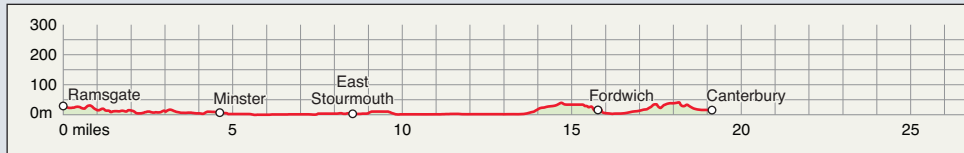


## PRACTICAL INFORMATION



- **Terrain** Largely flat grass paths with one section along a fast road with no pavement
- **Difficulty** Easy
- **Directions & GPS\*** 001.pdf, 001.gpx, 001.kml at <https://trailblazer-guides.com/press>

\* See p10-11 for more information on downloads

### ROUTE OVERVIEW

**19.2 miles (31km)**

The start and end points of this walk are easily accessed by public transport and there are several good lunch options en route. Pick up a Pilgrim Passport at the Shrine of St Augustine before you set off.

#### Ramsgate to East Stourmouth

**9.2 miles (14.8km)**

- **Time** 3hrs 30mins actual walking time
- **Total ascent** 334m/1095ft
- **Map** OS Explorer 150 *Canterbury & Isle of Thanet*

From St Augustine's Shrine in Ramsgate you pick up the official Way of St Augustine footpath and follow it over flat terrain to the village of Minster (**4.7 miles**), with its priory, then walk along the River Stour, departing from the official Way of St Augustine route shortly before Plucks Gutter, reached after a further **3.5 miles**. At Plucks Gutter you leave the river for the village of East Stourmouth (**1 mile**).



#### East Stourmouth to Canterbury

**10 miles (16.2km)**

- **Time** 3hrs 45mins actual walking time
- **Total ascent** 306m/1004ft
- **Map** OS Explorer 150 *Canterbury & Isle of Thanet*

First it's a short stretch (**0.7 miles**) through apple orchards to West Stourmouth, then back to the riverside and the Way of St Augustine again. A peaceful walk follows, through the bird-rich water meadows and marshes of the Stodmarsh National Nature Reserve, before you reach the village of Stodmarsh, in **4.3 miles**. From Stodmarsh you follow the Stour Valley Walk through gently undulating pasture to Fordwich, after **2.7 miles**, then return to the Way of St Augustine through woodland to Canterbury (**2.3 miles**).

### Day walk options

For a greater challenge complete the whole walk in a day, or start from East Stourmouth.

- **By public transport** There are railway stations in both Ramsgate and Canterbury. To start from East Stourmouth, take a train to Minster and a bus or taxi to East Stourmouth.
- **Taxi option** Canterbury Taxis (☎ 01227 444444, [canterburytaxis.co.uk](http://canterburytaxis.co.uk))



### Where to eat or stay along the way

- **Ramsgate** Stay in a sea-view room at the *Royal Harbour Hotel* (☎ 01843-591514, [royalharbourhotel.co.uk](http://royalharbourhotel.co.uk), 10 Nelson Cres) a five-minute walk from the starting point.
- **Minster** For lunch choose either modern British cuisine at the *Corner House Hotel* (☎ 01843-823000, [cornerhouserestaurants.co.uk](http://cornerhouserestaurants.co.uk); noon-2.30 & 6-9pm) or the hearty pub grub of *The Bell Inn* (☎ 01843-825707, [thebellinnminster.weebly.com](http://thebellinnminster.weebly.com); noon-midnight).
- **East Stourmouth** Stay at cosy village inn *The Rising Sun* (☎ 01227-721364, [therisingsunstourmouth.co.uk](http://therisingsunstourmouth.co.uk); food 12-2.30pm, 6.30-9.30pm).
- **Fordwich** Eat lunch at either the Michelin-starred *Fordwich Arms* (☎ 01227-710444, [fordwicharms.co.uk](http://fordwicharms.co.uk); noon-10.30pm) or the *George and Dragon* (☎ 01227-710661, [brunningandprice.co.uk/georgeanddragon](http://brunningandprice.co.uk/georgeanddragon); noon-9pm) both on King Street.
- **Canterbury** has a wide choice of places to stay and eat.

