

# Visit England's regional coastlines in 2021 and explore the extraordinary outdoors...



L-R: Chale & Blackgang, Isle of Wight; Harwich Mayflower Trail, Essex; the view from Locanda on the Weir, Somerset; Eskdale Railway, Lake District

## 9 February 2021

For travel inspiration across England's coastline, visit [Englandscoast.com/en](https://englandscoast.com/en), the browse-and-book tool that guides you along the coast and everything it has to offer, from walking routes and heritage sites to places to stay and family attractions. Plan a trip, build an itinerary and book directly with hundreds of restaurants, cafés, pubs, hotels, B&Bs and campsites.

"The coastline of England can rival that of any on the planet for sheer diversity, cultural heritage and captivating beauty," says Samantha Richardson, Director, National Coastal Tourism Academy, which delivers the England's Coast project.

"No matter where you live, this is the year to explore locally. Take in dramatic views across the cliff-tops, explore charming harbour towns and family-friendly resorts like Blackpool, Scarborough, Brighton, Margate or Bournemouth.

"Or experience culture on England's Creative Coast in the South East; wherever you visit, you're guaranteed to discover something new. Walk a stretch of the England Coast Path, enjoy world-class seafood or gaze at the Dark Skies in our National Parks near to the coast; England's Coast re-energises and inspires, just when we need it most."

**Whether one of England's wonderful regional coastlines is on your doorstep or you're planning a trip later in 2021, here are some unmissable experiences to enjoy in each region this year along with ways to plan your trip with [Englandscoast.com/en](https://englandscoast.com/en).**

### The North West Coast

- **NEW – A stretch of path, Cumbria's Hidden Coast, opening in 2021:** This new 40-mile trail will link Millom to Whitehaven (part of the England Coast Path) via the Duddon Estuary, Silecroft, and Ravenglass, and features a new arts trail, *Deep Time*. **Plan your Cumbria staycation [here](#).**
- **Explore the glorious coastal Lake District in National Parks Week, 17-25 April 2021:** The coastal Lake District doesn't get as much attention as its better-known inland areas, but is one of the most scenic coastal areas in Britain. Choose your base in the Park's only coastal village, medieval Ravenglass, and explore the famous [Eskdale narrow gauge railway](#), 13<sup>th</sup> century [Muncaster Castle](#), and stunning St Bees beach, all nearby. *Stay at [Pennington Hotel](#) in Ravenglass from £119 pn.*
- **Stylish boltholes for a chic staycation:** In [Blackpool](#), the Art B&B art hotel and venue, designed by 30 contemporary artists, boasts sensational sea views, rainfall showers and its seafront ART cocktail bar. In [Morecambe](#), the iconic [Midland Hotel](#) is a wonderfully-restored 4\* Art Deco hotel with gorgeous

bay views – once the haunt of Coco Chanel and Noel Coward. In the Solway Coast AONB, [Wallsend Guest House & Glamping Pods](#) offers gorgeous guest house rooms and luxury glamping pods with eco-friendly, log burner-heated hot tubs and French doors opening out on to private decking.

- **Journey to the Beatles' hometown for the 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Abbey Road Studios:** The world-famous studios, where the fab four recorded Sergeant Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band and the Abbey Road albums, celebrates its 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2021 with celebrations including an anniversary documentary by Mary McCartney (daughter of Paul and Linda). Journey back to the origins of the [Liverpool](#)-born band on a cultural staycation, taking in the award-winning [Beatles Story permanent exhibition](#), and world-class contemporary art, restaurants and museums at the city's vibrant waterfront.

## The North East Coast

- **The Lumiere Light Festival returns to Durham, 18-21 November 2021:** The [festival](#) invites local and international artists to design illuminations which will transform the city's urban spaces and familiar public buildings. *Stay at 5-star hotel & spa [Seaham Hall](#) on the Durham Heritage Coast from £315 pp.*
- **A new coastal hub and café for Crimdon Dene, Hartlepool:** This new community hub, educational area and café is set to open in the summer. Enjoy the wide sandy beach and scenic views towards Hartlepool and the Cleveland Hills, along with the colony of breeding little terns migrating from West Africa each summer. *Stay at [Crimdon Dene Holiday Park](#) from £56 pp pn.*
- **Woodland and wonder at Castle Eden Dene in Durham:** There is so much to explore at [Castle Eden Dene](#), one of the most important areas of woodland in the North of England and an example of the 'wildwood' that once covered most of Britain. This ancient deep gorge is home to an extraordinary variety of birds, more than 450 species of plants, and mammals such as roe deer and fox.
- **The North East seafood trail:** [Northumberland's seafood specialties](#) are a must-try. At the north of the county lies Ross, part of the Lindisfarne Nature Reserve, and where the Sutherland family today farm their 'Lindisfarne' Pacific Oysters. The world-famous Craster kipper is smoked in Northumberland at *L Robson and Sons* smokehouse and, further up the coast in Seahouses, is *Swallowfish* – another excellent smokehouse which has been in business since 1843.

