

KENTS CAVERN

PREHISTORIC CAVES

UNESCO GLOBAL GEOPARK



GROUP VISITS 2017 AND 2018

GROUPS AT KENTS CAVERN

Kents Cavern is a stunning natural cave situated on the coastline, in Torquay; South Devon's beautiful seaside town. The cave is one of the most important Stone Age sites in Britain and Europe; its history goes back over 400 million years! On your visit, journey through time to when the cave was used by Neanderthals, ancient humans and Ice Age animals.

Kents Cavern, now an awarding-winning attraction, has a large visitor centre, with a cafe and gift shop. We specialise in group visits and our enthusiastic tour guides are trained to work with large groups. Kents Cavern is Britain's most accessible cave and the tour gives an incredible insight into Stone Age life, an opportunity to see naturally formed chambers, stunning geological formations and to walk through an underground world once home to Britain's oldest humans.

Group Prices 2017/2018

We're able to offer a competitive rate for groups at **£8 per person** (20% off normal price).

- Private tours for groups over 20 (specialised subject tours available on request).
- We can accommodate groups all day, everyday, all year round.
- Coach parking available.

Cave and Food Packages

Why not combine your visit with one of our cave tour and food package deals? Food and drink is served in our on-site restaurant overlooking the beautiful Ilisham Valley. Want something a little more bespoke? We can also offer food and drink tasting underground!

- **Caves and Traditional Devon Cream Tea** - two homemade scones served with clotted cream, strawberry jam and tea/coffee - **add £4 per person.**
- **Caves and Homemade Soup** - homemade seasonal soup served with a roll & butter - **add £4 per person.**
- **Caves and Traditional Pint and Pasty** - traditional Devon pasty served with local chutney, ale/cider (vegetarian options & soft drinks available) - **add £6 per person.**
- **Caves, Tea & Coffee with Cake** - hot drinks with cake - **add £4 per person.**



PLAN YOUR VISIT

Guided Tours

Our enthusiastic tour guides, take you on an underground journey through Kents Cavern's history spanning over 385 million years.

Open All Year

The tour of the cave lasts around one hour. Kents Cavern is open everyday except Christmas Day and we can accommodate groups all day, all year. Prices in this brochure include VAT at 20%.

There's lots to see and do here. A visit to our shop and cafe, why not head on a coastal walk around the English Riviera UNESCO Global Geopark (Geopark tour guides available on request - see back cover).

Parking

There is coach parking available at Kents Cavern. Let our team know when you will be arriving and we'll be happy to reserve a space for you.

Facilities

Our visitor centre has lots of facilities to make your visit more enjoyable. Head to the cafe to try a traditional Devon cream tea - it seats over 100 people! We've also got an on-site shop with a wide range of products from Stone Age jewellery, books, collectables, souvenirs, toys and educational items. There are plenty of toilets located either side of the visitor centre.



Accessibility

Kents Cavern is one of the most accessible showcaves in Britain. It's a relatively easy walk with concrete paths, only 9 shallow steps and best of all, no stooping!



TASTE SOUTH DEVON

Working with some award winning Westcountry suppliers we offer some bespoke food and drink packages. Finish the tour of the cave in style and experience some of the best the English Riviera has to offer.

Ale Underground - sample a selection of Bays finest ales (brewed just down the road), freshly baked rolls, local chutney and Sharphams tasty cheeses - prices start from **£14 per person**.

Cavern Wine and Cheese Tasting - enjoy Sharphams wine produced in a vineyard just 15 miles from Kents Cavern. Served with Sharphams award winning cheese; where better than to enjoy underground! - prices start from **£16 per person**.

Champagne by Candlelight - experience something truly special! Enjoy champagne and canapes underground by candlelight - prices start from **£20 per person**.

FIND OUT MORE...

Bays Brewery

An award winning brewery, based in Torbay, South Devon, Bays is one of the top suppliers in South Devon. Their award winning ales and ciders have been keeping the locals going since 2007.

