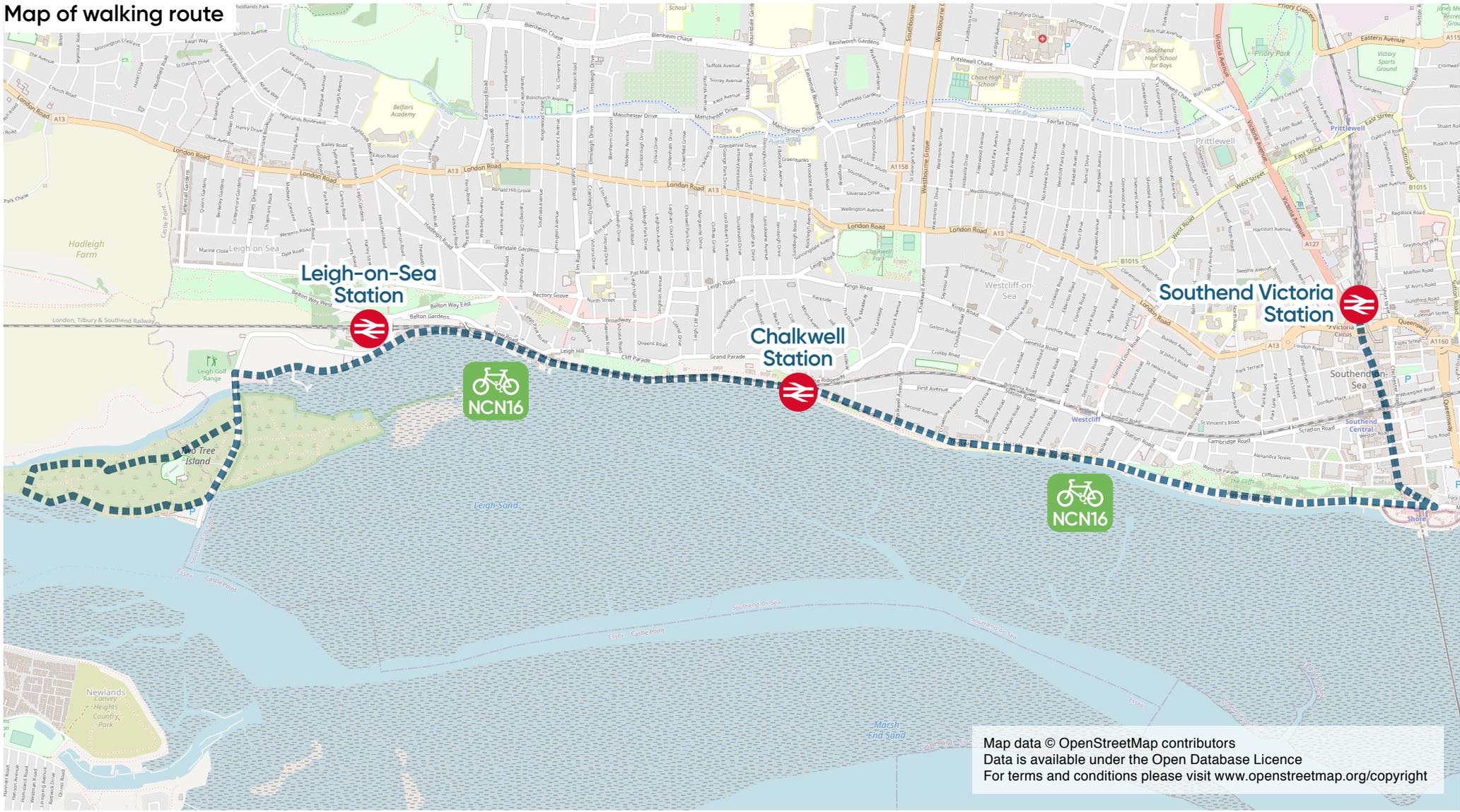


# 12

# Southend Victoria to Leigh-on-Sea and Two Tree Island

Map of walking route



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This walk offers a gentle family friendly promenade along the sea front with options for returning via train to Southend Central Station when you have walked 2.5 miles to Chalkwell Station or the 4 miles to Leigh-on-Sea Station. From Southend Central Station it is then a short walk back to Southend Victoria Station.

