



## DID YOU KNOW?

Marconi conducted experiments in radio communication at South Foreland lighthouse.

The tearoom at the South Foreland Lighthouse, Mrs Knotts, is named after the last family to have lived in the Lighthouse, George and Catherine Knott lived here with their 13 children!

You're walking on top of an extensive network of tunnels built to defend the country during the Second World War.

If you explore the Fan Bay Deep Shelter, you'll see a rare example of a sound mirror built to try to intercept the enemy!

Langdon Hole is part of the Fan Bay Deep Shelter, an underground tunnel system preserved by the National Trust that includes a radio command centre. Tickets to visit are available at the White Cliffs Visitor Centre.

A short distance ahead at Fan Bay Point, the path runs alongside farmland with good views of Fan Bay below. Nearing the end of the outward part of the walk the route bends inland along the edge of some farmland before going through a gap.

Here you have the option to visit the fantastic South Foreland Lighthouse before retracing your steps back along the cliffs to the visitor centre where you started.

The distinctive South Foreland Lighthouse is bright white and was built in 1843, to mark the dangerous offshore banks of the Goodwin Sands. It was used by Guglielmo Marconi for his work with radiowaves and received the first ship-to-shore message from the East Goodwin lightship. It also received the first international radio transmission from Wimereux, in France, in 1899!

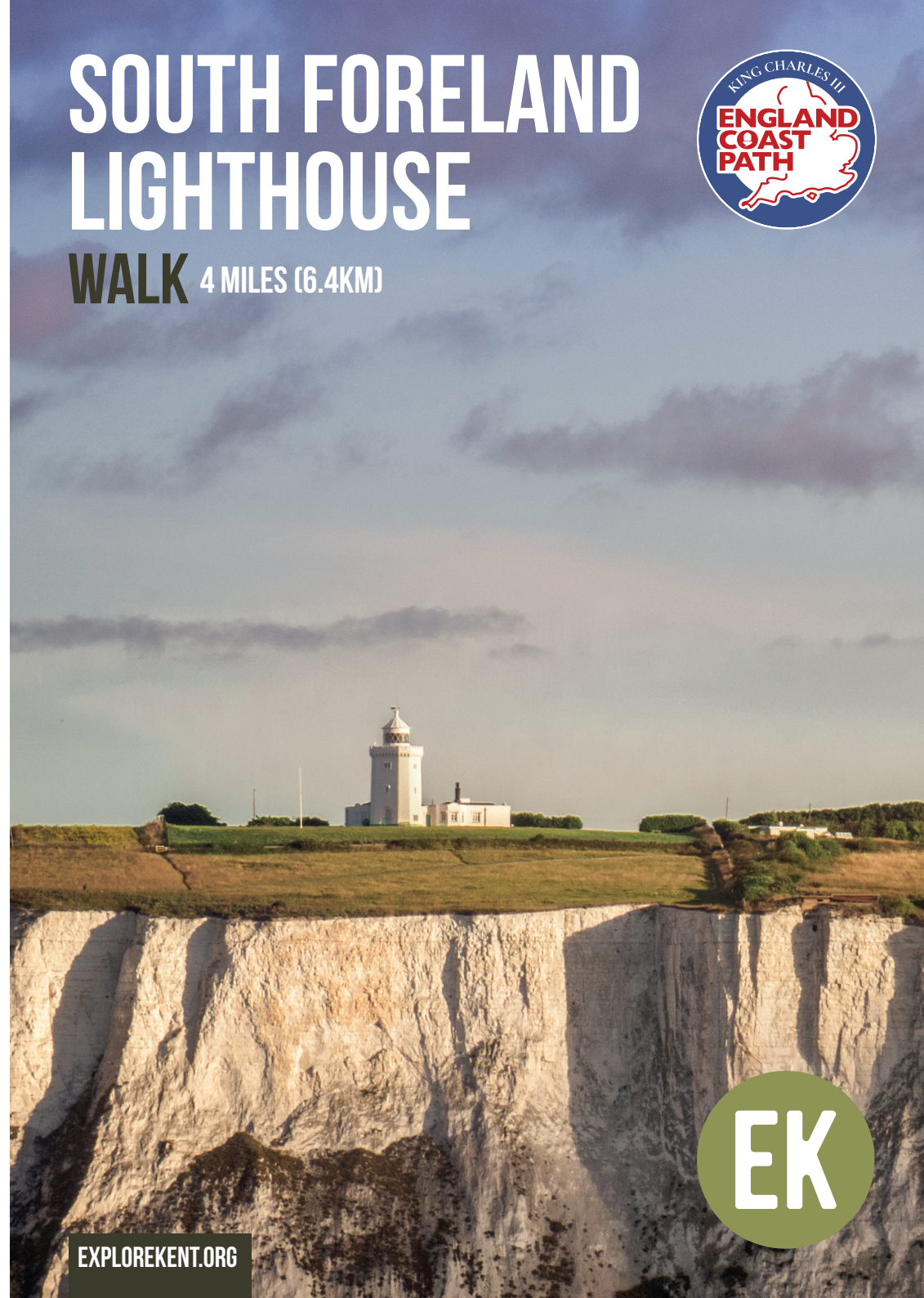
The lighthouse, which is conserved by the National Trust, is open to the public between April and October.

