Stay cool this summer

Our seasonal destination guide
Summer is just around the corner and with those long, hot days on the horizon, what better way to enjoy the weather than to take a trip on a Southeastern train to one of our favourite hidden gems? Whether it’s a trip to one of the region’s fabulous beaches, a day out with all your family or a date with history, we’ve got you covered.

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Buy tickets on the go
The Southeastern On Track app lets you buy train tickets in advance and collect at the station.

Available to purchase up until one hour before you travel.

Welcome
Kent is your oyster

Take advantage of Kent's freshest seafood at some of our favourite places to hang out with friends and family.

Best for seafood lovers
Wheelers Oyster Bar
If you fancy a unique dining experience, pay a visit to this cosy 150-year-old oyster bar. The brightly coloured restaurant offers signature dishes such as lobster lasagne and wild native oysters in an array of tasty sauces.
✦ Nearest station: Whitstable

Fish on the Green
One of the top seafood restaurants in Kent, it has been listed in the Michelin Guide since 2010. It is based in a former stable block, and the menu is packed full of fresh trawler fish, shellfish and the finest quality ingredients.
✦ Nearest station: Bearsted

Sankey's
A family-run business which offers a range of delicious dining options. It's locally renowned for seafood, including the very best boat fish from the South Coast. Sankey's also has a pub, a fishmongers and a seafood and champagne bar across the town if you want something different.
✦ Nearest station: Tunbridge Wells

5 top places for ice cream this summer

Scoopid
An ice cream and dessert parlour that serves gelato using the finest natural ingredients.
✦ Nearest station: Maidstone East/Maidstone West

Morelli's Gelato
One of the best ice creams in Kent. It first opened back in 1932.
✦ Nearest station: Broadstairs

Scoop Gelato
Get a natural luxury gelato in the heart of London.
✦ Nearest station: Charing Cross

Melt Gelato
Lovingly handcrafted gelato made at the Sands Hotel and served in a vibrant and contemporary parlour.
✦ Nearest station: Margate

Sorbetto
Enjoy flavours like Ferrero Rocher, Turkish Delight, salted caramel, peanut butter or good old fashioned strawberry.
✦ Nearest station: Ramsgate

Food and drink
#SEhiddengems
Cutting the mustard

Prefer the veggie option, or are you more of a carnivore? We’ve got the dining experience for you.

Best for veggies
Beano’s Vegetarian Café Bar
A family-run vegetarian café bar offering a delicious selection of breakfast, lunch and dinner, to eat in or take away. And there’s plenty of vegan options too.
◆ Nearest station:
Folkestone Central

The Veg Box Café
Making simple vegetarian and vegan food special is their passion, and it’s all done by using the best local, organic and fairtrade produce available. As well as delicious breakfasts and lunches, there’s an exceptional range of homemade cakes.
◆ Nearest station:
Canterbury East/Canterbury West

Singh’s
Singh’s is Kent’s first pure vegetarian Indian fusion restaurant serving a wide range of Indian and Western fusion dishes, Indian delicacies and savoury snacks.
◆ Nearest station:
Gravesend

Best for carnivores
Brettingtons Steak and Lobster
This is the place to be for meat and seafood lovers. With lobster and Wagu beef on the menu, it’s the perfect spot for a special occasion. The steaks are cooked on an enclosed charcoal fire grill meaning that the result has an amazing oaky taste.
◆ Nearest station:
Rochester

Buenos Aires Nights Steakhouse
With a true passion for steak, the steakhouse offers an authentic Argentinean cuisine cooked in the traditional way. They have an open kitchen, so you can watch your steak being sizzled.
◆ Nearest station:
Maidstone East/Maidstone West

Hawksmoor Borough
If you’re in London, why not visit the newly opened Hawksmoor at Borough. This award-winning brand serves simply superb steak and prides itself on perfect beef. And there’s not just one – Hawksmoor restaurants are open all over London.
◆ Nearest station:
London Bridge

Lee Woolcott-Ellis
On Board Manager, Ramsgate
"On a warm spring or summer’s day, I love to walk down to Ramsgate Harbour. Traditional fish & chips can be complemented by a cup of tea, an Italian espresso or perhaps something a little stronger!

“The Arch Bar is a favourite of mine, as is the authentic Italian Gelato ice cream and espresso at La Magnolia, with a view overlooking the entire harbour. The sights and sounds around the harbour transport me back to childhood visits to the seaside.”

Our pick

Food and drink

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The great outdoors

Net gain
Get out and about this summer and enjoy some of our favourite outdoor activities across our network – and there’s plenty to keep the young ones occupied too!

