

Explore Thanet

walking and cycling map
featuring



www.kent.gov.uk/explorekent
www.vikingcoastaltrail.co.uk

Introduction

The largely flat landscape of Thanet makes walking and cycling a breeze. With many tourist attractions, Blue Flag beaches, retail outlets, cafés and bars, Thanet is a great all season tourism destination.

Getting around

Cycling is often the fastest, always the healthiest and, apart from walking, the most environmentally sustainable form of transport. Cycling has many benefits for both the individual cyclist and society as a whole. For

journeys up to 3 miles cycling is usually the fastest way of getting from A to B. The current cycle network in Thanet links the three main towns of Margate, Broadstairs and Ramsgate.

Take a close look at your map and see how easy it is to get from your home to the station, school or town centre.

Walking and cycling aren't just a rewarding and fun way to get around town - switching from using the car for some trips will reduce climate change emissions and saves you a lot of money, it also allows you to integrate some healthy activity into your daily routine, helping you lose weight and get fitter.

Thanet is also well served by mainline train stations and bus routes, including the Thanet Loop running every **8 minutes** during peak time.

For information on taking bikes on buses or trains, please visit the following websites;
for trains; www.southeasternrailway.co.uk
for buses; www.stagecoachbus.com



Leisure walking and cycling

Aside from the two main tourist routes mentioned there are numerous promenades and parks to enjoy some healthy exercise. If you are feeling less energetic, both routes can be broken into bite size pieces using the frequent train or bus services to get back to your start point.

More adventurous cyclists can connect to National Cycle Route 1 at Sandwich by diverting off the Viking Coastal Trail and following dedicated cycle routes around Pegwell Bay. The charming medieval town of Sandwich is well worth a visit. From Reculver, the Oyster Bay Trail can be picked up to continue around the north Kent coast.

If you'd like help in getting to know Thanet and finding your way around, help is at hand. Visit www.kentgreeters.co.uk for a free personal introduction to the area from local people who are passionate about where they live. Alternatively you could join a guided walk via www.kent.gov.uk/explorekent.

All public rights of way are shown on the map. Walkers can use all the routes and cyclists are permitted to use bridleways, restricted byways and byways, although not all are suitable for cycling.

For the definitive guide to walking and cycling in Kent, visit Explore Kent at www.kent.gov.uk/explorekent



The Viking Coastal Trail

Fact File

Distance: 43.5km (27 miles) but take your pick of any part of it!

Terrain: Mostly flat with a few sharp hills, two thirds of the route is off road, ideal for family outings.

Signed throughout: Viking Coastal Trail/National Route 15



Whether you're an experienced cyclist or a novice, you'll find plenty to enjoy along the 27 mile (43.5km) route on the Isle of Thanet peninsular, the point where Vikings first landed in Britain.

The coastal section from Pegwell Bay to Reculver winds its way past sandy beaches and bays, often against a backdrop of spectacular chalk cliffs. Ramsgate and Margate are lively seaside resorts, but it's hard to beat the nostalgic charm of Broadstairs.

The inland loop is on quiet lanes, taking in pretty Kentish villages with ancient churches and passing Minster Abbey, one of England's oldest inhabited buildings founded in 670AD.

If you don't want to undertake the whole route, try the 9 mile traffic-free stretch that follows the seawall from Margate to Reculver.

You can join this well-signed route on the promenade directly opposite Margate train station. Along the promenade to Westgate-on-Sea you'll find plenty of distractions, with slopes and steps to the cliff tops and down to the beaches and rock pools.

The only on-road section takes you along the cliff from Westgate-on-Sea to Epple Bay where you rejoin the promenade. You can avoid the road by cutting across the foreshore, but cyclists will have to carry their bikes - and risk



Westgate-on-Sea

getting their feet wet if they get the tide wrong! Minnis Bay is popular with swimmers, as well as sailors, windsurfers and sea canoeists. From here the scenery changes with striking views of the flat marshland as you approach Reculver, a few miles east of Herne Bay.



The route is also known as Regional Cycle Network (RNCN) 15 and well signed throughout with the trail logo and NCN symbol.

