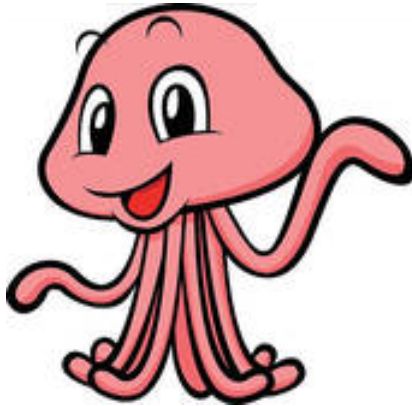


# Octopus Trail

South Harbour Family Walking Trail



Approximate distance: 2 miles  
35 minutes walk at a good pace  
1 hour at a slow pace (including stops)



# Child Safety Information

Supervise your child at all times: the Harbours are very deep and many parts of the trails are beside water. Encourage small children to hold your hand or consider using a walking rein.

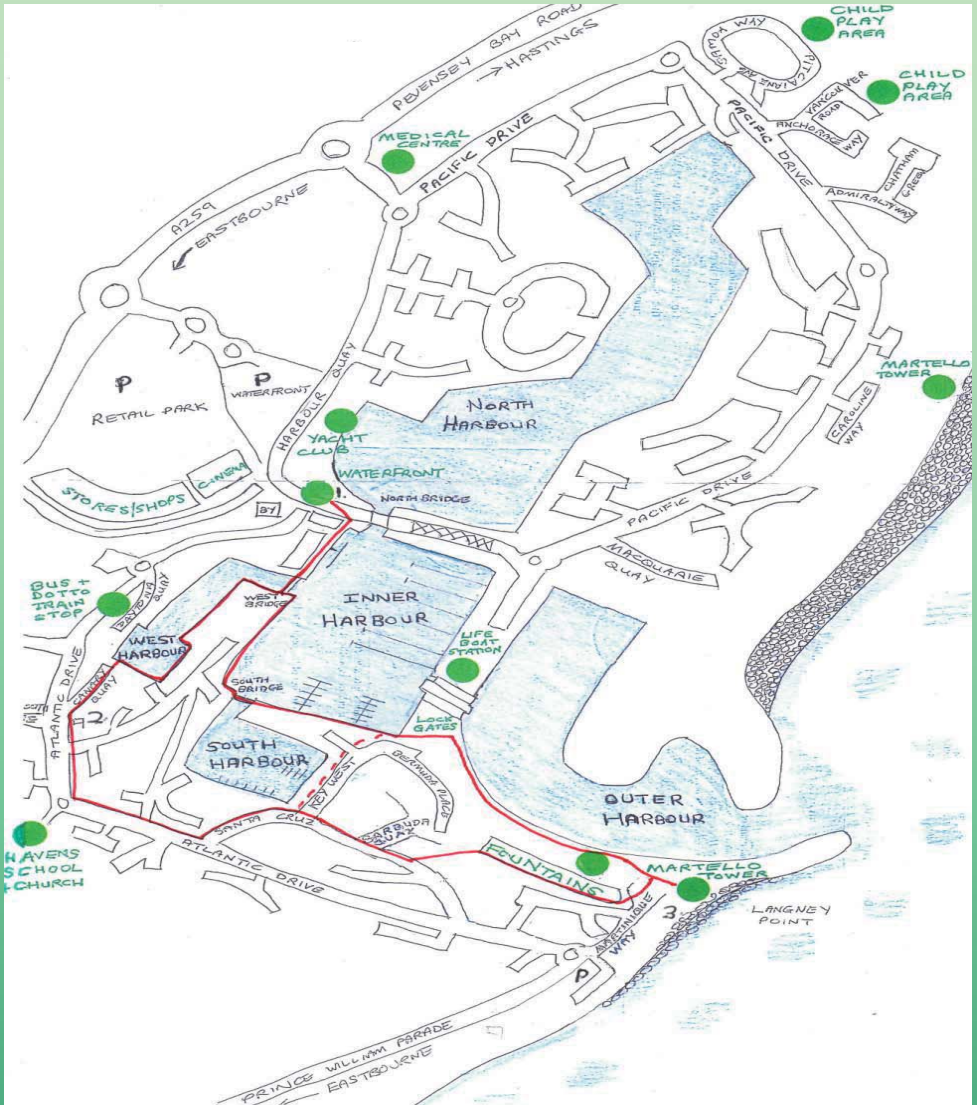


Be prepared for changes in the weather - the Harbour is an exposed area.



This trail is suitable for pushchairs.







# Octopus Trail

This circular walk starts at The Waterfront area of Sovereign Harbour Village, although you can begin it at any of the number points in South Harbour. The village and waterfront areas have a central position between South and North Harbours, giving easy access to both (1).



