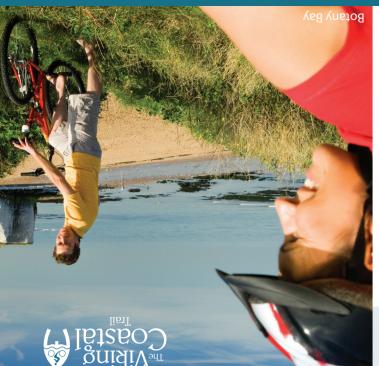


www.kent.gov.uk/explorekent www.vikingcoastaltrail.co.uk



Thane by bike Trail and circle the Isle of connected Viking Coastal Explore the newly

Coastal Trail δυιγιλ ອήΤ





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 Serving Margate, Broadstairs and Ramsgate The Droit House Stone Pier, Margate Kent CT9 1JD

www.visitthanet.co.uk Email: visitorinformation@thanet.gov.uk Tel: 01843 577577

www.sustrans.org.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: 03000 41 71 71. Textphone users please call: 18001 03000 41 71 71.

The Viking Coastal Trail

omans, saints and Saxons landed here, artists and writers drew inspiration here, so hop on your bike and



discover why visitors have been coming to the Isle of Thanet for centuries. Whichever section of the 32 mile (51.4 km) Viking Coastal Trail you choose to explore, you are sure to find dramatic scenery and a wealth of local historical gems.

Divide the trail up into the manageable sections and you'll find a variety of fantastic days out; from pedalling your way through rural villages to winding your way along the coast, taking in vibrant seaside towns and the haunts of Charles Dickens and JMW Turner.

The route is also known as the Regional Cycle Network 15 and well signed throughout with the trail logo and 5 ক্রিক ⁾ the National Cycle Network.

The Six Churches Ride

Location: St Nicholas at Wade (CT7 0NG) - Ramsgate Distance: 9.5 mile (15.25 km) Time: Allow 1.5 hours OS Explorer Map: 150 Terrain: Mainly on-road Refreshments & facilities: Restaurants and pubs at St Nicholas at Wade and Ramsgate Parking: Ramsgate

Take on the trail from St Nicholas at Wade, passing six ancient churches and charming villages to once again meet the coast and vibrant Ramsgate.

St Nicholas at Wade's grand flint and ragstone church dates back to the 13th century.

Cycle across peaceful marshland and you'll reach Thanet's smallest ancient church, St Mary Magdalene, nestled in the traditional village of Monkton.

Minster's 12th century **St Mary's the Virgin Church** is a stark reminder of the Reformation; the 1160 nave was the only part of the church to survive destruction.

One of England's oldest religious buildings, Minster Abbey was founded by Princess Ermenburga in the 7th century; it is said to have been funded by her cousin and King of Kent, Egbert, after he murdered her two brothers.

St Augustine's Cross marks a piece of ancient local legend; it is said that this is the spot where St Augustine met with King Ethelbert nearly 1,500 years ago.

Along the sweeping clifftops at Pegwell Bay, you'll see the architectural splendour of St Augustine's Abbey Church, designed by the great Gothic revivalist architect Augustus Welby Northmore Pugin.

The small Sailor's Church is your final stop, a contrast to the grand St Augustine's Abbey Church. Built in 1878 by the Vicar of Christ Church, it was a refuge for the men and boys of the Ramsgate fleet.

2 History, Art and Architecture

Location: Ramsgate (CT12 5HY) Distance: 4.5 mile (7km) Time: 45 minutes OS Explorer Map: 150 Terrain: Mainly off-road, some on-road sections Refreshments & facilities: Pubs and restaurants in Ramsgate and public toilets at Pegwell, Ramsgate and King George VI Parking: Car park at the Viking Ship 'Hugin'

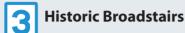
Viking ships and nostalgic villages pepper this section of the trail, not to mention the obligatory backdrop of fantastic coastal views along the entire ride.

This ride begins at the very heart of Thanet's heritage with the Viking invasion. The Viking Ship Hugin is a replica of the 1949 'Hugin', which sailed from Denmark to Thanet to mark the 1500th anniversary of the invasion of Britain.

The grand **St Augustine's Abbey Church** was designed by the Victorian architect Augustus Welby Northmore Pugin, designer of the interiors of the Houses of Parliament. The Grange, the grade I listed house next to the church was designed by Pugin for his family. A self guided walking tour from East Cliff to West Cliff will highlight Pugin's influence in Ramsgate.

