

CICERONE

PILGRIM ROUTE

WALKING THE

VIA FRANCIGENA –

PART 1

Canterbury to Lausanne



VIA  
FRANCIGENA  
road to Rome

Official route  
of the Council of Europe  
Member states  
approved by France



Sandy Brown

## ROUTE SUMMARY TABLE

Stage number	Start/finish	Distance	Total ascent	Total descent	Duration	Page No.
1	Canterbury to Shepherdswell	17.2km	260m	150m	4½hr	39
2	Shepherdswell to Dover to Calais by ferry	18.6km	149m	263m	4¾hr (plus ferry)	45
3	Calais to Wissant	20.2km	250m	240m	5½hr	55
4	Wissant to Guînes	23.4km	332m	335m	6¼hr	60
5	Guînes to Licques	16.3km	233m	172m	4½hr	64
6	Licques to Tournehem-sur-la-Hem	15.0km	233m	282m	4hr	67
7	Tournehem-sur-la-Hem to Wisques	19.8km	375m	293m	5½hr	70
8	Wisques to Delettes	18.0km	201m	278m	4½hr	74
9	Delettes to Amettes	22.8km	263m	221m	6hr	77
10	Amettes to Bruay-la-Buissière	21.1km	270m	292m	5¾hr	82
11	Bruay-la-Buissière to Ablain-Saint-Nazaire	24.7km	406m	378m	7hr	86
12	Ablain-Saint-Nazaire to Arras	22.5km	258m	275m	6hr	90
13	Arras to Bapaume	26.4km	242m	191m	6¾hr	96
14	Bapaume to Péronne	28.7km	238m	307m	7¾hr	100
15	Péronne to Trefcon	17.7km	135m	92m	4½hr	104
16	Trefcon to Seraucourt-le-Grand	28.2km	174m	200m	7¼hr	108
17	Seraucourt-le-Grand to Tergnier	18.8km	97m	112m	4¾hr	113
18	Tergnier to Laon	39.5km	478m	348m	10¼hr	116
19	Laon to Corbeny	29.6km	298m	381m	7¾hr	123
20	Corbeny to Berry-au-Bac	11.1km	42m	78m	2¾hr	127
21	Berry-au-Bac to Reims	28.5km	286m	256m	7½hr	133
22	Reims to Verzy	20.1km	197m	73m	5¼hr	140
23	Verzy to Condé-sur-Marne	19.9km	100m	226m	5hr	143
24	Condé-sur-Marne to Châlons-en-Champagne	17.0km	34m	31m	4¼hr	146
25	Châlons-en-Champagne to St-Germain-la-Ville	12.4km	22m	18m	3hr	149
26	St-Germain-la-Ville to Saint-Amand-sur-Fion	17.1km	75m	54m	4¼hr	152

Stage number	Start/finish	Distance	Total ascent	Total descent	Duration	Page No.
27	Saint-Amand-sur-Fion to Vitry-le-François	14.9km	146m	160m	4hr	156
28	Vitry-le-François to Saint-Remy-en-Bouzemont	21.1km	213m	201m	5½hr	159
29	Saint-Remy-en-Bouzemont to Outines	11.9km	86m	63m	3hr	163
30	Outines to Montmorency-Beaufort	16.5km	81m	90m	4¼hr	166
31	Montmorency-Beaufort to Précý-Saint-Martin	20.6km	178m	180m	5¼hr	169
32	Précý-Saint-Martin to Dienville	13.4km	137m	138m	3½hr	173
33	Dienville to Dolancourt	20.4km	222m	194m	5½hr	178
34	Dolancourt to Baroville	18.5km	458m	393m	5hr	182
35	Baroville to Orges	26.9km	473m	478m	7hr	186
36	Orges to Richebourg	18.8km	212m	83m	5hr	192
37	Richebourg to Faverolles	17.8km	258m	233m	4¾hr	196
38	Faverolles to Langres	21.0km	367m	267m	5½hr	200
39	Langres to Chalindrey	24.8km	161m	300m	6¼hr	205
40	Chalindrey to Coublanc	23.7km	372m	448m	6¼hr	210
41	Coublanc to Champlitte	11.7km	151m	156m	3hr	218
42	Champlitte to Dampierre-sur-Salon	19.5km	227m	275m	5hr	221
43	Dampierre-sur-Salon to Bucey-lès-Gy	33.9km	382m	368m	8¾hr	224
44	Bucey-lès-Gy to Cussey-sur-l'Ognon	14.6km	278m	250m	4hr	229
45	Cussey-sur-l'Ognon to Besançon	17.8km	256m	254m	4¾hr	233
46	Besançon to Fouchierans	25.7km	696m	380m	7hr	238
47	Fouchierans to Mouthier-Haute-Pierre	25.5km	297m	423m	6¾hr	243
48	Mouthier-Haute-Pierre to Pontarlier	23.7km	679m	279m	6½hr	249
49	Pontarlier to Jougne	23.1km	641m	494m	6¼hr	254
50	Jougne to Orbe	19.0km	208m	696m	5hr	263
51	Orbe to Cossonay	25.6km	520m	439m	6¾hr	271
52	Cossonay to Lausanne	24.9km	153m	331m	6½hr	277
<b>Total</b>	<b>Canterbury to Lausanne</b>	<b>1089.8km</b>	<b>13,500m</b>	<b>13,119m</b>	<b>286¼hr</b>	

