

MARGATE TO WHITSTABLE

BEACHES AND BAYS

15.5 MILES (25KM)

ENGLAND
COAST PATH

NATIONAL TRAIL 



EK

OVERVIEW

LOCATION: Start at Turner Contemporary Gallery, Margate, CT9 1HG

DISTANCE: 15.5 miles (25km)

TIME: Allow 2 hours

EXPLORER MAP: 150

ACCESSIBILITY: Some uneven terrain

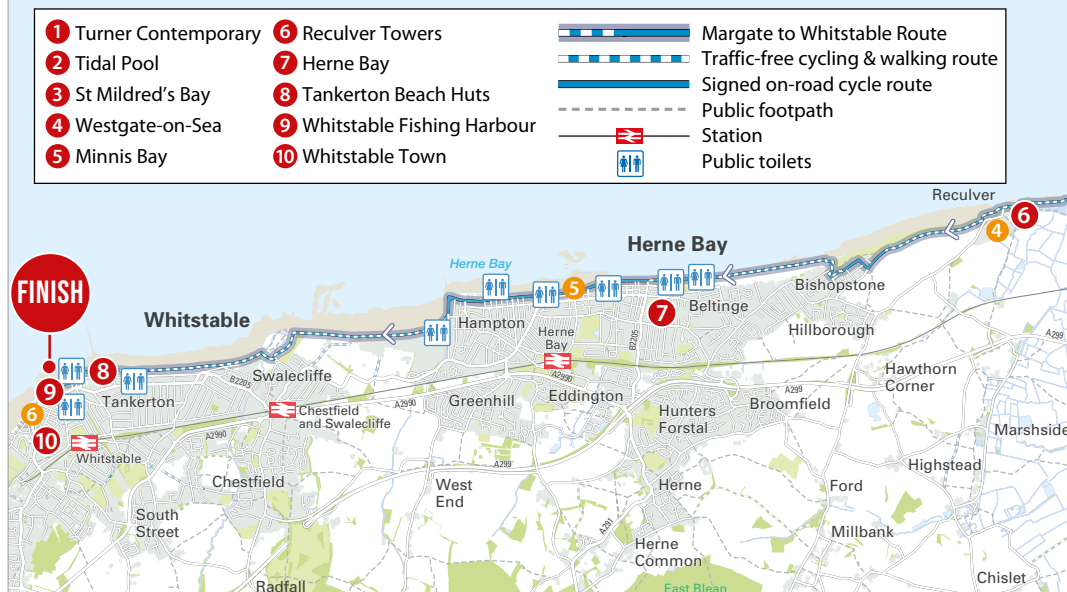
PARKING: Pay and display in Margate.

REFRESHMENTS AND FACILITIES: Various cafés on the seafront in Margate, Westgate-On-Sea, Herne Bay and Whitstable.

PUBLIC TRANSPORT: Margate train station is located approx. 0.6 miles away from the Turner Contemporary. You can take your bike on any off-peak Southeastern train service, and a folding bike can be taken at any time.

Your ride begins at Margate, a traditional seaside resort with a beautiful sandy beach that draws visitors from miles around. Home to Dreamland theme park and the characterful Margate Old Town, which must not be missed, and not forgetting the **Turner Contemporary** art gallery **1**, there is plenty to explore before even taking to your saddle.

Look out at crystal clear sea views before pedalling into **Westgate-on-Sea** 4. A charming Victorian town, with wonderful quaint shops, it is a perfect place to stop for that well-earned cuppa and cake at one of the cafés along the





Sunset at Margate Lido.

