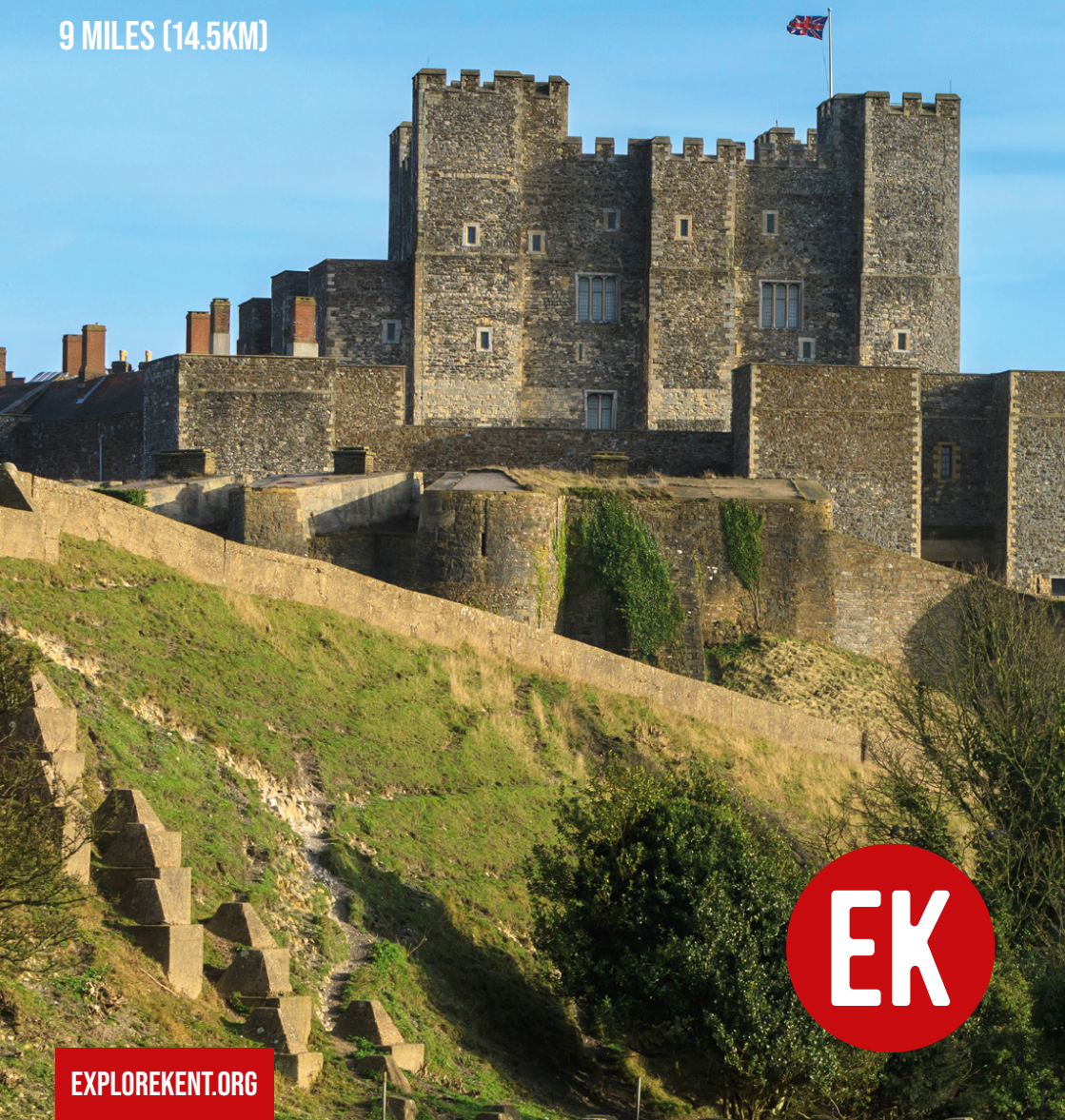


DOVER TO DEAL

THREE CASTLES WALK

9 MILES (14.5KM)



[EXPLOREKENT.ORG](https://www.explorekent.org)

Amble along this beautiful coastline, taking in three magnificent castles and a lighthouse, then discover the heritage and natural beauty of Deal.

OVERVIEW

LOCATION: Start at National Trust, White Cliffs Visitor Centre, Langdon Cliffs, Upper Road, Dover, Kent CT16 1HJ

DISTANCE: 9 miles (14.5km)

TIME: Allow at least 3 hours

EXPLORER MAP: 138 & 150

ACCESSIBILITY: 8 gates, 4 sets of steps

PARKING: Parking at the visitor centre. There is also a car park at Deal Town Centre, Deal Castle and Walmer Castle.

