

# Attractions between Ashford and Eastbourne

## Marshlink Line Guide



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



**1066 Battle of Hastings, Abbey & Battlefield**  
Nearest Station: *Battle*  
[www.english-heritage.org.uk](http://www.english-heritage.org.uk)  
01424 775705

**Battle Museum of Local History**  
Nearest Station: *Battle*  
[www.battlemuseum.org.uk](http://www.battlemuseum.org.uk)  
01424 775955

**Bluereef Aquarium**  
Nearest station: *Hastings*  
[www.bluereefaquarium.co.uk](http://www.bluereefaquarium.co.uk)  
01424 718776

**Bodiam Castle**  
Nearest station: *Hastings*  
[www.nationaltrust.org.uk](http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk)  
01580 830196

**Hastings Pier**  
Nearest Station: *Hastings*  
[www.hastingspier.org.uk](http://www.hastingspier.org.uk)  
01424 445566

**Clambers Play Centre**  
Nearest Station: *Hastings*  
[www.clambers.co.uk](http://www.clambers.co.uk)  
01424 423778

**De La Warr**  
Nearest station: *Bexhill*  
[www.dlwp.com](http://www.dlwp.com)  
01424 229111

**Eastbourne Miniature Steam Railway**  
Nearest Station: *Eastbourne*  
[www.emsr.co.uk](http://www.emsr.co.uk)  
01323 520229

**East Hill Lift & West Hill Lift**  
Nearest station: *Hastings*  
[www.visit1066country.com](http://www.visit1066country.com)  
01424 451111

**Fort Fun**  
Nearest Station: *Eastbourne*  
[www.fortfun.co.uk](http://www.fortfun.co.uk)  
01323 642833

**Hastings Castle**  
Nearest Station: *Hastings*  
[www.visit1066country.com](http://www.visit1066country.com)  
01424 201609

**Jerwood Gallery**  
Nearest Station: *Hastings*  
[www.jerwoodgallery.org](http://www.jerwoodgallery.org)  
01424 728377

**The Kent and East Sussex Railway**  
Nearest Station: *Rye*  
[www.kesr.org](http://www.kesr.org)  
01580 765155

**Kino Rye**  
Nearest Station: *Rye*  
[www.kinodigital.co.uk](http://www.kinodigital.co.uk)  
01797 226293

**McArthur Glen Designer Outlet, Ashford**  
Nearest Station: *Ashford*  
[www.ashforddesigneroutlet.com](http://www.ashforddesigneroutlet.com)  
01233 895900

**Michelham Priory & Gardens**  
Nearest Station: *Eastbourne*  
[www.sussexpast.co.uk](http://www.sussexpast.co.uk)  
01323 844224

**Pevensey Castle**  
Nearest Station: *Pevensey & Westham*  
[www.english-heritage.org.uk](http://www.english-heritage.org.uk)  
01323 762604

**Romney Hythe & Dymchurch Railway**  
Nearest Station: *Rye*  
[www.rhdr.org.uk](http://www.rhdr.org.uk)  
01797 362353

**Rye Castle Museum**  
Nearest station: *Rye*  
[www.ryemuseum.co.uk](http://www.ryemuseum.co.uk)  
01797 226728

**Rye Cycle Hire**  
Nearest Station: *Rye*  
[www.ryehire.com](http://www.ryehire.com)  
01797 223033

**Source BMX**  
Nearest Station: *Hastings*  
[www.sourcebmx.com](http://www.sourcebmx.com)  
01424 238360

**The True Crime Museum**  
Nearest Station: *Hastings*  
[www.truecrimemuseum.co.uk](http://www.truecrimemuseum.co.uk)  
01424 420115

**Seven Sisters Sheep Centre**  
Nearest Station: *Eastbourne*  
[www.sheepcentre.co.uk](http://www.sheepcentre.co.uk)  
01323 423302

**Smallhythe Place**  
Nearest Station: *Rye*  
[www.nationaltrust.org.uk](http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk)  
01580 762334

**Smugglers Adventure**  
Nearest Station: *Hastings*  
[www.smugglersadventure.co.uk](http://www.smugglersadventure.co.uk)  
01424 422964

**Winchelsea Cellar Tours**  
Nearest station: *Winchelsea*  
[www.winchelseacellars.com/tours/](http://www.winchelseacellars.com/tours/)  
01797 222629

**Winchelsea Museum**  
Nearest station: *Winchelsea*  
[www.winchelsea.com/museum.html](http://www.winchelsea.com/museum.html)  
01342 714559

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.



