

Welcome to Gatwick

Discover what's on our doorstep



INSTAGRAMMABLE MOMENTS



8 Instagrammable moments near Gatwick Airport

You don't have to travel far from the airport to capture the essence of England on camera. From 900-year-old cathedrals to contemporary sculpture, there's a lot to like.

Here are 8 experiences that are guaranteed to get your Instagram gallery noticed.

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1. Finding the perfect Seven Sisters view, East Sussex

This stretch of Sussex coastline, in the South Downs National Park, is instantly recognisable. The curvy, chalky cliffside has featured in everything from 1930s travel posters to Harry Potter films. From Seaford Head, a nature reserve, you'll get a screensaver-worthy photo of the iconic Seven Sisters cliffs. Don't miss the Coastguard Cottages nearby, which featured in romantic war drama Atonement starring Keira Knightley. The metal platform at Birling Gap is also a good place for a shot.

Coastal erosion is causing the Seven Sisters' rare chalk cliffs to crumble away by around 1 metre a year, so your photos will truly be recording a unique moment in time.

[Websites: www.sevensisters.org.uk](https://www.sevensisters.org.uk)

Open: Year-round, although access may be restricted at times for safety reasons.

Getting there from Gatwick airport: Seven Sisters Country Park is 45 miles (70km) southeast of Gatwick. Travel times are approximately 1 hour by road, or 1 hour by rail to Eastbourne station then a 20-min bus to Seven Sisters Park Centre.

2. Standing under the Balcombe Viaduct, West Sussex

The striking symmetry of this railway bridge makes for satisfying photography. You'll find it just north of the historic town of Haywards Heath, carrying train passengers between London and Brighton over the Ouse Valley. Built in 1841, its intricate design required around 11 million bricks.

The most interesting pictures are taken from underneath the viaduct. Its 37 arches create a tunnel effect that seems to stretch into another world. Wear sturdy footwear though – it gets muddy down there!

[Website: www.experiencewestsussex.com/ouse-valley-viaduct](https://www.experiencewestsussex.com/ouse-valley-viaduct)

Open: Year-round.



Getting there from Gatwick airport: The Balcombe Viaduct is 10 miles (15km) south of Gatwick Airport. Travel times are approximately 20 mins by road then a short walk through the valley.

3. Following the Tudor(ish) Movie Trail, Kent

Being so close to London, with plenty of deer parkland, Kent made a natural retreat for the real-life Tudors. Many of their palaces still exist, from Hever Castle – Anne Boleyn's childhood home – to Penshurst Place, which Henry VIII stayed in while courting her. Follow Kent Film Office's Movie Map to the sets of famous productions including Wolf Hall, The Other Boleyn Girl and The Hollow Crown: Henry V.

The Elizabethan Long Gallery at Penshurst Place became Anne Boleyn's chamber in the BBC's Wolf Hall. During filming, one visitor thought Damian Lewis looked familiar but couldn't quite place him... to which the British actor, in full Tudor costume, responded: 'Well of course you do – I'm Henry VIII!'

[Website: www.kentfilmoffice.co.uk/kent-movie-map/tudorish-trail](https://www.kentfilmoffice.co.uk/kent-movie-map/tudorish-trail)

Open: Hever Castle: April – October; some dates in November and December. Penshurst Place: April – October; weekends only from mid-February.



CHICHESTER CATHEDRAL
HAS BEEN WATCHING
OVER THIS SUSSEX CITY
FOR MORE THAN NINE
CENTURIES

Getting there from Gatwick airport: Hever Castle is 15 miles (25km) east of Gatwick. Travel times are approximately 30 mins by road, or 50 mins by rail to Hever station then a 20-min walk. Penshurst Place is 20 miles (30km) east of Gatwick. Travel times are approximately 40 mins by road, or 1 hour 15 mins by rail to Tonbridge station then a 20-min taxi, 1 hour 30 mins by rail to Tunbridge Wells station then a 20-min taxi.

4. Gazing up at Chichester Cathedral, West Sussex

Chichester Cathedral has been watching over this Sussex city for more than nine centuries. As you look up and admire it, perhaps listening to the church bells ringing, imagine all the people who've done the same through the ages. If you're visiting in spring or early summer, you might be lucky enough to see the peregrine falcons who raise their chicks each year in the spire.

Explore the finer details within the cathedral, from the Marc Chagall stained glass window to the remains of a Roman mosaic, on a free 45-minute guided tour. Just arrive at the main entrance at the correct time (11.15am and 2.30pm, Monday – Saturday; no booking necessary).

[Websites: www.chichestercathedral.org.uk](https://www.chichestercathedral.org.uk)

Open: Year-round.

Getting there from Gatwick airport: Chichester Cathedral is 45 miles (70km) southwest of Gatwick. Travel times are approximately 1 hour by road, or 1 hour by rail to Chichester station.