Ramsgate's harbour lies along your trail, a perfect place to stop and enjoy lively restaurants and bars or take a tour of the Ramsgate Maritime Museum. Wander through the town and you'll be distracted by sweeping crescents, Regency squares and Georgian terraces.

Rounding the coast from Ramsgate to Broadstairs, you'll ride through the King George VI Memorial Park where the 19th century Italianate Greenhouse sits within a sweep of parkland.



Location: King George VI Memorial Park, Ramsgate (CT11 8BD) – North Foreland Lighthouse	
Distance: 3.25 miles (9km)	
Time: Allow 30 minutes	
OS Explorer Map: 150	
Terrain: On-road	
Refreshments & facilities: Pubs and restaurants in Ramsgate and Broadstairs. Public toilets at King George VI Memorial Park, Broadstairs and Joss Bay	
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Parking: At Ramsgate, Broadstairs and Joss Bay

Explore the landscape that inspired famous figures including Charles Dickens and Russell Crampton on this ride to nostalgic Broadstairs.

Pedaling along the cliff tops above Louisa Bay, you'll soon reach Broadstairs; a short detour up the High Street leads you to Crampton Tower Museum. Situated in the original Broadstairs Waterworks, the museum is dedicated to the famous Victorian civil engineer, Russell Thomas Crampton.

This striking coastline has attracted many creatives, including Charles Dickens. Broadstairs was a favourite holiday spot for Dickens and the **Dickens House Museum** on the seafront boasts a fascinating collection of his belongings. Bleak House, Dickens' holiday home was famously where he began to write David Copperfield.

Seven glorious bays make up the Broadstairs seafront. The most notable bay, the Viking Bay was named after the landing of the anniversary Viking ship Hugin at Broadstairs.

The curved York Gate on Harbour Street stands as testament to George Culmer's shipyard of the 16th Century. York Gate stood to protect Culmer's prosperous business.

The North Foreland Lighthouse is the final stop on your tour. This great tower marks the southern entrance to the Thames and was the last manned lighthouse in the country until its conversion in 1998. External viewing only.



Location: St Augustine's Cross (CT12 5JN) - Monkton Distance: 4.5 miles (7 km) Time: Allow 45 minutes OS Explorer Map: 150 Terrain: On-road Refreshments & facilities: Pubs and restaurants in Minster and Cliffsend Parking: At Minster and Monkton Nature Reserve

Retrace the footsteps of St Augustine, the intrepid missionary of Pope Gregory the Great, charged with the task of bringing Christianity from Rome to England in 597 AD.

Ebbsfleet was where St Augustine and 40 monks first stepped on to English soil. St Augustine's Cross marks the spot where it is said he first met King Ethelbert, a sovereign he later converted to Christianity.

As Britain's oldest inhabited house it is no surprise that Minster Abbey has had a stormy past. Founded as the first English monastery in 670 AD, the Abbey was destroyed by Vikings, rebuilt by King Canute and then razed to the ground during the Norman Conquest.

From an ancient monastery to an ancient church, Minster's St Mary the Virgin Church was the first church in Thanet. The peal of five bells carries across the marshland from the church, four of which date back to the 17th century.

A little way off the trail, the 16-acre Monkton Nature Reserve is worth a small detour. The abandoned chalk quarry provides a fantastic site for animals, wild flowers and bats to flourish.





The notorious 18th century smuggler Joss Snelling was named after the glorious Joss Bay. Unlike his peers, Snelling escaped hanging, his status reaching lofty heights, so much so that he was even introduced to Queen Victoria as "the famous Broadstairs smuggler".

Botany Bay is said to have been named after Botany Bay in Australia; the fate for many smugglers was deportation to Australia by convict ship!

Riding into Margate, the museum and harbour offer a perfect end to your smuggling trail. The museum tells the town's tale, from the town's smugglers to its important role in the evacuation of Dunkirk.

A departure from the history and heritage of the area, the visually dynamic Turner Contemporary is set in the 19th century harbour, offering a refreshing end to your ride.

Terrain: Mainly off-road

stretch of Margate Main Sands At Westbrook Bay take in a deep breath of sea air, visit the café along the promenade, or have a go at a game of adventure golf.

St Mildred's Bay at Westgate-on-Sea offers plenty of distractions. Take in stunning views from the chalk cliff tops and former WWI seaplane lookout, or wander the sandy beach, complete with chalk reef, tennis courts and café.

