

EXPERIENCE CHRISTMAS IN 1066 COUNTRY



FESTIVE ACTIVITIES TO GET INTO THE CHRISTMAS SPIRIT

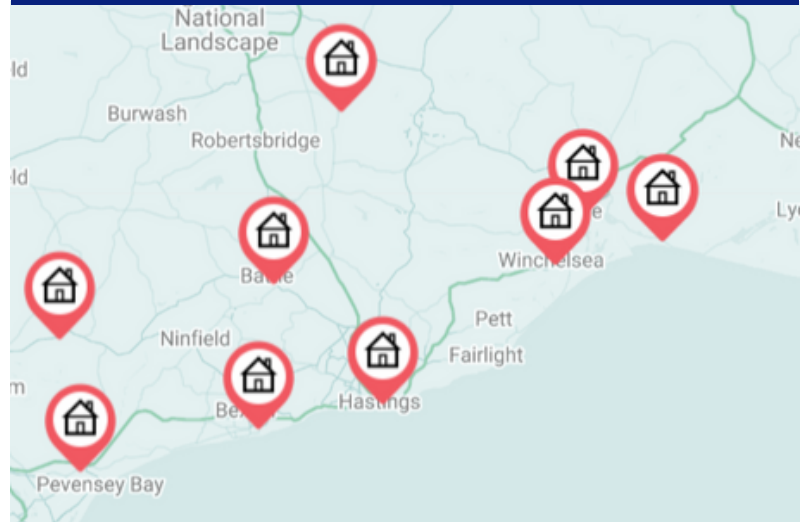
Tis nearly the season to be jolly.

With the ho-ho-holidays approaching fast, 1066 Country is chock-full of seasonal sparkle and festive days out sure to keep little elves and big believers jingling all the way.



FIND US

BATTLE - BEXHILL - CAMBER - HASTINGS
HERSTMONCEUX - PEVENSEY - RYE



1-2 Hours from London by Train with Southern Rail & Southeastern via London Victoria, London Charing Cross, London Bridge & St Pancras International

MAKE MERRY



GET CRAFTY AT THE CROWN: The Crown (Hastings) has a craft-filled calendar to help you handmade treasures that will last a lifetime. Whether using beautiful vintage and Liberty fabrics to fashion holly ornaments (**22 Nov. Info [here](#)**). Creating magical fabric festive mushrooms (**6 Dec. Info [here](#)**). Or, designing your own tin-embossed decorations and gift tags (**5 Dec / 19 Dec / 20 Dec. Info [here](#)**), you'll prove that good things come in small packages.



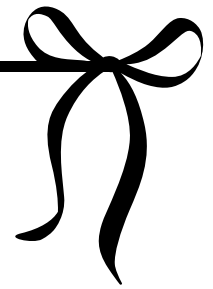
DECK THE HALLS IN STYLE: There's snow place like home, so what better way to help your household bring joy to the world than with a wreath-making workshop. Use fresh, foraged foliage to craft your own Christmas wreath against the backdrop of Bodiam Castle (**2 sessions 1 Dec. Info [here](#)**) or head to Michelham Priory House & Gardens to have fun making a fragrant, festive garland (**14 Dec. Info [here](#)**).



UNLOCK YOUR CREATIVITY:

Encourage kids to create their own meaningful masterpiece to treasure all of this year's festive magic, with a memory jar session at Priory Meadows in Hastings. (**6 Dec. Info [here](#)**)

THAT'S A WRAP

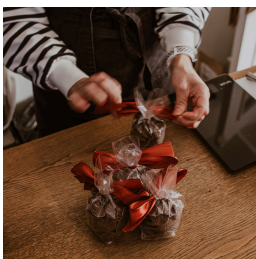


Whether you're looking for hand-crafted presents or edible treats, 1066 Country is full of characterful towns yule love to explore and independent businesses that will get your gift-buying off to a great start.

For thrifting while you're gifting and sustainable stocking-fillers, **Bexhill's** abundance of vintage and charity shops are a veritable wonderland. And **Battle, Hastings** and **Rye** are bursting with independent stores and speciality shops full of Christmas inspiration, with historic high streets lined with twinkling lights and stollen stops perfect for soaking up the seasonal cheer.

