

# City Safaris

Walking into the Industrial Past

## Industrial Explorer Weekend

### North Kent

*Maidstone to the Thames*

**1<sup>st</sup> – 4<sup>th</sup> June 2017**

**One in a series of unique tours, developed from the City Safari, where a traditional Safari pattern does not work for the principal town but, with other settlements, the surrounding industrial areas and our own transport, presents a group of sites well worth exploring.**

**Led by Sue Constable**

**3 nights, from £430 per person**

This year's Explorer will be looking at the River Medway from Maidstone to the confluence with the Thames. The area is not thought of as being a significant industrial area but actually houses a range of interesting sites.

The lower reaches of the river has important maritime history, the most obvious survival being Chatham Naval Dockyard. There were also naval and other military installations on the Isle of Sheppey including gunpowder works. Chatham has also been the home of the Royal Engineers since 1750 and there are many buildings associated with this.

As well as the naval ship-building there were other boatyards in the area where Thames barges and other ships were built.

The whole area was home to a significant paper making industry. Newsprint for the daily papers was made here as well as better quality paper. We shall be looking at the remains of this industry including an industrial railway.

Faversham was important for the manufacture of gunpowder and other explosives and will be included in our itinerary.

The tour will begin on the Thursday evening and will finish mid afternoon on Sunday.

We will be staying in Gillingham and will travel out from there in a comfortable mini-coach to sites in the surrounding area.

There may be up to 5 miles of walking, in short sections, on each of the first two days, mostly on hard surfaces although we may also use other paths which could be muddy depending on the weather.

*If you are interested in joining the tour on a non-residential basis please contact us for further information:*  
[bill@heritageofindustry.co.uk](mailto:bill@heritageofindustry.co.uk)

### ITINERARY

#### **Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> June**

Assemble at our hotel in the early evening for the group dinner (included).

At the end of dinner Sue will give a short introduction to the weekend.

### **Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> June**

Friday will be spent looking at the lower Medway valley and the town of Maidstone. We will visit Aylesford where there was an important paper mill and will continue to look at Allington on the river Medway.

We will then explore Maidstone looking at the development of a County Town including the buildings associated with the jail built in 1810. We hope to finish the day with a walk to look at some of the older mill sites just outside Maidstone.

There will be a break for lunch (own expense) during the day.

Evening at leisure.

### **Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> June**

On Saturday, we will move closer to the Thames Estuary. We plan to visit Faversham and include a visit to the 18th century Chart Gunpowder Mills, said to be the oldest of their kind in the world, powder from which was used at the battles of Trafalgar and Waterloo. Shipbuilding will also be included and then Sittingbourne including a visit to the Sittingbourne and Kemsley Light Railway. Unfortunately, the line will not be in steam but we should still be able to look at the buildings and track. We will finish the day on the Isle of Sheppey discovering what is left of the military installations and the steel works..

There will be a break for lunch (own expense) during the day.

Evening at leisure.

### **Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> June**

Sunday will be spent exploring Rochester and Chatham finishing with a visit to the Naval Dockyard. We will look at the bridge crossing the Medway and at the effects the development of the Dockyard had on the town of Chatham.

Lunch with the group is included.

The day will finish by about 15:30

**Note:** *Detailed planning is still in progress and whilst we expect to be able to visit all these sites, the itinerary may be subject to minor amendments. Also the order of events may be changed around. If you need to leave earlier than 15:30 please let us know when booking and we will try to make arrangements.*

### **OUR GUIDE**

Sue Constable will be well known to anyone who came to the Ruhr or Moravia with the AIA or has joined one of her City Safaris or previous Explorer Weekends. She was born in Buckinghamshire but moved to Hastings at an early age. She read History and Archaeology at Liverpool and also has a qualification in museum studies. She may have started out as an archaeologist but soon changed to being a social and industrial historian. She has worked in museums for most of her life, apart from a spell teaching and a break when her daughter was small. Much of her work in museums has been with industrial collections, ribbon weaving, nail-making and shoemaking. With her husband, Mike, she has explored much of the British and European waterways network. As a social historian she is also interested in how people live and how they organise their living spaces and environment.

## **ACCOMMODATION**

We have had considerable difficulty in finding appropriate accommodation for this weekend. We usually look for a comfortable but modestly priced hotel with a reasonable restaurant which is close enough to our main town centre allowing group members to explore other locations for eating, drinking and entertainment in the evenings. We have been unable to locate an hotel which had availability and which fulfilled all the other requirements and it is the location on which we eventually had to compromise.

