

Ashford Designer Outlet

Ashford Designer Outlet is Europe's most spectacularly designed shopping destination. Designed by Millennium Dome architect, Lord Richard Rogers, the centre features the world's largest 'tented roof' structure.

Located just off junction 10 of the M20 motorway, near to Ashford town centre, the award-winning designer outlet benefits from first-class road and rail links.

A shuttle bus service connects the centre to Ashford International train station and town centre every fifteen minutes.

Attractions close to the centre include Leeds Castle, Brands Hatch, Dover Castle and the Port Lympne Wild Animal Park.

Covering 182,000 square feet, Ashford Designer Outlet has over 75 stores including Gap Outlet, Marks & Spencer Outlet, Bose, Oasis, Next Clearance and Reebok.

More than three million people visit the designer outlet every year. It has won three awards, including 'Retail Destination of the Year,' 'Best Shopping Venue 2001' and 'Best Tourist Information Centre'.

Centre facilities include:

- Spacious foodcourt with outlets including McDonald's, Harry Ramsden's, Spud-U-Like and Millie's Cookies.
- A safety-approved children's play area
- Tourist Information Centre
- Over 1,300 car parking spaces

The centre is open 364 days a year, including Bank Holidays, from 10am to 8pm weekdays*, 10am to 7pm Saturday and 10am to 5pm Sunday (*except Bank Holidays).

For more information visit www.ashforddesigneroutlet.com or call +44 (0)1233 895900.

Quick facts about Designer Outlet Ashford:

- The centre was opened by TV gardening guru Charlie Dimmock, in March 2000.
- The brownfield site on which the Outlet is now built was originally the Kimberley Works – a former railway and engineering plant.
- The centre's roof is the longest continuous membrane structure in the world. It is almost one kilometre in length and covers 376,600 square feet. The fabric used to form the spectacular structure is so strong that a metre strip can support the weight of 12 cars.
- Every Christmas, Santa visits the Outlet, making his grand appearance by abseiling down the roof!
- The marshland area adjacent to the designer outlet is a favourite with amphibians who live happily alongside the centre. It is known locally as 'Frog's Island' – hence the centre's mascot, McRibbit the Frog.
- An ancient technique is employed at the Outlet to avoid invasion from local pigeons and seagulls. A Harris Hawk visits the Outlet twice a day, flying round to distract the birds from potential nesting points under the roof structure.
- Designer Outlet Ashford, which is walking distance from the Eurostar terminal, is big enough to fit 84 Eurostar trains!
- The South East England Tourist Board judged the centre's on-site tourist information centre to be the best in the region.
- Group Leisure magazine named the centre Best Shopping Venue in 2001.
- The Outlet was voted Retail Destination of the Year 2001, by readers of Retail Week.
- The outlet hosts an annual Ashford Schools' Choir Competition, bringing together young voices from many local schools.

- Star shoppers spotted at the centre have included Paul Brady (alias Lily Savage), Eastenders actors Craig Fairbrass and Shaun Williamson, and Tom Baker (Dr Who).
- With its stunning design, the outlet is regularly used as a backdrop for photo shoots and location filming.