

The Route

Where: Rye to Camber and Lydd

National Route Number: 2

Distance: 9 miles each way Rye to Lydd, 4 miles each way Rye to Camber

Terrain: almost entirely flat, traffic-free apart from a section on road in Camber

Public transport: station at Rye which connects to stations along the south coast, and to Ashford International

Bike hire: Rye Hire - 01797 223033, New Romney Cycles 01797 362155

OS maps: Explorer 125, Landranger 189

Tourist information: New Romney 01797 364 044

Towns to search for on Sustrans website mapping: Rye or Camber (Rother), Lydd (Shepway)

Rye to Camber and Lydd



Between Rye and Camber

If you want the prevailing wind at your back for the first half of the journey, start from the medieval town of Rye, one of the Cinque Ports given privileged status in the 13th Century to ensure the defence of the south-eastern coast of England. National Route 2 is signed from the station, winding through the narrow streets of Rye, a beautiful and historic town which is well worth exploring. The route crosses the River Rother and then turns onto a surfaced bridleway, crosses the minor road to Camber and continues on a dedicated cycle route past small lakes (a good place to watch herons) and a golf course. On the outskirts of Camber the route takes you along a minor road through the town and onto the sea wall. Camber is a small seaside town with a long, child-friendly sandy beach. It is best visited by bike, as the car parks are full by 10am on a sunny weekend.

The route continues along the sea wall, then sets off inland along a cycle route set back from the road all the way up to Lydd, with a military firing range between the route and the sea. The route passes reclaimed

quarries which are now bird sanctuaries, excellent for overwintering wetland fowl and seabirds. Lydd boasts the Moon & Stars café, where mouthwatering cakes are baked on the premises.

The energetic could continue along National Route 2 to Hythe or Folkestone and catch the train back to Rye. Alternatively, you could carry on along minor roads for four miles to Dungeness and visit the lighthouse and the RSPB reserve, or for three miles to New Romney to take a trip on a steam train along the Romney, Hythe and Dymchurch Light Railway.

