Click to verify



For the larger local government district, see City of Canterbury. For other uses, see Canterbury (disambiguation). Canterbury (/kæntərb(ə)ri/, /-beri/)[2] is a city and UNESCO World Heritage Site, in the county of Kent, England; it was a county borough until 1974. It lies on the River Stour. The city has a mild oceanic climate. CanterburyCityCathedralCastleSt Martins ChurchButtermarketCity WallsArms of CanterburyLocation within KentPopulation55,087 (2021)OS grid referenceTR145575• London54 miles (87 km)[1]DistrictCanterburyShire countyKentRegionSouth EastCountryEnglandSovereign stateUnited KingdomPost townCANTERBURYPostcode districtCT1, CT2, CT4Dialling code01227PoliceKentFireKentAmbulanceSouth East Coast UK ParliamentCanterbury List of places UK England Kent 51°17'N 1°05'E / 51.28°N 1.08°E / 51.28; 1.08 Canterbury is a popular tourist destination, with the city's economy heavily reliant upon tourism, alongside higher education and retail. As of 2011, the city's population was over 55,000, including a substantial number of student-to-permanent-resident ratios in Britain. The site of the city has been occupied since Paleolithic times and served as the capital of the Celtic Cantiaci and Jute Kingdom of Kent. Many historical structures fill the area, including a city wall founded in Roman times and rebuilt in the 14th century, the Westgate Towers museum, the ruins of St Augustine's Abbey, the Norman Canterbury Castle, and the oldest extant school in the world, the King's School. Modern additions include the Marlowe Theatre and Kent County Cricket Club's St Lawrence Ground. Canterbury Cathedral is known for its architecture, its music, and for being the seat of the Archbishop of Canterbury; it receives a million visitors per year. The Roman settlement of Durovernum ("Kentish Durovernum") occupied the location of an earlier British town whose ancient British name has been reconstructed as *Durouernon ("stronghold"). by the alder grove"),[3] although the name is sometimes supposed to have derived from various British names for the Stour.[4] In Sub-Roman Britain, it was known in Old Welsh as Cair Ceint ("stronghold of Kent"),[5][6] Occupied by the Jutes, it became known in Old English as Cantwareburh ("stronghold of the Kentish men").[7] "History of Canterbury" redirects here. For the history of the regional area of this name in New Zealand, see History of the Canterbury" redirects here. For the history of the regional area of this name in New Zealand, see History of the regional area of this name in New Zealand, see History of the Canterbury area has been inhabited since prehistoric times. Lower Paleolithic axes, and Neolithic and Bronze Age pots have been found in the area.[8] Canterbury was first recorded as the main settlement of the Celtic tribe of the Cantiaci, which inhabited most of modern-day Kent. In the 1st century AD, the Romans captured the settlement and named it Durovernum Cantiacorum.[3] The Romans rebuilt the city, with new streets in a grid pattern, a theatre, a temple, a forum, and public baths.[9] Although they did not maintain a major military garrison, its position on Watling Street relative to the major Kentish ports of Rutupiae (Richborough), Dubrae (Dover), and Lemanae (Lymne) gave it considerable strategic importance.[10] In the late 3rd century, to defend against attack from barbarians, the Romans built an earth bank around the city and a wall with seven gates, which enclosed an area of 130 acres (53 ha).[9] Despite being counted as one of the 28 cities of Sub-Roman Britain,[5][6] it seems that after the Romans left Britain in 410 Durovernum Cantiacorum was abandoned for around 100 years, except by a few farmers and gradually decayed.[11] Over the next 100 years, an Anglo-Saxon community formed within the city walls, as Jutish refugees arrived, possibly intermarrying with the locals.[12] The town's new importance led to its revival, and trades developed in pottery, textiles, and leather. By 630, gold coins were being struck at the Canterbury mint.[13] In 842 and 851, Canterbury suffered great loss of life during Danish raids. The siege of Canterbury in 1011, culminating in the city being pillaged. Remembering the destruction caused by the Danes, the inhabitants of Canterbury did not resist William the Congueror's invasion in 1066.[7][dubious - discuss] William immediately ordered a wooden motte-and-bailey castle to be built by the Roman city wall. In the early 12th century, the castle was rebuilt with stone.[14] Canterbury Castle was rebuilt with stone.[14] Canterbury Castle was rebuilt with stone.[14] Canterbury Castle was captured by the French Prince Louis during his 1215 invasion of England, before the death of John caused his English supporters to desert his cause and support the young Henry III.[10] Black Death reached Canterbury in 1348. At 10,000, Canterbury had the 10th largest population in England; by the early 16th century, the population of Inquiry found disrepair, stone-robbing and ditch-filling had led to the Roman wall becoming eroded. Between 1378 and 1402, the wall was virtually rebuilt, and new wall towers were added.[15] In 1381, during Wat Tyler's Peasants' Revolt, the castle and Archbishop's Palace were sacked, and Archbishop's Palace were sacked, and Archbishop's Palace were sacked, and Archbishop's Palace were added.[15] In 1381, during Wat Tyler's Peasants' Revolt, the castle and Archbishop's Palace were sacked, and Archbishop's Palace w city charter, which gave it a mayor and a high sheriff; the city still has a Lord Mayor and Sheriff.[16] Huguenot weavers' houses near Canterbury High Street In 1519 a public cage for talkative women and other wrongdoers was set up next to the town's pillory at the Bullstake, now the Buttermarket. In 1522 a stone cross with gilt lead stars was erected at the same place, and painted with bice and gilded by Florence the painter.[17] Main article: History of the Huguenots in Kent In the mid-16th century many Huguenots, experiencing persecution and conflict in the Low Countries, fled and resettled in Reformed regions such as England. Canterbury hosted the first congregation of so-called 'refugee strangers' in the country.[18] This first Huguenot church in Canterbury was founded around 1548, in part by Jan Utenhove travelled to London in 1549, Francois de la Rivière remained to lead the congregation. With the accession of Mary I, the Huguenot residents of Canterbury were compelled to flee in 1553-4 alongside the English Marian exiles to Emden, Wesel, Zürich, Strasbourg, Frankfurt, and later Basel, Geneva, and Aarau. [20] After the accession of Elizabeth I, a small number of Huguenots returned to London, including Jan Utenhove in 1559. [19] In 1561, a number of Huguenots in London were sent to Sandwich, a settlement which began to grow rapidly with new refugees arriving from Artois and Flanders. This settlement, in June 1575, almost entirely relocated to Canterbury, which had in the previous year gained a small Huguenot population. A number of refugees also arrived around this time from the temporary Huguenot settlements at Rye and Winchelsea.[21] In 1575, the Huguenot population of Canterbury were granted use of the church.[22] The Church of St Alphedge but in the following year had begun to use the crypt of Canterbury Cathedral as their church.[22] The Church of St Alphedge but in the following year had begun to use the crypt of Canterbury Cathedral as their church. By the 17th century, French-speaking Huguenots comprised two-fifths of Canterbury's population. The Huguenots had a large influence on the economy of Canterbury, and introduced silk weaving into the city which had outstripped wool weaving by 1676.[23] Canterbury remained an important city in the 17th century. Charles I and Henrietta Maria visited in 1625; musicians played whilst the couple entered the city under a velvet canopy supported by six men holding Riots".[25] The rioters' trial the following year led to a Kent revolt against Parliamentarian forces, contributing to the start of the second phase of the war. However, Canterbury surrendered peacefully to Parliamentarians at the Battle of Maidstone.[26] Canterbury Castle By 1770, the castle had fallen into disrepair, and many parts of it were demolished during the late 18th century.[27] In 1787 all the gates in the city wall, except for Westgate -the city jail-were demolished as a result of a commission that found them impeding to new coach travel.[28] Canterbury Prison opened in 1808 just outside the city boundary.[29] By 1820 the silk weaving in the city had been supplanted by imported Indian muslins[23] and trade carried out was thereafter largely of hops and wheat.[10] The Canterbury & Whitstable Railway (The Crab and Winkle Way), the world's first passenger railway, [30] was opened in 1830; [31] bankrupt by 1844, it was purchased by the South Eastern Railway, which connected the city to its larger network in 1846. [32] The London, Chatham & Dover Railway arrived in 1860; [33] the competition and cost-cutting between the lines was resolved by merging them as the South Eastern & Chatham in 1899.[34] Between 1830 and 1900, the city's population grew from 15,000 to 24,000.[30] During the First World War, barracks and voluntary hospitals were set up around the city. In 1917 a German bomber crash-landed near Broad Oak Road.[35] Mahatma Gandhi visited Canterbury in October 1931.[36][37] During the Second World War, 10,445 bombs dropped during 135 separate raids destroyed 731 homes and 296 other buildings in the city, including the missionary college and Simon Langton Girls' Grammar School.[38] 119 civilian people died through enemy action in the borough.[39] The most devastating raid was on 1 June 1942 during the Baedeker Blitz.[35] Before the end of the war, the architect Charles Holden drew up plans to redevelop the city centre, but locals were so opposed that the Citizens' Defence Association was formed; it swept to
power in the 1945 municipal elections. Rebuilding of the city centre eventually began 10 years after the war.[40] A ring road was constructed in stages outside the city walls to alleviate growing traffic problems in the city occurred in the 1960s, with the arrival of the University of Kent at Canterbury and Christ Church College.[40] The 1980s saw visits from Queen Elizabeth II, and the beginning of the annual Canterbury Festival.[41] Between 1999 and 2005, the Whitefriars Shopping Centre underwent major archaeological project was undertaken by the Canterbury Archaeological Trust, known as the Big Dig,[42] which was supported by Channel Four's Time Team.[43] Canterbury experiences an oceanic climate (Köppen climate data for Canterbury Month Jan Feb 5.3(41.5) 10.0(50.0) Mean daily minimum °C (°F) 2.1(35.8) 1.8(35.2) 3.5(38.3) 4.9(40.8) 7.7(45.9) 10.5(50.9) 12.9(55.2) 12.8(55.0) 10.8(51.4) 8.0(46.4) 4.2(1.66) 41.3(1.63) 42.9(1.69) 50.0(1.97) 39.0(1.54) 40.0(1.57) 51.2(2.02) 61.6(2.43) 83.2(3.28) 68.8(2.71) 63.4(2.50) 645.8(25.43) Mean monthly sunshine hours 60.9 80.7 116.5 174.2 206.0 206.4 221.8 214.9 155.2 125.0 73.3 48.6 1,683.3 Source 1: [44] Source 2: [45] Canterbury city Canterbury 4.6% Black 0.7% 0.5% 2.3% Christian 68% 73% 72% Muslim 1.1% 0.6% 3.1% Hindu 0.8% 0.4% 1.1% No religion 20% 17% 15% Unemployed 3.0% 2.7% 3.3% At the 2001 UK census, [46][47][48][49][50][51] the total population of the city itself was 43,432, and 135,278 within the Canterbury district. In 2011, the total district population was counted as 151,200, with an 11.7% increase from 2001,[52] and the population of the city had grown to over 55,000.[53] By 2015, Canterbury's student population, including the University for the Creative Arts, was almost 40,000.[54] Population growth in Canterbury's student population, including the University for the Creative Arts, was almost 40,000.