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GAMING



RAMSGATE - BEACHES AND BAYS



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RAMSGATE TO BROADSTAIRS SELF-GUIDED CANOE TRAIL

TYPE OF TRAIL: Tidal (open sea waters)

DISTANCE: 2 miles (3.2km) one way

DEGREE OF DIFFICULTY: Moderate Challenge

TIME: 1 hour (one way). Be sure to check tide times before you leave www.tidetimes.org.uk

Note - *Time taken depends on wind and tide. Paddling against wind and tide slows the journey time and requires greater effort.*

START: Marina Esplanade, Ramsgate, Kent CT11 8DT
Parking is available at Marina Esplanade (parking fees apply)

FINISH: Slipway at Broadstairs Harbour Car Park CT10 1TY
(parking fees apply)

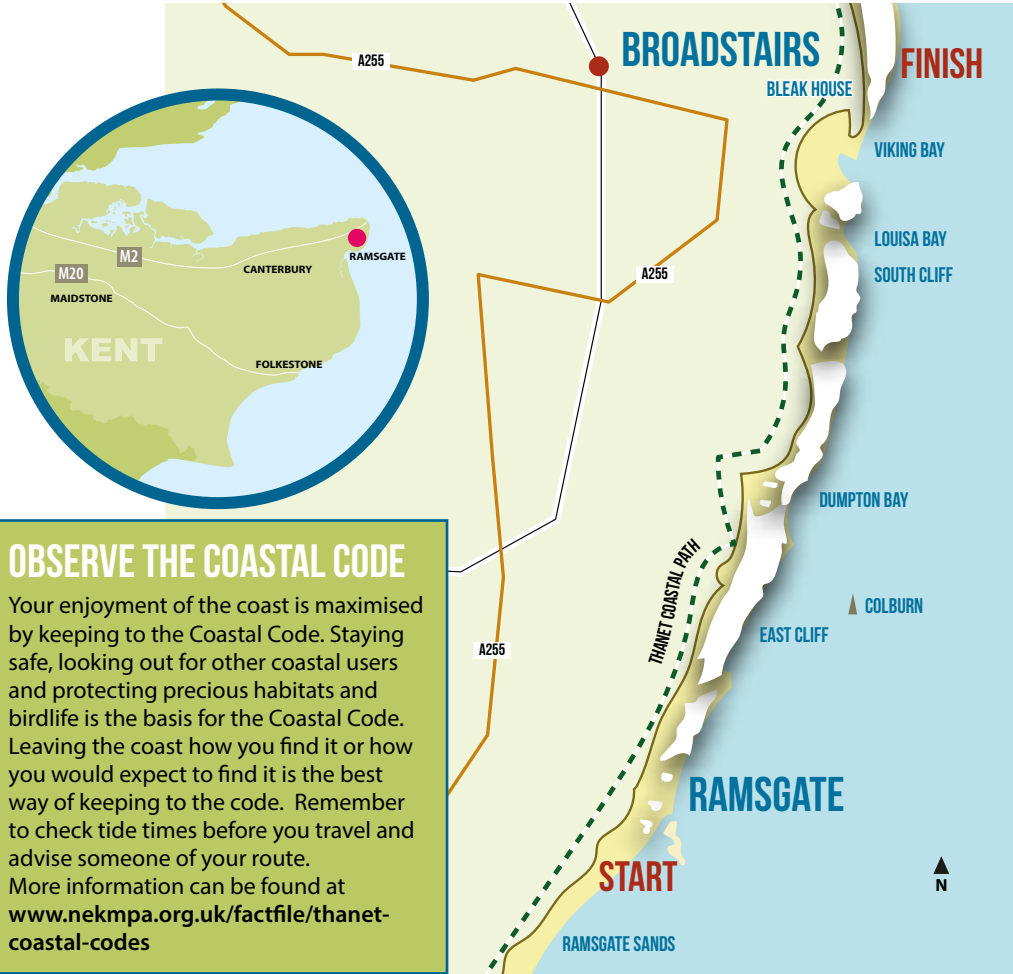
PUBLIC TRANSPORT: Buses and trains run between Broadstairs and Ramsgate. Traveline 0871 200 22 33 www.traveline.info (Thanet Loop); National Rail Enquiries 03457 484950 www.nationalrail.co.uk

DESIGNATIONS: The Thanet Coast, with Pegwell Bay is part of the NE Kent Marine Protected Area, and is an internationally important place for wintering birds and marine life.
www.nekmpa.org.uk

RAMSGATE TO BROADSTAIRS

Get close to nature and go wild exploring some of the most precious and dramatic landscapes in Kent by canoe! Exploring by canoe gives you access to areas inaccessible on foot, whilst maintaining the peacefulness of the area so as not to disturb the natural balance.





