

# Discover Bodiam

*Linger longer and enjoy exploring the slow way...*



- Map
- Visits
- Tastes
- Pubs
- Journeys
- Car-free itineraries
- Places to stay
- I-Spy



## Bodiam and the Rother Valley

Located in the High Weald Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty on the Kent and East Sussex border.

### Highlights:

- The word **Weald** comes from an old word meaning 'wood'; small woodlands, tree belts and hedgerows are everywhere.
- Majestic moated ruin of Bodiam Castle; arrive by boat from Newenden or by the Kent & East Sussex Railway's steam train from Tenterden.
- Sheep and cattle-grazed pastures of the Rother floodplain; the reed-filled ditches and channels are an important wetland habitat.
- South-facing slopes and sandy, loamy soils ideal for growing vines.
- Oasthouses dot the landscape, a reminder that the area was once hop country.
- Timber-framed buildings; many weather-boarded or hung with distinctive pantiles.
- Excellent footpath network.





**Key**

1 Visits	24 Journeys
9 Tastes	26 Accommodation
14 Pubs	A Walks (circular & long-distance)

*Click on numbers on map for further details*

# Discover Bodiam Visits

## 1 Merriments Gardens and Nursery

Hawkhurst Road, Hurst Green TN19 7RA  
01580 860666

[www.merriments.co.uk](http://www.merriments.co.uk)

David Weeks and his extended family have transformed what was in 1988 just an orchard and a field into an eye-opening four-acre show garden. 'The biggest challenge was the heavy clay soil', says David, 'but it's a lovely south-facing aspect.' There are colour-themed borders for sun and shade, dry and moist areas, and a hidden stream which links two large ponds, a bog garden and a rock garden, and the nursery sells herbaceous perennials grown on site. The garden includes a bridge that is a nod to Monet's famous garden at Giverny in France. Local produce on sale at the café includes Rother Valley beers, juices from Lamberhurst, fish from Rye and beef from Staplehurst.



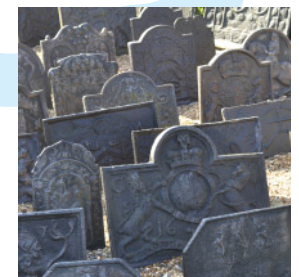
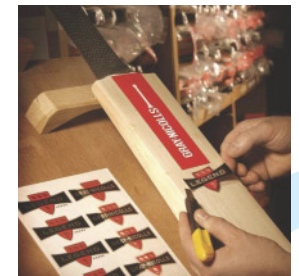
## 2 Robertsbridge

You see a wonderful array of Wealden architecture among the houses and cottages of this large village's handsome sloping main street and roads leading from it, where there are eye-catching examples of tile hanging and half-timbering. Robertsbridge prospered during the heyday of the iron industry. A curious reminder of this is seen at Ripley Forge & Fireplaces: the stove shop has a huge collection of Wealden firebacks, some very early and rare, outside its premises and beside the bungalow garden of its owner. You can see them opposite the Robertsbridge Cricket Club car park just east of the village. The shop can make casts of any of them for customers.

Cricket bats are still manufactured in the village by Gray-Nicolls; a by-product of these are willow trugs (baskets of a type special to the Weald), which are made in Herstmonceux.

You'll see hops growing in fields around Robertsbridge, and there is even a working oast house which walkers can go past by walking along Fair Lane (by the Seven Stars), carrying on at the end over a footbridge across the A21, and left on the other side on Redlands Lane, past the oasthouse. Local hops here supply Harveys Brewery in Lewes: you can taste the finished article at the Seven Stars itself.

Further along Redlands Lane are the scant remains of Robertsbridge Abbey, the only Cistercian house in Sussex. It's virtually concealed, although you can see a wall of the lodging forming a wall of the more recent tile-hung farmhouse. Robertsbridge never had a church to itself: the nearest one is at Salehurst.



### Using the map

- Click on the name beside the number for an enlarged view of its location.
- Click on **Map** in the Bookmarks panel (on the left) to return to normal size.
- Use the zoom buttons in the menu bar to enlarge or reduce the page.