## The East Coast

- **Mayflower anniversary in Harwich, Essex:** 2020 marked the [400<sup>th</sup> anniversary](#) of the Pilgrims setting sail from Plymouth to cross the Atlantic to reach the New World – America. The celebrations were of course cancelled last year, but in 2021 you can visit the port town of [Harwich](#), Essex, where the Mayflower's captain, Christopher Jones, lived and was twice wed. Visitors can explore the recently-restored Christopher Jones House on Kings Head Street, where the captain once lived, the Mayflower Visitor Centre, Esplanade Hall – a former school with a Mayflower exhibition hall, and the fascinating Mayflower Trail – a 1 km tour of the city's Mayflower links created in 2020, all of which bring the Harwich Mayflower story to life.
- **Visit Sutton Hoo – site of the new Netflix period drama, *The Dig*:** The new drama – starring Carey Mulligan and Ralph Fiennes – tells the story of [Sutton Hoo](#), the 245-acre estate near Woodbridge, Suffolk, that was home to one of England's most important archaeological discoveries, where 18 burial sites dating from the 7<sup>th</sup> century AD were found. Visitors can marvel at the full-size sculpture of the 27-metre long burial ship and explore the burial grounds and a new exhibition. *Make it a long weekend, staying at [The Crown at Woodbridge](#), a luxurious 16<sup>th</sup> century historic hotel and restaurant.*
- **Discover outdoor art along the coast:** Who says you need to go inside a gallery or a museum to get your culture fix, when you can take in public art outside in the fresh coastal air? On 22 May, artist Katrina Palmer's *Hello and Retreat* installation in partnership with Metal will be launched in Southend-on-Sea. On Aldeburgh Beach, Suffolk, local artist Maggi Hambling created the iconic [Scallop sculpture](#) in 2003, and the [Aldeburgh Beach Lookout](#) is a tiny art temple by the sea which has become an international art destination, with regular new artists in residence. [Structures on the Edge](#), Lincolnshire, is a series of coastal art installations along a 10-mile stretch from Chapel St. Leonards to Mablethorpe.
- **With the recent news that the white-tailed eagle may be reintroduced to Norfolk, celebrate the region's abundant birdlife:** A consultation has been launched to reintroduce Britain's biggest bird of prey to the Norfolk coast. The impressive eagle was hunted to extinction in England 240 years ago. While approval from Natural England is awaited, head to one of Norfolk or Lincolnshire's fantastic

birding areas for a spot of twitching. At [Gibraltar Point National Nature Reserve](#), in Skegness, spot waders, little terns, skylarks, and snow bunting; in the [Norfolk Broads](#), witness grey herons, coots, and spoonbills; and, at [Holkham](#) National Nature Reserve, see pink-footed geese, barn owls and grey plovers.

## The South Coast

- **Fossil hunting on UNESCO-recognised Isle of Wight:** Recently the sixth region in the UK to be named a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve, nature thrives on the idyllic Isle of Wight. Look to the wildlife of the past as you comb beaches for signs of prehistoric life – it has more dinosaur remains than anywhere in northern Europe. In August 2020, dinosaur remains found on Compton Bay by the University of Southampton were discovered to belong to a new species of dinosaur – the *Vectaerovenator inopinatus* – from the same family as the infamous T Rex. Join [Felicity the Fossil Guide](#) on Brook Beach on a two-hour expert-guided fossil hunt.
- **An art and culture renaissance in the south east:** 2021 sees the launch of the [Creative Coast](#), a new cultural experience fusing art and landscape, and the world's first art Geo-tour, from May-November. Margate celebrates the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the [Turner Gallery](#) with new exhibitions from Steve McQueen and Barbara Walker, the bicentennial of Keats' death, 10-year extension of Antony Gormley's ANOTHER TIME sculpture, and the opening of a new Crab Museum. Broadstairs, meanwhile, sees the launch of a Dickens-themed holiday cottage, [Fagin's Cottage](#).
- **Enjoy an award-winning sparkling Sussex stay in a luxurious 'Amazing Space' in West Sussex:** Visit a fascinating vineyard on an estate dating back to 1822 in Funtington, Chichester. [Ashling Park Estate](#) vineyard is a heavenly retreat boasting trophy-winning sparkling English wines, gin distilled from Pinot Noir grapes, an infinity tasting terrace overlooking sublime views of the vines, pop-up eatery 'The View', and luxurious cabin accommodation designed by Will Hardie of Channel 4's Amazing Spaces.
- **A warm welcome to walkers in White Cliffs Country:** Taking its name from [Dover](#)'s iconic chalk coastline, a walk through White Cliffs Country will be a tonic to enjoy post-lockdown, with its huge variety of coastal and countryside routes with stunning panoramic views. From 26-31 August 2021, it hosts the White Cliffs Walking Festival.

