# Eynsford Walk: Soar with the Birds

## 1.8 miles (2km) allow 1 hour

This short walk is popular with photographers keen to capture striking views across the valley. Discover the history behind its hidden villages and hamlets, enjoy a fine meal at a village pub or visit one of the many local attractions.



Two women enjoy the views of the River Darent with Eynsford Viaduct in the background.



### How to get there -

**By Car:** From A20 near Farningham, follow signs to Eynsford. Cross the ford and follow the riverside to Lullingstone Roman Villa.

Parking: Lullingstone Roman Villa (£3)

**Train:** Nearest station: Eynsford (0.8 miles)

National Rail Enquiries: 03457 484950

**Bus:** 2 (Sevenoaks – Swanley)

4 journeys. Mon-Sat. Traveline: 08712 002233

S/F	Start/Finish	Lullingstone Roman Villa
///	what3words	///shower.card.edges
	Gates	0
Ħ	Stiles	2
7-	Steps	1
	Terrain	Fields and road
K	Views	Some excellent views
	Refreshments	Shops and pubs in Eynsford

### **Step-by-step Guide**

This walk begins at Lullingstone Roman Villa, while you're here you can stop in and visit the remains of this exciting historical site. The rich history of Lullingstone Roman Villa with its nationally important mosaics, now preserved for the nation by English Heritage, reflects the continuing agricultural prosperity of the Darent Valley.

The Romans settled here to take advantage of good farmland close to water and on sloping land to catch the warmth of the sun in the lee of the hill. The villa is by far the best preserved of the many Roman buildings in the valley.



Two women walking in front of Lullingstone Roman Villa.

- 1. From the villa car park, turn left and walk past the villa for a short distance, then turn right and follow the steps up a wooded path you are now on the Darent Valley Path.
- Follow the Darent Valley Path up the hillside, taking time to turn back now and then to enjoy the views across the river towards the village of Eynsford, the impressive red-brick viaduct and across to the right for a glimpse of Lullingstone Castle.
- Turn right and keep following this path alongside Eagle Heights
  Bird of Prey Centre, casting a glance skyward now and then for
  regular sightings of the centre's falcons and other birds soaring
  high above the fields with their handlers below.

- 4. Cross the road, being careful to check for traffic, and continue to follow the path diagonally through the fields as you gradually descend into the valley. These fields have supported many farmers since the Romans first settled near the River Darent.
- When you reach the railway tracks, go over the stile and carefully cross the foot crossing looking out for trains. Cross another stile and continue following the path through the field.
- 6. Finally, as you emerge onto Lullingstone Lane, turn right and follow the road alongside the banks of the River Darent to return to the car park at Lullingstone Roman Villa. Enjoy a close up view of Eynsford Viaduct as you pass underneath the arches. It was built in 1859 to link the Chatham main line with the market town of Sevenoaks.



Two walkers stop to look at cattle grazing near the banks of the river Darent.

Find more walks at **explorekent.org** or download the Kent Connected App.



# The Countryside Code

### Respect everyone

- be considerate to other users.
- leave gates and property as you find them.
- · be nice, say hello, share the space.
- follow signs and keep to marked paths.

#### Protect the environment

- · take your litter home.
- do not light fires and only light BBQs where signs say you can.
- always keep dogs under control.
- · dog poo bag it and bin it.
- care for nature do not disturb wildlife.

### Enjoy the outdoors

- · check your route and local conditions.
- plan your adventure and be prepared.
- · enjoy your visit and have fun!

www.gov.uk/countryside-code

