2016 Official Guide

EAST SUSSEX

BATTLE

SITE OF THE 1066 BATTLE OF HASTINGS

BATTLE OF HASTINGS 950TH ANNIVERSARY EDITION

www.visit1066country.com/battle  www.battlesussex.co.uk
By Train
The main London to Hastings line stops in Battle with half hourly services from London Charing Cross and Waterloo East. Battle is just 78 minutes away from Charing Cross. www.southeasternrailway.co.uk

By Bus or Coach
A daily National Express bus service runs from London, www.nationalexpress.com. It is also a major stopping route for buses that service the local area.

The Almonry garden has won the Gold award five times. In the small parks category the Almonry garden has been regularly acknowledged by the judges in the National In Bloom competition and the town received a Silver award on numerous occasions, most recently in 2013.

And the town have been acknowledged by the Battle Festival 2015.

Tourist information on Battle and surrounding area is at the Almonry, Battle Museum of Local History and various businesses in town.

The Almonry
High Street, Battle, TN33 OEA
Information from outside the Almonry 09:00 – 17:00 daily and
Battle Museum of Local History
High Street, Battle, TN33 OEA
25 March – 29 October 2016 10:00 – 16:30

It’s Our 950th Anniversary
Come Celebrate With Us!

Battle is just a few years shy of its 1000th birthday, but we love a party and can’t wait that long for a big celebration. So we’re pushing the boat out during 2016 for our 950th anniversary year. Discover Battle for yourselves, the town proud to be home to the site of the Battle of Hastings in 1066.

NEW FOR 2016
1066 Story, Battle Abbey and Battlefield
‘1066: Year of the Normans’ introduces a number of new developments at the Abbey for Summer 2016!
Climb up to the gatehouse roof for a bird’s eye view over the historic battlefield.
Visit our special exhibition to show the lead in, location and legacy of the Battle of Hastings.
Don’t miss our re-enactment of the Battle of Hastings in October. Whose side will you be on?

Battle Festival | Throughout October | Throughout Battle
Our third instalment of Battle Festival in October will be its biggest and most diverse yet. Enjoy a whole month of live music, visual arts, film, poetry, gastronomy, astrology, comedy and more with world class musicians, contemporary international and regional artists and performances by household names.
Tour the town’s bars and restaurants for the lively Battle Fringe running throughout the month. What a great excuse! SSSHHH, there are even whispers of a major collaboration with Glyndebourne …

Concorde 1066
Watch the parade of re-enactors and local students up pretty Battle High Street with the Military Band of the Brigade of Gurkhas.
Help us to welcome our friends from Normandy, Picardy, Canada, the USA, and the ones who started it all - the original Norsemen (Normans) from Norway and Denmark!
Watch the lowering of the flags at sunset on the Abbey Green, in the shadow of Battle Abbey and just an arrow’s flight from one of the most famous battlefields in English history.

Battle Museum of Local History
You’ll have FREE entry throughout 2016 in celebration of the 950th anniversary of the Battle of Hastings AND our 60th birthday!
See the only axe head recovered from the battlefield and touch and feel replica.
Be spoilt for choice with THREE tapestries on show: a section of the Bayeux Tapestry embroidered especially for 2016; the Stothard Tapestry from 1818 and the famous Alderney Tapestry.

Front cover, sculpture by Guy Portelli FRBS RBA, Battle Festival 2015
Supported by Rother District Council, Battle Town Council and 1066 Country Marketing.
Produced by Hastings Borough Council for the Battle Marketing Group - November 2015.

www.visit1066country.com/battle
On 14th October 1066, this area which would become the picturesque market town of Battle, witnessed the most celebrated confrontation to take place on English soil – the Battle of Hastings.

Following his victory and coronation as King of England, between the years 1070 and 1094, William the Conqueror built Battle Abbey – a penance ordered by the Pope for the loss of life incurred in the conflict. The town subsequently grew up beyond the abbey walls to become the thriving community you see today.

THE BIRTHPLACE OF MODERN ENGLAND

An Unforgettable Visit
1066 Battle of Hastings, Abbey and Battlefield is the best place in the UK to learn about the Norman invasion of England and downfall of the Saxon king Harold at the historic battle of 1066. Take time to explore the abbey and battlefield, and lift the lid on the battle that changed the course of English history. Visit the interactive exhibitions and take the audio tour of the battlefield and abbey ruins.

