

HISTORY

First appearing in the Domesday Book as "Sancta Margharita", the history of St. Margaret's revolves around its location. It is said in 1367 a hermit monk, one Nicholas de Legh, kept a light burning in a cave to warn mariners of the dangerous shores. In more modern times Thomas Edison first tried an electric light at the South Foreland Lighthouse in 1859.

On a murkier note St. Margaret's also had a reputation for smuggling. In fact it is said that the 12th century church tower itself was used to store the gear required to haul the contraband up the cliffs...



From late Victorian times St. Margaret's developed as a holiday resort and a retreat for the well to do. Among those who have stayed or lived here were Lord Arthur Cecil, Lord Byron, Admiral Seymour, Marie Corelli, Max Beerbohm, George Arliss, Noel Coward, Ian Fleming and Peter Ustinov.

The coming of the Second World War saw all but the most essential civilians evacuated and the area occupied by troops. The village was subject to almost daily bombardment and became known as "Hell-fire Corner". The gun emplacements included some old 16-inch naval guns called Winnie and Pooh which, when fired, did more damage to local windows than they did to the enemy!



HOW TO GET HERE BY ROAD:

From Dover follow A258 for Deal. Turn right for St. Margaret's-at-Cliffe then right again at the T junction. The road passes through the village and down to the Bay.

BY BUS:

No.15 runs through St Margaret's from Dover, Deal or Canterbury. Visit www.traveline.org.uk for more info.

BY TRAIN:

The nearest train stations are at Martin Mill (2 miles) and Dover Priory (4 miles). Visit www.nationalrail.co.uk for more info.

TAXIS:

Direct Cars	Dover Heritage Taxis	Mercury Cars
Station Drive	New Street	(limos, chauffeur driven)
Walmer 01304 382222	Dover 01304 204420	Westcliffe 07714 560853

CAR PARKING:

Free car park in the village centre and Pay & Display in the Bay.

PUBLIC TOILETS:

Available in the village car park and in the Bay carpark.

FURTHER INFORMATION:

Dover Visitor Information Centre	Deal Visitor Information Centre
The Old Town Gaol	The Landmark Centre
01304 205108	01304 369576

St. Margaret's-at-Cliffe & St. Margaret's Bay - www.firstlightcoast.com

Rural Ways - www.ruralways.org.uk (go to Country Breaks)

White Cliffs Country - www.whitecliffscountry.org.uk

Kent Downs AONB Unit - www.kentdowns.org.uk

Visit Kent - www.visitkent.co.uk

Explore Kent - www.kent.gov.uk/explorekent



www.firstlightcoast.com

Encouraging responsible & sustainable tourism in St. Margaret's Bay and St. Margaret's-at-Cliffe whilst preserving and enhancing the surrounding coast and countryside.

St. Margaret's-at-Cliffe & St. Margaret's Bay

FIRST LIGHT COAST & COUNTRY



In the heart of the White Cliffs
www.firstlightcoast.com

BE NATURALLY INSPIRED BY FIRST LIGHT COAST & COUNTRY

Basking in the first light of the day, this isolated 'island' in the midst of the White Cliffs has at its heart the lovely seaside village of St. Margaret's-at-Cliffe and secluded cove at St. Margaret's Bay.



Experience "First Light" at the South Foreland Lighthouse. Breathe in history at the ancient church of St. Margaret of Antioch before following the valley down to the Bay and the Pines Visitor Centre and Museum. Opposite you'll find the lovely Pines Garden, watched over by an impressive statue of Sir Winston Churchill.

The surrounding countryside is spectacular at all times of the year, offering an inspiring backdrop to a range of activities. Roam along the deserted coastline and get off the beaten track amongst the rolling green hills of the Kent Downs, or take in cliff-top scenery and wooded valleys under pedal power. For a different experience why not saddle up and follow the green lanes and tracks for a perfect hack through the country.

With a great variety of places to stay, eat and drink ranging from luxurious 4 star country house hotel accommodation to great Kentish pubs serving locally sourced beers, wines and dishes, there really is something for everyone.



ACTIVITIES

The countryside around St. Margaret's is part of the protected landscape of the Kent Downs, valued for its rare chalk grassland and great variety of wildlife. This is where the Downs meet the sea and there is certainly no shortage of things to do.

Go to the First Light website at www.firstlightcoast.com for more information on walking, cycling and riding in the area.



