

Sea it all

Coast, Cliffs & Café Culture

Ramsgate to Broadstairs Walk



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“There’s nothing I like better than a weekend by the coast, walking, biking, relaxing.”

Nicholas Crane
Presenter of the BBC Coast series

If you enjoy the sea, you will love this coast hugging, cliff topping, café cruising circuit from Active Ramsgate. Like all the trails in the initiative, this route goes the extra mile to delight and surprise. From awe inspiring white cliffs to the breath taking views across Viking Bay, every step leads to something special you can enjoy.

On the waterfront...

There can be few more beautiful places to start a coastal walk than the 700 berth Royal Harbour Marina. Just 35 miles from the French coast and a skip and a hop away from attractions like the Sailor's Church, Jacob's Ladder in Military Road, the RNLi Lifeboat Station and the Royal Temple Yacht Club, almost everything you want to see is within easy reach.

Enjoy cafes like the unfailingly warm and stylish Miles Bar on the harbour front and the aptly named Nice Things bijou gallery, craft and gift shop, inside The Custom House on the harbour side.

But don't get too comfortable because there's a lot to enjoy and see as you pick up the Thanet Coastal Path, pass the Royal Victoria Pavilion and Ramsgate Sands and (at high tide) head on to King George VI Memorial Park. Large, grassy, and much beloved by dogs and their walkers, this all season attraction (originally the site of Sir Moses Montefiore's home, East Cliff Lodge), can give a sense of wonderful seclusion, despite being only a few minutes gentle amble from the harbour. On your right, the channel and (on a good day!) a truly spectacular view of the French coastline. Depending on the tide, you can either follow the route up

on to the cliff top or down on to the beach at Dumpton Gap where you will be rewarded with some stunning views - and a refreshing drink from a seasonal kiosk.

Enjoy the sense of achievement because in a few moments you will leave this remarkable seascape and round the bend into Louisa Bay, a beautiful sandy area famous for its rock pools and very different, but equally impressive, views of Broadstairs.



...And back again

The return leg of this gentle trail (assuming the British weather doesn't misbehave and drive you back to Ramsgate in a bus!) begins at Viking Bay where you are free to savour the wonderful views from some nearby hostelrys and cafes.

When you are ready to walk off those treats, simply retrace your steps through the unfailingly

pretty Victoria Gardens with its rustic arbour and pergola until you pick up the return route over Dumpton Gap, through King George VI Memorial, and its restored Italianate Greenhouse... and finally, back into Ramsgate.

Every stage of this walk has been designed to give you a true sense of the area's very

individual character. From the cliff top views and coastal wildlife to the vibrant café culture, there's a great deal to experience and enjoy.

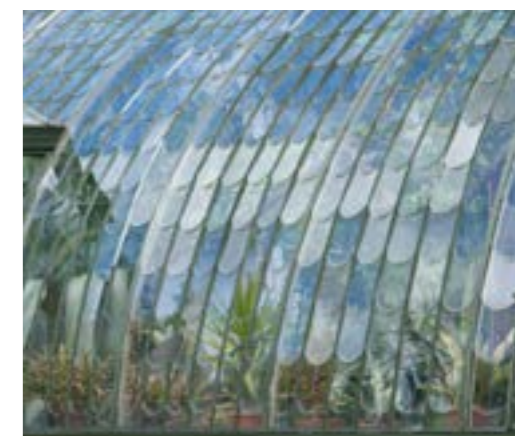


What's an Italian Greenhouse doing in an English Park?

The King George VI Memorial Park offers walkers a peaceful environment they can relax and unwind in.

As well as boasting a huge range of trees and plants, including holm oaks, a fine beech tree, mulberries, ash, lime, sycamores and horse chestnuts, the park is home to one of the areas most ethereal landmarks - the Italianate Greenhouse. This Grade II listed building dates from the early nineteenth century and closely resembles the cutting edge greenhouse designs of Sir George Mackenzie of Edinburgh and also John Claudius Loudon (1783-1843).

