



Faversham Creek Navigation Guide



*Navigation
Guide*

*Supplies and
Services*

Local History





*Faversham Town
Centre Management*

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Faversham town centre



Introduction Faversham and its Creek

Faversham and its creek lie on the north coast of Kent in south-east England. The town is 10 miles from Canterbury, 55 from London and 67 nautical miles from Oostende.

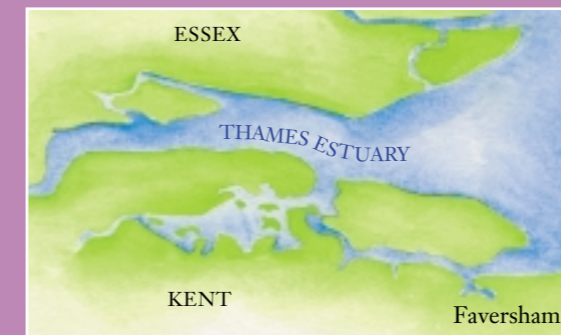
Faversham is a small market town with a population of nearly 18,000, renowned for its historic buildings, local boat and brewing industries, picturesque farmland and estuarine landscapes.

Swale Borough Council, Faversham Town Council and the Medway and Swale Estuary Partnership are working together to promote Faversham Creek and its surrounding countryside to local and continental sailors.

The Front Brents Jetty on Faversham Creek has 20 berths. All water, electricity supply, lighting and security has been renewed in 2001. Faversham Creek runs into the town and the berths are just five minutes walk from the town centre. Berths are also available at Iron Wharf on Faversham Creek, and Testers and Youngboats on Oare Creek.



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Availability of berths at Front Brents Jetty can be checked with Faversham Town Council 01795 594442/3 or email: Faversham.TownCouncil@virgin.net

Faversham – *Historic Town and Port*

A small market town Faversham may be, yet it boasts over 475 listed buildings and Britain's best-preserved medieval street; oldest brewery; oldest company and oldest gunpowder mill.

Intensely photogenic, Faversham combines the charm of an historic town with the bustle of a working community and colourful shopping centre.

The town's certain history dates from the Roman era and it was an important centre when Kent was a separate Anglo-Saxon kingdom.

Traces of a ruined abbey, the resting place of King Stephen and Queen Matilda, can be seen in Abbey Street on the adjacent bank of the Creek.

The tidal creek, connecting the port of Faversham to The Swale and the



Photograph courtesy of The Faversham Times

southern North Sea, was once busy with Thames barges carrying goods such as gunpowder, bricks and agricultural produce to London. Some of these barges, now privately preserved, can be seen at Standard Quay.

What does the area have to offer?

Listed in this guide are just a few of the many facilities that Faversham and the surrounding area has to offer. More information on these and other attractions can be obtained from the Tourist Information Centre at the **Fleur de Lis Heritage Centre, Preston Street 01795 534542** or from **Swale Tourism, Sittingbourne 01795 417478**.

The Faversham calendar includes the Classic Car Rally in May, the Open House Scheme in July, the Hop Festival in August / September and the evening Carnival in October.

With its unspoilt public houses and reasonably priced eating-places, the town is a wonderful place to visit.

Saxon Shore Way

A long-distance, signed coastal footpath runs only a few metres from the creekside moorings.

Faversham Trails

Three trails, with a map, which help visitors explore Faversham's town and country.

Trains

Provide a direct link to Canterbury (10 mins), London (1h 15mins) and Ramsgate (35mins).

Cycling

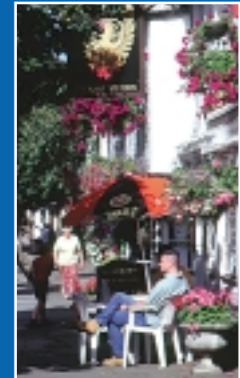
The National Cycle Route runs within 100metres of the moorings and provides access to the coast and town.

Motoring

The M2 and A2 pass by Faversham.

Birdwatching

The Swale is a seaway bordered by saltmarsh and mudflats internationally important for breeding and wintering birds. Brent geese, wigeon and avocet are a few of many species seen at Oare and South Swale Nature Reserves.



Pubs

Faversham has many fine pubs. The Albion, situated adjacent to the visitor moorings, sells excellent food and locally brewed Shepherd Neame beers, and has a beer garden.

Fleur de Lis Heritage Centre

Open six days a week, illustrating Faversham's 2,000-year history in colourful displays. Preston Street.

Chart Gunpowder Mills

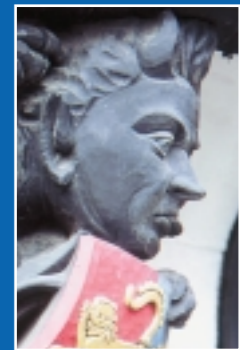
The oldest of their kind in the world. Open Saturday, Sunday and Bank Holidays from Easter to October, 14.00 to 17.00. Off South Road.

Faversham Swimming Pools

Indoor pool open all year round, outdoor pool open during the summer.

Abbey Street

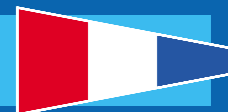
The longest preserved medieval street in the country.



For information on these and other attractions in Faversham and the surrounding district, visit Faversham's website:

www.faversham.org or contact the Tourist Information Centre at the Fleur de Lis Heritage Centre 01795 534542

Access and Attractions

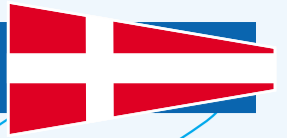


“Faversham, a large populous, and as some say, a rich town: the principle business we found among them, was fishing for oysters...”

