Lewes is the county town of East Sussex.

The settlement is a traditional market town and centre of communications and in 1264, it was the site of the Battle of Lewes.

The town's landmarks include Lewes Castle, the remains of Lewes Priory, Bull House, Southover Grange and public gardens, and a 16th century timber-framed Wealden hall house known as Anne of Cleves House.

Other notable features of the area include the Glyndebourne Opera House and festival.

Lewes was founded around the 6th century. The name Lewes is probably derived from a Saxon word, 'hluews' which meant slopes or hills. Later the Saxons made Lewes a town and in the late 9th century King Alfred made a network of fortified settlements across his kingdom called burhs.

https://www.queensu.ca/bisc/current-students/getting-around
How far?
40 minutes’ ride. Drop off and pick up point – Tesco Car Park.

What’s there?
A very old town that tumbles down a hill. Lots to see and do, or just wander the interesting and narrow streets.

Lewes Castle – built just after the Battle of Hastings. Learn the story of the Battle of Lewes in 1264, climb the steps and check out the amazing views.

Shopping – the major banks, post office and drug stores are here. Plus clothing shops including ‘Fat Face’. Plus, lots of small independent shops.


Lewes is the home of the famous Harvey’s beer – lots of pubs to try it and even if you don’t drink the beer, they’re good places to eat!


When can I go there?
Depending on demand, usually once a month.

You can jump on a minibus going to Polegate or Eastbourne and catch the train. Please remember the minibus may not be at Polegate or Eastbourne when you come back, so allow for taxi fare back to the Castle.

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

Harveys of Lewes

Lewes has a fantastic variety of restaurants, cafes, bistro’s, pubs and hotels, something to suit everyone’s taste.

Pop into Bills for a cuppa or something more substantial from the mouth watering menu. Have a pint of Harveys, the local brew, and take in some music in one of the many friendly pubs in the area.

Shopping in Lewes is a pleasure, browse the antique shops of the Cliffe, visit the Farmers market on the first Saturday every month to pick up some delicious local fare.

Lewes Priory

In the 11th century, monks came from Cluny in France to establish the first Cluniac priory in England. The Priory survived for 450 years until the Dissolution of the Monasteries in 1537.

The site with its evocative remains retains an air of tranquility and serenity. The sweep of the South Downs which frame the site provides a spectacular setting for an afternoon out.

There is much to see at Priory Park. Impressive interpretation panels allow you to walk in the footsteps of medieval monks and imagine how the buildings once looked. A recreated herb garden grows plants that monks would have used for medicinal, culinary and ceremonial purposes.

The Park is open throughout the year and entrance is free. You could also embark on a walk around the Lewes Battlefield, pick up a map from Student Services.