# Discover Bodiam Visits

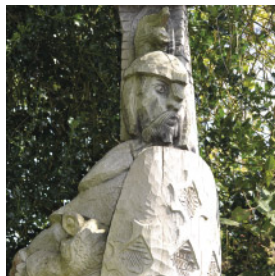
## 3 Bodiam Castle

**Bodiam TN32 SUA**  
**01580 830196**

[www.nationaltrust.org.uk/bodiam-castle](http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/bodiam-castle)

For many people this magnificent ruin, with its swan-patrolled moat and what's thought to be England's oldest portcullis, is everything a medieval castle should be. Its walls stand virtually to the height when built by Edward Dalyngrigge. He began it in the 1385, when the river was much wider – at the highest point upstream navigable to French raiders. But, by the time it was completed, the threat had passed. An introductory film sets the scene for visitors, and costumed guides talk you through what life was like here when the castle was at its peak. Climb the spiral steps up to the rooftop for dizzying views down into the courtyard and moat. Look out for the World War II pillbox in the grounds – a reminder of the site's renewed military importance in the last century.

To make a longer visit, picnic in the extensive grounds or time your visit to coincide with one of the special events featured on the Bodiam Castle website – children might even get the chance to dress up as a knight and try a longbow.



## 4 Bodiam Nursery

**Bodiam TN32 5RA**  
**01580 830811**

[www.bodiamnursery.co.uk](http://www.bodiamnursery.co.uk)

A small nursery which focuses on plants for small spaces, including raised beds, narrow borders and containers. They stock coastal and country plants, including many unusual varieties.



## 5 Great Dixter House & Gardens

**Northiam TN31 6PH**  
**01797 252878**

[www.greatdixter.co.uk](http://www.greatdixter.co.uk)

This world-famous garden was the creation of the late Christopher Lloyd, the celebrated gardener and writer. Here you can see the focus of what he wrote about for some 40 years up to his death in 2006: his creation is a series of outdoor 'rooms', each a distinct character, and full of colour and unexpected views that suddenly reveal themselves.

The garden is actively managed to promote biodiversity, and experts and volunteers survey for moths, spiders, bumblebees and butterflies. Great Dixter is something of a rarity in the High Weald in having with public access to a wildflower meadow and in enabling close-up views of a range of typical Wealden farm buildings, including barns and an oast house.

At its hub is the half-timbered house of the 'Wealden hall' design, adapted by Edwin Lutyens for Lloyd's parents, who moved here in 1910. Lutyens' scheme opened up the interior into its original medieval form.

Special events include various study days and workshops on aspects of gardening. There's a well stocked shop selling garden tools, books, and locally sourced products, and refreshments are on sale.



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# Discover Bodiam Visits

## 6 Bixley Wood and Flatropers Wood

**Access from Bixley Lane, near Beckley TN31 6TH**  
**Some parking by barrier by Bixley Wood sign.**

There's free access to the tracks of Bixley Wood, a Forestry Commission woodland just south of Beckley. Among the conifers are broad-leaf species such as birch, sweet chestnut and beech. Listen out for typical woodland birds, such as green and great spotted woodpeckers. You can extend your walk by crossing Bixley Lane, and entering the neighbouring Flatropers Wood, a nature reserve owned by the Sussex Wildlife Trust, which harbours a range of wildlife such as palmate newts and tiger beetles.





## 7 All Saints Church, Beckley

The former iron-producing village of Beckley remembers its industrial past in the place name of Beckley Furnace nearby, where an iron furnace was built in 1578. Within the church, a huge dug-out wooden chest dating from around 1200 includes what is thought to be some of the oldest ironwork in Sussex. The church tower, the oldest part of the building, dates back to around 1100 and displays herringbone masonry characteristic of the period.



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## 8 Brede High Woods

**Access is from small car parks on the B2089**  
**Broad Oak to Cripps Corner road.**

Brede High Woods, managed by the Woodland Trust, is a favourite among naturalists, thanks to its very old and varied habitats. During the summer months the sunny rides are a great place for spotting woodland butterflies such as the Silver-washed Fritillary and the site is known for other rare wildlife including glowworms, great crested newts and dormice.



Steve Hanna



# Discover Bodiam Tastes

## 9 Busters Farm Shop

Parsonage Farm, Salehurst TN32 5PJ  
01580 882020

[www.bustersfarmproduce.co.uk](http://www.bustersfarmproduce.co.uk)

Tucked behind Salehurst's parish church, this is the outlet for the Hoad family's traditional Wealden farm, and sells own-reared meat as well as delicatessen products. The Hoads have farmed here for six generations, since the 1880s. The varied soils on their land enable them to diversify with both livestock and crops, and they pride themselves on their native-bred pedigree Sussex cattle. They also grow hops for Harveys brewery in Lewes – you can sample the finished product in the Seven Stars in Robertsbridge.



