's Public Open Days, where numerous other examples are also on hand that illustrate the wide range of British heavy engineering equipment that was required to bring safe water into everyone's homes.

Why should you visit The Giants of Brede – what will you see that is so special?

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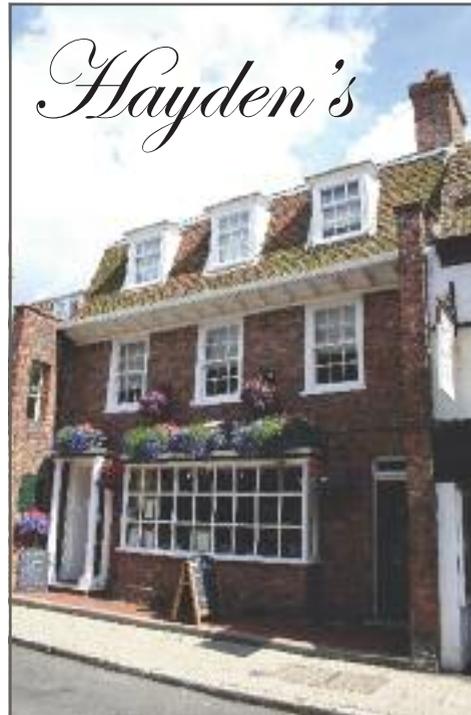
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Eating Out



As well as lots of things to see and do during the day, Rye Bay also has a bustling nightlife.

Restaurants line the High Street, Cinque Ports Street and the quayside offering a diverse range of cuisines – English, Italian, Indian, Thai, etc.

If a restaurant seems a bit too formal for your taste, try one of the many pubs or bars dotted around Rye Bay, many of which also serve award-winning food.

Or maybe visit one of the many eateries in surrounding villages of Camber, Iden, Dymchurch and Stone in Oxney.


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A Town Called Tilling

'MALLARDS' photo: Clive Sawyer

It isn't only historical writers that have made Rye renowned for famous authors Bensonmania struck the town in 1922 and persists until today.

The writer E.F. Benson is very much associated with Rye in that his famous *Mapp & Lucia* comedies are set in the town, which he calls Tilling. He lived in Lamb House from 1919 until his death in 1940, three years longer than Henry James lived there.

Well before he wrote the Tilling social comedies, he was a well known and best selling writer. His first novel, *Dodo*, was an immediate best seller and the talk of London Society. He was born at Wellington College, Berkshire, where his father was the first Master of the College, appointed by Prince Albert. His father became Archbishop of Canterbury in late 1882.

He first visited Rye in 1900 and stayed with Henry James, and after James' death in 1916, spent the winters of the following two years at Lamb House, before taking a joint lease of the house with his brother, Arthur Benson. The latter died in 1925, and from then on E.F. Benson remained as sole lessee, although he also retained a house in Brompton Square, London.

His first book set in Tilling, or Rye, was *Miss Mapp*, published in 1922. In this book he used

Lamb House as Mallards, (Miss Mapp's house) and described her observing the activities in the streets around it from the Garden Room, sadly bombed in the last war. Miss Mapp is the social queen of Tilling and the book chronicles her manoeuvres and devious behaviour to ensure that position remains intact. He describes many parts of the town and houses that still exist today. Her social adversary, Lucia, does not arrive in Tilling until 1931, when Benson published *Mapp & Lucia*. Two further books followed in 1935 and 1939, *Lucia's Progress* and *Trouble for Lucia* respectively. In these Miss Mapp is embroiled with a great adversary, and plots many a scheme to try and expose Lucia's pretensions.

However, you must read them, and as you do you will catch a glimpse of Rye between the wars, although whether social life was like that, or still, is for you to determine. Rye is one of the main protagonists in the novels, its streets, its rivers, its houses, its shops and its people. These days during the summer there are guided walks round the town, looking at the places the characters lived in, and where certain incidents took place.

E.F. Benson (1867 – 1940) is buried in Rye Cemetery. Allan Downend is Secretary of the E.F. Benson society and can be contacted at info@efbensonsociety.org.

Antiques in Rye

Rye, with its ancient buildings, cobbled streets and secret passages was once the haunt of smugglers and highwaymen and is certainly one of the best preserved medieval towns in England. Times change and whilst it still retains its history, heritage and charm Rye is fast becoming the antiques capital for the South East with more than 20 antiques shops and venues all within a quarter of a mile walk from the centre of this stunning and ancient Citadel town and many more in surrounding villages.

HG Gasson Antiques

9 Lion Street, Rye, TN31 7LB

*Early oak, walnut, mahogany,
fruitwood and country furniture
with associated decorative items*

01797 222208 or 07703 349431
www.antiquesrye.co.uk



NEEDLES ANTIQUES

*An eclectic mix including fireside, china,
jewellery, garden, fishing and more*

01424 812728
07545 309672

15 Cinque Ports Street, Rye TN31 7AD

GLASS etc Antiques & High Class Junk

18-22 Rope Walk, Rye, TN31 7NA
Antique Shop of the Year
www.decanterman.com
01797 226600



Wishbarn Antiques

Wish Street, Rye, TN31 7DA

*High quality antiques, collectables
and 20th Century interior pieces*

01797 226797
www.wishbarn.co.uk



The C. M. Booth collection of Historic Vehicles

to be seen at:
Falstaff Antiques
63 High Street,
Rolvenden, Kent TN17 4LP
Tel: 01580 241234
www.morganmuseum.org.uk

Open all year
Monday to Saturday
10am to 5pm

we may have to occasionally
close during these times so it
may be best to call ahead

BRIDGE GARAGE ANTIQUES

Sedlescombe, Hastings, TN33 0QN
(on the B2244)

*selling: china, glass, pictures, records, antique
furniture, military, jewellery and vintage clothes.*

Open 7 days a week ~ 10am till 4 30pm
01424 871424

You should also visit:

THE BLACK SHEEP
72 The Mint, Rye TN31 7EW
Antique china, glass, hand-knitted woollens
01797 224508 • brian.c.wright@hotmail.co.uk