Sharphams Vineyard

Specialising in traditional English wines and cheeses, Sharphams is home to a beautiful Devonian vineyard and produces incredible cheeses.

Top tip!

Did you know Bays Brewery offer guided tours! Check out page 6 for a combined visit, don't worry we'll arrange it for you.



CAVES AND STEAM TRAINS

Heritage Day: Caves & Trains!

Take a trip along the historic South Devon Railway and journey across seven miles of a stunning valley following the River Dart; taking in unspoilt Devon countryside. Continue on to Kents Cavern for a guided tour with one of our entertaining tour guides and learn about the cave's incredible past of archaeological excavations and geological formations, all in an underground world.

Suggested Itinerary

- **10.00am** - Arrive at Buckfastleigh Station (coach parking available)
- **10.45am** - Catch the first train of the day! (timings subject to availability) Ride to Totnes (optional stop at Staverton along the way)
- **11.15am** - Depart train at Totnes
- **11.30am** - Explore Totnes (why not stop for coffee at China Blue, we recommend you pre-book)
- **13.00pm** - Return to train for return journey to Buckfastleigh
- **13.30pm** - Depart train and head back onto coach to depart for Kents Cavern
- **14.30pm** - Arrive at Kents Cavern
- **14.45pm** - Begin a private tour of Kents Cavern
- **15.45pm** - Exit cave (why not stop for a traditional Devon cream tea!)
- **16.30pm** - Depart Kents Cavern

Prices

- Caves and Train (single) - **from £14 per person.**
- Caves and Train (return) - **from £18 per person.**

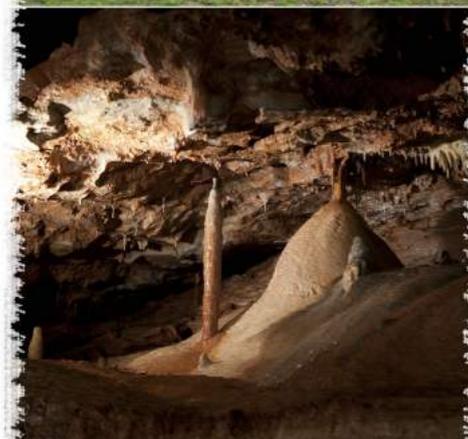
Food Deals

Why not add some fantastic food packages onto your day trip at a great price! We recommend;

- **Train and Cream Tea or Caves and Cream Tea** - add **£4.00 per person.**
- **Caves, Pint & Pasty** - add **£6.00 per person.**

Top tip!

Closer to Torquay? Why not start your day off with a trip to Kents Cavern followed by a steam train ride. We'll organise it for you!



CAVES AND AGATHA CHRISTIE

History Trail - Kents Cavern & Greenway House

On this trip, journey back in time and visit Greenway House, the beautiful summer home of Agatha Christie. See the family's collections all set in a beautiful Georgian home. Visit Kents Cavern for a guided tour of the cave (inspiration for Agatha's Hampsley Cavern, in the novel *The Man in the Brown Suit*). Learn about the incredible history of excavations during the Victorian Period and the thousands of Ice Age artefacts carefully removed from the cave, including evidence of three different species of human!

Suggested Itinerary

- **10.00am** - Arrive Kents Cavern
- **10.15am** - Begin cave tour
- **11.15am** - Exit cave
- **11.45am** - Cream tea in the Cafe and depart Kents Cavern
- **13.00pm** - Arrive Greenway House (coach parking available)
- **13.15pm** - Stop for lunch (we recommend Greenway's Barn Cafe)
- **14.00pm** - Explore Greenway House and Gardens!
- **16.00pm** - Prepare to depart

