

## Invasion coast

A self-guided walk between Walmer and Deal in Kent



Explore two towns shaped by the sea  
Discover how the East Kent coast has faced centuries of invasion  
Find out how this fragile landscape has evolved over the centuries  
Enjoy beautiful shingle beaches with diverse wildlife and spectacular views

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the stories of our landscapes  
discovered through walks





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Cover image: WW2 pillbox above Kingsdown beach © Grant Sibley

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## Invasion coast

### Explore a changing coastline between Walmer and Deal

The East Kent coast between Walmer, Kingsdown and Deal has faced the threat of invasion for centuries.

Its flat shores and proximity to Europe have attracted many overseas invaders from Julius Caesar's Roman legions to Napoleon's warships, from First World War bombers to Hitler's planned invasion in 1940.



But humans are not the only threat to this part of Britain's coast. This coastline faces constant attack from the powerful forces of the North Sea. Wave and storm erosion along this coastline creates both threat and opportunity in a constantly shifting landscape.



This walk explores the dynamic coastline from the medieval village of Old Walmer to the twenty-first century seaside town of Deal.

Find out how local fishermen made a living from a deadly sandbank. See castles built by Henry VIII and hear stories of secret Second World War weapons. Step back in time to walk streets where smugglers hid contraband whisky and tobacco.

Top: Rock defences north of Deal © Environment Agency  
Bottom: View from Deal Pier (c.1900), courtesy of [www.ouldukphotos.com](http://www.ouldukphotos.com)

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## Practical information

<b>Location</b>	Walmer and Deal, Kent, Southeast England
<b>Getting there</b>	<p><b>Train</b> - Walmer and Deal are on the Kent Coast Line. Direct services run from Ashford International, Dover, Ramsgate and Folkestone. Limited services run from London Charing Cross and St Pancras International.</p> <p><b>Bus</b> - Local and regional services run from Canterbury, Ramsgate and Dover.</p> <p><b>Car</b> - Access to Walmer village is from Junction 13 of the M20 or the M2 from Deal. Limited parking available in Walmer village.</p> <p><b>Bicycle</b> - Walmer and Deal are on National Cycle Route Number 1 (Canterbury to Dover section).</p>
<b>Start point</b>	Walmer railway station, Station Road, CT14 7RN
<b>Finish point</b>	Deal Town Hall, High Street, CT14 6TR
<b>Distance</b>	6 miles
<b>Level</b>	Gentle - A coastal walk suitable for all ages and abilities
<b>Terrain</b>	Pavements, footpaths and seaside promenades. One steep flight of steps at Directions 3.
<b>Conditions</b>	Take care crossing roads, particularly the short section of the route in Walmer village where there is no pavement (after Stop 3). The coastal sections of the walk can be breezy so wrap up warm!
<b>Best time to visit</b>	Try the walk on a clear day for the best views from Hawkshill Down (Stop 4) and the beaches.

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**Suitable for** **Families** - Children will enjoy the beaches and seeing the castles  
**Dogs** - Keep on a lead in the town and by the roads

**Refreshments** There are plenty of cafés, pubs and shops along the route. Particularly recommended are:

- Jane's Tea Rooms, Dover Road, Walmer (between Stops 2 & 3)
- The Zetland Arms pub, Wellington Parade, Kingsdown (Stop 5)
- The Black Douglas Coffee House, Beach Street, Deal (past Stop 15)

**Places to visit** **Walmer Castle and gardens** (Stop 6) is open from April to October. Entry charges apply except for English Heritage members.  
[www.english-heritage.org.uk/daysout/properties/walmer-castle-and-gardens](http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/daysout/properties/walmer-castle-and-gardens)

**Deal Castle** (Stop 11) is open from daily from April to October and at weekends from November to March. Entry charges apply to except English Heritage members.  
[www.english-heritage.org.uk/daysout/properties/deal-castle](http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/daysout/properties/deal-castle)