# WALKING THE VIA FRANCIGENA

## PART 1

### CANTERBURY TO LAUSANNE

by Sandy Brown

**CICERONE**

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### Updates to this guide

While every effort is made by our authors to ensure the accuracy of guidebooks as they go to print, changes can occur during the lifetime of an edition. This guidebook was researched and written during the COVID-19 pandemic. While we are not aware of any significant changes to routes or facilities at the time of printing, it is likely that the current situation will give rise to more changes than would usually be expected. Any updates that we know of for this guide will be on the Cicerone website ([www.cicerone.co.uk/884/updates](http://www.cicerone.co.uk/884/updates)), so please check before planning your trip. We also advise that you check information about such things as transport, accommodation and shops locally. Even rights of way can be altered over time.

We are always grateful for information about any discrepancies between a guidebook and the facts on the ground, sent by email to [updates@cicerone.co.uk](mailto:updates@cicerone.co.uk) or by post to Cicerone, Juniper House, Murley Moss, Oxenholme Road, Kendal, LA9 7RL.

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Front cover: The 19th-century Paul Dubois statue of Joan of Arc outside Reims Cathedral commemorates her victorious entry into the city in 1429

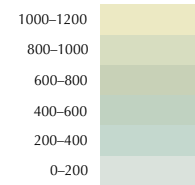
## Symbols used on maps

	main route		alternative route		international boundary		castle
	bike route		regional boundary		station/railway		viewpoint
	start point		ferry route		point of interest		church/cathedral
	finish point		summit		cross		cemetery
	distance marker		airport/airfield		lighthouse		windmill
	alt distance marker		footbridge		water feature		other feature
	bus stop/bus station		bridge				
	railway station		tunnel				
	metro station		building				

### FACILITIES

	Accommodation		Catering
	hostel		bar
	hotel		restaurant
	chambres d'hôtes (guest rooms)		café
	B&B		bakery
	camping		
	groceries		
	public toilets		
	ATM		
	petrol station		
	drinking water tap		
	rest/picnic area		
	pharmacy		
	hospital		
	medical clinic		
	tourist/pilgrim information		
	launderette		

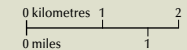
### Relief in meters



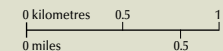
### MAP SCALES

Route maps at 1:100,000  
Town maps at 1:40,000 unless  
otherwise stated (see scale bar)

#### SCALE: 1:100,000



#### SCALE: 1:40,000





## Dedication

*From the day of his birth I have never stopped being amazed by him. Even as a child, his confidence and poise taught me to relax and trust. Now that he is a dad, I watch his devotion to his children and stand back with wonder and love.*

*To my son, Matt Brown McQuaid.*

## Acknowledgements

I quickly said ‘yes’ when Jonathan Williams of Cicerone Press offered to save me the quarantine days required to enter the UK and research the first two stages himself. The results are brilliant walking directions from Canterbury to Dover. In truth, Jonathan and Joe Williams committed early to this itinerary – first with pilgrim author Alison Raju a decade ago – and without them this series would never have seen the light of day.

Under Massimo Tedeschi and Luca Bruschi’s leadership, the European Association of the Via Francigena ways (EAVF) offered key support for each of the three volumes. It’s hard to imagine how the Via Francigena would exist today without Massimo’s unfailing dedication to this grand, historic route. EAVF staff members who played a key role include Sami Tawfik, Myra Stals, Luca Faravelli, and especially Jacques Chevin, who oversees the French portion of the route. Jacques was the one I called when I wondered about a variant or an accommodation. The EAVF’s accommodation listing and that of the Fédération Française Via Francigena were both of huge help to this volume.

I’m deeply indebted to the County of Kent and its many partners for their support in this volume, particularly Pete Morris and Catherine Bradley.

