

## **Ride to Sandwich**

The ride to Sandwich and back is about 35 miles/ 58 kilometers. The whole route is fairly flat and you should not encounter any bad hills. Your ride will take you out to the ancient Port of Sandwich. Leaving Canterbury by a dedicated cycle route across the water meadows to Fordwich, you ride to Stodmarsh and on to Grove. Follow the course of the Little Stour to more orchards and an area of market gardening along stretches of the Great Stour River. You will pass the remains of a Roman Fort at Richborough Castle.

The return ride takes you through Wodnesborough to Staple and some of the vineyards of East Kent. From there you visit the beautiful gardens of Godnestone Park House which was regularly visited by Jane Austin, the novelist, but is now in the hands of Lady Fitzwalter. When you have finished exploring the gardens, have refreshments in the stable block before continuing your ride to Higham Park House and Garden near the village of Bridge. Continue through Patribourne back to Canterbury.

1. From the station bear left and pass through a new housing estate bearing right all the time until you reach North Lane, cross and go straight ahead into the Causeway. Turn left into St. Radigunds Street, cross over the Stour River passing the Millers arms on your right and continue following this road until it meets Northgate. Turn left, pass Broad Street, on your right and turn right into the next alleyway on your right. Follow this road as it twists and turns until you reach Military Road.
2. At staggered pedestrian crossing go straight ahead and in 50m turn left and follow Cycle Route to Canterbury City Council Offices. Continue towards Sturry and pass down the side of Northgate Community Centre. Immediately at the rear turn right and pass through chicane.
3. Follow a dedicated cycle track through woodland and across the water meadows to the George and Dragon public house in Fordwich. When you reach the road turn right and pass through the village. Make a short diversion to visit the smallest town hall in England on your left. Continue through the village keeping to main lane. At T junction at the top of the hill turn left.

(4 miles/ 7 kilometers)

4. Follow this road through Trenley Park Wood and on to the village of Stodmarsh. The Red Lion Public House is well worth a visit if you like real ale. Continue through the village keeping to the main lane ignoring two "No Through Roads" on your left. Take the next turning on your left and follow Cycle Route 1 signs. Turn left at next junction and in a while you will merge with main lane towards the village of Grove and Grove Ferry.

5. Continue to the village of Grove and on a sharp left hand bend turn right onto lane signposted Preston and Wingham. Cross over Little Stour River, enter the village of Preston and at T junction with B2046 turn right signposted Wingham and Canterbury and Cycle Route 1 sign.

(10 miles/ 16.5 kilometers)

6. Pass the Moon and Seven Stars Public House on your right. Turn left opposite village stores into Mill Lane signposted Elmstone and Westmarsh. Follow signs for Elmstone and Cycle Route 1 signs all the way to Sandwich. At fork in the road just before you reach the very interesting Church at Elmstone fork left signposted Shearwater, Hoaden and Westmarsh. Enter village of Westmarsh and immediately turn left into lane signposted Westmarsh

(12.5 miles/ 21 kilometers)

7. Pass Way Out Inn in village. At crossroads turn left (fingerpost broken but indicating Cycle Route 1) At T junction turn right signposted Ash. At next turning on left signposted Cop Street, Richborough and Sandwich. At crossroads turn left into lane marked No Through Road and signposted Lower Goldstone.

8. In Hamlet of Lower Goldstine the path becomes a Bridlepath. Continue until you reach the road again and turn left. Shortly after returning to the road you will pass Pots Farm. Continue to follow signs for Richborough. Pass Richborough Castle in the fields on your left.

(17 miles/ 28 kilometers)

9. Continue by crossing railway line by level crossing and pass under by pass and into ancient Cinque Port of Sandwich. At T junction opposite the Fire Station turn left and ride into centre of the town.

(18 miles/ 30 kilometers)

**Return Route via Godnestone House and Higham Park House (One of the Gardens will be closed on Tuesdays, Friday or Saturdays)**

10. From Cattle Market Road down the side of the Guildhall, pass the Red Cow Public House on your right and at mini roundabout turn left into Moat Sole and pass the ancient St. Thomas' Hospital on your right. Cross over level crossing and leave Sandwich. Pass over By Pass and enter village of Wodnesborough.