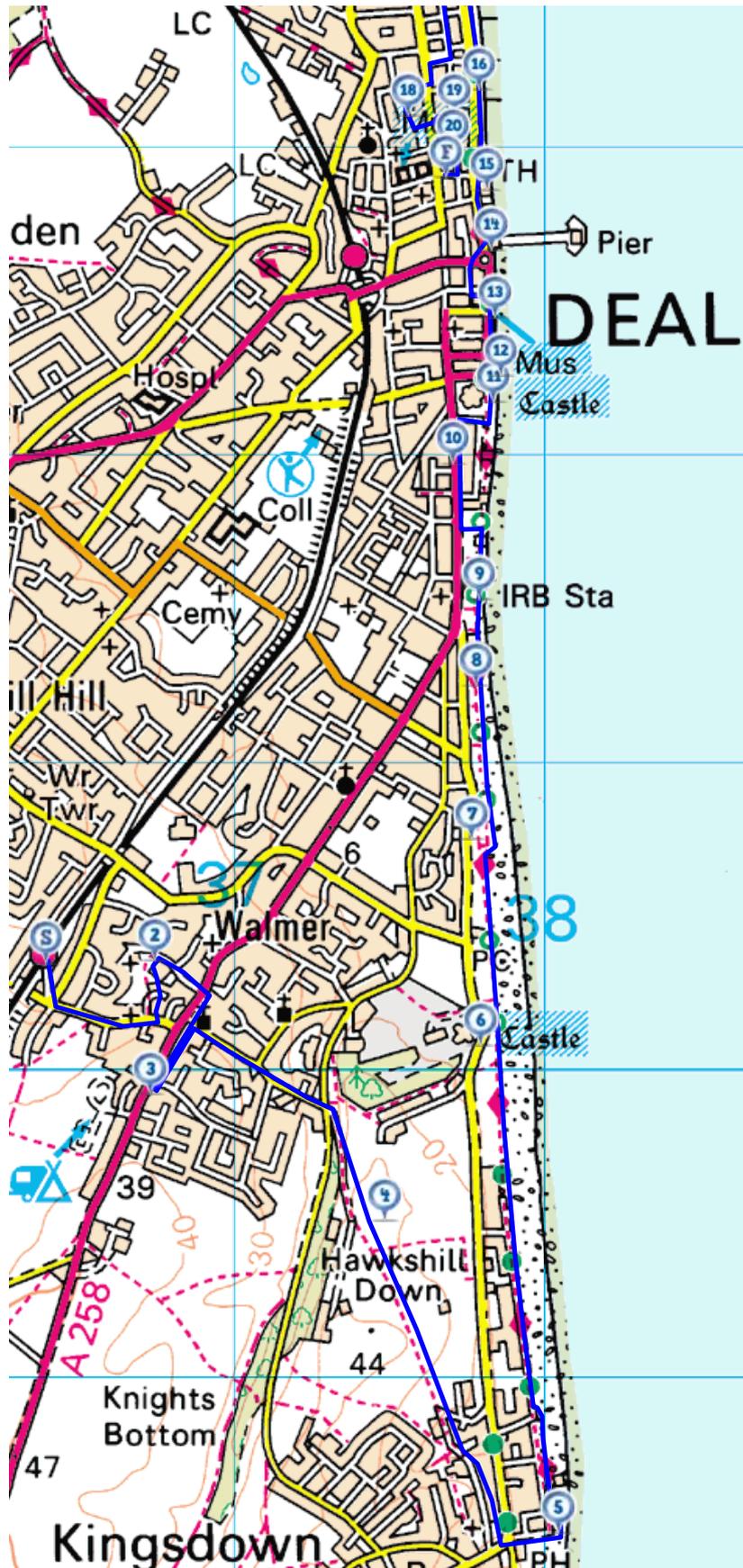
**Deal Timeball Tower Museum** (Stop 13) is open from 11am to 4pm on weekdays between June and September, 12 midday to 4pm on weekends and Bank Holidays from Easter to October. Nominal entrance charges.  
[www.dealtimeball.co.uk](http://www.dealtimeball.co.uk)

**Deal Maritime and Local History Museum** is located at 22 St George's Road off the High Street. Opening days and hours vary throughout the year. Nominal entrance charges.  
[www.dealmuseum.co.uk](http://www.dealmuseum.co.uk)