Marshlink  
Community Rail Partnership

Ashford - Hastings - Eastbourne



## Ticket Travel Information

### Train

National Rail Enquiries: 0345 748 4950 / mobile text/call 84950  
[www.nationalrail.co.uk](http://www.nationalrail.co.uk)

Southern: 0345 127 2920 / [www.southernrailway.com](http://www.southernrailway.com) / Follow 'southernRailUK' on twitter.com

Southeastern: 0345 322 7021 / [www.southeasternrailway.co.uk](http://www.southeasternrailway.co.uk)

Railcards, including young persons, senior and family railcards can give you 1/3 off rail fares. [www.railcard.co.uk](http://www.railcard.co.uk)

### Bus

For timetable information call:

Traveline (national public transport information) 0871 200 2233 or visit [www.traveline.info](http://www.traveline.info) Calls cost 12p per minute plus network extras.

Stagecoach in East Kent and East Sussex 0345 600 2299 or visit [www.stagecoachbus.com/eastsussex](http://www.stagecoachbus.com/eastsussex)

### Plus Bus

Buy an add-on ticket giving you discounted bus travel to and from many stations [www.plusbus.info](http://www.plusbus.info)

Good Journey for information on car-free journeys [www.goodjourney.org.uk/](http://www.goodjourney.org.uk/)

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

SCRCP aims to connect communities to their railways, helping to ensure the service meets the needs of the community and its visitors.

SCRCP works on six lines in the South-East of England:

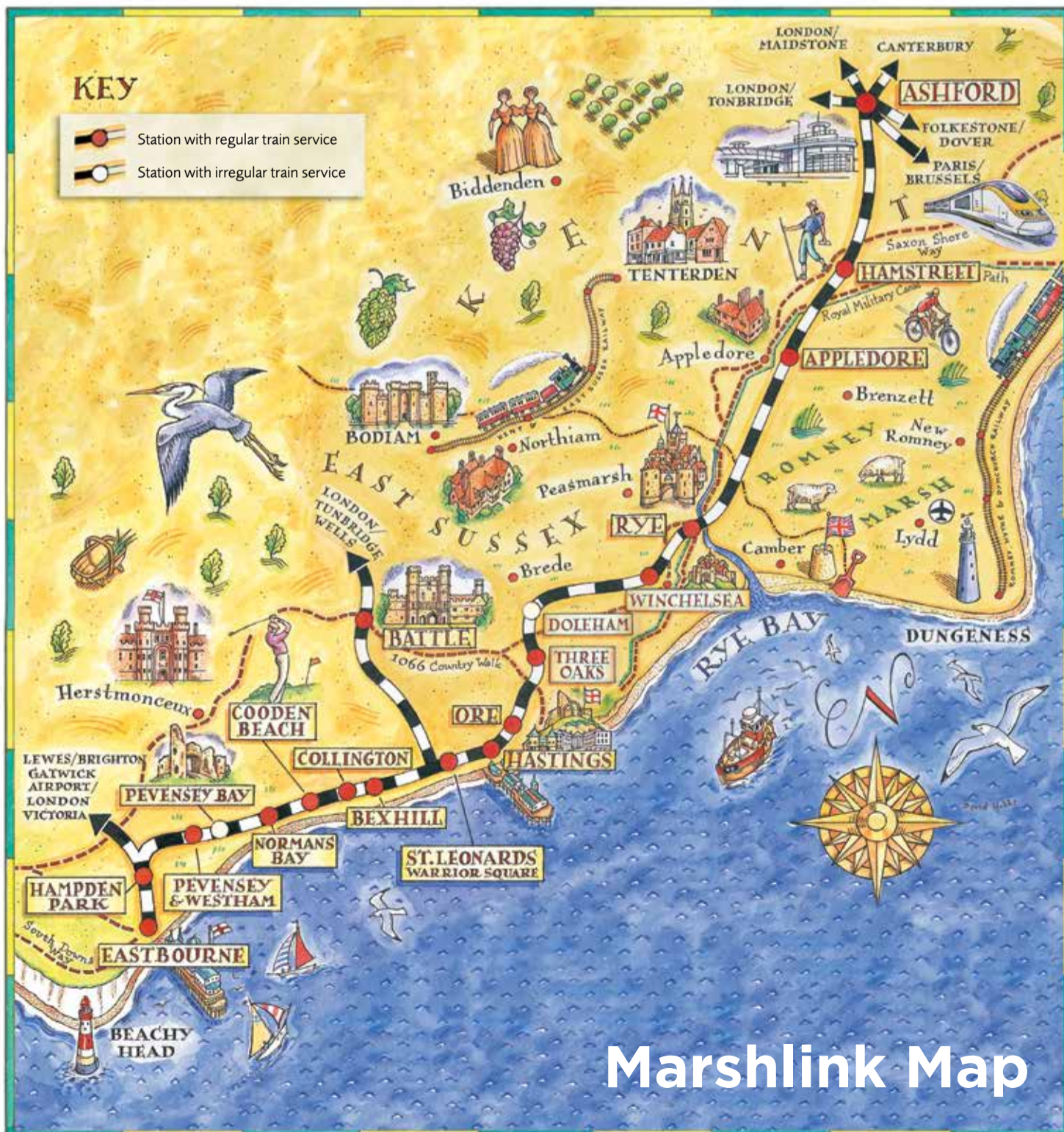
- The Uckfield and East Grinstead Line
- The Tonbridge to Redhill & Reigate Line
- The Seaford to Brighton Line
- The Marshlink Line
- The Arun Valley Line
- The North Downs Line

