



For further information or for more itineraries like this one contact:

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This guide is available in other formats and can be explained in other languages. To obtain a copy please call: 01622 221568. Textbox users, please call 08458 247 905

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## LOCAL INFORMATION

<b>Visitor Information Centre</b> <a href="http://www.visitthanet.co.uk">www.visitthanet.co.uk</a>	0870 264 6111
<b>Cycle Route Information</b> <a href="http://www.vikingcoastaltrail.co.uk">www.vikingcoastaltrail.co.uk</a>	01303 258594
<b>Weather</b> <a href="http://www.bbc.co.uk/weather">www.bbc.co.uk/weather</a>	
<b>Tide Times</b> <a href="http://www.portoframsgate.co.uk">www.portoframsgate.co.uk</a>	
<b>Traveline bus timetable</b>	0871 200 22 33
<b>National Rail train timetable</b> <a href="http://www.southeasternrailway.co.uk">www.southeasternrailway.co.uk</a>	08457 48 49 50
<b>Nearest mainline train stations</b> Ramsgate, Margate, Broadstairs, Westgate-on-Sea, Birchington and Dumpton Park	
<b>Interactive mapping</b> <a href="http://www.kent.gov.uk/explorekent">www.kent.gov.uk/explorekent</a> , <a href="http://www.sustrans.org.uk">www.sustrans.org.uk</a>	
<b>Ordnance Survey Explorer map number 150 covers this area.</b> To order call 08458 247 600	

## ATTRACTIONS

<b>1</b>	Revolution Skate Park & Climbing Centre <a href="http://www.revolutionskatepark.co.uk">www.revolutionskatepark.co.uk</a>	01843 866707
<b>2</b>	Quex Museum, House & Gardens <a href="http://www.quexmuseum.org">www.quexmuseum.org</a>	01843 842168
<b>3</b>	Crampton Tower Museum <a href="http://www.cramptontower.co.uk">www.cramptontower.co.uk</a>	01843 871133
<b>4</b>	Dickens House Museum <a href="http://www.dickenshouse.co.uk">www.dickenshouse.co.uk</a>	01843 861232
<b>5</b>	Margate Museum <a href="http://www.margatemuseum.org.uk">www.margatemuseum.org.uk</a>	01843 231213
<b>6</b>	Turner Contemporary <a href="http://www.turnercontemporary.org.uk">www.turnercontemporary.org.uk</a>	01843 294208
<b>7</b>	Drapers Windmill <a href="http://www.open-sandwich.co.uk/mills/margate.htm">www.open-sandwich.co.uk/mills/margate.htm</a>	01843 291696
<b>8</b>	Shell Grotto <a href="http://www.shellgrotto.co.uk">www.shellgrotto.co.uk</a>	01843 220008
<b>9</b>	Ramsgate Maritime Museum <a href="http://www.ekmt.fogonline.co.uk">www.ekmt.fogonline.co.uk</a>	01843 570622



<b>10</b>	Sandwich & Pegwell Bay Nature Reserve <a href="http://www.kentwildlifetrust.org.uk">www.kentwildlifetrust.org.uk</a>	01622 662012
<b>11</b>	Pegwell Bay Country Park <a href="http://www.kent.gov.uk/explorekent">www.kent.gov.uk/explorekent</a>	01303 266327
<b>12</b>	The Grange <a href="http://www.landmarktrust.org.uk">www.landmarktrust.org.uk</a>	01628 825925
<b>13</b>	Monkton Nature Reserve <a href="http://www.mnr.manston.net">www.mnr.manston.net</a>	01843 822666
<b>14</b>	RAF Manston Spitfire & Hurricane Museum <a href="http://www.spitfire.memorial.museum">www.spitfire.memorial.museum</a>	01843 821940

## SURROUNDING TOWNS AND VILLAGES

Reculver [www.hbay.co.uk/html/reculver.htm](http://www.hbay.co.uk/html/reculver.htm)  
St. Nicholas at Wade [www.visitthanet.co.uk/villages](http://www.visitthanet.co.uk/villages)  
Birchington [www.birchington.org](http://www.birchington.org)  
Margate [www.visitthanet.co.uk/margate](http://www.visitthanet.co.uk/margate)  
Broadstairs [www.broadstairs.gov.uk](http://www.broadstairs.gov.uk)  
Ramsgate [www.visitthanet.co.uk/ramsgate](http://www.visitthanet.co.uk/ramsgate)  
Minster [www.minster-in-thanet.org.uk](http://www.minster-in-thanet.org.uk)  
Manston [www.kentinternational-manston.com](http://www.kentinternational-manston.com)

## CYCLE HIRE

<b>1</b>	<b>Kens Bikes</b> Margate	01843 221422
<b>2</b>	<b>The Bike Shed</b> Margate	01843 228866
<b>3</b>	<b>Viking Coastal Trail Bike Hire</b> Birchington	07772 037 609

## CYCLE REPAIR

<b>1</b>	<b>The Bike Shop</b> Broadstairs	01843 865769
<b>2</b>	<b>Ken's Bike Shop</b> Margate	01843 221422
<b>3</b>	<b>Cliftonville Cycles</b> Margate	01843 291650
<b>4</b>	<b>The Bike Shed</b> Margate	01843 228866
<b>5</b>	<b>Holyoaks Cycles</b> Ramsgate	01843 591684

## ACCOMMODATION

The seaside towns along the North East Kent coast offer a wide range of good quality accommodation from delightful B&Bs to first class hotels which makes it a fabulous location for short break or longer cycling holidays. There are simply too many accommodation providers to list in this itinerary so for a full list of accommodation providers in the area please visit [www.visitkent.co.uk](http://www.visitkent.co.uk) where you can book your stay online. Alternatively please call the Thanet Visitor Information Centre on **0870 264 6111**.

