

## **Castle to Cathedral (Dover to Canterbury)**

### **Dover**

Dover is mainly known as a cross channel ferry port, but it is a town steeped in history. It has one of the finest Norman Castles in the country with a commanding view over the straits of Dover. In the cliffs underneath is Hellfire Corner, which was a wartime command post controlling the straits of Dover. Other places to visit in the town include the Roman painted house, Victorian Gaol, the White Cliffs Experience and the Grand Redoubt. On the return you will pass Kearsney Abbey, if your ride is on a Sunday, the East Kent Railway Steam Train at Shepherdswell, and past Higham Park Gardens.

1. From the town centre follow the one way street system north towards Canterbury. Pass along the High Street and London Road and at the end of the one way street system bear left and climb Crabble Hill, at the traffic lights fork left signposted River and Crabble Corn Mill.
2. Turn right into Lower Road. Pass the mill and continue along Valley Road. Turn right at T junction and immediately left into left into River Street. Turn left at the junction by Dublin Man O War Public House. Turn left at the next junction into Alkham road signposted Kearsney Abbey.
3. Turn right by park signposted Temple Ewell and pass under bridge. Turn left at crossroads at the top of a short slope and head into the countryside. Pass under Railway Bridge and enter village of Lydden. Just before chapel fork right into Stonehall Road signposted Eyethorne. After a dip in the road turn right at T junction and climb hill to the top and junction with busy main A2.
4. Take great care at this staggered crossroads, turn left followed almost immediately right signposted Coldred. Continue through Coldred to Shepherdswell and by the village stores turn right to go to railway station. On Sundays steam trains run on the East Kent Railway, a former Colliery line, which starts at the station.

(6 miles)

5. From the station return to the village stores and turn right towards Wollage and leave village of Shepherdswell. Straight on at next crossroads following signs to Wollage Green and Wollage Village. Straight on at crossroads signposted Nonnington and Snowdon. Take next left signposted Barnham and Canterbury and left at T junction. Pass Woodpecker Hotel and at T junction turn left onto B2046 signposted Barham and Canterbury.

6. Straight on at roundabout and cross over bridge over A2. At T junction turn right and almost immediately left signposted Barham. At crossroads turn right and enter village of Barham passing church and Duke of Cumberland Public House. At T junction turn right into Valley Road.

(12 miles)

7. Leave village of Barham. Pass Black Robin Public House (an excellent food stop if you are hungry) and take the next turning in the left signposted Kingston. 200 meters up the lane turn right into a bridlepath and slowly ride along this track to Bishopsbourne. In a while this track becomes a tree lined road past a cricket field.
8. Enter the village of Bishopsbourne. Pass Mermaid Inn on your left and the Blacksmiths Forge on your right. Just before church turn right and at foot of hill, turn left (unsigned), and ride through Bourne Park.
9. At T junction on Bridge Hill turn left and descend hill to Red Lion Public House. Turn right and follow Cycle Route 16/17. Enter village of Patricbourne noting the diversity of styles of architecture in this most attractive village. At mini roundabout at the end of the village veer left and almost immediately fork right into Hode land and up the hill to Hode Farm.
10. On left hand bend go straight ahead into private road through orchards. Enter Canterbury through a housing estate, Pilgrims Way. Bear right over railway bridge where road becomes Pilgrims Road. By Chaucer School turn left into Spring Lane. At T junction turn left into St. Martins Hill and almost immediately right into special Cycle lane in North Homes Road.
11. Follow special track along North Homes Road and continue straight ahead into Cycle path. At junction with busy Military Road cross road to central island, turn left and cross again. Enter alleyway and follow to Northgate.
12. At junction with road turn left, and take the second turning on the right into St. Radigunds Street. Pass Millers Arms, pass over River Bridge and turn right into the Causeway. At next junction go straight ahead into Station Road West and follow track through new housing estate veering left all the time until you come to Canterbury West Railway Station.

(19 miles)