



DARTFORD

Located on the border of Kent, London and Essex, Dartford is one of the most exciting and dynamic towns in the county.

Shopaholics will find plenty to occupy themselves with in Dartford which lies within easy reach of Bluewater Shopping Centre, home to major brands and a fantastic food and drink offer. In Dartford itself you can find many local gems, including regular markets on Thursdays and Saturdays and Farmers Markets on the third Friday of every month.

The Orchard Theatre, located in the town centre, is a cultural hub providing audiences with a large range of drama, dance, music and entertainment. The Mick Jagger Centre on Shepherd's Lane is also an excellent facility for community arts. Art and history lovers will enjoy a trip to Dartford Library, which is also home to Dartford Borough Museum and the Sir Peter Blake Gallery, an exhibition space for emerging and established artists.

Dartford town lies at the point where the River Darent joins the Thames. From here you can follow the Darent Valley Path south to the river's source in the Greensand Hills, offering excellent walking opportunities and beautiful views. There are plentiful green spaces around the town, including Central Park, a lovely formal park in the town centre with a children's play area and flower gardens. Darenth Country Park and Beacon Wood Country Park offer an escape to nature and beautiful woodland walks.



	Signed on-road cycle route
	Surfaced – Traffic-free, Bridleways, Restricted Byways and Byways Open to All Traffic
	Pedestrianised roads
	Footpath
	Promoted walking route *
* For more information visit explorekent.org	
	School Named and numbered
	Place of interest Named and numbered
	Bus stop
	Hospital
	Railway with station
	Toucan crossing
	Pelican / Puffin crossing
	Bike shop
	Library
	Electric vehicle charging point
	National Cycle Network route number
	Cycle parking

PLACES OF INTEREST

- 1 The Orchard Theatre
- 2 Central Park Gardens
- 3 Brooklands Lake
- 4 Darenth Country Park
- 5 Beacon Wood Country Park
- 6 Bluewater Shopping Centre
- 7 Dartford Borough Museum / Dartford Library
- 8 Dartford Open Air Theatre
- 9 Hesketh Park
- 10 The Manor Gatehouse
- 11 Stone Recreation Ground
- 12 The Enchanted Woodland
- 13 Fairfield Leisure Centre
- 14 Princes Park
- 15 Stone Lodge Bowls and Social Club
- 16 Swanscombe Heritage Park
- 17 The Bridge Sculpture Trail
- 18 Holy Trinity Church
- 19 Dartford Heath
- 20 Crossing Offices

WALKING ROUTES

DARENT VALLEY PATH

This 19-mile waymarked path is one of Kent's greatest hidden treasures, with fine walking opportunities for all the family. It meanders from the banks of the busy River Thames at Dartford through the Kent Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, to the Greensand Hills above Sevenoaks. Walks range from gentle strolls between historic inns, to bracing climbs to the top of the Downs with panoramic views across the valley. Not all these paths are wheelchair/pushchair accessible and discretion is advised.

BEACON WOOD WALK

A gently rolling 1.25-mile walk, with a shorter option of 0.6 miles. The paths are well-compacted with occasional stones, making it ideal for young families to explore. Enjoy a stroll through scenic woodland with fantastic views of the wildlife pond and across the surrounding countryside.

To find detailed guides for these routes visit ExploreKent.org



CYCLE ROUTES



NATIONAL CYCLE ROUTE 1

Route 1 is an adventurous National Cycle Route connecting Dover in South Kent to the Shetland Islands northeast of Scotland. From Dartford you can follow the route east through Gravesend, where you can either continue onwards to the historic cathedral city of Canterbury and the coastal towns of Deal and Dover, or you can pick up Route 177 and visit Cyclopark, a fantastic cycling facility. Alternatively, follow Route 1 west from Dartford to head into London.

NATIONAL CYCLE ROUTE 125

Route 125 is a 3.6-mile route connecting Brooklands Lake to the bank of the River Thames via Dartford town centre and Central Park. This attractive path is traffic-free and well-surfaced making it ideal for walkers and cyclists of all abilities.