MINT IDEAS
40 The Mint, Rye TN31 7EN
*Beautifully restored old furniture, pictures, lamps
and gifts for the home*
07840 214141 • www.mintideas.co.uk

RYE AUCTION GALLERIES LTD
Unit 36, Rye Ind. Park, Harbour Road, TN31 7TE
*Free valuations, probate, insurance valuations and house
clearances, collections available*
01797 222661 or 01797 222650
info@ryeauctiongalleriesltd.com

Sales 1st and 3rd Friday of every month
TOWER FORGE INTERIORS (EXTERIORS)
Hilders Cliff, Rye, TN31 7LD

Only open at weekends and bank holidays but well
worth a visit *Reclaim wood mirrors, statues, fish boxes,
bookcases and fire surrounds made to measure*
07505 738107 shop: 01797 229447
www.towerforge.co.uk

Rye Bric-a-Brac Market
Community Centre, Thursdays
Saturday Antiques Fair
Community Centre, 01424 882153

Antiques at RAMESLIE HOUSE

*Traditional Antiques Shop
Furniture, Linen, Carpets, Mirrors,
Musical Organs (restoration services),
Clocks, Mounts, Glass, Silver...*

61 Cinque Port Street, Rye, TN31 7AN
01797 225989
www.antiquesatramesliehouse.co.uk

Antique Disc and Cylinder Musical Boxes by Stephen Kember



Almost without exception, everybody who visits my shop in Rye, smiles when they hear an antique musical box play. Why do people find them so interesting? Maybe the mood or feeling of an earlier era is recreated. The sound produced by a properly restored musical box is exactly as it would have been when the machine was new, all those years ago. Each one of us has the opportunity to experience the delight and enchantment felt by say, William Gladstone, a young Winston Churchill or Queen Victoria. We can enjoy the entertainment that was so new in that era.

There are two broad categories of musical box, cylinder or disc. Many variations of each type exist. The musical information, or code, necessary for the production of the music is provided by either a pinned cylinder or an interchangeable flat disc. Examples can be large or small, plain or elaborate, a cheap novelty or a sophisticated piece of musical technology. Each musical box provides us with a piece of social and technical history. If these machines could talk as well as sing imagine the tales they could tell...

Visit my shop in Cinque Port Street (Antiques at Rameslie House) to see what it's all about.

Sponsors of the 2019 Events List



Rye Arts Festival 14th to 28th September
www.ryeartsfestival.org.uk
 The 48th annual Rye Arts Festival runs for two weeks in September. Its mix of internationally-renowned and local musicians, writers and artists provides one of the best arts festivals in the UK.

Rye always has something for the visitor to do. Hardly surprising given the town's close association with the sea and surrounding farms, food features heavily in Rye's major festivals.

Late February to early March stages the popular Rye Bay Scallop Week. Local restaurants band together to offer the finest selection of scallop-based dishes in celebration of the locally caught shellfish.

The Rye International Jazz & Blues Festival is held every August. Early September, this year, plays host to the Festival of the Sea, combining Raft Race with music, food and drink and a celebration of Rye's Maritime heritage. and for the Autumn there is the week long Wild Boar Festival, and then rounding off the year with a very fitting finale in the form of the Rye Christmas Festival – a truly magical family day out.

Rye Harbour Nature Reserve runs many educational and fun events every year but we only have space to show some of them here, for more information regarding events marked with a *, contact **01797 227784** or visit www.sussexwildlifetrust.org.uk/ryeharbour

Dates of events correct at time of going to press, but may change, check www.VisitRyeBay.com for updates. Rye town festivals are highlighted in blue.

January

Tuesday 1
New Year's Day Walk with a Warden*

Sunday 27
A Winter Ramble around Pett Level*

February

Saturday 2
World Wetlands Day Walk*

Saturday 16
Valentine's Evening Dinner, RHDR
Birds of Kent and East Sussex*

Sunday 17
Castle Water Wildlife Walk*

Saturday 16 to Friday 22
Children's Week on the Railway, RHDR

Tuesday 19
Build a Birdbox*

Saturday 23 February to Sunday 3 March
Rye Bay Scallop Week

March

Saturday 2
Wildlife Watch*

Sunday 3
Walk with a Warden*

Saturday 16
Oodles of Attercops by Chris Bentley*

Saturday 23
Spring Beach Clean*

Sunday 24
The 35th Hastings Half Marathon

Sunday 31
Mothering Sunday, RHDR
'Mum's Drive a Train' Afternoon Tea

April

Friday 19 to Monday 22
Easter Bank Holiday

Saturday 6
Wildlife Watch*

Saturday 6 to Sunday 7
The Kent Big Weekend, RHDR

Sunday 7
Guide in a Hide*

Wednesday 10
Collect and Create Beach Pictures*

Thursday 11
Rockpool Ramble*

Saturday 13
The Green Goddess Returns, RHDR

Sunday 14
Walk with a Warden*

Tuesday 16
Mud and Minibeasts

Wednesday 17
The Great Eggcase Hunt*

Monday 22
Our Changing Coastline*

Saturday 27
Castle Water Wildlife Walk*

May

Saturday 4 to Monday 6
May Bank Holiday Weekend

Saturday 4
Wildlife Watch*

Saturday 11
Castle Water Wildlife Walk*

Saturday 11 to Sunday 12
Steam and Diesel Gala, RHDR

Saturday 18
An Introduction to Rye Harbour Nature Reserve*

Wednesday 22
Shingle Birds and Flowers*

Saturday 25
Coastal Plants*

Saturday 25 to Monday 27
Spring Bank Holiday

Tuesday 28
Our Fabulous Feathered Friends*

Wednesday 29
Wildlife Rangers*

Friday 31
Family Discover Dungeness Day, RHDR

June

Saturday 1
Wildlife Watch*

Sunday 2
Photographing Summer Wildlife Close-Ups*

Saturday 8
World Oceans Day - Global Travellers*

Sunday 9
Spectacular Spiders*
Taste the Best of Produced in Kent 2019, Biddenden Vineyards

Friday 14
Adults Discover Dungeness Day, RHDR

Saturday 15
An Introduction to Rye Harbour Nature Reserve*
Dungeness Evening Dinner, RHDR