WALKS

Discover peace and tranquility in the surrounding beauty of the Kent Downs. There are plenty of excellent promoted routes and footpaths, offering inspiring views of the Heritage Coast, the Channel and the coast of northern France. Here are just a few...

The Saxon Shore Way is a long distance route starting at Gravesend and finishing at Hastings. The local section passes from Deal, through St. Margaret's and on to Dover. More information on a circular route of the trail, taking in the village and surrounding countryside, can be found at the First Light Website.

Explore Kent's 'Walks in East Kent' pack includes a bracing walk along the high chalk cliffs from the South Foreland Lighthouse to the 'Gateway to the White Cliffs' visitor centre at Langdon Hoe.

The National Trust Coastal Walk takes in the Pines Garden, South Foreland Lighthouse, St. Margaret of Antioch Church and part of the Second World War coastal defences. Visit the First Light website for more details.

The Frontline Britain Trail is an easy circular walk from St. Margaret's taking in the wildlife, history and landscape of the Heritage Coast. Details are available through the First Light website or by calling the White Cliffs Countryside Project on 01304 241806.

The Project has also published a number of interesting circular walks in and around St. Margaret's, taking in Dover, the Langdon Cliffs and further along the coast, Kingsdown.



HORSE RIDING

The area is criss-crossed by bridleways, green lanes and tracks perfect for a hack through the country. Details of 'Freedown Rides' and local stables can be obtained through Explore Kent.



CYCLING

National Cycle Route 1 runs along the coast between Dover, St. Margaret's and Sandwich where it is known as the Cliffs and Castle route. The full route carries on to Canterbury and Dartford. Visit www.firstlightcoast.com for more information on cycling in the area.



SWIMMING

In summer, simply laze on the beach or take the kids rock pooling. Take a swim across the bay and like many before you dream of swimming across to France.



WATER SPORTS

Load up your kit and get out amongst it! In close, the wave-cut platform off Ness Point at St. Margaret's Bay kicks up a very respectable surf in the right conditions. It's been a secret spot for local surfers, kayakers and canoeists for some time.

For windsurfers who like 'big air', the Bay offers a challenging spot from which to launch. With a big South-Westerly and the backdrop of the White Cliffs this beach is hard to beat.