West Bay features a promenade, cliffs, a café and rock pools surrounding a glorious sandy beach. From here your route continues along the cliff top road to the promenade at Epple Bay where you can view the chalk sea caves.

You'll find tranquil bays at Beresford Gap and Grenham, each with an extensive chalk reef habitat and wildlife.

Finish your trail with a stroll along Minnis Bay, but if you're feeling a little more adventurous kite boarding, sailing and windsurfing are all popular here. From here, you can continue the route along the sea wall and on to the **Reculver Towers**.

5 Smugglers' Haunts Ride

Location: Joss Bay (CT10 3PG) - Margate Distance: 3.5 miles (6km) Time: 30 minutes OS Explorer Map: 150 Terrain: Mainly off-road Refreshments & facilities: Restaurants and pubs at Margate. Public toilets in Margate Parking: Joss Bay and Margate

Cycle this stretch of the trail from the sweeping **Joss Bay** to lively Margate. Evidence of smuggling legend is found all along this trail, from bays named after notorious crooks to a museum packed with smuggling history.

6 Beaches and Bays

- Location: Margate (CT9 1JD) Minnis Bay
- Distance: 3.75 miles (6.25 km) optional extended route to
- Reculver 3.75 miles (6.25 km)
- Time: 30 minutes (Allow 1 hour with extension to Reculver) OS Explorer Map: 150
- Refreshments & facilities: Pubs and restaurants at Margate, Westgate-on-Sea and Minnis Bay. Public toilets at Margate, Westgate-on-Sea and Minnis Bay

Parking: At Margate, Westgate-on-Sea and Minnis Bay

Enjoy the trail from Margate Harbour to the family haven of Minnis Bay, discovering six sandy bays and hidden coves along this largely traffic-free route.

What better way to start this beach-hopping tour than taking in some of the traditional trappings of a seaside town? Make the most of ice cream stalls overlooking the magnificent

Reculver to St Nicholas at Wade

Location: Reculver Towers (CT6 6SU) - St Nicholas at Wade Distance: 5 miles (7.9 km) Time: Allow 55 minutes OS Explorer Map: 150 Terrain: Mainly on-road Refreshments & facilities: Restaurants and pubs at Reculver Parking: At Reculver and St Nicholas at Wade

Complete your circle of the Thanet peninsular and ride along the final section of the newly joined up Viking Coastal Trail.

Pedal on from the magnificent **Reculver Towers** and take on this final 5-mile section, heading away from the glorious beaches and busy seaside towns and back through peaceful countryside and marshland towards the village of St Nicholas at Wade.

Reculver to Herne Bay

Location: Reculver Towers (CT6 6SU) - Herne Bay Distance: 7 miles (11.3 km)

Time: 1 hour OS Explorer Map: 150 Terrain: Mainly off-road

Refreshments & facilities: Restaurants and pubs at Reculver and Herne Bay Parking: At Reculver and Herne Bay

Stretching on from the **Reculver Towers**, the section of the Oyster Bay Trail to Herne Bay is a fantastic addition to your exploration of the Viking Coastal Trail.

Your tour will take in the Reculver Towers, an imposing landmark which can be seen across the coastline as you make you way to Herne Bay. These 12th century towers stand amid the ruins of a Saxon monastery and a Roman fort.

Travel along the coast on traffic-free cycle paths and residential roads and you'll soon reach Herne Bay seafront, lined with a rainbow of beach huts and with views back to the magnificent towers.

Places to visit

- 1 Bleak House (Broadstairs) N5
- **2** The Boating Pool L1
- 3 Crampton Tower Museum M5
- 4 Dickens House Museum N5
- 5 Drapers Windmill K7
- 6 Dreamland (Margate opening 2015) 18
- **7** The Grange L1
- 8 Granville Theatre & Cinema M2
- 9 Hartsdown Leisure Centre I7
- 10 Helter Skelter Play Centre N5
- **1** Horizon Sea Safaris M2
- 12 Hornby Visitor Centre K6
- **13** Italianate Greenhouse N3
- **1** Lillyputt Mini Golf N4
- 15 Margate Museum J8
- (16) Minster Abbey F1
- **1** Monkton Nature Reserve B2
- 18 Palace Cinema N5
- 19 The Pinball Parlour L2
- 20 Quex Park (Powell-Cotton Museum, Quex House and Gardens, Jungle Jim's, Maize Maze, Quex Barn,) E5

Walking Trails

Walk the Viking Coastal Trail

Explore the Viking Coastal Trail on foot and you'll discover more fantastic days out. Whether you are looking for a bracing cliff top walk on an autumn morning or a summer's stroll along the beach, Thanet has a range of walks for any season.