A talented team of Cicerone editors and designers turned my scribbles into a book. Chief among them were Natalie Simpson, Senior Editor; Georgia Laval, who edited the manuscript; and John Bingley, who designed the beautiful maps and the entire book. Then its production was ably overseen by Madeline Williams.

Among my travel companions, Bill Plunkett stands out. Whenever we set off for the day he would proclaim, ‘Off to Vegas, baby!’ and he greeted every obstacle with the same cheery attitude.

No one offered more support than my favorite walking partner, my wife Theresa Elliott. Even though research for this book took me away from home for months, she only thought about my safety and well-being, and made every homecoming a celebration.

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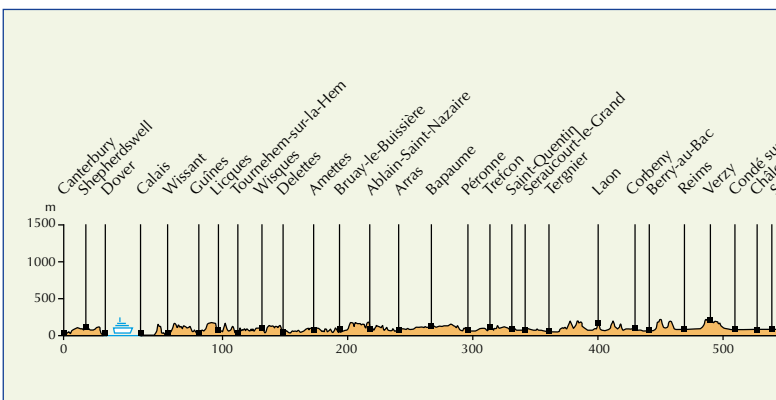
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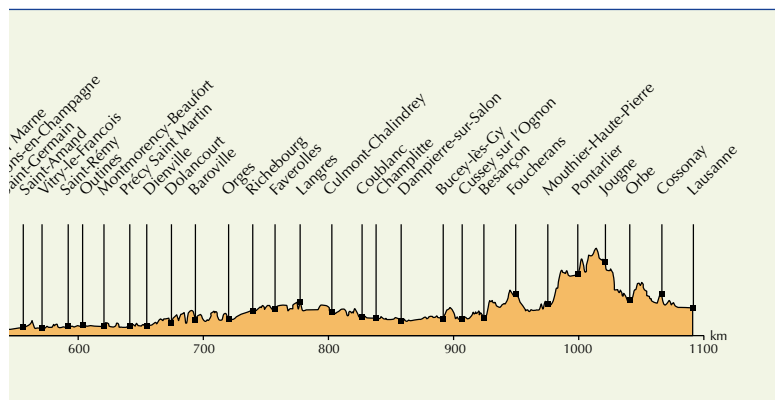
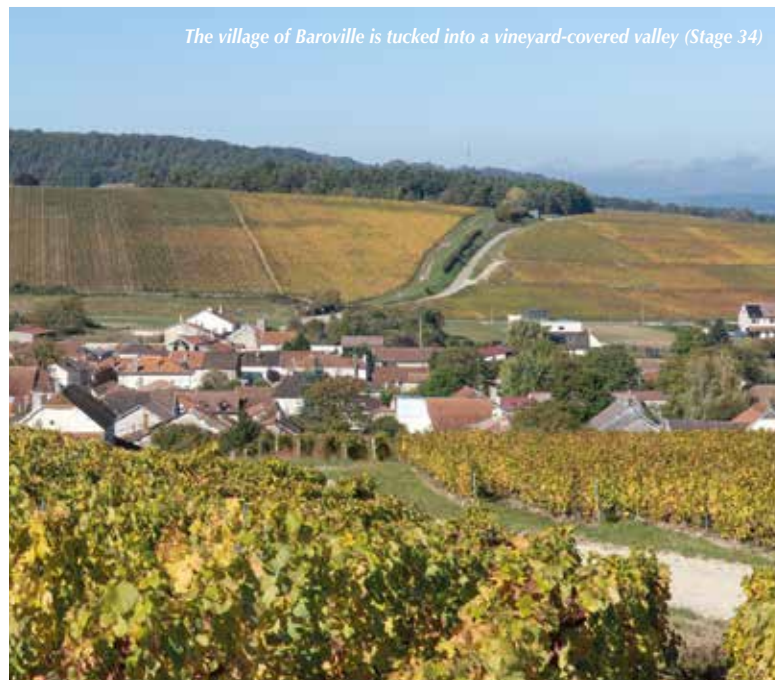
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### Note on mapping

The route maps in this guide are derived from publicly available data, databases and crowd-sourced data. As such they have not been through the detailed checking procedures that would generally be applied to a published map from an official mapping agency. However, we have reviewed them closely in the light of local knowledge as part of the preparation of this guide.