Dover Sea Safari
Have fun on a purpose-built speed boat and explore the white cliffs and beyond. Check out the two-hour Secret Seal Safari, where you can visit Pegwell Bay and see a seal colony.
◆ Nearest station:
Dover Priory

Go Ape
Leap off rope ladders, fly down zip wires and channel your inner Tarzan. And for your little ones, there is a Tree Top Junior Adventure. As long as they’re over a metre tall, you’re ready to go.
◆ Nearest station:
Bearsted (then shuttle bus)

Surf schools
Get on board and learn to surf at Kent Surf School. And for something completely different, why not try kitesurfing at the Kitesurfing School in Whitstable?
◆ Nearest station:
Broadstairs/Whitstable

Vertical Chill Wall
Be cool, get your climbing gear on and head to a wall made of ice in Covent Garden. Temperatures can get as low as -12°C, so wrap up warm. Beginners will receive tuition from fully qualified instructors.
◆ Nearest station:
Charing Cross

Our pick
NATHAN CHARLTON
AMENDED PLANNING SPECIALIST, HEAD OFFICE
“My colleague Alex and I recommend Crabble Stadium in Dover. “As an up and coming football club on the Southeastern network, many employees can be spotted down there on a match day. “Did you know that Crabble is the only stadium in the country where you enter the ground below the football pitch? It’s what I like to call my theatre of dreams.”
◆ Nearest station:
Dover Priory
Trailblazers

With trails, tours and ways to walk, there is enough to keep you active out on our network.

Canterbury Historic River Tour
Escape the busy city centre and discover Canterbury from the unique perspective of the River Stour. Guides provide an enjoyable historical commentary, which is perfect for visitors of all ages.
◆ Nearest station: Canterbury East/Canterbury West

North Downs Way
Enjoy some of the finest scenery in England and follow in the footsteps of pilgrims on an inspirational 153-mile journey from Farnham to Canterbury and the White Cliffs of Dover.
◆ Nearest station: Various – including Dover Priory, Wye and Bekesbourne

St Peter’s Village Tour
See the past of St Peter’s brought dramatically to life by costumed characters on this fun and informative guided walking tour. Entry is free, just make sure you book your place before you visit.
◆ Nearest station: Broadstairs

Viking Coastal Trail
On one of the most attractive circular cycle routes in Kent, take in the coastal Thanet towns of Margate, Broadstairs and Ramsgate. It features an array of popular attractions, including the Viking Ship ‘Hugin’ at Pegwell Bay.
◆ Nearest station: Various – including Birchington, Westgate-on-Sea, Ramsgate, Minster, Broadstairs and Margate

The Tudor Trail
Get on your bike and travel back to Tudor times with a trail from historic Tonbridge Castle to Penshurst Place. This six-mile ride is perfect for families.
◆ Nearest station: Tonbridge
A day out in Deptford

Tides of change
Explore Deptford Creek and take part in the public low tide walk on a Saturday or Sunday and you will see a different side of London. Advance booking is essential. You will get waders, a waterproof and a walking stick thrown in for the expedition.

Shop ‘til you drop
A trip to Deptford Market Yard is an essential part of your visit to the area. Based in 14 arches, it’s filled with local independent businesses, creative spaces and places to eat and drink. It also holds London’s first women only trainer store.

Dinner time
Feeling hungry? Stop for dinner at Buster Mantis. Found just off Deptford High Street underneath the platforms of Deptford station, it’s spread over two railway arches. One arch serves as a gallery and creative space while the other serves up the best Jamaican food and drink – the food menu changes every day, but there is always rum and local beers!

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Historical view
Why not take a trip back in time at St Nicholas Church? There has been a church on the site for more than 800 years and legend has it that the sculpted skulls that guard the gateposts were the inspiration for the famous skull and crossbones pirate flag. The church is also the final resting place of Elizabethan playwright Christopher Marlowe who was killed at a nearby tavern in 1593.

At the movies
Round off your perfect day out with a visit to Deptford Cinema. Built for the community, the volunteer-run cinema has a great programme of cult movies and interesting films as well as talks on all things silver-screen. There is something different every night, so check the cinema’s website before you head down.

Deptford chic
Take a trip out of central London and spend a day out in up and coming Deptford. Who knows, you might never want to leave?

Brunch
Start the day off right with a spot of brunch at the Dirty Apron. Based in Deptford Market, this independent café and restaurant has a seasonal modern British menu that changes every week. We fancy the lemon and poppy seed ricotta pancakes!