[54] Population growth in Canterbury's student population, including the University for the Creative Arts, was almost 40,000.[54] Population growth in Canterbury's student population, including the University for the Creative Arts, was almost 40,000.[54] Population growth in Canterbury's student population, including the University for the Creative Arts, was almost 40,000.[54] Population growth in Canterbury's student population growth in Canterbury's student population. 1901 1911 1921 1931 1939 1951 1961 1971 2001 Population 24,899 24,626 23,737 24,446 26,999 27,795 30,415 33,155 43,432 Source: A Vision of Britain through Time The River Great Stour Canterbury is in east Kent, about 55 miles (89 km) east-southeast of London. The coastal towns of Herne Bay and Whitstable are 6 miles (10 km) to the north and Faversham is 8 miles (13 km) to the northwest.[55] The city is on the River Stour or Great Stour.[56] The river is navigable on the tidal section to Fordwich, although above this point canoes and other small craft can be used.[57] The geology of the area consists mainly of brickearth overlying chalk. Tertiary sands overlain by London clay form St. Thomas's Hill and St. Stephen's Hill about a mile northwest of the city centre. [58] Canterbury city walls, forming the historic centre. Of the defensive structures, a section of the medieval walls remains to the south, near Canterbury Castle, while to the northwest, the Westgate survives as the Westgate Towers museum. Immediately outside the Westgate is the River Stour which crosses the city from the Westgate, forming the High Street (including St George's Street) and part of the North Downs Way.[60] St Augustine's Abbey lies just outside the city walls.[61] Further information: City of Canterbury Guildhall is housed in the former Holy Cross church building, on the left of the image. The city became a county borough under the Local Government Act 1888.[62] In 1974, under the Local Government Act 1972, the city came under the control of Kent County Council. Canterbury, along with Whitstable and Herne Bay, is now in the City of Canterbury local government district.[63] The city's urban area consists of the six electoral wards of Barton, Blean Forest, Northgate, St Stephens, Westgate, and Wincheap. These wards have eleven of the fifty seats on the Canterbury local government district.[63] The city's urban area consists of the six electoral wards of Barton, Blean Forest, Northgate, St Stephens, Westgate, and Wincheap. City Council, which governs the city.[64] The former Holy Cross Church building was officially re-opened by the Prince of Wales as the new Canterbury Council on 9 November 1978.[65] The Member of Parliament for the Canterbury Council on 9 November 1978.[65] The Member of Parliament for the Canterbury Council on 9 November 1978.[65] The Member of Parliament for the Canterbury Council on 9 November 1978.[65] The Member of Parliament for the Canterbury Council on 9 November 1978.[65] The Member of Parliament for the Canterbury Council on 9 November 1978.[65] The Member of Parliament for the Canterbury Council on 9 November 1978.[65] The Member of Parliament for the Canterbury Council on 9 November 1978.[65] The Member of Parliament for the Canterbury Council on 9 November 1978.[65] The Member of Parliament for the Canterbury Council on 9 November 1978.[65] The Member of Parliament for the Canterbury Council on 9 November 1978.[65] The Member of Parliament for the Canterbury Council on 9 November 1978.[65] The Member of Parliament for the Canterbury Council on 9 November 1978.[65] The Member of Parliament for the Canterbury Council on 9 November 1978.[65] The Member of Parliament for the Canterbury Council on 9 November 1978.[65] The Member of Parliament for the Canterbury Council on 9 November 1978.[65] The Member of Parliament for the Canterbury Council on 9 November 1978.[65] The Member of Parliament for the Canterbury Council on 9 November 1978.[65] The Member of Parliament for the Canterbury Council on 9 November 1978.[65] The Member of Parliament for the Canterbury Council on 9 November 1978.[65] The Member of Parliament for the Canterbury Council on 9 November 1978.[65] The Member of Parliament for the Canterbury Council on 9 November 1978.[65] The Member of Parliament for the Canterbury Council on 9 November 1978.[65] The Member of Parliament for 9 November 1978.[65] The Member of Parliament for 9 November 1978.[65] The Member of 9 November 09 November 1978.[65] The Member of 9 November 1978.[65] The Member Labour Party[66] but now sits as an independent. Shops on the High Street Canterbury district retained approximately 4,761 businesses, up to 60,000 full and part-time employees and was worth £1.3 billion in 2001.[67] This made the district the second largest economy in Kent.[67] Today, the three primary sectors are tourism, higher education and retail.[68] In 2015, the value of tourism to the city of Canterbury was over £450 million; 7.2 million people visited that year, making it one of the most-visited cities in England. A full 9,378 jobs were supported by tourism, an increase of 6% over the previous year.[69][70] The two universities provided an even greater benefit. In 2014/2015, the University of Kent and Canterbury Christ Church University were worth £909m to city's economy and accounted for 16% of all jobs.[71] River punts provide tours of the city dropped 0.6 percentage points to 1.7% from 2001 to 2007.[72] The registered unemployment rate as of September 2011 stood at 5.7%. By May 2018, the rate had dropped to 1.8%; in fact, Kent in general had a moderate unemployment rate of 2%. This data considers only people claiming either Jobseekers Allowance or Universal Credit principally for the reason of being unemployed. It does not include those without access to such benefits.[73] At the time, the national rate was 4.2%.[74] A report in 2023 by the Poverty Working Group of the Canterbury Sustainable Development Goals Forum evidenced increasing poverty in the city using, for example, life expectancy figures and the number of meals provided by the city food banks, as well as interviews with organisations and individuals attempting to help those in danger of and in poverty.[75] [76] This supports earlier findings on poverty in the city.[77][78] Crooked House, 2010 The 17th century, double jettied, half-timbered Crooked House bookshop operated by the Catching Lives homelessness charity at the end of Palace Street, opposite Kings School is frequently photographed for its quirky, slanted appearance.[79] Canterbury Roman Museum houses an in situ mosaic pavement dating from around 300 AD.[80] Other surviving Roman structures in the city include Queningate, a blocked gate in the city wall, and the Dane John Mound, once part of a Roman cemetery.[81] The Dane John Mound in the 18th century, and a memorial placed on the mound's summit.[82] Butchery Lane Westgate Towers is a museum narrating its earlier use as a jail. The medieval church of St Alphege is as of 2022[update] used by the King's School Music Room, is one of only two Egyptian Revival synagogues still standing. The city centre contains many timber-framed 16th and 17th century houses but others were destroyed, particularly in the Second World War Baedeker Blitz. Survivors include the Huguenot "Old Weaver's House".[83] St Martin's Mill is the only surviving mill out of the six known to have stood in Canterbury. It was built in 1817 and worked until 1890 but is now a residence.[84] The Marlowe Theatre is named after Christopher Marlowe, who was born in the city.[85] It was formerly located in St Margaret's Street but moved to the present location in 1984.[86] It was completely rebuilt in 2011 with a main 1,200-seat auditorium and secondary performance space. Its modern structure is a landmark across the city.[87] The University of Kent's Gulbenkian Theatre serves the city, and incorporates a cinema and café.[88] Other theatrical performances take place at Canterbury is The Shakespeare bar which had been a playhouse in the Tudor period.[90] Theatre
companies in Canterbury include Theatre building in Canterbury is The Shakespeare bar which had been a playhouse in the Tudor period.[90] Theatre building in Canterbury include Theatre building in Canterbury is The Shakespeare bar which had been a playhouse in the Tudor period.[90] Theatre building in Canterbury include Theatre building in Canterbury is The Shakespeare bar which had been a playhouse in the Tudor period.[90] Theatre building in Canterbury include Canterbury Players.[91] Statue of Geoffrey Chaucer, author of The Canterbury Tales See also: Canterbury Tales See also: Canterbury employed a band of waits. There are records of payments to the waits from 1402, though they probably existed earlier. The waits were disbanded by the city authorities in 1641 for 'misdemeanors' but reinstated in 1660 when they played for the visit of King Charles II on his return from exile.[92] Civic waits were ultimately abolished nationally by the Municipal Corporations Act 1835 but a modern, early music group called The Canterbury's Catch Club was a musical and social club which met in the city between 1779 and 1865. Its male club members met weekly in the winter and employed an orchestra to assist in performances for the first half of their evening. After an interval, the members sang catches and glees from the club's extensive music library which is now deposited at Canterbury Cathedral's archives.[94] In the late 1960s and early 1970s the Canterbury Scene emerged comprising progressive rock, avant-garde and jazz musicians established within the city. Members included Soft Machine, Caravan, Matching Mole, Egg, Hatfield and the North, National Health, Gilgamesh, Soft Heap, Khan and In Cahoots.[95] Ian Dury, front man of 1970s rock band Ian Dury and the Blockheads, taught Fine Art at Canterbury College of Art and early incarnations of his band Kilburn and the High Roads performed in the city.[96] Canterbury Orchestra, founded in 1953, perform major works from the symphonic repertoire.[98] Other local musical groups include the Canterbury Singers, founded in 1953; Cantemus; and the City of Canterbury Singers, founded in 1953; Canterbury Singe jazz and folk.[100] From 2006 to 2015 the July Lounge On The Farm music festival presented rock, indie and dance artists near Canterbury.[101] St Lawrence Ground hosting many of the team's matches. It has also been used for several One Day Internationals, including an England match during the 1999 Cricket World Cup.[102] The St Lawrence Ground is notable for being one of only two grounds used regularly for first-class cricket that have had a tree within the boundary, the other being the City Oval in Pietermaritzburg. American Football There have been multiple American football for being the City teams based in Canterbury since the game was popularised in the UK. Currently, the city is the home of the East Kent Mavericks, 2023 BAFA National Leagues Southern Football Conference 2 Champions, as well as teams from both universities. Football Conference 2 Champions, as well as teams from both universities. in the Southern Counties East Football League. The previous incarnation of the club folded in 2001.[103] Rugby Canterbury RFC were founded in 1926 and became the first East Kent club to achieve National League status and currently play in the fourth tier, National League 2 South.[104] Tour de France passed through the city in 1994, and again in 2007 when it hosted the finish for Stage 1.[105] Hockey Club is one of the largest in the country; it enters teams in both the Men's England Hockey Leagues.[106] Former Olympic gold medal winner Sean Kerly has been a member.