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Go Explore the wild coast of Sussex and tell us about your #SussexCoastAdventure

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ISS Use this guide to explore and discover the amazing places and wildlife found all along the Sussex Coast!

2

WELC@ME TO THE CO EXPLO USSEX GUÍDE

nages © Paul Naylor, Steve Oldfi



Hi, I'm Chroma the cuttlefish! Join me on an adventure to find out about all my amazing marine creature friends and the places we live!



Make sure to follow us on social media @WildCoastSussex

Let us know what you have been up to by using **#SussexCoastAdventure** to tag us in posts and photos!



Throughout the guide, there are activities for you to do out on the coast and to complete in the guide itself.

Score points by completing activities. Add up your score at the end and send it in to us by following the instructions at the end of the booklet. You could be in with a chance of winning a prize!

Meet Chroma the cuttlefish who is here to guide you on your adventure along the Sussex Coast!

There are many wonderful places to explore and discover along the Sussex Coast – this guide is highlighting just a few.

FUN FACT!

Cuttlefish are marine animals related to squid and octopus. They can change the colour and texture of their skin to blend in with their habitat using special organs called chromatophores.

WHAT'S IN THE GUIDE?

Wild Coast Sussex **4** The Seashore Code **5** Marine Conservation Zones **6-7** Sensory **8-9** Rockpooling **10-11** Strandline Scavenger Hunt **12-13** Beach Clean **14-15** Fossil Hunting **16-17** Places to Go **18-29** What have you seen and learnt? **30-31**

Wild Coast Sussex is a National Lottery Heritage Funded project helping communities to care for the marine environment, inspiring people to protect their local coast and ocean.

Sussex Wildlife Trust is the lead partner on this exciting project with Marine Conservation Society, Sussex Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority and SEA LIFE Brighton. Our partnership champions the rare and precious marine wildlife found locally which could recover and thrive if given a second chance.







Wildlife Trust



2

Respect the rockpools

- remember they are

Always put rocks and seaweed

back in the same place and

and if you pick them up, put them carefully back where

animals at the coast where

Respect animals like limpets and anemones and leave them

attached to the rocks

the same way up as you

Be very gentle with animals,

you found them

Leave all living plants and

they belong

creatures' homes

found them





Remember when exploring the coast to keep yourself and wildlife safe. Always follow the Seashore Code!

Give sea birds space so you don't frighten them

Always take your litter home with you

Take care on slippery rocks – don't rush or run about

Yeep an eye on the tide so you don't get cut off

Keep a safe distance from cliffs

Keep away from soft mud and quicksand

Wash your hands before you put your fingers in your mouth or eat anything

⁶ Marine Conservation Zones are a network of areas in the ocean which are protected from damaging activities.

5

MARINE CONSERVATION ZONES

6



MCZs are a kind of Marine Protected Area, or MPA, and are a great way of protecting marine wildlife!

SCAN THIS QR CODE WITH A SMART PHONE FOR RYE HARBOUR



Or visit: tinyurl.com/ryeharbour



HASTINGS BRIGHTON & HOVE WORTHING **BEXHILL-ON-SEA** EASTBOURNE 8 SELSEV 3 9 There are 91 Marine Conservation Zones (MCZs) in English waters, and in Sussex we are lucky to have nine! They protect different important species and habitats from activities that can damage them. THE ENGLISH **CHANNEL 1 Pagham Harbour 6** Offshore Brighton A very rare snail called the DeFolin's In the deeper waters of the English

A very rare snail called the DeFolin's lagoon snail is found here – one of the only places in the UK where it can be found!

2 Kingmere

Fish called black sea bream make their nests by moving pebbles around on the sea floor.

3 Beachy Head West

All kinds of marine life live here. Long and short-snouted seahorses come in the summer to breed. The surface of the chalk reef has got lots of holes, made by piddocks and worms.

4 Utopia

This site is named after a kind of shark called tope. It's thought they come here to have their pups.

5 Offshore Overfalls

Lots of sharks, rays and skates are found here. There are also reefs made from ross worms, which shelter lots of smaller animals. In the deeper waters of the English Channel, the gravel seabed is less disturbed by wind and waves which means more species can live here. The gravel and rocky reefs provide rich hunting for skates, rays and other fish.

7 Selsey Bill and The Hounds

This site is made up of lots of unusual formations of limestone and clay. The ledges and holes here give homes to many creatures including short-snouted seahorses, tompot blennies, lobsters and crabs.