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Escape Kent
The exhilarating and fully immersive game has been carefully designed to give the players a real sense of urgency. Themes range from being kidnapped to stopping an alien invasion. You and your team have just one hour to complete a challenging and exciting mission. Can you escape?
◆ Nearest station: Canterbury East/Canterbury West

Margate Museum
Housed in the second oldest building in Margate, the museum tells the story of the town and its people through a huge range of displays from an Iron Age burial pit to one of Margate’s earliest ambulances. Open May to September on Bank Holiday Mondays, Wednesdays, Saturdays and Sundays.
◆ Nearest station: Margate

Yard of Ale
A quaint drinking hole in a 19th century stable, this micropub is a firm favourite among locals serving cask ales, ciders and wines. That’s not even mentioning the crisps, cheese and handmade pork pies!
◆ Nearest station: Broadstairs

The True Crime Museum
See the largest collection of crime memorabilia in the UK based in Hastings’ caves. Learn more about forensics, unsolved crimes, serial killers and more.
◆ Nearest station: Hastings

The Admiral’s Arm
A new micropub that serves ales, ciders and wine. Or if spirits are more your thing then take your pick from more than 15 varieties of gin.
◆ Nearest station: Queensborough

Grammar School Records
One of the UK’s leading independent record shops, it has more than 20,000 LPs in stock. An absolute treasure trove for the music lover – all located in an historical school building.
◆ Nearest station: Rye

Independence Day
Step off the beaten track and discover some of the best hidden gems on our network.
The Battle of Medway

This June marks the 350th anniversary of the Dutch Raid on the Medway and there is a lot going on around the area this summer to celebrate...

The Historic Dockyard
Chatham
8 June - 3 September
The dockyard offers unrivalled access to the ships that shaped the world, and the stories of the people who made them. And to celebrate the anniversary, there is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to see the Battle of Medway told through art, with Dutch and British contemporary art, literature, historic manuscripts and extraordinary objects from the Netherlands and Britain.

Upnor Castle – The Dutch Are Coming!
10/11 June
Travel back in time and experience historical events and activities telling the story of the Dutch raid. The castle itself played an important, but ultimately ineffective, part in the battle.

Medway In Flames – Chatham Maritime
17 June
This spectacular finale will depict the events leading up to the raid. Water screens, digital projections, characters from history, pyrotechnics and special effects will bring the Battle of Medway to life!

Did you know?
In June 1667, the Dutch fleet sailed up the Medway catching the English unprepared. This invasion brought the second Anglo-Dutch war to an end. The Dutch captured the fort at Sheerness before entering the Medway to attack the English fleet at Chatham where they broke through the defence chain and towed away England’s flagship, the Royal Charles, and burned several ships. Although the dockyard was spared, it was a humiliating defeat for the English.

GUILDHALL MUSEUM – ROCHESTER
6 May - 12 November
The museum presents a special exhibition of historic Dutch prints and maps alongside the plans of the fortifications built by the English to defend Sheerness and Chatham. Acclaimed artist Kevin Clarkson has painted a series of images of the battle that give a vivid recreation of the dramatic events.

Nearest station: Rochester

20 years since the release of JK Rowling’s novel Harry Potter and the Philosopher’s Stone
Explore Harry Potter movie locations in award-winning walking tour, Tour for Muggles.

Nearest station: London Bridge

400 years since the death of Pocahontas
Learn more about the life and times of Pocahontas and visit the site of her burial, St George’s, Gravesend.

Nearest station: Gravesend

100 years since the Russian Revolution
Visit a special exhibition at the British Library, Liberty and Revolution: Russia 1917 Revisited to learn more.

Nearest station: St Pancras International

200 years since the death of Jane Austen
Take the Jane Austen and Tonbridge A Circular Walk and follow in the footsteps of Jane.

Nearest station: Tonbridge

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4 other landmarks in 2017

The Battle of Medway

Guildhall Museum – Rochester
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Nearest station: Rochester
A bigger splash
Cool off this summer and pay a visit to one of our fabulous lakes, lidos and pools up and down the network.

**Brockwell Lido**
A much-loved local lido and one of London’s few remaining open air pools. Situated in an Art Deco Grade II listed building, there’s enough to keep everyone happy with a gym, health suite, hydrotherapy pool, café and even an indoor cycling studio.

- Nearest station: Herne Hill

**Serpentine Lido**
The lido, based in Hyde Park, has been a real escape for Londoners for more than 100 years. Open water swimming plus a paddling pool and café bar can be found at this little gem right in the heart of London.