Daniel Defoe, *A Tour through the Whole Island of Great Britain*, 1724



Faversham Creek





Information *Faversham Creek*

Communications

In addition to VHF Ch 16, mariners are advised to monitor VHF Ch 12 (Port Control London) in the Thames estuary for details of shipping movements and similarly Ch 74 (Medway radio) in the Medway/Swale area. Current tidal heights are available from these stations.

Kingsferry Bridge

can be contacted on VHF Ch 10 to arrange a lift.

Thames Coastguard

VHF Ch.16/67
01255 675518
Emergency phone 999



Booking, fees and moorings

Visiting craft, up to a length of 8 metres, can generally be accommodated at the Front Brents Jetty. The moorings are on soft mud that is exposed at low tide. Craft are attached to the wooden jetty, which has access ladders.

Fresh water and electricity will be available from the early part of the 2001 sailing season.

The jetty is secured by a self-locking gate. The security gate code will be supplied when mooring fees are paid. Please note that you will be unable to return to the mooring without knowing the security code.

Fees can be paid at the Albion public house, next to the jetty, or at the Corner Shop, Church Road, Upper Brents – the store is 100 metres south from the jetty. The Corner Shop is open from 6:00 to 18:30 weekdays, 7:00 to 18:30 Saturday, and 8:00 to 12:00 Sunday.

The Albion

01795 591411

The Corner Shop

01795 532336
or email 7834@7834pbox.fs.net.co.uk



Facilities

London Weather Centre

Weather information and forecasts
0207 831 5986

Police / Emergency services

999

Faversham Health Centre

for most medical needs and enquiries.
01795 562000

Faversham Creek Chandlery

9am-6pm (closed Tues)
Stocks: safety equipment and wide range of nautical requirements, including charts.
("Y14" for Faversham Creek)
01795 591957

Iron Wharf Boatyard

Boat diesel, showers and washing machines

Contacts

Medway Ports Authority

01795 596596

Faversham Town Council

01795 594442

Swale Tourism, Swale Borough Council

01795 417478

Medway and Swale Estuary Partnership

01795 590112

Faversham Tourist Information Centre

01795 534542



We hope you will enjoy your visit to Faversham, but please:

- dispose of refuse at designated points. Try to use the recycling facilities where possible. (Tesco and Swimming Pool car parks).
- please do not alight on islands in the Swale and Medway, these are environmentally sensitive areas that support internationally rare birds and plants.



Navigation *Faversham Creek*

Sailing directions

1. Leaving the Faversham Spit north cardinal buoy to starboard, steer south-west into Faversham Creek. Keep the red can buoys well to your port side as there is some encroachment of the mud bank into the deep water channel between buoys numbered 2 – 6.
2. The starboard side of the channel is marked by a green cone no.1 initially with the next marker in the shape of a green triangle above the wreck. This is situated well to the starboard side and care must be taken at this point to stay around mid channel.
3. From no.8 red can, navigation is straight down the fairway and make a good course towards the boatyard and Shipwright's Arms, which lie at the junction of Faversham and Oare Creeks, there being a large mud bank on the starboard side at this juncture. The south-west channel leads to Oare via Oare Creek.
4. At the fork, continue to port into Faversham Creek proper, leaving the pub to starboard. Follow the starboard bank until abeam the stone sea-wall revetment. Alter smartly to port until the pylon is fine on the port bow. This should take one to the next green buoy no.5 which should be gently rounded following the bank line. Proceed along the channel guided by the Starboard hand buoys taking note of the line of the banks.
5. Having passed green buoy no.7, one should be about 5 metres from the port bank heading towards Nagden Cottages. Take note of the Faversham Church spire to starboard in the distance and the large rectangular warehouse building in the distant foreground. When the two are in transit alter to starboard so as to place the red can buoy no.14 on the port bow. This will take one clear of the notorious Nagden Bump. Having passed the red can no.14 (with the starboard bank close to), alter about 30 degrees to port to clear the next green buoy no.11. Continue following the channel as before.
6. On passing the sewage works, Iron Wharf Boatyard will be seen ahead. Visitors' berths are available here (rafted out) or one can proceed on for a further 800 metres to Front Brents Jetty to starboard and the Town Quay to port. It is recommended to proceed at minimum speed upstream of Iron Wharf.



Creek approach

- Faversham Spit waypoint 51:20.7N, 0:54.3E.
- Buoys are available at Harty Ferry for boats to wait for the tide to enter the Creek.
- Channel depths of up to 2.5 metres can be found around HW.
- Without local knowledge, passage is recommended for daylight only.
- Ideally passage should be commenced into the Creek about 1.5 hrs before HW, depending on draught. Tides +01.25 Dover.
- Note should be taken of meteorological conditions which may reduce the predicted tidal height for example in strong southerly winds or predominantly high pressure conditions.
- The use of an echo sounder is recommended.
- Passage at half speed is recommended to allow for reserve power to back off mud flats in the event of inadvertent grounding.
- Note that the buoy-to-buoy courses are not straight lines. Consider the line of the Creek banks between the buoys.
- Pass about 5 metres off the buoys.
- Tides rise and fall 15 minutes earlier than at Chatham.
- River byelaws defining the rules and regulations of navigation and usage have been issued by the Medway Ports Authority and are in force.
- Speed limit in the creek is 6 knots – speed must be appropriate for prevailing conditions and the safety of others – be aware of your wash.
- If in difficulty a pilot or tug is usually available from the **Iron Wharf Boatyard 01795 536296 / 537122 VHF channel 8 Iron Wharf.**

