

The Route

Where: Margate to Reculver along the sea wall

Regional Route Number: 15

Distance: 8 miles one way

Terrain: Fairly flat and mostly traffic-free, with a short section on the road

Public transport: railway stations at Margate, Birchington and Westgate.

Bike hire: Ken's Bikes, Margate - 01843 221422

Maps: Viking Trail leaflet available from Ramsgate Visitor Information Centre 01843 583333

OS maps: Explorer 150 or Landranger 179

Towns to search for on Sustrans website mapping: Margate, Reculver

Margate to Reculver



The route begins on the sea wall opposite Margate station, and then winds westwards past spectacular chalk cliffs, sandy beaches, rock pools and bays. The whole route is passable on foot subject to tides, but cyclists have a short section on a clifftop road if they don't want to carry their bikes or get their feet wet.

The first section of route takes you along the sea wall to Westgate-on-Sea with access slopes and steps to the cliff tops and down to the beaches along the way. A short on-road section takes you along the clifftop road to Epple Bay, where you can rejoin the sea wall to Minnis Bay. The beach here is ideal for swimming, and is also popular with sailors, windsurfers and sea canoeists. The route continues along the sea wall with splendid views of flat marshland which was once the Wantsum Channel.

Reculver is well known for the two towers which were left standing as a navigational aid for passing ships when its church was demolished in 1809. Its beach is most famous for being the test site for the Dambusters' Bouncing Bomb.

If you want a longer ride back exploring more of East Kent, the 28-mile Viking Coastal Trail (Regional Route 15) heads southwards along a quiet road just west of Minnis Bay and loops inland via Minster, rejoining the coast at Pegwell Bay and following it through Broadstairs and back to Margate.

Please take care at all times, the sea wall and cliff tops can be dangerous, particularly during high tide and stormy weather. For tide tables and weather visit www.ramsgatemarina.co.uk or call 01843 572100.