

## **Golden Valley Pilgrim Way [GVPW]: Walking and Cycling Overview**

This is a stunning 6/7 day circular, 'bring your own beliefs or none' pilgrimage route, along beautiful and ancient paths that begins and ends at Hereford Cathedral. Hereford can be accessed by public transport from anywhere in the country making this an environmentally sensitive pilgrimage option. With the route being circular if you do arrive by car you don't have the hassle of having to find a way back to where you left the car.

The trail itself, links the Wye Valley with the Golden Valley and the flower meadows and foothills of the Black Mountains. Once you leave the city and the Cathedral behind, this is a rich and silent land, good for the body as well as the soul.

Approximately 60 miles long you will come across apple orchards, sacred sites, ruined castles, holy wells, and Arthurian legends as well as hidden farms that produce local ciders and ice cream. There is a real contrast between gentle wooded river valleys and stunning views of mountain landscapes with one or two spots for wild swimming.

Uniquely, along the way, and for a suggested donation of £20 per person [with a reduced fee for larger parties], you can sleep overnight in medieval churches, we call these our night sanctuaries. We currently have 9 churches that act as night sanctuaries for this purpose. A beautifully illustrated pilgrim credential or passport can be stamped in each church. All but one of these churches is situated in villages with fine country pubs where you can eat local produce at the end of a day of walking. High end B+B's are also accessible. Village stores are located on each section of the walk where you can refuel and restock your packed lunch.

In addition The Golden Valley Pilgrim Way includes a 2/3-day path, also beginning and ending at Hereford Cathedral, as well as an 82 mile cycling route.

To order your credential and access the booking system as well as the historical guide please contact Anne Lloyd Deanery Coordinator on [abbeydoredmc@gmail.com](mailto:abbeydoredmc@gmail.com)

For further information and guided pilgrimages contact Simon Lockett on [simon@wildearthpilgrimage.co.uk](mailto:simon@wildearthpilgrimage.co.uk)

### **Recommended route sections, accommodation and amenities along the way for walkers**

Pilgrims are now able to stay in the cloisters of Hereford Cathedral on the night before they begin their pilgrimage and on the night at the end of the pilgrimage. This can be booked along with your other night sanctuary stays through Anne Lloyd.

Please check the websites of each pub and food venue for opening times and availability.

#### **Day 1**

#### **Hereford Cathedral to Madley 6.5 miles or Tyberton 10 miles**

##### **Accommodation**

**Madley Night Sanctuary:** The Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Madley Church or Stables with all facilities in the Stables

**Tyberton Night Sanctuary:** St Mary's Church with portaloo toilet facilities and washing up and hot drink making facilities

**Food and drink:**

**Madley** Village store and Post Office

**Madley** The Comet Pub; The Red Lion

**Preston on Wye** The Yew Tree 1.5miles from St Mary's, Tyberton

**Highlights**

**Hereford Cathedral** has the pilgrims scallop shell symbol at the entrance to the North porch engraved into the paving. There is also a small medieval carving of a pilgrim figure on the left-hand side as you enter the porch.

The Thomas Traherne stained glass windows by Thomas Denny in the Audley Chapel depict the beautiful countryside of Herefordshire. Traherne's poetry is in keeping with a celebration of nature which this pilgrimage seeks to capture.

**Eaton Bishop** St Michael and All Angels Church - amazing stained glass

**Madley Crypt** is in the recently published book Britain's best 500 sacred spaces. The large triptych of the seasons of the year is by Ed Kelly. The large contemporary paintings in the Nave also by Ed Kelly, depict the life of St Dyfrig.