Have a look in the shop windows - what can you see?



Turn right after the chip shop by all the eating places. It all looks very continental and exotic!



Look out for the "Harbour Boat". If it's not at the Waterfront it'll be out on a trip taking visitors round the Harbour: you might see it during the trail.



At the end of the Waterfront you will come to the first of three blue swing bridges in Sovereign Harbour, each with a pedestrian traffic light.

*If the red lights are flashing, the barrier is down and the siren sounds, you have to stop and keep out of the yellow hatched area. The swing bridge will be up so that a tall boat can go through. When the bridge returns to a normal position, the siren will stop, the red lights will stop flashing and the barrier will go up so that you can safely cross the bridge.*



Are the red lights flashing?



After crossing the bridge turn right. Follow the path round to the far right-hand corner of West Harbour and turn left up an access path to Canary Quay. This leads to Atlantic Drive, the main road in South Harbour. Turn left, stopping at the Plymouth Close Bus Stop (2).



There is an hourly daytime bus service to Eastbourne Town Centre from here. The No. 51 bus then goes onto Eastbourne District General Hospital, Polegate, Hailsham, Heathfield and Tunbridge Wells. Note that the names of the roads coming off Atlantic Drive are all places found either side of the Atlantic Ocean.



*If you had turned right instead of left when reaching the main road at Atlantic Drive, you would have seen a bus stop where you can get on board the Dotto Train which runs from April to October taking passengers from the South Harbour along Eastbourne seafront to Holywell near Beachy Head.*



Continue along Atlantic Drive until you reach a small roundabout. Across the road is the local primary school,



The Havens is a church school (Church of England and Methodist). It has a nursery which is situated on the left hand side of the school. The Haven Church Playgroup is for parents and preschool children, check the church notice board for details of all pre school groups and church services. A children's play area (Gardner's Close) can be found by following the footpath behind the School.



**Can you see any children outside?  
If so, what are they doing?**



Continue along Atlantic Drive turning left into Santa Cruz Drive. You will pass another harbour with more boats on your left: this is South Harbour.

**Short Route Option:** Turn left into Key West. When you reach the large Inner Harbour, turn left and return to the Waterfront following the waterside path, crossing the South Bridge first and then the West Bridge.

**Full Route Option:** Continue along Santa Cruz Drive turning a sharp left onto a footpath just after Barbuda Quay. You are at the far end of a water feature - follow the footpath alongside it until you reach the other end. There are seats along the way if you need a rest and want to enjoy watching the fountains.



**How many fountains can you see?**





When the water feature ends the path bears left onto Martinique Way (3), go up the wide path opposite to the Outer Harbour. Turn right to reach the beach and seafront.



Are there any boats going in or out of the Harbour entrance?  
Can you see the round tower?



You are at Langney Point, the entrance to Sovereign Harbour. This is the beginning of a seafront walk to the cliffs at Holywell. Looking east towards Beachy Head, you can see Eastbourne Pier. Directly in front of you is Martello Tower No. 66, one of 103 Napoleonic defences built along the south east coast between 1805-1812, from Seaford in the west to Aldeburgh in East Anglia. Their aim was to prevent French landings and they each had a 24 pounder cannon. If you want to know more about them you can visit the Redoubt Fortress and Military Museum further along Eastbourne seafront.



Turn around and walk back along the main path skirting the Outer Harbour. This is the only tidal harbour of the 5 harbours in Sovereign Harbour. You should be able to see the large lock gates allowing the boats coming in from the sea into the 4 inner harbours. Behind the lock gates there is a mile of waterways connecting the waterside homes to the facilities at the "Village". Across the water are the flats of North Harbour.



The path alongside the lock gates is briefly a shingle track. It then joins the main path alongside the Inner Harbour. Cross over "South Bridge" and turn right to continue along the waterside walk way back over the "West Bridge" to the Waterfront area where you started.



As you return to Sovereign Harbour Village, look out for the Sovereign Harbour Residents Association board which gives information about what is going on in the area. If you've moved into the area, you will get a copy of "Waterlines" posted through your door, which is the local newsletter they produce. You can also view the newsletter online on the SHRA website.



*If you want to walk a bit further, follow the signs to the retail park, where you will find a 6 screen cinema, large superstore and other prominent shopping outlets.*

## Check out the other family walking trails available:

**Starfish  
Jellyfish  
Octopus  
Crab  
Lobster**

### Acknowledgements/Further Information

[www.eastbourne.gov.uk](http://www.eastbourne.gov.uk)

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

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

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

[www.bbc.co.uk/history/british/empire\\_seapower/french/threat\\_01.shtml](http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/british/empire_seapower/french/threat_01.shtml)

Whitefield Smith N (2004) Eastbourne:

A history and celebration, Frith Book Co. Ltd.

### Information for Families

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