

DEAL TO SANDWICH

FISHING TO SEAFARING

6 MILES (9.6KM)

ENGLAND
COAST PATH

NATIONAL TRAIL 



EK

Walk along a stunning stretch of coastline from Deal, known as the prettiest seaside town in Kent, to the medieval town of Sandwich which lies upon the River Stour.

OVERVIEW

LOCATION: Start at Deal Pier, Beach St, Deal CT14 6HY

DISTANCE: 6 miles (9.6km) with the option to add a 7.5 mile (12.1km) or shorter 3.4 mile (5.5km) extension to your walk

TIME: Allow up to 3 hours

EXPLORER MAP: 150

ACCESSIBILITY: 4 sets of steps, 3 gates

PARKING: Pay and display parking in the town

REFRESHMENTS AND FACILITIES:

Award-winning restaurants in Deal, toilets at Princes Drive, café at St Georges Golf Club (short diversion), tempting refreshments in Sandwich.

PUBLIC TRANSPORT: Bus services run from Sandwich to Deal. Train services run to Deal station (SouthEastern) – check kentconnected.org for timetables and services.

for repairs and extensions at the other local castles. A tiered garden was built on the former site of the castle out of old granite kerb stones from the town in around 1949 by Deal Town Council.

In 2015 after the garden became totally overgrown, a local group of volunteers set about fundraising and restoring the site into the award winning community garden you see today. It is now filled with a vast array of plants and flowers to attract wildlife which can be seen throughout the year.

Further along the coast you will pass the Royal Cinque Ports Golf Club ③, an 18-hole Championship Links golf course regarded by many as one of the finest in the world.

On your left, you will pass the Sandwich Bay Estate ④, a private estate with several hundred different species of plant having been recorded. You will be walking adjacent to the Sandwich Flats ⑤. This Special Protection Area for birds is renowned amongst ornithologists and there are wonderful views.



Deal Castle, built by order of King Henry VIII.

WALK DESCRIPTION

Your walk starts at Deal Pier ①, an unmissable landmark which offers stunning views out to sea. It is the third pier to be built in the town's history and the only intact leisure pier in Kent.

The town of Deal is regarded as a unique and special place with an unspoilt seafront and collection of colourful buildings. See the fishing boats hauled up onto the shingle beach typical in this part of the Kent coast.

Leaving Deal, you will see the remains of Sandown Castle ②. Henry VIII's third castle was built between 1539/40. Sadly, it was claimed by the sea in the 1800s and the stones were later reclaimed

At Princes Drive, you will see a small car park and toilet block. You can extend your walk at this point by continuing north from the toilet block and take a longer 7.5 mile walk round the Sandwich Peninsula or take a shorter 3.4 mile extension by following the Stour Valley Walk passing New Downs Farm.

If you choose not to follow the extended route, continue your walk by turning left, following signs for the Saxon Shore Way. The path is well signed and cuts across the **Royal St George's Golf Course** ⑥. Be aware of golfers on the course.

Cross a private road which leads to St George's Golf Club. Here you can take a short diversion south to the Princes Golf Club annex where you will find a brilliant café. It has wonderful facilities including a fire in winter, loos and even a jar of dog biscuits!

After visiting the café trace your steps back to the road, then follow signs for the White Cliffs Country Trail for approximately half a mile towards Sandwich crossing a footbridge over the New Cut, a tributary to the River Stour.



Sandown Castle community garden.

Shortly the route will meet with the England Coast Path where you will head back into Sandwich by continuing ahead towards a white bridge. **Sandwich Marina** ⑦ can be seen with all manner of boats ancient and modern, some of which are family homes. Cross the white bridge into Sandwich.

Walk along the quayside, taking in all its interesting features and historic boats. The Salutation Gardens is the first building on your left, part of a row of ancient merchant buildings. Pass the **Sandwich Medieval Centre** ⑧ opposite to the **Salutation Gardens** ⑨. Here you can discover the history of Sandwich through boat building, weaving and a forge all brought to life by actors.

The Fisher Gate halfway along the row is the only surviving medieval town gate.

Pass the car park and turn right to reach the old town bridge where your walk ends. There has been a toll here since the middle ages and on the inner wall of the gatehouse the old toll rates are still listed.

Following your walk, you can catch the train or bus service from the Guildhall back to Deal.



There is plenty of opportunity to spot birdlife and wildlife.



The Great Stour meanders its way peacefully through Sandwich.