Shop local and stock up on inspired gifts at some of our favourite local boutiques

- Behind Rye's cobbled streets and old-world charm lie a modern gift paradise of speciality shops. The **Ethel Loves Me** concept store is filled with wonderful gifts and quirky curios made by Rye's local talent, whilst **Rye Pottery** is a haven for bespoke presents, from handmade ceramics and original knick knacks to artistic Christmas decorations.
- When it comes to edible delights, the farm shop at **Tibbs Farm** near Rye is the place to stock up on home-grown produce, from award-winning jam to flavoursome meat and vegetables to serve up this Christmas. And the **Herstmonceux Castle Estate** also offers a range of Christmas Food Hampers packed full of locally-sourced delights and beautifully gift wrapped (order online by 10 December for collection).
- For the best of British, Battle's **British Design British Made** store is a treasure trove of one-off vintage pieces and sustainable designs made across our fair Isles. Whether you're looking for jewellery, beauty products, clothes or garden-related gifts, you're sure to find the ideal authentically British item for your Secret Santa, family or friends.
- Alternatively, for a one-stop shop, **Priory Meadow Shopping Centre** (Hastings) brings together an invaluable mix of family-run gems and big brand sparkle that is more Santa's workshop than elf checkout.
- And for the sweet-toothed on your gift list, stop by **Rye Chocolates** (Hastings & Rye) to stock up on delicious artisan chocolates with a twist, including festive flavours such as mince pie, brandy butter, cinnamon toast and pumpkin spice. The chocolatiers are known for their sustainable small batch approach to handmade chocolates and their creative designs.



For more tinsel-tastic events, visit:
www.visit1066country.com/things-to-do/shopping

WHAT A PERFORMANCE



LET THERE BE LIGHT! There's nothing like a Christmas Light Switch-On to get you feeling full of festive magic. The Bexhill event will be accompanied by an afternoon's worth of performances, with musicians, singers and panto stars ensuring the event - complete with Christmas market - is merry and bright. **(29 Nov. [Info here](#))**.



And, in Battle, the day's entertainment kicks off with a Christmas Parade complete with sleigh, elves and reindeer, with time to enjoy Santa's Grotto and fairground rides before the town lights up like a Christmas tree. **(29 Nov. [Info here](#))**

NOSTALGIC NOEL: Get ready for a seasonal singalong, with James B Partridge and his Big Christmas Assembly, which will be coming to Hastings White Rock in December. Enjoy an uplifting throwback to your school assembly and get ready to belt out timeless classics in good company. **(5 Dec. [Info here](#))**



THE BAUBLED BARD: Focusing on Shakespeare's relationship with the festive season, this original touring production combines the playwright's bawdy humour and love of disguises with song to explore Elizabethan and Jacobean winter traditions. **(30 Nov - The Manor Barn, Bexhill / 13 Dec - Mermaid Inn, Rye / 20 Dec - Battle Abbey. [Info here](#))**

SWING INTO CHRISTMAS:

Join award-winning jazz singer Liane Carroll in her hometown of Hastings for a cracker of a Christmas soiree. Set against the backdrop of the ancient St Clement's Church, the star will be joined by The Melodians Choir and other special guests for the ultimate festive cheer. **(6 Dec. [Info here](#))**

HARK THE HERALD ANGELS SING: Opt out of a silent night and celebrate the joy of Christmas with a carol concert to remember. The Christmas Spectacular at the De La Warr Pavilion in Bexhill-on-Sea promises a joyous afternoon of advent-fuelled renditions **(29 Nov. [Info here](#))** or enjoy an evening of uplifting Christmas Carols accompanied by the Cinque Ports Brass Ensemble at Bexhill's St Peter's Church. **(6 Dec. [Info here](#))**



READY, SET, HO HO HO: Swap mince pies for muddy paths on this cross-country cracker! With festive dress positively encouraged, the family-friendly Christmas Pudding Dash will return to Pett, near Hastings, for its 20th year. **(20 Dec. [Info here](#))**

A GIANT TREAT: For a classic British tradition that's as fun for all the family as it is festive, Jack and the Beanstalk at The White Rock Theatre (Hastings) will be hard to beat. Not only is the Panto we've all been waiting for, but it's a show everyone can still enjoy once Christmas is behind you. **(11 Dec - 4 Jan. [Info here](#))**

For more tinsel-tastic events, visit:
www.visit1066country.com/whats-on/christmas

CLAUS FOR CELEBRATION

DREAMING OF A BRIGHT CHRISTMAS:

For scenes straight out of a Christmas card, Bedgebury National Pinetum's world-famous conifers is all ready for its North Pole-style glow-up. Beneath starry skies, wander along the illuminated forest trail, where millions of glittering lights and joyful installations will light the way to Christmas for families - four-legged friends included.

(21 Nov - 31 Dec. Info [here](#))

MEET THE MAN IN RED: Saint Nick will be snuggling in his cosy cottage with his singing reindeer at Drusillas Park ready for your one-on-one Santa Experience **(22 Nov - 23 Dec. Info [here](#))** while also finding time to bring good tidings of great joy to Bewl Water. There your family can also enjoy hands-on festive workshops, from decorating biscuits in Mrs Claus' bakery to writing postcards in Dash's post office, before unlocking the magic of Christmas at Santa's Toy Exchange. **(15 Nov - 24 Dec. Info [here](#))**

OH CHRISTMAS TREE: Get swept up in the evergreen enchantment of Battle's Christmas Tree Festival. With every tree decorated in the theme of a different charity, vote for your favourite fir and find something to put under your own at their seasonal fair.