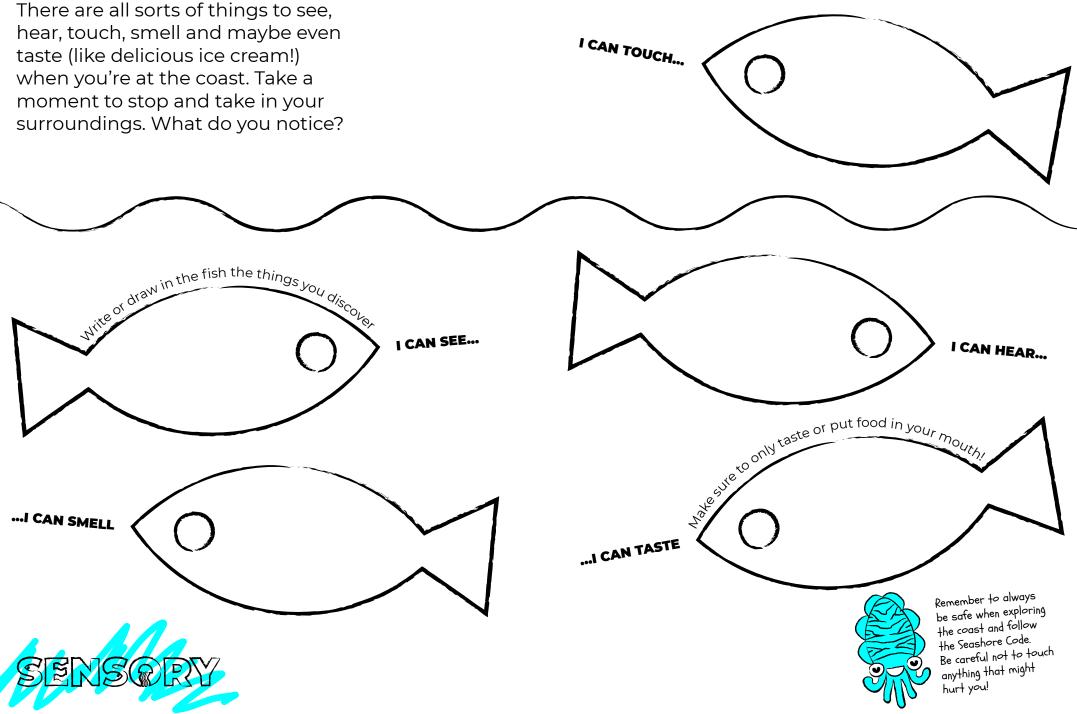
8 Beachy Head East

This area has wildlife-rich chalk and sandstone reefs. Soft corals live here together with tube worms. Lots of fish such as short-snouted seahorses, cuckoo wrasse, bib and poor cod make Beachy Head East their home.

9 Inner Bank

The rocky habitat found here gives a home to lots of animal life, such as lobsters.





Exploring rockpools is a brilliant way to discover lots of the amazing plants and animals that live along our coast.

There are lots of rockpools along the Sussex Coast - check out the maps later on in the guide to discover where you can go rockpooling!

Remember to put back any rocks or seaweed you move in your search for amazing rockpool creatures.



SHORE CRAB Often green in colour but sometimes orange, red or brown. They have five spikes in each side of their shell and three bumps between their eyes Points: 5

COMMON

Also known

periwinkle.

as the edible

They look similar

and vary in colour

to a land snail

PERIWINKLE





Points: 2 SEA LETTUCE A green seaweed

that looks like lettuce leaves and lives attached to rocks and in rockpools Points: 2

R@CKP@@LING

CREATURE CHECKLIST

Can you find all of these animals on your Seashore Safari?

Score points for each creature (or seaweed) on the list, but only once - if you find 100 barnacles, you still only score one point.

BROWN CRAB

Also known as the edible crab. The edge of their shell looks like a piecrust. its claws have black tips and it has hairy legs Points: 7

LIMPET

Lives attached to rocks and moves around at high tide grazing on algae. Has a greyish conical shell Points: 1

DOG WHELK

A pointed snail-like shell of varving colour. Feeds on barnacles and limpets by drilling through their shells with its sharp tonguelike radula Points: 3









The most common anemone found in Sussex. When out of the water

they retract their tentacles and look like a red blob attached to the rock. When feeding and covered in water their 192 stinging tentacles appear Points: 4

BARNACLE

Lives attached to

rocks and does

not move. They

have moveable

close at low tide

drying out, and

open at high tide

so they can feed

Points: 1

than the

their head!

