

A Visit to Herne Bay

This is a 23 mile ride visiting the seaside resorts of Herne Bay and Whitstable and giving you the option of visiting the ruins of the Abbey and Roman Fort at Reculver. This ride is described as moderate with one or two small sections where you may encounter some traffic. The return route uses the dedicated cycle route called the Crab and Winkle Way, following in parts the second oldest passenger railway line in the world.

1. Turn left as you leave the station and right at the mini roundabout. Enter a new housing estate. Continue until you come to a small roundabout in North Lane. Turn left and keep riding along St. Stephens Road. At the next roundabout go straight ahead into Broad Oak Road. Pass through a modern industrial estate, straight across at the next mini roundabout and cross over a level crossing. Climb a slight hill into Broad Oak. At T junction turn right.
2. At T junction with main A291 turn right followed very shortly afterwards by a left turn and skirt around the edge of Sturry. Turn left into Maypole Road towards Reculver and Beltinge

(4 miles/ 6.5 kilometers)

3. Follow this Roman Road through the village of Hoath past the Prince of Wales Public House. Cross over main A299 Thanet Way via a bridge and cross over a railway bridge. Shortly you will come to a fork in the road by Hillborough School.

(8.5 miles/14 kilometers)

4. From this fork you have the option to take a 2.5 mile deviation along the right hand fork to visit the ancient ruins of Reculver. These consist of an Abbey and a Roman Fort, both of which are gradually slipping into the sea. If you are not visiting Reculver fork left into Reculver Road towards Herne Bay.
5. Follow this road as it winds its way through the town and in a while look for and turn right into a road called Sea View Road. Follow this road to the seafront and the Leas. Turn left and follow the road along the seafront at Herne Bay, where eventually it becomes the Western Esplanade.
6. At the end of the Western Esplanade by Hampton Public House turn left into Hampton Pier Road. In a very short distance turn right and walk along sea wall for about 1000m to the Coastguard Cottages and Caravan Park. Turn left and ride along bridle road. Join B2205 on a bend and turn right towards Whitstable.

(13.5 miles/ 22.5 kilometers)

7. When the road reaches the seafront at Priest and Sow Corner leave the main road and follow Marine Parade along seafront. Join main road by the Museum and turn right if going to Whitstable Harbour. If returning to Canterbury, take the road opposite called Northwood Road. Continue along this road and turn right into Castle Road, over Railway Bridge where it becomes Church Street and turn right into Ivy House Road.

(16 miles/ 27 kilometers)

8. At the end of this cul-de-sac you will see a dedicated cycle route. Turn left and follow it out of town. The track eventually comes out at South Street near its junction with Milstrood Road. Turn right and at the edge of a housing estate take the cycle route on your right passing farm buildings on your left. Follow this farm road over the Thanet Way and into woodland. Shortly after entering the woods be prepared to fork left, climb a short rise and then bear right. Follow this track down a short slope and then a steady slow climb through the woods. You are now in the trackbed of the Crab and Winkle Line. Shortly after passing a clearing with a pond on your right, turn right, Follow this track to the crossroads and turn left. Leave the woods and at crossroads with paved road go straight ahead and pass around Amery Court Farm.
9. At next crossroads with a paved road go straight ahead. Pass church in your right and pass through small valley. At the top of the next rise by playing fields turn left and pass the University Campus. At T junction turn right and take next turning on your left. Go straight ahead at main roundabout and the same again at the mini roundabout. You will descend Elliot Path into Canterbury, (Be prepared to stop at a barrier at the bottom of the hill). At foot of the slope follow cycle route signs to City Centre and shortly after passing under the railway line turn right and return to Canterbury West Railway Station.

(23 miles/ 38 kilometers)