The route from Southend Victoria Station takes you down the high street to the sea front. As you arrive at the top of Pier Hill you see the town's famous pier stretch off into the distance with the arcades and beach below you. Once down at sea level, follow the wide paved esplanade west and enjoy the original Victorian past time of seaside attractions and people watching as you stroll along.

Here you can choose to return via train from Chalkwell Station or the walk continues between the station buildings and the edge of the beach. At this point the landscape changes, the path being sandwiched between the railway track and the coast line, it feeling more akin to walking along a river estuary than being part of a coastal resort. As you walk towards Old Leigh you will pass the Essex Yacht Club head quarters, the converted Mine Hunter HMS Wilton.

On reaching the historic fishing town of Old Leigh enjoy this quaint seaside gem. There are seafood stalls and ice creams a plenty here. As you continue through the village you pass the fisherman huts on the way to Leigh-on-Sea Station.

At this point you can return home or for those with energy to spare the route can be extended to Two Tree Island Essex Wildlife Trust Nature Reserve. The island has approximately 3.5 miles of trails which are a mixture of gravel and grass paths. Please keep to the tracks to avoid disturbing the ground nesting birds and other habitats.

## Planning Your Walk

- 2.5 miles to Chalkwell Station or 4 miles to Leigh-on-Sea Station.
- There are many opportunities for refreshments whilst on the main esplanades at Southend all the way through to Chalkwell.

## Directions

1. At Southend Victoria Station and along the route there are pedestrian direction signs that point you to the sea front.
2. Leave Southend Victoria Station and cross over the bus shared space area and then the main Queensway road and head towards the large red and yellow brick building.
3. As you come out of the alleyway between the two tall buildings you arrive at the predominantly pedestrianised high street that stretches out before you.
4. Walk down the High Street. You will go under a railway bridge and as you come out the other side you will catch your first glimpse of the sea. Head for it.



5. At the end of the High Street you find yourself at the top of a hill. There are several ways of getting down; a viewing platform and lift, stairs or meander through the hill gardens.
6. At the bottom cross over the road so you can be beside the sea, turn right and head west.
7. Keep going all the way along the wide paved esplanade.
8. As you walk along the Chalkwell area the main vehicle road veers right, away from the sea front. The footpath continues by the water.
9. A little further along the esplanade ends and the route continues along a paved footpath sandwiched between the railway track and the sea.
10. At this point It is possible to return via train to Southend Central Station and then walk back from there to Southend Victoria Station.

### For those who wish to continue, follow the path to Old Leigh.

11. At Old Leigh make your way through the village. At the end of the main buildings there is a vehicle turning area /roundabout. Bear right and follow the direction of the rail track. Do not go up the bridge.
12. Keep going onwards under the bridge and walk past the fishermen huts.
13. At the end of this roadway is Leigh-on-Sea Station. You can either go up the stairs in the embankment and the station building is directly in front of you once at the top or for a level access follow the road around the bend and then turn right.

14. Board the train back to Southend Central. When exiting Southend Central Station, leave by the exit on platform 2. Turn right and head down Station Approach road. This will bring you out onto the High Street. Turn left and retrace your steps back to Southend Victoria.
15. OR For those with energy to spare, before you leave Leigh-on-Sea you could visit Two Tree Island. Instead of going up the embankment steps follow the last bit of road around to the left. Here re-join the sea wall footpath and follow it along to the bridge of Two Tree Island. Once you have finished your visit, retrace your steps back to Leigh-on-Sea Station and return to Southend Victoria Station via Southend Central Station.