### PILGRIMAGE HIGHLIGHTS

- Pick up a **Pilgrim Passport** in Pugin's gothic masterpiece, the **Shrine of St Augustine** ([augustine-pugin.org.uk](http://augustine-pugin.org.uk); 10am-4pm, St Augustine's Rd) and have it stamped along the way at **St Mary the Virgin, Minster**; **All Saints, West Stourmouth**, (both 10am-4pm) and **St Mary the Virgin, Fordwich** (10am-3pm)
- Take the **tour of Minster Abbey, St Mildred's Priory**, home of nuns who escaped Nazi Germany, and maybe join them for midday prayers ([minsterabbeynuns.org](http://minsterabbeynuns.org); tours Sat 11am-noon).
- In **Canterbury**, visit the three pilgrim sites of **St Martin's church** ([martinpaul.org](http://martinpaul.org), North Holmes Rd), **St Augustine's Abbey** (Apr-Sept 10am-6pm, Oct to 5pm, Nov-Mar to 4pm), and **Canterbury Cathedral** ([canterbury-cathedral.org](http://canterbury-cathedral.org); Sun 9am-4.30pm, winter 10am-4.30pm) each of which has a pilgrim stamp. At the cathedral, it is in the visitors' centre.
- Complete your pilgrimage with a blessing at the Cathedral, and maybe attend **Choral Evensong** (daily 5.30pm).

*St Augustine's feast day: 26 May*

			<b>Walk 1: Ramsgate to Canterbury</b>
<b>Distance from start</b>	<b>Distance from last direction</b>	<b>OS refs</b>	<b>Direction</b>
0	0	TR 37660 64358	From St Augustine's, where you can pick up a pilgrim passport and get it stamped (free, but donations welcome), follow the cliff-top promenade west until you reach Pegwell Rd. The route follows the official Way of St Augustine footpath to shortly before Pluck's Gutter, but the yellow roundels that indicate the route are infrequent. Where other official routes coincide with my route, I will indicate points at which signs for them are helpful.
0.7miles /1.2km	0.7miles /1.2km	TR 36713 64285	Turn left onto Pegwell Rd and continue through the village until you reach the England Coast Path signed off to the left.
1.1miles/1.7km	440yds/400m	TR 36319 64201	Take the England Coast Path route signed off to the left, initially along Coastguard Cottages
			Follow this clifftop footpath to Cliffs End where it meets Sandwich Rd. Turn left along Sandwich Road to the junction with Foads Ln.
2.2miles/3.6km	1.2miles/1.9km	TR 34616 63916	Turn right into Foads Ln. Where it becomes Foads Hill, look out for Cottington Road on the left.
2.5miles/4km	330yds/300m	TR 34578 64244	Turn left into Cottington Rd and continue along to St Augustine's Cross.
2.8miles/4.6km	660yds/600m		Arrive at St Augustine's Cross.
2.9miles/4.7km	110yds/100m		Continue along Cottington Road and just before reaching the railway bridge turn left into Cottington Lane.
3miles/4.8km	110yds/100m	TR 33853 64183	When the lane becomes a track and bends left, take the indistinct path that runs off to the right and passes beneath the A256.
			Follow the path, with the railway to your right, past the first level crossing and continue to a second level crossing.

4.1miles/6.6km	1.1miles/1.8km	TR 32169 64072	At the second level crossing, cross over the railway and continue along a farm track, which becomes Durlock as you reach the edge of Minster village.
4.7miles/7.5km	990yds/900m	TR 31273 64333	At the end of Durlock turn right into Bedlam Court Lane for Minster Abbey, St Mildred's Priory.
			From the abbey retrace your steps for a few metres, then follow Bedlam Court Lane as it bends right, becoming Church Street and St Mary's church (pilgrim stamp).
4.8miles/7.8km	330yds/300m		After St Mary the Virgin church turn left into Station Road and continue until you reach Watchester Lane on the right, just before the railway line.
5miles/8.1km	330yds/300m	TR 31029 64162	Turn right into Watchester Lane and, as the lane bends right, continue straight along the track until you reach a footpath on the left heading towards the railway line.
5.5miles/8.8km	0.5mile/700m	TR 30347 64200  TR 30271 63556	Take the footpath across the railway, then follow this path which skirts round fields to the River Stour. It first bends sharp left, then right and travels between two fields. At the end of the field on your right, <i>turn right</i> and follow the edge of this field to its next corner, then turn left. You should see a pylon in the field on your right. At the end of this field, turn right and walk under the power lines, then continue straight between two more fields until you reach the River Stour.
6.5miles/10.5km	1mile/1.6km	TR 29519 63140	Turn right and follow the riverside path towards Plucks Gutter.
7.1miles/11.3km	0.6mile/800m		Where the official Way of St Augustine's route is signed turning right (just after a footbridge over a stream) away from the river, keep straight on along the footpath following the riverbank.
8.4miles/13.5km	1.3miles/2.2km	TR 26971 63446	Turn left to take the bridge over the river to Plucks Gutter, passing the Dog and Duck. The road becomes The Street and takes you to East Stourmouth <b>CAUTION:</b> There is no pavement, and cars travel fast.
9.2miles/14.8km	0.8mile/1.3km	TR 26483 62453	Suggested overnight stay, Rising Sun, East Stourmouth.
<b>Day 2</b>			To continue, take the lane between houses to the right of the pub as you face it. Follow the lane round to the left and at the junction turn right and follow the track to West Stourmouth.