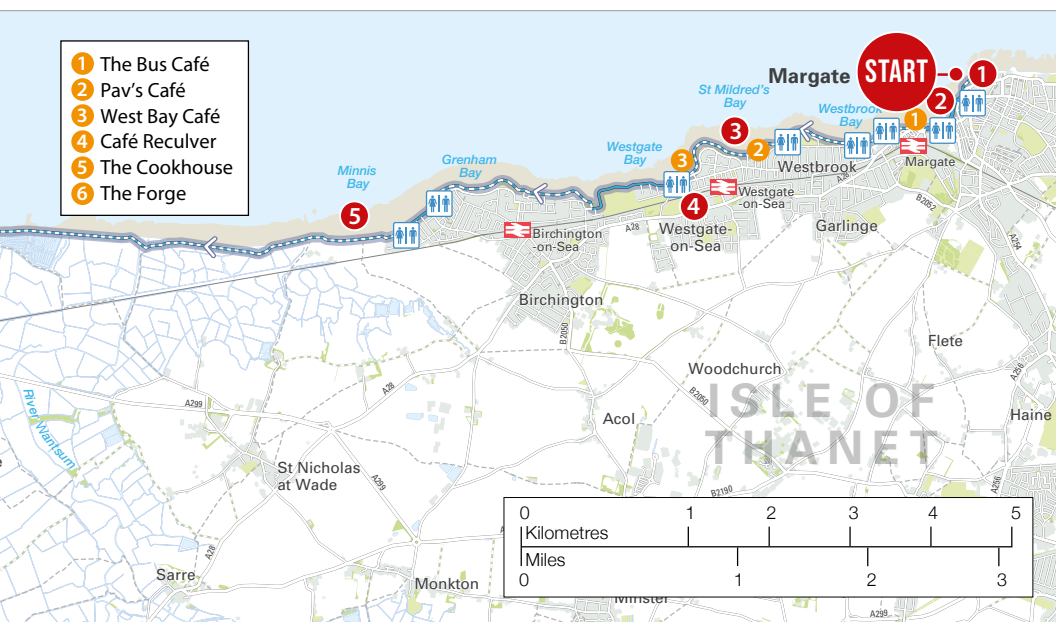
promenade. Then cycle over the clifftops, on a clear day the views from here are amazing with the village of Grenham sitting on top of the chalk cliffs. Grenham Bay is below you. Look out to sea and see the Kentish flats wind farm off Herne Bay and ships anchored in Margate.

Just around the corner, you will arrive in **Minnis Bay 5**, a very popular destination for families. This Blue Flag award winning beach is perfect for various water sports. At low tide the tidal pool is ideal for children, and they can explore the beach's many rock pools.

The next stretch takes you towards Reculver. This section is very popular with cyclists of all ages and abilities. Pass through the unusually named Plum Pudding Island. You will be following the Viking Coastal Trail. Look out to sea at the marshlands and imagine the smugglers of long ago looking along the Thanet coast at the many caves and passages that are dotted along the coastline to find their next haunt.

Soon you will see **Reculver Towers 6** in the distance, the remains of a ruined medieval church. They are nicknamed 'The Twin Sisters' and are situated on the edge of a cliff, sadly the remainder of the church was lost to the sea. Just past the towers is a lovely tearoom (with toilets). Reculver was also an area used by Barnes Wallis during World War 2 to test the bouncing bomb for the Dambuster Raids.

Passing through Reculver and onto Herne Bay, you will be struck by how the landscape has changed from sandy beach to rugged and characterful. From Reculver, cycle through flat marshland towards the cliff top of Herne Bay. Follow the signs for Cycle Route 15 that take you past a small car park on your right and into a residential area. Take the second right turning into





Enjoy a taste of the sea in Whitstable.

Haven Drive. Then left onto Manor Road. At the end of this street continue straight following the path off-road again and into the woods. Continue on this path through the woods, turn right and right again and continue ahead towards a car park. Then drop back down to re-join the sea wall and the Saxon Shore Way.

Ahead is **Herne Bay** 7, a traditional seaside town with a family friendly beach which expands along the entire stretch and Victorian buildings that adorn the seafront. From here, look out to sea for the Maunsell Sea Forts, located nine miles off the Herne Bay shoreline, once an army fort built in World War 2 to protect the Thames, now left abandoned out at sea.

Finally, as you continue onwards towards Whitstable, you will pass by Swalecliffe, a great place to carry out a spot of birdwatching with hundreds of species of birds spotted every year.

Whitstable Town 10 is the end point of your ride. A pretty and quaint fishing town, full of character around every corner. Visit a pop-up stand near the fish market and sample some locally produced food and drink. An array of restaurants and ice cream outlets await where you can

sample freshly caught seafood and who can forget the iconic Whitstable oyster! The quaint streets behind the seafront are home to a range of small independent shops.

Whitstable is also the starting point of the Crab and Winkle Way path which will take you directly into Canterbury if you are feeling very ambitious. If not you can head towards Whitstable train station to make your way back to Margate.



The Turner Contemporary Art Gallery.

Explore Kent, Kent County Council, Invicta House, Maidstone ME14 1XX

<https://explorekent.org/activities>

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Photography: John Miller