## 10 The Curlew

Junction Road, Bodiam TN32 5UY  
01580 861394

[www.thecurlewrestaurant.co.uk](http://www.thecurlewrestaurant.co.uk)

In a white weatherboarded house at a crossroads not far from Bodiam Castle, this much-praised restaurant brings diners from afar for the excellence of its modern British cuisine, for which it has earned a Michelin star under owners Mark and Sara Colley. Closed Monday.



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## 11 Lighthouse Bakery School

Dagg Lane, Ewhurst Green TN32 5RD  
01580 831271

[www.lighthousebakery.co.uk](http://www.lighthousebakery.co.uk)

Originally based in London, this is a wholesale bakery with a difference. Liz Weisberg and Rachel Duffield moved it down to Ewhurst Green with a view to combining it with a bakery school – aimed at all levels, from professionals to total beginners. You get to use the machinery that's used by the professional staff at night; classes are informal but informative and include baking from many European cultures, such as the art of making French pain au raisin or Russian black bread. 'We do family days and tailor the day for the children – then we would make chocolate bread, which is always popular!' Nearby outlets selling Lighthouse's traditionally made, additive-free bread include Sedlescombe Stores, Staplecross village shop and Hurst Green community shop.



## 12 Rother Valley Brewing Company

Station Road, Northiam TN31 6QT  
01797 252922

[www.rothervalleybrewery.co.uk](http://www.rothervalleybrewery.co.uk)

You can sample the valley's very own beer locally: Rother Valley Brewery brews in Northiam, using its own hops grown on site, along with other hops sourced a few miles away at Sandhurst. Bottled Rother Valley beers are on sale on the Kent & East Sussex Railway and at Merriments Gardens, while the White Hart in Newenden always has the brewery's real ale available, and it is regularly on sale at the Swan at Wittersham and the White Dog at Ewhurst Green. Brewery tours by arrangement.



# Discover Bodiam Tastes

## 13 Sedlescombe Organic Vineyard

Sedlescombe TN32 5SA

01580 830715

[www.englishorganicwine.co.uk](http://www.englishorganicwine.co.uk)

England's very first organic vineyard, this was started by Roy Cook in 1979. His winery uses traditional methods: grapes are hand picked, no chemical fertilisers, herbicides, pesticides or fungicides, and wildlife is actively encouraged. Roy's wines – red, white and sparkling – have picked up several awards and in 2013 picked up the first award in an international competition for an English red wine. The nature-friendly conditions allow bees, butterflies and birds to thrive.

Roy also manufactures liqueurs such as elderflower, and pressed organic fruit juices as well as cider made from local apples. Find out more by taking one of several vineyard tours, taking in woodlands carpeted with springtime bluebells and wood anemones (the stakes for the vines are actually harvested from the coppice here) as well as the vineyards themselves, and followed by a wine tasting, with scope for having a picnic along the way. On the trail, look out for the World War II 'dragon's teeth' tank trap.

You can stock up on Roy's products at the on-site shop, and the café here serves refreshments using locally sourced ingredients



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## Pubs

### 14 White Horse

Silver Hill, Hurst Green TN19 7PU

01580 860235

### 15 George Inn

High Street, Robertsbridge TN32 5AW

01580 880315

[www.thegeorgerobertsbridge.co.uk](http://www.thegeorgerobertsbridge.co.uk)

### 16 Seven Stars Inn

High Street, Robertsbridge TN32 5AJ

01580 880333

### 17 Salehurst Halt

Church Lane, Salehurst TN32 5PH

01580 880620

[www.salehursthalt.co.uk](http://www.salehursthalt.co.uk)

### 18 Castle

Main Road (opposite entrance to Bodiam Castle), Bodiam, TN32 5UB

01580 830330

[www.shepherdneame.co.uk/pubs/bodiam/castle-inn](http://www.shepherdneame.co.uk/pubs/bodiam/castle-inn)

### 19 Cross Inn

Cripps Corner Road, Staplecross TN32 5QA

01580 830217

[www.thecrossinn.co.uk](http://www.thecrossinn.co.uk)