We will be staying at the Premier Inn, Gillingham Business Park, Gillingham, Kent ME8 6BY

The hotel has an associated “Beefeater” Restaurant where full English breakfast is served and which has a good menu for evening meals.

With the joining instructions we will circulate information about local public transport links and other possible locations for evening dining.

“Twin bedded” rooms at Premier Inns make use of a sofa bed as the second bed.

## **TRANSPORT**

The tour starts at the Premier Inn, Gillingham on the Thursday evening and ends at about 15:30 after the Sunday afternoon activities when the coach returns to the hotel in Gillingham.

We leave you to make your own travel arrangements to and from Gillingham to suit your own convenience and use of alternative departure points.

There may be up to 5 miles of walking, in short sections, on each of the first two days, mostly on hard surfaces although we may also use other paths which could be muddy depending on the weather..

When not on foot, travel during the tour is by luxury mini coach and this cost is included.

Detailed joining instructions will be supplied about two weeks before the start of the tour.

## **COST**

The cost of the tour is £430 per person sharing, single supplement £80. The single supplement is entirely accounted for by the additional costs charged by the hotel for single occupancy. With a high proportion of singles on these tours it is not possible to avoid this.

This includes:

- 3 nights bed & breakfast accommodation
- Dinner on Thursday, Lunch on Sunday
- Luxury air conditioned mini coach transport and driver tip
- All entrance fees
- Expert guiding and services of an experienced tour manager throughout
- Research for the visit
- Professionally produced, comprehensive tour notes

Excluded are:

- Lunch on Friday & Saturday
- Dinner on Friday & Saturday
- Drinks
- Expenses at the hotel other than bed & breakfast

All costs are in Pounds Sterling (GBP) and are based on present accommodation, transport costs and taxes. Any change in these may necessitate a price change.

## CANCELLATION CHARGES, HEALTH & INSURANCE

Please note that cancellation charges will apply from 6<sup>th</sup> April 2017, and, although these will be modified to the extent that costs are not actually incurred, you are strongly advised to insure against the need to cancel.

Non-UK residents also need to consider medical treatment and repatriation charges in the event of illness etc. Participants who do not have travel insurance must nevertheless accept full responsibility for these eventualities.

*If you do not already have travel insurance then you may like to contact Avanti Travel Insurance, who specialise in providing cover for older travellers and those with medical conditions, both single-trip and annual policies, quoting reference "Heritage of Industry" for a competitive quote.*

Website: <http://www.avantitravelinsurance.co.uk> Email: [enquiries@avanti.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@avanti.co.uk) Tel: 0800 888 6195

## BOOKING

All bookings should be made online at <http://www.heritageofindustry.co.uk> or on the attached form and will be taken on a first-come, first-served basis, subject to space availability. Booking is subject to a minimum of 12 and a maximum of 20 people. Book as soon as possible and **by 6<sup>th</sup> April** to ensure a place **but please feel free to enquire after that date if a place is still available**. We will contact you as soon as possible to confirm the booking and to issue an invoice for the balance of the price.

A non-refundable deposit of £45 per person is required on booking. Bookings can be made definite only when the booking information and deposit are received and accepted in writing by Heritage of Industry Ltd. The company's standard terms and conditions apply. The balance of the price is to be paid to Heritage of Industry Ltd on presentation of the invoice. All monies paid to Heritage of Industry Ltd will be held, in accordance with government regulations\*, in a customer protection account until the tour is complete so that *your money is safe no matter what happens*.

Payment should be made via your bank's online banking facilities, the necessary details are shown on the booking form. Please send an email note when you have made payment. If you are unable to use electronic banking then please send a sterling cheque drawn on a UK bank. There is no extra charge for using cheques at present.

We are sorry that we are unable to accept payment by credit/debit card or PayPal.

**Enquiries about this tour** should be directed to Bill Barksfield, Managing Director, Heritage of Industry Ltd, The Gables, 20 Main Road, East Hagbourne, Oxon OX11 9LN Tel: +44 1235 352275

Email: [bill@heritageofindustry.co.uk](mailto:bill@heritageofindustry.co.uk)

\* *The Package Travel, Package Holidays and Package Tours Regulations 1992 (SI 1992 No. 3288)*

# Heritage of Industry

Journeys into the Industrial Past



## BOOKING FORM

### INDUSTRIAL EXPLORER WEEKEND ( North Kent )

1<sup>st</sup> – 4<sup>th</sup> June 2017

Please book on-line if possible at <http://www.heritageofindustry.co.uk>

Otherwise print out and complete this form in block letters and return it to:

Heritage of Industry Ltd, The Gables, 20 Main Road, East Hagbourne, Oxon OX11 9LN

PLEASE BOOK BY 6<sup>th</sup> April 2017 but please enquire after that date for available places.

