itinerary

Seaside Adventure

Arr me hearties and all you landlubbers gather your young buccaneers and merfolk for a swashbuckling seaside adventure. Just a stone's throw away from Canterbury are the seaside towns of Herne Bay and Whitstable; only 4 miles separate the two coastal towns so why not hop on your bike, take in some fresh sea air and begin exploring?

Morning

Those in search of traditional seaside magic will find it here in Herne Bay. Beautiful beaches and Victorian architecture combine to allow your children to create their own magical memories while you relive yours. There is so much fun to be had on the beach, children will love collecting shells, building sandcastles and paddling in the sea. The beaches and wide promedades make Herne Bay ideal for a family day out at the seaside.

Herne Bay

Lunch

Once your pirates have exhausted themselves out on the beach there is no better time to commandeer the nearest fish and chip shop for a spot of lunch or enjoy your own pre packed lunch on one of the many benches scattered along the promenade.

Afternoon

Head towards Whitstable and drop anchor at Tankerton to enjoy spectacular views of the bay and at low tide the famous 'Street', before setting sail once more on your fun adventure to Whitstable. Whitstable Harbour is the last stop on this fun-filled adventure, children will love learning more about the fully working harbour from one of the 11 new boards that form an information trail around the harbour, covering various topics including water sports, wind farms, wildlife, aggregates importing and whelk fishing. It is a great opportunity to sample some of the scrumptious seafood there is on offer and you may even catch a glimpse of the many fishing boats that come and go during the day.

Tankerton Slopes

Whitstable

Whitstable Harbour

Morning: Herne Bay

Great beaches lined with brightly coloured beach huts reflect the great character of this seaside town. Sporting enthusiasts including rowers, yachtsmen and jet ski riders pursue their passion in Herne Bay's waters adding a thrilling dimension to natural marine qualities. To the east, the ancient sandstone cliffs of nearby Reculver and the imposing 12th century Reculver towers and roman fort provide an imposing backdrop and the beaches here provide a haven for those looking for a peaceful hideaway. The seafront has some interesting Victorian architecture and in the spring and summer months the town's beauty is enhanced by the seafront gardens, bringing floral colour to visitors who pass the clock tower and bandstand. In recent years, the bandstand has become a venue for those who enjoy café culture and it is also a focal point for summer concerts, other musical events and children's entertainment. All seaside towns have events that celebrate their identity and Herne Bay is no exception. Classic car shows, Italian and Continental markets, carnivals and the Herne Bay Festival are just some of the variety of events that take place throughout the year.

Address

Herne Bay

CT6 5JQ

Contact Details

Tel: 01227 862162

Afternoon: Tankerton Slopes

The cliff-top lawns of Tankerton Slopes, with their colourful beach huts, roll gently towards the sea and provide and excellent vantage point to watch the nautical world go by. Get views of the wartime forts and Southend on the opposite site of the Estuary, and if the water is enticing maybe even have a dip in the sea.

Directions

9 miles from Canterbury via A290.

Address

Marine Parade
Whitstable
Kent
CT5 2BE

Contact Details

Tel: 01227 862162

Afternoon: Whitstable

Address

Whitstable

CT5 1BX

Contact Details

Tel: 01227 862162

Whitstable is like no other town by the sea. Its traditional charms, strong arts culture and rich maritime history complement Whitstable's modern appeal. Whitstable's main claim to fame is its oysters, which remain an intrinsic part of this sea town's character and are celebrated every July at the Oyster Festival. Oysters and other delicacies from the sea can be enjoyed at the local restaurants and pubs or taken home from the fresh fish market at the harbour. Shoppers can delight in the town's bohemian charm with independent craft and gift shops, galleries, delicatessens and fashion shops trading side by side with butchers and bakers. When you need to recharge with a drink and food, you will be spoilt for choice with a wonderful choice of cafes, restaurants and pubs. Whitstable is one of a very few in the country that has a pub on the beach. Whether you take the main route through the town or enjoy haphazard progress through quiet lanes and alleyways with eccentric names such as Squeeze Cut Alley, you'll end up at the working harbour. Constructed in 1831 the harbour has an interesting history including diving, shipbuilding and fishing. Along the coast at Tankerton, grassy slopes dip to meet the sea throwing out an invitation to visitors and locals to walk along the prom and take in some bracing sea air. There's a chance, too, to get unsurpassed views of Whitstable's skyline from The Street, a wide ridge of shingle stretching out to sea, but only revealed when the tide is low. With its sense of intimacy and rich character Whitstable has secured a favoured spot in the hearts and minds of all who visit the town.

Afternoon: Whitstable Harbour

Address

Whitstable

CT5 1AB

Contact Details

Tel: 01227 274086

Whitstable Harbour lies on the North Kent coast at the mouth of the River Swale. It is a visible link that Whitstable has with its interesting history, which includes diving , ship owning, fishing and world-wide trade. The connection with the Canterbury and Whitstable railway - the Crab & Winkle Line - was the reason for the harbour's construction in 1831: to bring heavy materials, such as coal, from Newcastle to Canterbury. Whitstable Harbour remains a working harbour. On the East Quay, there are Brett's aggregate importation and asphalt production for the construction industry in Kent. On the West Quay, there is fishing as well as wind farm maintenance operations. Fishing and related activities, such as the retailing of the catch, continues on the South Quay. In addition, leisure and sporting activities have flourished with the sea scouts, yacht, angling, kite and wind surf activities all based on harbour land, along with the Royal National Lifeboat Institute. Leisure has also developed, from a marine angle, with Greta barge tours and a gastronomic one with café, restaurant and market. Tourists' attractions include The Oyster Festival, Harbour Open Day and the Harbour barge/boat race. For further information visit: http://www.whitstableharbour.org