

flights over the fairways

The busy riverside creates a lively and colourful start. The paths quickly branch away from the riverfront to cross the immaculate greens and fairways of a coastal golf course and down to the shingle foreshore at Sandwich Bay.





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Location: Sandwich

Distance: 5.1 miles (8.2km)

Time: allow 2 hours 30 minutes

Explorer Map: 150

Terrain: paths and tracks

Stiles: 6

Parking: at The Quay, Sandwich

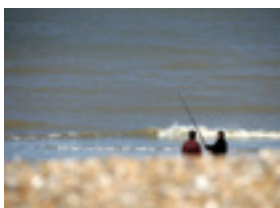
Refreshments and facilities: public toilets at The Quay; many cafes, restaurants and public houses in Sandwich

Public transport: for information about local bus and train services in Kent, contact Traveline tel: 0870 6082608, www.traveline.org.uk

Step count: approx 10,200



Sandwich is one of the historic Cinque Ports. The town, originating in the seventh century, grew up as a trading centre and gateway to mainland Europe. The port was at its most prosperous in the 1200s. The historic quayside marks the start of this relaxing walk.



Follow the path alongside the river until it flows away to the north east and the Saxon Shore Way separates from the Stour Valley Walk. The path soon heads off across the famous Royal St George's golf course and down to the open sea at Sandwich Bay.

Enjoy the views across the bay and then follow the route back across the sand dunes and salt marshes to open fields and pastures.

The rich and varied habitats make this a particularly attractive area for enthusiasts watching many species of over-wintering and migrating birds.

The path passes by the entrance to the popular Sandwich Bay Bird Observatory Trust Field Centre. The centre is open daily and is a good source of information about wildlife in the area generally as well as rarer sightings. The observatory carries out scientific bird migration and monitoring programmes for national and international projects. From the bird observatory, the route passes

through the Sandwich and Hacklinge Site of Special Scientific Interest and on through small farms and arable fields.

Leave the fields and head back towards the hustle and bustle of Sandwich. Take a few minutes to explore the narrow streets and historic houses before leaving the main road. Follow the former port's ancient town wall to return to the quayside.

Guided boat trips are available from The Quay. The river tours include talks about the history of Sandwich and the local environment.

Nearby, the archaeological remains and museum at Richborough reveal the changing importance and fortunes of this part of the Kent coast in Roman Britain.

look out for...

- Sandwich Bay Bird Observatory
- Wildfowl, wading birds, visiting and resident species including mute swans, curlew, corn bunting, oyster catcher, grey heron
- Wood mouse, water vole
- Southern marsh orchid, lizard orchid
- Scarecrows in early spring
- Moths, such as elephant hawk, five spot burnet and humming bird hawk moth. Dragonflies.

Butterflies, such as red admiral, marbled white, meadow brown, painted lady and peacock.



did you know?

The Royal St George's Golf Course is one of the most famous and difficult golf courses in the world. The golf club was founded in 1887 and has played host to 13 Open Championships.

Sandwich was unusually established on a spit of sand in the seventh century and became an important port.

Henry III's sailors defeated the French in the Battle of Sandwich.

For more walks including accessible heritage trails, visit www.fortifications.org

Sandwich was one of the first towns in England to have an appointed Mayor.

Sandwich Guildhall was built in 1576 and was modified during the 20th century.

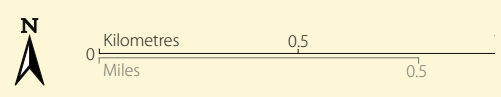
The Moot Horn, hanging in Sandwich Guildhall, was used as far back as the 12th century to summon local people to hear important announcements.

The Barbican Gate, built in the 16th century, was the former tollgate to the bridge over the River Stour.

The modern sandwich is said to have been invented by the fourth Earl of Sandwich who called for cheese, bread and meat to be served so that he could continue gambling instead of dining formally. The story goes that other players also called for the "same as Sandwich".



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- ◆ Saxon Shore Way
- d Nature reserve
- p Parking
- G Golf course
- q Interest
- " " Public House
- PC Public Convenience
- i Information
- " " Gate
- " " Stile
- 1 National cycle network
- Railway Station
- ! (triangle) Take Care