The village of Baroville is tucked into a vineyard-covered valley (Stage 34)







A farm road emerges from the trees near Dîques (Stage 7)

## FOREWORD

The Via Francigena – the Road to Rome – is a ‘Cultural Route of the Council of Europe.’ The European Association of the Via Francigena ways (EAVF) is a voluntary association of regions and local authorities of England, France, Switzerland and Italy, which currently accounts for more than 200 members. It was established on April 7, 2001 in Fidenza (Emilia-Romagna, Italy) to promote the Via Francigena, which stretches 3200 kilometers (2000 miles) from Canterbury to Santa Maria di Leuca.

The route travels from Canterbury through France and Switzerland to Rome, and continues to the south of Italy, heading towards Jerusalem. It passes through 16 European Regions (Kent, Hauts-de-France, Grand Est, Bourgogne-Franche-Comté, Vaud, Valais, Valle d’Aosta, Piedmont, Lombardy, Emilia-Romagna, Liguria, Tuscany, Lazio, Campania, Basilicata, and Apulia) in five countries (England, France, Switzerland, Italy and Vatican City). The Association carries out activities to enhance and promote the route at all institutional levels: local, regional, national and European.

In 2007 the Council of Europe declared the Association the ‘carrier network’ of the Via Francigena, assigning it the role of official reference point for safeguarding, protecting, promoting and developing the Via in Europe.

This guide to the Via from Canterbury to Lausanne is the result of collaboration between EAVF, Kent County Council, Cicerone Press and local associations.

The guide is aimed at walkers and pilgrims who want to discover the beauty of the English, French, and Swiss sections of this historic European route between the rolling farmlands of England and France, through the Jura Mountains, and ending at beautiful Lac Léman. The route is a way to discover a fascinating stretch of Europe, its traditions, cultural heritage and art treasures while getting to know its people.

This is a journey into the heart of the Via Francigena, which was defined as a ‘bridge of cultures between Anglo-Saxon Europe and Latin Europe’ by the famous medievalist Jacques Le Goff; a path of peace, tolerance and dialogue between cultures, religions and countries.

We wish you all a good journey! *Buon cammino!*

*Massimo Tedeschi*

*President, European Association of the Via Francigena ways (EAVF)*



For all information, visit [www.viefrancigene.org](http://www.viefrancigene.org), or follow us on our social media:

Facebook: @ViaFrancigenaEU

Instagram: @viafrancigena\_eu, @viafrancigenasuisse

Road to Rome community: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/viafrancigena.roadtorome>



## INTRODUCTION: THE VIA FRANCIGENA FROM CANTERBURY TO LAUSANNE

*Walkers descend a long stairway toward the bluffs after Cap Blanc-Nez (Stage 3)*



In all the world there is nothing quite like the Via Francigena. Some countries host pilgrimage journeys that travel many kilometers over many days and weeks, that cross regions and mountain ranges to visit landmarks and shrines, that offer simple accommodations and memorable sights to welcome people to their nation. The Via Francigena is different. It is an international pilgrimage journey. It is founded on an ideal – that a walk across borders can transform many people into one.

The borders crossed on the Via Francigena are of nation (Britain, France, Switzerland, Italy), and language (English, French, Italian), and faith (Anglican, Catholic, Reformed). The method of the crossing is as old as the human foot: the slow-travel mode

of walking that puts the scents of a new land into your nostrils, the tastes of an unfamiliar countryside onto your tongue, and the relationships built with strangers over many dinners and days into your heart.

The Via Francigena is also an itinerary of natural wonder. Two unforgettable sights frame this first portion – the **English Channel** and the **Jura Mountains**. The Channel experience begins at Dover, where the white cliffs are background for the scenic voyage to the French Côte d'Opale, colored like a dream in soft shades of turquoise and grey. The Jura Mountains, near the end of the journey, offer cascades of water falling among forested paths in high valleys, with picture-perfect villages sprung from Gustave Courbet landscapes.

*A gravel road descends into Bar-sur-Aube (Stage 34)*

ARTS TRAIL

Launched in the winter of 2021, the Via Francigena Arts Trail created three installations providing pilgrims with creative and beautiful places to rest and contemplate. The installations promote the special characteristics of the Via Francigena and its pilgrimage heritage as a route for reflection, renewal, and inspiration. The sculptures are located at Barham Downs and Woolage Village on the Canterbury to Shepherdswell section, with a third installation within the grounds of Waldershare Park on the Shepherdswell to Dover section. For more information, search online for North Downs Way Arts Trail.