So why is it called Italian? Sir Moses Montefiore, then the owner of East Cliff Lodge, planted a small formal garden outside the front entrance of the greenhouse, complete with an ornate fountain, which he had imported from Italy. The project was so successful that the whole area soon became known as 'The Italian Garden' with the 'Italian Greenhouse'.





There's more to
Custom House
 than meets the eye

You may be pleasantly surprised to learn that as well as being an excellent source of visitor information and local events, Ramsgate Custom House is also a great place to enjoy delicious food. Originally used by Customs

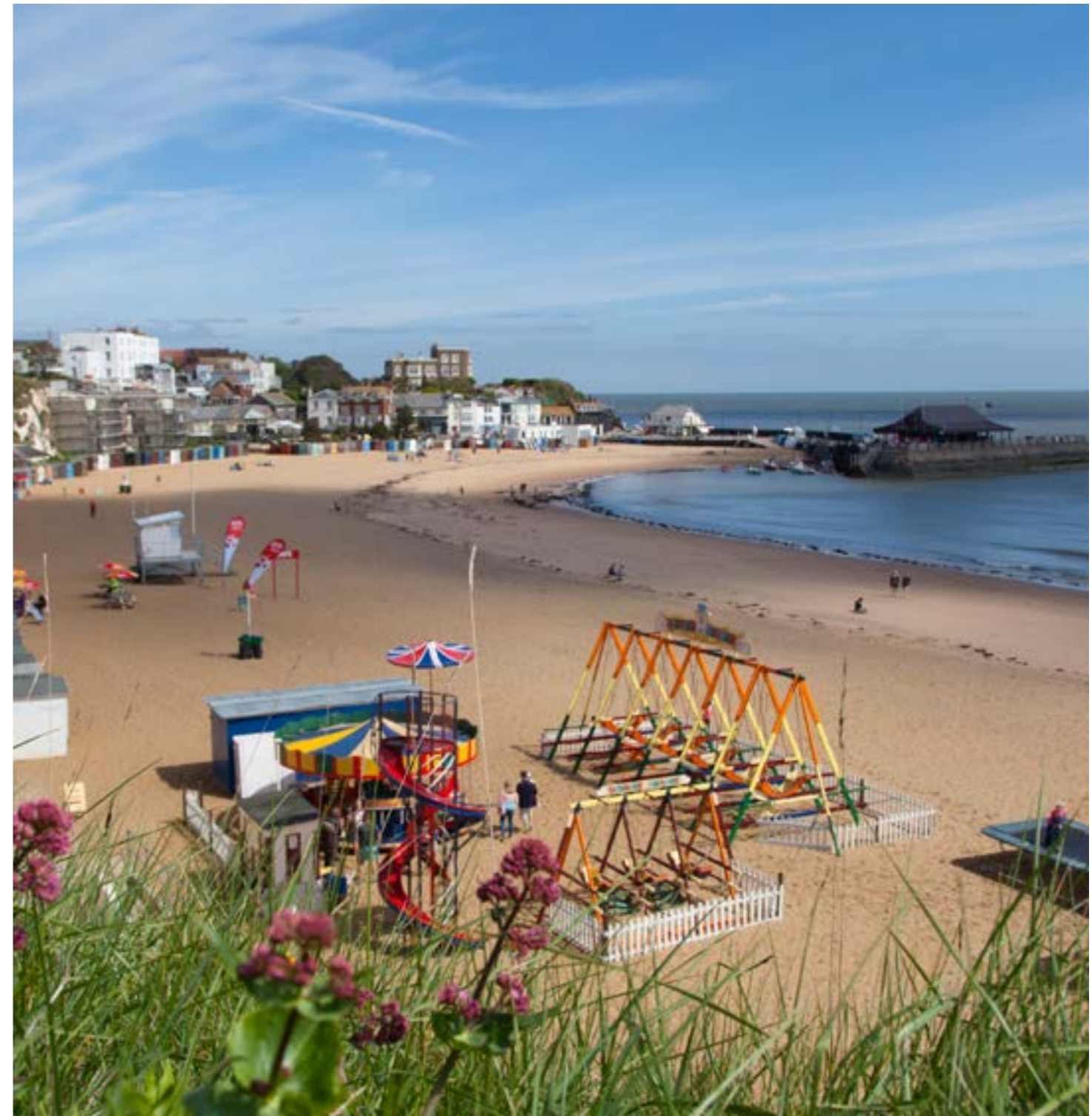
and Excise, this elegant building has its own coffee house and carvery - and a hidden courtyard garden where you can relax in the sunshine or shade. Alternatively, you can pull up a chair at the front of the building and watch

the world go by over a refreshing coffee house snack and drink. It is also home to Nice Things bijou gallery, craft and gift shop which sell mainly handmade items by local artisans, artists and craftspeople.