- Nearest station: St Pancras International (then Tube to Knightsbridge)

**Faversham Pools**
You can swim in the outdoor (and indoor, if it’s a bit chilly!) pools from May until September. With a learner pool, jacuzzi, slide and heated fun pool with rapids, it is a place for all ages!

- Nearest station: Faversham

**Leybourne Lakes Watersports Centre**
A tranquil freshwater lake for water enthusiasts – from windsurfing to scuba diving, there is plenty to choose from, all with trained instructors in an idyllic setting, what’s not to like?

- Nearest station: New Hythe

**The Strand, Gillingham**
Open all year round, The Strand comes into its own in the summer, when the outdoor pools open. An outdoor leisure pool, six lanes for fitness swimming, a lazy river, slides and a children’s paddling pool, as well as other leisure activities, there’s plenty to do and see.

- Nearest station: Gillingham

**Walmer Paddling Pool**
Located on the seafront, the pool is a perfect place to take your little ones for a day at the seaside, with a paddling pool for children aged 10 and under. There is also a putting green, bouncy castle and outdoor games.

- Nearest station: Walmer
**Beach life**

Oh, do you like to be beside the seaside? Sandcastles, sunbathing and ice cream at the beach with all the family, who could ask for anything more?

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**Joss Bay**

One of Kent’s most popular surfing spots! This family-friendly sandy beach on the Thanet coast has plenty of amenities close to hand. Sheltered by steep chalk cliffs, it’s named after 18th century smuggler Joss Snelling.

- Nearest station: Broadstairs

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**Ramsgate Main Sands**

One of the top beaches in the UK and located right next to the marina and the Royal Harbour. There is plenty to do here, with jet-skiing and windsurfing to name a couple of activities to enjoy.

- Nearest station: Ramsgate

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**St Mildred’s Bay**

This sandy bay has a lovely promenade for runners and cyclists to enjoy the scenic views around the headlands. Next to the seaside town of Westgate, there is a café, pub and crazy golf!

- Nearest station: Westgate-on-Sea

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**Whitstable beach**

This typical English pebble beach continues to attract the crowds whatever the weather. There are also plenty of wonderful restaurants around the area, so try the oysters – that’s what Whitstable is famous for after all!

- Nearest station: Whitstable

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**West Bay**

Perfect for watching the sun go down on summer evenings. You can always find a spot for sunbathing and sandcastle building at this beautiful beach and the Beach within Reach charity can lend visitors an all-terrain wheelchair if needed.

- Nearest station: Westgate-on-Sea
Family days out

Visitor centre
There's loads to do up and down our network – so go for an exciting day out at one of our top choices.

Royal Museums Greenwich
Explore everything this UNESCO World Heritage Site has to offer, including the Royal Observatory, Cutty Sark, National Maritime Museum and Queen's House art gallery.
◆ Nearest station: Greenwich

Monkton Nature Reserve
Enjoy this 16-acre wildlife oasis reclaimed from a former chalk quarry. Home to the first artificial bat cave to be constructed in the UK, the reserve also boasts two observatories.
◆ Nearest station: Minster

V&A Museum of Childhood
Discover a world of toy collections and exhibits ranging in date from the 1600s to the present day. The museum runs temporary activities and events and admission is free for all the family.
◆ Nearest station: Stratford International (then Tube to Bethnal Green)

Tate Modern
Housed in the former Bankside Power Station, this stunning collection of international modern art spans from the 1900s to present day. See works by Picasso and Dali for free and check out the latest big installation in the Turbine Hall.
◆ Nearest station: Blackfriars

Wildwood Discovery Park
A visit to Kent's unique British wildlife park is a great day out for all the family. Featuring more than 200 species of native animals such as bison and bears, the park also has an amazing adventure playground so your little ones can go wild.
◆ Nearest station: Herne Bay
Family days out

Summer sun
Sometime for the young and the young at heart – summer doesn’t have to be about travelling abroad. It can be about enjoying the exciting things that are just on your doorstep.