OBSERVE THE COASTAL CODE

Your enjoyment of the coast is maximised by keeping to the Coastal Code. Staying safe, looking out for other coastal users and protecting precious habitats and birdlife is the basis for the Coastal Code. Leaving the coast how you find it or how you would expect to find it is the best way of keeping to the code. Remember to check tide times before you travel and advise someone of your route. More information can be found at www.nekmpa.org.uk/factfile/thanet-coastal-codes



This interesting seascape route of 2 miles begins in the vibrant coastal town of Ramsgate and ends in the traditional and pretty sea-side resort of Broadstairs, taking in the undeniable beauty of the white cliffs of Ramsgate which have been eroded to a smooth surface over years of tidal wear and tear.



The vibrant cosmopolitan town of Ramsgate is the starting point for the canoe trail. Now is the perfect time to explore this pretty coastal town taking in Ramsgate Main Sands, the marina and perhaps tea and cake in one of the many harbourside cafes! With lots of remarkable architectural features, Ramsgate is not to be missed with its Pugin history and tempting array of waterfront eateries and restaurants. Ramsgate is home to a pretty Victorian Visitor Information Centre offering lots of useful tips for visitors and is also home to the Old Custom Coffee House.

STARTING THE TRAIL

When you are ready to begin, the Canoe trail starts at the beach slipway on the Marina Esplanade. This is a perfect place to park your car safely for the day, and with easy canoe access to the slipway. Once out on the water your paddle will take you towards Dumpton Bay. This bay has breathtaking views of the White Cliffs. It is also home to a pretty beach area known as Dumpton Gap due to the access point between the cliffs down to the beach being called locally 'the gap'. If you are canoeing near the high tide mark you may be surprised how quickly the tide closes in against the cliffs – this has caught out many an unsuspecting visitor to these shores! However for yourself, your paddle will present the perfect 'people free' photo

opportunities of the cliffs and coastal landscapes.

A little further along the coastline you pass by South Cliff – this opens out to yet more splendid seascape photo opportunities of the English Channel. On a sunny day the view from here is truly splendid and you can see the French shoreline in the distance.

You will shortly pass Louisa Bay with its unmistakable row of colourful beach huts. Admire the vastness of



the sea wall as you canoe on towards Broadstairs and the treasures of Viking Bay. On a summers day this area will be teeming with sun seekers and excited children playing on the sand here! Protect the precious coastline and other coastal users by not landing here – your end point is within striking distance now.

Your paddle finishes in Broadstairs but first you need to navigate across Viking Bay with its oodles of nostalgia and Victorian charm. Take in the amazing views one last time before heading inland towards the café located on the pier. It is well known for its great location as well as its fish and chips and it's here where your trail ends on the slipway of Broadstairs pier leaving you free to explore the delights of this Dickensian sea-side town.



Before heading out on your canoe trail, have breakfast in Ramsgate underneath the arches. The arches are home to a wonderfully unique selection of cafes and restaurants which serve hearty Kentish breakfasts to set you up perfectly for your canoe trail. The arches are located within the Royal Harbour, the only Royal harbour in the UK, so do take time after your breakfast to explore this wonderful area in more depth before heading out on your canoe trail.

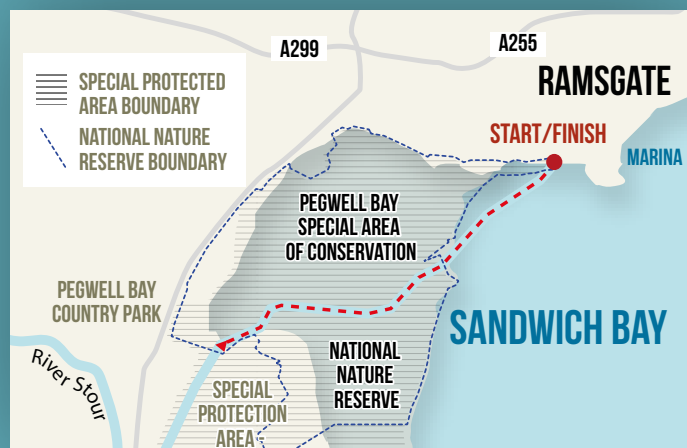


So simply head towards the café on the pier and disembark– it's very prominent when still on the water!