Sunday 16
Father's Day - Model Trains and Beer, RHDR

Saturday 22
A Family Weekend, RHDR

Sunday 23
Walk with a Warden*

Saturday 29
Beginners Birds - Summer Nesting*

Sunday 30
Moth Morning*

July

Thursday 4 to Sunday 14
JAM on the Marsh, RHDR

Saturday 6
Wildlife Watch*
Rye Harbour's Special Flowers*

Sunday 7
Children's Sunday (JAM on the Marsh), RHDR
FREE steam train journey from New Romney to Romney Warren Holt

Saturday 13
An Introduction to Rye Harbour Nature Reserve*

Sunday 14
Walk with a Warden*

Saturday 20
Engineering Day with Chris Vine, RHDR

Sunday 21
Moths by Moonlight*

Wednesday 24
Marvellous Moths*

Saturday 27
New Romney Country Fayre, RHDR

Sunday 28
Walk with a Warden*

Tuesday 30
Wild Beach*

Wednesday 31
Pond Dipping*

August

Thursday 1
Beach Art & Craft*

Saturday 3
Wildlife Watch*

Sunday 4
Discover the Pillboxes*
Dungeness Lifeboat Station
Open Day
Moth Morning*
The Changeling's Theatre Nell
Gwynn, Biddenden Vineyards

Tuesday 6
Mud, Mud, Glorious Mud*

Wednesday 7
Rockpool Ramble*

Sunday 11
Moths by Moonlight*

Tuesday 13
Camber Castle for Children*

Saturday 17
Camber Castle Open*

Wednesday 21
Hythe Venetian Fete
Mud, Mud, Glorious Mud*

Thursday 22
Shrimping*

Thursday 22 to Monday 26
Rye International Jazz &
Blues Festival 2019

Tuesday 27 to Thursday 29
Nature Treasure Trail*

Saturday 31
Special Seeds*

September

Sunday 1
Bus Rally, RHDR
FREE EVENT
Rye Festival of the Sea
ryefestivalofthesea.co.uk

Friday 6
World Shorebirds Day*

Saturday 7
Wildlife Watch*

Sunday 8
Castle Water Wildlife Walk*

Saturday 14
A Family Weekend, RHDR

Saturday 14 to Saturday 28
Rye Arts Festival 2019
www.ryeartsfestival.org.uk

Saturday 21
Camber Castle Open*
Dungeness Evening Dinner,
RHDR

Sunday 22
Walk with a Warden*

October

Saturday 5
Wildlife Watch*
FREE EVENT
Northiam Bonfire

Sunday 6
Walk with a Warden*

FREE EVENT
Saturday 12
Hastings Bonfire

Saturday 19
Alfred Russell Wallace:
The Man who Lived in
Darwin's Shadow

Friday 25 to Sunday 27
Halloween Spooky Special,
RHDR

Saturday 26
End of Season Parade, RHDR
FREE EVENT
Ewhurst & Staplecross Bonfire

Saturday 26 October
to **Sunday 3 November**
Wild Boar Week

Tuesday 29
Strandline Safari*

Wednesday 30
Wildlife Rangers*

Thursday 31
Halloween Spooky Special,
RHDR

November

Saturday 2
FREE EVENT
Battle Bonfire
Wildlife Watch*

Date TBC
Robin Hood Bonfire, Icklesham

Sunday 3
Walk with a Warden*

FREE EVENT
Saturday 9
Rye Bonfire

Saturday 16
Guyana: The Last
True Wilderness?*

FREE EVENT
Saturday 17
Robertsbridge Bonfire

FREE EVENT
Sunday 17
Custom and Classic
Car Parade

Saturday 23 and Sunday 24
Santa Special, RHDR

Saturday 30
Beginners Birds: Winter Waders*
Santa Special, RHDR

December

Sunday 1
Santa Special, RHDR

Saturday 7
Christmas in Rye -
Magical Christmas Event
ryechristmasfestival.co.uk
Festive Beach Clean*
Wildlife Watch*

Saturday 7 and Sunday 8
Santa Special, RHDR

Saturday 14 and Sunday 15
Santa Special, RHDR

Friday 20 to Tuesday 24
Santa Special, RHDR

Regular Events

Farmers Markets
Rye (Strand Quay)
every Wednesday from 10am

Brede (Village Hall)
every Friday 10am-12pm

Guided Ghost Tours
Run on selected evenings throughout
the year. Pre-booking essential see
Rye Heritage Centre website for details
or telephone **01797 226696**.

June to July - Nature Tots
Rye Harbour Nature Reserve
Weekly sessions from 10am to 12noon
Suitable for children aged 3-5 years. All
children must be accompanied by an
adult. Online booking is essential, in
blocks of 4-7 sessions in line with the
school terms.

For further information please visit
www.sussexwildlifetrust.org/naturetots



14 to 28 September

From 14th to 28th September 2019
Rye is hosting what has been
described as one of the best arts
festivals in the UK.

There will be a packed programme
of events to suit everyone including
classical and contemporary music,
literary talks, theatre, dance, comedy,
guided walks, historic talks, art
exhibitions and much more. There
will be free events for the whole
family as well as special collaborations
with local schools.

