

# Tudor<sup>(ish)</sup> Trail

Discover how England's turbulent Tudor period is brought to the screen at Kent's historic locations



*Wolf Hall* (2015) Mark Rylance as Thomas Cromwell at The Long Gallery, Penshurst Place  
© Company Pictures and Playground Entertainment/BBC Two



Lady Jane (1986) Cary Elwes as Guildford Dudley and Helena Bonham Carter as Lady Jane at Dover Castle  
© Moviestore Collection/REX

The Tudor dynasty began when Henry VII of the House of Tudor won the War of the Roses against Richard III of the House of Lancaster at the Battle of Bosworth Field in 1485. At the death of Elizabeth I in 1603 it was over.

This period in history saw much change throughout the country that was fast becoming Britain, rather than just England. Tudor rule has always had a great influence on writers and artists. Shakespeare, undoubtedly Britain's most influential playwright, started writing about the Tudor period not long after his former patron Elizabeth I died. Many of his plays, as well as historical events of the times have found their way onto the screen.

From the many retellings of the life of Henry VIII, to Elizabeth's fight against the Spanish Armada and Thomas Cromwell's meteoric rise from a humble blacksmith's son to one of the most powerful men in England, our fascination with the Tudors persists to this day.

This trail highlights Kent's role during this turbulent time in history as well as a location for many films and TV dramas.

Kent's Tudor history and its influences are expansive and rich. Its proximity to London meant that Kent became a playground for the Tudors, and a place where foreign dignitaries would pass through on their way to London from mainland Europe. Many of Kent's castles and manor houses played host to the royals, and the architecture of these buildings has been influenced according to these visits. Most importantly, Kent's coastline served as a first line of defence against invasion

from enemy ships, and many fortifications such as the Henrician Walmer and Deal castles still stand majestically today, looking out to sea.

It was Henry VIII who really put Kent on the map. Henry VIII's connection with Kent began in 1493 at the tender age of three, when he was appointed Constable of Dover Castle and Lord Warden of the Cinque Ports and over the course of his life, Henry was a frequent visitor, as well as a part time resident in the county.



Dover Castle © English Heritage

Kent suited Henry's flamboyant lifestyle and there was enough land to develop extensive residences and deer parks, where he practiced hunting; one of his favourite past times. It was after sampling a bowl of cherries in Flanders that he ordered for Britain's first cherry orchard to be planted in Teynham, subsequently dubbing Kent 'The Garden of England,' a title which it still holds proudly today.



Graphic of Tudor Rose emblem

Henry VIII, as well as other Tudor monarchs, was a frequent business visitor to Canterbury, the seat of the Church of England, which underwent a turbulent journey back and forth from Catholicism to Protestantism starting under Henry's rule and ending under Elizabeth I, who returned it back to Protestantism after her half-sister Mary I had given control to Rome.

The castles, countryside and places connecting Kent to Tudor history have been a draw and inspiration for many film & TV productions looking to stage their historical dramas. Sometimes productions settled for nothing less than the real deal, as in the case of

1969 film *Anne of the Thousand Days*, starring Richard Burton, where the seat of the Boleyn Family, Hever Castle, featured as Anne's home in this prestigious Hollywood adaptation. Similarly, the BBC's 1979 version of *Henry VIII* decided to shoot exclusively on location at Hever Castle, Leeds Castle and Penshurst Place – a royal engagement indeed.

More recently, the acclaimed BBC drama series, *Wolf Hall* filmed at Penshurst Place, which fell forfeit to the Crown in 1519. The production benefitted from its beautiful interiors as well as its historical significance, since Henry used Penshurst Place as a residence when courting Anne Boleyn at neighbouring Hever Castle.

Enjoy following in the footsteps of the English monarchs and other significant historical figures of the times and visit the Kent locations where the tempestuous Tudor history was brought to life on the silver screen.

It is a rocky historical journey, but a part of Kent's historical past that is so rich that there is always more to learn and another place to see!



*Anne of the Thousand Days* (1969) at Penshurst Place © Penshurst Place



# Trail Map

Using this trail you can explore Kent and discover where several Tudor films were shot and why not boost your journey of discovery and visit some of Kent's amazing heritage locations?

## Key

- Film locations
- Heritage sites



Anne of the Thousand Days (1969) Genevieve Bujold as Anne Boleyn at Penshurst Place © Penshurst Place



The Other Boleyn Girl (2008) Natalie Portman as Anne Boleyn and Scarlett Johansson as Mary Boleyn © Focus/Everett/REX



Wolf Hall (2015) Claire Foy as Anne Boleyn at Dover Castle ready for beheading © Company Pictures and Playground Entertainment/BBC Two

The  
Tudors

The Hollow Crown: Henry V (2012)

HENRY V (1413 - 1422)



The Hollow Crown: Henry VI Part 1 and 2 (2016)

HENRY VI (1422 - 1461)



1420

1430

1440

**1 Chiddingstone** TN8 7AH  
01732 750169 | [www.nationaltrust.org.uk/chiddingstone-village](http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/chiddingstone-village)

Owned by the National Trust to ensure its preservation, Chiddingstone is one of the prettiest Tudor villages in Kent. In the TV series, *Elizabeth R* (1971) Chiddingstone's high street provides the backdrop for Elizabeth's celebrations upon her rise to the throne, and St. Mary the Virgin Church also features in the second episode.

