

MAIDSTONE
MUSEUM



**Maidstone Museum
Venue hire**

Venue hire at Maidstone Museum

Make History Here

Maidstone Museum is housed within a Tudor manor house that has evolved over centuries. Layers of history are visible throughout the building, where historic rooms, Victorian spaces and contemporary galleries blend to form a unique venue with a distinct character.

Our spaces can be hired for a wide range of occasions — from professional meetings and cultural evenings to family celebrations and community gatherings. In each case, the setting matters: beautiful rooms rooted in Maidstone's history that confidently host events today.

“We had an amazing day at the museum, the staff there are lovely and the whole day surpassed our expectations.”

Why choose Maidstone Museum?

At Maidstone Museum, your event takes place within a working museum, where architecture, collections and exhibits shape the experience from the moment guests arrive. Events are meticulously planned and supported by our professional events team, with clear guidance on how spaces can be used while protecting the collections around them.

Choosing to hold an event in a museum prioritises character, place and context. Unlike purpose-built corporate venues, museum spaces are not designed to be uniformly interchangeable. Instead, each room has its own scale and atmosphere.

We offer a range of spaces with unique qualities, not simply different capacities. Some rooms support quiet discussion and focus; others lend themselves to social gathering or celebration. Galleries and exhibitions introduce moments of interest and reflection, allowing events to unfold at a more natural pace.

For professional, cultural, family or community events, the result is an occasion that feels both purposeful and personal — grounded in place and remembered for the setting as much as for the event itself.



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How our spaces are typically used

The formats below show some of the ways Maidstone Museum is often used to host events. They are not fixed packages, but established approaches that can help you think about how the building and its spaces might best support your occasion.

Corporate Away Day or Annual Meeting

A structured working day designed for internal discussion and planning, held across one or more formal rooms. The setting offers a purposeful environment away from the usual workplace, supporting focused conversation, strategy sessions and team reflection.

The day may conclude with a reception or informal gathering, giving teams space to consolidate ideas before departing.

Well suited to – corporate away days, annual meetings, team briefings, strategy sessions

Bespoke Museum Takeover Evening

Exclusive use of the Museum, allowing guests to move between rooms, galleries and the courtyard. The variety of spaces supports larger gatherings without feeling crowded, as people naturally spread out, regroup and choose how they engage.

Well suited to – community celebrations, large corporate events, awards evenings, fundraising events. Each Museum takeover event is unique, and the security and protection of collections will be an essential part of the event planning process.

Talk, Lecture or Performance Evening

A focused evening centred on spoken word or small-scale performance, typically hosted in a single room with a seated audience. The emphasis is on attentive listening and shared experience, followed by refreshments and discussion.

Well suited to – public talks, book launches, heritage lectures, intimate performances

Celebration with Historic Context

A social event shaped by the setting itself. Guests gather in historic rooms for a birthday, anniversary or family celebration, with time to explore the Museum as part of the occasion.

This format is often chosen by people planning a personal celebration and looking for a setting that feels distinctive and connected to place.

Well suited to – milestone birthdays, anniversaries, family celebrations, community gatherings

After-Hours Private View

An evening event with the Museum closed to the public. Guests arrive into a quieter building, with drinks served before moving through selected galleries and exhibitions at their own pace. A short welcome or introduction may accompany the evening, but the emphasis is on exploration and informal conversation.

Well suited to – exhibition launches, cultural evenings, anniversary occasions, small receptions

Conference with Collections

A professional daytime event centred on presentations, discussion and learning, held in one or more formal rooms. The programme may include structured gallery access or short guided moments that complement the content and introduce curatorial context between sessions.

Well suited to – training days, sector meetings, learning-led organisations, professional development events

**Where Heritage
Meets Hospitality.**

Our Spaces

Bentlif Library

Victorian library. Calm and contained.

