



The Mermaid Inn



ABOUT THE HOTEL

Welcome to the unique Mermaid Inn. The building has 600 years of history and a reputation for being haunted, with many stories of its colourful past.

HISTORY

The Mermaid Inn offers a totally different experience:

- Sloping ceilings
- Creaking floorboards and numerous staircases
- A rich tradition that is maintained by careful stewardship

Experience a drink in the Giant's Fireplace Bar and imagine how the Hawkhurst Gang, local smugglers in the 1730s and 1740s, caroused in the bar. You can see the secret passageway entrance.

Dine in the Linen Fold Panelled Restaurant and enjoy the food, service and special ambience that our 2 AA Rosette Restaurant offers.

Relax in one of the two lounges. Enjoy the comfort and atmosphere of Dr Syn's Lounge and look for the wall carvings of the Catholic priests fleeing to the continent at the time of the Reformation. The Small Lounge overlooks the cobbles of Mermaid Street, which was the main route to the anchorage in Rye in years gone by.

The Mermaid Inn sits at the heart of the medieval citadel of Rye, and is the perfect location to explore Rye, the Sussex Weald and the Romney Marsh.





RYE ROYAL

The room, 'Rye Royal', derives its name from a visit by Queen Elizabeth 1 to Rye in 1573. The Queen declared Rye 'Royal' in return for her loyalty in sea defence and fishing, and the presentation of 100 Gold Angel coins.

ROOMS

The Mermaid Inn has 31 unique rooms, each one is named after people from the history of the Inn and Rye. There are:

- Magnificent carved beds
- A secret stairway concealed behind the bookcase in Dr Syn's Bedchamber
- Fine oakwood panelling
- Caen stone fireplaces and latticed windows

The second storey rooms are particularly intriguing, with curved timbers supporting the ceilings which rise to a point above them, while the dormer windows afford a unique view of the citadel of Rye and beyond. The Mermaid Inn is a genuine example of Tudor architecture and construction. The Caen stone fireplaces and wattle and daub walls are maintained for the experience of the many guests from the United Kingdom and around the world who stay at The Mermaid Inn every year.

"Why not escape for the weekend to the peaceful solitude of The Mermaid Inn, the medieval citadel of Rye and the big open skies of the Romney Marsh, the Downs of Sussex or the varied coastal fringes of this part of England".





DINING

Dine in the Linen Fold Panelled Restaurant, where you can enjoy the ambience of the large restaurant, the cosiness of The Dr Syn's Dining Room or the privacy of the Boardroom for your evening meal, lunch and breakfast.

Head Chef, Ben Fisher, is focused on using quality, seasonal, local ingredients and cooking them perfectly. He has a broad range of experience having worked in Michelin Star establishments such as Fischer's Restaurant in Baslow, The French Laundry in California, Tom Aikens Restaurant in London and with Thomas Keller at Harrods, and is able to adapt to the requirements of the guest and the occasion.

"The Mermaid Inn is the perfect place for a relaxing Sunday Lunch, with a traditional Roast, or a range of fine food options, complimented by a wide selection of wines, beers and spirits".



PRIVATE DINING

We offer a personalised service to help you plan the food and wine to ensure we create a memorable occasion.

We provide a selection of settings for Private Dining and a range of menus.

A full-page photograph of a wedding couple walking away from the camera down a narrow, cobblestone street in Rye. The bride is wearing a white wedding dress and veil, and the groom is in a dark suit. They are holding hands. The street is lined with historic buildings, including a white bay window on the left and a brick building with a hanging flower basket on the right. The street leads towards a hill in the distance.

MERMAID STREET

The Mermaid Inn sits on the cobbled Mermaid Street which is one of the main routes into the citadel of Rye. It is one of the most photographed streets in Britain, and leads the visitor to The Mermaid Inn, which is the perfect location from which to explore Rye.

WEDDINGS

The Mermaid Inn caters for those who appreciate tradition and charm, coupled with the requirements of a discerning modern guest.

