

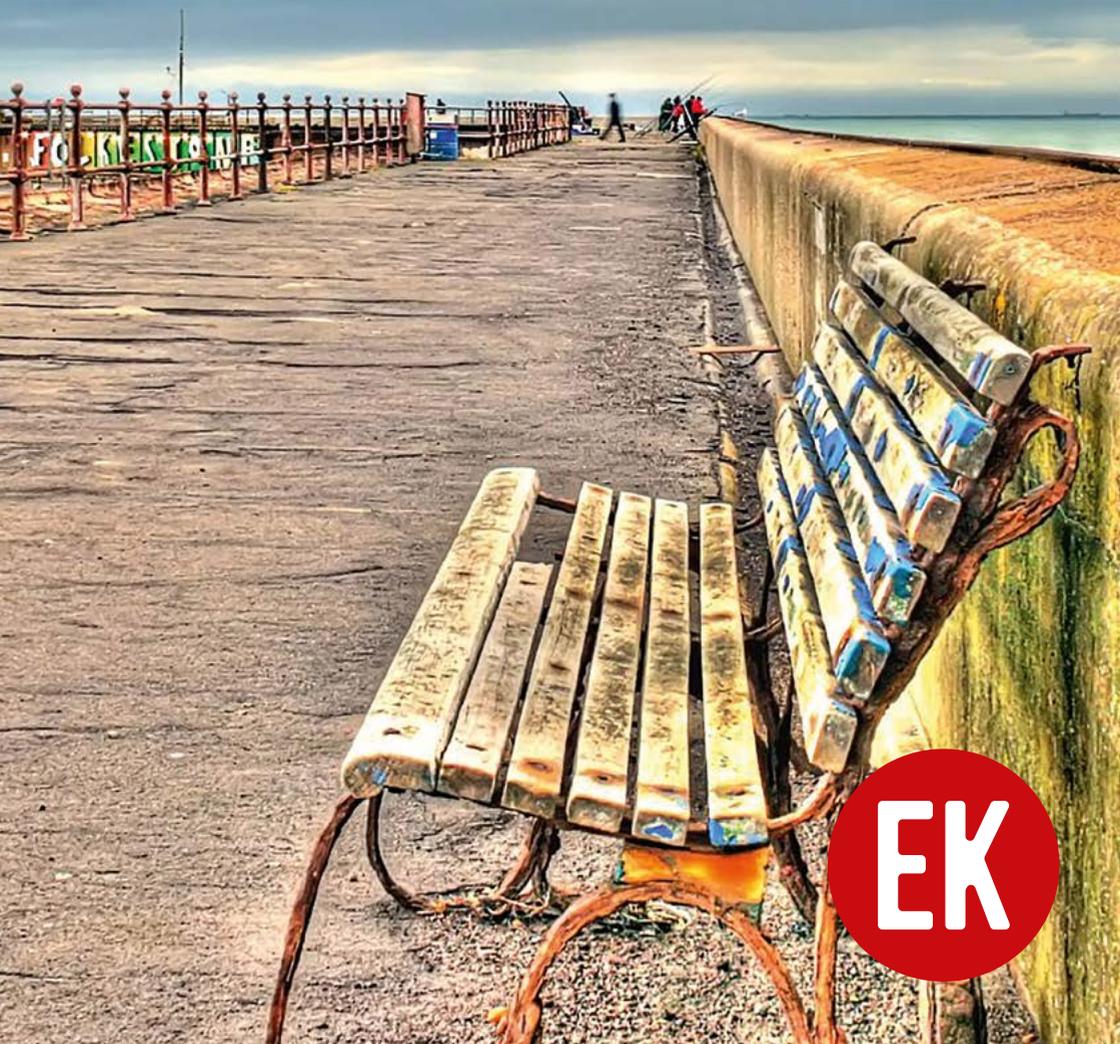
# HYTHE TO FOLKESTONE

ART AND NOSTALGIA

6 MILES (9.6KM)

ENGLAND  
COAST PATH

NATIONAL TRAIL 



EK

From the whistle of a steam train to the art scene of Folkestone, amble along this beautiful stretch of the England Coast Path taking in the peace and tranquillity of the Royal Military Canal and the vibrancy of the Folkestone Harbour Arm and Creative Quarter.

