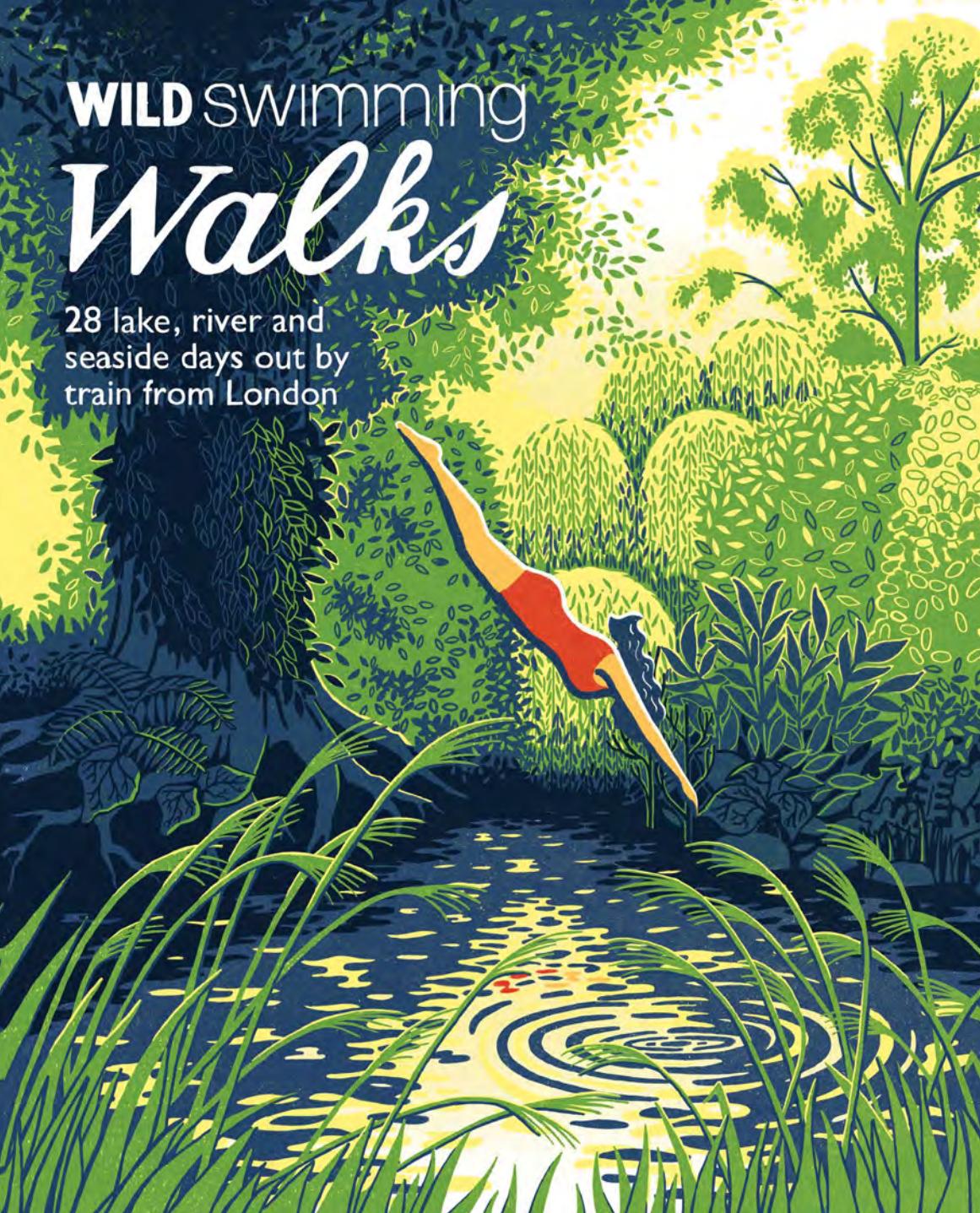


WILD Swimming Walks

28 lake, river and
seaside days out by
train from London



THE FAMOUS SWIMMING LADIES of London's Hampstead ponds share their favourite walks with a dip. Leave the car at home this summer with 28 days out across southern and eastern England.

Featuring secret lakes, river meadows and sandy seaside beaches, *Wild Swimming Walks* is rich with stories, photos and natural history. Complete with detailed directions, maps and practical inspiration, this book is perfect for families, walkers and swimmers alike.

Includes downloadable route information to print out, or take with you on your phone or tablet.