An Oasis of Tranquility
Towards the northern end of the High Street, the Medieval Almonry and its Gardens, originally built in 1090, is now home to the Town Council and the Battle Museum of Local History. Here you will find all manner of artefacts, including the only battleaxe to be discovered from the battlefield. As the town grew, the Church of St Mary the Virgin was built and it stands to this day to the east of the abbey gates. Here you will discover, among other things, a Norman font and rare 14th century wall paintings.

Gunpowder, Treason and Plot
Did you know that in the 17th century Battle was the centre of the gunpowder industry? It is likely that Guy Fawkes’ gunpowder came from this area. The Battel Bonfire Boyes celebrate the gunpowder plot each November with a spectacular fireworks display and torchlight procession.

Today Battle is a bustling market town and with good reason is hailed a ‘top-ten hidden gem of Europe’ by Lonely Planet.

If you’ve never visited, make our 950th anniversary year the time you do! If you’ve been before, we’d love to see you back!
That Battle is a little town with a BIG history is undeniable. But there's also an exciting, contemporary side to discover, one which perfectly complements its remarkable background.

Just 78 minutes from London, by direct rail from central London, Battle makes the perfect day out and the ideal short break destination. Situated in the heart of the Sussex countryside, yet just 7 miles from the coast, Battle really is a town for all seasons, tastes and budgets.

Stroll up the High Street or explore the ‘twittens’ to discover independent, family run shops and boutiques, a range of enticing eateries, and galleries exhibiting international and regional artists. We even have a ‘destination’ wool shop and if British design is your ‘thing’, there’s a shop bursting with brilliantly British designer products right here!

Many of our pubs, tea rooms and restaurants host regular events and their menus feature seasonal, local produce.

Follow the Keane Trail around town to discover why international super-group Keane have written and sung so much about Battle. See page 23 for more details.

Discover today’s Battle here with our 3-minute film which perfectly captures the essence of the town, its people and events www.vimeo.com/keanetrail/visit-battle.
SMALL TOWN, BIG EVENTS

So Very Battle!
Tie in a visit with one of the quirkier annual events. Check out the annual Marbles Match on Good Friday, the Medieval Fayre in May, the Scarecrow Festival throughout the town in July, and the major re-enactment of the Battle of Hastings in October.
Torchlight processions, chain mail, fireworks and fancy dress are de rigueur!

Arts & Culture
October’s Battle Arts & Music Festival will be even bigger and better in 2016, with the introduction of a headline event in collaboration with Glyndebourne. The festival will coincide with Pure Arts Group’s annual art fair and there’s the popular Battle Fringe in the town’s bars and restaurants too.
Add in three permanent galleries and it is easy to see how Battle holds its own against larger towns and cities.

Old Regulars
Oldies and goodies include Every Last Friday (ELF), a unique live entertainment experience in many locations around Battle. Just choose a venue and the performers will come to you in 20 minute sessions on the last Friday of the month.
Add to the mix seasonal flower shows, the Battel Bonfire Boyes 10k and monthly cinema evenings, ad hoc walking tours and regular events at Battle Museum and Battle Abbey. Latest details can be found on www.visit1066country.com/battle or www.battlesussex.co.uk
And keep an eye on the town’s websites for ad-hoc walking tours and regular events at Battle Museum and Battle Abbey.
All told, Battle truly is a year-round destination where there’s always something to do and see.
Where Cultures Collide

With a spectacular combination of coast and countryside, relics and ruins and contemporary culture, 1066 Country offers something for all. Battle is central to the action so take your pick from our wide range of accommodation then go out and explore.

Trace the footsteps of the Normans from their landing point at Pevensey along the 1066 Country Walk inland to Battle, passing the Observatory Science Centre and Gardens and Grounds of Herstmonceux Castle; take the Coastal Culture Trail from the De La Warr Pavilion, Bexhill to the Jerwood Gallery, Hastings; be inspired by the picturesque fishing fleets or the pretty streets of Rye and Hastings; explore the natural beauty of Camber Sands and Rye Harbour Nature Reserve.

