



Group Visits Guide

“Offering 28 acres of rich and vibrant Kent history”

Discover Kent Life

Set in 28 acres of distinctive Kent countryside, Kent Life offers a stunning historical record of rural life in the Garden of England. Step back in time as you explore our collection of historic buildings saved from demolition and carefully reassembled at Kent Life - and meet the colourful characters that lived and worked here.

Stroll through our beautiful gardens; discover what herbs you would find in a traditional farm kitchen garden, explore the last hand picked hop garden in the country, and see the only coal fired oast house in Britain. Ramble along the wildlife discovery trail or just take time to explore the orchard.

Your group will be met at their coach for a personal welcome, and given an overview of the Kent Life experience. To further enhance the visit, why not consider a speciality guided tour, a workshop or demonstration. You can even take a relaxing boat trip along the River Medway.

Refresh the senses and relax in the refurbished Dotty's Tea Room – treat yourself to a homemade cake amidst the wonderful 1950s themed surroundings. Special menus and discounts are available for pre-booked groups.

Help us to celebrate the Seasons and join us for one of our many special events. From the new arrival lambs at Easter, through to the 1950s Street Party celebrations for the Diamond Jubilee. September will see the 26th Annual Hops “n” Harvest Festival – your opportunity to try our own “Cobtree Ale” – made using Kent Life hops (which you are encouraged to help us pick by hand). Open throughout the Winter, marvel at our Bonfire and Firework Spectacular or step back to the 1940s with “Christmas on the Home Front”.

For our younger visitors - there's so much for children to do – burn off energy in the indoor soft play, outdoor adventure playground or try the motorised quad bikes. Be creative in the paint-a-pot studio and meet the animals in the farmyard.

We look forward to sharing our slice of Kent with you.

Benefits & Prices

Your group will receive: -

- Discounted admission prices
- Free all day coach parking
- Free admission for the coach driver & group leader
- Welcome & introduction
- Free familiarisation visit for the group organiser
- Guided tours, workshops & demonstrations (additional fee)
- Free transportation around Kent Life for visitors with disabilities

2012 Group Admission Rates

We value our group visitors, and as a special thank you – there will be no price increase to our 2011 rates!

Adults £6.35

Concessions £5.35

Children (aged 3-15) £4.50

UK Schools £4.25

Group rates valid for a minimum of 15 paying visitors. You are welcome to spend as long as you like at Kent Life – we are happy for you to spend all day if you wish.

Make it special

There are a number of special activities we can offer your group to enhance your visit to Kent Life.

Guided Tour

Our very knowledgeable “Friends of Kent Life” provide informative and interesting tours - choose from:

- General site tour
- The Kentish Hop Industry (seasonal)
- Garden themed
- Victorian themed
- WWII themed

Tours are charged at £35.00 (maximum 30 people)

Kent Life, Lock Lane, Sandling, Maidstone, Kent, ME14 3AU

www.kentlife.org.uk

Bookings & Information: T: +44 (0) 1622 763936 E: groups@kentlife.org.uk

Demonstrations & Workshops

Blacksmith – Our resident Blacksmith will demonstrate traditional blacksmithing in our onsite Forge.
£2.00 per person

Beekeeping – The beekeeper will talk about the ancient art of beekeeping and demonstrate the process from bees in the hive to the honey pot on the breakfast tables.
£2.00 per person

Composting – Want to do your bit for the environment? Kent Life gardener Debs Reason will teach you where to start and how to prevent any problems. Before long, your flowers will benefit from your own “black gold”.
£2.00 per person

Victorian Workshops – choose from:

- Victorian Schoolroom
- Victorian Dairymaid
- Victorian Scullery
- How We Kept Ourselves Clean

£110.00 per workshop (maximum 30 people)

Messing about on the River

You could complete your visit with a trip on the River Medway - Kent Life is proud to be one of the few heritage attractions where visitors can arrive by boat!

We can book journeys to and from Maidstone on your behalf, prices for adults from £3.00 (one-way, £5.00 return).

Refreshing the Senses

Our showcase function room available for groups is the Wagon Store - with wooden floors and hop strung beams, this beautiful rural building brings a touch of Kentish tradition to any lunch or afternoon tea. Our Vintage Village Hall may also be used – ideal for coffee on arrival.

Alternatively, members of your group may wish to arrange their own refreshments. Dotty’s Tea Room offers a variety of hot and cold lunches or the more traditional cream tea. In fair weather, you are welcome to use the Garden terrace and soak up the fabulous atmosphere.

Kent Life are happy to discuss and provide a variety of catering options, our suggestions are given overleaf.

Mouth-watering Menus

Your group will be given exclusive use of one of our fabulous venues for your catering requirements.

Tea, Coffee & biscuits: £1.95

Tea, Coffee & Home made cakes: £2.55

Breakfast Baps: £3.95

Kentish Corker Sausages in a bap with Sweet Onion Chutney

Tea/coffee

Also available as a lunch option.

2 course Light Lunch: £7.50

Oastman's Platter – Ham, Cheese, Roll, Salad and Chutney

Fresh Fruit & Home made cakes

Tea/Coffee

2 course Hot Lunch: £9.50

Jacket Potato with your choice of 2 fillings (Cheese, Beans, Coleslaw, Tuna Mayo, Coronation Chicken) served with Salad

Warm Apple Pie & Cream

Tea/Coffee

Soup & Sandwich: £4.95

Please ask for seasonal soup choice & sandwich selection

Cream Tea: £3.75

Scone, Butter & Jam with your choice of Tea or Coffee

Afternoon Tea: £6.75 / £9.75 including Sparkling Wine!

Finger sandwiches, scone, cakes and a selection of tea.

Treat yourself and add a glass of bubbly!

The Necessary Stuff

Coach Driver/Operator

All coach drivers receive complimentary tea/coffee, and a voucher worth £4.00 to spend in our catering outlets (No change can be given).

Access

We can arrange tractor transportation around the site for visitors with disabilities. Most buildings have wheelchair access, with the exception of the first floors of the historic buildings. Fully accessible toilets are available at four locations around the site. We have three wheelchairs available to hire completely free of charge, these wheelchairs can be reserved in advance by calling 01622 621247.

Booking

All bookings should be made by completing the Booking Form and returning it to *Kent Life, Lock Lane, Sandling, Maidstone, Kent, ME14 3AU* – or email to groups@kentlife.org.uk. Once your booking has been made you will be sent your booking details, which remain provisional until full payment is received at least 10 days prior to the visit date.

Cancellations

Cancellations must be received at least 10 days prior to your visit. In the event of a late cancellation, Kent Life reserves the right to charge a late cancellation fee.

Catering

Group catering should be pre-ordered at least 10 days in advance of your visit. For more details on what we can offer please email groups@kentlife.org.uk.

Confirmations

All bookings must be confirmed at least 10 days prior to the arrival date by full pre-payment. Failure to do so will result in your booking being released. Bookings made within this 10 day period should be confirmed immediately by full payment. Please make cheques payable to “Continuum (Kent Life) Ltd”, or we can accept credit/debit cards. Unfortunately, we do not accept American Express/Diners.

Parking

There is ample FREE coach parking onsite at Kent Life. Disabled parking spaces are available if required.