

FOLKESTONE TO DOVER

TWO HARBOURS WALK

9 MILES (14.5KM)



Explore the artworks and culture of Folkestone and walk along the finest stretch of the King Charles III England Coast Path (KCIIECP), enjoying views to France on a clear day. Visit the Battle of Britain Memorial and pass through Dover's stunning Western Heights.

OVERVIEW

LOCATION: Start at Folkestone Harbour, CT20 1QQ

DISTANCE: 9 miles, (14.5km)

TIME: Allow up to 4 hours

EXPLORER MAP: 138

ACCESSIBILITY: 11 sets of steps, 11 gates

PARKING: Dover, Folkestone, Samphire Hoe, Capel Le Ferne

REFRESHMENTS AND FACILITIES:

Locally produced food at Harbour Arm, refreshments and facilities at the Battle of Britain Memorial, pubs, cafés and restaurants in Dover.

PUBLIC TRANSPORT: Regular train services between Dover Priory and Folkestone Central. Use buses 102 and 91, but be aware some services may go inland. Check kentconnected.org for timetables and services.



The coastline between Folkestone and Dover is stunning.

WALK DESCRIPTION

The walk starts with the hustle and bustle of **Folkestone Harbour 1**. Behind the harbour you will find The **Creative Quarter 2**. From the harbour, walk past the beach to your right, Sunny Sands, which is a quintessential sandy cove. View the amazing artwork which forms part of Folkestone Artworks. At the end of the promenade turn left up a well signed staircase and at the top turn right towards the **Martello Towers 3**, the KCIIECP is well signposted. There are two Martello towers, pass in front (seaward side) of the first, which is known as Number 3. Take the marked path to the Warren.

East Cliff and Warren Country Park 4 is a site of national importance, both for wildlife and its geology. The path continues on the landward side of Martello Tower Number 1, which is a private dwelling.

Take a very deep breath, there are now a lot of steps, so take it slowly. The view from the top is probably one of the most striking in all England.

At the top, walk along the cliff edge to your right. Admire the **Battle of Britain War Memorial 5**, the National Memorial to the 'Few'. There is an amazing aircraft museum, wall of remembrance, café and facilities.



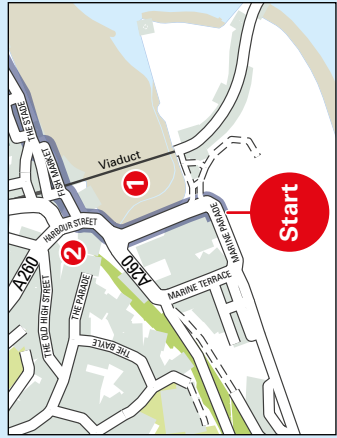
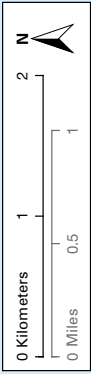
East Cliff and Warren Country Park.



- 1** Folkestone Harbour / Artworks
- 2** Creative Quarter, Old High Street
- 3** Martello Towers
- 4** East Cliff & Warren Country Park
- 5** The Battle of Britain Memorial
- 6** Abbot's Cliff
- 7** Samphire Hoe Country Park
- 8** Shakespeare Cliff
- 9** Drop Redoubt / Dover Western Heights
- 10** Dover Museum & Visitor Café

Main Route
 Alternative Route
 (Battle of Britain Memorial to Abbot's Cliff House)
 Footpath
 Bridleway

P Parking
♿ Toilets
? Tourist Information





Spectacular views of Saphire Hoe can be seen from the cliff tops.

The walk along the cliff edge gets very narrow. You may prefer to take a small diversion by walking east along Old Dover Road, just inland of the War Memorial. Continue on Dover Road until it meets New Dover Road. At the V junction, walk east along New Dover Road for 50 metres. Then look for the waymarked path on your right between bushes. Take this path to the cliff top, then turn left for spectacular views from **Abbot's Cliff 6**.

Continue along Abbot's Cliff path and see fantastic views of the Channel. The Abbots Cliff sound mirror, adjacent to the path, is a forerunner of radar. Acoustic mirrors were built between 1916 and 1930 and were the 'listening ears' intended to provide early warning of incoming enemy aircraft.

Saphire Hoe Country Park 7 is laid out in all its glory 400 feet below. This is a unique man-made park, made of chalk marl from the Channel Tunnel excavations.

Follow the waymarked path across Round Down, you will notice many remnants of previous wars including the old Hougham Battery, a World War 2 coastal defense structure. There is a steep descent off Round Down.

From the bottom of the Down follow the cliff path across **Shakespeare Cliff 8** directly into Dover, it is said to have inspired a passage from Shakespeare's *King Lear* "There is a cliff, whose high and bending head looks fearfully in the confined deep...".

Walk through Western Heights. The vast defences were designed to protect Dover from French invasion. View Dover's 'upside down castle', **Drop Redoubt 9** which is one of two forts on the Western Heights. Dover Castle on the Eastern Heights is a spectacular view.

Take the path down to the town centre square and be sure to visit **Dover Museum 10** and Bronze Age Boat Exhibition. Take your time to explore Dover, it's known as the Gateway to England and welcomes millions of visitors from all over the globe every year.



Drop Redoubt, Dover's upside down castle.

Explore Kent, Kent County Council, Invicta House, Maidstone ME14 1XX
[explorekent.org/activities/folkestone-to-dover-walk-two-harbours-walk/](https://www.explorekent.org/activities/folkestone-to-dover-walk-two-harbours-walk/)
<https://www.nationaltrail.co.uk>

Photography: John Miller