



Via Francigena - Shepherdswell to Dover

9.2 miles (14.8km) allow 3.5 hours

Journey along the North Downs Way chalk ridge and ancient Via Francigena pilgrimage from Shepherdswell to Dover. Explore the churches as you journey in the footsteps of pilgrims.









The *Monumenta Romana* sculptural seating in Waldershare Park

How to get there -

Parking: On street on Approach Road, Shepherdswell. Station free parking.

Train: Nearest stations: Shepherdswell and Dover Priory. National Rail Enquiries: 08457 484950.

Bus: No buses between Shepherdswell and Dover.

S	Start	Shepherdswell Village Green CT15 7NY
///	what3words	direct.screening.topples
F	Finish	Dover seafront CT16 1LA
///	what3words	fats.continued.degrading
	Gates	17
	Stiles	2
	Steps	2
	Terrain	Bare earth, gravel tracks, grass, surfaced tarmac roads.
	Views	Great views towards Dover
	Refreshments	Colonel's Cafe at East Kent Railway (closed on Mondays)

Route description

1. Starting on the Village Green with your back to the pub walk forward. Turn right onto the North Downs Way between the Churchyard and 1st house.
2. Pass 2nd gate and turn right. Continue down gentle slope along field edge. Pass under an electricity pylon. At farm buildings, stay right through trees.
3. Bear left across field. Follow path to boundary tree line. Straight across the field to woodland & cross stile. Straight ahead through woods to another stile, walk across open field to hedgerow.
4. Pass through gap in hedge, through gate. Turn left and through gate into field. Cross field, bearing right to top right corner to gate.
5. Through gate, right onto road to junction. (Right to St. Pancras Church 50m). Cross junction, left at red post box, through woodland, ahead to gate at end of woods, across field passing sculpture to woodland. Through the woods to gate into fields with views across Waldershare Park Estate.
6. Cross large field with gentle uphill to edge of woods. Through a gap left side of the trees, bear left to a gate. Through gate straight to a collection of trees to your right. Keep straight with Grade 2 listed Waldershare House on your right.
7. Pass onto small road with the house to your right, follow slope to a road. Turn right downhill, ignore road in front of house. Follow the Road down a gentle slope bending to the left with footpath ahead. Stay on the road and bear right after 100m.
8. At crossroads take the grassy path diagonally left ahead towards a small woodland. Keep straight through field to a gate into woodland. Continue straight through the woods, through a gate into the field. Straight ahead to gate.
9. Pass through the gate and follow path through graveyard. All Saints church on your left to lychgate at the Church entrance. Pass through the arch turn right, follow the gravel road. Continue straight to junction.
10. Turn right onto main road, ahead 100m. Careful! You will be walking on the road. Cross the road and turn left onto the first road on your left following North Downs Way sign, cross a bridge over a busy road.
11. After bridge take first road left and down a concrete track. Before house turn right through gate. Cross the field diagonally to top left corner (beware cows!), through another gate, continue diagonally to top of the field and another gate in the hedge.
12. Pass through gate and up steps. Turn left onto a country lane. Keep straight for 500 metres passing houses. Keep right as the road bends right onto Waldershare Road. Keep straight on this road, until it bends left.
13. As the road bends left, keep straight to North Downs Close, as the road bends right keep straight on a track to field edges, through gap in hedge until you reach road. Pass through gap in hedge, turn right onto road to crossroads. Cross straight over.
14. Where road bears right keep left onto sunken track. Keep straight through woodland, continuing to fields, then a road. Take right path & cross to path opposite. Continue straight, turn left, follow road through the village. As road bends left after farm keep ahead to gravel track until a busy road. Sharp left, follow to meet roadside.
15. Turn right onto road, cross bridge & turn right following the path downhill, through a wide gate and turn to the left away from the road. Follow this path across the field and bear right by the treeline.
16. Bear left to the main track where it bends left, ignore the small footpath ahead. Look out for views of the sea and the Castle. The path slopes downhill to road, continue straight, passing houses and over a railway line.



View of White Cliffs of Dover

17. Cross railway and keep ahead passing houses. Bottom of the hill carefully cross to pavement opposite, taking a path along a wall. Turn left, through a narrow passageway, under two small bridges. Bear right through cemetery, Connaught Park (public toilets) on your left. Keep straight to Connaught Road.
18. Turn right into Park Avenue, head downhill to traffic lights. Cross the road, turning left to A256. Follow until Pencester Road, turn right. At the bus station turn left and cross the River Dour into the park, crossing diagonally through with bandstand on your left. Turn right by car park to the Church.
19. With the church on your right go left into Church Street, then turn right onto Castle Street leading into the Market Square. Walk along the side of Market Square. Dover Museum and Visitor Information at the end of the square.
20. Keep left on King Street. As the road bends right keep ahead to the underpass, exiting up steps and to a roundabout leading to the seafront. Cross Waterloo Crescent to the seafront & arrive at the North Downs Way Finish/Start line.

Points of interest

1. St. Andrews Church, Shepherdswell

This Victorian church is situated opposite the small village green. There is an information board as you approach the church with interesting details about the Via Francigena pilgrimage. The church dates back to 1863 and is open during daylight hours for you to observe the simple interior.



5. St. Pancras Church, Coldred

Bishop Odo of Bayeux, half-brother to William the Conqueror built a Motte and Bailey castle at Coldred in the late 11th century. Inside the grounds of the castle he built St. Pancras Church. Explore the interior and you will find a 14th Century bell now displayed on a stand.



7. Waldershare House

Cross the sweeping grounds of Waldershare House and marvel at the grand Grade 2 listed mansion completed in 1712.



Monumenta Romana by Charles Holland

This sculpture refers to The Belvedere visible in the distance. An early 18th century Palladian folly designed either by Lord Burlington or Colen Campbell, the Belvedere was never finished. Monumenta Romana reimagines the absent cupola that was originally intended to adorn its roof. The two structures can be seen to complete each other.

9. All Saints Church, Waldershare

This small Grade 2 listed church dates back to the 12th century. It is a classic estate church connected to the nearby Waldershare House. It stopped being used as a church in 1980 but it is still open during the day to visit.



Ancient yew trees in the churchyard at Waldershare

20. Dover Esplanade, North Downs Way Start/Finish Line

Created in 2011 by the British artist Alma Tischler Wood, the Start/Finish line subtly marks the beginning and end of the North Downs Way. There are views to your left of Dover Castle and you may see ferries leaving Dover Port on your left as you look out to see and beyond to France.



