

Britannica cycle route guidance notes 2025

The 136kms between the cathedrals of Southwark and Canterbury, can be cycled comfortably in two days, however, three days allows for more opportunities to explore the gems along the route.

The Britannica cycle route is an attempt to overlay it to the official walking route, however some sections make it impossible eg the Thames Path across London. Having said this there is enough of an overlap between the two routes for cyclists to make good use of the Britannica walking guide eg rest points, accommodation, etc.

Walking guide: [Francigena Britannica – Confraternity of Pilgrims to Rome](#) A cautionary note for walkers considering taking what is a shorter, more direct route – don't! It's been designed with cyclists in mind and is not suitable walkers

See GPX file on OS Maps: [Via Francigena Britannica cycle route 2025](#)

Starting at the riverside gates of Southwark cathedral, head east, across onto Tooley Street - A200

Lower Road

Surrey Quays station

Dartford Creek

Enter Greenwich Park via St Mary's Gate

Ride diagonally across to the exit onto Vanburgh Park road

Continue until roundabout; take A207 – Old Dover Hill

Up Shooters Hill, past Oxleas Wood

Down Watling Street, all the way into Dartford town centre.

Care needed at A207 junction at Crayford, get into middle lane in order to turn right

Cross into Spital Street, walking your bike ready for a break behind Trinity Church

Follow Darent Valley Path signs until it exits onto A225 just before junction with A2

Go under A2 and M25

Turn left on Parsonage Lane, uphill for 1km

Take right turn onto Roman Villas Road, then follow it for 2kms

Through South Darent and Horton Kirby

Road becomes Egalintine Lane

Continue under M20

Three options at Farningham

- a) Follow A225 to Otford – faster, busier, less complex
- b) Start on A225 through Eynsford and later turning right to enter Lullingstone – you get to see Eynsford and Lullingstone castle
- c) Take Sharepenny Road out of Farningham – quiet route passing by Lullingstone Castle

All three options lead to Otford; turn right at Otford station roundabout, Pilgrims Way

Turn right at Childbridge Lane

Left onto West End at Kemsing village

Continue onto Heaversham, where you turn left, shortly after right into St Clere's estate

Ride through the estate road exiting by Yaldham Farm and Manor

Continue straight until start of Wrotham

Left up Battlefields, which soon becomes Pilgrims way

Follow PW through Wrotham

Extra care when either crossing A20 in order to go over the top of M20 to rejoin the PW at roundabout, or navigating the fast-moving roundabout.

Stay on PW which takes you towards Trosley Country Park

Where the road becomes a steep stony track turn right, staying on tarmac down to Wrotham Water

At Trottscliffe bear left onto Ryash

Then onto Birling village exiting onto Snodland Road

Follow all the way through to Snodland town centre

At Coop turn left, follow road out of town

A cul de sac ahead allows bikes to exit past a fuel station, carry on northwards

Now briefly on A228

Past a small roundabout, carry on to second larger one, turning right onto bridge.

The cycle lane is on the right-hand side, it's advisable to use it.

Cross Peter's Bridge, enter village, turn right at small roundabout

Follow new road out of St Peter's village as far as Burnham

Continue on Medway Valley Wak route exiting onto Bull Lane by renown Aylesford Priory

Left onto High Street

From town centre take Rochester Road north towards Kit's Coty

Just before going under A229/A2 turn right onto PW

Turn left back under main road

Right onto Chatham Road, passing Tybarn then Abbey Farm, running parallel to M20

Left onto Boxley Road

At the end village of Boxley, right turn, then right once more onto PW

Follow PW/FB all the way to Detling

Take PW/NDW/FB all the way through Thurnham, Broad Street, Hollingbourne, edges of Harrietsham and later Lenham, finally onto outskirts of Charing

Continue on FB/PW through Dunn Street

Here leave FB turn right down towards Westwell

Turn left towards Kennington on Lenacre Road

Turn left onto unnamed road towards Eastwell Lake and St Mary's ruins

Navigate through stile, then rejoin FB/PW onto Broughton Lees

At BL village green take righthand side road, then turn right onto Wye Road

Continue into Wye

Follow FB route ie exit onto Olantigh Road

4kms to Godersham village, when road bears left under railway line, turn right onto Eggarton Lane

Shortly after pick up cycle track parallel to railway line

Past Pope St Farm and East Stour Farm

Join Stour Valley Walk, then follow as far as Mistole Road, where you bear right

Left onto Thurstead Lane, then right once more into Chartham village

By Chartham station turn right towards the village green opp church

Turn left onto the Stour Valley Walk, follow all the way into Canterbury

When in sight of medieval Westgate Towers leave river side left

Later turn right onto High Street, then left into Mercury Lane, at the end of which is Canterbury cathedral.