RURAL CHURCHES

Between the celebrated pilgrim locations of Canterbury Cathedral and Maison Dieu, Dover there are several smaller but significant churches on route, each with its own story to tell. At four of these churches you will find information panels telling these stories and providing further local information about the route and things to look out for on your journey. These can be found at St Martin’s Church, Canterbury; St Mary’s, Patricxbourne; St Margaret’s, Womenswold; and St Andrew’s, Shepherdswell.

CYCLING THE VIA FRANCIGENA IN KENT

Cycling UK, in partnership with the North Downs Way National Trail have been working hard to improve cycling

access on the Via Francigena. The North Downs Way Riders’ Route provides an alternative cycling route that runs alongside the walking Francigena route, and there are dedicated cycle hubs in Canterbury and Dover offering shorter routes and cycling-friendly businesses. For more information, search online for the North Downs Way Riders’ Route.

FOOD AND DRINK IN THE GARDEN OF ENGLAND

As the name suggests, Kent has a rich heritage in local food and drink. In Canterbury city center, check out the vast array of local produce at the Goods Shed, or sample local ales, gins and spirits produced in Canterbury at the Foundry Brew Pub. In Dover, take a short trip to the Breakwater Brewery located on the River Dour on the outskirts of town, or take in the sea views at The Dover Patrol.

KENT HERITAGE COAST – LONELY PLANET’S BEST IN TRAVEL

Kent’s Heritage Coast running along the Dover coastline was named fourth best global destination in Lonely Planet’s Best in Travel 2022 ranking. This is in recognition of its unique history, heritage and iconic natural landscapes and its sustainable tourism. The Via Francigena runs through the town to the coast, terminating on the Dover seafront; with the iconic White Cliffs and Heritage Coast climbing either side of the esplanade, it’s worth taking time to explore this internationally award-winning landscape.

STAGE 1  
Canterbury to Shepherdswell


Start	Canterbury Cathedral, main entrance
Finish	Shepherdswell, St Andrew’s Church
Distance	17.2km
Total ascent	260m
Total descent	150m
Difficulty	Easy
Duration	4½hr
Percentage paved	35%
Lodging	Shepherdswell 17.2km

It’s quite possible to walk from Canterbury to Dover in one go, but this would be a very long (33km, 8hr) first day unless you are already trail hardened. Splitting the English section over two days also allows more time in Canterbury, and taking the Dover–Calais ferry in the afternoon sets you up for your first French evening to be in Calais.

The first day’s walking is on the North Downs Way (NDW) National Trail through wide valleys and gently rolling chalk downs. Much of the day is spent on paths through or around fields or on tracks and small roads. If dry, the ground will be hard; if wet, it could be heavy going. There are no facilities before Shepherdswell, where there is a pub (open 2–10pm, closed Mon) and a grocery store (open 6am–10pm).

Waymarking of the NDW is good. Look for small blue or yellow square medallions with the acorn symbol for the NDW next to the VF pilgrim. Cyclists may choose the North Downs Way Riders’ Route, christened in Sept 2022, which closely follows the walking path.

Regular trains between Canterbury and Dover stop at Shepherdswell, allowing accommodation at either end of the UK stages to be used.

**0.0KM CANTERBURY (ELEV 30M, POP 55,240)**   
(2226.6KM)  
Bathed in history, with a stunning cathedral and quaint old city, Canterbury is justifiably one of England’s most popular tourist destinations. Its ancient religious lineage has led pilgrims here for centuries, and Sigeric’s ascendancy as



Archbishop of Canterbury in AD990 and subsequent documented journey to and from Rome makes it the official starting point of the Via Francigena.

While archaeology points to human habitation here from Paleolithic times, Canterbury entered recorded history as home of the Celtic tribe of Cantiaci. The Romans overcame local peoples in the first century AD and called the town *Durovernum Cantiacorum*. Their army occupied the town, laid out the street grid according to Roman custom, and built defensive walls against barbarian invaders. After their withdrawal in the third century, Canterbury stood empty for a century. Anglo-Saxon and Danish settlers ultimately filled the town, and by the late sixth century it became capital of the Kingdom of Kent. King Ethelbert of Kent married a Christian woman, Bertha, and Queen Bertha's chapel is Canterbury's **St Martin's Church**, oldest in the English-speaking world. With assurance he would receive a royal welcome, Pope Gregory I sent the Italian abbot, Augustine, on a missionary expedition to convert the kingdom. Augustine's mission was successful, and the abbey he established in Canterbury – **St Augustine's Abbey** – would become a center for Christianity until it was dismantled in the English Reformation.