Viking Bay

If Broadstairs is the "Jewel in Thanet's crown", then Viking Bay must be its rarest diamond. This magnificent horse shoe shaped stretch of 150 meter long sand filled beach is a rare treat that

really shouldn't be missed. Surfers (who don't mind the chilly sea temperatures), tourists and lucky locals all agree that this bay has to be seen to be fully appreciated.





Ramsgate to Broadstairs

Walk Overview:

Location: Harbour Parade, Ramsgate, CT11 8LN and Harbour Street, Broadstairs, CT10 1EU

Distance: 5 miles (8km) circular - allow 2.5 hours for the circular and 1.5 hours one way

Terrain: Mainly surfaced paths with some beach walking. Steps allow access to higher path at high tide. Some moderate slopes

Facilities: Shops, cafés, restaurants and pubs in Ramsgate and Broadstairs. There are also public toilets and seasonal kiosks along the route

Transport: Traveline 0871 200 22 33
www.traveline.info

At Dumpton Gap you can choose to walk along the beach or the cliff top path. Please be aware that at high tide you will need to follow the cliff top path. You can [check tide times in advance](#).

Start as you mean to continue by setting an easy, relaxed pace and remember that this is a walk designed to be enjoyed, not rushed

1 As you leave the Ramsgate Harbour area and the eclectic mix of restaurants, cafés and pubs overlooking the inner yacht marina, you will pass the former Royal Victoria Pavilion and the old Harbour cliff lift and head towards the blue building which is the boulevard kiosk. A small fun fair, offering merry-go-round, swing-boats and other old style fair rides, is set out on the beach in front of the kiosk and there is ample outdoor seating.

Continue along the promenade and you will see the offshore wind-farm busily generating green electricity out on the horizon. Soon another blue building, with another kiosk (seasonal) and public conveniences (open April to September, daily) will come into view. Stay on the promenade but instead of following the road uphill, keep to the right, past a yellow and black metal vehicle barrier, and carry on along the sea wall.

2 A little further on and Ramsgate's Sea Garden will come into view; a small garden inspired by the coastal environment that lies on the site of the old Marina swimming pool and boating lake. You might appreciate a small breather by now. There is an interpretation panel and a bench you can use to enjoy the view out across the sandy beach and the sea.

The sea wall runs directly along the foot of white chalk cliffs at this point and approximately 200 metres further on you will reach a switch-back path up to the cliff-top. At high tide, follow this route to continue the walk to Broadstairs. You can return to the beach or sea wall at Dumpton Gap. When the tide is low, you can continue along the sea wall, for another 450 metres, before reaching a ramp that leads you down onto the sandy beach. This section of the walk offers you some truly stunning views of the channel, with the imposing white cliffs on your left and the multitude of chalk rocks, worn smooth by the daily tides, strewn at the cliff's base. But remember that there is no sea-wall to escape to if you get caught out by the rising tide, so plan ahead.



3 After approximately 630 metres, another ramp will lead you off the beach; up past a row of brightly coloured wooden beach huts and back on to the sea-wall at Dumpton Gap, where a seasonal kiosk serves refreshing hot and cold drinks, snacks and ice creams. Public toilets (including baby-change facilities) are also available here.

Follow the sea wall's final bend into Louisa Bay and you will be rewarded with some fantastic views of Broadstairs and a chance to walk along the beach at low tide from Dumpton Gap.

4 Thanks to a series of steps that lead from the beach up to the sea-wall, you can quickly retreat to safety if the tide catches you by surprise. At the Louisa Bay cafe (seasonal) a ramp will lead you uphill, under the footbridge and onto a set of steps to the cliff top. Turn left at the top of the steps and you will enter Victoria Gardens, a circular park with a path you can follow in either direction towards the bandstand. There are toilets and baby change facilities here if you need them.