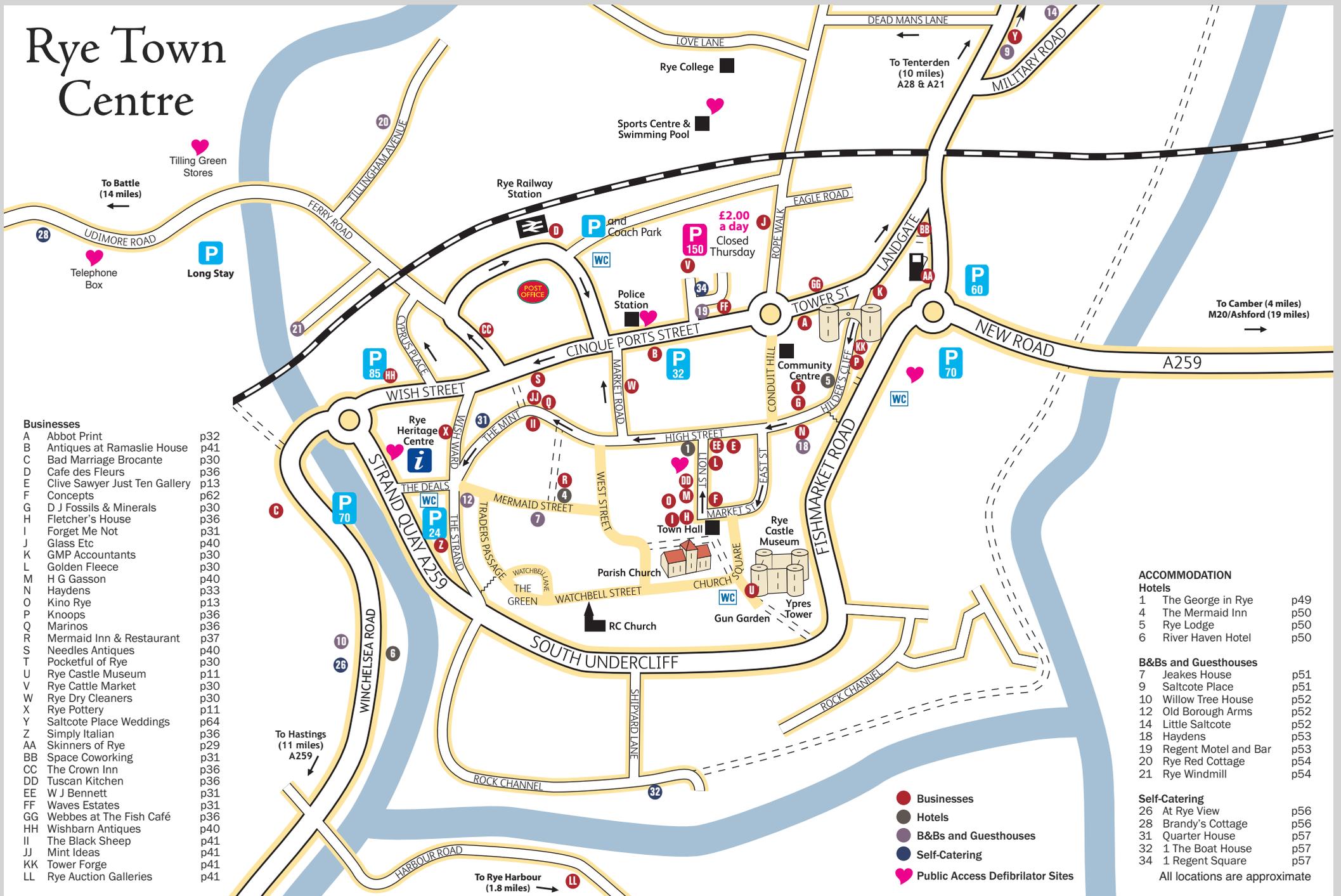
Now in its 48th year, Rye's September
Arts Festival fortnight will see the
town hosting a programme of
nationally and internationally-
renowned artistes that would be
the envy of a big city's arts festival.

Around 50 events are planned with
usually at least two events on every
day of the Festival.

Tickets go on sale from early Summer,
but more information will appear
on the website as the programme
is confirmed.

www.ryeartsfestival.org.uk

Rye Town Centre



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All locations are approximate

- Businesses
- Hotels
- B&Bs and Guesthouses
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- ♥ Public Access Defibrillator Sites