The exciting Root 1066 International Festival (10 September – 2 October 2016), especially curated for our 950th anniversary of the Battle of Hastings, gives a contemporary twist to the 1066 story and hands over the baton to Battle in October.

www.visit1066country.com
Events in Battle & 1066 Country
These are just some of the events taking place in 2016.
For full listings, see www.visit1066country.com or www.battlesussex.co.uk

Events for 950th Anniversary of the Battle of Hastings

Friday 25 March-Saturday 29 October 1066 at Battle Museum: see the ‘Battle of Hastings Ave’, the Stothard print of the Bayeux Tapestry, a section of the Bayeux tapestry specially embroidered for 2016, a diorama of the Battle and much more.

Easter Weekend and every Sunday in April
1 May – 30 September Wed – Sunday
Pevensey Court House Museum and Gaol
Re-enactment of the Battle of Hastings
1066 Country Relay, Pevensey – Battle
16th October

Throughout September and October from Friday 2 September
The Alderney Tapestry
Battle Museum of Local History

Tuesday 6 September
‘The Bayeux Tapestry and the Story of the Missing Panel’ by Kate Russell
Battle Museum of Local History
10 September – 2 October
Root 1066 International Festival

Thursday 13 October
The Battle of Hastings: a talk by Brig Hugh Willing, Battle Memorial Hall
Friday 14 October
Concorde 1066, Battle
Commemorative event to mark the 950th anniversary of the Battle of Hastings
Saturday 15 & Sunday 16 October
Re-enactment of the Battle of Hastings, Battle Abbey

Saturday 15 October
Hastings Bonfire & Torchlight Procession
16th October
1066 Country Relay, Pevensey – Battle

Throughout August
Building Bodiam, Bodiam Castle
Throughout October
Stories we live by, Bodiam Castle

Regular Events

Throughout January and February
Books for Boys Exhibition, Bateman’s, Burwash

ELF (Every Last Friday), Battle’s monthly Arts and Music Festival in venues around town

Farmers’ Market, Brede
Every Friday, 10:00 – 12:00
Brede Village Hall

Mid-July – Mid August (Tues – Sat)
Hastings Bonfire & Torchlight Procession – Battle Abbey

Bodiam Castle
From Wednesday 27 July until Thursday 25 August
Every Wednesdays & Thursdays
Knight and Princess Academy, Bodiam Castle

Throughout August
Building Bodiam, Bodiam Castle
Throughout October
Stories we live by, Bodiam Castle

Dates of events correct at time of going to press, but may be subject to change. Contact the venue or information Centre for confirmation.
May 2016

Until Saturday 7 Tulip Festival at Pashley Manor Gardens, Ticehurst
Monday 2 Jack in the Green Festival, Hastings Old Town
Thursday 5 – Saturday 7 Battle Light Opera Group presents Sweet Charity, Battle Memorial Hall

June 2016

Tuesday 14 – Sunday 19 Special Rose Week at Pashley Manor Gardens, Ticehurst

July 2016

Saturday 2 – Sunday 3 Brightling International Horse Trials
Brightling Park, Robertsbridge
Monday 4 – Saturday 23 The Battle Scarecrow Festival, displays around the town
Saturday 9 – Sunday 10
Battle’s Big Weekend
Friday 19:00 – 23:00
Big Camp Weekend
16.30 – 10.00
Bateman’s, Burwash, East Sussex TN19 7DS
Saturday 17
Hastings Pirate Day 2016
Saturday 23
Bexhill Roaring 20s
Saturday 30 – Sunday 31
Battle Medieval Fayre, Abbey Green
Saturday 30 – Sunday 7 August
Hastings Old Town Carnival Week
Sunday 31
Bexhill 100 Classic Cars
Seashore Display

Art Exhibitions - Check websites for opening times

THE BLACKSHED GALLERY, Robertsbridge, 2016 programme
From 3 December 2015 - 23 January 2016
Ian Penney, Paper Cut Exhibition - Harlequinade
Tuesday 2 February - Saturday 19 March
Craig Hudson, Bronze Sculpture Exhibition
Saturday 2 - Saturday 30 April
Exhibition of paintings by Sam Smith, Supported by ProjectArtWorks & Arts Council England
Wednesday 1 June – Saturday 9 July
Alain Ranks & Bert Holstein
Throughout September
Chris Levine
Saturday 8 October – Saturday 12 November
Kate Adams MBE
Thursday 21 – Thursday 22 December
Jennifer Birnie & Jennifer Corker

Beauport Park Golf Course

The course: 18 hole pay and play, 14 bay floodlit covered range, 9 hole pitch and putt and buggies available.