REFRESHMENTS AND FACILITIES:

White Cliffs Visitor Centre, Pines Garden Tea Room, the Zetland Arms at St Margaret's and a wonderful café at the end of Deal Pier.

PUBLIC TRANSPORT:

Railway stations: Walmer and Deal

Bicycle: National Cycle Route 1

Bus Route: 80/80A Deal to Dover stops at St Margaret's

Train: Additional 30 minute walk to the start point. Turn right along Folkestone Road, continue to the roundabout. Turn right along York Street and continue to the end, turn left along Townwall Street. Continue towards the port but just before the roundabout turn left into Marine Terrace which leads almost directly into East Cliff, follow this straight along to Athol Terrace which leads onto a path which passes under the main Jubilee Way and leads straight up well marked steps to the White Cliffs Visitor Centre.

WALK DESCRIPTION

See amazing views of **Dover Castle** ❶ from your cliff top start point at the **White Cliffs Visitor Centre** ❷. From the high **chalk cliffs** ❸ look onto the English Channel at the far-reaching views. These cliffs have a special place in our national history and were used for defence in both World Wars.

From outside the visitor centre turn left along a clearly marked path toward the **South Foreland Lighthouse** ❹. You will see chalk grassland that is home to many unusual plants and insects.

On the far side of the lighthouse turn left down a short path which leads into a lane, turn right along the lane, walk approximately 20 metres and take the gate on your right, into a field. Follow the cliff path to its end and turn left into another lane which leads to the lovely village of St Margaret's-at-Cliffe. Where the path enters the village, you will find the **Pines Garden, Tearoom and Museum** ❺.



Langdon Bay Cliffs offer an excellent viewpoint.





Eight acres of award-winning gardens await at Walmer Castle.

Go down to the **bay 6** and pick out the white house with green shutters. This was the *James Bond* author Ian Fleming's former holiday home, White Cliffs, which he bought in 1952 from his friend, Noel Coward.

Walk back up Bay Hill and turn right into Hotel Road, keep straight along Granville Road and you will come to the Dover Patrol Memorial. The **Dover Patrol Monuments 7** are a trio of war memorials designed by Sir Aston Webb to commemorate the Royal Navy's Dover Patrol of the First World War. Two identical granite memorial obelisks, 75 feet (23 m) high, were erected near Dover and Calais in 1921 and 1922. A third was erected in Brooklyn, New York, in 1931.

The views from here are the best of the coastline and having done all that uphill work, follow the long, gentle downhill incline through the magnificent Kingsdown Lees to Oldstairs Bay. Pass the **Zetland Arms Pub 8**, a great pit stop, before taking the path in front of the pub to Walmer Castle.

Walmer Castle 9 is an artillery fort originally constructed by Henry VIII between 1539 and 1540, now managed by English Heritage. The Duke of Wellington died here and his room, including a pair of original Wellington Boots, is worth seeing, as are the award-winning gardens.

The path from Walmer to Deal passes the beach edge, dotted with pretty fishing boats. Keep straight on to **Deal Castle 10** which was built at the same time as Walmer Castle. You will pass the famous **Deal Timeball Museum 11** which marks the sea frontage of the old naval yard which occupied all the land in this area.

Stop and reflect at the Deal Memorial Bandstand. On 22 September 1989 an IRA bomb exploded at the Royal Marines School of Music in Deal killing 11 Musicians and wounding 21 more. The Deal Memorial Bandstand is seen as a 'living' Royal Marines Memorial to those who died.

The walk ends at **Deal Pier 12**, which is clearly visible to the right. The pier is the same length as the Titanic and at the end there is a wonderful café with incredible Channel views and a very well-earned cuppa. Be sure to visit The History Project which offers historic walking tours of Deal on Saturdays and Sundays throughout the summer from their yellow tent on Deal seafront, across from Deal Beach Parlour. Tours cover all aspects of the town's history from Caesar's invasions to the modern day.



The cliff tops at St Margaret's-at-Cliffe offer beautiful views.

Explore Kent, Kent County Council, Invicta House,
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[explorekent.org/activities/dover-to-deal-3-castles-walk/](https://www.explorekent.org/activities/dover-to-deal-3-castles-walk/)
<https://www.nationaltrail.co.uk>

Photography: John Miller