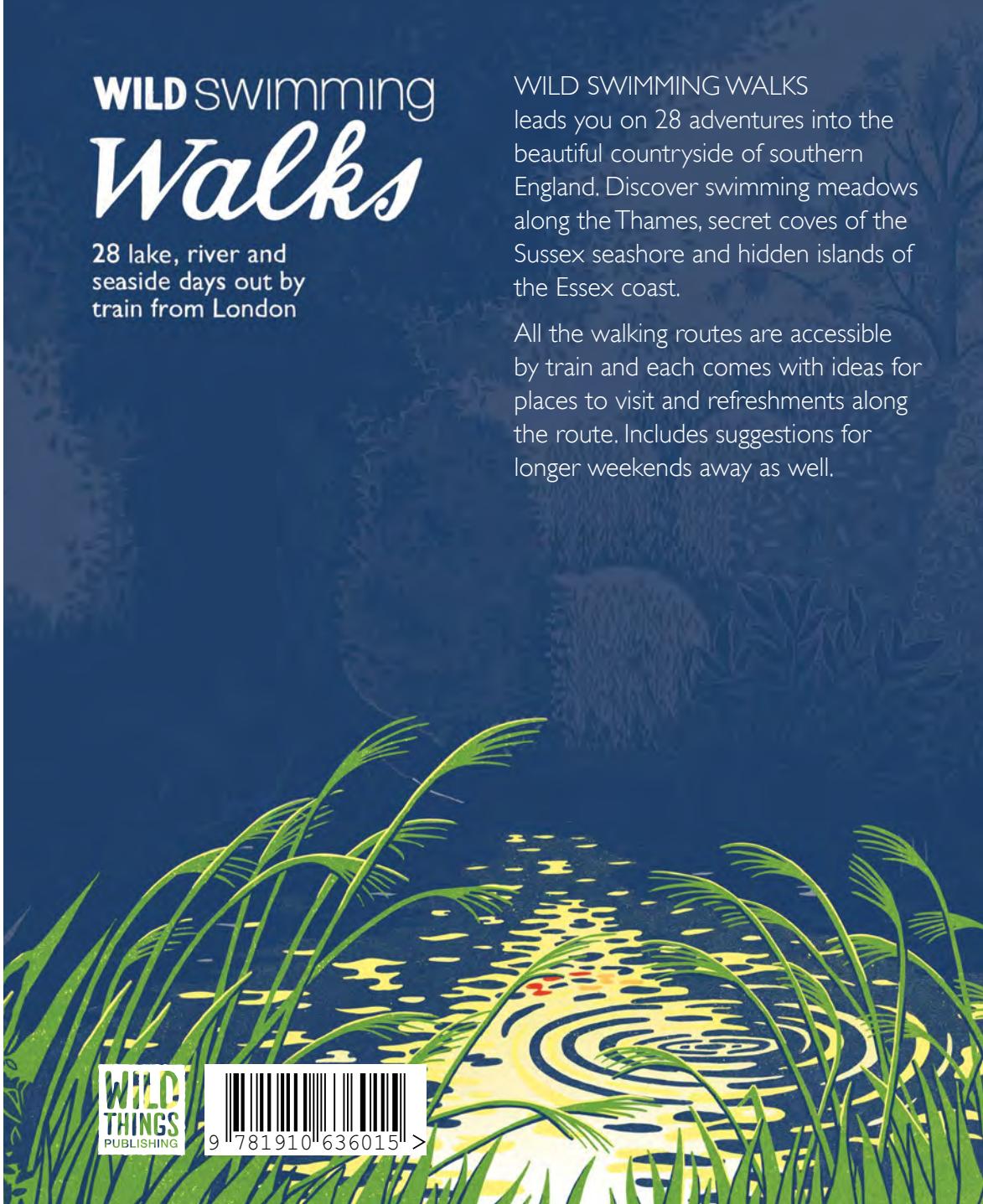
£14.99



The Kenwood Ladies' Pond on Hampstead Heath has been a women's swimming pond since 1926. World famous for its history and idyllic setting, it has become a magnet for London residents and visitors alike. Margaret Dickinson (editor) is a year-round wild swimmer, documentary film-maker and writer who campaigned to save swimming on the Heath.