[107] Public Facilities Public sporting facilities are provided at Kingsmead Leisure Centre, including a 33-metre (108 ft) swimming pool and sports hall for football, basketball, and badminton.[108] Darwin College, part of the University of Kent campus Canterbury hosts some 31,000 students and has the highest student to permanent resident ratio in the UK.[109] They attend three universities, and other higher education institutions.[110] The University of Kent's main campus extends to 600 acres (243 ha) and is situated on Saint Stephen's Hill, a mile north of Canterbury city centre. In 2014, it enrolled around 20,000 students.[111] Canterbury Christ Church University was founded as a teacher training college in 1962 by the Church of England; in 2005 it became a university. In 2024, it had around 30,000 students.[112] The Franciscan International Study Centre is close to the University of Kent campus.[113] The King's School is the oldest secondary school in the United Kingdom. St. Augustine established it shortly after his 597 arrival in Canterbury though documented history of it only began after dissolution of the monasteries in the 16th century, when it took the present name in honour of Henry VIII.[114] The city's secondary grammar School, all of which in 2008 had over 93% of their pupils gain five or more GCSEs at grades A* to C including English and maths.[115] Canterbury West Railway in the world a terminus at North Lane station. It ran from 3 May 1830 to 1953 and was the first regular passenger steam railway in the world a terminus at North Lane station. It ran from 3 May 1830 to 1953 and was the first regular passenger steam railway in the world a terminus at North Lane station. [116] Canterbury South railway station was sited on the Elham Valley Railway. The station opened in 1889 and closed, along with the rest of the railway station, (Canterbury's other station) is also operated by Southeastern. [117] Canterbury East railway station is operated by Southeastern. [118] Canterbury East railway station is operated by Southeastern. [118] Canterbury East railway station is operated by Southeastern. [119] There is no direct interchange between Canterbury West and Canterbury East stations because the two railways into the city, with links to both lines.[120] Canterbury Bus Station Stagecoach run local bus routes in Canterbury, as well as long-distance services. Its bio fuel 'Unibus' service operates between the city centre and University of Kent.[121] Canterbury has two operational park and ride sites at Wincheap[122] and New Dover Road,[123] both intended for visitors arriving from the south by road. National Cycle Routes 1 runs through Canterbury from Dover and Sandwich to Whitstable.[124] National Cycle Route 18 runs from Canterbury to Ashford.[125] Canterbury's first newspaper was the Kentish Post, founded in 1717.[126] It merged with newly founded in 1717.[126] It is currently produced as a paidfor newspaper by KM Group in Whitstable with a 25,000 circulation across East Kent.[129] Three free weekly newspapers provide local news. The Daily Mail and General Trust's Canterbury Times has a circulation of 55,000.[130] Similar circulation of 55,000.[130] Similar circulation across East Kent.[129] Three free weekly newspapers provide local news. prints Kent on Sunday.[132] Local radio stations are BBC Radio Kent on 104.2FM, Heart South on 102.8FM and KMFM Canterbury on 106FM. KMFM Canterbury on 106FM. KMFM Canterbury was formerly KMFM106, and from foundation in 1997 until KM Group took control CTFM, a reference to Canterbury's CT postcode.[133] KMFM's studio moved from the city to Ashford in 2008.[134] Canterbury Hospital Radio serves Kent and Canterbury was also served by the country's first student led community radio station CSR 97.4FM. CSR means "Canterbury Student Radio" but it was a radio station catering to the students of the University, other educational establishments and the wider community being a collaboration of the two university's and broadcasting from studios at both. It replaced the student radio stations that served both university's being UKCR and C4 Radio respectively. In 2020 due to the COVID pandemic the station management decided to hand back the FM licence to OFCOM due to rising costs and has been broadcasting online since. There are plans for CSR to go on the recently awarded digital radio multiplex when it launches in the near future.[citation needed] Local news and television programmes are provided by BBC South East and ITV Meridian from the Dover TV transmitter. Composer Orlando Gibbons (1583-1625) died in Canterbury[137] and is commemorated by a marble bust and memorial tablet in the cathedral.[138] The grave of author Joseph Conrad, in Canterbury[137] and is commemorated by a marble bust and memorial tablet in the cathedral.[138] The grave of author Joseph Conrad, in Canterbury[137] and is commemorated by a marble bust and memorial
tablet in the cathedral.[138] The grave of author Joseph Conrad, in Canterbury[137] and is commemorated by a marble bust and memorial tablet in the cathedral.[138] The grave of author Joseph Conrad, in Canterbury[137] and is commemorated by a marble bust and memorial tablet in the cathedral.[138] The grave of author Joseph Conrad, in Canterbury[137] and is commemorated by a marble bust and memorial tablet in the cathedral.[138] The grave of author Joseph Conrad, in Canterbury[137] and is commemorated by a marble bust and memorial tablet in the cathedral.[138] The grave of author Joseph Conrad, in Canterbury[137] and is commemorated by a marble bust and memorial tablet in the cathedral.[138] The grave of author Joseph Conrad, in Canterbury[137] and is commemorated by a marble bust and memorial tablet in the cathedral.[138] The grave of author Joseph Conrad, in Canterbury[137] and is commemorated by a marble bust and memorial tablet in the cathedral.[138] The grave of author Joseph Conrad, in Canterbury[137] and is commemorated by a marble bust and memorial tablet in the cathedral.[138] The grave of author Joseph Conrad, in Canterbury[137] and is commemorated by a marble bust and memorial tablet in the cathedral.[138] The grave of author Joseph Conrad, in Canterbury[137] and is commemorated by a marble bust and memorial tablet in the cathedral.[138] The grave of author Joseph Conrad, in Canterbury[137] and is commemorated by a marble bust and memorial tablet in the cathedral.[138] The grave of author Joseph Conrad, in Canterbury[137] and is commemorated by a marble bust and memor include: Aphra Behn, restoration playwright and novelist[140] Orlando Bloom, actor[141] Thomas Sidney Cooper, painter[142] Benjamin Chandler, 18th-century surgeon[143] Robert Davies, Anglican priest David Gower, cricketer[144] William Harvey, physician[145] Joseph Jacobs, magician Sir Freddie Laker, airline entrepreneur[146] Christopher Marlowe, poet and playwright[147] W. Somerset Maugham, writer[145] Pink Pantheress, singer [148] Joseph McManners, singer [147] W. Somerset Maugham, writer[147] W. Somerset Maugham, writer[148] M. Somerset M. Somerse singer[154] Canterbury is twinned with the following cities: Reims, France[155] Esztergom, Hungary[156] Saint-Omer, France, since 1997[157] Wimereux, France, since 1997[157] Wimereux, France, since 1997[157] Vladimir, Russia, since 1997[157] Vladimir, Russia, since 1997[157] Wimereux, France, since 1997[157] Vladimir, Russia, since 1997[157] Vladimir, Russia, since 1997[157] Wimereux, France, since 1997[157] Vladimir, Russia, since 1997[157] Vladimir, Russia, since 1997[157] Vladimir, Russia, since 1997[157] Vinted States[157] In 597, Pope Gregory the Great sent Augustine to convert its King Æthelberht to Christianity. After the conversion, Canterbury, being a Roman town, was chosen by Augustine to convert its King Æthelberht to Christianity. After the conversion, Canterbury, being a Roman town, was chosen by Augustine to convert its King Æthelberht to Christianity. Synod of Hertford gave the see of Canterbury authority over the entire English Church.[7] In 978, Archbishop Dunstan refounded the abbey built by Augustine's Abbey.[159] In 1504 the cathedral's main tower, the Bell Harry Tower, was completed, ending 400 years of building. Cardinal Wolsey visited in June 1518 and was given a present of fruit, nuts, and marchpane. During the Dissolution of the Monasteries, the city's priory, nunnery and three friaries were closed. St Augustine's Abbey, the 14th richest in England at the time, was surrendered to the Crown, and its church and cloister were levelled. The rest of the abbey was dismantled over the next 15 years, although part of the site was converted to a palace.[160] After the murder of the Archbishop Thomas Becket at the cathedral in 1170, Canterbury became one of the most notable towns in Europe, as pilgrims from all parts of Christendom came to visit his shrine.[161] This pilgrimage provided the framework for Geoffrey Chaucer's 14th-century collection of stories, The Canterbury Tales.[162] Thomas Becket's shrine in the cathedral was demolished in 1538 by King Henry VIII, all the gold, silver, and jewels were removed to the Tower of London, and Becket's images. In 1620, Robert Cushman negotiated the lease of the Mayflower at 59 Palace Street for the purpose of transporting the Pilgrims to America. In 1647, during the English Civil War, riots broke out when Canterbury's puritan mayor banned church of England's representatives in the British colonies.[10] The extensive restoration of the cathedral that was underway in mid 2018 was part of a 2016-2021 schedule that includes replacement of the nave roof, improved landscaping and accessibility, new visitor facilities and a general external restoration.[163] The so-called Canterbury Journey project was expected to cost nearly £25 million.[164] Canterbury Cathedral is Mother Church of the Anglican Communion and seat of the Archbishop of Canterbury. Founded in 597 AD by Augustine, it forms a World Heritage Site, along with Saxon St. Martin's Church and the ruins of St Augustine's Abbey. The cathedral receives a million visitors annually and is one of the most visited places in the country. Services are held three or more times a day.[165][166] St Thomas of Canterbury Church is the only Roman Catholic church is the on Canterbury Cathedral Chaucer's text became the inspiration for the 1944 British film, A Canterbury Tale by Michael Powell and Emeric Pressburger, starring Eric Portman, Sheila Sim, Dennis Price and Sgt. John Sweet, filmed in the city in the aftermath of the destruction caused by German bombing during World War Two. In more recent popular culture, Canterbury appeared in Russell Hoban's 1980 post apocalyptic novel Riddley Walker, renamed "Cambry". [168] ^ "Grid Reference Finder". gridreference Fin Pronouncing Dictionary (17th ed.). Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. ISBN 978-0-521-68086-8. ^ a b Lyle 2002, p. 29. ^ a b Hasted, Edward (1800). The History and Topographical Survey of the County of Kent. Vol. XI. Canterbury: W. Bristow. pp. 135-139. Archived from the original on 17 February 2015. Retrieved 13 February 2015. ^ a b Nennius (attrib.). 