Download the Kent Connected mobile app or go to kentconnected.org to help plan your journey. View local cycling and walking routes, bus and train times and all other information on travelling in Kent.

GETTING AROUND

Dartford is less than an hour by train from multiple London mainline stations and only 15 minutes from Gravesend, where you can hop on a high-speed train to London St Pancras or Ashford International. Dartford is also well-connected to the Medway towns.

Frequent local services to nearby towns and Bluewater are run by Arriva Bus Services and Fastrack buses provide fast and frequent services at 10-minute intervals between Dartford Town Centre, Bluewater, Darent Valley Hospital, Ebbsfleet Station and Gravesend Town Centre.

Ask at the Crossing Offices for a pick-up vehicle to transport you and your cycle across the Dartford Crossing. This service is free. You cannot cycle over the bridge or through the tunnel.

With two National Cycle Routes passing through the centre of Dartford, there is no better way to travel around the town. There are walking and cycling waymarkers around the town centre to help you find your way around. Take a look at the map to see how far you could cycle in only 15 minutes.

Walking and cycling aren't just rewarding and fun ways to get around; leaving the car at home for some trips will save you money and reduce emissions. It also allows you to be active as part of your daily routine, helping you to stay fit and healthy.



THINGS TO DO

The Manor Gatehouse sits on a site chosen by Henry VIII and was once the home of Anne of Cleves. This historic building is now a popular wedding venue and visitors can enjoy the lovely gardens.

Dartford Borough Museum has been collecting fascinating objects relating to the history of Dartford for over 100 years.

The Bridge Sculpture Trail is a collection of sculptures made from reclaimed and recycled materials which can be found around the Bridge development.

Dartford Health Walks led by accredited Health Walk Leaders are available weekly at multiple locations and times. Find out more at www.dartford.gov.uk

To find out what's on in Dartford, visit www.dartford.gov.uk/events



Explore Kent walking and cycling routes now available to download and follow on the **Kent Connected** app.



Visit kentconnected.org/our-app to download the app for free. Available on Apple and Android.

Plan your journey.
Be inspired.



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This guide is available in other formats and can be explained in other languages. To obtain copies please email explorekent@kent.gov.uk.

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Borough Council and
Colin Lavery.

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KEY

--- District boundary

* For more information visit explorekent.org



School
Named and numbered



Place of interest
Named and numbered



Bus stop



Hospital



Bus / coach station



Railway with station



Toucan crossing



Pelican / Puffin crossing



Bike shop



Library



Electric vehicle charging point



National Cycle Network route number



Cycle parking

In the town centre area cycle parking is only shown on inset map overleaf

CYCLE TO SCHOOL

- | | | | |
|-----|-------------------------------------|-----|---------------------------------------|
| S1 | Wentworth Primary School | S16 | Temple Hill Primary Academy |
| S2 | West Hill Primary Academy | S17 | The Leigh UTC |
| S3 | Holy Trinity C of E Primary School | S18 | The Gateway Primary School |
| S4 | Our Lady's R C Primary School | S19 | The Brent County Primary School |
| S5 | Dartford Grammar School | S20 | The Leigh Academy |
| S6 | Dartford Grammar School for Girls | S21 | Fleetdown Primary School |
| S7 | Westgate Primary School | S22 | Stone St Marys C of E Primary School |
| S8 | Dartford Technology College | S23 | Knockhall Academy / Knockhall Nursery |
| S9 | North Kent College | S24 | The Craylands School |
| S10 | Wilmington Grammar School for Girls | S25 | The Ebbsfleet Academy |
| S11 | Oakfield Community Primary School | S26 | Manor Community Primary School |
| S12 | York Road Junior Academy | S27 | Cherry Orchard Primary Academy |
| S13 | St Alban's Road Infant School | S28 | Bean Primary School |
| S14 | St Anselm's R C Primary School | S29 | Darenth Community Primary School |

Kilometres 0 0.5 1
Miles 0 0.5



Southfleet