Dreamland
Visitors of all ages can enjoy a seaside experience at what is considered the oldest-surviving amusement park in Great Britain. With retro-fitted rides and fairground games, Dreamland has made the old-fashioned popular. Now free to enter.
◆ Nearest station:
Margate

Kent Life
Explore a real working farm, where heritage and family fun sit side-by-side in 28-acre grounds. Children can enjoy indoor and outdoor play areas, Paint-a-Pot studios, tractor rides and much more.
◆ Nearest station:
Maidstone East/Maidstone West

Borough Market
Experience London’s most renowned food and drink market and sample the best in British and international produce. With plenty of passageways full of stalls and restaurants, it’s the perfect place to discover something new.
◆ Nearest station:
London Bridge

ZSL London Zoo
Visit the world’s oldest scientific zoo where you can meet the monkeys, step into the ‘Land of the Lions’ and experience London’s only living rainforest. And if you like creepy crawlies, be sure to check out ‘In with the Spiders’.
◆ Nearest station:
St Pancras International (then Tube to Regent’s Park or Camden Town)

Our pick
GAVIN SMITH,
AREA MANAGER,
LONDON CITY
“For me, the place for a great day out has got to be Sissinghurst Castle. It’s a National Trust property, with beautiful world-famous gardens and a great restaurant, all with stunning views across the Weald.”
◆ Nearest station:
Staplehurst (then the number 5 bus to Sissinghurst)

#SEhiddengems
Summer sun
Something for the young and the young at heart – summer doesn’t have to be about travelling abroad. It can be about enjoying the exciting things that are just on your doorstep.
Festival season

Fancy a festival? We’ve got a few of our favourites for you. Whether it’s food, music, comedy or something completely off the wall – get footloose and fancy free this summer!

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**Broadstairs Food Festival**
15 - 17 April, 29 September - 1 October
Packed with more than a hundred stalls of local food and drink, Broadstairs Food Festival has something for everyone. This well-loved fair brings together more than 50 food and drink producers from Kent.

*Nearest station: Broadstairs*

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**Salute to the 40s**
16/17 September
One of Britain’s best vintage festivals – you can experience the very best in 1940’s entertainers, singers and dancers at The Historic Dockyard Chatham.

*Nearest station: Chatham*

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**Broadsarts Dickens Festival**
17 - 23 June
Celebrating author Charles Dickens and his connection to Broadstairs, this week-long festival features plays, concerts, costumed characters and a Dickensian beach party!

*Nearest station: Broadstairs*

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**Sweeps Festival**
29 April - 1 May
The one time of year chimney sweeps can leave the soot behind and have some fun! Celebrate with this colourful mix of music, entertainment and Morris dancing.

*Nearest station: Rochester*

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**Ramblin’ Man Fair**
29/30 July
A must-see event for discerning festival goers, the Ramblin’ Man is a rock, blues and country music extravaganza. This year features an incredible line-up that boasts bearded music legends ZZ Top.

*Nearest station: Maidstone East/ Maidstone West*

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**Whitstable Oyster Festival**
22 - 24 July
With live music, stand-up comedy and the finest fresh fish you can eat, the world is your oyster at this annual event. A fabulous fun-filled festival for all the family.

*Nearest station: Whitstable*
Artistic soul
This summer, check out some of the great events taking place across our network.

Changeling Theatre Summer Tour
July and August
Founded in 1997, Changeling Theatre produces high quality entertaining theatre for communities across South East England. Offering outstanding theatre to local audiences, this year's production is Shakespeare’s Hamlet, performed at venues across Kent and beyond.

◆ Nearest stations:
Various – including Dover, Margate, Sevenoaks and Maidstone

Buddy: The Buddy Holly Story
13 - 17 June at The Marlowe
The world's most successful rock 'n' roll show is coming to a theatre in Canterbury. Experience the drama of Buddy Holly's meteoric rise to fame and his legendary final performance. Go and sing along to some of the greatest songs ever written, That'll Be The Day and Peggy Sue to name but a couple!

◆ Nearest station:
Canterbury East/Canterbury West

Margate Soul Weekend
4 - 6 August
One of Margate’s top events, the weekend attracts people from all over the world for a blend of classic soul, Motown and disco. Visitors can enjoy sounds across different outdoor stages and celebrate the world of soul. Check out the event's website to book tickets.

◆ Nearest station:
Margate

Folk Week Broadstairs
11 - 18 August
If you visit Broadstairs during Folk Week you will be in for a treat. The whole town gets involved and there something to suit everyone. You can tailor the week to suit your needs as there are day tickets, weekend tickets and more.

◆ Nearest station:
Broadstairs
Unlock smart paperless ticketing

1. Safe
Replace your lost Key card without any hassle.

2. Quick
Tap in and out, and avoid queuing for tickets.

3. Sturdy
Because it’s plastic, it’ll withstand wear and tear.

4. Rewarding
Register online for exclusive monthly offers.

southeasternrailway.co.uk/thekey