



Marshlink Line Guide



A great train ride, through some great countryside, for a great day out



Marshlink
Community Rail Partnership

Ashford - Hastings - Eastbourne



Travel Information

Train

National Rail Enquiries: 0845 748 4950 / www.nationalrail.co.uk
Southern: 0845 127 2920 / www.southernrailway.com
Southeastern: 0845 000 2222 / www.southeasternrailway.co.uk
 Southeastern now operate High Speed trains which means that Ashford is just 37 mins from St Pancras. Buy your ticket online from any of the addresses above or at your local train station.

Railcards, including the young persons & family railcards can facilitate savings of 1/3. See www.railcard.co.uk for details and to buy. Also see www.connection360.org.uk for full details of Sussex Student Card.

Bus

For timetable information call:

Traveline (national public transport information) 0871 200 22 33 or visit www.traveline.info Calls cost 10p per minute plus network extras.

Stagecoach in East Kent and East Sussex 08456 00 22 99 or visit www.stagecoachbus.com/eastsussex

Plus Bus

PLUSBUS ticket are available to a number of Marshlink Stations, including Ashford, Rye and Hastings. The ticket enables you to pay for your rail and discounted local bus travel in one transaction. Ask at train stations for more details or see the website www.plusbus.info

This guide, produced by Hasting & 1066 Country Marketing on behalf of the Sussex Community Rail Partnership (SCRP), provides leisure and tourism information about the Marshlink railway.

SCRP, working closely with its partners including local councils, the voluntary sector and the rail industry, delivers improved and promoted rail services. SCRIP also contributes to substantial growth in use by encouraging leisure and tourism, brings redundant buildings back into use, supports local communities and groups, runs local events and improves facilities in and around stations.

Sussex Community Rail Partnership, Rye Station, Station Approach, Rye, East Sussex, TN31 7AB www.sussexcrp.org

Printed by Hastings Printing Company on paper from sustainable sources, May 2011.

Photographs © Bob Mazzer and Chris Parker

All information believed to be correct at time of printing.



1066 Battle of Hastings, Abbey & Battlefield
 Nearest Station: Battle
www.english-heritage.org.uk
 01424 775705

Battle Museum of Local History
 Nearest Station: Battle
www.battlemuseum.org.uk
 01424 775955

Blureef Aquarium
 Nearest station: Hastings
www.blureefaquarium.co.uk
 01424 718776

Bodiam Castle
 Nearest station: Hastings
www.nationaltrust.org.uk
 01580 830196

Clambers Play Centre
 Nearest Station: Hastings
www.clambers.co.uk
 01424 423778

Eastbourne Miniature Steam Railway
 Nearest Station: Eastbourne
www.emsr.co.uk
 01323 520229

East Hill Lift & West Hill Lift
 Nearest station: Hastings
www.visit1066country.com
 01424 451111

Fort Fun
 Nearest Station: Eastbourne
www.fortfun.co.uk
 01323 642833

Hastings Castle
 Nearest Station: Hastings
www.visit1066country.com
 01424 201609

Ocean Bowling
 Nearest Station: Bexhill
www.oceanbowling.com
 01424 730014

The Kent and East Sussex Railway
 Nearest Station: Rye
www.kesr.org
 01580 765155

McArthur Glen Designer Outlet, Ashford
 Nearest Station: Ashford
www.ashforddesigneroutlet.com
 01233 895900

Michelham Priory & Gardens
 Nearest Station: Eastbourne
www.sussexpast.co.uk
 01323 844224

The Mill Toy & Pedal Car Museum
 Nearest Station : Rye
www.themilltoymuseum.com
 01797 253803

Pevensey Castle
 Nearest Station: Pevensey & Westham
www.english-heritage.org.uk
 01323 762604

Romney Hythe & Dymchurch Railway
 Nearest Station: Rye
www.rhdr.org.uk
 01797 362353

Rye Castle Museum
 Nearest station: Rye
www.ryemuseum.co.uk
 01797 226728

Rye Cycle Hire
 Nearest Station: Rye
www.ryehire.com
 01797 223033

Rye Heritage Centre (Audio Walking Tours)
 Nearest Station: Rye
www.ryeheritage.co.uk
 01797 226696