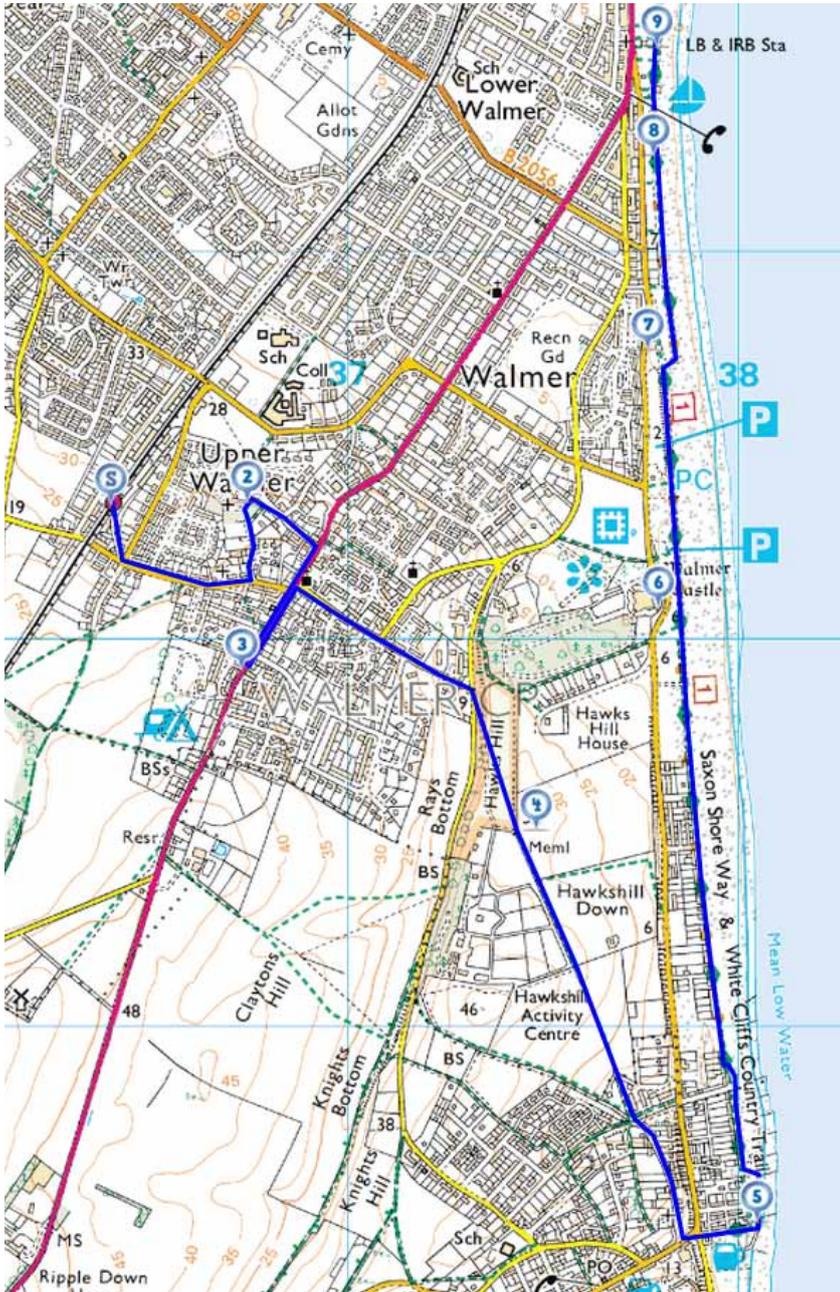
**Tourist information** **Deal Visitor Information Centre** is located in the Town Hall on the High Street (Stop 21). Tel: 01304 369576 Email: [info@deal.gov.uk](mailto:info@deal.gov.uk)

See also Visit Kent's website <http://www.visitkent.co.uk>

## Route overview



## First section of the route



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### Stopping points

**Start.** Walmer railway station

- 2.** Blessed Mary of Walmer, Church Street
- 3.** Brick wall, back of 381 and 385 Dover Road
- 4.** Hawkshill Down war memorial
- 5.** The Zetland Arms pub, Wellington Parade, Kingsdown
- 6.** Walmer Castle
- 7.** Lord Warden Estate, Lord Warden Avenue
- 8.** Julius Caesar plaque, Walmer Green
- 9.** Walmer Lifeboat Station

## Second section of the route



### Stopping points

10. Admiralty Mews, Strand Street
  11. Deal Castle
  12. Beach opposite Prince of Wales terrace
  13. Opposite Timeball Tower Museum, Victoria Parade
  14. Deal Pier
  15. The Victoria Hotel, Beach Street
  16. Deal Promenade opposite Adelaide House
  17. The Old Cannery, Hengist Street
  18. Corner of Robert Street and Clarence Place
  19. Golden Street
  20. Middle Street
- Finish.** Deal Town Hall, High Street

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## Directions

These directions are for use with the audio commentary. Listen to each track then read the directions below to get to the next stop.