You can head back to Ramsgate by canoe at this point or return via public transport. The area is well served by trains and the Stagecoach bus network, in particular the Thanet Loop, which serves this local area very efficiently.

GUIDED WILDLIFE CANOE SAFARI WITH

Canoe Wild



Enhance your canoeing experience in Ramsgate by taking a group guided canoe safari through one of the UK's most important protected bird sites. Canoeing through Pegwell Bay National Nature Reserve, you can experience sightings of wetland birds and seals as nature intended. This is a great opportunity to spot rarer birdlife and seals in their natural habitat so bring your binoculars! Pegwell Bay is famous for sightings of Oystercatchers, Terns and Shelducks to name just a few of the rich array of wetland birds found here.

These guided, small group canoe trails leave Western Undercliffe in Ramsgate for a 2-3 hour canoe safari which takes canoeists on a mix of open sea and river routes. Suited for the more adventurous canoeist, this guided trail is run by both Canoe Wild and Thanet Diving & Watersports, operators that know the area well and can ensure you have a responsible canoeing experience in this highly protected area.

The trail starts in open sea at Ramsgate and passes through the Pegwell Bay National Nature Reserve to the mouth of the River Stour. You will then paddle back to Ramsgate. You can spend the rest of the day exploring the town's cobbled alleyways in this vibrant coastal resort, have a pub meal by the marina or perhaps stay the night. Ramsgate is home to a great collection of quality bed and breakfasts, hotels and inns all serving great food with a renowned Kentish welcome. Don't miss Sorbetto ice cream parlour and Vinyl Head for a decent coffee and great music!

To book your place on a small group guided Wildlife Canoe Safari, visit www.canoewild.co.uk and www.kentscubadiving.co.uk or call Canoe Wild on 07947 835688 and Thanet Diving & Watersports on 07981 551922. All equipment will be provided, or bring your own!

Canoeing is a really enjoyable activity but it is important to take a few safety precautions before you start. Here's our advice:

BEING A RESPONSIBLE CANOEIST

Following a few simple tips whilst paddling these trails will ensure your own personal safety, protect the wildlife you view, and conserve the fragile environment of the National Nature Reserve.

Know your limits. Ensure you have the right level of experience and expertise to tackle the self-guided trail to Broadstairs

Wear appropriate clothing. Always wear shoes. Rocks, rough terrain and river beds present serious hazards to canoeists without proper attire

Check the forecast. Find out the weather forecast before you set out on your canoe trail

Safety first. Check the tides and direction of current, inform someone of your route and timings

Equip yourself. Make sure you have the correct equipment:

Canoe, paddle, bailer/sponge, buoyancy aid, small first aid kit, penknife, mobile phone (in a waterproof bag), fresh drinking water, sun cream, hat and sunglasses, light waterproof jacket, footwear

Let sleeping birds and seals lie! Never approach wildlife so close that your presence disturbs it or interferes with its natural behavior. If birds take to flight or seals take to the water then you are too close and need to back away. Observe the Coastal Code

Keep to a whisper. Wildlife will move away or freeze if they hear human voices. To watch seals continue with their normal behaviors you should lower your voice

On a tangent. Always approach wildlife to be viewed from an angle, never head on, as this will scare them and they will move off

Keep on track. Paddling down the small inlets leading off the River Stour into the National Nature Reserve is strictly prohibited as this disturbs the wildlife and impacts on this fragile environment.

Canoeing is a perfect activity to Explore Kent in a whole new way – whether you are an experienced canoeist or not, there will be a Canoe Trail to suit your level of ability in Kent.

All you need to get started is a canoe and of course the appropriate equipment!

No Canoe? No problem! Specialist Kent-based canoe operator Canoe Wild can help! Whether you're a complete beginner and not sure if canoeing is for you or wish to join a group to enhance your experience **Canoe Wild** can help. All canoe equipment is provided, you simply just need to book and turn up! www.canoewild.co.uk; 07947 835688

You can also hire kayaks and book onto guided group canoe trails and courses at **Thanet Diving & Watersports** who are located in one of the arches in Ramsgate Royal Harbour. www.kentscubadiving.co.uk; 07981 551922

These canoe trails are an initiative of **Active Ramsgate** and **Explore Kent**. For information on canoeing, walking and cycling trails in and around Ramsgate visit www.ramsgatetown.org/activeramsgate

Funded by



Active Ramsgate is a
Ramsgate Town Council initiative



Ramsgate Town Council



Explore Kent is a
Kent County Council initiative

The canoe trails promoted in this leaflet are undertaken entirely at the participant's own risk.