

## **A Canterbury Trail**

This is a short ride around the main city of Canterbury visiting many attractions outside the main pedestrianised area including Westgate Tower, Westgate Gardens, Eastbridge Hospital, Greyfriars, Canterbury Heritage Museum, Canterbury Castle, St Augustines Abbey, Lyndon Gate, St. John Boyes House and Blackfriars.

1. Ride down Station Road West towards the town. At T junction turn left and go along St. Dunstons Street to Westgate Tower. In the Tower is a museum containing Civil War exhibits. The gateway itself is the last of eight Towers which used to line the ancient City Walls. There is quite a view from the top.
2. If you wish there are some gardens to the side of the Tower called Westgate Gardens and these offer a pleasant walk alongside the River Stour. Walk up the main pedestrianised street, St. Peter St. until you come to the Eastbridge Hospital on your right. The Hospital was founded just after the Martydom of St. Thomas a Becket and was for Pilgrims to rest. There is a cycle rack opposite the hospital by a pavement cafe.
3. Take the next turning on your right into Stour Street. By the side of Greyfriars Guest House is an alleyway which leads to Greyfriars itself. This is the oldest Franciscan building in Britain and is only open in the afternoon. Return to Stour Street. In a short while on your right is the Canterbury Heritage Museum. Amongst the exhibits is a permanent display of the work of Mary Tourtel, the creator of Rupert the Bear, a comic strip character in the Daily Express.
4. Continue along Stour Street and turn left into Hospital Lane, then turn right into Castle Street. Just before you reach a large roundabout you will find the ruin of a large Norman keep which used to be a Castle guarding the Southgate of the City of Canterbury. Entry to this is free. Return back down Castle Street and turn right into Castle Way. Just past the public conveniences turn left into Dane John Gardens and walk to a footbridge on your right.
5. Cross over the footbridge to Canterbury East Station. At front of the station turn left and just before road joins the main road turn right into cycle way alley. Follow cycle route through to Nunnery Fields Road and keep bearing left to traffic lights. At traffic lights go straight ahead into Oaten Hill. At next traffic lights go straight ahead into Lower Chantry Lane and at roundabout turn left into Longport. On your right is the entrance to St. Augustine's Abbey.

6. The Abbey was founded by Augustine in 598 A.D. The abbey was destroyed during the dissolution of the Monasteries in 1538. There is an audio tour of the ruins and a museum. After visit, return to Longport and ride around the corner into Monastery Street. Pass the Fyndon Gate built between 1300 and 1308. by Abbot Findon.
7. Continue along Monastery Street and turn right at T junction into Havelock Street and turn right into North Holmes Road. Continue along cycle route and cross the busy Military road to the central reservation, turn left and then turn right and continue along the alleyway to Northgate. At Northgate turn left and follow road through several bends to Palace Street. Immediately after second bend on your right is Sir John Boyes House built in 1612. Further up the road is a rather fine half timbered house called Conquest House.
8. Just after Conquest House turn right into Blackfriars Lane, go straight ahead at crossroads at end of cul-de-sac see and visit Blackfriars, a Dominican Priory founded in 1237. After visit return to last crossroads and turn left into King Street and left again into Mill Lane. At T junction by Millers Arms Public House turn left into The Causeway. At main junction go straight ahead into Station Road West and as you enter new housing estate keep bearing left until you arrive back into Canterbury West Station.