Points: 10

BEADLET

ANEMONE

plates which

Always go rockpooling as the tide is going out. About 1 - 2 hours before low tide is best. Don't forget to look after yourself and the environment by following the Seashore Codel



SNAKELOCKS ANEMONE

Often has bright green tentacles with purple tips, though can be grey. They catch their food using the stinging cells in their tentacles, and they glow in the dark under UV light!

Points: 6

BLADDER WRACK A common

areenish-brown seaweed. Has paired bladders or air pockets along its length which help it float to reach sunlight when underwater Points: 2



shanny, this is a common Sussex rockpool fish. They are covered in slime to keep them damp when the tide is out and can change colour to blend in with their habitat! Points: 8

USEFUL EQUIPMENT

✓ Sturdy shoes with good grip ✓ Bucket ✓ Sun hat

✓ Sun cream

🗸 Rain coat

✓ Tide times



SEASHORE





The strandline is the line on the beach made up of materials that the high tide leaves behind. It can be made up of anything from seaweed, shells and egg cases. Why not do a Strandline Scavenger Hunt? See if you can find all the things on these pages. Tick them off as you go!



SEAWEED The strandline

is often mainly made up of seaweed. Once on the beach it starts to breakdown and provides food for lots of creatures such as sand hoppers Points: 1



COMMON WHELK EGG CASES

This spongy mass is the eqa cases of common whelks. The first whelks to hatch will often eat their unhatched siblings for a burst of energy to help them survive out in the ocean! Points: 5



MOLLUSC SHELLS

You can find lots of different mollusc shells in the strandline including whelks, periwinkles and limpets. Remember that hermit crabs use empty mollusc shells as homes. so it's best to leave the shells where you find them Points: 3





Did you know you can use cuttlebones to make a boat? Use natural materials like feathers to make

Ella

σ



CUTTLEFISH EGGS Also known as 'sea grapes', cuttlefish eaas are laid in bunches. If you find any on the beach, the baby cuttlefish may still be alive, so put them back in the ocean to give them the best chance of hatching

MERMAID'S PURSES

Points: 10

These little pouches are a common sight on Sussex beaches. They are the egg cases of sharks, skates and ravs Points: 7

The Shark Trust has a quide to help you identify which species you have found:

SCAN THIS OR CODE WITH A SMART PHONE Or visit: tinyurl.com/eggcasehunt a sail and float it on the ocean! Why not have a race?



CRAB SHELLS

As they grow, crabs moult their shell and you can often find their empty shells in the strandline Points: 5

CUTTLEBONES





These chalky bones are the internal shell of cuttlefish which help them float in the ocean as they swim around and explore

Points: 6

STRANDLINE SCAVENGER SCORE

STRANDLINE SCAVENGER HUNT



Litter can be found on any beach in Sussex, the UK or even the world.

14

Litter - especially plastic - can last for a very long time on the beach and in the ocean without breaking down, where it causes lots of problems for the animals that live there.

You can do your part to help by doing a beach clean every time you go to the beach. Take the litter you collect home and make sure to recycle it if you can!

Make sure to stay safe when collecting litter – wear gloves, don't pick up anything sharp and wash your hands well afterwards.

Most of these items are made of plastic and don't ever degrade. Once broken down, they stay in the environment as microplastics where they continue to do damage to marine animals.

PLASTIC BAGS

Write your guess

ALUMINIUM **DRINKS CANS** Write your guess

BEACH CLEAN



SCORE



FOOD WRAPPERS Write your guess

CIGARETTE

Write your guess

BUTTS



STRAWS

Write your guess



GLASS BOTTLES

FISHING LINE

Write your guess

on it! Help out my friends by always picking up your litter. Always leave the beach cleaner than you found it

TAKEAWAY **COFFEE CUP** Write your guess

Litter left on the beach can get washed out to sea. On the beach and

in the ocean, it is dangerous to my

marine animal friends because they can mistake it for food and choke





PLASTIC

Write your guess

Class bottles – Unknown

SNSWERS







Takeaway coffee cup – 30 years, Plastic bags – 2<mark>0 years, Cigarette butts – 5 years</mark>

Food wrappers – 100+ years, Aluminium drinks cans – <mark>80-200 years</mark> Fishing line – 600 years, Plastic bottles – 450 years, Plastic straws – 200 years



BEACH CLEAN

PLASTIC BOTTLES Write your guess

200 years 100+ years 30 years

20 years 5 vears Unknown

600 years 450 years

80-200 years

a beach clean!