Points of interest

Pugins Grange, St Augustine's Road, Ramsgate

The Grange is a grade I listed building that was designed and lived in by Augustus Pugin, the 19th century architect. It was recently restored by the Landmark Trust, a building preservation charity and is now available for holidays throughout the year.

Minster Abbey, Church Street, Minster

Possibly the oldest inhabited house in the country. The first English monastery was founded on the Abbey site in 670AD by Ermenburga, granddaughter of St Ethelbert.

The Viking Ship "Hugin", Sandwich Road, Ramsgate

Situated on the cliff top at Pegwell Bay, this replica Viking Ship sailed from Denmark to Thanet in 1949 to celebrate the 1500th anniversary of the landing of Hengist and Horsa.

Royal Harbour and Marina, Ramsgate

Designed by Smeaton and Rennie, the two big names in Georgian marine engineering, the outline of the harbour remains essentially unchanged from that of 1793.

Joss Bay, Joss Gap Road, Broadstairs

Joss Snelling the notorious smuggler is named after this bay. He was born in 1741 and plied his "trade" in Thanet. Active till late in his life, he was fined £100 for smuggling at the age of 89! However, despite the deportations and hangings of many of his accomplices, Snelling avoided either fate, and at the time of his death, aged 96, he had achieved celebrity status for his dangerous deeds. He was even introduced to the future Queen Victoria as the "famous Broadstairs smuggler"!

Margate Main Sands and Seafront, Margate

A great stretch of golden, sandy beach on one side with amusement arcades, candy floss and ice cream stalls on the other, all overlooked by Margate's landmark clock tower.

Turner Contemporary, Marine Drive, Margate

Opened on the 16th April 2011, this landmark gallery, designed by Stirling Prize winner David Chipperfield, offers a stimulating programme of events, exhibitions and learning opportunities. Situated on Margate's seafront, on the same site where Turner stayed when visiting the town, the gallery is the largest exhibition space in the South East, outside of London.

Places to visit

- 1 The Boating Pool L1
- 2 Crampton Tower Museum M5
- 3 Dickens House Museum N5
- 4 Drapers Windmill K7
- 5 The Grange L1
- 6 Granville Theatre & Cinema M2
- 7 Hartsdown Leisure Centre I7
- 8 Helter Skelter Play Centre N5
- 9 Horizon Sea Safaris M2
- 10 Hornby Visitor Centre K6
- 11 Italianate Greenhouse N3
- 12 Lillyputt Mini Golf N4
- 13 Little Oasis Crazy Golf K8
- 14 Minster Abbey F1
- 15 Monkton Nature Reserve B2
- 16 Nayland Rock Shelter I8
- 17 Palace Cinema N5
- 18 The Pinball Parlour L2
- 19 Quex Park (Quex House and Gardens, Jungle Jim's, Maize Maze, Quex Falconry Centre, Quex Barn, Powell-Cotton Museum) E5
- 20 RAF Manston History Museum H3
- 21 RAF Spitfire & Hurricane Memorial Museum H4
- 22 Ramsgate Sports Centre L2
- 23 Ramsgate Swimming Pool K3
- 24 Revolution Skate Park L6
- 25 Sandwich & Pegwell Bay National Reserve I1
- 26 Sarre Windmill A2
- 27 Sea Searcher Boat Trips M2
- 28 Shell Grotto J8
- 29 St Augustine's Cross H1
- 30 Strokes Adventure Golf I8
- 31 Theatre Royal J8
- 32 Tom Thumb Theatre K8
- 33 Tudor House J8
- 34 Turner Contemporary J8
- 35 Viking Adventure Playground K8
- 36 Viking Ship J1
- 37 Vue Cinema K5
- 38 Winter Gardens J8
- 39 Walley World I8

The Turner and Dickens Walk



The Turner and Dickens walk connects Margate and Broadstairs. It is named in recognition of the two towns' respective links with the world renowned artist JMW Turner and author Charles Dickens. It is a four mile signposted route with distinctive black and white signs and can be walked in either direction and is designed to be accessible for all.

