



THE BEACHES

From Seasalter in the west to Swalecliffe in the east, six miles of varied coast include several Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI). All can be walked using the sea wall or beach and unless you see warning signs you can swim anywhere in the sea but always be aware of the strong currents.



15. THE OLD NEPTUNE

The site of a cottage on the beach since 1800 and later a beer-house before being swept away by the sea in 1897, when the whole town was flooded causing two million pounds damage at today's prices. Rebuilt from salvaged materials it survived the battering of the great storms of 1938 and 1953.



15. THE OLD NEPTUNE

13. WHITSTABLE ALLEYSWAYS

Twenty-five alleys are named – can you find them all? These historic passages link the town to the shoreline. The best known is **Squeeze Gut Alley**; a narrowing alley through which mischievous youths evaded a local portly policeman. Find Neptune Gap near the Old Neptune pub, Collars Alley, used by children to access Mr Collar's shop, who generously fed the children when the sea froze, and many more. Pick up the details from the Museum.

REFRESHMENT & SHOPPING

A host of restaurants, cafés, pubs and unique independent shops can be found in Oxford Street, High Street and Harbour Street. More are dotted along the sea front, on the Harbour and in Tankerton. A Farmers Market is usually held on the 2nd and 4th Saturday mornings of the month at the Whitstable Umbrella Centre.

5. THE HARBOUR



12. THE SLOPES & THE STREET



THE SEA WALLS

Whitstable would be underwater but for the sea walls built over the generations. The original coastline of 1340 explains the wiggly main road running through the town. **Middle Wall** was the first to be built in 1583. Later in 1779 it was linked with **Inset Wall** (now Harbour Street and Tower Parade), then with **Island Wall** in 1793. The first modern **Sea Wall** was built in 1952 but was breached in the floods of 1953. In subsequent years it has been substantially reinforced and our wide beach is also a defence formed from thousands of tons of imported shingle.

A printed guide "Walking the Walls" is available from the Museum.

14. THE CRAB & WINKLE WAY

Takes its name from the six-mile historic railway line which ran between Whitstable harbour and Canterbury North Lane. This walking and cycling trail is signed from Whitstable Harbour and generally follows the old railway line to the Winding Pond (the site of one of the old winding engines which pulled the trains uphill), through Blean Woods (one of the largest areas of ancient broadleaved woodland in southern Britain) and downhill to Canterbury.



BUS ROUTES

A regular circular bus service runs through the town linking Whitstable with Canterbury and Herne Bay

URGENT TREATMENT CENTRE & MINOR INJURIES

Estuary View Medical Centre
Boorman Way near Thanet Way
Whitstable

Sat Nav: CT5 3SE
Tel: 01227 284309

- POINTS OF INTEREST
- CAR PARKS
- PEDESTRIAN WAY
- CAR CHARGING POINTS - 4
- DEFIBRILLATORS - 2
- TOILETS - 7
- CHURCHES



The location of these places is indicated on the fold out map overleaf.

1. THE MUSEUM

A good place to start an exploration as it tells many fascinating stories about Whitstable's history. You will see the famous Invicta steam locomotive built by Robert Stephenson, which pulled the world's first regular passenger service on the Canterbury to Whitstable Railway. See how underwater salvage and treasure hunting was also a Whitstable first with the invention of the diving helmet.



There's lots to discover about the origins of the oyster, fishing and shipbuilding industries. Hands-on activities will challenge children who will discover that a Doctor Who lived in Whitstable. Take advantage of a rest in our courtyard garden; an oasis of calm.

Normal Opening: Thursday to Saturday 10.30am to 4.30pm. Check website for details.

www.whitstblemuseum.org

2. THE WHITSTABLE NATIVE OYSTER STORES

In 1793 local men bought the rights to the oyster grounds and by Act of Parliament established the Company of Free Fishers and Dredgers of Whitstable. At its peak in 1862 the Company sent 60 million oysters to the London Market. In 1894 it received a Royal Warrant to supply oysters to Queen Victoria which you can see above the door of the Oyster Stores which were built in 1898. Today disease-free oysters are scientifically bred and grown on racks rather than being dredged.