Membership available. Visitors welcome.

SAFFRON GALLERY, Battle, 2016
Thursday 14 Jan - Monday 29 February
Winter Exhibition of resident gallery artists

Tuesday 1 - Thursday 31 March
Spring Exhibition – seasonally uplifting

Saturday 2 April - Thursday 12 May
Land | Sea | Sky - a celebration of nature

Saturday 4 June - Thursday 28 July
Summer Exhibition - resident/guest artists

Saturday 30 July – Thursday 1 September
Between the lines, drawings & prints

Saturday 3 - Thursday 29 September
Autumn Exhibition - resident/guest artists

Saturday 1 October - Thursday 3 November
Masterpiece - partnering Battle Festival

Saturday 5 - Thursday 11 November
Jane Ford Solo Exhibition - oils/drawings

Saturday 19 November - Saturday 24 December
Christmas Exhibition - gifts & treats

The Battle Scarecrow Festival, Monday 4 - Saturday 23
Around the town

Bows, Arrow & Battle Tactics, Battle Abbey

Birds of Prey at the Museum
Saturday 28 – Monday 30
16.30 – 10.00
Bateman’s, Burwash, East Sussex TN19 7DS

The Battle Scarecrow Festival, Monday 4 - Saturday 23
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Brightling Park, Robertsbridge, 2016 programme

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Bateman’s, Burwash, East Susse...
Welcome to Shire Country Clothing, the premier store for all things outdoors. With many famous names such as Dubarry, Barbour, Harris Tweed, RM Williams, Shire caters for ladies, men and children too. Stocking clothing, footwear, accessories and some ideal gifts.

Open six days a week or order online. www.shirecountryclothing.co.uk
33 High Street, Battle TN33 OEA • 01424 772456

Battle Wool Shop

Knitting Crochet Beads Spinning Weaving Haberdashery Needlepoint Cross-stitch

OPEN
9.30am - 5pm
Monday - Saturday
2 Mount Street
Battle, TN33 OEG • 01424 775073

Wednesday 10
The Jungle Book story day
Bateman’s, Burwash

Thursday 25 – Monday 29
Rye International Jazz & Blues Festival

Saturday 27 – Monday 29
Herstmonceux Medieval Festival

Monday 29
Bexhill 100 Classic Car Show at The Polegrove, Bexhill

September 2016

PLEASE SEE 950 ANNIVERSARY EVENTS BOX ON PAGE 12 FOR FURTHER SEPTEMBER EVENTS

Saturday 3 – Sunday 4
Bexhill Festival of the Sea

Sunday 4
Battl Bonfire Boys 10K
High Street, Bexhill

Tuesday 6 – Sunday 11
New for 2016, Dahlia Debut, Pashley Manor Gardens, Ticehurst

Saturday 17 – Sunday 18
Anglo Continental Street Market, Bexhill

Battle Festival
1 – 31 October

Sat 1 - Sun 2
Great Dixter Autumn Plant Fair

Saturday 15
National Town Criers Championship, Hastings

Saturday 15 – Sunday 16
Battle of Hastings 950, Battle Abbey

Sunday 16
Apple Day, Bateman’s, Burwash

Saturday 22 – Sunday 30
Haunted Abbey, Battle Abbey

Saturday 22 – Sunday 30
Pure Arts Autumn Fair, Powder Mills Hotel, Battle

Thursday 27 – Saturday 29
Abbey After Dark, Battle Abbey (ages 13+)

November 2016

Saturday 5
Battle Bonfire & Torchlight Procession

Thursday 10 - Saturday 12
Battle Light Opera Group presents Sondheim’s ‘Merrily We Roll Along’, Battle Memorial Hall

Saturday 12
Rye Fawkes Bonfire & Torchlight Procession

Saturday 19
Robertsbridge Bonfire & Torchlight Procession

Saturday 26
Battle Christmas Lights On, Battle Memorial Hall and Abbey Green

Saturday 26 – Sunday 27
Great Dixter Christmas Fair
See website for dates
Christmas Gift Shop, Pashley Manor Gardens.