### 20 White Dog

Ewhurst Green TN32 5TD

01580 830264

[www.the-white-dog-inn.co.uk](http://www.the-white-dog-inn.co.uk)

### 21 Station House

Station Road, Northiam TN31 6QT

01797 252116

[www.stationhousenorthiam.co.uk](http://www.stationhousenorthiam.co.uk)

### 22 New Swan

Sandhurst TN18 5HY

01580 850260

[www.harveys.org.uk/stockists/the-swan](http://www.harveys.org.uk/stockists/the-swan)

### 23 White Hart

Newenden TN18 5PN

01797 252166

[www.thewhitehartnewenden.co.uk](http://www.thewhitehartnewenden.co.uk)

# Discover Bodiam

## Journeys by boat and steam train

### 24 Bodiam Boating

Newenden TN18 5PP

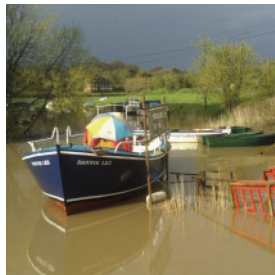
01797 253838

[www.bodiamboatingstation.co.uk](http://www.bodiamboatingstation.co.uk)

*It is advisable to book cruise tickets in advance*

By the picturesque 18th-century Newenden Bridge and a short stroll from Northiam station on the Kent & East Sussex Railway, this provides the best way to encounter the River Rother close up. The 45-minute river cruise on the 24-seater former naval lifeboat MV Danny Lee, to Bodiam Castle make a memorable way of arriving at the spectacular medieval fortress. "We see lots of kingfishers, barn owls and herons, and in the water you might well spot pike and carp. Some visitors like to combine a boat trip with a visit to the Michelin-starred Curlew restaurant in Bodiam or a pub lunch at the White Hart here by the boatyard. You can camp here too," says proprietor Vanessa Ferrett.

Another option is to buy a single ferry ticket and do the return leg by Kent & East Sussex Railway, and the company does a three-hour sunset cruise to Rye and back. Or if you want to go along the river your own steam, you could hire a rowing boat, open-topped kayak or Canadian canoe, and there's a trailer pick-up service so you don't have to row all the way back. The 1920s mahogany Irene takes eight passengers and can be privately chartered.



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### 25 The Kent & East Sussex Railway

01580 765155

[www.kesr.org.uk](http://www.kesr.org.uk)

*Hop-on-hop-off Rover tickets enable you to explore points en route*

Lovingly restored to working order by an army of volunteers and rail enthusiasts, this portion of railway gives a memorable journey back in time, vividly evoking the days of steam-hauled rail travel on a rural light railway, as it makes its 10.5-mile journey down the Rother Valley. The rolling stock has huge character: some carriages are Victorian, and the earliest loco dates from 1872.

The trains used to bring Londoners from the East End down for their annual hop-picking holiday in the Rother Valley (hence the tiny hop garden at Bodiam station). This was the first of Colonel Stephens' 16 light railways in this country – these being cheaply constructed lines where the rules of building were relaxed: the railway follows the lie of the land rather than having embankments and cuttings, and the stations were largely of corrugated iron; the museum at Tenterden station honours Stephens' achievements.

The line's eastern end is in Tenterden, a handsome Wealden town striking for its wide, verge-lined high street with old weatherboarded houses; the shops and Heritage Trail give plenty of reasons for lingering. The hour's journey to Bodiam involves a steep descent, passing the loco yard at Rolvenden and then the main rail depot at Wittersham. There is a stop at Northiam, where you can take a cruise on the river with Bodiam Boating, then Bodiam Castle comes into view to make a dramatic finale.

Check the website for special events.



# Discover Bodiam Journeys on foot

## A The Sussex Border Path

This long-distance path carefully picks out a scenic route through the area using public footpaths, bridleways and short stretches of quiet roads. It includes a section from Hawkhurst to Beckley, via Bodiam. By using bus 349 to return, you could start at The Moor, just south of Hawkhurst and walk 4 miles/6.5km to Bodiam Castle, or carry on a further 1.5 miles along the River Rother and up to Ewhurst Green.

[www.sussexborderpath.co.uk](http://www.sussexborderpath.co.uk)



## B Silverhill

A 3-mile walk around Silverhill near Robertsbridge: a typical country walk of stiles, some mud and some fantastic views across the Rother valley.

