



Port Lympne Reserve



Park Holidays



## Days to remember

Thanks to some of the warmest weather in the country, its winding coastline and stunning countryside, Kent is one of the best places in the UK for camping.

So it's no surprise that many campers return to the county year after year.

"Youngsters never forget a camping holiday: it's an adventure all by itself, and one which many parents are keen to re-create for their kids," says Tony Clish of Park Holidays that has sites across Kent.

According to Tony, the key to a fabulous camping holiday is a winning location, good facilities and having plenty to do.

"Most grown-up don't want to be too far away from their creature comforts – and then there's also the question of how to keep everyone entertained.

"In Kent you're often just an easy walk from the beach, and right on the doorstep of lovely countryside and many top visitor attractions.

"With so much going on, and the pleasure of camping under the stars surrounded by nature, it's almost a certainty that everyone will enjoy the best sleep of their lives!"

# Nights under

If 'roughing' it isn't for you, there's plenty of *upmarket alternatives* dotted across the county

## Kits Coty Glamping

Spend an exotic night under the stars in luxurious surroundings a stone's throw from some very ancient history. Just off Blue Bell Hill, the site has been up-and-running for about two years but has already picked up a Certificate of Excellence with TripAdvisor after numerous five-star reviews. The site has a vintage-themed shepherd's hut, Moroccan and Safari themed bell tents with a four-poster bed and a festival tent that sleeps six. There's also a shower block with underfloor heating and walk-in wet room showers.

Find Kits Coty Glamping at Collingwood Road, Kits Coty Estate, near Aylesford  
[kitscotyglamping.co.uk](http://kitscotyglamping.co.uk)

## Leeds Castle

Knights stand guard over the happy glampers at Leeds Castle. The award-winning site, which is in a quiet area beyond the maze on the 500-acre site, is the height of luxury in camping terms. Each tent has a four-poster bed and a wood-burning stove, plus chairs to sit out and



Kits Coty glamping

# canvas

take in the landscaped grounds. There are snug fluffy throws and, for lazy summer evenings, there's a barbecuing area. There are also shower facilities, and access to a kitchen. Glampers also get access to the other attractions at Leeds, so you can meander around the maze, watch a falconry display or explore the parkland and gardens as part of your stay.

Leeds Castle is near Maidstone  
[leeds-castle.com](http://leeds-castle.com)

## Port Lympne Reserve

Spend a wild night feeling like you're on safari at Port Lympne Reserve, as you sleep (almost) among the animals. Within a whisker of wolves and tigers on the site, near Hythe, is a stylish shepherd's hut as well as camping pods to make you feel like you're really at one with nature. Luxurious family glamping is also on offer at Bear Lodge on the reserve from one to four nights.

Port Lympne Reserve just off Junction 11 of the M20 between Ashford and Hythe  
[aspinallfoundation.org](http://aspinallfoundation.org)

## Check out... these Kent campsites

### 1 Badgells Wood Camping, Meopham

Get back to nature at this woodland camping site where climbing trees and toasting marshmallows is all part of the fun. There's even bushcraft courses on offer every weekend. If you like your creature comforts, there's hot showers and a local farm shop. A recent TripAdvisor review described it as "a beautiful site set in a vast woodland and all the pitches are set in their own clearings within the trees." Badgells was even voted one of Britain's 25 Coolest Campsites by the Daily Telegraph. Prices start from £6.50 per person  
[www.badgellswoodcamping.co.uk](http://www.badgellswoodcamping.co.uk)

### 2 Birchington Vale

Facilities at Birchington Vale are second to none. There's a pool, clubhouse, diner and family bar all set on the 100-acre park. Nearby are attractions to keep the whole family entertained including Howletts Wild Animal Park and the state-of-the-art Turner Contemporary. Birchington Vale is just one of four parks in Kent run by Park Holidays, and director Tony Clish said: "You can enjoy a fantastic outdoor experience in well cared-for surroundings, and be just a short stroll away from all our facilities. That means if you want a freshly made latte, a cooked breakfast or any other meal, it's all available at family-friendly prices in our cafes and bars. There's also superb all-weather leisure facilities such as swimming pools, as well as kids activities from morning until evening, plus first-class night-time entertainment." Prices start from £7 a night  
[www.parkholidays.com](http://www.parkholidays.com)

### 3 Hop Farm, Paddock Wood

Slap bang next door to the Hop Farm Family Park, one of Kent's most popular attractions, the site is set on 500 acres of woodland and open fields. If



Picture: NTPU/John Miller

you fancy fishing or kayaking, you're in luck - the River Medway runs through the park. Facilities include toilets, showers and washrooms with electric points. There's also a family pub just a few hundred yards away. Prices start from £20.50 a night  
[www.thehopfarm.co.uk/stay](http://www.thehopfarm.co.uk/stay)

### 4 New Beach Holiday Park, Dymchurch

Family fun is what it's all about at this site that's just short hop from Dymchurch's sandy beaches on the south Kent coast. The site is packed with things to do from a pool and sauna to an amusement centre. There's also a kids' club and nature trail as well as a clubhouse with Sky TV and free Wi-fi. Nearby there's also a range of attractions including Port Lympne Reserve and a purposely built stretch of water at Lydd that's perfect for sports such as waterskiing. Prices start from £5 a night  
[www.newbeachholidaypark.co.uk/touring](http://www.newbeachholidaypark.co.uk/touring)

### 5 Sutton Vale Country Park, Dover

Covering six miles of Kent countryside, Sutton Vale is an ideal destination for families however old the kids. Campers can use the site's heated pool, clubhouse and free Wi-fi. What's more there's weekend entertainment during school holidays. If you want to get out and about during your stay, a short drive will take you into the coastal towns of Sandwich and Deal. Prices start from £17.50 a night  
[www.sutton-vale.co.uk](http://www.sutton-vale.co.uk)