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Retrieved from "Whether you are on the search for a city break, a wine tour, fresh sea air or walking through ancient woodland, we have you covered. At the heart of this area is the medieval walled city of Canterbury which has been hosting visitors for more than 1,000 years, so a warm welcome for any 'pilgrim' is guaranteed. The city is surrounded by ancient woodland and luscious countryside that is now home six vineyards. In just 15 minutes you can find yourself enjoying oysters and dipping your toes in the water of our stunning coastal towns of Whitstable and Herne Bay. You can shop at a huge mix of independent and high street retailers, and dine at award-winning restaurants, breweries and cafes. There are plenty of exciting events and festivals on the calendar, and beautiful cosy spots to curl up with a drink and watch the world go by. We're perfectly positioned for anyone looking for a charming break in a historic, picturesque location - just under 1 hour's train journey from London with Southeastern trains, and moments away from the stunning Kentish countryside and coast. The coastal towns of Whitstable and Herne Bay are on our doorstep offering sweeping sea views and quintessential seaside town charm, not to mention the sensational seafood all year round. If you're looking for the perfect festive break in England, or a longer escape in a medieval yet modern destination with beautiful views, outstanding shopping, and delicious local food and drink. We can't wait to show you around. Canterbury is a compact, walkable city with a pedestrianised centre, making it easy for visitors to get around. What is the best way to travel to Canterbury from London? Canterbury West. Either station is train takes less than an hour from St Pancras. There are two train stations - Canterbury West. Either station is near the sights. For timetables and tickets, we recommend the trainline. Tip - If this is your first time catching a train in the UK read our complete guide to UK train travel which includes all the information you need to know to make travelling around the UK and plan to include Canterbury in your itinerary we recommend checking car hire options through Discover Cars who compare the prices from a number of companies to secure the best deal for you. Cathedral, is a UNESCO World Heritage Site. It is famous for its Gothic architecture and historical significance as the site of Archbishop Thomas Becket's martyrdom. Old Weavers House: Nestled along the River Stour, the Old Weavers House is a charming 16th-century building that serves as a delightful restaurant. Over lunch, enjoy picturesque views and a taste of Canterbury's medieval past. Punting along the river: Consider taking a punt along the River Stour and experience the city's historic architecture. There are various accommodation options in Canterbury to suit every budget. Based on location and customer reviews, these are my choices of some of the best hotels in the city. Top Pick - The Falstaff During our stay at The Falstaff Hotel in Canterbury, we were charmed by its blend of historical character and modern comfort. Situated just a short walk from the city centre and the iconic cathedral, the hotel is set in a beautifully preserved 15th-century coaching inn. Our room was tastefully decorated, offering a cosy and welcoming atmosphere. We enjoyed relaxing in the inviting lounge areas and appreciated the convenience of the on-site bar. The hotel's location made it an excellent base for exploring Canterbury's rich history and vibrant culture. Book your stay at The Falstaff Hotel - More accommodation options in Canterbury From my home in the seaside town of Deal it is eighteen miles to Canterbury, and I'm lured there often by my love of its tangible history and show-stopping 11th century cathedral, ever the marvel no matter how many times you've stepped through the magnificent Christ Church Gate. But this isn't a city stuck in the past. Canterbury University students keep the café and pub scene on its toes, and brilliant new restaurants are opening all the time. So here are its best things to do; from cutesy tea-rooms and classy cocktail bars to wondering through the living museum of its Medieval back streets. -Kate Wickers RECOMMENDED: The
best things to do in

Margate The best things to do in Whitstable The best things to do in Kent the UK Kate Wickers is a writer based in Deal, Kent. At Time Out, all of our travel guides are written by local writers who know their cities inside out. For more about how we curate, see our editorial guidelines. By entering your email address you agree to our Terms of Use and Privacy Policy and consent to receive emails from Time Out about news, events, offers and partner promotions. Awesome, you're subscribing! Look out for your first newsletter in your first new and consent to receive emails from Time Out about news, events, offers and partner promotions. Awesome, you're subscribed! Thanks for subscribed! Thanks for subscribing! Look out for your first newsletter in your email address you agree to our Terms of Use and Privacy Policy and consent to receive emails from Time Out about news, events, offers and partner promotions. Awesome, you're subscribed! Thanks for subscribing! Look out for your first newsletter in your inbox soon! Discover Time Out about news, events, offers and partner promotions. Awesome, you're subscribed! Thanks for subscribing! Look out for your first newsletter in your inbox soon! England's ecclesiastical capital, Canterbury is a city with two universities, lots of preserved Medieval architecture and the oldest operating school in the world. For hundreds of years Canterbury has been dominated by the Bell Harry Tower of the UNESCO World Heritage cathedral, which is still the tallest landmark in the city. It was in the cathedral that the Archbishop Thomas Becket was famously martyred in 1170. Part of the same UNESCO ensemble are the oldest parish church in England and the Archbishop Thomas Becket was famously martyred in 1170. The city is still partially enclosed by a wall first constructed in Roman times, and sits on two arms of the River Stour for leisurely walks and guided boat trips. Let's explore the best things to do in Canterbury: 1. Canterbury: 1 Communion, Canterbury Cathedral is England's principal Christian monument. In the Middle Ages it was Northern Europe's most venerated pilgrimage site for the tomb of Thomas Becket, the Archbishop who was murdered by followers of King Henry II near a doorway to the cloister in 1170. The cathedral was founded in 597 and then rebuilt in the 11th century. This Norman construction was badly damaged in a fire in 1174 and restored in various Gothic styles. Give yourself as much time as you can afford, to see the Perpendicular-style nave, with marvellous fan vaulting at the crossing, the sublime 14th-century choir screen, the 14th and 15th-century cloisters, beautiful Romanesque side chapels and stained glass windows dating from the 12th century. 2. St Augustine's Abbey Source: Valery Egorov / Shutterstock.comSt Augustine's Abbey was founded by St Augustine's Abbey Not centuries it was Kent's only religious house of real significance, and its importance was recognised by invading Danes and the Normans, who constructed a Romanesque monasteries in the 16th century, but a piece of Romanesque architecture can be found in a row of semi-circular arches. You can also track down the graves of St Augustine and other early Archbishops, as well as traces of the Anglo-Saxon St Pancras Church. The abbey's stunning 14th-century Gothic gatehouse, Fyndon's Gate is intact, and has a chamber where Charles I and Queen Henrietta Maria spent the night in 1625 after their marriage at the cathedral. 3. Beaney House of Art & Knowledge Source: chrisdorney / Shutterstock.comBeaney House Of Art & Knowledge In a Tudor Revival house on the High Street is Canterbury's central museum, library and art gallery. The attraction takes the name of James George Beaney, the Canterbury's central museum, library and art gallery. £10,000 to Canterbury to set up the museum. Inside there's a large set of works by another Canterbury native, the Victorian landscape painter Thomas Sidney Cooper, along with a few Old Masters, including a portrait of Sir Basil Dixwell by Anthony van Dyck. The museum exhibits are arranged like a cabinet of curiosities, with Egyptian and Greek artefacts, local Anglo-Saxon finds, ethnographic exhibits, minerals and natural history specimens. 4. St Martin's Church In the same UNESCO site as the cathedral and abbey is the oldest church in the English-speaking world. St Martin's Church dates from the end of the 6th century, but includes even earlier Roman elements like a brick tomb. The church was established by the pagan King Æthelberht of Kent to allow his Christian wife, Bertha, a Frankish Princess, to practise her religion. In the church's stonework you can see hundreds of Roman bricks, although it isn't known if these are from a surviving Roman building or were reused in Anglo-Saxon times. The baptistery has an astonishing Norman tub font, fashioned from Caen stone and with carvings of arcades and interlocking circles. 5. Canterbury City Walls Source: JOHN K THORNE PHOTOGRAPHY / flickrCanterbury City Walls Source: JOHN K THORNE PHOTOGRAPHY / flickrCanterbury City Walls The Romans were the first to build walls around Canterbury towards the end of the 3rd century. Even as the layout of the city streets changed through Anglo-Saxon and Norman times, the circuit of walls remained pretty much the same. These defences were breached a few times between the 9th and 11th century, during a deadly Viking raid in 835 and an eleven-day siege by a Danish army in 1011. More than half of the ring of walls survives, built from flint and ragstone and dating mostly to between the 14th and 16th centuries, at a time when there were fears of a French Invasion during the 100 Years' War. There are 24 Medieval towers still standing, and at the former Queningate, pieces of the Roman wall uncovered in excavations have been put on show. 6. Westgate Source: shutterstockWestgate The last of seven Medieval city gates defending Canterbury, the 18-metre Westgate is a formidable 14th-century construction beside the River Stour. The gate is composed of Kentish ragstone, a hard blue-grey limestone, and has a drawbridge still marshalled by a portcullis and wooden doors. In the stonework of the two drum towers flanking the portal, you can make out some of the UK's oldest gunloops, eighteen in total, while there are machicolations below the battlements joining the towers. The gate contains a museum for the painted plaster maquettes for the bronze sculptures adorning the Lords Chamber and Westminster Palace. They represent the 16 barons and two bishops who signed the Magna Carta in 1215. 7. Westgate Gardens Source: Michalakis Ppalis / Shutterstock.comWestgate gardens One of the most serene spots in Canterbury is this historic garden on the banks of the Stour as it flows towards the Westgate. This space has been open since Medieval times, putting it among the country's oldest gardens. The garden, with formal flowerbeds, incorporates a part of Canterbury's Roman wall and the former London Road Gate. There's a beautiful Norman arch, relocated here during the Victorian period from the ruins of St Augustine's Abbey. The Victorian Tower House is in a Tudor Revival style and is now home to the Lord Mayor's offices. Take a seat by the Stour to watch the punts and ducks go by, and seek out the 200-year-old oriental plane tree, hard to miss for its gigantic trunk. 8. Christ Church Gate Source: Pecold / Shutterstock.comChrist Church Gate The main gateway to the cathedral was raised in the first two decades of the 16th century and rises above Canterbury's Buttermarket. There's a lot of detail to look out for, in the gate's fine octagonal towers, with Perpendicular Gothic tracery, and the stonework in the archivolts of the Tudor dynasty, including those of Catherine of Aragon who married Prince Arthur and then Henry VIII after Arthur passed away before he could ascend to the throne. The original image of Christ in the central niche was destroyed by iconoclasts in the 16th century, and the current bronze sculpture is by the German Klaus Ringwald and was cast in 1990. 