[www.highweald.org/downloads/publications/exploring-the-high-weald/6-10-mile-walks/897-silver-hill-walk/file.html](http://www.highweald.org/downloads/publications/exploring-the-high-weald/6-10-mile-walks/897-silver-hill-walk/file.html)



## C Robertsbridge

A 5-mile circular route around the countryside surrounding Robertsbridge, taking in the woods and farmland around the village of Robertsbridge as well as beautiful views across the valleys.

[www.highweald.org/downloads/publications/exploring-the-high-weald/11-miles-and-above-walks/914-robertsbridge-walk/file.html](http://www.highweald.org/downloads/publications/exploring-the-high-weald/11-miles-and-above-walks/914-robertsbridge-walk/file.html)



## D Bodiam

A generally easy 5-mile circular walk around Bodiam Castle and along the river Rother, with views of the castle and the river Rother as well views of the Kent & East Sussex Railway.

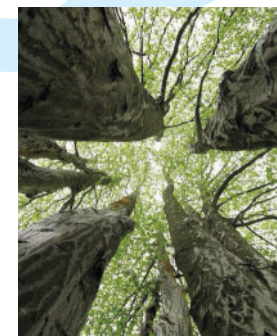
[www.highweald.org/downloads/publications/exploring-the-high-weald/11-miles-and-above-walks/905-bodiam-castle-walk/file.html](http://www.highweald.org/downloads/publications/exploring-the-high-weald/11-miles-and-above-walks/905-bodiam-castle-walk/file.html)





## E Beckley

A 3-mile walk through the woods through Flatropers and Bixley woods. Flatropers wood is an ancient woodland reserve run by the Sussex Wildlife Trust.

[www.highweald.org/downloads/publications/exploring-the-high-weald/3-5-mile-walks/874-beckley-walk/file.html](http://www.highweald.org/downloads/publications/exploring-the-high-weald/3-5-mile-walks/874-beckley-walk/file.html)



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# Discover Bodiam

## Car-free itineraries

### Car-free travelling

It's surprisingly easy to get round this area without your own transport. And with the journey being part of the adventure, you can relax and take in the landscape as you travel.

The bus routes highlighted here are regular services (some frequent; some every hour or two; note that on Sundays there may be no services or a restricted service). For details of times see [www.travelinesoutheast.org.uk](http://www.travelinesoutheast.org.uk)

See a map of routes on [www.stagecoachbus.com/uploads/ekandesnetworkmapjun2013.pdf](http://www.stagecoachbus.com/uploads/ekandesnetworkmapjun2013.pdf)

Buses are operated by Stagecoach. You can get a day Explorer ticket for a day's unlimited Stagecoach bus travel in Kent and East Sussex [www.stagecoachbus.com](http://www.stagecoachbus.com) £6.30 for an adult (plus 10p per child if accompanying, weekends and school holidays only); family of five £10.50.

Southern Railway [www.southernrailway.com](http://www.southernrailway.com) offers unlimited travel in the Southern network on DaySave off-peak and peak tickets. Bodiam, for example, is reached by bus 349 (Hawkshurst–Hastings; trains serve Hastings itself), or by Kent & East Sussex Railway from Tenterden. Or even by boat cruise along the Rother from Newenden (itself served by bus 342, Tenterden–Hastings).



### Key services

#### Buses

These route numbers are shown on the bus map [www.stagecoachbus.com/uploads/ekandesnetworkmapjun2013.pdf](http://www.stagecoachbus.com/uploads/ekandesnetworkmapjun2013.pdf)

**304/305** Hastings – Robertsbridge – Hawkhurst (hourly).

**340** Hastings – Newenden – Northiam – Tenterden (hourly)

**344** Rye – Northiam (hourly)

**349** Hastings – Bodiam – Hawkhurst (every two hours)

#### Links in from points on the national rail network outside the area

**2** Ashford – Tenterden (hourly)

**254** Tunbridge Wells – Hawkhurst (hourly)

**312** Rye – Tenterden (every two hours)

#### Trains

To Rye – then either cycle (cycle hire from Rye Hire); or bus to Northiam, explore Great Dixter; bus to Tenterden; Kent & East Sussex Railway to Bodiam.

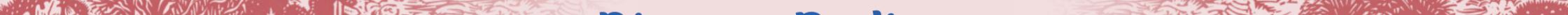
Direct services to Tenterden from Ashford, Hastings and Tunbridge Wells.