Can you guess how long it takes each

at the bottom of the opposite page

plus five bonus points when you do

- no peeking till you're done!

item to break down? Find the answers

Score one point for each correct answer

Sussex is a brilliant place to go on a fossil hunt. But what are fossils? They are the preserved remains or traces of plants and animals that lived in the remote past found in the earth's crust.

Fossils in chalk are found Sussex-wide and are from the Cretaceous period (145.5 – 65.5 million years ago). Fossils in clay are found at Bognor Regis and Bracklesham Bay and are from the Eocene epoch (56 – 33.9 million years ago).

Here are some fossils you can find in Sussex, though this is not a complete list. Keep your eyes peeled and tick off the different fossils you find.

Fossils can be found by looking closely at pebbles along the beach. Avoid using hammers and chisels while fossil hunting, as they can damage fossils and the delicate chalk.

F@SSIL HUNTING



ECHINOIDS Echinoids, or sea urchins, have lived in the ocean for about 450 million years.

FUN FACT!

the ocean.

AMMONITES

Points: 10

Some Cretaceous period dinosaurs

The Eocene epoch was when animals related to modern day whales evolved

These are probably the most well-known fossils. Ammonites lived in the sea around 240 – 65 million years ago and are now extinct. Ammonites belong to a group of animals called cephalopods – their living relatives are octopus, squid, nautilus and cuttlefish – just like Chroma!

from living on land to living fully in

vou might know are Triceratops.

Tyrannosaurus and Velociraptor.

the ocean for about 450 million years. Their fossils are common all along the Sussex Coast and look very much like their living sea urchin relatives **Points: 5**



BIVALVES

There are lots of bivalves still living today such as mussels, oysters and cockles. The oldest bivalve fossils are from over 500 million years ago. Look out for fossils of the spiny cockle *Spondylus spinosus* **Points: 8**



BRACHIOPODS

Brachiopods have lived on earth for at least 550 million years. They have a pair of shells and look similar to bivalves but are actually not related to them. They are a common fossil to find along the Sussex Coast! **Points: 7**

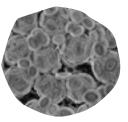


SHARK TEETH

Sharks lose lots of teeth during their lives. They have been around for more than 400 million years, and lots of their teeth have fossilised. Bracklesham Bay is a great place to look for them **Points: 10**



Did you know that the chalk cliffs in Sussex were formed between 100 and 60 million years ago? They are made up of billions of tiny plankton fossils called coccolithophores





Selsey is a historic seaside town, famous for its fishing fleet. The name 'Selsey' comes from the Saxon word 'Seals-ey', which means 'The Isle of Sea Calves' (sea calves being seals!)

Selsey sits on the tip of Selsey Bill, the headland that extends into the English Channel, making it the southernmost town in Sussex.

Selsey is famous for its crab and lobster, which the fishers catch using pots. There's lots to discover and explore along Selsey's long coastline.

There are no traditional rockpools in Selsey but there is still lots to explore and creatures to find within the cobbles at low tide on East Beach and at the granite sea defences on West Beach.

FUN FACT!

Selsey has more sunlight hours than anywhere else in the UK!

Beach

Rockpools

Marine Conservation Zone

SELSEY

···· Suggested Walk

BEACHES

- 1 East Beach long shingle beach with groynes
- 2 West Beach shingle beach with groynes. Some patches of sand at low tide

LIFEGUARD SERVICE

No

ACTIVITIES

Beach cleaning – on any beach Scavenger hunting – on any beach

Fossil hunting – on any beach in the shingle, in the clay at Bracklesham Bay

PLACES OF INTEREST

- 3 RSPB Pagham Harbour Local Nature Reserve
- 4 Bracklesham Bay
- 5 RSPB Medmerry Nature Reserve
- 6 RNLI Lifeboat Station

SUGGESTED WALK

The Selsey Heritage Trail

Route suitable for wheelchair users and pushchairs

SCAN THIS QR CODE WITH A SMART PHONE FOR A MAP OF THE ROUTE

Or visit: tinyurl.com/goexplorelinks



Groynes are human-made structures that are built on the shore and into the sea. They are designed to trap

structures that are built of the shore and into the sea. They are designed to trap sand and shingle, stopping it from being washed away from beaches



t are built on into the sea. ned to trap le, stopping washed away

Worthing started out life as a small mackerel fishing village. It is still a traditional seaside town with a strong connection to the sea and a rich history of fishing.

