

## Three Day Ride

### Day 1

Your ride will take you out to the ancient Cinque Port of Sandwich. Leaving Canterbury by an orchard route you pass through the villages of Littlebourne and Wickhambreaux and follow the course of the Little Stour River 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 before entering Sandwich. Take time to explore this quaint little town. Take a stroll along the Strand by the side of the river and see the yachts moored on the river. After leaving Sandwich you will ride past a golf course into Deal.

Total Cycling Distance for Day 1 23 miles

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 crossings go straight ahead into North Holmes Road. and at T junction by the side of the local prison turn left and in a very short while turn right into Spring Lane signposted Cycle Route 16/17 towards Dover. By the Chaucer School turn right into Pilgrims Way. At the end of the housing estate the route enters a private road and Cycle Track 16. Follow this route carefully through the orchards. (Straight in at the crossroads, and just after passing under high tension electric power cable fork left and climb a short incline.)
3. In a while join a lane on a sharp bend and go straight ahead passing Hode Farm and its oasthouses. Descend a hill and beware there is a T junction at the bottom. Turn left and almost immediately you will come to a mini roundabout, turn left towards Littlebourne and Howletts Safari Park.
4. Follow this road under a large railway viaduct and pass Howletts Zoo Park on your right. This Safari Park is famous for its work in protecting endangered species in particular tigers and gorillas. Continue along this road to Littlebourne to the staggered crossroads. There are several public houses where you can get refreshments.

(5.5 miles/9 kilometers)

5. Go straight ahead at staggered crossroads into Nargate Street signposted Ickham and Wickhambreaux and the Rose public house. Continue to the village of Grove and on a sharp left hand bend turn right into a lane signposted Preston and Wingham. Cross over Little Stour river, enter 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 right and then turn left opposite village stores into Mill Lane signposted Elmstone and Westmarsh. Follow signs for Elmstone and Cycle Route 1 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 (fingerposts broken but indicating Cycle Route 1). At T junction turn right signposted Ash. At next turning on left turn left signposted Cop Street, Richborough and Sandwich. At crossroads turn left into lane marked No Through Road and signposted Goldstone.
8. In hamlet of Lower Goldstone path becomes a bridlepath. Continue until you reach the road again and turn left. Shortly after returning to the road you will pass Potts Farm. Continue to follow signs for Richborough. Pass Richborough Castle in fields on your left.

(17 miles/ 28 kilometers)

9. Continue by crossing the railway line by level crossing and pass under bypass then on into the ancient Cinque Port of Sandwich. At T junction opposite Fire Station turn left. Continue along Strand Street to a T junction with the Bell Hotel opposite.

(18 miles/ 30 kilometers)

### **Sandwich**

Among the places to visit while you are in Sandwich there is The Guildhall which is still used as a Court Room, the Barbican and Sandwich Quay, the Ancient St. Bartholomew's Hospital, and the Precinct Toy Museum.

10. At the end of your tour of Sandwich either catch the train to Deal or return to the Bell Hotel.
11. From the Bell Hotel take Upper Strand Street down the side of it. By the Salutation at the crossroads turn right into Knight rider Street and then left into Sandown Road. Follow this road out of Sandwich and through a Toll Road. Cycles travel free. Road in parts is a bridleway and crosses the Royal Cinque Ports Golf Course so look out for any misguided golf balls. Pass into Godwyne Road and turn right onto the seafront.

(23 miles/ 36.5 kilometers)

End of day 1 ride

## Deal

### Day 2

This is a quaint seaside resort with no less than three Tudor castles, one you have just passed the remains of at Sandown, now reclaimed by the sea, the other two, at Deal and Walmer are both adjacent to the seafront. Walmer Castle is the home of the Lord Warden of the Cinque Ports and has a most attractive garden called the Queen Mother's Garden. The timeball tower also on the seafront was built in 1785 and originally used as a signaling station, the ball was lowered at 1pm every day for the shipping in the channel to synchronize clocks. If you have time explore this town.

The ride starts by following the coast to Kingsdown. From there you have a steady climb on a chalk road across country up Otty Bottom to St. Margaret's Bay. From there take a country lane to Langdon Cliffs where you can look out over the channel and see the Port of Dover at work and see on a clear day, the coast of France. Finally enter Dover the side of its famous Castle as it stands overlooking the Straits of Dover. If time permits visit the castle and Hell Fire Corner, (the Wartime Command Bunker built under the cliffs), the roman painted house, the White Cliffs Experience, Victorian Gaol, and the Grand Redoubt. From Dover follow cycle route 17 as it climbs out of Dover towards Folkestone. This section of the route is quite strenuous in short stretches. Pass the battle of Britain Museum at Hawkinge and eventually descend into the Elham Valley to the picturesque village of Elham.