[www.nationalrail.co.uk](http://www.nationalrail.co.uk)

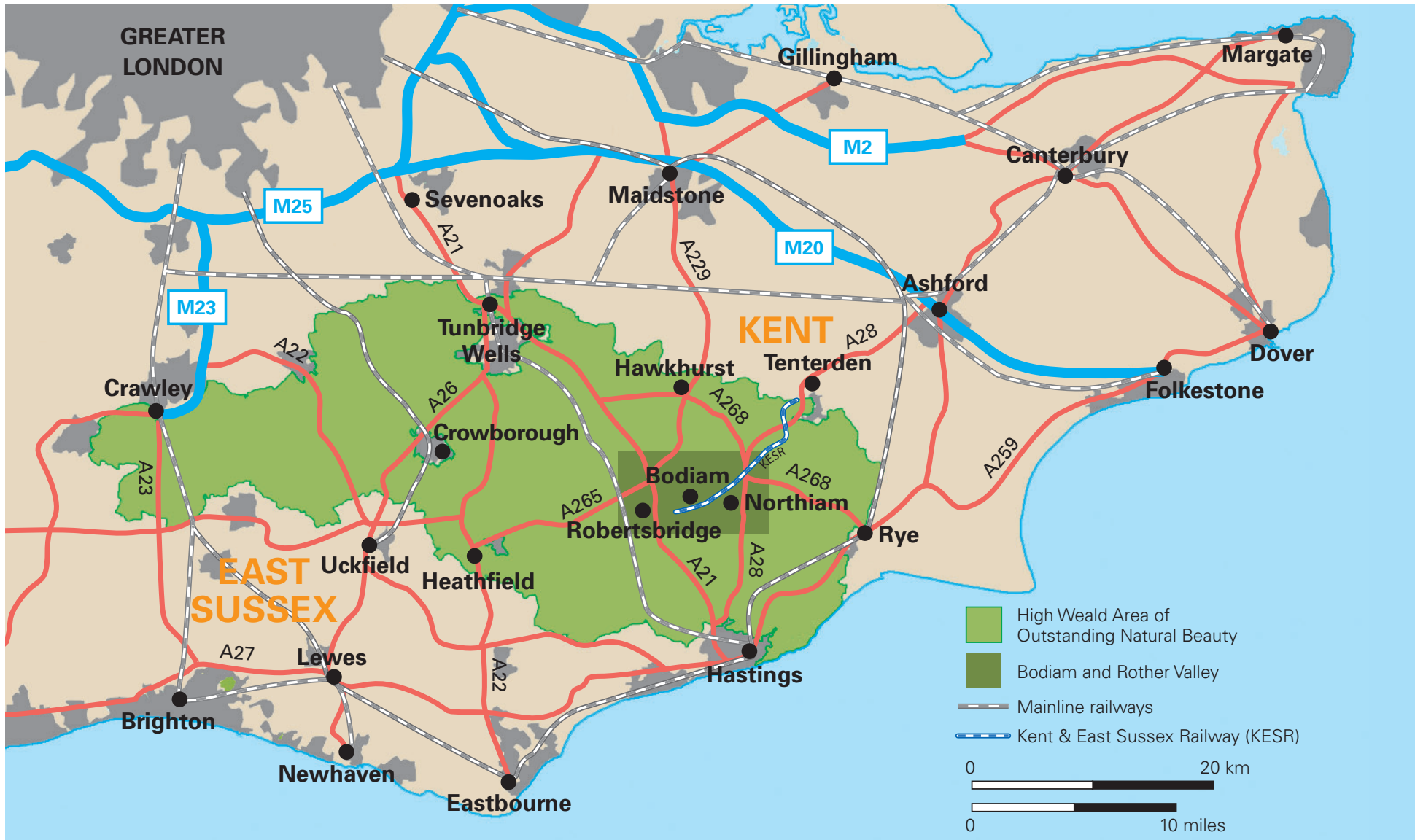


### Planning your itinerary

When planning any visit or itinerary it is important to check up-to-date travel information.



Discover Bodiam  
**Car-free itineraries**



# Discover Bodiam Places to stay

The businesses selected for this guide have demonstrated that they work to sustain their environment, support their community, and share their knowledge of the High Weald. Their 'promise' to the landscape can be found on [www.OurLand.co.uk](http://www.OurLand.co.uk)

– a website dedicated to telling the stories of the countries protected landscapes through their food, buildings, history, people and wildlife.