Chiddingstone is very typical of the Kentish Tudor style, with half-timbered houses sporting gables and stone-hung, red-tiled roofs. Anne Boleyn's father, Sir Thomas Boleyn, bought a property here in the early 16th century, which now serves as the village shop.



*Elizabeth R* (1971) Glenda Jackson as Queen Elizabeth I  
© REX

**2 Cobham Hall** DA12 3BL  
01474 823371 | [www.cobhamhall.com](http://www.cobhamhall.com)



*Tulip Fever* book cover  
© Vintage Books

Follow the drive through the beautiful grounds to this Tudor Era manor, now a girls' boarding school. The two defining Tudor wings were added in 1559 and in the same year, Queen Elizabeth I visited the house then owned by Sir William Brooke, 10th Lord Cobham. The economic upturn after Henry VIII's reign brought with it a building boom, particularly in London, where new developments were crammed into every available space. This was most certainly a contributing factor to the Great Fire of London in 1666, destroying large swathes of the capital. Cobham Hall was used to represent Arundel House in the ITV drama *The Great Fire* (2014). Tulip mania, which saw the price of tulip bulbs reach extortionate levels, was another effect of the new wealth brought by the opening up of international trade routes. The market collapsed just as suddenly, giving rise to the later popularised notion of economic irrationality. Based on Deborah Moggach's popular novel, *Tulip Fever*, the 2016 film re-created an Amsterdam canal frontage along one of Cobham Hall's Tudor wings, complete with barges and donkeys crossing humpback bridges.

**3 Dover Castle** CT16 1HU  
01304 211067 | [www.english-heritage.org.uk/dover-castle](http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/dover-castle)

Dover Castle's great tower has been used many times as a double for the Tower of London where many famous Tudors were trialed, imprisoned and executed. It did so in the films *Lady Jane* (1986), *To Kill a King* (2003) and the TV drama series *The Hollow Crown: The Wars of the Roses* (2016) and *Wolf Hall* (2015). In the Hollywood movie *The Other Boleyn Girl* (2008), the grand chamber was used as the prison meeting room and the courtyard housed the scaffold where Anne and her brother George were beheaded. The Franco Zeffirelli adaption of *Hamlet* (1980) also filmed at Dover Castle which doubled as Elsinore Castle.

Henry VIII visited the castle in 1539 and added a bulwark and bastion. He also stayed in the Royal Apartments situated in the great tower and Inner Bailey, most likely when passing through the port where he embarked on several diplomatic trips to the continent.



'The embarkation of Henry VIII from Dover', which hangs in the Great Hall at Leeds Castle  
© Leeds Castle Foundation

Henry VIII travelled through Otford, Leeds, Charing and Canterbury before embarking at Dover on his journey to the Field of the Cloth of Gold, in Guines just south of Calais, where he made his amends with France. It is thought that Henry commissioned the painting above which represents his enormous riches by depicting them disproportionately large. A Copy of the painting hangs at Leeds Castle and you can see Dover Castle in the top left hand corner.





Henry VIII (1979) John Stride as Henry VIII and Claire Bloom as Katharine of Aragon © BBC Photo Library

Being Anne's widower, Henry VIII inherited Hever Castle after the death of her father, Thomas Boleyn, in 1539. He then passed the castle to Anne of Cleves in 1540 as part of the settlement following the annulment of their marriage, which left him free to marry Catherine Howard.

#### 4 Hever Castle TN8 7NG 01732 865224 [www.hevercastle.co.uk](http://www.hevercastle.co.uk)

Hever Castle, the family seat of the Boleyn family was an obvious choice for Anne's home in *Anne of the Thousand Days* (1969), starring Richard Burton and Genevieve Bujold. In the film Henry visits the Boleyn household to woo Anne. In *Lady Jane* (1986), featuring a very young Helena Bonham Carter directed by Trevor Nunn, the Long Gallery is used for the scene where Jane and Princess Mary talk about God. The beautifully ornate wood panelling is the perfect setting for period productions. In *Henry VIII* (1979), it doubled as streets in Westminster. Hever Castle also owns one of the most extensive privately owned collections of Tudor portraits open to the public.