Seven Sisters Sheep Centre
 Nearest Station: Eastbourne
www.sheepcentre.co.uk
 01323 423302

Smallhythe Place
 Nearest Station: Rye
www.nationaltrust.org.uk
 01580 762334

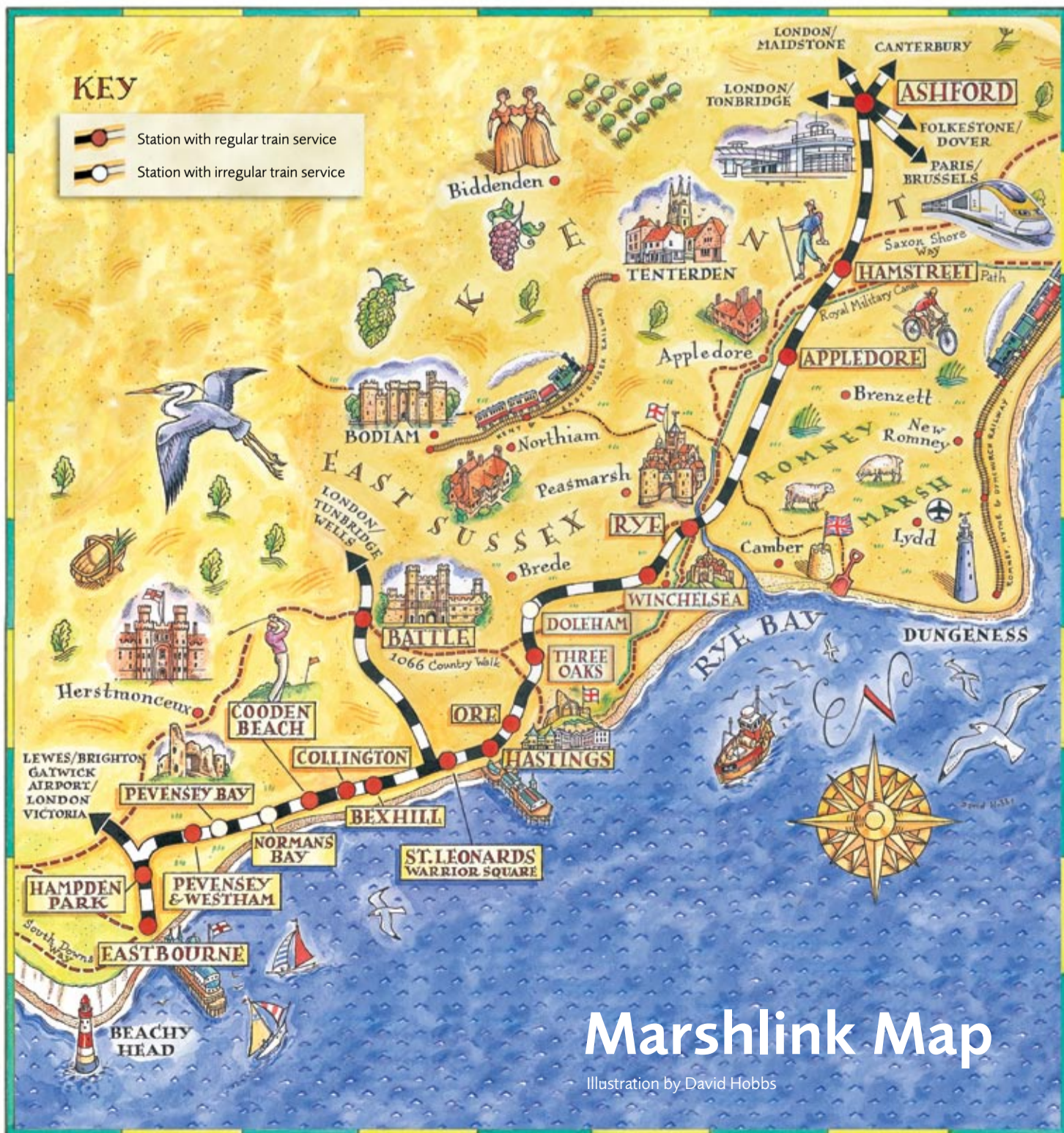
Smugglers Adventure
 Nearest Station: Hastings
www.smugglersadventure.co.uk
 01424 422964

Camber Castle
 Nearest Station: Rye
www.visit1066country.com
 01797 227784

Winchelsea Cellar Tours (Friends of the Ancient Monuments)
 Nearest station: Winchelsea
 01797 229525 (Book via Post Office)

Yesterday's World
 Nearest Station: Battle
www.yesterdaysworld.co.uk
 01424 777226

Please note that not all attractions listed are directly accessible from the train station, local buses and taxis may be needed. Check attractions websites or contact them for details. Further attraction information can be found on websites listed on the back page.