### 1. Welcome to Walmer and Deal

#### Walmer railway station

##### Directions 1

From Walmer railway station go down Station Drive then turn left into Station Road. Turn left into Neville Gardens then enter St Mary's churchyard by a footpath on the left. Go through the large wooden gate and cross the graveyard. Keep the church on your left and exit through another wooden gate. Go a few steps to the left and stop by the wooden fence to see the church and the remains of a wall. Listen to Track 2.

### 2. Master of the manor

#### The Church of the Blessed Mary, Church Street

##### Directions 2

Turn right down Church Street passing the pretty Green Lane on the left. Turn right into Dover Road and continue up the hill. Pass a church and the Thompson's Bell pub. Stop at the back of number 381 Dover Road by a shoulder-high brick wall. Try to find three pipe outlets sunk in the wall. Listen to Track 3.

### 3. A flaming cocktail

#### Brick wall, back of 381 and 385 Dover Road

##### Directions 3

Turn downhill and retrace your steps until you reach Grams Road on the right. Carefully cross over into Grams Road; take care on the short stretch without a pavement. When you reach Liverpool Road, cross over and enter a small car park.

Walk up the steep steps on the right which will bring you onto the flat grassy area of Hawkshill Down. Follow the path on your right towards a line of trees. When you reach the war memorial, take a seat on the bench and enjoy the stunning views of the English Channel. Listen to Track 4.

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#### **4. Gotha Hum**

##### **Hawkshill Down**

###### **Directions 4**

Follow the footpath sign past the memorial along a narrow path. Ignore the footpath downhill to the left and continue ahead along a hedged path. Emerge into an open field and walk straight across it towards some houses. At the field edge go straight ahead following a yellow sign along a sunken tarmac footpath. At a crossroads, bear left taking the path uphill.

Pass a church on the right and a plaque on the left giving latitude and longitude. When you reach the junction with Upper Road, turn left then ahead into South Road. Pass a row of cottages on your left and stop by The Zetland Arms pub on the beach. Stop beside it to listen to Track 5.

#### **5. Attack from the sea**

##### **The Zetland Arms pub, Wellington Parade**

###### **Directions 5**

With the pub on your left, follow the stone path and walk along the promenade. Go through the iron bollards and continue along Wellington Parade. Take time to enjoy the sea views on this long stretch of the walk. Stop when you reach one of the wooden benches in front of the cannon at Walmer Castle. Listen here to Track 6.

#### **6. Henry's defences**

##### **Walmer Castle**

###### **Directions 6**

Continue along the beach-side path. Where the path splits off toward the sea, stop by the privet hedge for a good view of the modern housing estate set back from the road. Listen to Track 7.

#### **7. To the manor born**

##### **Lord Warden Estate, Lord Warden Avenue**

###### **Directions 7**

Continue along the beach-side path. Stop at the low grey square monument on the left at Walmer Green, just in front of number 12 The Beach. Listen to Track 8.

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## 8. Veni, vidi, vici

### Julius Caesar plaque, Walmer Green

#### Directions 8

Continue along the path until you reach a grey tiled building that resembles a church. This is the RNLI Lifeboat Station. Listen to Track 9.

## 9. Flat and fatal

### Walmer Lifeboat Station

#### Directions 9

Turn right and continue into Rose Street. When you come to the crossroads and traffic lights, turn right and walk downhill into Autumn Drive. Continue into the housing estate and stop when you reach a bench on the right near a children's play area. Listen here to Track 10.

## 10. Life within walls

### Admiralty Mews, Strand Street

#### Directions 10

Continue along the Strand until you see the back of Deal Castle. Turn right into Marine Road and head towards the seafront. Turn left and stop by the moat on the promenade. Listen to Track 11.

## 11. We shall fight them on the beaches

### Deal Castle

#### Directions 11

Continue ahead in the direction of the pier towards the fishing boats drawn up on the beach. Stop opposite the Prince of Wales Terrace. Listen here to Track 12.