3. THE HORSEBRIDGE

The name of this 19th century stone ramp probably dates from the 16th century when cargo was carted from ship to shore over the sea wall and the town ditch behind. The stone paving protected the earthen sea wall from the cart wheels. Spot the cart ruts and perhaps do a spot of crabbing!

4. HORSEBRIDGE ARTS & COMMUNITY CENTRE

A hub for the arts, located just yards from the beach in the centre of the town. View the constantly changing art displays, attend one of the many workshops or experience all sorts of entertainment.

Normal Opening: Monday to Saturday 9.30am to 6pm, Sunday 10am to 5pm.

www.thehorsebridge.org.uk



5. THE HARBOUR

Whitstable has been the main port for Canterbury for several hundred years, unloading coal, household goods and passengers on the beach. In 1832 the harbour was built for the Canterbury to Whitstable Railway with a station near the present Harbour Master's Office. In the mid-19th century hundreds of ships each year brought in huge quantities of coal from Newcastle and shipped out grain and hops. Today it's still a working harbour but you can wander around the harbour village which offers local crafts and food and drink or maybe take one of the boat trips on offer.



6. REEVES BEACH

In 1793 William Reeves, foreman of the Company of Oyster Fishers, enclosed waste ground here and developed a family business of block and mast making. He kept a "shore-light" by the beach, its lantern guiding vessels into the bay. In 1869 a fire swept through this whole area completely destroying the many tarred and weather-boarded buildings. Forty six years later a descendant of William, George Reeves, converted derelict land inside the sea wall here into the "Oval Rink" for roller skating. In 1944 the rink closed and lay derelict until 2019 when it was developed as you see it today.

7. KEAM'S YARD

This car park is the site of one of five large shipyards stretching westward along the shoreline. From 1838 Holloway's Shipyard repaired and built a variety of ships and Thames barges. Later R J Perkins build yachts and fishing boats here.

8. DOLLAR ROW

Tradition has it that this row of cottages (circa 1850) was built with silver dollars the old Whitstable divers salvaged from a wreck found near the Copeland Islands off the coast of Ireland. The King's Head pub, now a dwelling with the face above the door, was their headquarters.



9. THE FAVOURITE

This is one of the last oyster dredging yawls (smacks) remaining in Whitstable. Originally the fleet here numbered over 80. She was built on the beach by the Whitstable Shipbuilding Company in 1890 from oak and pitch pine. Her fishing life ended in 1942 after machine gun damage from a Nazi aircraft.

10. MASCALL COPPERAS WORKS

In 1565 Queen Elizabeth granted a Royal patent to Cornelius Stephenson for the exploitation of local copperas. The mineral copperas is a form of iron sulphide and occurs as hard nodules that can still be found on the beaches.



The best pieces called 'gold stones' were used as pistol flints. Processing was a very dirty and smelly industry resulting in green vitriol crystals which were used in leather tanning, dyeing and ink. One copperas industry site was the Castle Tea Garden.

11. WHITSTABLE CASTLE

This picturesque folly was started in the late 1790s as the summer residence of Charles Pearson the last owner of the near-by Copperas Works. Its history can be learnt from one of the volunteer-led tours. Following its use as offices for the Whitstable Urban District Council a trust was formed in 1975 to manage it as a local attraction and community venue. In addition to the sympathetic interior design, overseen by English Heritage, there is an attractive garden, Orangerie Tea Room and imaginative play area for children created with natural materials.

Normal Opening: All week 9.30am to 6pm.

www.whitstablecastle.co.uk



12. THE SLOPES & THE STREET

In Tankerton cliff-top grass slopes roll down to the beach and provide excellent views of the naturally formed spit of land called The Street. This can be walked on at low tide but beware the incoming sea and never swim here as there are dangerous currents. Enjoy views of the wartime forts, wind turbines and the Essex coast on the opposite side of the Thames Estuary with the Isle of Sheppey between. (No, it's not France!)

To order additional copies, phone David on 01227 277580

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www.sarahlousedunn.co.uk

Welcome to Whitstable



TOWN MAP & GUIDE



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