## SAFE CYCLING

It's important that your bike is in tip top condition and the right size. Before you start your journey, pinch the tyres to make sure they are not flat and test the brakes to make sure they work.

Use cycle lanes and paths where possible and follow traffic sign and traffic light instructions. Make sure you carry lights/reflectors and dress brightly and appropriately. Cycle helmets, water bottles and rucksacks are recommended. Smart cyclists think ahead!

Explore the Kent coastline  
Have fun, stay healthy!

Cycle breaks  
in Kent  
The Viking Coastal Trail



[www.kent.gov.uk/explorekent](http://www.kent.gov.uk/explorekent)



Spectacular seascapes and skies, unspoilt beaches and bays, promenades and sea walls, chalk cliff tops and paths, historic sites and lively seaside resorts all provide the perfect setting for a cycle holiday, break or day out on a bicycle.

This guide explores an exceptional piece of South East England’s coast-line and is designed to help you make the most of your visit to this unique part of Kent.

HISTORY

In past times the Isle of Thanet was separated from the rest of Kent by the Wantsum channel. Originally up to two miles wide it was protected by the Roman built Richborough Castle and Reculver Fort.

The area’s close proximity to the continent has played a pivotal role in its history and areas in and around Thanet have witnessed three great landings thought to have changed the country’s history. The Romans landed at Richborough in 43AD. Hengist and his Saxons landed at Pegwell Bay 400 years later and St. Augustine’s arrival at Ebbsfleet in 597AD marked the introduction of Christianity to the country.


The Wantsum Channel eventually became silted up with deposit from the great River Stour and the shingle which built up along the coast over the millennium. The first bridge across to the island was built in 1485 and a ferry service from Sandwich operated until the mid 1700’s.

The land, where the Wantsum Channel once was, is only a few feet above sea level. As you travel along the sea walls from Reculver you will see just how low the land lies.

Numerous rocky bays with their own networks of caves and tunnels fuelled the smugglers’ trade which was a common way for local men to support themselves and their families. Joss Snelling, a notorious smuggler, was fined £100 for smuggling at the age of 89!

Nowadays there are 26 miles of glorious coastline to explore and 15 sandy beaches to enjoy, with many Blue Flag Awards or Quality Coast Awards.

CYCLING

The Viking Coastal Trail is a stunning 43.5km (27 mile) cycle route with substantial traffic free sections. **Regional Route 15**  is easy to follow with good signposts and is mostly flat apart from a few short sharp climbs along the way.

Weather, wind direction and tides play an important part in the cycling experience so it is well worth checking in advance. Cycling with the wind behind you on this route is a breeze, cycling into a strong headwind can become challenging.



There is no better way to explore the delights of Kent than by bicycle

Knowing the tide times will enable you to stop off for a swim or clamber around rock pools crabbing. Be advised that stormy weather can provide the backdrop for a very exciting ride; however please pay due care and attention, especially at high tide! The sea wall opposite Margate train station is a good starting point.

From here, the trail winds its way westward past spectacular chalk cliffs and bays to Reculver Country Park. Reculver Towers can be seen in the distance from the start of the route and there are plenty of opportunities to explore rock pools, relax and take in the views along the way.

The trail eastward is equally rewarding with meandering cliff top paths linking numerous bays and coves on its way to Broadstairs and Ramsgate. Margate and Ramsgate are only 10 minutes apart by train so a one way cycle ride on the Viking Coastal Trail with the return leg by train is easy, especially with the wind behind you!

Continuing eastward the trail cuts inland at Pegwell Bay passing St. Augustine’s Cross which marks the place where it is believed Augustine first met King Ethelbert around 597AD. The trail

continues inland passing Minster Abbey, founded in 670AD, which is the UK’s oldest inhabited building and one of England’s oldest religious buildings. St Nicholas at Wade’s thirteenth century flint and rag stone church tower can be seen for miles around and was once an important sea mark.

The Viking Coastal Trail is a “must do route” for serious cycle tourists but is also perfect for novices or a family day out as two thirds of the trail is traffic free. Railway stations at Minster, Ramsgate, Dumpton Park, Broadstairs, Margate, Westgate-on-Sea and Birchington are accessible and well signed from the trail.

There are six shorter themed routes that you can also explore - <a href="http://www.visitthanet.co.uk/viking">www.visitthanet.co.uk/viking</a>			
Suggested routes		Miles	KM
Route 15	The Six Churches <i>Reculver to Margate</i>	9.5	15.3
Route 15	History, Art and Architecture <i>Margate to North Foreland</i>	4.5	7
Route 15	Historic Broadstairs <i>St Augustine Cross to St Nicholas at Wade</i>	3.3	5
Route 15	The Path of St. Augustine <i>North Foreland to Dumpton Gap</i>	4.5	7
Route 15	Smugglers’ Haunts <i>Dumpton Gap to Ramsgate Harbour</i>	3.5	6
Route 15	Beaches and Bays <i>Ramsgate Harbour to Cliffsend</i> - optional extension to this ride from Minnis Bay to Reculver 6.3km (3.8 miles)	5.3	8.5

For more information on the Viking Coastal Trail visit [www.vikingcoastaltrail.co.uk](http://www.vikingcoastaltrail.co.uk)