(22 Nov - 3 Dec. Info [here](#))



THE KNIGHT BEFORE CHRISTMAS:

Cross the drawbridge at Bodiam Castle and step back in time into a festive fairy-tale of tinsel, towers and twinkling lights. Santa's little helpers can follow the trail to hunt for gifts hidden by mischievous elves and pose for a sleigh-side photo, soaking up the mediaeval merriment along the way.

(29 Nov - 4 Jan. Info [here](#))

THE YULETIDE EXPRESS: Join Father Christmas for a first-class festive experience with all the train-based trimmings. It's full steam ahead for an extra special 75-minute journey thanks to the Santa Specials at Kent & East Sussex Railway promise, complete with a special gift delivery from the man himself. **(29 Nov / 30 Nov / 6 Dec / 7 Dec / 13 Dec / 14 Dec / 20 Dec / 21 Dec / 23 Dec / 24 Dec. Info [here](#))**



STAR LIGHT, STAR BRIGHT: Keep an eye out for Santa's progress at one of the many stargazing evenings organised at The Observatory Science Centre in Herstmonceux. **(29 Nov / 6 Dec. Info [here](#))**

JUNGLE BELLS: Turn bah humbugs into man cubs at Bateman's, where The Jungle Book will come alive. Once you've spotted Mowgli's animal friends, venture outside to help your favourite characters find hidden festive presents on the Christmas spotter trail **(until 4 Dec. Info [here](#))**

For more tinsel-tastic events, visit:
www.visit1066country.com/whats-on/christmas

SEASON'S GR-EATINGS

When it comes to getting into the spirit of Christmas in 1066 Country, you're spoilt for choice for spots to tuck into a hearty snack, a show-stopping supper or a cosy Sunday lunch drenched in festive cheer.

Simply don your finest festive jumper and activate feast mode!

From 3 December, **The Wild Mushroom (Westfield, near Hastings)** will unveil the farmhouse restaurant's dedicated Christmas lunch and dinner menus, inspired by the owners' love of foraging, sustainable fishing and natural ingredients. An elegant choice for great-value country cooking with a seasonal twist.

If you can't hold out until the big day, **The Bull Inn (Battle)** has a choice of three different Christmas dinners on its festive menu, and provides a historic backdrop to a mealtime classic.

For quintessential British charm, a wry wink to Christmas and a big nod to Rye Bay's finest, the festive lunchtime menu in the iconic **Mermaid Inn (Rye)** will be available to enjoy amidst 600 years of history throughout December.

Tucked away in the heart of Hastings Old Town, the family-owned **First Inn Last Out (FILO)** - described as the county's best pub by The Telegraph earlier this year - has a mouth-watering range of light bites and main delights on its Christmas-themed December menu.

Celebrate the festive season at the **Flackley Ash Hotel (Peasmarsh)**. It is the perfect place to wave hello to the festive season, with its indulgent Christmas-themed menu available from 1-December.

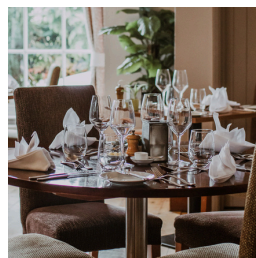
Harry's at **The Gallivant (Camber)** will be putting its culinary flair into its pre-Christmas menu, offering a choice of two and three courses from the mouth-watering festive menu brimming with traditional festive flavours.

Festive menus not your thing? Don't worry, there's plenty more to be enjoyed...

Nestled at the foot of Hastings Country Park and just steps from the beach, **The Crown (Hastings)** champions local produce. Expect seasonal dishes that change throughout the year, offering you a cosy, hearty meal without having to get a Roast Dinner. Drinks are just as local, with wines, beers, ciders and more from nearby suppliers. A true taste of Hastings in a relaxed, welcoming setting.

The George Grill (Rye) offers a gorgeous Sunday Roast with all the trimmings (we're talking Sussex Beef, Yorkshire pudding, crispy roasties, cauliflower cheese...). You can expect incredible quality, locally sourced food that is cooked to perfection.

If you're in Hastings and craving a hearty Sunday lunch, **The Albion** is a local favourite. Known for its signature pies, all crafted in-house using locally sourced ingredients wherever possible. Expect a tempting choice including options for meat lovers, fish fans, vegetarians and vegans alike. For the full experience, settle into the cosy, oak-panelled Scottish Room - the perfect setting for a relaxed Sunday feast.



For more foodie inspiration, visit:
www.visit1066country.com/food-and-drink