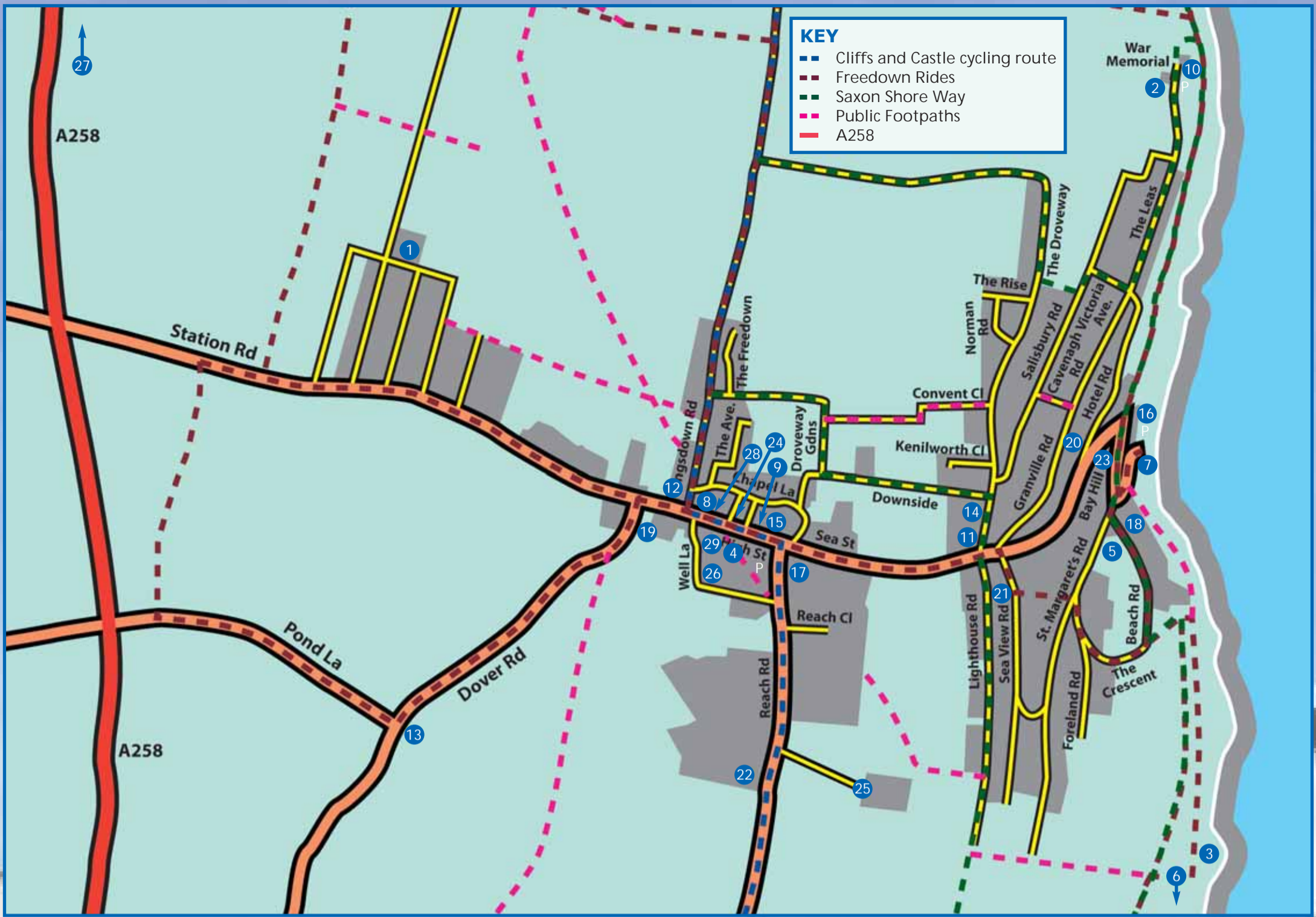


RELAXATION

Get up early and take your tackle to the beach at St. Margaret's Bay for a bit of big game fishing White Cliffs Style. Catch of the day could be sea bass, mackerel, dogfish or sole.

Bring your binoculars with you and see if you can spy seals, guillemots, great crested grebes, little egrets, and even the occasional dolphin or basking shark.

Or if it's atmosphere you're after and the lively buzz of a country pub then head for the warmth of a cosy bar in the Bay or in the heart of the village.



WHAT TO DO

1. Braeside Equestrian Centre
Nelson Park Road
St. Margaret's-at-Cliffe,
CT15 6HL
01304 852959
www.braeside.co.uk
BHS approved yard, offering off road hacking and well schooled horses.

2. Dover Patrol Memorial
Leathercote Point
At the highest point on the cliffs above the Bay is the memorial to commemorate the Dover Patrol, who kept the English Channel open for British troops and supplies crossing to France during WWI & WWII.

3. South Foreland Lighthouse (National Trust)
St. Margaret's Bay,
CT15 6HP
01304 852463
www.nationaltrust.org.uk
Distinctive Victorian lighthouse on the White Cliffs at Dover; the site of Marconi's wireless experiments and Faraday's first electrically powered light. Climb the 73 steps for spectacular cross Channel views.

4. St. Margaret's Church of Antioch
St. Margaret's-at-Cliffe
A 12th century church with interesting rounded arches and doorways.

5. The Pines Garden, Museum, Conference and Events Venue
Beach Road
St. Margaret's Bay,
CT15 6DZ
01304 851737
www.baytrust.org.uk
Six acres of organically

managed gardens displaying a range of approaches to sustainable land management with seasonal art installations. Home to the Pines Calyx, a low carbon conference, events and wedding venue and an interesting small museum showing local history

6. Gateway to the White Cliffs Visitor Centre (National Trust)
Langdon
01304 202756

WHERE TO EAT & DRINK

7. The Coastguard
The Bay
St. Margaret's Bay,
CT15 6DY
01304 853176
www.thecoastguard.co.uk
Restaurant Pub set in the bay offering award winning food made with fresh local ingredients, award winning artisanal cask ales and world renowned beers and wines all served with a pleasing informality.