Boleyn family emblem © Hever Castle

#### 5 Knole Park and House TN15 0RP 01732 462100 | [www.nationaltrust.org.uk/knole](http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/knole)

King Henry VIII was so enamoured by Knole that in 1538 he forced Thomas Cranmer the then Archbishop of Canterbury, who had braved great opposition by validating Henry's marriage to Anne Boleyn, to hand it over to him. Knole Park is bursting with Tudor features. The fireplace in the Great Hall boast a pair of andirons, or fire-dogs used to elevate the logs in the grate, which bear the initials and emblems of the King and Anne Boleyn. Interestingly, in 2014, archaeologists found the oak beams beneath floors by the fireplaces had been carved with scratched interlocking Vs and Ws, thought to invoke the protection of the Virgin Mary and prevent witches and demons from coming down the chimney. The final years of the Tudor period were a time of widespread paranoia when it came to witchcraft.

It seems apt that for the film *The Other Boleyn Girl* (2008), Knole's romantic courtyards and deer-park were transformed into Tudor London, doubling for many street scenes as well as Whitehall Palace.



*The Other Boleyn Girl* (2008) Eric Bana as Henry Tudor © REX

#### 6 Squerryes Court TN16 1SJ 01959 562345 | [www.squerryes.co.uk](http://www.squerryes.co.uk)

Although built after the Tudor dynasty in 1681, Squerryes Court's grounds have played host to *The Hollow Crown: Henry V* (2012), featuring Tom Hiddleston. Adapted from Shakespeare's famous history plays, part II of this BBC adaptation depicts Henry V's famous battle against the French army at Agincourt. Shakespeare had limited historical sources when writing these plays and so it is interesting to see how he, as a Tudor characterises these historical figures.

Very few of the original 700 English deer parks have survived since the Tudor times. According to Lambarde's 1596 second edition of *A Perambulation in Kent*, there were 54 deer parks in Kent. Knole is the only one to survive and still has hundreds of deer in it today.

*The Hollow Crown: Richard III* (2016)

RICHARD III  
(1483 - 85)

HENRY VII (1485 - 1509)



*Wolf Hall* (2015)



## 7 Leeds Castle ME17 1PL 01622 765400 | www.leeds-castle.com

Little is known about the castle's Tudor history prior to King Henry VIII's reign when extensive works transformed the fortified house into a palace for Henry and his first wife, Catherine of Aragon. Their most notable stay was in 1520 when Henry arrived with a large retinue on his way to meet King Francis I at the Field of The Cloth of Gold near Calais. A copy of the painting of 'The Embarkation from Dover' hangs in the Banqueting Hall at Leeds Castle commemorating the hopeful beginnings of this ultimately unsuccessful diplomatic mission.



Henry VIII (2003) Behind the Scenes at Leeds Castle © Rex Shutterstock

In 1544, after his French campaign, Henry made his last visit to Leeds Castle, this time with his sixth wife, Catherine Parr, before the castle passed from the crown estate in 1552.

Leeds Castle featured in the award winning ITV series *Henry VIII* (2003), starring Ray Winstone and Helena Bonham Carter, where it doubled as the exterior of Richmond Castle. Bonham Carter visited Leeds before when filming *Lady Jane* (1986), and the production used exteriors as Lady Jane Grey's home, Bradgate Park. *The Hollow Crown: The Wars of the Roses* (2016) filmed boats on the moat, seeing Benedict Cumberbatch as Richard III arrive at the Tower of London. In *Henry VIII* (1979) both interiors and exteriors of Leeds Castle were used to portray the grandeur of Whitehall Palace.

In the Tudor period, beds were a sign of wealth and in Leeds Castle there is a suggestion that Henry VIII had 40 beds, thus flaunting his importance and the size of the royal purse.



The Hollow Crown: The Wars of the Roses (2016) Benedict Cumberbatch as Richard III © 2015 Carnival Films Ltd

## 8 Penshurst Place TN11 8DG 01892 870307 | www.penshurstplace.com

For a visit to Penshurst Place by Henry VIII in 1519, Edward Stafford, Duke of Buckingham, prepared lavish entertainments to impress the King. Henry, unable to produce a male heir, felt threatened by Edward's wealth and position in the succession and had him executed for treason two years later. His properties passed to the King who used Penshurst as a Hunting Lodge from which to court Anne Boleyn at neighbouring Hever Castle.



The Hollow Crown: Henry V (2012) Tom Hiddleston as Henry V © 2015 Carnival Films Ltd

In the mini-series *Elizabeth R* (1971), starring Glenda Jackson, the beautiful grounds doubled as Greenwich Palace gardens, and in both *The Hollow Crown* series (2012/2016) it featured as the exterior of the Palace of Westminster. In *The Other Boleyn Girl* (2008), starring Eric Bana, the Baron's Hall was decked out as the lavish banqueting hall at Whitehall Palace. Later in the film, Anne and the King walk in the Tudor gardens.

In *Henry VIII* (1979) various rooms were used, including Baron's Hall where Anne Boleyn first meets Henry VIII, starring John Stride, when attending a ball hosted by Cardinal Wolsey.