9. Marlowe Theatre Named after the Elizabethan playwright, Christopher Marlowe, who was born in Canterbury, the Marlowe Theatre is the city's premier performing of this decade, reopening in 2011. The theatre has a packed programme of concerts, drama, musicals, operas, ballet, contemporary dance shows, children's shows and performances by some of the UK's best-loved comedians. The venue is used by prestigious companies like the National Theatre, Theatre Royal Bath, Northern Ballet and the Glyndebourne Opera, so there's always something worth checking out. 10. Canterbury Roman Museum Source Linda Spashet / wikipediaCanterbury Roman Museum This museum's story began in 1868 when workmen excavating Canterbury's streets happened upon a Roman domus. The museum was established until 1961, after further discoveries were made following bomb damage in the Second World War. There's a set of mosaics on a corridor dating to 300AD, as well as traces of frescoes and a hypocaust, all a few metres below street level. In display cases you pore over pottery, glassware, building fragments from a temple at Longmarket and a Dea Nutrix figurine of a goddess. Also here is the Canterbury Treasure, a silver hoard from the turn of the 5th century, minted in Milan and made up of ingots, a toothpick, jewellery, five plain spoons, five spoons with decorative engravings and two more spoons that have swan-shaped handles. 11. Eastbridge Hospital On the King's Bridge, this almshouse was founded in the 12th century, shortly after the death of Thomas Becket, as a place for poor pilgrims to stay while visiting his shrine. The hospital continues to function as an almshouse, providing accommodation for Canterbury's older citizens. In that time, Thomas Becket's tomb became a pilgrimage site, right up until the practise was outlawed in the Reformation. You can head in to see the beautiful vaulted undercroft, where
there are exhibitions on Canterbury's past. After that you can pause for a moment in the quiet Franciscan Gardens by the Stour, before entering the Greyfriars Chapel, the last remnant of a 13th-century Franciscan friary and the oldest Franciscan friary below a replica ducking stool (a Medieval instrument for punishing women), just off the High Street, the Canterbury's Medieval monuments in a new way. You'll head out past the 13th-century Greyfriars' Chapel and pass below the 12th-century Eastbridge and King's Bridge. There's lots more Medieval industrial and religious architecture in the form of weavers' houses and the 14th-century Blackfriars' Dominican priories. You'll enjoy one of the best perspectives of the cathedral before docking once more at the ducking stool. 13. Kent Museum of Freemasonry Source: Chris Beckett / flickrKent Museum Of Freemasonry The largest trove of Masonic material away from London can be found just opposite Canterbury's Guildhall near the Westgate. This free museum is in a building constructed specifically for its role and dates to the early-1930s. The exhibition is a sort of repository for items that Freemasons around Kent had assembled over the years, made up of abundant regalia, glassware, ceramics, paintings and books from various orders. The best bit is the set of spectacular stained glass windows that were once installed at the former 19th-century Freemasons' Hall in London. 14. Canterbury Tales Source: CanterburyCityCouncilUK / flickrCanterbury Tales The foremost English Medieval poet Geoffrey Chaucer chose this city as the subject of his most famous work, the Canterbury Tales, about a group of pilgrims travelling through Kent to the tomb of Thomas Becket. The Canterbury Tales attraction has a sequence of animatronic tableaux bringing the sights, sounds and smells of 14th-century Kent and Canterbury back to life. Complemented by an audio-guide, the scenes recount five of Chaucer's fabled sense of mischief. 15. Howletts Wild Animal Park Source: Willard / flickrHowletts Wild Animal Park Up there with the UK's most visited animal attractions, Howletts Animal Park is in 100 acres of historic parkland on a former manor less than 15 minutes from Canterbury. There are 44 species here, all afforded lots of room, in glass-fronted enclosures and enormous wooded paddocks. The park stands out for having the largest family of western lowland gorillas in the country, as well as the largest breeding herd of African elephants. These are joined by Northern Chinese leopards, lemurs, lions, wolves, black rhinos and dozens more. You can get some background on the species listening to keepers' talks, while there's also a high ropes course and zip-lines for kids. Written by Bryan Dearsley Updated Dec 28, 2023 Canterbury, a busy market city located in the English county of Kent, has managed to survive centuries of history with much of its medieval character still intact. This beautiful city is also famous as the home of the Archbishop of Canterbury, head of the Anglican Church. Regarded as the cradle of English Christianity, it was here that St. Augustine made his first converts among the pagan Anglo Saxons and where, in 597 CE, he became the fledgling English church's first bishop. His burial place in St. Augustine's Abbey, just outside the city walls, was a much-revered shrine until the building of neighboring Canterbury Cathedral. Designated as one of Britain's Heritage Cities, Canterbury is also an important cultural and entertainment destination. It now boasts numerous fun things to do, along with a wide variety of historically significant attractions. Shoppers, too, are well catered for and will want to check out the historic streets of the King's Mile, with its specialty shops, galleries, and cafés, as well as the more modern Whitefriars Canterbury shopping area. Must-dos include visiting the Canterbury Roman Museum, a fascinating look into the city's Roman roots, and taking a historic river tour on the Stour. Sports fans should check the schedule of the Kent County Cricket Club's Spitfire Ground, St. Lawrence, widely regarded as one of the most beautiful cricket grounds in the country. To ensure your England travel itinerary is chock-full, be sure to read right through our list of the top attractions and things to do in Canterbury, Kent. Canterbury Cathedral | Photo Copyright: Bryan DearsleyA UNESCO World Heritage Site, striking Canterbury Cathedral is known as the Mother Church of the worldwide Anglican Communion. It's also one of the country's most important (and oldest) Christian structures, and reflects components of various architectural styles from different centuries. A must-visit when in Canterbury, this popular attraction is infamous for having been the place where Archbishop Thomas Becket was murdered in 1170. Becket had crossed paths with King Henry II, whose knights reputedly misinterpreted a comment he made wishing the Archbishop "gone" as an order to kill him. Nearly 900 years later, it's still chilling to stand in the exact spot in the Northwest Transept where this heinous crime was committed. choir. Boasting a choir screen dating from 1411, the magnificent stone work is decorated with angels carrying shields and the crowned figures of six monarchs: Henry V, Richard II, Ethelbert of Kent, Edward the Confessor, Henry IV, and Henry VI. Be sure to also venture down to the crypt, notable for its fine decorative flourishes. And for souvenirs, visit the cathedral shop just around the corner on Burgate Street. For a truly unique experience, plan a stay at Canterbury Cathedral Lodge Hotel. Owned by the cathedral, as well as exclusive access to the Cathedral Precincts. Another must-do is to take a guided tour. If available, opt for the longer 60-minute version covering the Great Cloister and Chapter House, as it's well worth the investment of time. The cathedral is also famous as part of the Pilgrim's Way, a route for pilgrimages from the cities of Winchester in Hampshire and Rochester in Kent. Address: 11 The Precincts, Canterbury, Kent Official site: www.canterbury-cathedral.org Read More: Murder & Majesty: Highlights of Canterbury Cathedral Precincts, is also worth exploring. The most interesting of the buildings lie to the north of the cathedral and are grouped around Green Court. One highlight is the roofed Norman staircase leading up to King's School Hall. One of the oldest schools in the world, King's School Hall. One of the oldest school Hall. the Norman Water Tower. It was once part of an ingenious water supply and sewage disposal system that ensured epidemics were virtually unknown in the Close. Other points of interest include a healing garden, used to grow the herbs once used by monks for medicinal purposes; the Chapter House, once used as a meeting space; and the attractive Christ Church Gate, built in 1517 and now the main entrance to the Precincts and the cathedral. St. Augustine's Abbey, an English Heritage property located just outside the city walls, is home to the remains of the abbey founded by St. Augustine's Gate and the Cemetery Gate date from the 13th century, and are where the foundations of the old abbey church and the graves of St. Augustine, King Ethelbert, and his wife Queen Bertha have been found. There are also excavated remains of the early Saxon Church of St. Pancras, including rare Roman artifacts. An interesting museum has been constructed on the site, featuring a great deal of informative displays, exhibits of artifacts, and virtual-reality recreations related to its long rich history. Audio guides are available with admission. A fun addition for kids is the cathedral. Location: Longport, Canterbury, Kent Official site: www.english-heritage.org.uk/visit/places/st-augustines-abbey/ The Old City Canterbury is home to numerous historic timber-framed buildings. An unbroken row of particularly fine houses with typical overhanging upper floors can be seen in narrow Mercery Lane, many of them pre-dating Queen Elizabeth I. One remarkable survivor is the Tudor Queen Elizabeth's Guest Chamber, notable for its attractive plasterwork. In the corner of Mercery Lane is The Chequer of the Hope, successor to the pilgrim hostel mentioned by Chaucer in The Canterbury Tales. Be sure to also pop into the 12th-century Eastbridge Hospital. If you're thinking of spending time exploring the historic Old City Canterbury district, you should plan on making use of one of the city's three extremely handy Park & Ride parking lots. One low fee covers up to six passengers, and regularly scheduled buses will deposit you close by. Another good option is to forgo the bus and pick up a fun Park & Pedal bike to cruise the mostly car-free city center. Location: Stour Street, Canterbury, Kent Beaney House of Art and Knowledge Interested in cultural pursuits should also pop into the Beaney House of Art and Knowledge Interested in cultural pursuits should also pop into the Beaney House of Art and Knowledge Interested in cultural pursuits should also pop into the Beaney House of Art and Knowledge Interested in cultural pursuits should also pop into the Beaney House of Art and Knowledge Interested in cultural pursuits should also pop into the Beaney House of Art and Knowledge Interested in cultural pursuits should also pop into the Beaney House of Art is part museum, library, and art gallery, and boasts an excellent collection of paintings, engravings, and prints, along with European ceramics, Asian porcelain, and Anglo-Saxon jewelry. Completely refurbished and reopened in 2012 in what's become the city's cultural hub - the Marlowe Theatre is also located in the vicinity - the building itself is something of a tourist attraction, designed in an attractive Tudor-revival style and constructed in the late 19th century. Notable exhibits include artworks by European Old Masters, including the likes of Van Dyck, along with important sculptures and English ceramics. In addition to its fun