Total Cycling Distance for Day 2 23 miles

12. Join the Cycle path in front of Deal Castle running along the seafront and continue along the coastline towards Kingsdown. Pass Walmer Castle on your right and enter Kingsdown. Veer left when the road swings uphill. Keep on towards the white cliffs and head inland in an adopted road, Oldstairs road. Straight on (No Through Road) and immediately fork right signposted Kingsdown Riding Centre and start to climb up an unmettled road through Otty Bottom. At T junction in St. Margaret's, in mettled road again, by the Red Lion Public house turn left.

(5 miles/ 8.5 kilometers)

13. Turn right by the Hope Inn, Pass a holiday camp and as the road starts to descend on a right hairpin bend, turn left and enter Langdon Cliff Car Park and enjoy the view of the straights of Dover and the Port. Return to the road and continue towards Dover. If you are going to visit the Castle, take the slip road on your left as you descend the very steep hill.

(9 miles/ 15 kilometers)

## Dover

14. In the centre of Dover near the railway station in Folkestone Road, find and start to follow Cycle Route 17 out of the town passing the Engineer Public House on the left. Fork right into Elms Vale Road by glass bus shelter in the middle of fork signposted Hougham and leave town by that climb. more steeply fork right signposted West Houham

(13 miles/ 21.5 kilometers)

15. At entrance to West Hougham by 30mph sign, the cycle route turns right signposted Alkham and River. Ignore next farm turning on the right but take the next right signposted Alkham. At crossroads turn left signposted Capel and Folkestone. On left hand bend turn right into road with the only sign Cycle Route 17. At the bottom of a steep hill into hamlet of Hockley Sole, turn right signposted Alkham. At staggered crossroads go straight ahead, signposted Hawkinge. Climb uphill into village of Hawkinge keeping to the main lane and ignoring side turnings. Go straight across at the crossroads with main A260

(16.5 miles/ 27.5 kilometers)

16. Turn right at T junction by new housing estate and ride along Aerodrome Road. The housing estate is built on the old Battle of Britain Airfield of Hawkinge featured in the film of the Battle of Britain. At roundabout take second exit signposted Paddlesworth and Battle of Britain Museum. In a short while pass the Battle of Britain Museum on your left.

17. Keep to main lane and in a while you will come to the small village if Paddlesworth and the Cat and Custard Pot Public House on your left. If open the pub is worth a visit if only to see the signatures of the WW2 Battle of Britain Pilots on the Ceiling. The tiny Church across the fields is also worth a visit.

18. Continue in the road towards Etchinghill and at the bottom of a small hill turn right into a lane signposted Shuttlesfield. This lane is in poor condition and there is quite a bit of mud on it. At T junction turn right following Cycle Route 17 sign, pass through small hamlet of Shuttlesfield, ignoring left hand turning just after Little Shuttlesfield Farm and at next crossroads after it, turn left signposted Elham.

19. Go straight ahead at next crossroads signposted Elham and keeping to main lane descend long and at times steep hill into the Elham Valley. Follow the road until at crossroads in the centre if the village of Elham at junction with main road turn right towards Canterbury. The Rose and Crown is just up the road on your right opposite the half timbered inn called The Abbots Fireside.

(21 miles/ 36 kilometers)

End of day 2 ride

## **Elham**

There are no less than four inns in the village. Both The Abbots Fireside and The Rose and Crown have connections with Baroness Orczy and her book The Scarlet Pimpernel.

### **Day 3**

On your final day you will follow the road along the Elham Valley. Ride with care as the road can attract an amount of traffic. Just as you leave Elham you can visit Parsonage Heritage Farm opposite Hillbrook House. Further up the valley you will come to the Elham Valley Vineyard adjacent to the Dolls House Restaurant. A short off-road route from Kingston will take you to the small village of Bishopsbourne. Climb out of the village to Higham Park House and Gardens. Descend into the village of Bridge and follow the cycle route back into Canterbury

Total Cycling Distance 13 miles

20. From Elham follow the Elham Valley Road, past the Palm Tree Inn on the left. Just by the Dolls House Restaurant also on your left there is the Elham Valley Vineyard. It is possible to visit and sample some wine. Continue to the village of Barham.

(4 miles/ 6.5 kilometers)

21. At double bends past Barham, after the Black Robin Public House (frequented by the local highway man of the same name), take the next turning on the left marked Kingston, but in a few hundred yards turn right onto a Bridleway. Follow this track which can be ridden most of the way. In a while this becomes a private road through parkland and passes the local cricket ground.
22. Enter the village of Bishopsbourne. Continue along the valley bottom, past the Mermaid Inn on your left, look into the Blacksmiths on your right if it is open. Just before the Church turn right signposted Bridge and climb hill. Ignore turning on left and at T junction at the top turn left and almost immediately fork left again. (DO NOT GO UP SLIP ROAD ONTO THE A2). On the brow of the hill turn right into private driveway to Higham Park House and Gardens.

(7.5 miles/ 12.5 kilometers)

23. 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.

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.

(13 miles/ 21.5 kilometers)