

PRESS RELEASE

South East hotels still very much 'open for business' in 2012

Despite a Travel Mole report last week to the contrary, hotels in South East England are gearing up to welcome visitors planning to visit the London 2012 Olympic Games. While interest in accommodation brochures has soared over the last two months in many of the neighbouring counties, there are still plenty of bed spaces available in the region to take the pressure off the capital.

Hoteliers in Berkshire, Surrey and Kent, who are closest to the action, say that they welcome enquiries from prospective 2012 visitors and will be happy to provide quotes and reservations ahead of the Games.

South East cities have some of the quickest transport links into central London – there is a coach from Oxford every 15 minutes that takes only 90 minutes, while Hastings, Southampton and Brighton offer a direct rail link in 60-90 minutes. Other cities also offer fast access by [train](#), making a stay outside London a very viable alternative.

Chair of Southampton Hoteliers Association, Gavin Elliott was keen to stress the advantages of staying in the South East: 'Sure, we are taking enquiries but all hotels within the Southampton region that I have contact with do have availability and are expecting to do good business, especially as the City is so well located, being a great transport hub with our Airport, fast rail service to London and Weymouth, motorway network and of course the Port.'

Tourism South East's Managing Director, Sue Saville said: 'Obviously we are delighted in the extra interest the Olympics is generating in our region and have increased the numbers of bed spaces available to seize the opportunity, but our hoteliers are not yet recording full occupancy. Visitors looking for a more relaxed stay, and perhaps extend their visit to take in some of our world-class beauty spots, should definitely check out our website to see what South East hotels can offer.'

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