From here you can join the promenade, where there are more interpretation panels and benches you can use to rest and take in the

view across Viking Bay. If you've worked up an appetite, you can also stop off for a bite at the Charles Dickens pub, Royal Albion Hotel, Prezzo or Chiappini's (amongst others).

5 Follow the path as it slopes down to the junction with Harbour Street, turn right and continue, downhill, past Wyatt and Jones, the Sun Terrace, Pavilion Gardens and the Tartar Frigate Public house. (There are more public toilets available here). When you reach The Boathouse, turn right onto the pier, find a bench or grab a well-deserved drink and snack from the kiosk at the end (seasonal).

6 Now you can retrace your steps back through Victoria Gardens to the steps by the footbridge but instead of taking the steps down to the sea wall, continue across the bridge and follow the path along the top of the cliff. There are a number of additional benches available here that you can use to enjoy the space and tranquillity of the wide grassed "Leas" area between you and the Western Esplanade. There are also two interpretation panels at South Cliff and panoramic views, over Dumpton Gap, back towards Ramsgate Harbour.



7 Continue straight on or return to walk along the beach to Ramsgate - if the tide is favourable (low tide only). At high tide take the cliff-top section of the 'paved' path that finishes shortly after Dumpton Gap and continue on short grass for approximately 450 metres. Just follow the Leas and head towards the converted lighthouse in the distance.

8 You are nearly there, so enjoy these final sights as the trail leads you back to a surfaced path (also the Viking Coastal Trail) beside the lighthouse, where you can continue on through the King George VI Memorial Park. You'll find an excellent children's playground, a café and some toilets near the exit at the far end of the park. Be sure to take a short detour into the park to view the Italianate Greenhouse.

9 Now turn left out of the park gates, follow the path along the top of the East Cliff, pass the top of the switch-back path and head towards the Granville Theatre. Look out for some attractive 'Victorian style' shelters dotted along the East Cliff on the way. The top entrance to the Harbour cliff lift is now on your left with the path running adjacent to Madeira Walk as it begins its gentle descent to the harbour.

10 You know you are on track when you see the Albion Park gardens on the opposite side of the road. A few moments more and you have arrived at the bottom of the hill and back at the Ramsgate Harbour/ Yacht Marina.

Welcome home

"Kent's coast line is one of the finest in Britain. It blends great scenery and history with some fantastic family activities, alongside great sailing waters."

Sam Brearey
National, European and World
Sailing Champion



Kent Greeters

Want a bit of individual attention? Kent Greeters are a band of helpful and passionate volunteers that are ready and waiting to share the local area they know and love so well. As well as taking you on a short 2 - 4 hour personalised walk, greeters will introduce you to the local highlights, hidden gems and everything else that makes up their day-to-day world. The service is created to be as helpful and fun as possible, totally free and available to groups of up to six people.

Visit their website for more details: www.kentgreeters.co.uk



For more information about Ramsgate and all the local area has to offer, you can pop into the Visitor Information Centres where the local staff will be happy to help.

Ramsgate Visitor Information Centre

The Custom House, Harbour Parade
Ramsgate CT11 8LP

01843 598750

Open 10am - 4pm

Thanet Visitor Information Centre

For more things to do and places to stay in Ramsgate, Broadstairs and Margate.

Droit House, Stone Pier

Margate CT9 1JD

01843 577577

www.visitthanet.co.uk

Open 10am - 5pm

Broadstairs Information Kiosk

Victoria Parade, Broadstairs

Open 10am - 4pm seasonally

KENT GARDEN of ENGLAND

For more things to do and places to stay in Kent, the Garden of England, go to www.visitkent.co.uk

For more walks in Kent use the excellent Explore Kent website www.kent.gov.uk/explorekent



Download the Explore Kent App from the App store and follow this walk on your smartphone.

This document is available in alternative formats and can be explained in a range of languages. Tel: 0300 333 5540



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www.ramsgatetown.org

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