

The location of these places is indicated on the fold out map overleaf.

1. THE MUSEUM

A good place to start an exploration as it tells many fascinating stories about Whitstable's history. You will see the famous Invicta steam locomotive built by Robert Stephenson, which pulled the world's first regular passenger service on the Canterbury to Whitstable Railway. See how underwater salvage and treasure hunting was also a Whitstable first with the invention of the diving helmet.



There's lots to discover about the origins of the oyster, fishing and shipbuilding industries. Hands-on activities will challenge children who will discover that a Doctor Who lived in Whitstable. Take advantage of a rest in our courtyard garden; an oasis of calm.

Normal Opening: Thursday to Saturday 10.30am to 4.30pm. Check website for details.

www.whitstablemuseum.org

2. THE WHITSTABLE NATIVE OYSTER STORES

In 1793 local men bought the rights to the oyster grounds and by Act of Parliament established the Company of Free Fishers and Dredgers of Whitstable. At its peak in 1862 the Company sent 60 million oysters to the London Market. In 1894 it received a Royal Warrant to supply oysters to Queen Victoria which you can see above the door of the Oyster Stores which were built in 1898. Today disease-free oysters are scientifically bred and grown on racks rather than being dredged.



3. THE HORSEBRIDGE

The name of this 19th century stone ramp probably dates from the 16th century when cargo was carted from ship to shore over the sea wall and the town ditch behind. The stone paving protected the earthen sea wall from the cart wheels. Spot the cart ruts and perhaps do a spot of crabbing!

4. HORSEBRIDGE ARTS & COMMUNITY CENTRE

A hub for the arts, located just yards from the beach in the centre of the town. View the constantly changing art displays, attend one of the many workshops or experience all sorts of entertainment.

Normal Opening: Monday to Saturday 9.30am to 6pm, Sunday 10am to 5pm.

www.thehorsebridge.org.uk



5. THE HARBOUR

Whitstable has been the main port for Canterbury for several hundred years, unloading coal, household goods and passengers on the beach. In 1832 the harbour was built for the Canterbury to Whitstable Railway with a station near the present Harbour Master's Office. In the mid-19th century hundreds of ships each year brought in huge quantities of coal from Newcastle and shipped out grain and hops. Today it's still a working harbour but you can wander around the harbour village which offers local crafts and food and drink or maybe take one of the boat trips on offer.



6. REEVES BEACH

In 1793 William Reeves, foreman of the Company of Oyster Fishers, enclosed waste ground here and developed a family business of block and mast making. He kept a "shore-light" by the beach, its lantern guiding vessels into the bay. In 1869 a fire swept through this whole area completely destroying the many tarred and weather-boarded buildings. Forty six years later a descendant of William, George Reeves, converted derelict land inside the sea wall here into the "Oval Rink" for roller skating. In 1944 the rink closed and lay derelict until 2019 when it was developed as you see it today.

7. KEAM'S YARD

This car park is the site of one of five large shipyards stretching westward along the shoreline. From 1838 Holloway's Shipyard repaired and built a variety of ships and Thames barges. Later R J Perkins build yachts and fishing boats here.