Prices

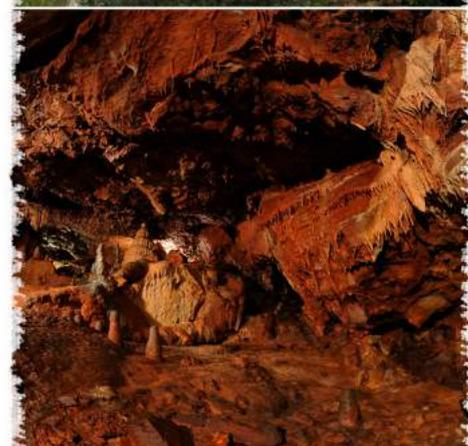
Kents Cavern and Greenway House - **£16 per person.**

Food Deals

- **Caves and Cream Tea** - served with tea and coffee - **add £4 per person.**
- **Ale Underground** - local ales, cheese and chutney served in the cave - **add £6 per person.**
- **Cavern Wine Tasting** - Truly bespoke! Sample local Sharphams wine underground - **add £8 per person.**

Top tip!

Visit Greenway House via Dartmouth, get the ferry across the river Dart to begin your trip - we'll arrange it for you.



CAVES AND BREWERY TOUR

Caves and Ales - Kents Cavern & Bays Brewery

A trip for all things Devonian! Begin your day with a leisurely heritage tour of Kents Cavern followed by a tour of Torbay's local brewery. Go back in time and learn about the history of Kents Cavern and Torbay on a cave tour. Discover underground chambers and a history that goes back over 385 million years. Continue to Bays Brewery, and embark on a tour of the brewery with one of their master brewers. Learn the process to make the perfect pint! Here's the best bit - you'll get to sample some too.

Suggested Itinerary

- **10.00am** - Arrive at Kents Cavern (coach parking available)
- **10.15am** - Begin private guided tour of the cave!
- **11.15am** - Exit cave
- **11.30am** - Have lunch overlooking the Ilsham Valley
- **12.15pm** - Depart Kents Cavern
- **12.45pm** - Arrive Bays Brewery
- **13.00pm** - Begin brewery tour (guide supplied)
- **14.30pm** - Finish guided tour
- **15.00pm** - Return to coach to depart.

Prices

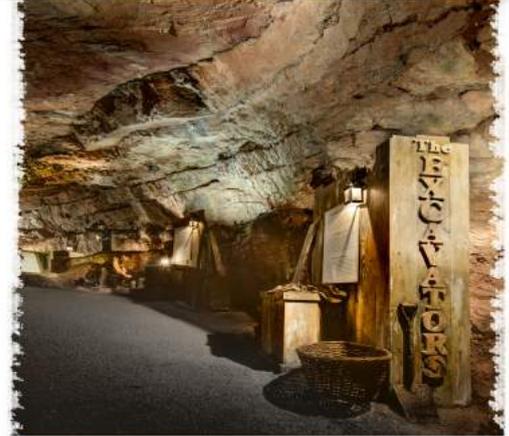
Kents Cavern and Brewery Tour - **£20 per person.**

Food deals

- **Caves and traditional Devonian cream tea** - a must whilst in Devon! Served with tea or a filter coffee - **add £4.00 per person.**
- **Caves, Pint & Pasty** - add a traditional Devon pasty with an ale or cider (vegetarian options and soft drinks available) - **add £6.00 per person.**

Top tip!

Grab a traditional lunch at Kents Cavern. Try a Devon pasty with a Bays' ale (you'll get to try more ales later!)



KENTS CAVERN AND TORRE ABBEY

Torquay Through the Ages - Kents Cavern & Torre Abbey

The history of Torbay stretches back to the Stone Age, when Prehistoric humans were occupying Kents Cavern. On this trip learn about Torbay's history through the ages, visit Kents Cavern, Britain's oldest home and learn more about Torquay during the Ice Age. Inspiring local life since 1196, Torre Abbey is a great museum of history and art which conveys the past, present and culture in a contemporary way. Learn about Medieval monks, the prisoners of the Spanish Armada and The Cary family who made the Abbey their home.