5. Strolling along Mermaid Street and Camber Sands, East Sussex

Cobbled Mermaid Street in Rye appears virtually untouched since the town's smuggling days, lined with black and white half-timbered houses and adorable cottages. Go early and you might have it all to yourself for that Instagram Story. After exploring some of the town's cute cafes and boutique shops, get some beach shots amid the windswept sand dunes at nearby Camber Sands.

You can stay on Mermaid Street – at the Mermaid Inn, built in 1420 with 12th-century cellars beneath. Expect creaking floorboards, cavernous interiors



BOX HILL HAS LONG BEEN AN IMPORTANT LINE OF DEFENCE FOR ENGLAND

and plenty of character (and characters – it’s apparently haunted!). The owner runs an intriguing 1-hour history tour on the last Sunday of each month.

Website: www.visit1066country.com/explore-1066-country/rye

Getting there from Gatwick airport: Rye is 55 miles (90km) southeast of Gatwick. Travel time is approximately 1 hour 35 mins by road.

6. Discovering art in nature at the Cass Sculpture Foundation, West Sussex

Cutting-edge sculpture in beautiful woodland makes for attention-grabbing ‘grams. Wilfred and Jeannette Cass founded this 10-hectare (26-acre) art haven in 1992 to allow artists more space to be ambitious with sculpture. You never know what surprises await around the next corner... A dilapidated car telling a ghost story? Or three towering dinosaurs named The Good, The Bad and The Ugly?

Don’t miss Swiss artist Olaf Breuning’s 10-metre (33ft) tall playful blue Clouds sculpture. Set thoughtfully amid the trees, it’s a meditation on the climate challenges faced by the natural world.

Websites: www.sculpture.org.uk

Open: April – October.

Getting there from Gatwick airport: Cass Sculpture Foundation is 45 miles (70km) southwest of Gatwick. Travel times are approximately 1 hour

by road, or 1 hour by rail to Chichester station then a 15-min taxi.

7. Reaching the summit of Box Hill, Surrey

Box Hill, the peak of the North Downs in the Surrey Hills, has long been an important line of defence for England. As you hike up, look out for the pillboxes that would have protected World War II soldiers on guard. Continue on upwards, just as they would have whatever the weather, and you’ll be rewarded with glorious green views towards the south coast.

On the right as you leave the National Trust Visitor Centre you’ll see Swiss Cottage. The inventor of the TV, Scottish engineer John Logie Baird, once lived there, testing his first transmissions from the top of Box Hill.

Website: www.nationaltrust.org.uk/box-hill

Open: Year-round.

Getting there from Gatwick airport: Box Hill is 15 miles (25km) northwest of Gatwick. Travel times are approximately 30 mins by road, or 40 mins by rail to Box Hill and Westhumble station then a short taxi ride.

8. Hiking the Inspiring Views trail, Surrey Hills AONB

Showcasing to the way landscapes inspire us, this circular walk through the dreamy Surrey Hills follows the work of five different artists. It’s ideal for a slow, reflective ramble. A photographic highlight along the way is

Perspectives, a shingle-roofed space for contemplation by British designer Giles Miller.

The Inspiring Views project emphasises and enhances forgotten Surrey views. Take a seat on Russell Jakubowski’s Contour bench on Reynard’s Hill – maybe you’ll feel moved to create something yourself.

Website: www.surreyhills.org/discover-route/inspiring-views-walk

Open: Year-round, until project end.

Getting there from Gatwick airport: The Inspiring Views trail is 20 miles (30km) west of Gatwick. Travel times are approximately 40 mins by road to Winterfold Donkins Car Park.

If you like these, you might like:

- Silent Pool, Surrey Hills
- Cowdray Ruins, West Sussex
- Cuckmere Haven, East Sussex
- Leith Hill Tower, Surrey Hills
- Shere village, Surrey

OUR PARTNERS:

Gatwick Airport

www.gatwickairport.com/at-the-airport/flying-in/discover-local/

Surrey

www.visitsurrey.com

South Downs National Park

www.southdowns.gov.uk

Surrey Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty

www.surreyhills.org

West Sussex

www.experiencewestsussex.com

West Kent

www.visitsevenoaksdistrict.co.uk/see-and-do

East Sussex

www.visitengland.com/things-to-do/east-sussex

The information in this guide is intended to assist visitors in choosing suitable places to visit. Information has been curated and produced by the Gateway Gatwick Group in good faith. Details were correct at time of going to press (July 2019). Whilst every care has been taken to ensure the accuracy of the information shown in this publication, the Gateway Gatwick Group does not accept responsibility or liability for any of the claims made nor the information stated, especially opening times and dates.

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Thank you to all that provided photos, in particular: Seven Sisters – Zoltan Attila