## The South West Coast

- **St Ives welcomes the G7 Summit:** Recently named Britain's *Happiest Place to Live*, the beautiful Cornish town of [St Ives](#) is famous for its Blue Flag beaches, surfing scene and artistic community. In June, world leaders - including new US President Joe Biden - will gather nearby at Carbis Bay for the G7 Summit, with Visit Cornwall estimating it could provide Cornwall with a £50M economic boost.
- **Take on the longest National Trail in the UK:** The 630-mile-long [South West Coast Path](#) begins at Minehead in Somerset and runs along the coastline of Exmoor, North Devon, Cornwall, South Devon and Dorset, ending at Poole Harbour. On average, it takes 7-8 weeks to complete, although some have done it much faster – the current record is just over 10 days! Why not take on the challenge later this year and explore some of the world's most beautiful coastline at your own pace?
- **Find peace and tranquillity on Exmoor:** [Exmoor National Park](#), with its 267 square miles of moorland, woodland, valleys, high sea cliffs and farmland, features an amazing array of open landscapes and coastal views, with the chance to spot wild red deer, be amazed by Dark Skies, and explore villages full of character.
- **Explore the Seafood Coast:** The seas around the south west are home to some of the finest seafood in the world, and the region's chefs are brimming with passion, transforming their local produce into delicious dishes. From Brixham, the Devon fishing town that lands the largest catch in the country, to Teignmouth, the only place in England where you can try sand eels, brought ashore by one lone fisherman, there's a wealth of piscatorial delights to sample. Try the *Seafront Dining Adventure* at [Locanda on the Weir](#), set in the heart of Exmoor National Park, in front of the 15<sup>th</sup> century harbour at Porlock Weir in Somerset. Italian-born chef Pio delights in creating Italian dishes influenced by the Exmoor larder and by what is ripe and ready in the restaurant's kitchen garden.

England's Coast advises visitors to adhere to the national lockdown and plan their travels for post-lockdown, when it is safe to do so. Details can be found on the Gov UK website:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/national-lockdown-stay-at-home>.

## ENDS

**Press:** For further information, high-res images or to **discuss a commissioned press trip**, please contact Lizzie Cooper or Jackie Franklin at [Travel PR](mailto:TravelPR) on 020 8891 4440 or [l.cooper@travelpr.co.uk](mailto:l.cooper@travelpr.co.uk) / [j.franklin@travelpr.co.uk](mailto:j.franklin@travelpr.co.uk).

**For more information on England's Coast** visit [www.englishcoast.com/en](http://www.englishcoast.com/en) or contact Sheron Crossman, National Coastal Tourism Academy Marketing & Communications Manager: [Sheron.crossman@coastaltourismacademy.co.uk](mailto:Sheron.crossman@coastaltourismacademy.co.uk).

**Note to editors:** The England's Coast project is delivered by the National Coastal Tourism Academy, whose partners include The Yorkshire Coast, Visit Scarborough, The North York Moors National Park Authority, Visit East Yorkshire, Visit Lancashire, Visit Cumbria, This is Durham, Visit Northumberland, Visit Essex, Visit Thanet, Dover/White Cliffs Country, Creative Coast Kent, Visit Brighton, Experience West Sussex, Visit Portsmouth, Discover Gosport, Visit Isle of Wight, Coast with the Most -Bournemouth/Christchurch/Poole, Somerset and Exmoor National Park – The Hinkley Tourism Action Partnership, P&O Ferries and Hornblower City Cruises Poole.