

# PEGWELL BAY TO RAMSGATE

ROMANS TO VICTORIANA

4 MILES (6.4KM)



EXPLOREKENT.ORG

The walk from Pegwell to Ramsgate is immortalised in the famous donkey ride that went so terribly and hilariously wrong in Charles Dicken's short story the *The Tugs of Ramsgate*.

## OVERVIEW

**LOCATION:** Start at the National Nature Reserve at Pegwell Bay Country Park, CT12 5JB

**DISTANCE:** 4 miles (6.4km)

**TIME:** Allow 1 hour 30 minutes

**EXPLORER MAP:** 150

**ACCESSIBILITY:** 2 gates

**PARKING:** Pay and display parking at Pegwell Bay Country Park

**REFRESHMENTS AND FACILITIES:**

A wonderfully diverse range of pubs, restaurants and local attractions with toilets on the route.

**PUBLIC TRANSPORT:** Bus services run from Ramsgate bus station. Check [kentconnected.org](http://kentconnected.org) for times and services.



During your walk, you may spot seals basking.

## WALK DESCRIPTION

The walk starts at the carpark in Pegwell Bay National Nature Reserve. If using public transport there are bus stops at either end of the nature reserve, the first at Foads Lane and the second immediately west of Ebbsfleet roundabout where there are two garages, with associated cafés, cashpoints and facilities.

**Pegwell Bay Country Park 1** offers a welcome start to your walk with a lovely café and toilets. Stop for a while to explore the Green Flag Award winning park before starting your walk.

Take in the amazing view of **Pegwell Bay 2** and reflect that this is one of the most important sites in British History. Julius Caesar with his Roman army arrived here in 54BC, Hengist and Horsa in 449AD and St Augustine of Canterbury in 597AD who founded Canterbury Cathedral.

Listen for the sound of nightingales and cuckoos in late spring/early summer as well as many warbler species, all creating a wall of sound to delight the ears. In autumn there is an influx of waders and waterfowl feeding on the saltmarsh. If you are lucky you might spy seals at the Stour River Estuary.



The tower of Pegwell Bay Hotel.







The Sandwich Flats are home to many species of birds.



The Hugin is a reconstructed Viking longship.

Take the King Charles England Coast Path (KCIIIIECP) which is clearly signed towards Ramsgate.

Don't miss the **Viking ship 'Hugin'** <sup>3</sup> a full-scale replica of a Viking ship, a gift from the Danish Government that sailed from Denmark to Ramsgate in 1949 to celebrate the 1500-year anniversary of the invasion of Britain during the 5th century. A set of almost hidden steps behind the Hugin ship leads down to the old hoverport, now a nature reserve and a great place for fossil hunting.

The KCIIIIECP continues to Ramsgate from the corner of the common, closest to the cliff. Look for kestrels among the seabirds cruising the clifftops in search of prey. The Coast Path continues along a track past the old coastguard cottages with great views of the old tower on top of the Pegwell Bay Hotel.

Pegwell Village is a famous smugglers' village, there is a hotel and a couple of great pubs with some of the best views in England. Pegwell was well known for its abundant shrimps.

Climb the hill from Pegwell and at the top of the hill, the path turns right just before a very interesting terrace of fine old Georgian houses. Head downhill, passing the houses toward the Royal Esplanade Gardens where there are fantastic views across the English Channel to France.

Continue along West Cliff Promenade passing the beautiful landmark of the **Shrine of St Augustine** <sup>4</sup>, the personal church of renowned nineteenth century architect Augustus Pugin.

Pass through two sets of bollards and just after these you will see signs for KCIIIIECP. After a short distance, continue ahead onto the Paragon then follow Royal Parade.

Ahead, you'll see the **Royal Harbour** <sup>5</sup> decreed as such by King George IV in 1821 after receiving such friendly welcomes here on his embarkation during visits from London to Hanover.

Your walk finishes at Ramsgate Obelisk, it's at the far end of the harbour on Harbour Parade. Close by you will find toilets, cafés, the Ramsgate Tunnels and the Ramsgate Maritime Museum.



Ramsgate Royal Harbour is the only Royal Harbour in the UK.

Explore Kent, Kent County Council, Invicta House, Maidstone ME14 1XX  
[explorekent.org/activities/pegwell-bay-to-ramsgate-walk-romans-to-victoriana/](https://explorekent.org/activities/pegwell-bay-to-ramsgate-walk-romans-to-victoriana/)  
<https://www.nationalrail.co.uk>

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