Much of the walk is based on the ancient path linking St Peter's Church, Broadstairs with St John's Church in Margate. It combines urban and rural Thanet, starting and finishing at the two harbours which date back to the Tudor period, one facing north and the other east.

A key feature of the walk is art inspired by Turner and Dickens. Mosaic panels have been installed in each town. Broadstairs mosaic artist, Martin Cheek, worked with children from two schools close to the walk to create the mosaics.



Hotels and accommodation

Thanet has a huge variety of places to stay. Choose from luxurious cliff-top hotels overlooking the sea to friendly caravan and camping sites in the countryside. Whether you choose a boutique B&B or even a self-catering holiday cottage, you are bound to find somewhere you will love spending time after a busy day out exploring!

You can find some of the best accredited accommodation listed on www.visitthanet.co.uk

Cycle to school

- S1** St Nicholas at Wade CEP School
- S2** Monkton CEP School
- S3** Minster CEP School
- S4** Birchington CEP School
- S5** King Ethelbert School
- S6** Ursuline College
- S7** St Crispins Community Primary Infant School
- S8** St Saviours CEJ School
- S9** Garlinge Primary School
- S10** Hartsdown Technology College
- S11** Salmestone Primary School
- S12** St Gregorys Catholic Primary School
- S13** Holy Trinity & St Johns CEP School
- S14** Drapers Mills Primary School
- S15** Northdown Primary School
- S16** St Anthony's School
- S17** Laleham Gap School
- S18** Cliftonville Primary School
- S19** Palm Bay Primary School
- S20** Callis Grange Nursery & Infant School
- S21** St Peter-in-Thamet CEJ School
- S22** The Foreland School
- S23** Stone Bay School
- S24** St Josephs Catholic Primary School
- S25** St Georges CE Foundation School
- S26** Dane Court Grammar School
- S27** The Charles Dickens School
- S28** Upton Junior School
- S29** St Mildreds Primary Infant School
- S30** Bromstone Primary School
- S31** Northwood Centre
- S32** Dame Janet Community Junior School
- S33** Marlowe Academy
- S34** Dame Janet Community Infant & Nursery School
- S35** The Ellington and Hereson School
- S36** Newlands Primary School
- S37** Holy Trinity CEP School
- S38** Thanet & Dover Alternative Curriculum
- S39** Newington Community Primary School & Nursery
- S40** St Laurence in Thanet CEJ School
- S41** Ellington Infant School
- S42** Priory Infant School
- S43** Chatham House Grammar School
- S44** St Ethelberts Catholic Primary School
- S45** Clarendon House Grammar School
- S46** Christ Church CEJ School
- S47** Chilton Primary School
- S48** St Lawrence College



Ramsgate Royal Harbour



Download the Explore Kent app on iPhone and Android phones for free.

Kent County Council
Invicta House,
Maidstone,
Kent ME14 1XX

www.kent.gov.uk/explorekent
Email: explore@kent.gov.uk

Thanet Visitor Information Service
The Droit House
Stone Pier
Margate
Kent CT9 1JD

www.visitthanet.co.uk
Email: tourism@thanet.gov.uk

Supporting information points at:
Royal Albion Garden Kiosk, Broadstairs CT10 1AN
Lillyputt Mini Golf, Victoria Gardens, Broadstairs CT10 1QL
Customs House, Harbour Parade, Ramsgate CT11 8LN



This guide is available in other formats and can be explained in other languages. To obtain a copy please call: 08458 247600. Text phone users, please call: 08458 247905.

Parking

Cycle parking around Thanet is located in a number of town centre locations, including all train stations, beaches and a number of visitor attractions. All parking facilities are marked on the map.

Cycle hire

- Bike Shed**
71 Canterbury Road, Margate, CT9 5AS
Tel: 01843 228866
- Ken's Bike Shop**
26 Eaton Road, Margate, CT9 1XA
Tel: 01843 221422
- Viking Coastal Trail Cycle Hire**
Minnis Bay Car Park, CT7 9LT
Tel: 07772 037 609