Penshurst Place has also doubled as the King's court in feature films *To Kill a King* (2003) and *Anne of the Thousand Days* (1969).

The production team for *Wolf Hall* (2015) visited Penshurst Place to film in several of the state rooms, including the Long Gallery which doubled as Anne Boleyn's chamber in Whitehall where she often sat with her ladies in waiting. Penshurst Place kept their doors open to the public during the filming and on one of their tours, a visitor gave Damian Lewis a curious look and asked "I know you don't I?" to which the actor, fully in costume, replied "Well of course you do – I'm Henry VIII!"

Whilst at Penshurst, the Sidney family helped draft the Constitution for Pennsylvania, which was later the basis for the US Constitution.

Henry VIII (1979) /  
Henry VIII (2003)

1509 - Henry VIII marries  
Catherine of Aragon

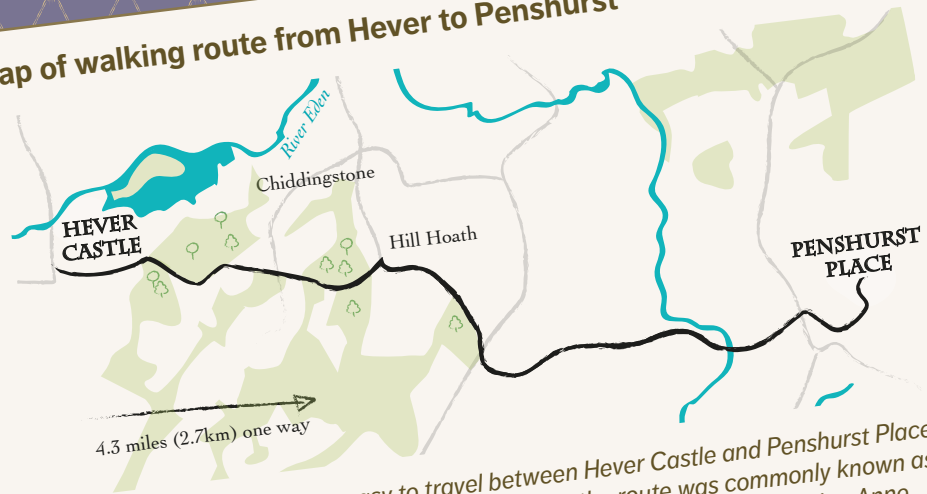
HENRY VIII (1509 - 1547) ➡

The Other Boleyn  
Girl (2008)

1533 - Henry marries  
Ann Boleyn



## Map of walking route from Hever to Penshurst



In the Tudor times, it was very easy to travel between Hever Castle and Penshurst Place, via Chiddingstone. Now called the Eden Valley Walk, the route was commonly known as 'The Coach Road.' Today you can still follow the 3 mile direct route and imagine Anne Boleyn walking home to Hever after a weekend of courting at Henry's residence in Penshurst Place.

## 9 Aldington TN25

Aldington near Ashford is steeped in history. Next to the church, Court Lodge Farmhouse was its manor house and hunting lodge, particularly favoured and improved by Archbishops Morton (1486-1500) and Warham (1508-1532). The house, park and chase were bought and extended by Henry VIII in 1540, and the whole complex said to have had 5 kitchens, 6 stables and 8 dovecotes. Elizabeth Barton, The Holy Maid of Kent, was born in the village in 1506 and became a maid to one of the local families. After receiving a cure from an illness in The Chapel of Our Lady, of which only ruins remain in Court at Street near Aldington, she spoke of visions which gained her a place in the convent at Canterbury. Through some manipulation by Bishop John Fisher and Sir Thomas More, she prophesied that King Henry VIII would die a villain's death if he divorced Catherine of Aragon. She was beheaded in 1534, and her head was displayed on a spear on London Bridge.

*Elizabeth Barton, The Holy Maid of Kent, is the only woman ever to have been dishonoured by having her head displayed on a spear on London Bridge.*

Anne of the Thousand Days (1969)

1536 - Henry marries Jane Seymour

1540 - Henry marries Anne of Cleves/ then Catherine Howard

1543 - Henry marries Catherine Parr

EDWARD VI (1547 - 1553)



MARY I (1553 - 1558)



ELIZABETH I (1558 - 1603)



## 10 Boughton Monchelsea Place ME17 4BU

01622 743120 | [www.boughtonplace.co.uk](http://www.boughtonplace.co.uk)

Building at Boughton Monchelsea started in 1551, but in 1554 Robert Rudston was persuaded by his friend Thomas Wyatt of Allington Castle to join him in The Revolt of the men of Kent against the Catholic Queen Mary. It was a failure. Rudston was imprisoned as a traitor in The Tower of London and his estate seized by the Crown. In 1558, when Elizabeth I came to the throne, Rudston was graciously allowed to purchase back his estates for £1000 - almost as much as he had originally paid!