8. The Smugglers Inn
High Street
St. Margaret's-at-Cliffe,
CT15 6AU
01304 853404
www.thesmugglers-inn.co.uk
The Smugglers is in the heart of St Margaret's village offering truly international cuisine and finest ales, full access, baby changing and dogs being welcome in garden and parts of the bar. ♿

9. Bay Restaurant
White Cliffs Hotel
01304 852229

10. Bluebird Tea Rooms
Leathercote Point,
St. Margaret's Bay
01304 853520

11. Gift Shop & Deli
The Droveway,
St. Margaret's Bay
01304 853107

12. Red Lion
Kingsdown Road,
St. Margaret's-at-Cliffe
01304 852467

13. Restaurant at Walleys Court
Walleys Court Country
House Hotel
01304 852424

14. Shelly's Tea Rooms
The Droveway,
St. Margaret's Bay
01304 852455

15. The Hope Inn
High Street,
St. Margaret's-at-Cliffe
01304 852444

16. The Kiosk on the Beach
St. Margaret's Bay
Open summer only

17. The Old Chapel Tea Room
Sea Street,
St. Margaret's-at-Cliffe
01304 853107

18. The Pines Garden Tea Room
The Pines Garden
01304 853173

WHERE TO STAY
19. Holm Oaks Guest House
Dover Road,
St. Margaret's-at-Cliffe,
CT15 6EP
01304 852990

www.holmoaks.co.uk
4 Diamond (silver award)
Bed & Breakfast with a warm & friendly atmosphere, and quiet surroundings to relax in.

20. Lenox House Bed & Breakfast
Granville Road
St. Margaret's Bay, CT15 6DS
01304 853253
sheena_lenox@hotmail.co.uk
4 diamond (Silver Award) b&b and former British Ambassador's home, Lenox House is situated in the heart of St Margaret's Bay with stunning views across the cliffs, headland, bay and Channel.

21. Small Acre Bed & Breakfast
Sea View Road,
St. Margaret's Bay
01304 851840

22. St Margaret's Bay Holiday Park
Reach Road
St. Margaret's-at-Cliffe,
CT15 9AE
01304 853262
www.park-resorts.com
5 star holiday park set in a perfect location for relaxing, pampering or exploring the White Cliffs of Dover.

13. Walleys Court Country House Hotel
Westcliffe, CT15 6EW
01304 852424
www.walleyscourt.com
This 4 star country house hotel with fine dining restaurant and spa has at its heart an ancient manor house which nestles in wild

open landscape in White Cliffs Country.

9. White Cliffs Hotel, Bay Restaurant & Loft Micro Spa
The High Street
St. Margaret's-at-Cliffe,
CT15 6AT
01304 852229
www.thewhitecliffs.com
3 star hotel, centred around an archetypal Kentish weather-boarded inn that has been sympathetically restored to a 'barefoot' luxury venue complete with a 'micro spa' and restaurant.

23. Calais View Garden Apartment (self catering)
Calais View Cottage,
Bay Hill
St. Margaret's Bay,
CT15 6DU
01304 853147
www.calaisview.co.uk
Recently refurbished and equipped to a very high standard, this one-bedroom garden apartment offers spectacular sea views towards Calais and the French coast.

24. No4 Cliffe House (4 star self catering)
The High Street
St. Margaret's at Cliffe,
CT15 6AT
01304 825732
www.no4cliffehouse.com
A superbly refurbished and equipped apartment set in the heart of St. Margaret's at Cliffe providing a peaceful haven in which to relax.

25. Reach Court Farm Cottages (self catering)
Reach Court Farm
St. Margaret's Bay,
CT15 6AQ

01304 852159
www.reachcourtfarmcottages.co.uk
A selection of cosy holiday cottages for you to choose from, ranging from luxury barn conversions to a family home overlooking the channel.

26. Well Cottage (self catering)
Well Lane
St. Margaret's at Cliffe,
CT15 6AA
01304 851954
www.wellcottage-kent.co.uk
Luxury 5 star cottage, rated by 'Visit Britain'. Discreetly situated in a very quiet side road, right in the very heart of St. Margaret's at Cliffe.

3. East Cottage at South Foreland Lighthouse (self catering)
South Foreland Lighthouse,
St. Margaret's Bay
01304 852463

27. Rippledawn Environmental Education Centre
Dover Road
Ringwood, Deal, CT14 8HE
01304 364854
www.rippledawn.com
3 star group hostel
Courses for children and adults. Walking and cycling tours.

SHOPPING
28. Post Office
High Street
01304 852108

29. Village Shop
High Street
01304 852435

9. The White Cliffs Trading Co. Store
The White Cliffs Hotel
01304 852229

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