Active Ramsgate

Try out one of the three Active Ramsgate trails which lead you from the lively harbour town of Ramsgate to the tranquil Pegwell Bay, the sweeping beaches of Broadstairs and on a historic tour through the heart of Ramsgate's town. Find a range of special offers on games of golf, boat trips and restaurants on the Active Ramsgate website: www.ramsgatetown.org/activeramsgate

Turner and Dickens Walk

Take a tour from Dickens' Broadstairs to Turner's Margate on the 4 mile (6.4 km) signposted Turner and Dickens Walk. Explore the area's connections to these two creative giants with colourful mosaic documenting their lives and works.



Take on the the 3.5 mile (5.6 km) walk past Margate's long sandy beaches and discover a fascinating history. To download the free guide either as a written version or as an audio version, visit www.discoveringbritain.org

Looking for a unique experience that will truly make your trip memorable? Book a free welcome with a Kent Greeter and see the Garden of England from the eyes of a friendly local! www.kentgreeters.co.uk

For information on more self-guided and guided walks and tours in Margate, Broadstairs and Ramsgate visit www.visitthanet.co.uk/walking

21 RAF Manston History Museum H3

- RAF Spitfire & Hurricane Memorial Museum H4
- **23** Ramsgate Maritime Museum M2
- **24** Ramsgate Sports Centre L2
- **25** Revolution Skate Park L6
- **26** Ramsgate Tunnels M2
- **2** Sandwich & Pegwell Bay National Reserve I1
- **28** Sea Searcher Boat Trips M2
- 29 Shell Grotto J8
- 30 St Augustine's Cross H1
- 31 Strokes Adventure Golf 18
- 32 Theatre Royal Margate J8
- **33** Tom Thumb Theatre K8
- **34** Tudor House J8
- **35** Turner Contemporary J8
- **36** Viking Adventure Playground K8
- **37** Viking Ship J1
- **38** Vue Cinema K5
- **39** Walpole Bay Hotel and Museum, Margate K8
- 40 Winter Gardens J8
- 41 Club World 18

Hotels & Accommodation

Margate, Broadstairs and Ramsgate have a huge variety of accommodation, many welcoming walkers and cyclists. For more information visit www.visitthanet.co.uk

Cycle Hire

BikeShed 71 Canterbury Road, Margate, CT9 5AS Tel: 01843 228866

Broadstairs Bike Hire 17 Lloyd Road, Broadstairs CT10 Tel: 01843 447669

Ken's Bike Shop 28 Eaton Road, Margate, CT9 1XA Tel: 01843 221422

Viking Coastal Trail Cycle Hire The Parade, Minnis Bay, Birchington, CT7 9QR Tel: 07772 037609

Cycle Groups

TURNER CDICKENS WALK

SPOKES East Kent Cycling Campaign Tel: 01227 830336 www.spokeseastkent.org.uk

Tel: 01843 296111

Thanet Road Club Tel: 01843 850505 www.thanetrc.org.uk

Parking

marked on the map.

Be Protected

Be Heard

Be Safe

Be Wise

Be Trained

Be Courteous

Share with Care.

Step Forward – Cycle club aimed at people with disabilities

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

North East Kent Marine Protected Area

The whole of our coastline is covered by national and international nature conservations for bird and marine life and habitats associated with the sandy beaches, rocky shores, chalk cliffs and sea caves.

Getting around

Thanet is 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

Wear a cycle helmet. Make sure it is the right size, and is properly fitted and fastened at all times. Only buy a helmet that conforms to BS6863, Snell B90, B95, or ANSI.

Fit a bell or horn, and use it if you think drivers or pedestrians have not seen you.

Look after your bike. Check moving parts regularly, giving special attention to brakes. Make sure that tyres are properly inflated, and that you can see the tread on them clearly. Ensure your reflectors and lights are clean.

Over 100,000 cycles are reported stolen every year. Always lock you bike when you leave it, even if it is only for a few minutes. Get your bike frame marked with your postcode and stick on a 'Coded Cycle' sticker.

If you have not had training, find out where to get it. Visit www.kent.gov.uk/bikeability

Cycle paths make your journey safer but on shared facilities, cyclists must give priority to pedestrians -