



FOLKESTONE CIRCULAR WALK

3.4 MILES (5.5KM)



EXPLOREKENT.ORG

Experience the best of Folkestone's heritage, art, and seaside charm on this accessible route. Tested by Wild With Wheels CIC, this walk is designed to be inclusive for wheelchair users and those with limited mobility.

Start: Harbour Payers Park Car Park, Folkestone CT20 1JG W3W: ///reputable.roadblock.goose

Distance: 3.4 miles (5.5km)

Explorer Map: OS Map of Dover, Folkestone & Hythe (Explorer 138)

Accessibility: Primarily flat pavement and wide coastal paths with some gentle ramps.

Parking: Payers Park Car Park is centrally located in the Creative Quarter. There are 4 disabled Blue Badge spaces and 4 EV charging points.

Public Transport: The nearest train station is Folkestone Central Station. The start is a short walk from Folkestone Bus Station with various bus stops located near the start of the walk. Visit Stagecoach South East or download the Kent Connected app.



ROUTE DESCRIPTION

Starting at Payers Park

This walk begins at Payers Park Car Park, right in the heart of the Creative Quarter. From the car park, head up the slight incline of Payers Park and bear right as you join Dover Road. From here, turn right into Tontine Street.

Heading to the Harbour

Follow Tontine Street as it leads you down towards the sea. This is a vibrant area filled with art and cafes but do keep in mind that the pavements can be narrow in places. While the surface itself is flat and well-maintained, be mindful of street furniture or signage during busier times of the day.

As you reach the bottom of Tontine Street, you will see another parking option to your left – Tontine Street Car Park. However, please note this is in a Controlled Parking Zone so check the latest restrictions before parking.

Along the Seafront

Using the crossing outside The Harbour Inn pub, cross safely and follow the road as it curves around the harbour. Continue onto Marine Parade. Keep following Marine Parade and look out for the historic Folkestone Leas Lift on your right **3**. This



Victorian engineering marvel is currently undergoing a major restoration and is set to welcome visitors again in Spring 2026.

Just past the lift, you will arrive at the entrance to the Lower Leas Coastal Park. Stay on the main path and follow the long, gentle ramp which takes you all the way down to the level of the coast path.

The Coast Path

Once you reach the coast path, turn right to head west. This stretch is flat and has a wide paths allowing ease of use for wheelchairs and pushchairs.

After a short stroll, look to your left towards the pebbles to spot the Folkestone Beach Stone Circle **5**, a popular local landmark. Continuing along, you will reach the striking Pablo Bronstein Beach Hut **6**. Created for the 2014 Folkestone Triennial, this ten metre tall structure is designed in the grand style of architect Nicholas Hawksmoor. It looks like a grand church steeple rising up from a village of traditional, brightly coloured beach huts.

Just past this, you will encounter the Rana Begum artist project **7**. This is a stunning collection of 120 vibrant beach huts, each uniquely designed with bold geometric shapes and a rainbow of colours.

Lower Leas Coastal Park

To enter the Lower Leas Coastal Park, take the path that winds up behind the Pablo Bronstein Beach Hut. Follow this path as it carries you back around to the right. The sea will now be on your right-hand side, allowing you to enjoy the coastal views from a higher vantage point as you head back towards the start.

As you follow this upper path, you'll come across the large children's playground. The play area is designed specifically for inclusive play – it is wheelchair accessible, with low level play panels.

Further along, you'll pass the Lower Leas Amphitheatre. This 350-seat open-air venue is nestled beautifully between the cliffs and the beach. Through the summer months, it hosts a diverse range of free community events, from live music to theatre.

The path eventually leads you back towards the ramp, where you can retrace your steps to the harbour and return to Payers Park.

This walk has been tested by Wild With Wheels.



Wild With Wheels CIC advocate for equal access to green and blue spaces to improve physical health and mental wellbeing through connecting to nature and Kent's diverse landscape.

Introducing the Folkestone Circular Walk:

"Follow the footsteps of Georgians and Edwardians along this route which explores the beautiful landscaping of the Lower Leas Coastal park, with native and Mediterranean planting which attracts local wildlife."

Also available is the Hythe circular and the Whitstable to Herne Bay linear walks.



- 1** Folkestone Museum
- 2** Harbour Arm
- 3** The Folkestone Leas Lift
- 4** Lower Leas Amphitheatre
- 5** Folkestone Beach Stone Circle
- 6** Pablo Bronstein, Beach Hut
- 7** Rana Begum, Artist Project Beach Hurts
- 8** Lower Leas Coastal Park

	Route		Railway station		Restaurant
	Optional route to town centre		Bus station		Pub
	Footpath		Toilets		Retail area
			Disabled toilets		Bus stop
			Changing places toilets		
			Parking		Church
			Cafe		