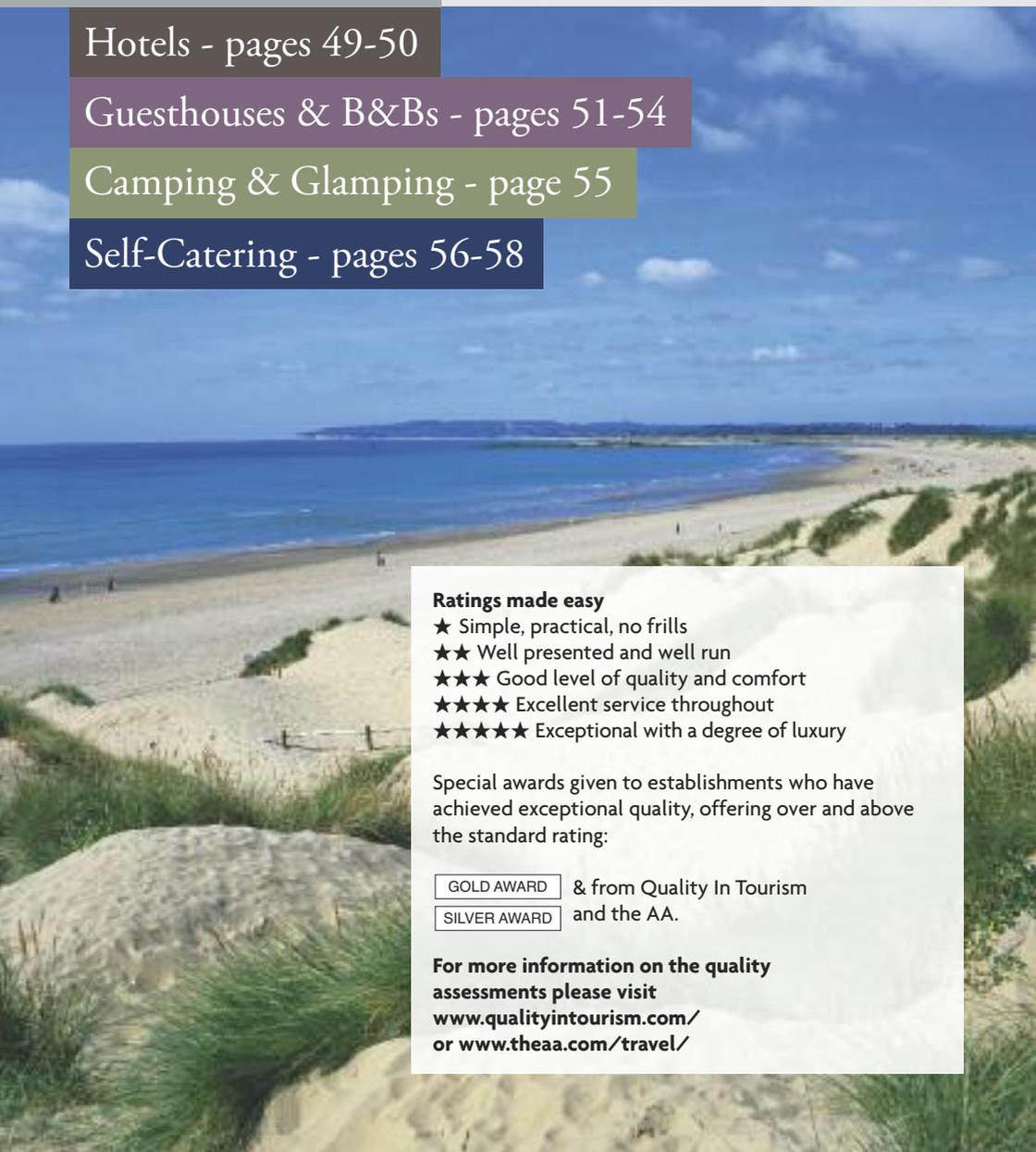
Accommodation

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Self-Catering - pages 56-58



Ratings made easy

- ★ Simple, practical, no frills
- ★★ Well presented and well run
- ★★★ Good level of quality and comfort
- ★★★★ Excellent service throughout
- ★★★★★ Exceptional with a degree of luxury

Special awards given to establishments who have achieved exceptional quality, offering over and above the standard rating:

GOLD AWARD & from Quality In Tourism

SILVER AWARD and the AA.

For more information on the quality assessments please visit www.qualityintourism.com/ or www.theaa.com/travel/

Minimum-Maximum prices (including VAT at the current rate) are per room based on two people sharing a twin/double room, with breakfast (prices usually relate to low/high season).

Hotels



The George in Rye

★★★★

One of the South Coast's most luxurious hotels and the only Four Star in 1066 Country, The George in Rye nevertheless places emphasis not on glitz, but on being a home-away-from-home, whether you're holidaying in one of the thoughtfully designed rooms (consistently featured in interiors magazines), or simply stopping in for tea.

The George caters for all food tastes; its buzzing Grill, named after its wood-charcoal oven, serves modern Mediterranean food made from the best of the South Coast's ingredients and fish from Rye Bay, or stop for a pint or nightcap in the inviting George Tap pub next door.



98 High Street,
Rye TN31 7JT
01797 222114
f: 01797 224065
stay@thegeorgeinrye.com
www.thegeorgeinrye.com

Rooms: 34 Price: £135-£295

Town Map: 1



Flackley Ash Hotel ★★★

Welcome to Flackley Ash, a cosy country house hotel retreat situated in the rural village of Peasmarsh. With 45 rooms, including garden suites and four poster rooms, a la carte restaurant and health club with pool and spa facilities. You can expect traditional Georgian character and service from a friendly and professional team. We have plenty of free parking.

Just minutes from Ancient Rye and the perfect base to explore the surrounding areas such as Hastings Old Town, Battle Abbey, Bodiham Castle and Camber Sands.



Peasmarsh,
Rye TN31 6YH
01797 230651
www.flackleyashhotel.co.uk
enquiries@flackleyashhotel.co.uk

Rooms: 45 Price: from £89 (Bed and Breakfast)

Area Map: 2



The Gallivant

★★★

The Gallivant is a Restaurant With Rooms across the road from the dunes and the beautiful sandy beach beyond. A relaxing hideaway from the stresses and strains of modern life where grown-ups come to dine, dream and relax. There is great food, amazing beds and a lovely little spa treatment room in the garden.

New Lydd Road,
Camber, TN31 7RB
01797 225057
reservations@thegallivant.co.uk
www.thegallivant.co.uk

Rooms: 20 Price: from £95

Area Map: 3



Rye & District

www.ryeguide.co.uk

Hotels and Caterers Association (HOTCATS)

For outstanding accommodation, restaurants, cafes and bars.

Founded in 1961 to promote tourism in the area, to foster goodwill between member establishments and to encourage maintenance of the highest quality food and accommodation.

All members of the Rye and District Hotels and Caterers Association are proud to display the Symbol of Quality which denotes consistently high standards of hospitality and service. All establishments are officially inspected by Visit Britain Quality in Tourism or the AA.

For more information contact:

The Rye & District Hotels and Caterers Association,
The Old Sail Loft, Strand Quay, Rye, TN31 7AY • info@ryeguide.co.uk

find out more





The Mermaid Inn

★★★★

The Mermaid Inn - Rebuilt in 1420.

On picturesque, cobbled Mermaid Street enjoy a wealth of history and a unique atmosphere in one of England's oldest and loveliest inns with 31 bedrooms, many with four-poster beds, secret passages and resident ghost! The linen-fold panelled 2 AA rosette restaurant offers daily table d'hote and house speciality menus.



Weekend and Midweek breaks available.

Our Beautiful Tudor Room is the perfect setting for Wedding Receptions, conferences and meetings. Full details available upon request.

Mermaid Street,
Rye, TN31 7EY
01797 223065
info@mermaidinn.com
www.mermaidinn.com
The Mermaid Inn Rye



Rooms: 31

Price: £90-£220

Town Map: 4



Minimum-Maximum prices (including VAT at the current rate) are per room based on two people sharing a twin/double room, with breakfast (prices usually relate to low/high season).

Guesthouses & B&Bs



Jeakes House

GOLD AWARD ★★★★★

This 17th Century town house in a famous medieval street in the heart of the old town, has played host to many artists and writers and today guests are welcome to escape the rush of modern life. Enjoy a drink in the book lined bar or by the fire in the parlour before retiring to one of the stylishly restored bedrooms, some with four-poster beds and roll top baths. Breakfast is served in the old galleried Baptist chapel. There is an exciting choice of fish, vegetarian and traditional dishes, including our famous devilled kidneys. Private parking near by. Free Wi-fi. Residential licence.