Suggested Itinerary

- **10.00am** - Arrive at Torre Abbey (coach parking available)
- **10.15am** - Begin Abbey Tour (guide supplied)
- **11.15am** - Finish Abbey Tour - wander the rest of the Abbey at your own leisure, make sure you explore the Gardens!
- **12.15am** - Depart Torre Abbey
- **12.30am** - Arrive at Kents Cavern
- **12.45pm** - Stop for lunch - we've got some fantastic food deals!
- **13.45pm** - Begin cave tour with one of our entertaining tour guides!
- **14.45pm** - Exit cave

Prices

Kents Cavern and Torre Abbey Tour - **£14.50 per person.**

Food Deals

- **Caves and Homemade Soup** - add a homemade soup and roll (optional sandwich selection) - **add £4.00 per person.**
- **Caves, Pint & Pasty** - add a traditional Devon pasty with a local ale or cider! (vegetarian options and soft drinks available) - **add £6 per person.**
- **Ale Underground** - (a selection of the Westcountry's best food and drink; served underground!) - **add £6 per person.**

Top tip

Don't worry about long travelling times - these venues are only 2 miles apart!



KENTS CAVERN AND NATIONAL TRUST

History Trail - Kents Cavern & Coleton Fishacre

Spend the day on the trail of history by visiting Coleton Fishacre National Trust house and Kents Cavern Prehistoric Caves. Visit the home of The D'Oyly Carte family in this exceptional art deco country home. Step back in time to the 1920s jazz era! Make the most of your day by visiting Kents Cavern to delve into the historical past of the cave system. Enjoy a guided tour and learn about the caves Ice Age past.

Suggested Itinerary

- **10.00am** - Arrive Kents Cavern
- **10.15am** - Begin cave tour
- **11.15am** - Exit cave
- **11.30am** - Stop for morning coffee (great deals available!)
- **12.15am** - Depart Kents Cavern
- **13.00am** - Stop for lunch (we recommend Coleton's award winning cafe!)
- **13.45pm** - Explore Coleton Fishacre and Gardens
- **15.45pm** - Depart Coleton

Prices

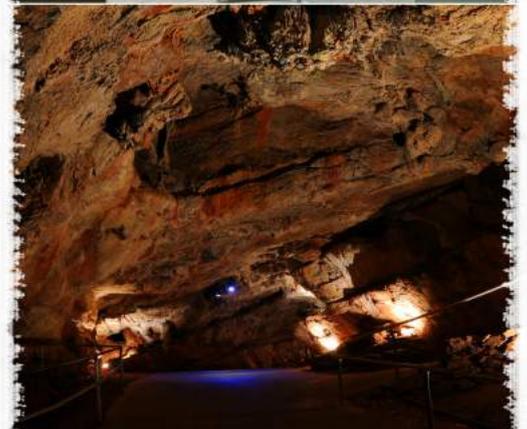
Kents Cavern and Coleton Fishacre - **£16 per person.**

Food Deals

- **Caves and Morning Coffee** - add **£4 per person.**
- **Caves, Pint & Pasty** - add a traditional Devon pasty and a local ale or cider (non alcoholic and vegetarian options available) - **add £6 per person.**
- **Cavern Wine Tasting** - finish your tour in style with local wine tasting underground - **add £8 per person.**

Top tip!

Coleton Fishacre is only 20 minutes from Greenway House, why not combine the two!



CAVES AND TORQUAY MUSEUM

Behind the Scenes Tour - Kents Cavern & Torquay Museum

On this trip, learn more about Kents Cavern's Stone Age secrets and the life of Prehistoric man. Once home to Britain's oldest humans, Kents Cavern has had an incredible history of archaeological investigations led by Victorian excavators. Move on to Torquay Museum for an exclusive behind the scenes tour with one of their experts. Handle 250,000 year old hand axes, woolly rhino teeth and loads more! Progress to the Ancestors Gallery to see the 41,000 year old Kents Cavern human jawbone, the oldest human fossil in North West Europe. Explore the rest of the museum at your leisure!