Explore Kent, Kent County Council , Invicta House, Maidstone, ME14 1XX  
[explorekent.org/activities/south-foreland-lighthouse-walk](https://www.explorekent.org/activities/south-foreland-lighthouse-walk)  
[www.nationaltrail.co.uk](https://www.nationaltrail.co.uk)

Photography: John Miller

# SOUTH FORELAND LIGHTHOUSE

**WALK** 4 MILES (6.4KM)



EXPLOREKENT.ORG



Take in Britain's most famous cliff tops with literary connections, wartime tales and afternoon tea. Make a day of it and explore Kent's heritage coastline.

**LOCATION:** White Cliffs Visitor Centre

**Distance:** 4 miles (6.4km)

**TIME:** Allow 3-4 hours

**EXPLORER MAP:** 138

**STILES:** 1

**PARKING:** White Cliffs Visitor Centre

**REFRESHMENTS AND FACILITIES:**  
White Cliffs of Dover Visitor Centre.

**PUBLIC TRANSPORT:** For information about local bus and train services in Kent, check out [kentconnected.org](http://kentconnected.org)



With the visitor centre on your left, follow the surfaced path up a slight incline for 200m and go through a narrow gap. From here bear left at the milestone and waymarker to walk along a grassy path that goes up a slope. At the top of the hill go through a kissing gate and admire excellent views across the White Cliffs and Langdon Hole.

After passing through the kissing gate, follow the narrow path downhill. There are a number of benches where you can sit to admire the view before heading down a long flight of steps.

The section of cliff top that you walk on was an important part of England's defences in the Second World War, and remnants of gun emplacements and other wartime structures are still visible.

Follow the waymarkers for about 300m around Langdon hole, this section of undulating path has some short steep gradients, and can become narrow in places.

## LOOK OUT FOR

- White Cliffs Visitor Centre
- Fan Bay Deep Shelter
- South Foreland Lighthouse
- Cross Channel gun positions from the second World War, called Winnie & Pooh
- Views of the White Cliffs and out towards the French Coast

## WALK DESCRIPTION

The South Foreland Lighthouse walk forms part of the England Coastal Path and the Saxon Shore Way. It leads around Langdon Hole and Fan Bay Point towards the National Trust's South Foreland Lighthouse complete with Mrs Knott's 1950's inspired tearoom!

You'll start the South Foreland Lighthouse walk at the entrance to the White Cliffs Visitor Centre, housing a wonderful cafe and information hub.