9.3miles/14.9km	165yds/150m	TR 25614 62878	Arrive at West Stourmouth and All Saints church, entering through the churchyard and walking to the left of the church. <i>At West Stourmouth you rejoin the official Way of St Augustine, the route shared with the Stour Valley Walk, its roundels – depicting a heron in white against a black background – appearing more often than those for the Way of St Augustine.</i>
9.6miles/15.5km	660yds/600m	TR 25405 62627	After visiting All Saints church, continue through the churchyard and turn left onto Church Lane, through the hamlet. Look out for the Stour Valley Walk signs on the right and take this path between fields to the footbridge over the Little Stour.
		TR 24889 62745	Take the footbridge over the river and turn left onto the track
			Follow this track as it bends first right, then left between fields, until you reach the Great Stour and the marina.
11.2miles/18km	1.5miles/2.5km	TR 24889 62745	At the road end of the marina car park, turn right onto the riverside path and follow the Great Stour through Grove Ferry, reaching the Grove Ferry Inn.
			To skirt round the pub and rejoin the riverside path, turn left away from the river, then cross the road and turn right, follow the bend round and take the Stour Valley Walk path by the boatyard.
		TR 23516 63120	Follow this path alongside the river at first, then through Stodmarsh National Nature Reserve to Stodmarsh.
13.8miles/22.2km	2.6miles/4.2km	TR 22028 60580	St Mary's church is off to the left as you enter the village. The Red Lion offers an alternative overnight stay.
			Continue west on Stodmarsh Road. The route leaves the official Way of St Augustine here, and follows the Stour Valley Walk to Fordwich.
14.2miles/22.8km	660yds/600m		Stour Valley Walk is signed into the fields on the right for a stretch, but regains the road
14.6miles/23.5km	770yds/700m	TR 20167 59801	When Stodmarsh Road meets Elbridge Hill, the Stour Valley Walk path goes off to the right

			Cross two fields and pass through a wood to reach Fordwich via School Ln.
16.4miles/26.3km	1.7miles/2.8km	TR 18100 59772	Turn right into Yew Tree Gardens and right again into The Drove to reach St Mary's church (pilgrim stamp).
16.5miles/26.5km	220yds/200m		From the church walk back along King Street, passing the Fordwich Arms and George and Dragon and turn left when the road turns sharp right. The route again rejoins the Way of St Augustine at Fordwich, and follows it all the way to Canterbury. The route is shared with the Stour Valley Walk.
16.7miles/26.9km	295yds/270m	TR 17931 59530	Half way up the field, turn right. Cross the field, then a golf course, and enter a wood.
17.8miles/28.6km	1.1miles/1.7km	TR 16269 58645	Shortly after passing a lake on your left, the route becomes confusing. The main path veers left, but you should continue straight on.
17.9miles/28.8km	100yds/200m		This is a key point where you may go wrong. Signs for the Way of St Augustine and Stour Valley Walk are missing, but look out for a Canterbury Middle Ring sign (waymarked with a cross in yellow) that points right. This route also goes to the first pilgrim point in Canterbury, St Martin's church. <i>Should you miss this path you are likely to track to the left of the intended route, emerging further up Chaucer Road than expected. If that happens, turn right on Chaucer Rd to pick up the footpath at the direction point below.</i>
18miles/29.1km	330yds/300m	TR 16047 58209	Pass just to the left of a phone mast and cross Chaucer Rd to pick up the footpath running straight ahead, which becomes St Martin's Ave, leading to North Holmes Rd.
18.5miles/29.7km	660yds/600m	TR 15821 57742	St Martin's church (pilgrim stamp) is on the left just before this road ends at the A257.
18.6miles/30km	330yds/300m		Turn right on the A257 to reach St Augustine's Abbey (pilgrim stamp).
			From the abbey, turn right onto the A257 for Canterbury Cathedral.
		TR 15484 57666	At the roundabout, take Longport, turn right into Monastery St, then first left to cross the main road into Burgate.
19.2miles/31km	0.6mile/1km		Enter Canterbury Cathedral via Christ Church Gate (pilgrim stamp from visitors' centre to right of gate).