Hastings Old Town

Hastings Old Town is an area in Hastings roughly corresponding to the extent of the town prior to the nineteenth century. It lies mainly within the eastern-most valley of the current town. The shingle beach known as The Stade (the old Saxon term meaning “landing place”) is home to the biggest beach-launched fishing fleet in Britain.

Many events take place every year in the old town such as the Hastings Old Town Week, Jack In The Green, the Seafood and Wine Festival, and the Bonfire Procession. Many of these events are centred on Winkle Island, which is also the gathering place of the Winkle Club.

Today, nestling between the East & West Hills, the Old Town is a charming mix of half-timbered houses, narrow streets and passageways, locally known as ‘twittens’. Both the Shipwreck Museum and the Fishermen’s Museum vividly recall old seafaring days and famous local sunken ships.

Deep in the West Hill you will see Hastings smuggling heritage come to life at Smugglers Adventure in St Clements Caves and below you will find Pelham Beach, a delightful blend of shingle and sand.

With its ancient churches and buildings, unique fishing quarter, narrow streets (‘twittens’); profusion of atmospheric pubs, eating places, tea rooms, museums and antique shops, there’s something truly untouched and timeless about Hastings Old Town.

Museum – if you have a taste for the macabre, visit The True Crime Museum (along the seafront near the White Rock Theatre). Go if you dare! http://www.truecrimemuseum.co.uk/

Take a trip to the Blue Reef Aquarium an engaging and educating experience as you journey under the sea. Be inspired by jawsome sharks, fascinating fish and remarkable reptiles. Guided tours are also available.

https://www.queensu.ca/bisc/current-students/getting-around
How far?
50 minutes' ride. Drop off and pick up point – Museum, Old Town.

What's there?
An historic fishing town with narrow cobbled streets. See the tall black sheds on the beach once used for drying nets. A small fishing fleet still sails from the beach. http://www.coolplaces.co.uk/places/uk/england/east-sussex/hastings/8957-hastings-old-town

Try the quintessential British meal of fish and chips and become a connoisseur of the good chip! Plenty of places.

Other food – numerous little cafés and try Di Polas on Marine Parade for real Italian gelato (ice cream) made on the premises.

Shopping – funky, small independent shops; interesting for gift ideas or just browsing!

The recently reopened pier— FREE entry and places to eat, drink and learn about the fascinating history of the pier. http://hastingspier.org.uk/visit/overview/

When can I go there?
Depending on demand, once or twice a term.

Who do I ask if I want a special trip?
E-mail: minibus@bisc.queensu.ac.uk

Hastings has a thriving food scene. There are numerous cafés, restaurants, bars and pubs to suit all tastes.

Coastal walk and cycle route
About the route
Walking and cycling are great ways to explore, keep fit and to help protect our environment. Using the 7km beachside traffic-free route is the perfect way to discover the extensive Hastings seafront – with plenty of places to shop, eat and explore along the way.

Ask Student Services for the Hastings seafront walking & cycling route map.

For more walks visit https://www.walkinginengland.co.uk/sussex/hastings

At the top of the East Hill is Hastings Country Park, 660 acres of ancient woodland, grassland and heathland that stretch across five miles of exposed cliffs and rugged terrain. You can reach the country park by taking the East Hill Lift, the steepest funicular railway in Britain.

Silly fun – Hastings Adventure Golf on the seafront. 18 hole miniature golf courses; choose from three - Adventure, Pirate or Crazy. For more details visit: http://hastingsadventuregolf.com/