You can still find local fishers selling their catch on the beach today.

Worthing Beach won the Seaside Award for the second year in a row in 2018, recognising it as one of the best beaches in the country.

There are no traditional rockpools in Worthing but there is still lots to explore and creatures to find within the cobbles at low tide on Worthing beach. Either side of the pier are good places to look.

BEACHES

 Worthing Beach – long, gently sloping shingle beach with groynes.
 Some sand at low tide

LIFEGUARD SERVICE

PLACES OF INTEREST

2 Worthing Pier

ACTIVITIES

Beach cleaning – all along the beach Scavenger hunting – all along the beach Fossil hunting – in the shingle

SUGGESTED WALK

Shoreham to Worthing Pier Route suitable for wheelchair users and pushchairs

SCAN THIS OR CODE WITH A SMART PHONE FOR A MAP OF THE ROUTE

Or visit: tinyurl.com/goexplorelinks





W@RTH[‡]NG

Beach
 Rockpools
 Marine Conservation Zone
 Suggested Walk

FUN FACT!

Kelp is large, fast growing seaweed forming thick forests, which are an amazing habitat for lots of wildlife. There used to be large kelp forests from Selsey to Shoreham. Learn more about the Sussex Kelp Restoration Project which is working to bring back kelp to Sussex.

SCAN THIS QR CODE WITH A SMART PHONE TO HELP OUR KELP

Or visit: tinyurl.com/goexplorelinks





Brighton and Hove is the biggest city in Sussex with lots to explore. Brighton began life as an ancient fishing village, became a popular health resort in the 18th century and then developed into the vibrant and bustling seaside resort we have today, full of things to do and see.

Hove merged with Brighton in 1997, becoming one town. Brighton and Hove then became a city in 2001.

Brighton and Hove has many beaches to explore and lots of wildlife to discover!

2

8

Did you know? SEA LIFE Brighton is the oldest aquarium in the world!

4

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10

BEACHES

All Brighton and Hove beaches are shingle with some sand at low tide, with lots of parking and facilities nearby.

- Hove West Regular groynes. Backed by Hove Lagoon for watersports, a skate park and children's play area and café
- 2 Hove Beach Regular groynes. Backed by long esplanade, cycle lane and Hove Lawns
- 3 Brighton Beach Some groynes. There is a kids paddling pool, volleyball and basketball courts
- 4 Kemptown Stretches from east of Palace Pier to Brighton Marina
- 5 Ovingdean Underneath the white chalk cliffs with large promenade for walking under the cliffs
- 6 Rottingdean Underneath the white chalk cliffs with large promenade for walking under the cliffs
- 7 Saltdean Underneath the white chalk cliffs with large promenade for walking under the cliffs

FUN FACT!

Between November and February, you can see the incredible starling murmurations at the piers. Large groups of starlings flock together at sunset, swooping and diving together before roosting for the night on Palace Pier.

LIFEGUARD SERVICE

Last week in May to first week in September. Contact the Seafront Office for exact times and locations: seafrontoffice@brighton-hove.gov.uk

PLACES OF INTEREST

8 West Pier
9 Palace Pier
10 SEA LIFE Brighton
11 Brighton Marina
12 RNLI Lifeboat Station (at Brighton Marina)

ACTIVITIES

Rockpooling – Ovingdean, Rottingdean and Saltdean

Beach cleaning – all beaches

Scavenger hunting – all beaches

Fossil hunting – all beaches

SUGGESTED WALK

Undercliff Walk Brighton

Route suitable for wheelchair users and pushchairs

SCAN THIS OR CODE WITH A SMART PHONE FOR A MAP OF THE ROUTE



Or visit: tinyurl.com/goexplorelinks

Rockpools

Beach

Marine Conservation Zone

••••• Suggested Walk

BRIGHTON & HOVE

Eastbourne is a flourishing seaside resort. In the late 1700s, it became a popular belief that bathing in seawater was good for your health and it became very fashionable to stay at the seaside, including Eastbourne!

Explore the exciting rockpools at Holywell beach, venture onto the pier or head further out to Beachy Head, which is the highest chalk sea cliff in Britain.