Mermaid Street,
Rye, TN31 7ET
01797 222828
stay@jeakeshouse.com
www.jeakeshouse.com
fb: Jeakes House
tw: @JeakesHouse



Rooms: 11

Price: £95-£155

Town Map: 7



Manor Farm Oast

Highly Commended ★★★★★

Built in 1860, tastefully converted 5 AA Star luxury accommodation in the countryside, but close to Rye, Hastings and Battle. Award winning, eco-friendly serving a Sussex breakfast with all products locally sourced.



Contact: Kate Mylea
Windmill Lane,
Icklesham, TN36 4WL
01424 813787
manorfarmoast@outlook.com
www.manorfarmoast.co.uk

Rooms: 3

Price: from £105 (including breakfast)

Area Map: 8



Rye Lodge Hotel

GOLD AWARD ★★★★★

Situated within the citadel in the ancient town of Rye, the hotel is known for providing outstanding personal service and attention. Rye Lodge Hotel is the only hotel in the local area with the coveted VisitBritain Gold Award for excellence. Free parking, WiFi and pool.



Hilders Cliff,
Rye TN31 7LD
01797 223838
stay@ryelodge.co.uk
www.ryelodge.co.uk

Rooms: 19

Price: £85 - £195

Town Map: 5



River Haven Hotel & Restaurant

★★★★

2018 Les Routiers Hotel of the Year.

Situated on the strand quay overlooking the ancient town of Rye. We offer quality en suite accommodation in all rooms together with the added extras.

Dining is available in our conservatory style restaurant for breakfast, lunch and dinner from our varied menu using locally sourced produce when ever possible. We are disabled and family friendly with ample free parking.

Please see our website for more details and special offers.



Quayside,
Winchelsea Road,
Rye, TN31 7EL
01797 227982
fax 01797 227983
info@riverhaven.co.uk
www.riverhaven.co.uk

Rooms: 22

Price: £75-£110

Town Map: 6



GOLD AWARD ★★★★★

Saltcote Place

...Weddings and Anniversaries

The perfect venue for private functions from 2 to 200 guests. Our exclusive use policy ensures you and your guests receive our undivided attention.

5 Star Gold B&B Suites with Sea views
Close to High Street
with lots of free parking



Weddings and Anniversaries
celebrate@saltcote.co.uk
www.saltcoteweddings.co.uk
01797 222220

Short Breaks:
stay@saltcote.co.uk
www.saltcote.co.uk



All Celebrations are exclusive use



Price: from only £100pppn

Area & Town Map: 9



Willow Tree House

An early Georgian boathouse completely and sympathetically refurbished. The exterior of the house has been preserved virtually intact whilst the interior has been redesigned to incorporate the requisite modern comforts with emphasis on retaining its character and charm.

All 6 luxury bedrooms are en-suite with showers. We have 4 double bedrooms, 1 four-poster bedroom, 1 twin bedroom/kingsize double room.

Each room has been furnished to the highest standards, with Free-view TV, Wi-Fi, hairdryers and courtesy tray. Willow Tree House has **ample free parking** and is situated a few minutes walk from all of Rye's charm.

GOLD AWARD ★★★★★

113 Winchelsea Road,
Rye, TN31 7EL
01797 227820
info@willow-tree-house.com
www.willow-tree-house.com
fb: Willow Tree House
tw: @WillowTreeRye



Rooms: 6 Price: £95-£140

Town Map: 10



The Old Vicarage at Rye Harbour ★★★★★

A Victorian house with character, re-furnished to a high standard with added luxuries and set in a modern coastal style garden with summerhouse for guest use. Good cooking (lots of home-baked treats) and a warm welcome to help you enjoy a wonderfully relaxing stay. In a special & unspoilt location on the doorstep of the SSSI nature reserve with uninterrupted, extensive views of the river Rother running down to the sea and across the salt marsh, perfect for walking or cycling. Ideal for visiting Rye and only a short walk through the nature reserve to the beach. Former home of children's author Monica Edwards. Credit cards accepted. Ample free, secure parking. Garage available for motorcycles or bicycles.

Harbour Road, Rye, TN31 7TT
Tracey & Simon Kenward
01797 222088
or **07824 668098**
tracey@oldvicaragerye Harbour.co.uk
www.oldvicaragerye Harbour.co.uk



Rooms: 3 Price: £95-£140

Area Map: 11



Old Borough Arms

The Old Borough Arms is a four star guest house located at the foot of Mermaid Street in the centre of Rye. There are nine well-appointed en-suite rooms and the three bedroom "Tilling Suite" occupies the top floor.

Please mention Rye Bay Guide and get 10% off your stay!

Rooms: 9+Aptmt Price: £60-£175

Town Map: 12

SILVER AWARD ★★★★★

The Strand, Rye, TN31 7DB
01797 222128
info@oldborougharms.co.uk
www.oldborougharms.co.uk



Brede Court Country House ★★★★★

Country house, originally a vicarage, set on the edge of the Brede Valley. Cosy country pub nearby. Central position for sightseeing. Rooms are very quiet. Offers every modern convenience and comfort. Children welcome. English, German, French spoken. Off road car park. Free WiFi. Price is per double/twin including full English breakfast based on 2 people sharing.

Rooms: 6 (ensuite) Price: £75-£80

Area Map: 13

Brede Court
Brede Hill, TN31 6EJ
01424 883105
bredecr@globalnet.co.uk
www.english-training.com



Little Saltcote ★★★★★

Traditional, family and pet friendly Bed and Breakfast. All rooms are ensuite with TV/DVD, complimentary hot drinks tray and free WiFi. Full English or Continental breakfast, with special diets catered for by arrangement. **There is free off road parking.** Convenient to town and countryside. **Book direct for best rates.** Credit cards accepted.

Rooms: 4 Price: Double up to £95, Family from £105

Town Map: 14

22 Military Road, Rye TN31 7NY
01797 223210
or **07940 742646**
info@littlesaltcote.co.uk
www.littlesaltcote.co.uk



The Lodge at Winchelsea

Perfectly located for exploring our beautiful 1066 countryside and historic sites. 28 comfortable, en-suite guest rooms, modern lounge/bar and restaurant open to the public. Quality home-cooked food and great service. Carvery every Sunday. Free Wi-Fi and parking.