children's workshops and educational programs (which include the chance to dress up in period costumes), the museum houses an exhibit kids will love: a history of the beloved cat character, Bagpuss. Guided tours are available, and there's a good café serving light snacks and lunches. Address: 18 High Street, Canterbury, Kent Official site: Canterbury Castle | Photo Copyright: Bryan DearsleyWhile only a small section of this once great fortification remains, the Norman-era Canterbury Castle is one of the oldest of Britain's old fortresses. Begun by William the Conqueror around 1070 as one of three "Royal Castles," it became a prison for a period before being abandoned. You can enjoy good views over the ruins from a variety of vantage points, including from the nearby St. Mildred's Church. The castle is a sightseeing highlight of the City Wall Trail, a pleasant three-mile route that takes in many of the city's top points of interest. The castle, in fact, makes a good landmark from which to begin and end your stroll. While about half of the original city walls have been lost to war and ruin, a number of sections have been faithfully restored, and in places traces of the original Roman walls can still be seen. Those sections that do remain, including the Westgate tower, provide a sense of just how impressive these fortifications once would have been. Address: Castle Street, Canterbury, Kent Marlowe Theatre | Photo Copyright: Bryan DearsleyWhile named after the Elizabethan-era writer, Christopher Marlowe, Canterbury's Marlowe Theatre is anything but old. Originally founded in the 1930s, the theater underwent a complete rebuild before re-opening in its present form in 2011. Now one of England's top regional theaters, The Marlowe hosts an eclectic mix of West End musicals, plays, and concerts, including some of the largest names in pop and rock. Other performances to be enjoyed here include ballet and modern dance, opera, and classical music. It has also gained a reputation for the quality of its children's programming, including some of the largest names in pop and rock. its popular pantomime at Christmas. For a memorable night out, book a table at the on-site Green Room restaurant. Address: The Friars, Canterbury, Kent Official site: Dane John Gardens | Photo Copyright: Bryan DearsleyAttractive Dane John Gardens | Photo Copyright: Bryan DearsleyAttractive Dane John Gardens is another worthwhile place to visit when doing Canterbury's City Wall Trail. Established as a public green space in the 16th century, it in fact was known to have been of significance as far back as the 1st century, when the mound is something of a landmark for the city, and offers superb views over the surrounding historic homes and sections of the old city walls. The gardens were added later, around 1790, and are a delight to stroll through, especially during springtime when the first blooms appear. There's also a lovely path that's lined by an avenue of lime trees, providing the perfect canopy for a break or a picnic. Other noteworthy features include a bandstand that's often used to stage concerts, a fountain, a children's also maze, and a snack kiosk. Address: Watling Street, Canterbury, Kent Official site: St. Martin's Church Just because you've seen the cathedral, doesn't mean you're through visiting Canterbury's many historic religious sites. Outside the city center and just a short stroll beyond St. Augustine's Abbey is St. Martin's Church. Considered the "mother church of England," it's not only the oldest surviving church in the English-speaking world. Built as a private chapel for Queen Bertha in the 6th century, it contains numerous even older Roman bricks incorporated into the Anglo Saxon choir, including remnants of a Roman tomb. The graveyard is also of interest, and is where Mary Tourtel, creator of the iconic British fictional character, Rupert the Bear, is buried. Location: 1 N. Holmes Road, Canterbury Festival, held each October and billed as "Kent's International Arts festival," is one of the most important cultural happenings in South East England. Attracting audiences of up to 70,000 people, the festival crams in an impressive 200 things to do, including classical music, contemporary dance, comedy, world music, theater, lectures, and visual arts. The venues are equally as impressive and certainly add to the experience. These include Canterbury Cathedral and the Marlowe Theater, as well as a huge marquee designed specifically for such events. Another event worth visiting is Stour Music Festival. This popular 10-day event is held each June and incorporates opera, choral, and chamber concerts, as well as recitals. Address: 8 Orange Street, Canterbury, Kent Official site: www.canterburyfestival.co.uk Canterbury Roman Museum | Michael kooiman / photo modifiedBuilt around the remains of an original Roman past. In addition to an exquisite 2,000-year-old mosaic pavement discovered after the bombing of the city in WW2, the museum includes significant Roman finds, including a horde of silver. There's also an interesting interactive timeline that tracks the journey back in time from present-day Canterbury to the original Roman settlement. Along the way, you'll learn how the town was built, visit an authentic reproduction Roman marketplace, and handle replica dishes in the recreated Roman dining room. Guided tours are available for groups, and need to be booked in advance. Workshops and educational programs for kids are also available. Location: Longmarket, Butchery Lane, Canterbury, Kent Official site: Westgate Towers Museum & Viewpoint Situated, as its name suggests, at the westernmost point of the old city's boundary. Westgate Towers Museum & Viewpoint is housed in the country's largest surviving medieval gatehouse. Built in 1380 over the old London road, the Westgate was one of seven such structures constructed to defend the key access points into the city. Today, this impressive building houses a fascinating museum showcasing along with its own storied past, which included everything from a place to hang the bodies of convicts to collecting from the early 19th century. The building once served as a jail, police station, and militar WW2. Westgate Towers Museum & Viewpoint | Photo Copyright: Bryan DearsleyAnd, of course, there's the view. Standing more than 60 feet high, the battlements of the Westgate offer spectacular panoramic views across the historic city and its old medieval center, as well as the surrounding parks and gardens adjacent to the River Stour. Other fun things to do include participating in the Westgate's 'escape room' attraction, or grabbing a bite of lunch or dinner in the restaurant set up in the former jail. If time permits, be sure to wander the neighboring Westgate Gardens, one of the country's oldest public parks and home to a 200-year-old oriental plane tree, and the attractive Tower House, home of the city's mayoral offices. Address: 1 Pound Lane, Canterbury, Kent Official site: www.onepoundlane.co.uk/westgate-towers#the-guard-chamber-1-1 Eastbridge Hospital | Photo Copyright: Bryan DearsleyLocated in the center of the Old City section of Canterbury, the Hospital of St. Thomas the Martyr, Eastbridge, now most often simply referred to as Eastbridge Hospital, offers a fascinating glimpse into the concept of medieval hospitality. Established in the late 1100s as a place of hospitality (the original meaning of the word "hospitality. Established in the late 1100s as a place of hospitality. the elderly, much of this remarkably well-preserved facility can be toured. Highlights include visiting its two chapels and the various exhibits housed in the Undercroft, some of which detail its use as a schoolhouse for a period where Christopher Marlowe studied as a young student. Be sure to also spend time exploring the old Franciscan Gardens, part of the grounds of the order's original British settlement (open spring to fall), along with Greyfriars Chapel, built in the 13th century as a questhouse for visitors. Address: 25 High Street, Canterbury, Kent Official site: www.eastbridgehospital.org.uk Kent Museum of Freemasonry | Photo Copyright: Bryan DearsleyAnother museum worth visiting is the interesting Kent Museum of Freemasonry. Located in St. Peters Place, it opened in 1933 and is located just steps away from the Westgate Towers. This fascinating museum features exhibits portraying the history of the movement from its earliest days. It's marketed as one of the UK's largest collections of Freemason-related artifacts and research materials. Highlights include regalia and paintings, as well as rare glassware and porcelain associated with the Masons. A variety of historical documents are also on display, supported by interesting audiovisual displays that provide a look at the history of the group. Other research material is available in the museum's library. A shop is also located on-site. Be sure to contact the museum in advance of your visit to check opening times and availability. Tours of the museum and the adjacent Lodge Room are also available with advance booking. Address: 66 St. Peter's Place, Canterbury, Kent Official site: The village of Chilham | Photo Copyright: Bryan DearsleyThe delightful village of Chilham, just seven miles southwest of Canterbury, has one of the most picturesque village greens in England. Known as The Square, it's surrounded by numerous ancient timber-framed houses and is the site of the village's annual May Day celebrations, where you can experience traditional activities such as Morris Dancing. St. Mary's, the parish church, contains some magnificent tombs. The grounds of 17th-century Chilham Castle, landscaped by Capability Brown, are well worth visiting. Highlights include a visit to the extensive terraces, the Elephant House, the bowling green, and its beautiful gardens. Chilham Castle | Photo Copyright: Bryan DearsleyIf time permits, be sure to opt for one of the superb guided
tours of the house (a garden option is also offered). Along the way, you'll get a chance to brush up on the castle's fascinating history, as well as take a peek into the sumptuously decorated main hall and staircase, study, library, and dining room. Location: Chilham Park, Chilham, Canterbury, Kent Official site: www.chilham-castle.co.uk The Garden of England: Known as the "Garden of England," Kent is home to the town of Dover, famous for its White Cliffs, castle, and its proximity to France. The attractive former fishing town of Folkestone is just a short drive away, and features a great promenade and plenty of beachfront to enjoy. And in neighboring Sussex, the coastal town of Eastbourne offers plenty of fun things to do, from walking its coastal paths around Beachy Head to its popular pier. London Bound: It's easy to spend a full week or more of your UK travel itinerary in the capital city of London. Popular pier. include spectacular Kew Gardens and Buckingham Palace. UK Vacation Ideas: If you can visit only one city in northern England, make it York, famous for its cathedral and winding old streets in the city's historic center. The university town of Cambridge is another great destination, featuring numerous points of interest including its many historic colleges and museums. To the west of London is beautiful Bath, famous for its well-preserved Roman Baths and splendid Georgian architecture. Canterbury is a city built around its cathedral. The World Heritage-listed site that dominates the city center is both one of England's top tourist attractions and a holy place of worship. It is a vast edifice crammed with enthralling stories, arresting architecture and an enduring sense of spirituality. Easily accessible as a day trip from London, just 2 hours by train, Canterbury is not a city stuck in the past. These days, it's a busy place with an energetic student population, good restaurants and an outstanding arts