

Oyster and Hops

This route lets you see two things Kent is famous for, its hop fields and Whitstable Oysters. The route follows the valley of the River Stour to the picturesque village of Chilham and then through orchards to the North Kent coast and the port of Whitstable. Your return route uses the new Crab and Winkle Cycle Path.

1. Follow Cycle Route across Canterbury from the West Railway Station to the East Station. Turn left out of Canterbury West Station and follow road through new housing estate keeping bearing right as you pass through it. At junction with North Lane go straight ahead into The Causeway. At T junction turn left into St. Radigunds Street, turn right into Mill Lane by Millers Arms Public House and follow the lane through to King Street. At King Street turn right and follow through to High Street and Pedestrian Precinct.
2. At staggered crossroads in High Street, go straight ahead into Stour Street, turn left into Hospital Lane, turn right into Castle Street and left into Castle Row. In a while turn left into Dane John Garden and walk up to footbridge over busy dual carriageway. At Canterbury East Station turn left and just past Car Park turn right into alleyway which runs parallel to the railway line. At footbridge walk over with bicycle and in Oxford Road turn right and ride through housing estate.
3. At T junction turn right into Guildford Road and almost immediately turn left into alleyway later signed as Hop Garden Way. This alleyway eventually joins Hollowmeade. At T junction turn right into Hollow Lane and at T junction with Wincheap Road (A28) turn left and go through multiple sets of traffic lights.
4. Turn left into St. Nicholas Road, first road on left after traffic lights. At top of the road turn right into Cockering Road and follow out into the countryside. Enter village of Chartham and pass Fagge Inn on the right. At crossroads go straight ahead, signposted Waltham and Mystole. Follow this lane as it twists and turns until you come to a level crossing.

(5.5 miles/ 9 kilometers)

5. Cross over crossing and at A28 by side of car showroom turn left and travel along A28 with care. Take second turning on left and almost immediately right and ride up into village of Chilham. Explore village but leave by narrow lane at side of White Horse Public House. Descend steep hill to crossroads with main A28. Cross with care and at the next crossroads turn left. Continue along road to T junction and turn left and at next crossroads turn right. Pass over Railway Bridge, and at next T

junction turn left and then sharp right and pass under Bypass. At T junction turn right and go up hill to old A2 by side of Woodmans Hall.

6. At junction with main road turn left and almost immediately right into Staplehurst Road. Pass Mount Ephraim Gardens and turn right by Three Horseshoes Public House. Follow the lane through to Dargate and Dove Public House. At T junction turn left and follow the road to Yorkletts. At T junction very close to busy Thanet Way turn right and enter the Hamlet of Yorkletts.

(13.5 miles./24 kilometers)

7. Pass through it and follow signs to Seasalter and Whitstable. At crossroads at the edge of Seasalter go straight ahead into Joy Lane. At T junction with A290 Canterbury Road turn left and pass under Railway Bridge and then immediately right into Cromwell Road. At stream walk crossing right under railway. Turn left and then right opposite railway station. Bear left to join Invicta Way and pass under the Thanet Way. Continue along South Street.
8. After about 200m turn right into bridlepath by a farm and ride along rough farm track. Cross main Thanet Way via a bridge and continue along farm track. 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 on your right and pass through small valley. At the top of the next rise by playnig 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.

(23.5 miles/ 39 kilometers)