



Canterbury's Woodland



Oak leaves

Pick n' Mix...

The Blean

The Best of Canterbury's Ancient Woodland

This Country Break explores the woodlands and villages of **The Blean**, the area of ancient woodland between; Canterbury, Faversham, Whitstable, Herne Bay and the Marshes of Thanet.

Whether you have just half a day, a day or the luxury of longer, a country break in the Blean offers the perfect woodland escape. Get a buzz from exploring or take things slower, whichever you choose the Blean never fails to deliver.

In fact there is so much to do and experiences to choose from, it can seem a bit overwhelming, so just to keep things simple here are some ideas to enjoy the very best of the Blean and hopefully tempt you to explore further...

For more ideas, see the the other country break itineraries or spend some time looking through the **Blean website**, its packed full of all the information you need...



Find out more at www.theblean.co.uk

Half a day

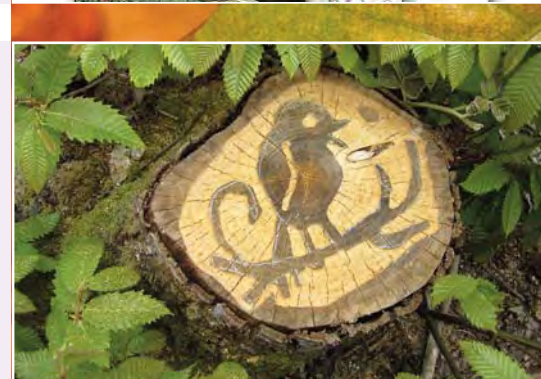
Take a walk in the woods...



1 Pick any of the **Blean Initiative circular walks**, they take in a selection of areas across the Blean, but none are more than a few hours of walking and give a great insight into the history and ecology as well as wearing out your boots!



2 Explore the woodlands on your own! Don't worry its tough to get lost, but you could easily spend a few hours roaming **Clowes Wood** with its easy access paths, or take on the **Wildart trail in Thornden woods**, both are quick and easy and accessible for everyone! You could also find your own route using public rights of way at www.kent.gov.uk/explorekent



3 Grab your binoculars and a picnic before taking to the way-marked paths in the **Blean Woods National Nature Reserve** for a few hours rambling and bird-watching. There's plenty to see, and even better it varies throughout the year and at different times of the day!



4 If you want something a little more exciting, then why not get a taste for how the Blean may have looked a thousand years ago by going nose-to-nose with some of its resident species at **Wildwood**?



A full day

Get more in depth...



1

Keep it simple. Combine any of the half day ideas with a visit to the **Edwardian Gardens at Mount Ephraim**, there's plenty to occupy all ages and its a splendid venue to indulge and take tea in the gardens.



2

Push yourself further with a longer walk, how about taking in **Chartham Hatch, Bigbury Camp and The River Stour** by following the North Downs Way and the Stour Valley Walk? Its easily achievable and there are some great spots for lunch!



3

Delve into the Blean's history as you wander. There's a rich heritage to explore, but why not start with the last battle on English Soil? Follow the **Faversham Food trail "The Peasants Last revolt"** covering a circular route from Boughton.



4

For the real adrenaline junkies out there (or those young enough not to know better) there is the opportunity to saddle up for some racing at the **Broomfields BMX track** (providing you bring your own bike), for those of less insane disposition, you may be lucky enough to catch a race meet.

A Weekend

Take your time...

1

We couldn't not mention it! Hire a bicycle in Canterbury and ride the length of the **Crab and Winkle Way** to Whitstable, stay overnight and experience the seaside town before taking a leiasurley ride back, stopping for a Sunday afternoon picnic at the winding pond.



2

Don't just be a spectator! Make the most of your extra time and learn something! Why not consider a course in basket making, scything or another rural craft? **Kent Enterprise Trust** are more than happy to oblige and run courses at nearby Hambrook Marshes throughout the year.



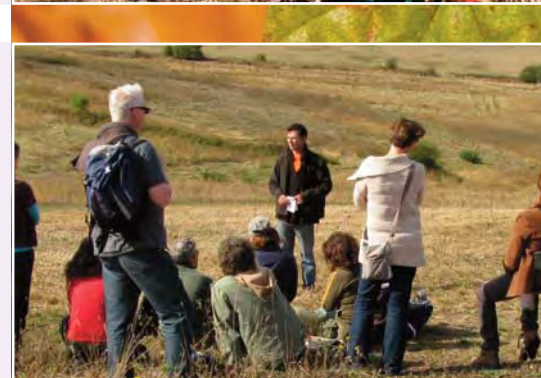
3

Give something back! We all appreciate our environment but why not get your hands dirty and help conserve and preserve? Consider a day of volunteering with **Kent Wildlife Trust** at one of the nature reserves, there are plenty and varied activities to tickle just about anyone's altruistic streak...



4

Let someone else do the hard work! Why not take a guided walking holiday with Derek Bright of **Walk Awhile**? Accommodation in the Blean can be arranged for you, as well as luggage transfers. A variety of activities enroute could be booked too. All you need is boots!



More Information

Listings & Details



Name	Telephone	Website	Address
Blean Initiative Walks	N/A	http://www.theblean.co.uk/visiting-the-blean/walking/	N/A
Clowes Wood Easy Access Trail	N/A	http://www.kent.gov.uk/leisure_and_culture/countryside_and_coast/explore_kent_documents/walks_documents/walks_for_all_documents.aspx	Brewers Road Clowes Wood
West Blean & Thornden Woods	01227 719506	www.kentwildlifetrust.org.uk/reserves/blean-complex/	Canterbury Road, Herne Common, Kent, CT6 7LF
Blean Woods NNR	01227 455972	http://www.rspb.org.uk/reserves/guide/b/bleanwoods/index.aspx	New Road, Rough Common, CT2 9PB
Wildwood	01227 712 111	http://www.wildwoodtrust.org/	Herne Common, Kent, CT6 7LQ
Mount Ephraim Gardens	01227 751496	http://www.mountephraimgardens.co.uk	Hernhill, Kent, ME13 9TX
Explore Kent, Chartham Walk	N/A	https://shareweb.kent.gov.uk/Documents/leisure-and-culture/countryside-and-coast/walks/walks-in-east-kent/walks-in-east-kent-chartham.pdf	Chartham Rail Station
Broomfields BMX Track	01227 276566	http://eastkentbmx.co.uk	Ford Road, Broomfield, Kent, CT6 7AD
Crab & Winkle Way Cycle Route	N/A	http://www.kentishstour.org.uk/C&W_way_lft.htm	Canterbury to Whitstable
Kent Enterprise Trust	01227 844500	http://www.sekgroup.org.uk/ket	Hambrook Marshes
Walk Awhile	01227 752762	http://www.walkawhile.co.uk/	N/A

For more in The Blean

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