Our beautiful Tudor Room, set on two levels, is a truly romantic setting for wedding receptions with its low hewn beams and lattice windows. Our Dr Syn's Dining Room, which has a tranquil ambience and charm all of its own, is especially sought after for private dinner parties and intimate Wedding Breakfasts looking out over Mermaid Street.

"We got married at Dungeness Lighthouse and wanted somewhere equally dramatic for a small wedding breakfast afterwards. The Mermaid Inn was perfect. The staff couldn't do enough to help: setting up a beautiful private dining area for our group. The excellent service continued throughout the meal, which included some delicious local produce - salt marsh lamb was a particular hit - and a great selection of wines. The Mermaid Inn provided truly lovely surroundings for us to finish our wedding day on a high."

CORPORATE

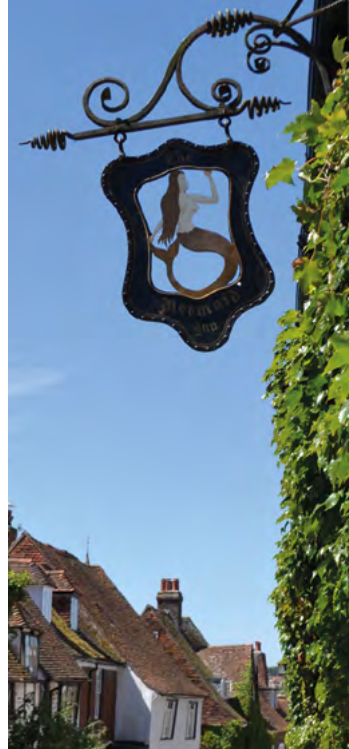
The Mermaid Inn offers the perfect location for your business to host a range of activities to meet your business needs, ranging from accommodation to meeting rooms.

We can offer a personalised service to ensure you can maximise the value of your stay.

This can include: support with photo shoots - we regularly host film crews and can support local arrangements and accommodate the often irregular working hours.

We can arrange Clay Pigeon shooting and also golf as an experience for your visit, with a number of fine golf courses in the locality.

We will work with you to meet your expectations.





THE HISTORY OF RYE

Perched on a hill, the medieval town of Rye is the sort of place you thought existed only in your imagination. Almost suspended in time, Rye's atmosphere and enchanting streets draw visitors with their warm welcome.

RYE - MEDIEVAL GEM OF THE CINQUE PORTS

One of the best preserved medieval towns in England, Rye is home to the enchanting cobbled Mermaid Street, the impressive Norman church of St Mary's, a rich selection of specialist shops and a thriving fishing fleet. The famous Mermaid Inn was once the haunt of notorious smugglers, the Hawkhurst Gang. Camber Castle, built by Henry VIII is located in the dramatic Rye Harbour Nature Reserve.

Rye was once surrounded on three sides by the sea, and its maritime heritage dates back to Norman times. To defend it against frequent attacks from the French, Rye became an 'antient town' of the powerful Cinque Ports Confederation. Visit the Rye Museum, which has sites at East Street and the Ypres Tower - the second oldest building in Rye open to the public, built in the early 14th century and part of the town's defensive walls.

Take time to discover its architectural treasures and narrow passageways. Climb the tower of St Mary's Parish Church for fine views to Rye Harbour Nature Reserve and the beautiful hilltop town of Winchelsea with its maze of medieval wine cellars.

Rye has always been a magnet for writers and artists. Lamb House, a National Trust property, was once the home of Henry James and later E.F.Benson, creator of the Mapp and Lucia books. The artists Paul Nash, Edward Burra and Captain Pugwash creator John Ryan all lived in Rye.


HOW TO FIND US

Situated on the A259 east of Hastings, Rye is a short drive from the M20, leaving at Ashford on the A2070; or if travelling south on the A21, take the B2089 to Rye.

Nearest airport is London Gatwick, and Rye has easy access from the ports of Dover (32 miles), Folkestone (25 miles) and the Channel Tunnel (21 miles).





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