

One of England's most venerable cities, Canterbury is steeped in history, with Roman and early Christian ruins, a Norman castle and a world-famous cathedral that towers above a medieval warren of Tudor houses. The city is home to the Church of England, and renowned for the great English poet Geoffrey Chaucer's Canterbury Tales, which describe pilgrimages to Thomas à Becket's tomb, later destroyed on the orders of Henry VIII. Leeds Castle, set half on an island in the middle of a lake and half on the mainland surrounded by landscaped parkland, has a stunning, almost fairy-tale, appearance.



Canterbury Cathedral

Canterbury's greatest treasure is its magnificent cathedral, the successor to the church St Augustine built after he began converting the English to Christianity in 597. After the martyrdom of Archbishop Thomas à Becket in 1170, the cathedral became the centre of one of the most important medieval pilgrimages that was immortalised by Geoffrey Chaucer in *The Canterbury Tales*. The cathedral is a UNESCO World Heritage Site.



Canterbury Castle

Canterbury Castle was established in the 1080s by the Normans and replaced an earlier motte and bailey fortification built at the nearby Dane John. The stone keep was largely constructed in the reign of Henry I (1100–1135) as one of three royal castles in Kent. By the 13th century the castle had become the county gaol.



St Augustine's Abbey

Explore the ruins of the abbey founded by St Augustine in 597AD, now part of Canterbury's World Heritage Site. The site also includes a fascinating museum with genuine artefacts and a free audio tour.



Leeds Castle

Leeds Castle, set in 500 acres of parkland in the midst of the Kent countryside, takes its name not from the city of Leeds but from its first owner, a man named Leed, or Ledian, who built himself a wooden castle in 857. The castle was a royal residence for six of England's medieval queens and a palace of Henry VIII. Much of the castle was restored and rebuilt in the 19th century, and many of the lavishly decorated rooms are open to the public.

What else can I see and do?

The **Roman Museum** is underground at the level of the Roman town. It's an exciting mix of excavated real objects, authentic reconstructions and preserved remains of a Roman town house including its mosaics.

A visit to **The Canterbury Tales**, one of Kent's most popular attractions, with its stunning reconstruction of 14th-century England, is just like stepping into the Middle Ages. Inside the historic building of St Margaret's Church you can step back over 500 years to join Geoffrey

Chaucer and his colourful characters as they journey from London towards the shrine of St Thomas Becket at Canterbury Cathedral. Discover one of England's finest medieval fortified gatehouses at **Westgate Towers Museum**. Find the 'murder holes' and explore the turrets with panoramic views from the battlements. **The Beaney House of Art & Knowledge** is an art museum and library situated in the heart of the historic city, offering exhibition galleries and a varied programme of events throughout the year.

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Mobile no _____

Please ensure you are on the coach 10 minutes before the departure time.