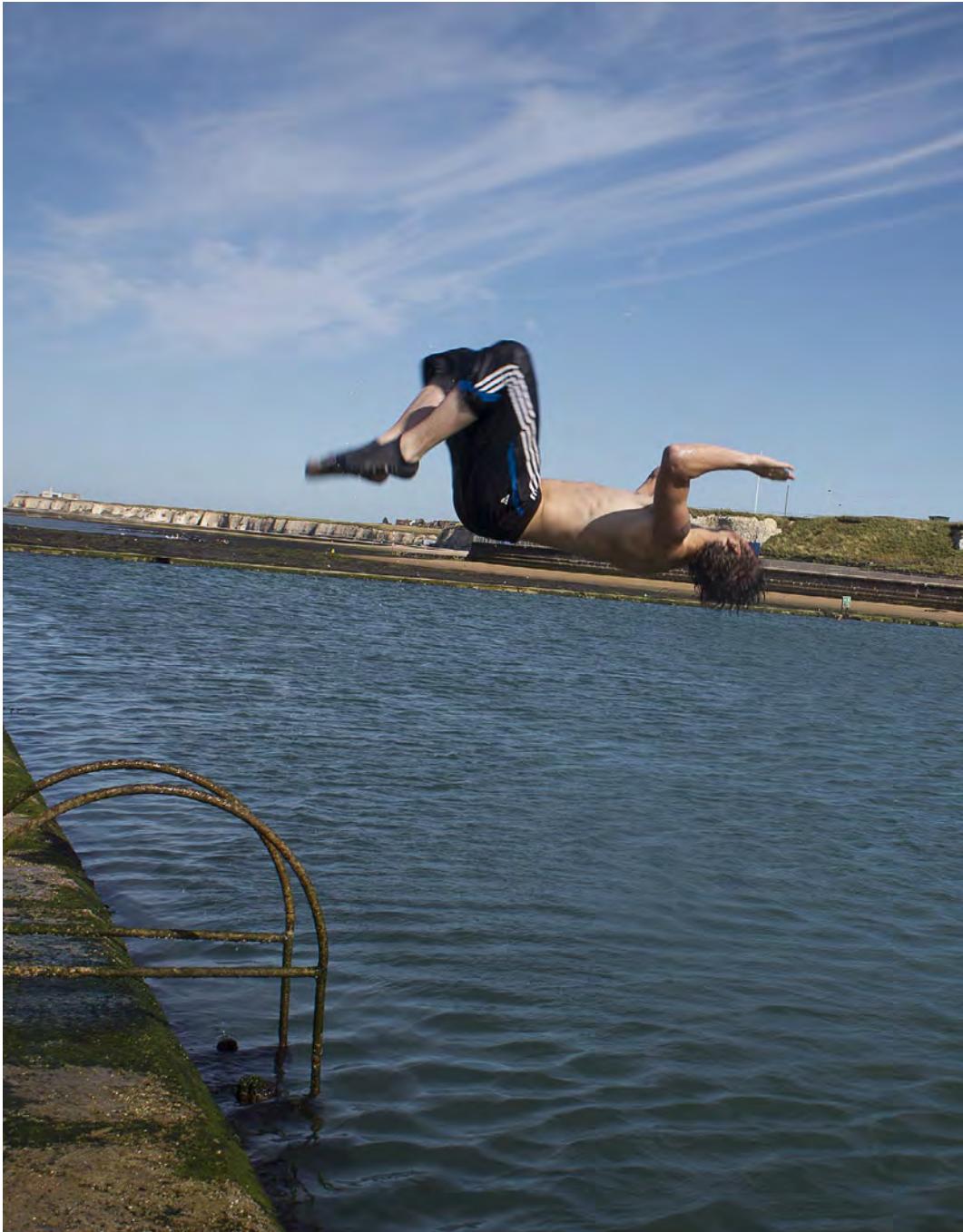
If you like *Wild Swimming Walks* you might also like these other titles from WildThingsPublishing.com:



WILD SWIMMING WALKS
leads you on 28 adventures into the beautiful countryside of southern England. Discover swimming meadows along the Thames, secret coves of the Sussex seashore and hidden islands of the Essex coast.

All the walking routes are accessible by train and each comes with ideas for places to visit and refreshments along the route. Includes suggestions for longer weekends away as well.

MARGATE TO BROADSTAIRS, KENT



A coastal walk including the Turner Contemporary gallery, a glimpse of a historic lido and a swim in the renowned Walpole Bay sea pool.

From Margate, where JMW Turner spent his holidays, to Broadstairs, loved and frequented by Charles Dickens, this route offers the pleasures of these two seaside resorts. Decay and neglect are still evident along the route, but there are signs of renewal too.

The Turner Contemporary gallery ②, opened in 2011, is part of a more general effort to tempt people to coastal resorts for art and culture. Dreamland Amusement Park, a grand attraction in the past, is to open its doors in 2015 for the first time in a more than a decade, after a campaign by local people to retain the site as a vintage theme park. The fire-damaged scenic railway will be restored and there are also plans to reinstate the 1930s cinema and bingo hall.

The future of the Cliftonville Lido ④, a popular swimming venue until the seventies when it was damaged by a storm, is unknown. Many would like to see it restored, but the cost would be considerable. The steps to the pool end in a scrubby area of grass and sand, and the bright red lido tower is a sad reminder of past glory. The Walpole Bay sea pool ⑤ is a treat for swimmers. Created in 1900, it gained Grade II listing in 2014, as one of the largest and most intact of the 13 tidal sea pools in England. It is hoped that this will lead to some restoration and attract more swimmers to this extraordinary site.