Hastings Road,
Winchelsea, TN36 4AD
01797 226211
info@thelodgeatwinchelsea.co.uk
www.thelodgeatwinchelsea.co.uk

Rooms: 28

Price: from £55

Area Map: 15



Playden Oasts Inn ★★★★★

Small traditional hotel, one mile from Rye, with en-suite bedrooms, some of which are dog friendly. There are 2 delightful restaurants (one of which is pet friendly) offering a wide range of locally sourced dishes, along with traditional Sunday roasts. We also offer an extensive Bar menu. There is also a small function room available for parties, christenings, weddings, wakes etc.

Rye Road, Playden,
TN31 7UL
01797 223502
info@playdenoast.co.uk
www.playdenoast.co.uk

Rooms: 8

Price: £85-£120

Area Map: 16



Cliff Farm

Step back in time in this beautiful 200 year old Sussex Peg Tile farmhouse. Uninterrupted views over Romney Marsh. Two miles from the ancient town of Rye, offering bed and breakfast for 40 years, en-suite rooms, log fire, central heating, off road parking and free WiFi. Ideal for walking, cycling, touring, bird watching.

Cliff Farm, Military Road
Playden, Rye, TN31 7QD
01797 280331
pat.jeff.sullivan@gmail.com
www.cliff-farm.co.uk

Rooms: 3

Price: £65-£80

Area Map: 17



Hayden's

108 High Street,
Rye, TN31 7JE
01797 224501

info@haydensinrye.co.uk
www.haydensinrye.co.uk
See our main advert on page 33

Rooms: 8
Price: £60-£160

Town Map: 18

Trip Advisor rated: 5.0
Booking.com rated: 9.6

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www.ryeguide.co.uk



The Regent Motel & Bar

Small family run Motel in Rye centre offering accommodation only. Limited parking available on a first in basis or reserved spaces £5.00. New superior rooms. Family rooms. Single rooms. Book direct on our website using the discount code "RyeBay" this will take £10 off the advertised room rate.

SAVE £10

Rooms: 9

Price: from £75 double/twin en-suite

Town Map: 19

42 Cinque Port Street,
Rye, TN31 7AN
01797 225884
enquiries@regentmotel.com
www.regentmotel.com



Rye Arts Festival

The 48th annual Rye Arts Festival runs for two weeks in September. Its mix of internationally-renowned and local musicians, writers and artists provides one of the best arts festivals in the UK.

14th to 28th September www.ryeartsfestival.org.uk



Rye Red Cottage

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'Superhost' Airbnb



18 Tillingham Avenue,
Rye, East Sussex, TN31 7BA
01797 222056
info@ryeredcottage.com
www.ryeredcottage.com

Rooms: 2

Price: from £75-£135 per room

Town Map: 20



Rye Windmill

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off Ferry Road, Rye, TN31 7DW
01797 224027
info@ryewindmill.co.uk
www.ryewindmill.co.uk

Rooms: 10

Price: from £80-£200 (per room)

Town Map: 21



Stonelink Cottages

Contact: Karen Wetherley-Moody.

Far reaching views over the Brede Valley.
Walking/Sightseeing. Comfortable and welcoming. Garden/log fires and Rye is a short comfortable 10 minutes drive.



2 Stonelink Cottages
Stubb Lane, Brede, TN31 6BL
01424 882943 or **07802 573612**
stonelinkC@aol.com
www.stonelinkbedandbreakfast.co.uk

Rooms: 3

Price: £40-£45 Single, £70-£75 Double/Twin

Area Map: 22

Also see: The Kings Head, Rye and The Ship Inn, Dymchurch (page 35)



ANOTHER REASON TO...
VisitRyeBay.com

Prices (including VAT at the current rate) per unit/pitch, per night. (Minimum/Maximum prices usually relate to low/high season).

Camping & Glamping



Cedarwood

Cedarwood is a well-appointed glamping cabin for two set on the edge of a small copse of trees with views stretching eastwards over AONB countryside. The compact, stylish and romantic timber retreat comes complete with WIFI and smart TV, a small bathroom with a walk-in shower, and a king-size cabin-styled bed plus a galley kitchen, 'though there are two award-winning pubs in the village that both serve home-cooked food. In summer, the outside deck catches the sun throughout the day. In winter, the well-insulated cabin comes into its own with its dinky wood burner, an outside fire pit and an ample supply of logs. 5 miles from Rye.



Contact: Peter Spencer
01424 813974
07767 896807
info@glampingcabin-rye.co.uk
www.glampingcabin-rye.co.uk

Sleeps: 2

Price: £70-£105 per night (min. two nights)

Area Map: 23



Hare & Hounds

Campsite and Bed & Breakfast

Rye Road, Rye Foreign, TN31 7ST
01797 230483 or **07747 608794**
www.hareandhoundsrye.co.uk

Rye just 2 miles away. Tents, Campervans and Motorhomes, EHU available.
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01424 423583

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www.shearbarn.com

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- ✓ Indoor children's soft play
- ✓ Chargeable indoor heated swimming pool



Self-Catering

Prices (including VAT at the current rate) per unit, one week. (Minimum/Maximum prices usually relate to low/high season).



At RyeView - in the town of Rye

RyeView is a well-appointed three-storey townhouse in a private gated development, with parking for three cars, only 5 minutes walk from the centre of Rye. A stylish garden, modern amenities, with all the 'home from home' comforts you could wish for. All inclusive services, including WiFi, a complete Welcome Pack, linen and towels. For offers please review our website or call us directly to chat.

★★★★★

Contact: John or
Jacquie Moore
07771 884885
or 07971 810006
jacquie@ryeview.co.uk
www.ryeview.co.uk

Sleeps: 2-4 Price: £425-£690

Town Map: 26



Blackthorn

★★★★★

Blackthorn is a luxurious self-catering retreat for two set within the grounds of the owner's home, with a distant view of the sea and surrounded by beautiful Sussex countryside. It has a private south facing verandah, ideal for soaking up the ambience of this peaceful setting.



Guests have unlimited daily access to the heated indoor pool and outdoor hot-tub between 8am and 8pm. Two award-winning pubs are in the village, and Blackthorn is ideally placed for visiting many places of interest within 10 miles: historic Winchelsea, Ancient Rye, Hastings Old Town, Battle Abbey, a varied coastline and beautiful gardens and country houses.