## 11 Chilham ME17 4BU

Timber-clad Tudor houses, as well as a church with 16th century origins surround the medieval village square. The original Chilham Castle was pulled down and its bricks were used to build Shurland Hall on the Isle of Sheppey. It was later rebuilt in the Jacobean style in 1616 by Sir Dudley Digges. His father, Thomas Digges, introduced the solar system as we know it today into England, where it became a milestone in the popularisation of science.



Chilham Village gift shop © Kent Film Office

*Dudley Digges left money in his will to fund the prizes for an annual race held in Chilham on 19th May (Dudley's birthday). The race was between two couples aged between 10 and 24 and 'the young man and the young maiden who should prevail, should each have £10.' Chilham have recently reintroduced these races to the village to celebrate Digges' life.*

## 12 Canterbury CT1 2HX

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

In 1538, during the dissolution of the monasteries, Henry VIII ordered that St Augustine's Abbey be closed and levelled, and Saint Thomas Becket's shrine destroyed. Precious metals were sent to the King's secret treasury under St John's Chapel in the Tower of London, and Becket's name, images and emblems were obliterated throughout the country to inhibit pilgrimages which had become increasingly popular. Even Becket's bones were crushed. Today, a perpetual candle burns on the pavement in Canterbury Cathedral where the shrine once stood. Queen Elizabeth I passed through the city several times and celebrated

her 40th Birthday there in 1573. She stayed at number 44/45 on The High Street, where the date of her stay is commemorated on the front of this brilliant example of Tudor architecture.



Canterbury Cathedral © Visit Kent

## 14 Deal Castle CT14 7BA

01304 372762 | [www.english-heritage.org.uk/visit/places/deal-castle](http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/visit/places/deal-castle)

Built by the order of King Henry VIII, Deal Castle is a fort at the cutting edge of Tudor military architecture built for artillery. It was erected, along with Walmer Castle, to counteract threats from Spanish and French enemy ships in the 16th century and features squat, rounded bastions. Today, you can explore the whole castle from the gunpowder chambers to the officers' quarters or enjoy a stroll or cycle along the seafront between Walmer and Deal.

## 13 Cinque Ports

[www.cinqueports.org](http://www.cinqueports.org)

The ports had been established in the centuries before the standing Navy to serve England's military and transportation needs. The Kent and East Sussex coast was very open to enemy attack, and so the strategically placed ports of Sandwich, Dover, Hythe, Romney and Hastings were expanded. The Cinque Ports provided the Crown with ships and men until the Royal Navy was fully established. Today, the ports have a ceremonial function, but the post of the Lord Warden of the Cinque Ports, a precursor to the Admiral of the Fleet, still exists.

## 15 Ightham Mote TN15 0NT

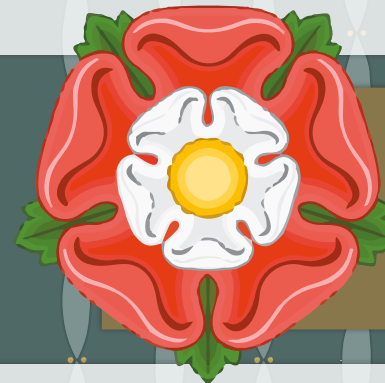
01732 810378 | [www.nationaltrust.org.uk/ightham-mote](http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/ightham-mote)

One of the most notable owners of Ightham Mote was Sir Richard Clement, a royal courtier in the courts of Henry VII and one of Henry VIII's favourite servants. He had the rather dubious task of looking after the King's personal hygiene. In 1521, Clement decorated the home with Tudor symbols including a stained glass window in the Great Hall which shows Henry VIII's Tudor Rose next to the pomegranate icon representing Catherine of Aragon's Family.

The chapel at Ightham has a magnificent ceiling which was painted in preparation for a visit from King Henry VIII and Queen Catherine of Aragon. Sadly, Clement's hard work was fruitless, as the King never actually visited.



Tudor emblems © Ightham Mote



*The Tudor Rose emblem represents the fusion of the Lancastrian and Yorkist noble factions. It combines the red rose which was the emblem of the House of Lancaster with the white rose which was the emblem of the House of York.*

## 16 Lullingstone Castle DA4 0JA

01322 862114 | [www.lullingstonecastle.co.uk](http://www.lullingstonecastle.co.uk)

Located by the river in the picturesque Darent Valley, the present day house at Lullingstone Castle was started in 1497 by John Peche, who was prominent at the courts of Henry VII and Henry VIII. The superb gatehouse was built during the reign of Henry VII and behind the red brick Queen Anne façade lurks a Tudor mansion. A young Henry VIII visited the house, and was entertained by Peche who set up a jousting ground outside the gatehouse. Henry so much enjoyed the sport that Peche became a favourite courtier.



