

Tourism Fast Facts

Over 3.3 million trips are made to the district of Lewes each year.

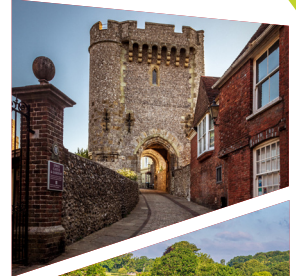
- Spend an average of £181 million during their visit to the area each year
- £101 million of this is spent by day visitors alone
- Biggest spend is £70 million on food & drink, around 38% of the total yearly spend
- Tourism is worth £221 million to the local business economy within the district annually
- The majority (57%) of overnight visitors stay with friends or relatives, and 27% of overnight visitors choose to stay in serviced accommodation.
- An estimated 3,926 'actual' jobs are supported, both for local residents and from those living nearby as a result of tourism to the area, 2,798 of which are full time equivalent jobs.
- 10.9% of the population are employed as a result of tourism in the district.

Bucking a national trend

- Despite an 8% decline in overseas overnight visitors to England and a 23% decline in the South East region, Lewes district actually saw an increase in these visitors by 16%.
- Length of overnight stay increased by 5%, amounting to 1.4 million bednights, this is compared to a 1% decline across England.

Culture & Heritage

- The Lewes District is home to three Arts Council National Portfolio Organisations Glyndebourne, Charleston, and Ditchling Museum of Art + Craft – leaders in their respective areas of arts and culture.
- Lewes is home of the largest and most spectacular Bonfire Night celebrations in the United Kingdom, with up to 80,000 people lining the streets to watch the many processions and festivities.
- Founded in 1081, Lewes Priory was once the most powerful and wealthy religious house in the South East. The site covered over 16 hectares and the remains of the buildings can be seen today, not just in Priory Park, but incorporated into other houses in the area.
- Anne of Cleves house is in Southover High Street, but as far as we know, she never set foot in the town. The building was part of her divorce settlement from Henry VIII.
- Lewes is sometimes called the “seat of British democracy”, following the Battle of Lewes in 1264 and the formation of the first parliament
- Lewes can also claim to have a hand in American Democracy, as revolutionary thinker and writer Tom Paine developed his theories here in the early 1770s, before heading to America to argue for independence and spark the Revolution.
- The Lewes District has also been home to writers Virginia Woolf, Daisy Ashford, John Evelyn and Eve Garnett, and artists Eric Gill, Vanessa & Clive Bell, Duncan Grant and the Bloomsbury Set. Mick Jagger was once incarcerated for a night at Lewes Prison!



Attractions

- Climb to the top of the 1000 year old Lewes Castle for panoramic views around Sussex.
- Learn about Tudor and Elizabethan life at the atmospheric, 15th century Anne of Cleves House.
- Voted as one of the top 10 independent cinemas in the UK, Lewes Depot is also blazing a trail in sustainable business. They offer a varied programme of independent and mainstream films, and great food and drink in the café-bar.
- The home of the Bloomsbury group in Sussex, Charleston is a historically and culturally important jewel in the District's crown. Featured on Lonely Planet's Ultimate United Kingdom Travel List.
- Visit Leonard and Virginia Woolf's 16th-century country retreat at the National Trust's Monk House in Rodmell, near Lewes.
- Newhaven Fort was built in the 1860s to defend the harbour, and now offers exhibitions, a shop, cafe and special events for all the family.
- Ditchling Museum of Art + Craft showcases the artists and craftspeople who made Ditchling a creative hub in the 20th century.
- Cited by Grayson Perry as his favourite museum, Seaford Museum is housed in a Martello Tower and exhibits a quirky collection of domestic items and local history artefacts.
- A world-class opera house in the heart of the District, Glyndebourne has produced critically acclaimed performances since 1934. Wear your best black tie or ball gown, and take a picnic.
- The District offers a range of activities for the more intrepid, including paragliding from Mount Caburn, sea swimming from Seaford Beach, boating at Barcombe and walking the South Downs Way. Visit one of our friendly Tourist Information Centres for more details.



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