Marshlink Map

Illustration by David Hobbs



The Marshlink Line; the railway between Ashford and Hastings, extending to Eastbourne passes the landing place of William the Conqueror, follows dramatic coastline, crosses the stunning Romney Marsh, and continues through the 'Antient' Towns of Rye and Winchelsea. There are a huge variety of wonderful walks and cycle routes throughout this area. Three major paths are the Royal Military Canal Path, the Saxon Shore Way and the 1066 Country Walk. The South Downs Way, from Eastbourne heading westwards, is an exhilarating route along the rolling chalk downs of Sussex.

Ashford: a busy shopping town steeped in history, and home of Ashford International Station. There are a number of walks and cycle routes that will take you around the town and area. Take the walking tour, the Urban Heritage Trail, showing the mix of medieval, Georgian and Jacobean buildings.

Direct trains to Canterbury, Margate, Broadstairs, Folkestone, Maidstone, London, Paris and Brussels are available. High Speed services to St Pancras from Ashford.

Ham Street: the starting point of the circular cycle route, Parish Pedals. It's a half-day's ride following the cliffs that enclose the prehistoric bay of Romney Marsh offering sweeping views towards the English Channel. You can also start the Fifteen Marsh Churches cycle route from here.

Appledore: discover the history of 15 Romney Marsh churches, cycle the 40 mile trail - see the lovely Fairfield church in a field, the unique belfry at Brookland, and the leaning tower of Newchurch. A Fifteen Marsh Churches leaflet is available from local Tourist Information Centres.

Rye: a thriving market town, beautifully preserved, with a maze of cobbled streets crammed with medieval, Tudor and Georgian buildings. The town's maritime heritage dates back to Norman times when it was owned by the Abbey of Fecamp in Normandy. By the 18th century, Rye had become a major centre for smuggling and some of the secret tunnels and passages the smugglers crept through can be seen today on a Blue Badge Guide tour. There are also two audio walking tours of the town and an impressive walk to Camber Castle across the marshes. There is a scenic cycle track from Rye to Camber. Camber beach, with over half a mile to walk to the water's edge at low tide, provides plenty of opportunity to beachcomb for beautiful shells. The outstanding surrounding area has everything from Rye Harbour Nature Reserve, golden sands beach at Camber and the Romney Marsh. The Marsh is famous for its sheep and smuggling. RSPB Dungeness Nature Reserve, occupies 2000 acres of the Dungeness peninsular, the largest shingle formation of its kind in Europe and is an area famous for its rich variety of animal and plant life. Lydd and New Romney both have town trails.

'Antient' Town of **Winchelsea:** founded in the 13th century by Edward I replaced 'Old Winchelsea' which was lost to the rising sea. Today, a captivating town of picturesque Georgian houses, has inspired many great artists, such as Turner and Millais. Cellar tours provide a fascinating insight into the town's history. There is an extensive network of short and long-distance walking trails including a circular Winchelsea Walk which takes you through the Pannel Valley Nature Reserve and along the Royal Military Canal. Pett Pools Nature Reserve is nearby and attracts hundreds of interesting birds.

Doleham: a circular walk, which takes you through fields, across streams and into Brede village, with views across the Brede Valley.

Three Oaks: a small village with local pub, the 1066 Country Walk is nearby.

Hastings: a mix of old and new, combining a medieval fishing port and cosmopolitan town centre. It retains a strong maritime tradition, with the Shipwreck & Coastal Heritage Centre, Fishermen's Museum and Europe's largest beach launched fishing fleet operating from the Stade. There are various guided walks and trails around the Old Town, Burton's St Leonards and Hastings Country Park – an unspoilt 660 acre stretch of clifftop countryside that offers panoramic views. Hastings is part of the national cycle route (route NR2) and there is a cycle hire shop in the town.