Suggested Itinerary

- 10.00am - Arrive at Kents Cavern (coach parking available)
- 10.15am - Begin private guided tour of the cave!
- 11.15am - Exit cave
- 11.30am - Grab a coffee in our restaurant
- 12.15pm - Depart Kents Cavern
- 12.30pm - Arrive Torquay Museum (why not stop for lunch in the museum cafe)
- 12.45pm - Begin museum tour (guide supplied)
- 14.15pm - Finish guided tour and explore the rest of the museum
- 15.00pm - Return to coach to depart

Prices

Kents Cavern and Torquay Museum Tour - £13 per person.

Food Deals

- Caves and traditional Devon cream tea - add £4.00 per person.
- Caves, Tea & Coffee with Cake - add £4.00 per person.
- Caves and Ale Underground (a selection of Westcountry's best food and drink; served underground!) - add £6 per person.

Top tip!

Why not stop for lunch in either the Kents Cavern restaurant or the museum cafe!



MESSAGE FROM **NICK POWE**, 5TH GENERATION OWNER OF THE CAVERN



... a place that has been entertaining humankind for over 500,000 years.

Torquay's Kents Cavern is by far the most important prehistoric cave site in Britain with a story of human activity going back over 500,000 years. Neanderthals used the caves and one of Europe's oldest human bones comes from here, a 41,000 year old jawbone. This is why we say Kents Cavern is Britain's Oldest Home.

Artefacts found in the caverns reveal a human adventure that continued into the Bronze Age and Iron Age, through the period of Roman occupation to the time of Henry VIII, when an inscription, dated 1571, was left on the cavern wall.

It was my great-great-grandfather and a team of Victorian explorers who, in 1865, began to reveal the remarkable prehistoric story of Kents Cavern. Today Kents Cavern is a nationally protected site.

The cave is an information centre for the English Riviera UNESCO Global Geopark, an international designation that recognises the quality of Kents Cavern's outstanding geological and cultural heritage and Torbay's natural and marine environment.

We operate guided tours of the cavern all year round, 7 days a week, except on Christmas Day, although if you wanted to come then, we'd open up for you!

In this brochure you will find 12 difference ways to enjoy a visit to Kents Cavern. These include "Taste of South Devon" and "Combination Day Trips" experiences which my staff will manage for you.

Throughout the year lots goes on here; ghost tours in summer, Carols and Santa in the Caves at Christmas time in December and Shakespeare Underground in November. This is my favourite special event when a London based professional theatre company puts on a classic Shakespeare play set entirely underground. There are no seats. The actors perform all around you and lead you through the caves.

We look forward to welcoming your group to Kents Cavern. I am always willing to lead personalised guided tours around the caves, and I can do this in English or French. This is unique and not something we offer to the general public.

I can promise you a great and friendly welcome. Don't take my word for it, have a look at our Trip Advisor reviews. Our guided tours are entertaining, humorous but above all, they reveal the remarkable story of Kents Cavern, a place that has entertained humankind for over 500,000 years....it must surely be time for your group to visit.

Nick Powe
Proprietor

BOOKING

All tours around the cave are guided and pre-booking is essential. Contact us either by phone or by email and one of the bookings team will be happy to help.

We're open to groups all year round! We will work with you to tailor your visit to your groups needs, whether it's a cave tour, hospitality package or combination day trip.

Hire a guide!

Take the stress out of your group visit and hire one of our entertaining tour guides whilst you're visiting the area. They specialise in local knowledge and can take you to some of The English Riviera's hidden gems - from £100 per group.

Find us

Kents Cavern is located in Wellswood, a suburb of Torquay, around one mile from the harbourside. Once in Torquay follow the brown tourist signs to Kents Cavern or use TQ1 2JF, Ilsham Road for your Sat Nav.

Address

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Email

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Website

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