

EXPLOREKENT.ORG

# ENGLAND COAST PATH

NATIONAL TRAIL 



# DYMCHURCH TO HYTHE

SANDY BAYS AND STEAM TRAINS

4.9 MILES (7.9KM)

**EK**

This stretch of the England Coast Path is packed full of heritage. From the age of steam and canals to even older lines of defence and military history, this walk takes you on a journey of both history and nostalgia.

## OVERVIEW

**LOCATION:** Start at Dymchurch Martello Tower, High Street Dymchurch, TN29 0NU

**DISTANCE:** 4.9 miles (7.9km)

**TIME:** Allow 2 hours

**EXPLORER MAP:** 138

**ACCESSIBILITY:** 3 gates, 1 set of steps

**PARKING:** Pay and display parking in Dymchurch

**REFRESHMENTS AND FACILITIES:** Pubs and cafés in Dymchurch, vintage tearoom in Hythe.

**PUBLIC TRANSPORT:** Bus service Wave 102 runs from Hythe to Dymchurch. Check [kentconnected.org](http://kentconnected.org) for times and services.

### Exploring Hythe and Romney Marsh? ❶

Experience a world-famous trip on a RHDR steam locomotive. Walking with your dog? Dogs are welcome and travel for free.

The catering facilities at Hythe and Dungeness are popular with walkers who are keen to walk along the Royal Military Canal and explore the National Nature Reserve. See [rhdr.org.uk](http://rhdr.org.uk) for more information. Please be aware that there is limited or no service in the winter months.

## WALK DESCRIPTION

Dymchurch is a bustling seaside centre with a wide sandy beach, **amusement park** ❷, donkey rides and traditional seaside fun.

The start point to your walk is the slipway by the **Martello tower** ❸ found alongside **Dymchurch Beach** ❹ and right next to the England Coast Path. The tower is fully restored and re-equipped with its 24-pounder cannon. It is managed by English

Heritage, free to enter and is regularly open to the public.

Heading along Dymchurch beach you will be walking towards another Martello tower. It is Grade II listed and is a private residence. After passing the tower, continue following the path along the sea wall. Views from the wall top are very broad, taking in the entire Hythe Bay to each side of you, as well as the Saxon Shore Way escarpment behind you. You will see Lympe Castle and Church dominating the ridge.

Climbing down from the sea wall, cross the road and continue to follow the path alongside Dymchurch Road. You will pass **Dymchurch Grand Redoubt** ❺ an impressive military fortification, which was built during the Napoleonic War as part of a large defensive system to protect the country from an expected French invasion.

Continue following the path alongside Dymchurch Road and pass the Hythe Ranges on your right. Hythe is one of the oldest firing ranges in the country and has been used for live firing for over 200 years.



The beach at Dymchurch is a seaside lovers paradise – ice cream, donkey rides and amusements all await.



### Explore the history of Kent's Royal Military Canal.

As you pass the lake, home to **Redoubt Sailing Club 6**, take the path on your left past some houses in Palmarsh, to continue alongside the lake. Cross the railway line (proceed with caution!) and turn right to follow the path alongside the Romney, Hythe and Dymchurch Railway for a short distance before turning left and taking the public footpath ahead to Herons Way. Turn right into Kingfisher Avenue and follow the road for approximately 150 metres where you will join the **Royal Military Canal 7**.

Continue to follow the path in the same direction and you will soon reach a bridge across the canal where you will be able to learn about the WW2 sound mirrors in this area, one of which can be seen near the top of the escarpment opposite.

Pass Palmarsh which was once a hamlet situated on the edge of Romney Marsh. Nowadays it attracts scores of holidaymakers who enjoy the nearby seaside. Continue to follow the England Coast Path along the canal which was built as a defence against invasion during the Napoleonic Wars with France.

As well as an important military monument, the canal is an excellent habitat for wildlife. Some plants and animals are national rarities, but you are likely to see some more common wildlife. During the summer months the canal comes alive with patrolling dragonflies and noisy marsh frogs and kingfishers.

Your walk ends at the west end of Hythe right next to the station of the **Romney, Hythe and Dymchurch Railway** (cover photo) **8**, found just off Scanlons Bridge Road.

Be sure to explore the historic town of Hythe before you leave. It has mediaeval and Georgian buildings, including an impressive Town Hall as well as a Saxon/Norman church on the hill, boasting an impressive collection of old bones in a crypt ossuary.



The historic market town of Hythe has many quaint streets.

Explore Kent, Kent County Council, Invicta House, Maidstone ME14 1XX  
[explorekent.org/activities/dymchurch-to-hythe-sandy-bays-and-steam-trains/](https://explorekent.org/activities/dymchurch-to-hythe-sandy-bays-and-steam-trains/)

Photography: John Miller. Cover photo: Chris Kennedy/RHDR Railway

- 1 Romney, Hythe and Dymchurch Railway (Dymchurch)
- 2 Dymchurch Amusements
- 3 Martello Tower (English Heritage)
- 4 Dymchurch Beach
- 5 Dymchurch Redoubt
- 6 Water Sports / Sailing Club
- 7 Royal Military Canal
- 8 Romney, Hythe and Dymchurch Railway (Hythe)