Created in 1890, the Bentlif Library is lined with mahogany bookcases and historic paintings. The room is enclosed and acoustically contained, making it particularly suitable for events that depend on listening and discussion.



Why this room works

Quiet, focused environment
Supports spoken-word formats
Formal without feeling corporate or impersonal

Ideal for

Meetings • training • talks • small conferences

Practical details

Theatre: up to 40
Boardroom: up to 24
Square / horseshoe: up to 26



Our Spaces

Glass Room

Contemporary space with natural light.

A stunning new room in the Museum's east wing, with full-height glass overlooking Brenchley Gardens. Bright, contained and well suited to focused working sessions.



Why this room works

Consistent daylight
Clear sightlines for group work
Separate from busier areas

Ideal for

Workshops • interviews • small meetings

Practical details

Boardroom style: up to 18



Our Spaces

Withdrawing Room

Tudor room with warmth and adaptability.

Located within the original manor house, with wood panelling and a large fireplace. The room adapts well between professional use and social events.



Why this room works

Flexible layouts
Character and history without formality
Atmospheric evening venue

Ideal for

Meetings • talks • receptions • celebrations

Practical details

Theatre: up to 50
Standing: up to 60



Our Spaces

Godiva Hall

Open reception space at the heart of the building.

Designed for movement rather than seating, this is the Museum's principal arrival space.



Why this room works

- Supports larger gatherings
- Encourages circulation and conversation
- Effective as a central event hub with a high-impact first impression

Ideal for

Receptions • community events • celebrations

Practical details

Standing receptions: up to 150



Our Spaces

Godiva Courtyard

Enclosed outdoor space.

An enclosed courtyard used alongside Godiva Hall, particularly during warmer months.



Why this space works

Adds a distinctive outdoor setting to receptions and celebrations

Extends events beyond a single room in summer months

Enhances the overall atmosphere of evening and social events

Ideal for

Welcome drinks • summer celebrations • outdoor receptions

Practical details

Standing: up to 35

Seasonal use



Our Spaces

Exhibition Galleries

Events held among collections.

Selected galleries can be used for events, subject to planning and conservation requirements.



Why these spaces work

An authentic setting within the Museum's galleries and collections

Built-in interest for guests

Particularly meaningful for first-time visitors

Ideal for

Private views • cultural evenings • celebrations

Practical details

Smaller galleries: approx. 9 × 6 m

Larger galleries: approx. 16 × 6 m

Capacity varies by use. Please contact us to discuss your requirements



Our Spaces

Exclusive venue hire

For some events, the Museum can be hired exclusively, with private access to rooms, galleries and exhibitions.

Exclusive hire allows:

- Exclusive use of an historic building
- Immediate impact and interest for guests
- After-hours atmosphere in a unique set of rooms
- This option is often chosen for significant celebrations, large community events or occasions where privacy matters

Planning your event

- Events are planned collaboratively to make the most of the Museum's spaces and setting

Technical facilities

- Presentation screens or projectors (by room)
- Basic PA for speech
- WI-FI throughout the building
- Tables, chairs and power access

Catering and kitchen facilities

- External caterers supported
- Own caterer permitted subject to checks
- Tea, coffee and light refreshments available
- Drinks receptions supported
- A small kitchenette is available for plating and storage. There is no full commercial kitchen on site, but we work with a number of caterers and can advise on suitable options or collaborate with your preferred catering team

Access, staffing and collections care

- Supplier access arranged in advance
- Nearby public parking
- Most spaces accessible – lifts and stairlifts available throughout
- Events supported by trained staff
- Collections care requirements are standard and professionally managed



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Next steps and contact

To discuss hosting an event in one or more of Maidstone Museum's historic rooms, arrange a viewing or get in touch. Our professional events team will be happy to talk through your ideas and help you explore how the spaces might work for your occasion.

Email: venuehire@maidstone.gov.uk

Tel: 01622 602 847

Web: museum.maidstone.gov.uk

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Your Event, **Our History.**