

Canterbury activity suggestions for the free afternoon

If the weather is good:

- *Walk to the seaside town of Whitstable.* A bike and walking path starts from The Oaks Nursery. From the math building, follow Park Wood Rd to the west until you reach the bike path. You can also take the bus to Whitstable from the Keynes stop.
- *See spring wildflowers in Blean woods and visit the Blean bison.* European bison were introduced into Blean woods in July 2022 as a conservation project. There are also wild ponies. The way to see them is the walking path that starts from West Blean and Thornden Woods car park. More info here: <https://www.kentwildlifetrust.org.uk/projects/wilder-blean> and here: <https://www.kentwildlifetrust.org.uk/nature-reserves/west-blean-and-thornden-woods>.

Another nice walking place in the woods is the section of Blean woods just west of Whitstable road. Signposted walks make loops from the carpark whose location is marked here: <https://explorekent.org/activities/blean-woods-national-nature-reserve/>. It is easily reachable on foot from campus. Different colored signposts trace out different lengths of walks with black being the longest.

- *Punting tour on the River Stour.* The most touristy option: tour picturesque Canterbury while riding in a small wooden barge driven by a guy standing up and poking the stream with a stick to propel the barge forward. Very English. Info and reservations here: <https://www.canterburypunting.co.uk>

The River Stour is also a nice place for a walk. A bike and walking path follows the river from Canterbury to Chartham. Start from Westgate Towers, walk through the beautiful Westgate Gardens, and continue along the path on the left bank of the river.

- *Visit the white cliffs of Dover.* Catch the train to Dover from Canterbury East Station (take the Uni1 bus from the stop just across the street from the math building and get off at the Canterbury East stop).

If the weather is bad:

- *Visit Canterbury Cathedral.* You can buy tickets here: <https://www.canterbury-cathedral.org/visit/>.

- *Tour Westgate Towers.* Then have a drink in the bar The Pound, which used to be a jailhouse. <https://www.onepoundlane.co.uk/westgate-towers>.
- *Cafes:* Some nice ones are the Microroastery, Fond Coffee, Fringe + Ginge, The Goods Shed (an indoor farmers' market).
- *Pubs:* The Bell & Crown, Lady Luck, The Drapers Arms, The Pound, and many many more.
- *Indoor bouldering.* Climb the walls at Chimera Climbing Canterbury. Beginners welcome and you can hire climbing shoes. Info here: <https://www.chimeraclimbingcanterbury.com>.
- *For those with the skills:* for skaters, bmx riders, or sport climbers, head to F51 in Folkestone, a recently opened multistory skatepark and climbing centre. Info here: <https://f51.co.uk/home>. You will want to contact them about what gear is available to hire. The bus 16 Gold goes to Folkestone from Canterbury Bus Station.