venue, the Marlowe Theatre. For adults and an energetic student population, good restaurants and an energetic student population. Canterbury's pubs are the perfect place to sample local beers and soak up the city vibe. While pilgrims may no longer flock here in their thousands, tourists certainly do. Here are the best things to do when you get to Canterbury. Canterbury Cathedral. Angel Villalba/Getty Images 1. Listen to Evensong and stroll through Canterbury CathedralThe Church of England's mother church (the spiritual head of the Anglican church) is so rich in historical significance that taking it all in may feel overwhelming. For those keen to learn all they can, guided tours of the UNESCO World Heritage site offer a comprehensive explanation of the many treasures and architectural details that tell the story of the cathedral's 1400-year history. When visiting, start at the Cathedral ticket office upstairs for a stunning view of the cathedral's Gothic exterior and walk around it to see statues of historical figures in the exterior niches, which include Queen Elizabeth II and Prince Philip. Once inside, the signposted visitor route offers information about the cathedral's most important details. Visit late in the day to take in the hair-standing-on-end moment attending a religious service like in the day to take in the hair-standing to take in the hair-standing to take in the day to take in the hair-standing to take in the hair-standing to take in the day to take in the hair-standing to take in the day to take in Evensory, during which hymns are sung by the cathedral choir, is free and open to the public.2. Uncover the crypt in the Canterbury Cathedral choir, is free and open to the public.2. Uncover the crypt in the site of one of the most notorious murders in English history, the assassination of Archbishop Thomas Becket in 1170 Don't miss the Martyrdom, the spot where Becket was murdered by two of King Henry II's knights; today, it is marked by a flickering candle and a strikingly modern altar. The atmosphere changes in the cavernous crypt, in which silence is requested. The original site of Becket's tomb is marked by Transport, a striking sculpture by Antony Gormley completed in 2010, of a floating figure composed of 19th-century handmade nails that were previously in the cathedral's roof. The historic center of Canterbury West station, enter the city center through the archway of the medieval West Gate Tower, then get lost in the warren of alleyways. Many of the crooked medieval buildings would have hosted visiting pilgrims. Today, these narrow lanes are lined with charming boutiques, quaint cafes and friendly pubs. Be sure to explore the Buttermarket area, where street performers entertain and local artisans sell their wares. Look for the life-size bronze statue of Chaucer on Best Lane, and join in the brand-new immersive Canterbury Tales visitor's experience reopening in 2025. The attraction features recreations of the stories and characters from The Canterbury Tales, while St Margaret's Church, near the Canterbury Cathedral, often hosts readings of the beloved book. Detour: The small but fascinating Canterbury Norman Castle ruins are just a short walk from the Canterbury Tales venue and one of the oldest castles in England, constructed by William the Conqueror around 1070.4. Drift through the timeless Westgate GardensThis tranquil park, located beside West Gate Tower, stretches along the banks of the River Stour and provides a lush landscape of manicured lawns, flower beds and ancient trees, some of which are over 200 years old. Inside the gardens. Detour: Within the West Gate Towers is a museum that showcases the ancient rooms of the medieval gateway that was built during the reign of King Richard II. Medieval half-timber houses and the River Stour. Boris Stroujko/Shutterstock 5. Take a punt on the River Stour, ducking under bridges along the way. Companies like Canterbury Historic River Tours and Westgate Punts offer guided boat boat a spot on a river to ur along the kine canterbury Historic River Stour. Boris Stroujko/Shutterstock 5. Take a punt on the River Stour. Boris Stroujko/Shutterstock 5. Take a punt on the River Stour. Boris Stroujko/Shutterstock 5. Take a punt on the River Stour. trips that reveal hidden views of Canterbury's ancient architecture and gardens, including those that date back to the Middle Ages. Tours are available daily from March through October, starting as early as 10am and continuing until dusk. Detour: After the boat tour, visit Greyfriars Chapel, accessible only via a small footbridge from the Stour. The Franciscan chapel was built in 1267.6. Dive into Canterbury's past at the Roman MuseumTo delve deeper still into Canterbury's past, stop at the Roman Museum on Butchery Lane. The entrance to this subterranean museum is situated near Canterbury's past, stop at the Roman MuseumTo delve deeper still into Canterbury's past, stop at the Roman Museum is situated near Canterbury's past at the Roman Museum on Butchery Lane. with replicated shops fronts and artifacts that paint a picture of daily life in Roman Britain. The museum highlight is an almost intact Roman soldier's helmet dating from Caesar's invasion. Other prominent exhibits include a mosaic pavement that once adorned a Roman townhouse and a detailed exploration of the Roman town of Durovernum Cantiacorum, on which modern Canterbury is built. Crypt ruins part of St Augustine's Abbey. PhotoFires/Shutterstock 7. Explore the ruins of St Augustine's Abbey. Founded in 597 AD by St Augustine, the site was once one of the country's most important monasteries before it was destroyed during Henry VIII's Dissolution of the Monasteries in the 16th century. Walk amongst the peaceful grounds to see the surviving arches and walls that outline the Abbey's original structure, including the abbey church and cloister. Detour: The oldest church in continuous use in the English-speaking world, St Martin's dates back to the Roman period and is part of the Canterbury World Heritage Site and is a 15-minute walk from the abbey. 8. Climb the mound at Dane John Gardens, which date back to the 1st century. Central to the gardens is a prominent mound, which visitors can climb for sweeping views back across the city to the cathedral. The mound was historically used as a Roman burial ground and later built up into a mound for a Norman castle. Today, it hosts memorials and sculptures, well-kept pathways, gardens and informational signs providing a backdrop into its history. A traditional inn in Canterbury. Flystock/Shutterstock 9. Grab a pint at a traditional British pubPub culture in England is to be cherished and when visiting Canterbury, there are plenty of pubs to pop into for a more medieval feel. Th snug pub serves local ales and has an upstairs dining room. The Bridge Arms is an outstanding gastropub located just south of Canterbury in the village of Bridge.Detour: If you're craving a more well-rounded experience, head to the beloved farmers market, food hall and restaurant, The Goods Shed, on Station Rd West.10. Go to Eastbridge Hospital (no emergency needed)Eastbridge Hospital is not a true hospital but a historic charitable house that has offered hospitality and shelter to pilgrims and travelers since the 12th century. The building's architecture, with its preserved medieval features, tells stories of the centuries of pilgrims and travelers since the 12th century. pilgrims once gathered to share meals, and the Pilgrim's Chapel, which remains a place of quiet reflection and prayer. The former dormitory, the Undercroft, now features displays that detail the site's history and significance. Detour: You can also visit the nearby Pilgrims Hospital of St Thomas. Beaney House of Art & Knowledge. PjrTravel/Alamy 11 Visit the Beaney House of Art & KnowledgePreviously the Royal Museum & Art Gallery, the Beaney House of Art & Knowledge is Canterbury's main library, museum and art gallery, and has been since 1899. The High Street
museum's mixed bag of exhibits includes ancient Egyptian relics, Anglo-Saxon glassware, and treasures from around the globe The building also houses the city's tourism office and schedules workshops, talks and interactive sessions. Planning tip: Take a break and grab a refreshment at the museum's Beaney's cafe..12. Take a detour to SandwichOnly 35 minutes from Canterbury by bus, SandwichOnly fourth city. These days, the place feels more like a living museum. At the waterfront, where the old toll bridge over the River Stour marks the entrance into town, several pubs make a pleasant spot for a drink. From the bridge, a walking trail follows the river east to Sandwich Marina. Head up to St Peter's St to St Peter's Church, where you can climb the tower for rooftop views. Make your way past half-timbered houses to the Guildhall Museum, where the highlight is a copy of the Magna Carta, discovered in Sandwich's archives in 2015. This article was adapted from Lonely Planet's Great Britain guidebook, published in July 2023. Canterbury Cathedral | Photo credit: Dmitry Naumov / AlamyCanterbury's awe-inspiring cathedral, established by St Augustine in the 6th century and largely reworked by the Normans, is the mother church of England. It's famed for being where the priest Thomas Becket was brutally assassinated in 1170, after which it became a major pilgrimage centre, celebrated in Chaucer's ribald The Canterbury Tales. Beyond the sweeping nave with its ancient, time-worn stone steps, the assassination site is marked by two savage-looking swords and a cross; in the Trinity Chapel, a candle flickers where Becket's jewel-encrusted shrine stood until it was destroyed during the Reformation. Canterbury Cathedral's Romanesque crypt | Photo credit Ian Dagnall / AlamyDon't miss the Romanesque crypt, with its faded medieval murals and unsettling Antony Gormley sculpture, floating above the site of Becket's story here. Old market square, the Buttermarket and Burgate in Canterbury | Photo credit: Paul Hayward / AlamyCanterbury's most interesting shops are independent places in historic and quirky buildings. The King's Mile, which winds from the cathedral up Sun and Palace streets, is great for browsing. Here the half-timbered, Jacobean Crooked House more than lives up to its name; proceeds from sales of its name; proceeds from secondhand books go to homeless charity Catching Lives. Nearby, Madame Oiseau sells handmade chocolates in pretty packaging, while Revivals on St Peters Street offers superior vintage threads. The Chaucer Bookshop on Beer Cart Lane is an Aladdin's cave of antiquarian books and prints. One of Canterbury's great charms is its green spaces right in the centre. At Westgate Gardens, alongside the River Stour, and next to the eponymous city gate, it's a treat to wander the dappled riverbanks, ablaze with flowers and foliage, picnic by the clear, reed-streaked water, and watch the city's many punts lazily floating by. The stout medieval Westgate, England's largest city gate, has a small museum and far-reaching views from its vertiginous battlements. St Augustine's Abbey, Canterbury | Photo credit: Jim Holden/English Heritage TrustSt Augustine's Abbey may be in ruins but it's as historically significant, and as contemplative a spot, as Canterbury cathedral. Established in 597 by Augustine, who reintroduced Christianity to Anglo Saxon southern England, it's an atmospheric place for a stroll, with an informative museum that brings its history into focus. Even older, the nearby St Martin's Church stands on a Roman site and is still in use. These two, along with the cathedral, comprise Canterbury's UNESCO World Heritage Site. The Beaney museum, Canterbury Two small museums are particularly worth seeking out. In a striking Victorian building, the intriguing