

South Lodge Guest House

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Broadstairs - old-world, seaside charm.

Broadstairs is brim-full of nostalgic, old-world, seaside charm. Sandy bays meet surf schools. Fishermen's cottages meet Charles Dickens connections. Retro ice-cream parlours meet chic shops. Relaxed and unspoilt, this is the perfect place for chilled-out, family friendly fun.

Broadstairs boasts an impressive seven sand-filled beaches and bays. Head to [Joss Bay](#) to learn to surf, or rural [Botany Bay](#) to saunter amid towering chalk stacks. At the town's main beach, [Viking Bay](#), discover children's rides including an inflatable Girraffe, trampolining, beach Cafes and Bars, beach huts, [surfing](#), a harbour and a cliff-top promenade with a lift to the Beach, open from Easter to the end of September.

The town has a wealth of inviting cafes, restaurants and bars - two 1950's ice-cream parlours provide flavourful scoops of nostalgia too. In the High Street, historic red-brick and flint-fronted buildings are dotted between a rich stock of independent shops.

Broadstairs was Charles Dickens' favourite holiday spot. Explore a wealth of Dickens memorabilia and prints at the [Dickens House Museum](#) - also the former home of Mary Pearson Strong, who inspired the character Betsy Trotwood in David Copperfield. You can also visit [Bleak House](#), an imposing, cliff-top building where Dickens holidayed in the 1850s and '60s, and wrote David Copperfield. Cliff-top paths link beautiful bays, just inland [St Peter's village](#) stages award-winning heritage tours, while the [Crampton Tower Museum](#) provides an intriguing insight into Victorian engineering. After all that, kick-back and enjoy a free afternoon concert at the bandstand.

[Broadstairs Blues Bash](#) is held in February each year with over 30 free bands, over 10 venues, over 3 days - all over town. Broadstairs Blues Bash is a Blues music festival which is now into its seventh year. It takes place annually in mid-February, with performances from local, national and international Blues acts. It gets bigger and better each year.

Each June, Broadstairs' week-long [Dickens Festival](#) overflows with costumed characters, talks, plays and beach outings.

In mid-August, the funky [Broadstairs Folk Week](#) brings music sessions to pubs, gardens and beaches. [Broadstairs Water Gala](#) is a family-friendly fiesta of sandcastle-building, teddy bears picnicking and fireworks too.

While in October, the three-day [Broadstairs Food Festival](#) is an irresistible celebration of locally-produced fine food and drink.

You can walk to Ramsgate in 45 minutes along the promenade or on the beach when the tide allows. Ramsgate has the only "Royal" harbour in the UK. Or turn left at the sea-front and walk to have lunch at Captain Digby's pub at Kingsgate Bay, which will take about 45 – 60 minutes. Margate will take around 2 to 2 1/2 hours walking and you can catch the Loop Bus back if you wish.

Places that we have visited and can recommend include the international art gallery in Margate, The Turner Contemporary, QUEx Museum, Quex House & Gardens in Birchington and for those with an interest in aircraft the Spitfire Museum at Manston is really worth a visit, again with a nice café for a cup of tea or more.

Whatever your plans are we are sure you will be able to unwind and relax in lovely Broadstairs.

"Perfect for young families"

Don't normally leave reviews when there are already so many, but I have a toddler and nowadays I am always searching for reviews from young families. There aren't many here so I thought I'd leave one!

Booked last minute (night before) and spoke to owner who was very helpful and polite. He advised he'd set a travel cot up for us and put out a high chair at breakfast. They also let us check in early (10:30am) which allowed us to leave our stuff and have a full day at the beach.

We travelled from Bromley on the train and walked from the station- took about 10 minutes. Arrived and the owner was just as friendly in person as on the phone. The cot bed had been set up and made, they had even put in toys and books for my daughter (she wanted to get in there as soon as we walked in the room as it was so appealing to her!). There was a lovely selection of tea, coffee, hot chocolate (including mint tea!) as well as good quality toiletries. They even gave my husband a toothbrush as he had forgotten his. Room was comfy and spotless.

Next morning we met the other owner who was lovely. The table was set up with high chair as well as toddler friendly crockery, cutlery and a bib. The food was a lovely- selection of fresh fruit (my daughter loved the watermelon and grapes), porridge, home made bread, croissants, home made smoothie (delicious), fresh coffee and cheeses.

I couldn't recommend this place highly enough, child friendly for sure- they both made a huge fuss over my daughter.

Knitto via TripAdvisor.co.uk