Canterbury spawned many notables, including saints Ethelbert, Alphege, Augustine, Anselm (born in Aosta, a city on the Via Francigena), Mellitus, Theodore, Thomas à Becket, Dunstan, and Adrian. The list of saints includes two martyrs – Alphege, who was killed by Vikings in 1012, and Thomas à Becket, who was murdered in 1170 by soldiers of King Henry II of England, who had famously uttered the ill-fated words, 'Will no one rid me of this troublesome priest?' Admirers built a now-disappeared golden shrine over Becket's tomb, and pilgrims from throughout the world flocked to Canterbury to honor the martyr-priest. Geoffrey Chaucer's 14th-century classic, *The Canterbury Tales*, features 24 stories of pilgrims on their way from London to visit Becket's tomb here.

**Canterbury Cathedral** is the highlight of any visit to the city. Successive building programs are evident in its mix of Romanesque and Gothic elements, which you might think of as a Gothic tube laid end-to-end with a Romanesque tube separated by a gate in between. Some of the cathedral's windows are older than its current Gothic building. Look for the 'Adam Delving (digging)' window as one of its oldest examples. The site of Becket's murder is a must-see, as is the Cloister and Chapter House. In 1950, builders discovered 12th-century murals in the Crypt. Look for St Augustine's Chair and also the tomb of the Black Prince, one of England's most celebrated military heroes. (Visits are free with pilgrim credential, open daily at 10am, Sundays at 12.30pm, Closes 5pm. Free admission for the renowned 11am Sunday Choral Worship, [www.canterbury-cathedral.org](http://www.canterbury-cathedral.org).) Ask at the cathedral store entry for a pilgrim's credential stamp and for a member of the cathedral staff to give you a pilgrim blessing for your journey. Timber-framed buildings of the city center make for a charming and relaxed



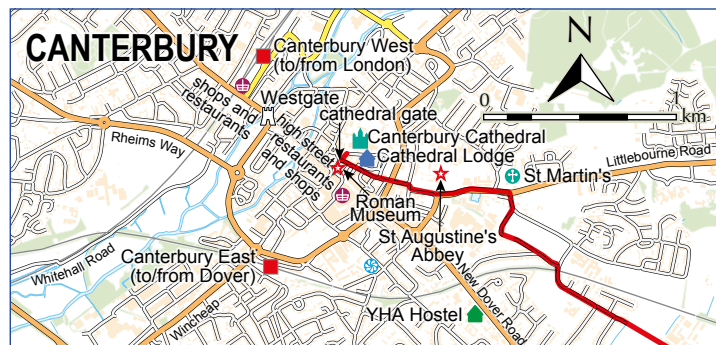
A remnant of its historic walls, Canterbury's Westgate has served as an entry checkpoint and prison

stroll. Nearby is the **Roman Museum**, which includes a section of Roman pavement discovered after WWII bombing, as well as the famed Canterbury Treasure, a Roman-era silver hoard discovered nearby. Twin-towered **Westgate** is the largest medieval gate in England and sits among gardens on the River Stour on the London side of the old city. Its museum houses relics of its centuries-long use as a jail. Historians consider Canterbury's **city walls**, rebuilt in the 14th century on Roman foundations, some of England's finest remaining medieval battlements.

Modern Canterbury's center is filled with pubs, restaurants, and shops. The older parts of town include Elizabethan-era constructions, but as you walk gradually uphill along High Street you will find modern stores in tasteful, contemporary buildings. With two universities in town, the old city is often filled with young people enjoying life in one of England's most lovely urban settings.

📍 **YHA Canterbury** 📍 [YHA.org.uk](https://www.yha.org.uk) 📍 69/87, £17/49/-, 54 New Dover Rd, canterbury@yha.org.uk, tel +44 (0)345 371 9010

📍 **Canterbury Cathedral Lodge** 📍 [www.canterburycathedralodge.org](http://www.canterburycathedralodge.org) 📍 34/60, £-/92/97/-, Cathedral Precincts, tel +44 (0)1227 865350



Facing away from the cathedral's main door, head through Christchurch Gate and turn left on Burgate. Continue across the A28 ring road onto Church Street. Facing the **St Augustine's Abbey** entrance, turn half-right (first Via Francigena sign).