Leaving Margate towards Foreness Point, a number of lovely sandy coves appear at points beneath the cliffs. Botany Bay, flanked by empty low tide sands, is only reachable at low tide. The cliffs above contain impressive caves carved out by

INFORMATION

DISTANCE: 6.5 miles.

TIME: 3 hours.

MAP: OS Landranger 179 (Canterbury & East Kent); OS Explorer 150 (Canterbury & the Isle of Thanet).

START POINT: Margate Station.

END POINT: Broadstairs Station.

PUBLIC TRANSPORT: Train from Victoria Station or St Pancras International Station. The cheapest day tickets are from Victoria.

SWIMMING: In the North Sea.

PLACES OF INTEREST: Turner Contemporary gallery and The Lido, Margate; Dickens House Museum, Broadstairs.

REFRESHMENTS: Lots of pubs and cafés in Margate and Broadstairs; along the route places include a café at Jet Ski World, Palm Bay (CT9 3DF, tel 01843 231703), Botany Bay Hotel (CT10 3LG, tel 01843 868641), The Captain Digby, Kingsgate (CT10 3QH, tel 01843 867764) and Joss Bay Café (CT10 3PG, tel 01843 604073).



smugglers of the past. Beyond, a dramatic sight is Kingsgate Castle ⑧, an extravaganza built in the 1760s by the infamously corrupt Henry Fox, Lord Holland. It was originally designed as a gothic folly to be viewed from Fox's main residence, Holland House, but was later adapted to become a stately home. Subsequent owners include Lord Northcliffe, proprietor of the *Daily Mail*. In the 1920s it was turned

into a grand hotel and it is now luxury flats. The name Kingsgate was given to the nearby village by King Charles II after difficulties at sea caused him to make an unscheduled landing in the bay.

Finally, Joss Bay awaits, where a small surfing school runs during the summer, before the final stretch of the walk to Charles Dickens' Broadstairs, and the train home.

DIRECTIONS

1 MARGATE BEACH

From Margate station, follow Station Approach and turn left onto a footpath that takes you to a crossing over the main road to the promenade. Your first swimming spot is here in the sandy bay next to the boating pool. Over to the far right facing seawards, you can see the Turner Contemporary gallery. Directly behind you, on the main coast road, is Dreamland. There are pubs, cafes and small shops to explore, and on a hot day the atmosphere is festive.

0.5 miles

2 THE TURNER GALLERY

Make your way across the beach or along the promenade to the Turner Contemporary gallery. On the way, you may want to savour rollmops or cockles from

the fish stand, or you can visit the gallery café. Entry to the gallery is free; it is well worth a visit.

3 THANET COASTAL PATH

On leaving the gallery, pick up the Thanet Coastal Path, which you will follow for the rest of the walk. Depending on the tides, you can walk along the promenade or the sand.

1 mile

4 THE LIDO

Go past the Winter Gardens and you will reach the Lido, a magnificent swimming area in its heyday and now an area of sand and grass bounded by a sea wall. It is shown on the map as a semicircular shape projecting onto the sand.

1.5 miles

5 WALPOLE BAY SEA POOL

Walk on for about half a mile to the Walpole Bay sea pool, a walled pool that fills at high tide. It provides a wonderful swim, except around high tide when waves wash over the walls. Check the Walpole Bay Facebook page for suitable swimming times. After the pool continue for another mile.

3 miles

6 BOTANY BAY

Follow the path to the end of Botany Bay, where a chunk of cliff stands separated from the mainland. There is a café on the beach at this point, where you can climb up the path onto the cliff top.

7 NEPTUNE'S TOWER

On the cliff path you will pass Neptune's Tower, the ruin of a

DIRECTIONS

folly built by Henry Fox in the 18th century, one of several follies surrounding his Broadstairs home of Kingsgate Castle.

4 miles

⑧ KINGSGATE AND JOSS BAY

Further along the path you can see Kingsgate Castle across the bay from the Captain Digby pub. You can get to a beach café, the Joss Bay café, a little further down the road.

⑨ TURN INLAND

The path now follows the cliffs above the beach, before turning inland near the Dickens House Museum and

left inland along the main road, the B2052, for half a mile. Look out for where the path resumes, a left turn into Park Road, drops down, and leads into town next to the beach, lined with colourful beach huts.

6 miles

⑩ BROADSTAIRS

In Broadstairs you can enjoy a last swim and enjoy fish and chips or a pint. If you have not dallied too much, as we did, you may even have time to visit the Dickens Museum.

To reach the station turn inland near the Dickens House Museum and

take High Street, the B2052, or turn inland opposite the bandstand in Victoria Gardens and follow Oscar Road, York Avenue and Pierremont Avenue, turning right at the end to join High Street near the station.

6.5 miles

Sarah Saunders