Contact: Peter Spencer
01424 813974
07767 896807
info@sussex-cottage.co.uk
www.sussex-cottage.co.uk

Sleeps: 2 Price: £75-£115 per night (min. two nights)

Area Map: 27



Brandy's Cottage

★★★★★

Sympathetically converted cottage provides luxurious and spacious accommodation for two people. Located one mile from Rye in peaceful surroundings with ample off-road parking. Gas central heating, fully fitted kitchen with fridge freezer, washing machine and dishwasher, king size double bed, en-suite, tv, dvd, music centre, wifi access, private garden. Linen and towels provided. No smoking. Direct access to 1066 walk. We accept one small well-behaved dog and children over 12.

Contact:
Mrs Jane Apperly
Cadborough Farm,
Rye, TN31 6AA
01797 225426
apperly@cadborough.co.uk
www.cadborough.co.uk

Short breaks available. Three other one bedroom cottages available, two can be a twin.

Sleeps: 2 Price: from £395-£550

Town Map: 28



Coldharbour Cottage

★★★★★

National Award Winning Victorian farmhouse with many original features. Garden Room, Living Room with inglenook fireplace, parlour, outside playspace for children, cottage garden, working farm with excellent views and walks.



Stone-in-Oxney, TN30 7JX
07733 142336
or 01233 758520
stay@coldharbourcottage.co.uk
www.coldharbourcottage.co.uk
fb: Coldharbour Cottage

Sleeps: 6 Price: from £450

Area Map: 29



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Great Prawls Farm Cottages, Stone-in-Oxney nr Rye

★★★★★

10 mins from Rye on the Kent/Sussex border. Peaceful, fully detached cottages with lovely views & wildlife walks on family sheep farm. Comfortable, well equipped & single storey with private gardens, patios, parking. Near coast/RSPB. Dog by arrangement. Short breaks low season.

Nr Tenterden, Kent. TN30 7HB
01797 270539
or 07770 788475
info@prawls.co.uk
www.prawls.co.uk
established 1978



Tamworth Sleeps: 4 Meadow Sleeps: 5 Price: £450-£795

Area Map: 30



Quarter House

★★★★★

Enjoy stylish beamed surroundings in the heart of Medieval Rye in this charming Grade II listed 2-storey apartment, with original beams, open log fire and jacuzzi bath. A perfect base to explore Rye's cobbled streets, antiques, pubs, shops, galleries and independent cinema. Beaches and castles nearby.

Contact: Sally Bayly
01797 222498
or 07956 280257
info@ryecottages.net
www.ryecottages.net
cottages4u property ref: 25320

Sleeps: 1-4 Price: £282-£648 (depending on season)

Town Map: 31

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1 The Boathouse

Contact: Chris Melville-Brown
07803 189031
chris@ryeholidays.co.uk
www.ryeholidays.co.uk

Sleeps: 2
Price: Weekly rate
£395-£580

Town Map: 32



Tamarix, Winchelsea Beach

★★★★

Well equipped double glazed bungalow in a large enclosed garden, just 150 metres from the beach. Peaceful location. Pets by arrangement.

Contact: Mr J Miller
45 Coniston Avenue,
Tunbridge Wells,
Kent TN4 9SR
01892 528538
karen_miller_2@hotmail.co.uk

Sleeps: 4 Price: £360-£450

Area Map: 33



1 Regent Square



Enjoy Rye whilst staying in this modern furnished 2 bedroom house in Rye Centre with private off street parking. Short breaks for 2/3 nights available. View web site for full house details and photos.

Contact: S Toby
42 Cinque Ports Street,
Rye, TN31 7AN
01797 225884
spencer@regentsquarerye.co.uk
www.regentsquarerye.co.uk

Sleeps: 5 Price: £600-£725

Town Map: 34



Stoats, Winchelsea Beach

Comfortable family-, mobility- and dog-friendly bungalow, sleeps 8 (4 bedrooms), secluded gardens, barbecue and quiet location. Welcome pack, ample free parking. Easy walk to the beach, nature reserve, Camber Castle, pub, shop and buses to Rye. Short breaks or longer, sign up now for special offers!

Contact: Mrs Hazel Bentall
07973 215749
stoats@holidayhomerye.co.uk
www.holidayhomerye.co.uk

Sleeps: 8/9 Price: £675-£1400

Area Map: 35



Poundfield Cottages
 Poundfield Farm, Farm Lane,
 Camber TN31 7QY • Michelle Bristow
01797 223967 or 07507 564079
 poundfieldcottages@hotmail.com
 www.cambersandsholiday.co.uk

Sleeps: 4
 Price: Weekly rate
 £300-£550

Area Map: 36

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Contact: Richard
01797 227308
 richard@besidetheseaholidays.com

Book your stay Beside The Sea and discover a unique place where the UK's finest sandy beach meets England's prettiest town.

View our collection of cottages and book online
 besidetheseaholidays.com



Locations: Various

Also see: Kent & Sussex Holiday Cottages (page 25)

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St Mary's Church Rye - May & August 2019

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The August festival programme includes world class artists in concert in the stunning and unique setting of St Mary's church, Rye, East Sussex as well as live music on outdoor stages, music in venues throughout the town and marching bands in the streets... think 'New Orleans in Rye'.

These concerts provide an exclusive and rare opportunity to see internationally acclaimed artists performing in an 'up close' and intimate environment, providing a truly unforgettable music experience.

In 2019 we are delighted to also present a spring series of concerts in early May encompassing the first May bank holiday weekend from Friday 3rd-Sunday 5th May.

More confirmed artists will be announced over coming weeks and months.

For information about these concerts & to buy tickets online go to www.ryejazz.com



Sergio Mendes, Brazilian Music Legend
Friday 3 May 8.00pm



Madeleine Peyroux, American Jazz Singer
Saturday 4 May 8.00pm



Beverley Knight, UK Queen Of Soul
Saturday 24 August 8.00pm



Richard Thompson, Legendary Guitarist
Monday 26 August 8.00pm

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