NAME:

TELEPHONE

Day:

ADDRESS:

Evening:

Mobile:

Email:

I WISH TO BOOK (subject to availability) ..... place(s)  
on Industrial Explorer Weekend (North Kent) 1<sup>st</sup> – 4<sup>th</sup> June 2017

The names of the other member(s) of my party are:

Please book the following hotel accommodation :

..... single room(s) ..... twin room(s) ..... double room(s)

**SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS** (Dietary etc. Please give details, or any other comment):

**I am making payment of £** (non-returnable deposit of £45 each for ..... persons)

{ By direct transfer to HSBC, Penn Road, Beaconsfield Branch Code: 40-09-29 Account: 41352261  
BIC: MIDLGB2118D IBAN: GB60MIDL40092941352261 Using reference: *Your surname* }

{ By the enclosed cheque, payable to Heritage of Industry Ltd } *delete as required*

**I heard about this tour:** Previous client / Recommended by friend / AIA / SIA / Newcomen /  
Local IA Group / The Garden / H of I Newsletter or email / Social media / Web search

I have read the terms and conditions which are accepted by me on behalf of all the persons named above. We agree to your maintaining such records as are appropriate to this and other tours and understand that the information will only be released to those involved with the organisation of these tours or used to inform me about other events.

**SIGNATURE:**

**Date:**

# Heritage OF Industry

## Journeys into the Industrial Past



### Terms and Conditions

1. Heritage of Industry Ltd undertakes tours on the basis of these terms and conditions, which, read with the booking form and the information accompanying it, set out the full terms of your agreement with Heritage of Industry Ltd ('the Company'). No variation can be accepted unless made in writing and signed by the Company.
2. Bookings can only be made definite when the completed booking form plus the deposit specified on the booking form is received and accepted in writing by the Company. The deposit is not refundable.
3. The balance of the tour price must be received by the Company not later than 8 weeks before the first day of the tour or as specified in the booking arrangements failing which the booking may be cancelled and cancellation charges (equivalent to the amount of deposit) levied.
4. In the event that the booking is made less than 8 weeks before the first day of the tour then the full amount of the tour price will need to be paid immediately.
5. In the event that you wish to cancel your booking, you must notify the Company in writing. If the notification of cancellation is received by the Company more than 8 weeks before the first day of the tour then only the deposit will be forfeit. If the notice is received less than 8 weeks before the first day of the tour the following charges will apply: 6 to 8 weeks, 50% of the tour price; 4 to 6 weeks, 75% of the tour price; 4 weeks and under, 100% of the tour price. No refund at all will be given for any cancellation on or after the first day of the tour or for any meals, trips or other facilities not used or taken.
6. The Company will make every effort to operate the tour as confirmed to you. However, the Company reserves the right to cancel or vary any aspect of the tour should this become necessary due to any circumstances beyond the Company's reasonable control such as war, political unrest, industrial action, exceptionally inclement weather or other circumstances amounting to force majeure, or any other circumstances which in the opinion of the Company require the cancellation or variation of the tour. In the event of cancellation, you will be notified immediately and offered either an alternative comparable tour or a refund of all monies paid as appropriate.
7. The Company does not own or operate any of the means of transport you will be using or the hotels, restaurants, buildings or other sites that you will be staying at or visiting. Accordingly, the Company cannot accept any liability whatsoever for any loss injury or damage that may occur or that you or those accompanying you may suffer as a result of any negligence or breach of contract or failure to perform any other duty by any owner employee servant or agent of any such means of transport, hotel, restaurant, building or other site.
8. The Company also cannot accept any responsibility for any loss damage or personal injury howsoever arising suffered by you or those accompanying you whilst on any tour unless such loss damage or personal injury is the direct result of negligence by the Company itself.
9. In the event that you have any complaint in connection with the management or operation of any hotel, restaurant or other premises which are on part of the tour organised by the Company then that complaint should be made immediately to the management of that hotel, restaurant or premises so that the complaint can, if possible, be acted upon immediately.
10. No claim or complaint that you may have against the Company can be accepted unless such claim or complaint is notified in writing to the Company within 7 days from the end of the tour.

May 1999

Heritage of Industry Ltd, The Gables, 20 Main Road, East Hagbourne, Oxon OX11 9LN

Tel/Fax: 01235 352275 Email: [info@heritageofindustry.co.uk](mailto:info@heritageofindustry.co.uk) <http://www.heritageofindustry.co.uk>

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