Route Directions

This walk starts & finishes in Ospringe.

- 1. Park in the public car park off the main road (A2) in Ospringe. There is some alternative on street parking near the church in Water Lane (St. Peter & St. Paul).
- 2. Turn RIGHT out of the car park and walk to the junction with Water Lane. Maison Dieu is on the corner. Turn RIGHT onto Water Lane and continue to the church. Go into the church yard and take the path round the church to the gate in the rear wall.
- 3. Through the gate into the field beyond taking the path which rises up toward the power lines. At the power lines turn LEFT and follow this path along the field edge to a lane. Turn RIGHT and after a few steps turn LEFT onto Painter's Forstal Road which crosses over the M2 motorway.
- 4. Continue on this road for approximately 600yds (550m) passing the high walls and gates of Lorenden Prep school on the left & just beyond on the RIGHT, a white shiplap clad cottage. (*The village of Painter's Forstal is 350yds (320m) further on this road where the Alma pub awaits those with a thirst. Retrace the route back to the cottage to continue the walk*) Take the footpath to the side of the cottage and continue straight ahead, keeping to the LEFT side of the tall hedge. On reaching the lane, turn LEFT and continue for approximately 70 yds (64m) to the entrance driveway of Gillet Cook/William Farm Equestrian and turn RIGHT onto it.
- 5. Walk to the end of the drive, toward the motorway, eventually following alongside it to reach a footbridge over the motorway on the RIGHT. Cross the bridge and turn LEFT toward a communication pillar where the path turns RIGHT just before reaching it. Follow the hedge line alongside the edge of the field where there are some interesting structures. At the end of the hedge climb a stile into the next field. Bear ¹/₂ RIGHT toward the trees and another stile.

- 6. Climb the stile into a wooded area, keeping to the LEFT of a large oak tree, take the path leading down to another stile into a field, going down to the Faversham Road at the bottom. Cross the road into the field directly opposite. The footpath is signposted but the path is indistinct on the ground. Walk uphill, aiming toward 1 o'clock and a small gap in the tree line above where there is an obvious path going up through the woods.
- 7. At the top there is a kissing gate on the LEFT, slightly hidden by the trees. Go through this to a second kissing gate a few steps further to the RIGHT. The path is very overgrown here and an alternative route is available, ignoring the first gate by continuing on the path as it bears RIGHT to meet another path which then turns LEFT, almost back on itself. Take this to meet the second kissing gate.
- 8. Continue on the path through the wood to a 5 bar gate with an unusual locking method. Through this into a field which to the left provides far reaching views to the River Swale & beyond and a vineyard on the right. Cross the field to another gate and turn LEFT onto a path just beyond it where vines are to the right and the remains of old hop pickers huts to the left. A little further on the track bears to the RIGHT going downhill passing hop bines on the right and to the Syndale Farm, back to the Faversham Road.
- 9. Go straight across into the drive of the house opposite and keep to the lefthand edge to meet a gate into the field. Cross the field uphill in a diagonal direction toward the trees then follow the tree line to where the path goes through to a gate. Beyond the gate bear left & up the hill through parkland to meet the drive to the Judd's Folly Hotel, (shown as the Syndale Park Hotel on the map) almost meeting the A2. Cross straight over the drive and continue on the path through the parkland, going through a series of gates and crossing another drive. The path eventually reaches a corner of the park through another gate into a field.
- 10. Follow the lefthand edge of this field to a junction of path & tracks and a large grey barn on the right. Turn LEFT down the track for about 200yds (180m) to a footpath on the RIGHT. Take this, passing through allotments to meet a road. Turn LEFT and retrace steps back to the A2 where the car park is to the LEFT and the SHIP INN a few steps along the road to the RIGHT.

Ospringe, Judds Folly & Painter's Forstal round

A 5 mile (8k) walk with the bonus of two delightful pubs en route.





(FI)