BEACHES

- Eastbourne Beach shingle beach with groynes
- 2 Royal Parade shingle beach with groynes
- 3 Holywell steep shingle beach with groynes

LIFEGUARD SERVICE

Eastbourne Beach – May to September Holywell and Royal Parade – No

PLACES OF INTEREST

- 4 Eastbourne Pier
- 5 Wish Tower
- 6 Beachy Head
- 7 Beachy Head Lighthouse
- 8 Sovereign Harbour
- 9 RNLI Lifeboat Station (in Sovereign Harbour)

Beach Rockpools

Marine Conservation Zone

••••• Suggested Walk

EASTB@URNE

ACTIVITIES

Rockpooling – Holywell beach Beach cleaning – all beaches Scavenger hunting – all beaches Fossil hunting – all beaches, particularly good at Holywell and Beachy Head

SUGGESTED WALK Eastbourne – Beachy Head Circular



Or visit: tinyurl.com/goexplorelinks

6





8+9



Bexhill-on-Sea is a place of culture. Explore the famous De La Warr Pavilion which was the first public building in the UK built in the Modernist style. The Pavilion is now a creative hotspot for arts and culture on the seafront.

Like many seaside towns, Bexhill-on-Sea was a popular, fashionable seaside resort in the late 1800s and early 1900s. In 1901 it became the first resort to let men and women swim together from the same beach!

BEACHES

- 1 Bexhill Beach shingle with groynes. Sand at low tide
- 2 Cooden Beach shingle with groynes. Sand at low tide

2

LIFEGUARD SERVICE

Bexhill Beach - July to September Cooden Beach – No

PLACES OF INTEREST 3 De La Warr Pavilion

ACTIVITIES

Rockpooling – Bexhill Beach Beach cleaning - all beaches Scavenger hunting - all beaches Fossil hunting - all beaches

SUGGESTED WALK

Route suitable for wheelchair users and pushchairs



SCAN THIS OR CODE WITH A SMART PHONE FOR A MAP OF THE ROUTE



Or visit: tinyurl.com/goexplorelinks

Bexhill Promenade to Cooden Beach

Beach Rockpools **Marine Conservation Zone** ()•••• Suggested Walk

BEXHILL-@N-SEA



Be careful of the soft sand and mud on the beach at low tide



Hastings is one of Britain's oldest fishing ports – boats have fished from here for over 1000 years! Hastings boasts the largest beachlaunched fishing fleet in Europe.

28 boats launch from the beach known as The Stade with the help of tractors, bulldozers and pulley systems – it's not easy hauling heavy fishing boats up and down a shingle beach!

After you've explored the beaches, why not take a ride on one of the funicular railways? At the top you'll get a great view of the town and ocean.

BEACHES

1 Bulverhythe Beach - shingle with groynes

- 2 St Leonards Beach shingle with groynes
- 3 Hastings Beach shingle with groynes. Sand at low tide

LIFEGUARD SERVICE

Daily – July to September Contact Hastings Borough Council for exact times and locations

PLACES OF INTEREST

4 Hastings Pier

- 5 Hastings Castle
- 6 The Stade
- 7 The Amsterdam Shipwreck

SCAN THIS QR CODE TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE SHIPWRECK

Or visit: tinyurl.com/goexplorelinks

Beach
 Rockpools
 Marine Conservation Zone
 Suggested Walk

7

HAST INGS

Did you know? The famous Battle of Hastings in 1066 actually took place about 11 km northwest of Hastings, nearer the modern-day town of Battle

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ACTIVITIES

Rockpooling – Hastings Beach Beach cleaning – all beaches Scavenger hunting – all beaches Fossil hunting – all beaches

SUGGESTED WALK Hastings Heritage Trail

SCAN THIS QR CODE WITH A SMART PHONE FOR A MAP OF THE ROUTE



4

Or visit: tinyurl.com/goexplorelinks



Now that you have explored some of the Sussex Coast, take some time to think about what you have seen and learnt on your adventure.

WHAT WAS THE BEST THING YOU SAW?

WHAT WAS THE BEST THING YOU DID?

WHAT DID YOU LEARN ABOUT?

WHAT HAVE Y@U SEEN AND LEARNT?





I hope you have enjoyed using this quide to explore and discover the Sussex Coast!

Don't forget to tag us on social media using **#SussexCoastAdventure**



WIN A PRIZE!

Scan this QR code with a smart phone to fill out a quick survey about the Go Explore guide.

Enter the prize draw for your chance to win SEA LIFE Brighton tickets. Terms and Conditions apply.

WEBSITE

tinyurl.com/goexploreguide

Go to our website to find out how to get involved with Wild Coast Sussex. wildcoastsussex.org.uk

FINAL SCORE

Add up all your points from the different activities. What is your final score?



WELL DONE!



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