In 598 King Ethelbert of Kent granted lands for **St Augustine's Abbey** to Augustine of Canterbury, who had been sent to England by Pope Gregory I to convert the Anglo-Saxons. Ultimately named after its founder, the abbey served as a key religious institution for all of England until its dissolution in 1538 during the English Reformation. The ruins are a UNESCO World Heritage Site and a popular tour (from £7.90, advance booking recommended, [www.english-heritage.org.uk/visit/places/st-augustines-abbey](http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/visit/places/st-augustines-abbey)).

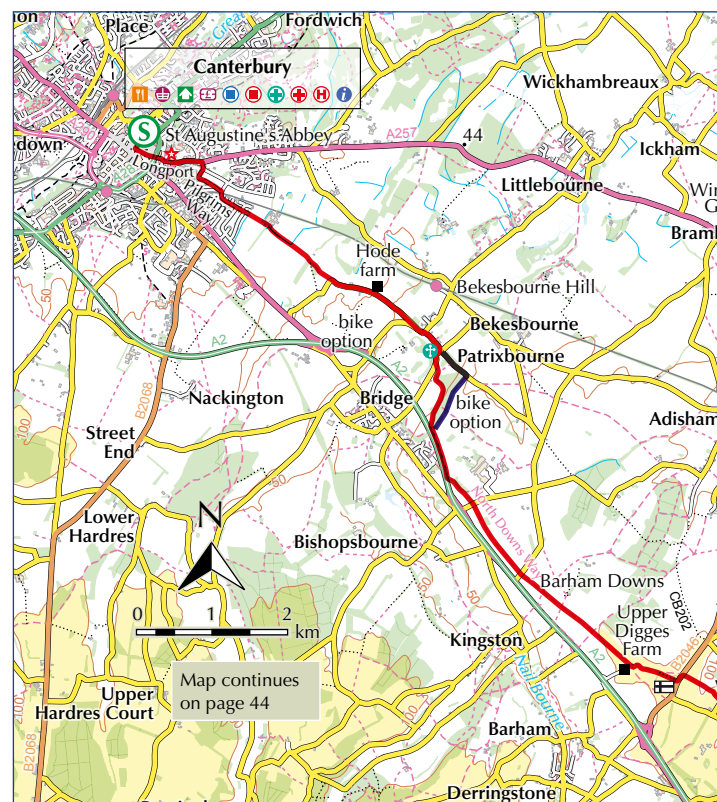
Pass the abbey visitors' entrance and continue ahead on **Longport**. Pass the entrance to Canterbury Christ Church University and find signs for the North Downs Way (NDW) and take Spring Lane right (**1.0km**). Turn right on Pilgrims Way after 50 meters, and then left in a further 100 meters. Follow the way past houses, cross a railway bridge and past more houses before it meets a track that passes behind a business park and into open country, where the route will stay all day.

Pass **Hode Farm (2.9km)** and follow Hode Lane. Join a busy road (take care, no sidewalk) and take the next road right at a mini-roundabout. Follow through the village and past the church into **Patricxbourne (1.4km)**. **St Mary's Church** is mentioned in the **1086 Domesday Book** and is notable for the 12th-century sculpted south portal and the fine wheel window above the chancel. After some bends in the route, take a NDW path heading left across fields. This climbs and passes a wood. The noise of the busy A2 road intrudes. Continue on a bank above the road and follow the path as it veers gradually away from the road across fields.

Pass **Upper Digges Farm**, keeping left, and cross the Adisham Road B2046 near a cemetery and small reservoir, and continue down into the village of **Womenswold (6.7km)** with its 12th–13th-century Church of St Margaret of Antioch.

Take the continuing path across fields, cross a road and cut through a small wood to another road that leads into **Woolage** village. Just before the village sign, turn left down fields (outside the village common). Continue down alongside a road and just before the bottom of the field cross onto the road, which after 50 meters becomes a track.


After a further 20min, join a road, turn left across a railway bridge (**3.2km**) and then immediately right on **Long Lane**. Pass a farm and then turn right past stables. Cross paddocks to another road, turn right across the tracks of the East Kent Railway and then straightaway left. (Going straight here would take you in a few blocks to the train station.) Pass houses, cross fields and emerge at **Shepherdswell Church (2.0km)**. The **Bell Inn** pub is alongside the village green. To reach the **Co-op** grocery store, take the road down for 600 meters. (Description by Jonathan Williams)






