



## Focus on Ramsgate

**Ramsgate's been named as one of the country's hot spots for 2006 by Country Life magazine. They listed the town at number five amongst places most likely to benefit from city workers buying properties. So what's helped to push Ramsgate so high up the list?**

The town boasts some of the best examples of Regency and Victorian architecture in the south east of England, with picturesque promenades and crescents. It also enjoys the highest concentration of listed buildings in the region – 900 throughout the town and more than 200 surrounding the Port of Ramsgate's historic Royal Harbour Marina.

The Harbour was first granted its Royal status in 1821 by King George IV in recognition of the hospitality shown to him during his visit and to this day remains the only one in the country to have received this honour. It's also got one of the most stunning Harbour views in the country, with many seafront properties enjoying views over the 700 berth marina.

It was a seafront site that the internationally renowned architect Augustus Pugin chose for his own family home, The Grange, which he designed in 1843-44. It was here that Pugin designed the interior of the House of Lords and the Mediaeval Court at the Great Exhibition and the property remained in the Pugin family until 1928.

Only a short walk from the seafront is the bustling town centre, with its thriving high street, full of national, independent and specialist retailers. There's a growing café culture, concentrated in the centre and on the seafront, offering a range of restaurants and bars.

Ramsgate's improved transport links are also seen as positive by investors. The Port of Ramsgate runs the only cross-channel passenger ferry service to Belgium, with services daily to Ostend. Significant improvements to the road network have brought Ramsgate to just over an hour's drive from the outskirts of London along mainly motorway and dual carriageway routes. Rail links are the next focus, with high speed passenger services expected to start in 2009, which will bring reducing the commuting time to the capital to just 63 minutes.

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