## 17 Otford Palace TN14 5PG

Otford Palace was one of a chain of manor houses belonging to the Archbishops of Canterbury and became an important place to discuss church business. It was rebuilt around 1515 by Archbishop Warham to rival Cardinal Wolsey's palace at Hampton Court and lies adjacent to the Pilgrim's Way, the route to the shrine of Thomas Becket in Canterbury. Following Warham's death in 1532, the palace went to his successor, Archbishop Thomas Cranmer and subsequently to the Crown as part of the act of the dissolution of the monasteries in 1537.

When Henry died, the palace fell into ruin and today, the principal surviving remains are the North-West Tower, the lower gallery, now converted into cottages, and a part of the Great Gatehouse. There are further remains on private land, and a section of the boundary wall can be seen in Bubblestone Road. The entire 4 acre site is designated as an ancient monument.

## 18 Rochester ME1 1LX

01634 843666 | [www.visitmedway.org](http://www.visitmedway.org)

From 1504 to 1535 John Fisher was Bishop of Rochester. He was subsequently appointed a cardinal and executed by Henry VIII because of his refusal to sanction his divorce from Catherine of Aragon. In January 1540 Henry met with Anne of Cleves for the first time in the Abbey's Old Hall behind Rochester Castle. He arrived in disguise and after speaking together, they made their way to Greenwich to wed.



The Six Poor Travellers' House  
© Richard Watts Charity

## 19 The Six Poor Travellers' House ME1 1LX

01634 842194 | [www.richardwatts.org.uk](http://www.richardwatts.org.uk)

The Six Poor Travellers' House is a 16th-century charity house in Rochester. It was founded by the local MP Richard Watts. Watts left money in his will for the benefit of six poor travellers, each of whom, according to a plaque on the outside of the building, would be given lodging and "entertainment" for one night before being sent on his way with fourpence.

## 20 Smallhythe Place TN30 7NG

01580 762334 | [www.nationaltrust.org.uk/smallhythe-place](http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/smallhythe-place)

A great example of an early 16th-century house and cottage gardens, Smallhythe was originally named Port House and home to a Tudor harbourmaster and shipbuilders. It was built in 1515 on the banks of the River Rother at the centre of what was a royal shipyard. Henry V oversaw the building of the first 1000 ton warship, The Jesus, which was used in the 15th century for scouting and raiding. In the 16th century, the river began to silt up and new shipyards emerged elsewhere. The last ship to be built at Smallhythe was The Great Gallyon in 1546 which was commissioned by Henry VIII. At 300 tons, she was the last of the Great Ships, the last Royal Commission for Smallhythe and the last large vessel to be built there. Today, Smallhythe serves as a museum for Victorian Shakespeare actress, Ellen Terry, who bought the house in 1899.



Smallhythe Place © National Trust

## 21 St Augustine's Abbey CT1 1PF

01227 767345 | [www.english-heritage.org.uk/visit/places/st-augustines-abbey](http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/visit/places/st-augustines-abbey)



St Augustine's Abbey © English Heritage

Parliament gave King Henry VIII authority to dissolve the monasteries and confiscate the property for the Crown. On 30 July 1538, the King's Commissioners seized St Augustine's Abbey. During the remainder of Henry's reign, some of the Abbey's buildings were converted into a residence which was used occasionally by the royal family as late as the reign of Queen Elizabeth I.



## 22 Stoneacre ME15 8RS

01622 863247 | [www.nationaltrust.org.uk/stoneacre](http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/stoneacre)

The property is a Grade II\* half-timbered yeoman's Wealden Hall dating from the 15th century, together with a small garden, orchard and meadows. In the 1920's the house was a ruin, and Aymer Vallance, a biographer of Arts and Crafts designer William Morris, set about reconstructing the house to its former Tudor glory.

## 23 Teynham ME9

In the present day Teynham is a residential area, but has many Tudor connections. After sampling some cherries in Belgium, Henry VIII ordered Richard Harrys (Harris in some accounts), his fruiterer who lived in the village, to plant imported cherry trees across

105 acres of land. This made Teynham the first orchard in which the cherry was grown in England. William Lambarde wrote in his 1576 Perambulation of Kent: 'This Tenham with thirty other parishes extending from Rainham to Blean Wood be the cherry garden of Kent, but as this at Tenham is the parent of all the rest.' This is perhaps the origin of Kent being called The Garden of England, a title it still holds proudly today.

*In fertile and fruitfull woodes and trees, this country is most floryshing... as for ortchards of aples, and gardeins of cherries, and those of the most delicious and exquisite kindes that can be, no part of the realme hath them, either in such quantitie or with such arte and industrie, set and planted.*

— Lambarde Perambulation of Kent



Cherry Blossom © Visit Kent

## 24 The Manor Gatehouse DA1 2BJ

[www.dartford.gov.uk/heritage](http://www.dartford.gov.uk/heritage)

Henry VIII constructed the Manor House between 1541 and 1544. In 1545, it was one of the most politically important sites in Tudor England because the Privy Council met here. Anne of Cleves was given the Manor House after Henry VIII's death as part of her divorce settlement. She lived there until shortly before her death in 1557. Elizabeth I stayed there on two occasions.