collections of the Beaney include paintings from local artists, curious antiquities, children's toys and a (crowd-pleasing) mummified cat. For a vivid portrait of Roman Canterbury, the nearby Roman Museum is brimming with well-preserved relics and includes the remains of a Roman villa.Canterbury serves up a tasty range of afternoon tea options. Tiny Tim's Tearoom, cosy with a dash of Deco style and a little garden, offers Plump Pilgrims (huge, scone-like fruit buns), huffkins (rolls), cheese scones, slabs of cake and more. Check out the ghost room upstairs before you leave. Wonky and intimate, the old fashioned Moat Tea Rooms has a list of teas as long as your arm to wash down huge slices of cake, crumpets and scones with jam and cream. Wheelers Oyster Bar, Whitstable is renowned for its oysters - try them at cosy Wheelers. From the harbour, walk along the shingle beach, splashed with wildflowers and lined with weatherboard cottages and beach huts, rounding things off with a sundowner at the Old Neptune pub. You can walk or cycle to Whitstable from Canterbury, following the Crab and Winkle Way, an old steam train route. Punting along the Great Stour River in Canterbury | Photo credit: Luigi Petro/ShutterstockExplore Canterbury from the river on a punting tour. Find Westgate Punts under the bridge in Westgate Gardens or Canterbury River Tours by the Old Weavers House on High Street.Kent is a major player on the British wine scene, and acclaimed wine bar/shop Corkk offers short workshops and tastings to help you learn more. Or just pop in for a quick glass and a cheese platter. Named for local Elizabethan playwright Kit Marlowe, the Marlowe is peacefully set by the tree-lined riverbank. Shows range from stand-up to musicals, ballet to panto. Restaurant The Cook's Tale offers fabulous food tours. A dinner option includes two courses in the restaurant plus street food, charcuterie, English wines and cocktails in venues around town. If punting has whetted your appetite for water- based fun, consider a trip on the Stour with Canoe Wild, whose self-guided paddling trips on canoe, kayak or SUP are suitable for all abilities. The lively Goods Shed farmers' market and food hall is Canterbury's first stop for foodies, whether you want a haul of fresh local produce, a quick bite or a special meal. Try casual Gills for coffee, salads and bakes; Wild Goose, with its vine-shaded garden, for cocktails and small plates; or the mezzanine Goods Shed restaurant for a creative, locally sourced dinner. Near Westgate, the informal Refectory Kitchen, a local favourite, offersh healthy contemporary dishes on the tiny patio or in the beamed interior. The sophisticated British cuisine at Corner House, in a 16th-century coach house, is a good bet for a treat. The Parrot, Canterbury's oldest pub, a snug hideaway with a beamed interior and a couple of tables overlooking tiny St Radigund's Park. Hearty pub grub includes a double stout sticky toffee pudding. The Foundry brews its own spirits; brewery tours are available. The view from Canterbury Cathedral Lodge House of Agnes is an offbeat B&B in a crooked medieval building and adjacent stables near the Westgate, with themed rooms and a peaceful walled garden. Literally basking in the shadow of the cathedral, Canterbury Cathedral Lodge offers simple, comfortable rooms in a contemporary building. Views are unmatched, nights are quiet and being able to wander the cathedral precincts after hours is a treat. The stylish Corner House has sumptuous boutique rooms above its top-notch restaurant. Regular trains connect London (1hr-1hr 30min) with Canterbury West (northwest of the centre) or Canterbury East (to the south). The cathedral is an easy fifteen-minute walk from both. For information on Canterbury and its surrounds see canterbury.co.uk. The international Canterbury Festival presents a lively mix of culture, with music, theatre, circus, comedy, talks and family shows of all stripes in venues around town (late Oct to early Nov). canterbury festival.co.uk class museums, bustling markets, and cutting-edge architecture. Enjoy the city's cuisine scene, parks, grand squares, palaces, and transit. Live theater takes center stage at night. port city of Bristol nearby). AAA York Walled medieval town with grand Gothic cathedral, excellent museums (Viking, Victorian, railway), and atmospheric old center. AA Stonehenge and Avebury Two spine-tingling stone circles: one justifiably world famous, the other larger and refreshingly less touristy; Salisbury and its striking cathedral are nearby. ▲ Cotswolds Remarkably quaint villages — including the cozy market town Chipping Campden, popular hamlet Stow-on-the-Wold, and handy transit hub Moreton-in-Marsh — scattered over a hilly countryside. ▲▲ Lake District Idyllic region dotted with lakes, hills, and sheep, with enjoyable hikes and joyrides, time-passed valleys, and William Wordsworth and Beatrix Potter sights. A Glastonbury and Wells Neighboring towns, each with a distinct draw: Mystical, New Age-y Glastonbury's Holy Grail and King Arthur lore, and Wells' ingeniously fortified cathedral. ▲ Oxford Stately but youthful university town sporting historic college buildings, with Blenheim Palace — one of England's best — on its doorstep. ▲▲ Windsor Home to the late Queen Elizabeth II's impressive home-sweet-castle (and a good day trip from London). ▲ Canterbury Pleasant pilgrimage town with a lively, compact core that attracts more pedestrians and shoppers than pilgrims. A Southeast England Region boasting Dover and its imposing castle, famously white cliffs, lush Sissinghurst Gardens, hill town of Rye, and historic site of the Battle of Hastings. viewpoint tower — and chalky cliffs at Beachy Head nearby. A Portsmouth Revitalized shipbuilding city with top nautical sights at the Historic Dockyard, plus Roman ruins and stately Arundel Castle nearby. Cornwall Feisty Arundel Castle nearby. peninsula littered with prehistoric ruins, King Arthur's supposed Tintagel Castle, seaside resort towns (most notably Penzance and St. Ives) on the scenically windblown Penwith Peninsula on England's westernmost tip, and plenty of
offbeat sights. A Stratford-upon-Avon Shakespeare's pretty hometown and top venue for performances of his plays. Warwick and Coventry England's best medieval castle (Warwick), and in nearby Coventry, the stirring bombed-out husk of an ancient cathedral. A Ironbridge Gorge Birthplace of the Industrial Revolution, with a host of Fab Four related sights. A Blackpool Fun-loving beach resort offering top-tier roller-coasters and a chance to mix with the English working class at play. A North Yorkshire Pastoral region of hills and desolate moors, with a smattering of ruined abbeys and salty seaside towns (including Whitby and tiny Staithes). workaday town with magnificent cathedral, plus (nearby) an open-air museum, the Roman remains of Hadrian's Wall, Holy Island, and Bamburgh Castle. Canterbury, historic county of Kent, southeastern England. Its cathedral has been the primary ecclesiastical center of England since the early 7th century ce. The city, a district within the administrative county of Kent, includes the town of Canterbury, the surrounding to the Thames estuary, including the seaside towns of Whitstable and Herne Bay. The site of the town of Canterbury, which has been occupied since pre-Roman times was in ancient times the mouth of the River Stour, which broadened into an estuary extending to the Wantsum Channel, the strait that once separated the Isle of Thanet from the mainland. The Roman town of Durovernum Cantiacorum was established on the site after the invasion of Claudius in 43 ce. It was connected to London (55 miles [89 km] northwest) and to Dover (16 miles [26 km] southeast) by Casingc Street (later Watling Street). The town wall was built by the Romans about 200 ce and rebuilt in the Middle Ages; parts of it still stand. Of the six medieval entrances to the town, only Westgate survives. In the late 6th century Canterbury was the capital of Aethelberht I, king of Kent, whose marriage to a Christian—Bertha, daughter of the Frankish king Charibert—probably influenced him in favor of the mission of St. Augustine of Canterbury, who arrived on the Isle of Thanet in 597 and was given St. Martin's, the queen's parish church. After his consecration at Arles as bishop of the English, Augustine returned to Canterbury, who arrived on the Isle of Thanet in 597 and was given St. Martin's, the queen's parish church. founded the Abbeys of SS. Peter and Paul (known after his death as St. Augustine's Abbey), and established the cathedral, which was originally called Christ Church. Guess the City by Its River Quiz The town grew in importance, though it suffered badly from Danish raids, especially in 1011. After the murder (1170) of Archbishop Thomas Becket in the cathedral and Henry II's penance there in 1174, Becket's shrine attracted many pilgrims. Catering to their needs became the principal activity of the many inns of the town, and a picture of the travelers is given in The Canterbury Tales of Geoffrey Chaucer. Municipal government dates from the 14th century or earlier, and the town was pi to county status, with a sheriff, in 1461. During the 16th-century Reformation, the numerous monastic houses were dissolved, the cult of Becket was suppressed, and the town languished. An influx of Huguenot and Walloon refugees (mostly weavers) revived the town. The town suffered severely from bombardment in World War II, though the cathedral was little damaged (fires were lit on the grounds during air raids in order to give the appearance that the cathedral was rebuilt from the 11th to the 12th century, when the present nave and the distinctive tower (Bell Harry tower) were built. A series of capitals in the large crypt is a fine example of Norman architectural sculpture and features animals and monsters of fable. The Corona and the Trinity Chapel have exquisite stained-glass windows, some of which date from the 12th and 13th centuries. The crypt was granted to the Huguenots as their church at the end of the 16th century, and weekly services are still held in French there. On the cathedral grounds, Christ Church Gate gives entrance to the remains of the monastic buildings, and a Norman staircase leads to the hall of the King's School, founded in the early Middle Ages as a monastic school and reestablished in 1541 by Henry VIII as a grammar school for boys. Other medieval ecclesiastical buildings grace the town, including survivals of the original 22 parish churches and remains of St. Augustine's Abbey outside the walls; a museum at the site features excavated objects from Saxon and Roman times. The great abbey gate (c. 1300) remains standing. Also notable is the Canterbury Heritage Museum, which is housed in a 13th-century hospital. Some of the Huguenot refugees still stand along the Stour. Canterbury Cathedral, St. Augustine's Abbey, and St. Martin's Church were collectively designated a UNESCO World Heritage site in 1988. Modern Canterbury is a market town and regional service center. It has some light industries and attracts hundreds of thousands of tourists each year. Its many educational institutions include the University (founded 1965) and Canterbury Christ Church University (founded 1962 as Canterbury Christ Church College). Area city (local authority), 119 square miles (309 square km). Pop. (2001) town, 43,552; city (local authority), 135,278; (2011) town, 54,880; city (local authority), 151,145; (2021) town, 57,708. Canterbury has long been one of England's most important religious destinations. For centuries, it welcomed crowds of pilgrims to its grand cathedral. While these days you'll see tourists rather than pilgrims, the town is rich in history and architectural splendor.