The Way of St. Augustine

A short pilgrimage route between the Shrine of St Augustine in Ramsgate, and the World Heritage Site in Canterbury

Launched 26th & 27th May 2015, the Feast Days of St Augustine

The new “Way of St Augustine” is designed to be walked between the Shrine of St Augustine in Ramsgate, and the historic pilgrim city of Canterbury. It is approximately 19 miles long, and can be done in a day, but is probably better split in two, with an overnight stop half way, perhaps trying out “champing”!

The route includes places which are significant to the story of St Augustine in Kent, as well as historic churches, and other pilgrim destinations. You will also find plenty of places to stop for refreshment, where you can support local businesses and Kentish food producers.

If you have never tried pilgrimage before, this route is a good alternative to longer pilgrim journeys associated with Canterbury, such as the Pilgrims’ Way from Winchester and the Via Francigena to Rome and can be a gentle introduction to pilgrimage, in terms of both distance and time.

This journey may be made with a spiritual purpose, or simply as a good walk with some interesting historical places to visit.

However you tackle it, we hope that you enjoy the beautiful East Kent scenery, the birdsong, the fresh air, and the peace and space it will give you to reflect on Augustine’s journey from being a reluctant missionary sent from Rome to becoming first Archbishop of Canterbury and leader of the English church. There’s time to reflect on your own life’s journey and purpose too.

The Way of St Augustine has been developed by the Green Pilgrimage Network Canterbury Partnership, an initiative run by the Diocese of Canterbury, working in partnership with others such as Explore Kent, the Churches Conservation Trust and the Shrine of St Augustine. As with any walk, you are asked to tread lightly on this path—leave nothing but footprints, and take nothing but photographs.

Don’t forget your Passport!
Every significant journey needs a passport! Many of the churches along the way have a stamp for you to collect in your pilgrimage passport, and this makes a nice souvenir of the journey too. Passports are available from the Welcome Centre at Canterbury Cathedral and from the Shrine of St Augustine in Ramsgate.

The Way of St Augustine logo represents the Chair of St Augustine in Canterbury Cathedral, where Archbishops of Canterbury are crowned as part of a triple ceremony. The chair was installed about 600 years after Augustine, but epitomises the legacy of his mission and leadership.

Special points of interest:
- Shrine of St Augustine, Ramsgate
- St Augustine’s Cross (EH, free)
- Minster Abbey & St Mildred
- St Mary’s Church, Minster
- All Saints’ West Stourmouth (CCT)
- Stodmarsh National Nature Reserve
- St Mary’s Church, Stodmarsh
- Church of St Mary the Virgin, Fordwich (Churches Conservation Trust)
- Conduit House (Eng. Heritage, free)
- Canterbury World Heritage Site:
  - St Martin’s Church
  - St Augustine’s Abbey (English Heritage, admission charged)
  - Canterbury Cathedral
- Eastbridge Hospital
- Sandwich Harbour Master for a “river pilgrimage”.

Full route details at www.explorekent.org
Please check opening times and admission prices before visiting.