## 25 Tudor House CT9 1QE

01843 231 213 | [www.margatemuseum.wordpress.com/tudor-house](http://www.margatemuseum.wordpress.com/tudor-house)

The Tudor House in Margate was built around 1525 and thought to be one of the largest buildings in the area at that time. In 1951 restoration work started to return the house to its former glory as a single dwelling, a transitional house, bridging the gap between the medieval open-hall and early Tudor houses with two storeys throughout. The house contains many interesting features that indicate it was a high status building, including glazed windows and two chimneys. At the time even one chimney was considered noteworthy and glass was very expensive.



Tudor House © Thanet District Council

*Taste and discover Kent's fruits yourself by visiting the National Fruit Collection at Brogdale, Faversham. The farm boasts an amazing array of fruit orchards, including apples, pears, cherries and plums. They hold open days, orchard tours and festivals celebrating seasonal events and fruits.*  
- Brogdale Road, ME13 8XZ

## 26 Upnor Castle ME2 4XG

01634 718742  
[www.visitmedway.org/places-of-interest/upnor-castle](http://www.visitmedway.org/places-of-interest/upnor-castle)

Due to its sheltered position and proximity to London, Elizabeth I ordered a dockyard to be built at Chatham. The River Medway which was used to build and repair warships was also used to moor the ships with the rigging sails removed and to be laid up 'in ordinary'.

To protect this unused fleet, Queen Elizabeth I

and her Privy Council ordered that in 1559, a bulwark be built on the river at "Upnor in the parish of Frindsbury for the protection of our navy". The castle was designed by engineer, Sir Richard Lee who served both Henry VIII and Elizabeth I. The castle's most important role was to fire at enemy ships coming up the river from a bastion which reaches out into the river.



Upnor Castle © Medway Council



## 27 Walmer Castle CT14 7LJ

01304 364288

[www.english-heritage.org.uk/visit/places/walmer-castle-and-gardens](http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/visit/places/walmer-castle-and-gardens)



Walmer Castle and the Coast  
© English Heritage

Walmer Castle was commissioned by Henry VIII in 1539 to form part of a chain of artillery fortresses along the Kent coast following the threat of invasion from Catholic France and Spain. The fort was built to a state-of-the-art Tudor design: a squat circular keep, surrounded by a narrow courtyard, protected by a concentric outer wall. Four curved bastions projected out to form the shape of a clover leaf.

As the castle is so low, it makes it a difficult target to attack from the sea and its curved walls were well equipped to deflect gunfire. Despite some alterations, the plan and structure of the Henrician fort remains largely intact.

## 28 Westenhanger Castle CT21 4HX

01303 261068 | [www.westenhangercastle.co.uk](http://www.westenhangercastle.co.uk)

Westenhanger Castle is a Scheduled Ancient Monument with a Grade I listed house. In 1509 the two manors of Ostenhanger and Westenhanger came under single ownership by Sir Edward Poynings who was a soldier and diplomat under Henry VII. Unfortunately, he died in 1522 but his son Thomas exchanged Westenhanger with King Henry VIII for other lands in 1540. In 1542, Henry ordered a deer park be developed, but despite making Westenhanger fit for his own purpose, he granted the manor to John Dudley, Earl of Warwick.

By 1544, we know that the house incorporated separate suites of rooms for the use of royalty. Later, Queen Elizabeth I visited 'her house at Westenhanger'. In 1588, under the ownership of 'Customer' Smythe, Queen Elizabeth used the castle as the command centre for Kent's 14,000 troops defending the south coast from the Spanish Armada. His son, Sir Thomas Smythe, was the founder of the Virginia expedition of 1607, and a replica of the Discovery, one of the three ships arriving at Chesapeake Bay, now resides at the castle.

## TUDOR LIFE

# Wining, dining and sleeping like a king



*Still Life with Peacock Pie, 1627 Pieter Claesz © National Gallery of Art*

There is not a shadow of a doubt that eating and drinking was a large part of Tudor life. Alas, there was a large discrepancy between the rich and poor when it came to food and in over-populated towns and cities, water was deemed unhealthy, so drinking ale and beer was a necessary part of urban Tudor life. Ale was brewed cheaply, sometimes without hops and not very alcoholic. Alehouses, inns and taverns collectively became known as public houses and then simply as pubs around the reign of King Henry VII. Kent has an abundance of pubs in every little village, perfect for a quick drink, longer meal or an overnight stay.

As the Garden of England, Kent also boasts many eateries using high quality, local produce to provide visitors with a meal to remember.

Some of the locations listed also provide accommodation, including Leeds Castle, where you can truly sleep like royalty.