## 26 Slides Farm

Silverhill, Robertsbridge TN32 5PA  
01580 880106

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

Contemporary and stylish B&B accommodation in a rural position east of Robertsbridge, to which it is connected by a good network of footpaths. Its two ensuite bedrooms open onto a west facing terrace and garden area with wonderful views of the Rother Valley. Guests can try the farm's own-made cider.



## 27 The Old Courthouse

Hurst Green TN19 7QP  
01580 860080

[www.oldcourthousebandb.co.uk](http://www.oldcourthousebandb.co.uk)

Luxurious B&B accommodation in a former courthouse, this comes with vaulted ceilings and stained-glass windows. Buses 304 and 305 get you from here to Hawkhurst, Robertsbridge, Battle and Hastings.



## 28 The Original Hut Company

Quarry Farm, Bodiam TN32 5RA  
01580 831845

[www.original-huts.co.uk](http://www.original-huts.co.uk)

A cluster of four homemade self-catering glamping huts styled on traditional shepherds' huts. Located on a family farm within walking distance of Bodiam Castle and the bus stop services to Hawkhurst and Hastings. Also has traditional camping pitches.



## 29 Park Farm Caravan and Camping

Junction Road, Bodiam TN32 5XA  
01580 831982

[www.parkfarmcamping.co.uk](http://www.parkfarmcamping.co.uk)

Park Farm Campsite is set in a stunning location next to the River Rother and the owners take great care in maintaining the site and its surroundings. The site is available for tents and caravans and campervans. Bodiam Castle can be reached by crossing the B2244 and following the path along the River Rother.



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# Discover Bodiam Places to stay

## 30 Clouds Bed & Breakfast

9 Dagg Lane, Ewhurst Green TN32 5RD  
01580 830677

[www.cloudsbedandbreakfast.co.uk](http://www.cloudsbedandbreakfast.co.uk)

A beautifully rural location, with views from the house over the well-kept garden to sheep grazing the grassy slopes. Lighthouse Bakery is close by, and it's a short stroll along lanes to the pub at Ewhurst Green, or to a point where footpaths lead down to Bodiam Castle.



## 31 The Poplars

Beckley TN31 6RR  
01797 260888

[www.highweald.org/explore-sussex/places-to-stay/2063-self-catering-cottage-near-rye.html](http://www.highweald.org/explore-sussex/places-to-stay/2063-self-catering-cottage-near-rye.html)

This self-catering cottage is located in the village of Beckley and is surrounded by beautiful countryside in the heart of good walking territory. Bus 344 from Northiam to Rye runs through the village.



## 32 Swallowtail Hill

Hobbs Lane, near Beckley TN31 6TT  
0845 337 2948

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

The tents and cottages here are in a beautiful setting in which to spend a deeply relaxing holiday safe in the knowledge that its impact on the environment will be absolutely minimal. A short walk along a very quiet lane leads to Four Oaks, for bus 344 to Rye and Northiam.



## 33 Oasthouse Loft

Beckley Road, Northiam TN31 6JB  
01797 253525

[www.highweald.org/explore-sussex/places-to-stay/1983-luxury-self-catering-in-northiam.html](http://www.highweald.org/explore-sussex/places-to-stay/1983-luxury-self-catering-in-northiam.html)

Oasthouse Loft makes the perfect location for a romantic weekend or week away. Stroll through rich bluebell woods in late spring, spot orchids in a carpet of wood anemones in late winter and wander between the foxgloves by the stream in summer. With only a handful of dwellings nearby, this holiday cottage is completely untouched by either noise or light pollution. Just feast on the fresh air and wallow in the silence. Bus 340 from Hastings to Tenterden via Northiam runs close by.



## 34 Woodside

Staplecross, TN32 5SG  
01580 830903

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

Bed and breakfast, self-catering and glamping are all on offer and there is a resident beauty treatment professional to make your stay even more special.



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# Discover Bodiam Places to stay

## 35 Appletree Cottage

Staplecross, TN32 5QP

01580 831724

[www.appletreecottage.co](http://www.appletreecottage.co)

Set in an attractive, peaceful hilltop position with superb views over farmland Apple Tree Cottage is a conversion of two 19th-century farmers' cottages, retains many original features, and once belonged to the grandfather of the author, Elizabeth Jane Howard. Jane and Hugh are both keen gardeners and aswell as organically growing fruit and vegetables, keep free-range chickens and rare breed sheep.