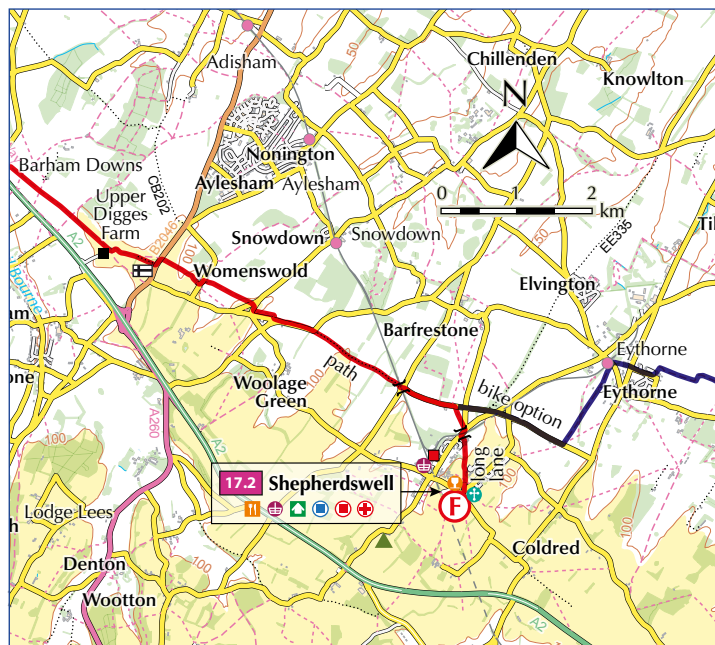
**(17.2KM) SHEPHERDSWELL (ELEV 121M, POP 1849)**   
(2209.4KM)

Originally in the lands of St Augustine's Abbey, the village is included in the Domesday Book as Sibertswold and is spelled Shepherds Well by the National Rail. The 19th-century **St Andrew's Church** sits on the village green at the heart of the community, with the Bell Inn pub opposite. (Train: [www.nationalrail.co.uk](http://www.nationalrail.co.uk), ticket machine at the station; or bus: [www.stagecoachbus.com](http://www.stagecoachbus.com))

🏠 **Host Family Pascall**  O Pr R Br Dr W S 2/3, £-/25/45/-, Hill Avenue, mikepas53@aol.com, tel +44 (0)776 201 4149, dinner available £10

🏠 **Host Family Rogers**  O Pr R K Br Cr W S 3/5, £-/50/50/-, 20 The Glen, susanna2705@hotmail.com, tel +44 (0)785 629 7007

🏕️ **Coxhill Camping**  O R Cr tents ok, £12 pp, Coxhill, CT15 7ND, coxhillcamping@gmail.com, tel +44 (0)786 937 5034, [www.coxhillcamping.co.uk](http://www.coxhillcamping.co.uk)



*The route to Shepherdswell crosses gently rolling downs covered in grain or hay*



## STAGE 2

### Shepherdswell to Dover to Calais by ferry

<b>Start</b>	Shepherdswell, St Andrew's Church
<b>Finish</b>	Calais, Place d'Arme
<b>Distance</b>	18.6km plus ferry
<b>Total ascent</b>	149m
<b>Total descent</b>	263m
<b>Difficulty</b>	Easy
<b>Duration</b>	4¾hr plus ferry
<b>Percentage paved</b>	46%
<b>Lodging</b>	Dover 14.4km, Calais 18.6km

The route crosses downland on the NDW before descending into Dover. There are shortcuts but not improvements on the route to the ferry terminal. Note that foot passenger tickets are not sold at the ferry terminal, so it's important to reserve your ferry passage online at least a day in advance – see details below.



• **First 1090km of the Via Francigena pilgrimage route through England, France and Switzerland • Canterbury, Laon, Reims, Langres, Besançon, Lausanne • WWI battlefields and cemeteries, Jura Mountains, Lake Geneva**

The 2000km Via Francigena from Canterbury to Rome is one of the great pilgrim paths of the world. This guide presents the first 1090km section to Lausanne in 52 stages. The route begins in the historic city of Canterbury, England, with a gentle walk to the White Cliffs of Dover. On crossing the English Channel, pilgrims turn inland to the rolling French countryside, passing WWI battlefields and charming French villages and towns, and visiting two of France's most beautiful medieval cathedrals, before continuing through forests to the hilltop fortress of Langres. From Besançon, the Via Francigena follows the Loue River to its mountainous source then passes below tall cliffs through the unforgettable Gorge de l'Orbe of the Jura Mountains in Switzerland. This first section concludes on the shores of Lake Geneva at beautiful, cosmopolitan Lausanne.

- suitable for walkers of all levels
- can be walked from April to October
- packed with useful information about pilgrim accommodation and facilities



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