For more information on what Kent offers the visitor, go to Visit Kent: [www.visitkent.co.uk](http://www.visitkent.co.uk), Produced in Kent: [www.producedinkent.co.uk](http://www.producedinkent.co.uk) and Explore Kent: [www.explorekent.org](http://www.explorekent.org)

CHARLES II (1660 - 1666) ➡

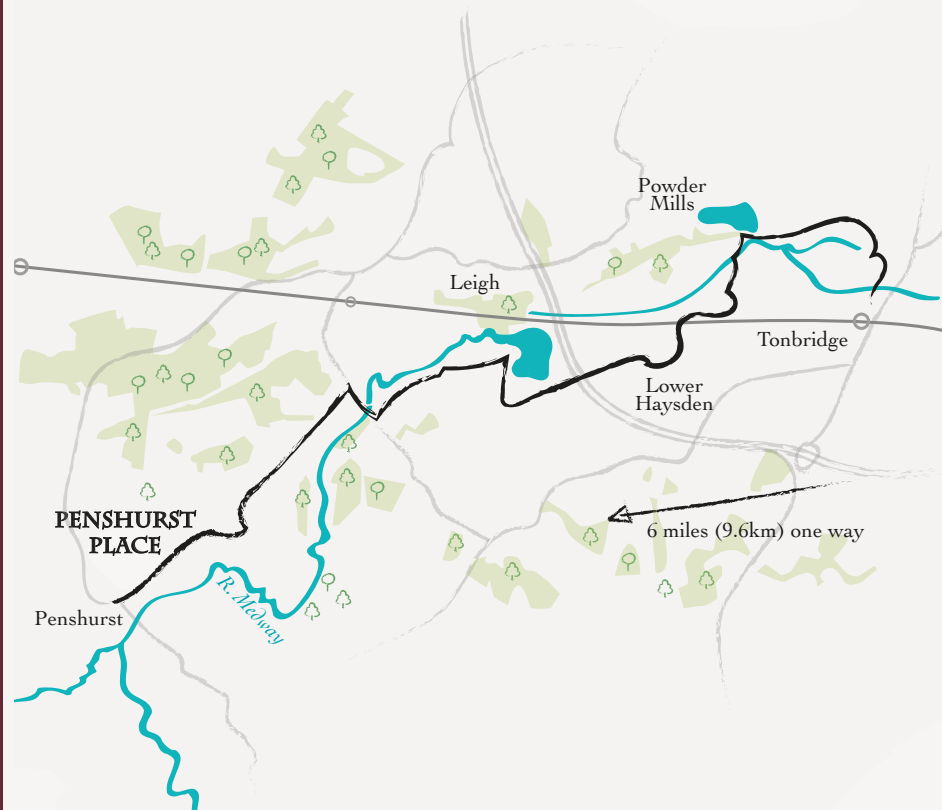
1660

1670

# Tudor Trail Cycle Route

Explore Kent's Tudor cycle trail runs from Tonbridge Castle to Penshurst Place. It offers an excellent ride from the heart of Tonbridge alongside the River Medway, out into the countryside to the glorious buildings of Penshurst Place.

[explorekent.org/activities/tudor-cycle-trail](http://explorekent.org/activities/tudor-cycle-trail)



*To Kill a King* (2003) Tim Roth as Oliver Cromwell and Dougray Scott as Sir Thomas Fairfax © Rex Shutterstock



*Hever Castle*

## The Films

Title	Kent location(s)
<i>Anne of the Thousand Days</i> (1969)	Hever Castle, Penshurst Place
<i>Elizabeth R</i> (1971)	Penshurst Place, Chiddingstone
<i>Henry VIII</i> (1979)	Penshurst Place, Leeds Castle, Hever Castle
<i>Lady Jane</i> (1986)	Hever Castle, Leeds Castle, Dover Castle
<i>To Kill a King</i> (2003)	Dover Castle, Penshurst Place
<i>Henry VIII</i> (2003)	Leeds Castle
<i>The Other Boleyn Girl</i> (2008)	Dover Castle, Penshurst Place, Knole House
<i>The Hollow Crown: Henry V</i> (2012)	Squerryes Court, Penshurst Place
<i>Wolf Hall</i> (2015)	Dover Castle, Penshurst Place
<i>The Hollow Crown: The Wars of the Roses</i> (2016)	Leeds Castle, Dover Castle, Penshurst Place
<i>Tulip Fever</i> (2016)	Cobham Hall





*Henry VIII's window, Chapter House, Canterbury Cathedral.  
By kind permission of the Dean & Chapter, Canterbury*

If you've enjoyed following in the footsteps of the Tudors and visiting the locations that brought the period to the screen, then try out one of our other themed trails.

Visit [www.kentfilmoffice.co.uk/moviemap](http://www.kentfilmoffice.co.uk/moviemap) for more information.