## 36 Hillhouse Cottages

Newenden, TN18 5PL

01797 252253

[www.hillhousecottages.co.uk](http://www.hillhousecottages.co.uk)

The Barn and The Bothy are two adjacent self-catering holiday cottages in the river-side village of Newenden. Both have fascinating histories that date back to the 1600s; including occupation by shepherds, and horse stabling for constructing the Royal Military Canal.



## 37 Sussex Tipis

Broad Oak, TN31 6EX

07949 069309

[www.sussextipis.co.uk](http://www.sussextipis.co.uk)

Nestled in amongst orchards, a vineyard and a small woodland, Sussex Tipi Holidays offers a chance to get away from it all and enjoy a unique and very cool camping experience. The site is opposite Brede High Woods.



## 38 Bodiam Boating campsite

Newenden, TN18 5PP

01797 253838

[www.bodiamboatingstation.co.uk](http://www.bodiamboatingstation.co.uk)

The campsite offers 15 pitches, 8 with hook-up, on a level, tree-lined field and there are firepits, wood and even marshmallows should you not have your own! Boats are a step away and the Kent and East Sussex Railway steam trains chug past a quarter of a mile away; a great base for car-free exploration.



## Other businesses in the area

### 39 Glenferness

Brightling Road, Robertsbridge TN32 5DP

01580 881841

[www.glenferness.co.uk](http://www.glenferness.co.uk)

### 40 Lordine Court Caravan and Camping

Lordine Drive, Ewhurst Green, TN32 5TF

01580 830209

[www.lordine-court.co.uk](http://www.lordine-court.co.uk)

### 41 Ostrich Hotel

Station Road, Robertsbridge TN32 5DG

01580 881737

[www.ostrichhotel.co.uk](http://www.ostrichhotel.co.uk)

### Using the map

- Click on the name beside the number for an enlarged view of its location.
- Click on **Map** in the Bookmarks panel (on the left) to return to normal size.
- Use the zoom buttons in the menu bar (+) (-) to enlarge or reduce the page.



# Discover Bodiam I Spy

## Coppice

Woodland where the trees are cut periodically and then left to re-grow from the cut stumps, known as stools. The re-growth has multiple stems, known as poles. Managing trees as coppice provides small diameter timber which has many uses, such as for making fencing.



## Shelter belt

Lines of tall, thin trees, often poplars and alders, planted to protect the precious fruit within orchards from wind and frost. Many of the orchards have disappeared but the shelter belts remain, an indication of previous land use.



## Ponds

Ponds are numerous in the High Weald. There are about 9 per square kilometre and most are man-made. Some are natural but most have been created either through damming to create water power or the digging out of minerals such as iron ore and clay.



## Hops

Naturally climbing hedgerow plants. In the High Weald, they have been commercially grown up chestnut poles cut from the area's woodlands since the sixteenth century. They thrive on the deeper soils at the bottoms of slopes and in river valleys.



## Pill box

Squat, octagonal concrete or brick gun emplacements that were built in the 1940s along the Rivers Rother and Medway as part of a network of defences to prevent German invasion.



## Weather-boarding

This often covers timber-framed buildings, sometimes from top to toe. It is usually painted white on houses and is left unpainted, or stained black on barns.



# Discover Bodiam I Spy



## Vineyard

Normally found on south-facing slopes to ensure maximum exposure to sunshine. Warmer growing conditions in the area as a result of climate change has led to an increase in vineyard numbers.



## Fingerpost

The old style of road direction sign. They were put up following an Act of Parliament in 1903 which gave local authorities the responsibility for road signs.



## Bank

Built over centuries to mark landowners' boundaries and to protect areas from grazing animals. They can range in size from a subtle bumps to substantial features topped with mature trees.



## Oast house

These were used to dry hops for brewing and come in many shapes and sizes. The cowl is a white conical-shaped lid on top of the oast house that was turned by a wind vane and drew heat and moisture away from the hops as they dried.



## Tile-hung building

Tiles were often used to clad the exterior of timber-framed buildings in the High Weald.



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**HIGH  
WEALD**  
JOINT  
ADVISORY  
COMMITTEE