Many stations benefit from community station partnerships – look out for the SCRCP logo at stations!

Sussex Community Rail Partnership, Rye Station, Station Approach, Rye, East Sussex, TN31 7AB [www.sussexcrp.org](http://www.sussexcrp.org)

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## Marshlink Map



**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 peninsula, 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.

**Rye Harbour:** An old fishing village with a lovely church that includes a memorial to the lifeboat tragedy. Next to the Enchantress Martello Tower is the main entrance to the nature reserve that has several routes and birdwatching hides that are suitable for wheelchair access, including to the remote Mary Stanford Lifeboat house that stands on the shore. Village has a modern lifeboat station, sailing club, 2 pubs, an art gallery and a café. Explore the Rye Harbour Nature Reserve and its changing coastline and military history, or simply enjoy a walk beside the sea. The Reserve is open throughout the year, every day.

'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 1066 Country Walk and 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 provides convenient access to colleges & universities:**

- Sussex Coast College Hastings [www.sussexcoast.ac.uk](http://www.sussexcoast.ac.uk)
- University Centre Hastings [www.brighton.ac.uk/hastings](http://www.brighton.ac.uk/hastings)
- University of Brighton In Eastbourne [www.brighton.ac.uk](http://www.brighton.ac.uk)
- Sussex Downs College [www.sussexdowns.ac.uk](http://www.sussexdowns.ac.uk)
- Bexhill 6th Form College [www.bexhillcollege.ac.uk](http://www.bexhillcollege.ac.uk)
- Rye College [www.ryecollege.co.uk](http://www.ryecollege.co.uk)
- South Kent College [www.westkent.ac.uk](http://www.westkent.ac.uk)

**Want to bring your bike?**

Bike reservations are compulsory on many of our services. Space is limited on board, and so we operate a strict first-come, first-served policy. Book a space at your nearest staffed station, through our Customer Support team, or when you buy your ticket online at GWR.com



## Tourist Information

### Ashford & Tenterden Tourist Information Centre

Ashford Gateway Plus, Church Road, Ashford, Kent TN23 1AS  
01233 330316  
[www.tourism@ashford.gov.uk](mailto:tourism@ashford.gov.uk)

### Battle & Bexhill

[www.battlesussex.co.uk](http://www.battlesussex.co.uk)  
[www.visit1066country.com/bexhill](http://www.visit1066country.com/bexhill)

### Eastbourne Tourist Information Centre

0871 663 0031  
[www.visiteastbourne.com](http://www.visiteastbourne.com)



Follow 'SussexCRP' on [twitter.com](https://twitter.com/SussexCRP) for event details.

### New Romney & Dymchurch

Visitor Centre: 01797 369487  
Romney Marsh Countryside  
Project: 01797 367934  
[www.rmcp.co.uk](http://www.rmcp.co.uk)

### Hastings Tourist Information Centre

Muriel Matters House, Breeds Place, Hastings TN34 3UY  
[hic@hastings.gov.uk](mailto:hic@hastings.gov.uk)  
[www.visit1066country.com](http://www.visit1066country.com)

### Rye Heritage & Information Centre

The Old Sail Loft, Strand quay Rye TN31 TAY  
[www.ryeheritage.co.uk](http://www.ryeheritage.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](http://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](http://www.visit1066country.com)  
[www.visitsussex.org](http://www.visitsussex.org)

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