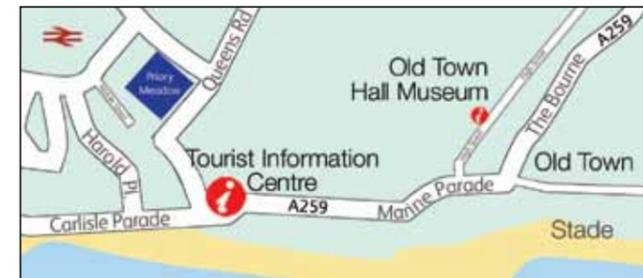


## Tourist Information Centre



Aquila House, Breeds Place, Hastings TN34 3UY

**April to October** Monday - Friday, 0900 - 1700  
Saturday, 0930 - 1730  
Sundays, 1030 - 1600

**November to March:** Monday - Friday, 0900 - 1700  
Saturday, 1000 - 1600  
Sundays, 1030 - 1300

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[www.visit1066country.com](http://www.visit1066country.com)

## Classroom on the Coast, Hastings Stade

Learn to cook the catch with experts.

The fishermen of Hastings renowned eco-friendly fleet are opening the doors on sustainable fish and fishing for you at their unique seafood school.

Classroom on the Coast is the world's first seafood teaching kitchen and learning centre on the landing beach of an MSC certified fishery.

Seafood experts teach amateur cooks, fishmongers, chefs, schools and families to buy, prepare, cook and eat responsibly caught fresh seafood from boat to plate right beside the boats. Fishermen pass on their traditional skills and heritage and marine scientists share their research with all who are interested. Visit us to find out more... [www.classroomonthecoast.org](http://www.classroomonthecoast.org)

This leaflet has been supported by Hastings FLAG [www.hastingsflag.org](http://www.hastingsflag.org)



Printed locally on paper from sustainable sources. Photographs by Bob Mazzer, Ioana Marinescu and Chris Parker.

# Hastings Stade

## Hastings Fishing Fleet

Hastings has one of Britain's oldest fishing fleets. Boats have worked from the shingle beach known as the Stade (an old Saxon word for 'landing place') for over a thousand years.

Today the fleet is made up of over 25 under 10 metre boats, making it Europe's largest beach-launched fishing fleet. When the boats come ashore, usually in late morning, they are winched up the beach and the fish are unloaded into boxes and taken to the Fishmarket. Here the fish are sold wholesale. Upstairs you will find Maggie's, an award winning fish and chip café with spectacular sea views.

## Fresh Fish

Hastings has always been a sustainable fishery, and traditional netting techniques are still used. In 2005 it was awarded the Marine Stewardship Council's (MSC) certified status for its environmental sensitivity and sustainability for Dover Sole, Mackerel and Herring.

Fresh landed fish from Hastings boats are sold from small sheds on the Winch Road. The fishmongers in Rock-a-Nore Road offer an array of wet and smoked fish and seafood. Fine restaurants and fish and chip shops satisfy the hungry visitor or try one of Tush and Pat's famous fisherman's rolls, freshly cooked on their stand in Rock-a-Nore Road.

## East Hill Lift

The East Hill lift is the steepest funicular railway in Britain and provides access to Hastings Country Park and spectacular views over Hastings Old Town, Marine Court in St Leonards and the English Channel.



## Hastings Fishermen's Protection Society

Founded in April 1831 and preserves the fishing community's medieval right to work from the shingle beach. The Society provides collective benefits to the fishermen of the fleet through its work maintaining the safety, security, accessibility and environmental quality of the fishing beach and its environs. The Society looks after the welfare of its members, supports educational and training initiatives and acts as a first point of contact for those interested in the industry.

Visit the Fishermen's Co-op to buy all sorts of fishing gear and clothes.

The Co-op is open: Tuesday, Friday and Saturday, 9am - 12noon.

## Rock-a-Nore Road

The Stade's surroundings are full of historic landmarks including the tall black net shops, Grade II\* listed buildings.

Fishermen needed to store their nets on their return from the sea and the net shops were an ingenious space - saving solution, going 'up' instead of 'out' on an eight foot square base.

## Stade Open Space

The Stade Open Space provides a purpose built area for outdoor events at the heart of the Stade.

The seating draws inspiration from the town's fishing heritage; the circles etched on the ground represent the path trodden by the horses which worked the capstans to pull the fishing boats onto the shore in pre-tractor times.

The space is flanked on three sides by the Stade Hall and Classroom on the Coast, Eat@theStade café, and the Jerwood Gallery.

Stade Saturdays is a programme of free weekly performances taking place here from May - October.



## Seafood Festivals

The season starts with the Midsummer Fish Festival in June, a fantastic weekend of tasty treats, demonstrations and live music. Hastings Seafood & Wine Festival is held annually on the Stade Open Space in late September to celebrate Hastings' fishing heritage. It offers a weekend of local seafood and wines, accompanied by live music, street theatre, walks and talks. Look out for details of the Hastings Herring Fair in November, reviving an ancient custom for the 21st century.

