

DICKENS & TURNER WALK - Broadstairs and Margate

Start: Broadstairs promenade outside Dickens House Museum **CT10 1NB**

Distance: 9.5 miles 15 km Circular. Allow 4 hours

Map Reference: Map OS Explorer 150 **TR397677**

What 3 Words: catch.became.lake

Start location link: [Grid Reference Finder](#)

Public Transport: Bus No 8 / 8A Canterbury & Margate. Bus No. 9 Canterbury, Sandwich & Ramsgate.

British Rail: Broadstairs Station

Parking: Car parks or street parking

Refreshments: Turner Contemporary Gallery Margate. Jet Ski Café. Cafés in Margate and Broadstairs

Historical Background

The connection of Thanet to the artist JMW Turner and the writer Charles Dickens is well documented.

Turner first came to Margate in 1786 as an eleven year old school boy and returned many times in later life always staying with Mrs Booth in her sea front guesthouse (formerly on a site now occupied by the Turner Contemporary Gallery). His great interest in the effects of 'the elements' and especially 'light' were well served by the seaside town and many famous works were produced there.

From 1837-59 Dickens spent his summer holidays in Broadstairs at the cliff top residence now called 'Bleak House'. It is here that he wrote David Copperfield and based the character of 'Betsey Trotwood' on a nearby friend Mary Pearson Strong who drove 'donkey boys' from the green in front of her cottage. The novel 'Bleak House' was also conceived here.

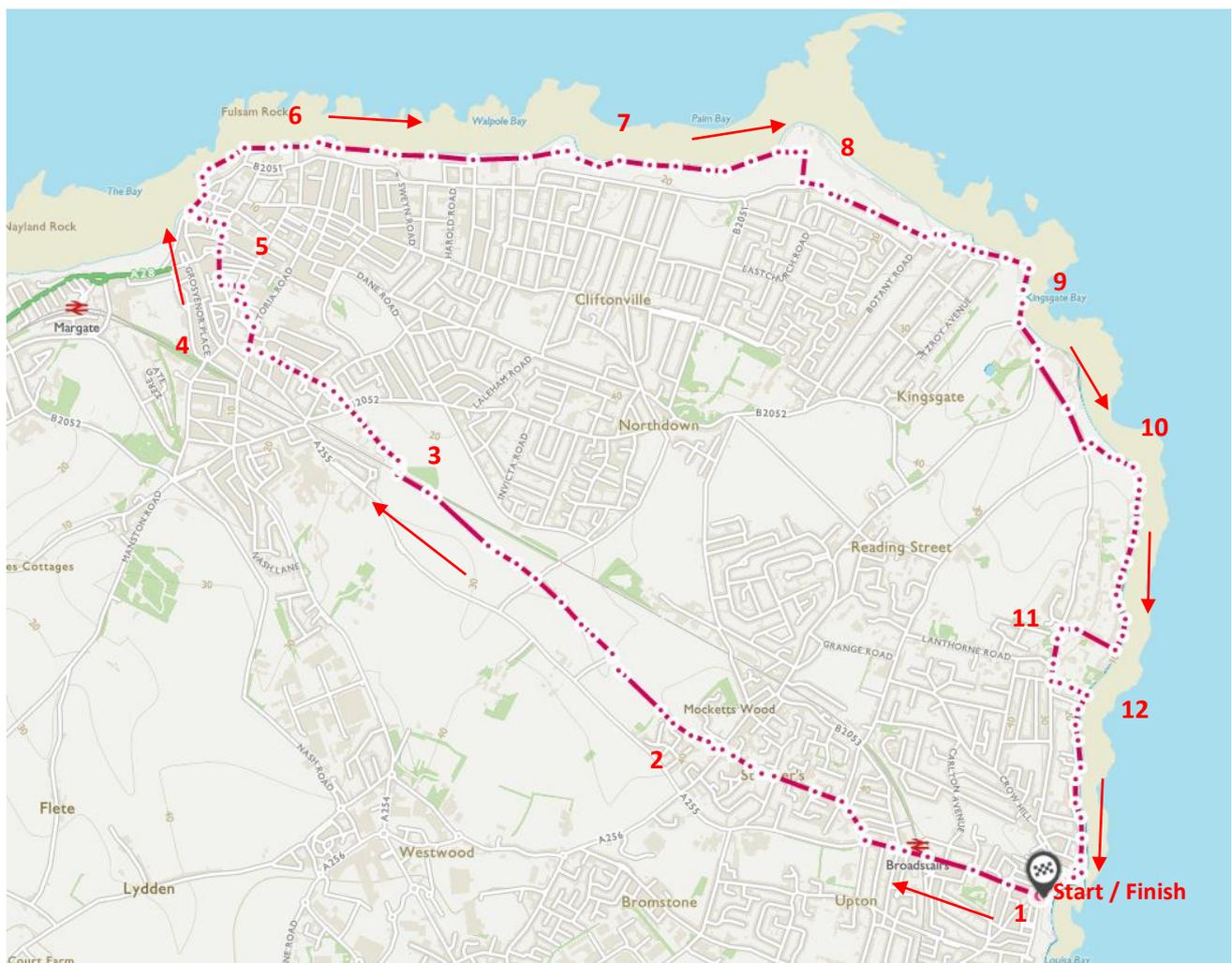
Directions:

- 1.** Start at Broadstairs promenade outside the Dickens House Museum. Continue along the High Street passing under the railway bridge, turning R into St Peters Park Road, then turn L into Fordoun Rd, then turn R into St Peters Rd and continue to St Peters Church. You will find information display boards on "T&D" on three occasions along the route.
- 2.** Crossing the road the path continues on the **L** of the Church.
- 3.** The footbridge crosses the railway. Pass the windmill, cross over the road (pedestrian crossing a few yards to the **L**) to St Peters Pathway and cross over three more roads before turning **R** onto Victoria Road, **L** into Charlotte Place to Charlotte Square.
- 4.** Crossing the road, the walk continues along St Johns Road passing the Holy Trinity & St Johns School into Addington Street. Turn **L** into Hawley Square.
- 5.** Continue along Cecil Street to Cecil Square. Turn **L** into Lombard Street through Market Place and into Duke Street arriving at Droit House Thanet Visitors information centre. Cross the road past the Harbour to join the Thanet Coastal path at the rear of the Turner Contemporary Gallery.
- 6.** Pass the Life Boat station and continue along the promenade passing The Winter Gardens and the Old Bathing Pool, which at low tide is evident.
- 7.** Climb the steps behind the Jet Ski Café. Turn **L** at the top to continue walking along the cliff top.
- 8.** Past Foreness Point and Botany Bay.
- 9.** The path continues along pavement past Kingsgate Bay. Take care - There is a short walk along Joss Gap road with no pavement. Just over the brow of the hill pick up the path on the **R** of the road.

10. At the junction, cross the road towards Joss Bay Café to walk once again along the cliff edge. Continue straight ahead along Cliff Promenade along the private road which turns **R** into Cliff Road.
11. On reaching North Foreland Road turn **L** until you reach a path on the L (opposite Bishop's Avenue) which takes you down to the beach.
12. Turn **R** along the promenade until you come to Broadstairs making your way back to your starting point.

This walk was originally proposed by Lorna Copland for the 25th Anniversary of White Cliffs Ramblers in 2014. The description was checked and updated by John Pye in March 2021. The gpx file that accompanies this walk was generated by Tony Bristow from the original walk description. Whilst every effort has been made to check the accuracy of this description, this cannot be guaranteed, especially over time. You should, therefore, always carry an up to date map with you.

All sporting and leisure activities have inherent hazards associated with them and rambling is no exception. Although safety is a paramount concern, accidents will occasionally occur. It is important, therefore, that when entering into the activity, each individual appreciates that they have a responsibility to identify the hazards associated with it and take all reasonable steps to eliminate or minimise the potential for an accident to happen.



This map is based on a gpx file and utilising Ordnance Survey Open Data mapping.