## OVERVIEW

**LOCATION:** Start at Scanlons Bridge Road, Hythe, CT21 6LD

**DISTANCE:** 6 miles (9.6km)

**TIME:** Allow 2 hours

**EXPLORER MAP:** 138

**ACCESSIBILITY:** No gates, no steps

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

**REFRESHMENTS AND FACILITIES:**

Vintage style tearoom in Hythe, choice of eateries in Sandgate, food and drink at Folkestone Harbour and Harbour Arm.

**PUBLIC TRANSPORT:** Wave 102 and 16 Gold bus services run from Folkestone to Hythe. Check [kentconnected.org](http://kentconnected.org) for times and services.

### *Exploring Hythe and Romney Marsh?*

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

Your walk begins at the west end of Hythe right next to the **Hythe station** **1** of the Romney, Hythe and Dymchurch Railway, found just off Scanlons Bridge Road in Hythe. The footpath runs right alongside the Royal Military Canal and provides instant tranquillity from the busy market town of Hythe.

Leaving the heart of Hythe behind, walk down the Royal Military Canal and, in summer, admire the electric excursion boat, the rowing boats and canoeists as they make their way gracefully along. Just before the Fisherman's Beach and the two visible **Martello Towers** **2** ahead, turn left into St Leonards Road to follow the England Coast Path.

Approaching the outskirts of Hythe, you will pass Seabrook, marking one end of the **Royal Military Canal** **3** which runs for 28 miles to Cliff End in East Sussex. The promenade leading from Seabrook to Hythe is very popular with walkers and joggers in the summer months. You can appreciate the span of Hythe Bay by spotting Dungeness Power Station in the distance at the other end of the bay.

After approximately one mile, you will reach Sandgate village which spans 2.5 km of Kent coastline fringing the English Channel and clustered beneath steep wooded slopes. It now offers visitors an excellent choice of opportunities to eat, drink and relax.

Shortly afterwards, you'll pass along **Sandgate Beach** **4**, a peaceful pebble shore set against the lure of the French cliffs which can be seen clearly in the right light. Sandgate was once a little bastion that protected against invasion with six Martello towers standing proud on the heights. These towers were small forts that were



The bustling streets of Hythe town centre.



The picture-perfect Lower Leas Coastal Park.

constructed as defensive measures in the 19th century and typically would have housed a single officer and 15 to 25 men – a tight fit!

Pass **Sandgate Castle 5**, the first of King Henry VIII's 'device forts', which guards a beach situated just 25 miles from the continent, making it a likely target in the event of an invasion. After about 10 minutes, you will pass a row of brightly coloured beach huts.

Continue to follow the coast path and look out for the Leas Lift which connects the **Lower and Upper Leas 6**. It is currently out of commission. Looking up onto the Leas, you will see the Step Short Arch, commemorating the many soldiers who were shipped into and out of Folkestone. Also here is the splendid architecture of the Leas Cliff Hall jutting out of the escarpment.

The path heads towards the old Folkestone Harbour railway station platform across a boardwalk in the shingle. In 2016, work commenced to restore the Harbour Railway and in 2017 the harbour was opened as a pedestrian route to the station. Several artworks from the Folkestone Triennial are installed in the station.

No visit to Folkestone is complete without visiting the Old High Street and **Creative Quarter 7**. Don't miss the Folkestone Artworks set around the harbour and its sea wall arm. Be sure to spend

some time in this cultural town and sample some food and drink from around the harbour and harbour arm where your walk ends.



The Leas is Folkestone's unique cliff top promenade.



Folkestone's newly restored Harbour Arm.

Explore Kent, Kent County Council, Invicta House, Maidstone ME14 1XX  
[explorekent.org/activities/hythe-to-folkestone-walk-art-nostalgia/](https://explorekent.org/activities/hythe-to-folkestone-walk-art-nostalgia/)

Photography: John Miller. Cover photo: Iain Norton

- 1 Romney, Hythe and Dymchurch Railway (Hythe)
- 2 Martello Towers
- 3 Start of the Royal Military Canal
- 4 Sandgate Beach
- 5 Sandgate Castle
- 6 Lower Leas Coastal Park
- 7 Creative Quarter

