

Dover

Dover is a town in Kent on the South East coast of England on the British Channel. It is just opposite Calais and it is only a few miles from the French coast. It is an important port and ferries and ships every day transport passengers and goods from France. The name of the town comes from the name of the River Dour.

Dover is famous for its white chalk cliffs: Albion is the first name of the island after the Roman word albus that is white. The cliffs are in a strategic position and still represent a symbolic and menacing guard against the invaders from the continent.

Another important landmark is Dover Castle where many tourists still go to admire the strong walls and imposing towers and to visit the magnificent hall.

Dover Castle, the "Key to England" because of its defensive significance in all centuries, stands on a hill, a fort in the Iron Age and a lighthouse in Roman times , a fort with a church in Saxon times and in Tudor times the castle as it is today.

Nowadays there is still the powerful defensive net that consists of a series of tunnels about 15 metres below the cliff top, a shelter for the population during the German air-raids, and also a centre of military command and an underground hospital in the course of the Second World War.

Now Dover Castle is a "nationally important" historic building, an archaeological site and the seat of the Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment Museum.

It is the realistic setting of many famous films, for example the 1990 film by Franco Zeffirelli, a version of Shakespeare's masterpiece Hamlet, the tragedy of a Danish prince looking for revenge.

More recently the castle appears in the 2003 production of Johnny English, starring Rowan Atkinson (Mr Bean) , an amusing caricature of the famous secret agent 007, James Bond.