## 12. The Deal Boatmen

### Beach opposite Prince of Wales Terrace

#### Directions 12

Continue along the promenade for a short distance. Stop just past Ranelagh Road and look at the row of tall white townhouses along Prince of Wales Terrace. Note the new splash wall which directs wave energy away from the beach and the promenade. Look for the tall building across the road with the cross and large ball on the roof. Listen to Track 13.

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### 13. As time goes by

#### Opposite Deal Timeball Tower Museum, Victoria Parade

##### Directions 13

Continue along Prince of Wales Terrace before turning left into South Street and immediately into the remains of Beach Street where you can get a feel for the narrow, twisting streets and passageways of old Deal. Continue along around the roundabout before crossing the road carefully to stop at the entrance to Deal's modern pier. Listen to Track 14.

### 14. The last pier

#### Deal Pier

##### Directions 14

Walk along the promenade until you reach The Royal Hotel. Listen to Track 15.

### 15. A commanding location

#### The Royal Hotel, Beach Street

##### Directions 15

Continue along the promenade and stop opposite the three-storey redbrick Adelaide House on the corner of Griffin Street. Listen to Track 16.

### 16. Strolling along the prom

#### Deal Promenade opposite Adelaide House

##### Directions 16

Continue along the promenade until you reach Hengist Road. Turn left and stop by a housing development on the right called The Cannery. Listen to Track 17.

### 17. Canned meat

#### The Old Cannery, Hengist Street

##### Directions 17

Turn left into Sandown Road and continue until you reach Alfred Square on the right. From here turn left into the High Street before taking the next right into Water Street and then left into Robert Street. Stop at the corner of Robert Street and Clarence Place. Listen to Track 18.

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## 18. Hellfire Corner

### Corner of Robert Street and Clarence Place

#### Directions 18

Continue along Robert Street. At the end turn left into Duke Street then cross the High Street. Bear left into New Street then cross over Middle Street. Stop at the entrance to the narrow lane of Golden Street. Listen here to Track 19.

## 19. Free traders

### Golden Street

#### Directions 19

Go back into Middle Street. Turn left and stop a short way along this attractive street. Listen to Track 20.

## 20. S.O.S - Save Our Street

### Middle Street

#### Directions 20

Continue along Middle Street then turn right into Oak Street. At the end carefully cross the road and stop outside the old Town Hall. Listen to Track 21.

## 21. A new Deal

### Deal Town Hall, High Street

#### Directions 21

You may like to explore Deal town further or return to the beach. To return to Walmer you can take a train from Deal railway station. Continue along the High Street then turn left onto Queen Street to follow the signs for the station.

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## **Further information**

### **Deal Bandstand**

[www.dealbandstand.org](http://www.dealbandstand.org)

### **Deal Castle**

[www.english-heritage.org.uk/daysout/properties/deal-castle/](http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/daysout/properties/deal-castle/)

### **Deal Maritime and Local History Museum**

[www.dealmuseum.co.uk](http://www.dealmuseum.co.uk)

### **Deal Pier**

[www.dealpier.com](http://www.dealpier.com)

### **The Deal Society**

[www.dealsociety.org.uk](http://www.dealsociety.org.uk)

### **Deal Timeball Tower Museum**

[www.dealtimeball.co.uk](http://www.dealtimeball.co.uk)

### **DealWeb**

[www.dealweb.org.uk](http://www.dealweb.org.uk)

### **Environment Agency - Deal defence scheme**

[www.gov.uk/government/publications/deal-defence-scheme](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/deal-defence-scheme)

### **The Royal Hotel**

[www.theroyalhotel.com](http://www.theroyalhotel.com)

### **The Shuttleworth Collection**

[www.shuttleworth.org](http://www.shuttleworth.org)

### **St Mary's Church, Walmer**

[www.walmerparishchurches.org/\\_about/stm.html](http://www.walmerparishchurches.org/_about/stm.html)

### **Walmer Castle**

[www.english-heritage.org.uk/daysout/properties/walmer-castle-and-gardens/](http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/daysout/properties/walmer-castle-and-gardens/)

### **Walmer Lifeboat Station**

[www.walmer-lifeboat.org.uk](http://www.walmer-lifeboat.org.uk)

### **WalmerWeb**

[www.walmerweb.co.uk](http://www.walmerweb.co.uk)

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## Credits

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