## Lifeboat Station

Hastings Lifeboat Station is home to an all-weather lifeboat, inshore lifeboat (or inflatable), launching tractors and a visitor centre complete with a viewing balcony. The RNLI is an independent charity, funded entirely by voluntary donations. They could not save lives at sea without your support.

## The Fishermen's Museum

The Fishermen's Museum is housed in a charming former church, home to the town's sailing lugger, the 29 feet long Enterprise. She was built on the Stade in 1912 just before engines were installed in local fishing boats. Much of the atmosphere and life of old seafaring days are vividly recalled through the museum's many exhibits and displays.

Visit the external exhibition area outside the museum to see the interior of one of the Grade II listed net shops. You will also find historic wooden fishing boats here and around the net shops.

Email [stadewalks@gmail.com](mailto:stadewalks@gmail.com) for guided tours of the stade area.

## Blue Reef Aquarium

Nearby is the Blue Reef Aquarium, which takes you on an undersea safari; walk through a giant ocean display and come face to face with sharks and other aquatic creatures. Enjoy close encounters with seahorses, crabs, stingrays and giant octopuses.



## Shipwreck Museum

At the Shipwreck Museum you can see history from the sea; hear the stories, see artefacts of local historic shipwrecks stretching from the Goodwin Sands in Kent to Norman's Bay in Sussex. Touch screen technology, sounds from the sea and an audio-visual show give visitors of all ages a fascinating experience. The coast of South East England has a great concentration of historic sunken ships.

Hastings' most famous shipwreck, the 18th century *Amsterdam* sank into the sands of St Leonards after beaching during a bad storm and its remains can be seen at the lowest tides.

## Hastings Country Park

To the east of the Stade is Hastings Country Park, a stunning mix of ancient woodland, grassland and heathland stretching across 5 kilometres of cliffs and coastline. Access it by climbing the steps or by taking the East Hill Lift, and follow the fish trail.

## The Jerwood Gallery

The Jerwood Gallery is a major new art gallery, which nestles between the Stade's net huts and the fishing beach. The Gallery houses the Jerwood Foundation's Collection of 20th and 21st century British art, including works by Sir Stanley Spencer and L.S Lowry, on display to the public for the first time. The Gallery also runs a seasonal programme of contemporary art exhibitions and family workshops.

## Winkle Island

Winkle Island is the symbolic gathering place of the Winkle Club charitable organisation, formed by Hastings fishermen in 1900 to help the under-privileged families of Hastings Old Town. A giant winkle sculpture by local artist Leigh Dyer is used as a collecting box for local charities.

Find out more about the Winkle Club in the Fishermen's Museum.



**1066 country**

# HASTINGS

FISHING & CULTURAL QUARTER

Hastings Stade, the cultural catch of the south coast

[www.visit1066country.com/thestade](http://www.visit1066country.com/thestade)



# HASTINGS STADE

- 1 Boating Lake
- 2 Lower Lighthouse (1827)
- 3 Angling Club
- 4 Stade Fun Park
- 5 Concrete stables, filling harbour gap
- 6 Harbour arm, with wide views (1896)
- 7 Old Town: shops, restaurants, pubs, Post Office, cashpoint
- 8 Site of original Fishmarket
- 9 Angling Club
- 10 Lifeboat House
- 11 Harbour Light
- 12 Stade Hall Classroom on the Coast, Toilets
- 13 Stade Open Space, Seafood & Wine Festival site and cafe
- 14 Lifeboat and launching tractor
- 15 Net Shops (now other shops)
- 16 Hastings Wall (c1385)
- 17 Tractor - launches and recovers boats
- 18 Winkle Island and Winkle
- 19 Jerwood Gallery
- 20 Winch shed winch hauling boat up beach
- 21 East Cliff House (1762)
- 22 Pats for crabs, lobsters and cuttlefish
- 23 Net Shops
- 24 "Boy Ashore" signalling boat ashore
- 25 Fishermen's co-op, in one of the Net Shops
- 26 Trawl net
- 27 Steps to top of East Hill lookout spot viewing all the Stade
- 28 Tractor launching boat
- 29 Fishmarket
- 30 Net Shops
- 31 East Well (1848)
- 32 Anchor (Napoleonic)
- 33 Edward & Mary - RX74, Valiant - RX90, Rebecca May, Grace Georgina - RX150, Jimmy Boy - RX10, Stacey Marier - RX134
- 34 Tan House
- 35 Fishermen's Museum (1853)
- 36 Boat repair yard
- 37 Shipwreck Museum (1899)
- 38 Blue Reef Aquarium
- 39 Coastguard (East Sussex office)
- 40 Southern Water pumping station
- 41 Boat Club (site of 1888 refuse recycling centre)
- 42 Groyne (1887) with modern sluice gate
- 43 Inshore lifeboat
- 44 End groyne (1878)



Pete Smith