(1 mile/ 1.5 miles)

11. Pass the Poacher Public House and continue out into the countryside following signs to Nonnington and Aylesham. At crossroads by garage selling secondhand cars turn right signposted Staple, Wingham and Canterbury. In a while you will come to Barnsole Vineyard on your right. Stop, visit and taste some wines. After visit continue along road and enter the village of Staple.

(4 miles/ 6.5 kilometers)

12. In village on sharp right hand bend turn left into Buckland Lane signposted Chillenden and Aylesham and almost immediately turn right. Leave village and at first crossroads take a short diversion off to your left and visit Chillenden Windmill. After the visit return to the crossroads and go down the road signposted Godnestone. Enter the village and turn left into The Street. Pass Fitzwalter Public House to Godnestone House itself. Enter gardens.

(6.2 miles/ 10.3 kilometers)

13. After your visit, continue on foot along the track by which you entered. This is a rough track and designated a footpath and therefore should not be ridden along. Continue along track until you reach the road, about 200/300m. At the road turn right and take the next turning on your left signposted Ratling.

14. At next T junction, turn right signposted Adisham and join Cycle Route 16 towards Canterbury. At T junction with B2046 turn right signposted Wingham and almost immediately turn left signposted Adisham and Bekesbourne. Pass under railway bridge and enter village of Adisham. In centre of village turn left into The Street and pass The Bull Public House on your left.

15. At end of the village the road suddenly turns right and heads out into the country again. Pass a water tower in the middle of a wood and at the next crossroads go straight ahead, signposted Bishopsbourne. Pass under A2 and at T junction turn right, ignore the first turning on your left but fork left at second turning. DO NOT GO UP THE SLIP ROAD it will lead you onto the A2. Follow the road towards Bridge and on the brow of a hill turn right and visit Higham Park House and Gardens.

(11.5 miles/ 19 kilometers)

16. After your visit descend the hill into bridge and at the Red Lion Public House turn right and follow Cycle Route 16 back to Patricbourne. At mini roundabout at the end of Patricbourne village veer left and almost

immediately fork right into Hode land and up the hill to Hode Farm. 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.

17. 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.
18. 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.

(17 miles/ 28 kilometers)

#### **Alternative More Direct Return Route**

19. From Cattle Market Road down the side of the Guildhall, pass the Red Cow Public House on your right and at mini roundabout turn left into Moat Sole and pass the ancient St. Thomas' Hospital on your right. Cross over level crossing and leave Sandwich. Pass over By Pass and enter village of Wodnesborough.

(1 mile/ 1.5 miles)

20. Pass the Poacher Public House and continue out into the countryside following signs to Nonnington and Aylesham. At crossroads by garage selling secondhand cars turn right signposted Staple, Wingham and Canterbury. In a while you will come to Barnsole Vineyard on your right. Stop, visit and taste some wines. After visit continue along road and enter the village of Staple. Pass the Three Tuns Public House on your right.

(4 miles/ 11.5 kilometers)

21. Leave village of Staple and enter Wingham, passing Fire Station. At T junction with B2046 turn left signposted Barnham and Folkestone. Carefully follow this road for a short while and on left hand bend fork right into Snake Pit Land signposted Wingham Well. At foot of a short slope bear right and continue to T junction with main A257. Pass across front of Hay Wain Public House and turn down lane by its side.

(7 miles/ 11.5 kilometers)

22. In a short while take first turning on right and ride across the top of the Downs. See the vast panoramic views you have along this route. Pass over railway line via bridge and go straight ahead at crossroads signposted Bridge and Bishopsbourne. At next turning on right turn right signposted Cycle Route 16 to Canterbury. At bottom of short slope bear to your left and continue into the attractive village of Patricbourne.

(10 miles/ 16.5 kilometers)

23. At mini roundabout at the end of Patricbourne village veer left and almost immediately fork right into Hode land and up the hill to Hode Farm. 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.
24. 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.
25. 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.

(14 miles/ 23 kilometers)