December 2016

Each weekend in December
Christmas at Bodiam Castle

Until Saturday 31
Christmas at Bateman’s, Burwash

Saturday 3rd
Bexhill Lions Family Fun Santa Dash

Thursday 8
Battle Gala Night, late night shopping in town

Thursday 8
Christmas Gala night

Battle Museum of Local History

www.visit1066country.com/battle
www.battlesussex.co.uk
The Almonry, Gardens & Battle Museum of Local History

The 15th Century Almonry, now Battle Town Council, is situated at the end of the High Street away from the Abbey. It is surrounded by award-winning gardens, which provide an oasis in which to sit or wander round.

Within the gardens is the Arts Council-accredited Battle Museum of Local History covering 125 million years of local history! Come and see the ‘Battle of Hastings Axe’ and much more.

FREE ADMISSION.

Museum: 01424 775955 / www.battlemuseum.com
Almonry: 01424 772210

THE ALMONRY, GARDENS & 
BATTLE MUSEUM OF LOCAL HISTORY

MUSEUM OPENING TIMES:
Monday - Saturday
10am - 4.30 pm
25 March - 29 October 2016
Where To Stay

Choose from the cosiness of our renowned B&Bs, pretty beamed cottages or the elegant parkland setting of our country house hotels. Alternatively, our excellently-equipped self-catering properties set in stunning 1066 countryside will guarantee you the warmest of welcomes!

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

[Yellow stars from the AA]

For more information on the quality assessments and promotions, please visit www.qualityintourism.co.uk and www.theaa.com/travel.

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

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Where To Stay

1066 Country Partner. Helping to support and promote tourism in this unique historic region.

Tourism South East Member.

The Beautiful South. A Tourism South East award for excellence that celebrates the very best in tourism and hospitality.

Your personal tour guide!

Your own guided audio tour of Battle on your smartphone via Geotourist! Use GPS functionality or download the tour before you come. Download the FREE Geotourist app for iPhone and Android and you’re ready for battle!

geotourist.com

Battle Town Trail

The Battle Town Trail is a self-guided tour providing an interesting snapshot into the town’s history. Battle has a wealth of intriguing architecture and by following the Trail you will discover many interesting facts. Ideally, you should begin at Battle Abbey but it is a circular walk and can be joined at any point. Just look for one of the round Town Trail plaques and join in!

Hotel Accommodation

Min - Max prices (incl. VAT which is subject to change) are PER ROOM based on two people sharing a twin/double room, with breakfast. (prices usually relate to low/high season).

The Green, Sedlescombe
Battle TN33 0QA
t: 01424 870253
f: 01424 870785
info@brickwallhotel.com
www.brickwallhotel.com

The Brickwall Hotel ★★★

The Brickwall Hotel is set in the heart of 1066 Country overlooking the pretty village green of Sedlescombe. Originally built in 1597 for the local frommaster the hotel offers a warm welcome and is privately owned and run by a friendly team of experienced staff. There is a spacious residents’ lounge, oak panelled bar and beautiful beamed dining room as well as the Garden Room which is ideal for private parties and meetings. Particular attention is paid to the quality and variety of food served with all local produce being used complemented by an extensive wine list. The hotel has a variety of rooms all with private facilities, including Doubles, Twins, Four Poster and Ground Floor rooms many of which overlook the hotel garden or across the village.

Rooms: 24
Single: £60 - £75 B&B
Double: £80 - £125 B&B
Prices per room per night.

The Sussex Breakfast. Made from quality ingredients sourced direct from local farms.

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Self Catering  Prices (incl. VAT which is subject to change) per unit, one week.  
(Min/Max prices usually relate to low/high season).

**Crowhurst Park ★★★★★**
Telham Lane, Battle TN33 0SL  
t: 01424 773344  
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