



## WORK HERE

## LIVE HERE

## INVEST HERE

## NEWS & EVENTS

[+ Ashford. Closer than you think](#)

[+ Work Here](#)

[+ Live Here](#)

[Housing](#)

[London in 37 minutes...](#)

[Education](#)

[▶ The Green Vision](#)

[▶ Leisure and Culture](#)

[Arts at St Mary's Church](#)

[Countryside](#)

[Ashford Gateway Plus](#)

[▶ Transport and Travel](#)

[Health and Care](#)

[Community and Living](#)

[Voluntary Sector](#)

[Reasons to Smile](#)

[+ Invest Here](#)

[+ The Organisation](#)

[+ Ashford - The Future](#)

[+ News & Events](#)

[Home](#) > [Live Here](#) > [Leisure and Culture](#)

## Leisure and Culture

Ashford is a thriving town where 85% of residents value the quality of life that living in the heart of the Kent countryside brings.

A multi-million pound investment scheme is rapidly creating a town centre that will combine modern shopping malls and pedestrianised streets with first-class leisure facilities and popular cultural attractions that complement Ashford's existing heritage.

There is a [vibrant arts community](#) in the town, with music events, festivals, exhibitions and concerts taking place throughout the year. The Ashford School of Art and Design and local arts, music and drama groups all contribute to make the town a fantastic place to relax and have fun day or night out.

The historic [St Mary's Church](#) in Ashford town centre hosts an exciting programme of art and music each year, and is being sensitively expanded to accommodate larger audiences and bigger name acts by late 2010.

### Local attractions include:

- [Ashford Designer Outlet Centre](#) already attracts over 3 million visitors a year.
- [County Square shopping centre](#) has doubled its original size, and now offers over 60 stores including Debenhams, H&M, Next, Jane Norman and HMV.
- The [Stour Leisure Centre](#) has undergone a multi-million redevelopment and provides the community with a superb sports centre, gym and leisure pool facilities.
- The [Julie Rose Stadium](#) is an international standard athletics stadium.
- Ashford has Kent's largest combined [cinema](#) and leisure complex at the Eureka Leisure Park
- The stunning [King's Woods](#) at Challock offer beautiful walks through the Kentish countryside, and also host amazing outdoor installations by [Stour Valley Arts](#).
- 18 hole [Chart Hills Golf Club](#), which plays host to the English Ladies Open and was designed by Nick Faldo.
- In surrounding villages discover boutiques, Kentish tea rooms and traditional inns, plus the multi award-winning [Chapel Down Wines](#) vineyards in Tenterden and [Biddenden Vineyard and Cider Works](#)
- Animal lovers can explore the charming [Rare Breeds Centre](#) in Woodchurch, which has numerous rare breeds and family activities, and or visit the collection of big cats at the [Wildlife Hertiage Foundation](#) in Smarden.
- Ashford hosts numerous carnivals and open air performances, including the one day free music festival Create in Victoria Park, which attracts more than 5,000 people every year.



This browser does not support scripts or scripting is disabled.