Direct trains to Battle (site of the Battle of Hastings), Tunbridge Wells, Eastbourne and Brighton available.

St Leonards: offers some interesting and independent shopping. You can also spend time walking around Burtons St Leonards – a unique example of a Regency new town from 1828.

Bexhill: perfect for an easy walk along the wide, two mile promenade. The De La Warr Pavilion, a centre for contemporary arts, architecture and live performance. The town is also surrounded by stunning countryside and is linked to the 1066 Country Walk.

Collington: near the Polegrove Recreation Ground and west of Egerton Park.

Cooden Beach: a great place to start/finish a walk along the shingle beach.

Normans Bay: a small village on the shingle banks in the centre of the Pevensey Levels. Its name came from the nearby landing of the Norman invasion fleet in 1066. Today it is popular with windsurfers and ramblers.

Pevensey Bay: visit Pevensey Bay and the Pevensey Levels. This is a Site of Special Scientific Interest with a Nature Reserve lying in the heart of a large grazing marsh. The 1066 Country Walk, a Circular Pevensey Castle Walk, a Pevensey Levels & Castles Circular Cycle Route all start here.

Hampden Park: nearby Shinewater Park, combining purpose built recreation facilities within a country park atmosphere – parts of the park are dedicated to wildlife.

Eastbourne: a busy seaside town, nestling at the foot of the South Downs. Along the seafront you will find the magnificent Carpet Gardens, 1930's bandstand and the restored Victorian Pier. Both walkers and cyclists can enjoy a variety of routes around the Beachy Head area. This high point on the chalk cliffs has a visitor centre and spectacular views over the sea and lighthouse. There is also a circular walk from Eastbourne to Alfriston, in the Cuckmere Valley, using the South Downs Way.

The Marshlink also provides easy and convenient access to the colleges and universities:

- Sussex Coast College Hastings www.sussexcoast.ac.uk
- University Centre Hastings www.uch.ac.uk
- University of Brighton In Eastbourne www.brighton.ac.uk
- Sussex Downs College www.sussexdowns.ac.uk
- Bexhill 6th Form College www.bexhillcollege.ac.uk
- Rye College www.ryecollege.co.uk
- South Kent College www.kcollege.ac.uk

For details of student and young people discounts see 'travel information' panel.

Win a Free Family Day Out

What do you think of this guide?

Useful? Something missing?

Used it for a day out? Something wrong?

Visit www.sussexcrp.org and comment and you could win a free family day out on the Southern network.



Tourist Information Centres

Ashford & Tenterden

18 The Churchyard, Ashford TN23 1QG
01233 629165 tourism@ashford.gov.uk www.visitheartofkent.com

Battle & Bexhill

www.battlesussex.co.uk www.discoverbexhill.com

Hastings

01424 451111 hic@hastings.gov.uk www.visit1066country.com
Town Centre: Priory Meadow, Queens Square Hastings TN34 1TL
Old Town: Old Town Hall Museum, High Street, Hastings TN34 1EW

Rye

4/5 Lion Street, Rye TN31 7LB
01797 229049 ryetic@rother.gov.uk www.visitrye.co.uk

Eastbourne

0871 663 0031 www.visiteastbourne.com

Pevensey & Herstmonceux

www.enjoysussex.info

New Romney and Dymchurch

Visitor Centre: 01797 369487
Romney Marsh Countryside Project: 01797 367934 www.rmcp.co.uk

This area has an exciting year-long programme of **events and festivals** for you to enjoy. There are medieval festivals, music and arts events, bonfire celebrations, rowing regattas, open-air theatre, carnivals plus much more.

There are many **walks and cycle routes** - ask at the information centres or visit www.eastsussexcc.gov.uk

And if you're looking for somewhere to stay we have every kind of **accommodation** at highly competitive prices - seafront hotels and B&Bs, country houses and charming rural retreats.

Visitor websites:

www.visit1066country.com

www.kenttourism.co.uk

www.sussextourism.org.uk

www.visitsussex.org