**Tyberton:** just inside the front door is a print of Roy de Maistre's painting 'The supper at Emmaus' where Christ eats with two pilgrims. Carved oak reredos full of symbolism by John Wood

**Day 2**

**Madley to Dorstone: 12 miles or Tyberton to Dorstone 8.5 miles**

**Accommodation**

**Dorstone Night Sanctuary** St Faith's Church, with portaloo toilet and basic washing and cooking facilities

**Food and drink**

Fine Street ciders on path above and to the south west of Bredwardine

The Pandy Inn, Dorstone

**Highlights**

**Bredwardine** St Andrew's Church with its Sheela na gig; ancient motte and fish pools. Wild swimming in the River Wye down from the church. (There is a water point at the back of the church).

**Dorstone Hill:** Arthur's stone on route and north of Dorstone

## Day 3

### Dorstone to Michealchurch 9.5 miles

#### Accommodation

**Michaelchurch Night Sanctuary:** St Michael and All Angels Church with hot drink making facilities. For washing, toilets and shower please use facilities at the Bridge Inn next door where there is also a campsite.

#### Peterchurch 3.5 miles from Dorstone:

**St Peter's Church Night Sanctuary:** Added in 2023 and with heated floor so a good winter option

#### Food and drink

The Nag's Head

The Hub at St Peter's Café [open some week days only]

Casa Lupo Bistro and bar [weekends only]

Peterchurch Village store and Post Office

Food for Thought restaurant [evenings only]

Poston Mill: Campsite, shop and pub ½ a mile detour from route south east of Peterchurch

#### Highlights

**Snodhill Castle** ½ mile off path

**Peterchurch** St Peter's Well on the path ½ a mile from St Peter's church

## Day 4

### Michaelchurch to Clodock 12 miles

#### Accommodation

**Craswall Night Sanctuary:** St Mary's Church where a 4 metre bell tent to accommodate pilgrims is available in the churchyard for the months June, July and August. Pilgrims will be able to access water, toilets and showers at Chapel House Farm. Chapel House Farm also has a farm shop and sells pizzas and does the most amazing breakfasts. This breaks up Day 4 with Craswall being 4 miles from Michealchurch and 8 miles from Clodock. Staying at Craswall creates something of a rest day half way through the pilgrimage.

**Clodock Night Sanctuary:** St Clydawg's Church with all facilities inside church including warm enclosed area.

## **Food and drink**

### **Craswall**

Chapel House Farm, Farm shop on route and down the lane from St Mary's Church, Craswall. be able to access water, toilets and showers at chapel house and also their small shop with drinks etc.

The Bulls Head, Craswall

**Longtown** The Crown, Longtown

**Longtown** Hopes of Longtown Village Store and Post Office

**Clodock** The Cornwall Arms [drinks only]

## **Highlights**

**Craswall:** A contemporary Celtic cross made by Ken Watkins opposite the south facing porch of St Mary's Church

**Cat's Back (The Black Hill)** Take a short detour up the Cats back for amazing views. A path after the Cat's Back will take you to St Thomas' well and crossing Offa's Dyke you can walk to the Holy well and Church of St Issui, Partrishow in Wales.

**Llanveynoe** St Peter and St Beuno's Church with ancient cross inside church.

**Between Llanveynoe and Longtown** wild swimming away from it all and on the path

**Longtown** Longtown Castle on path

**Clodock** St Clydawg's well - follow road over the bridge just after the pub and turn right onto the path going alongside the eastern bank of the River Monnow. The well is 200 yards down this path.

## **Day 5**

**Clodock to Ewyas Harold 8 miles**

### **Accommodation**

**Ewyas Harold Night Sanctuary:** St Michaels and All Ange'ls Church with all facilities in the Parish Hall

### **Food and drink**

**Walterstone** The Carpenter's Arms 2.5 miles from Clodock

**Rowlestone** Rowlestone Court Farm Ice Cream and Camping

Ty Gwyn Cider Bar and shop 1 mile from the path following road going east from Rowlstone Court Farm

### **Ewyas Harold**

The Temple Bar Inn

The Dog Inn

The Old Stables Fish and Chips

Village store and Post Office

### **Highlights**

**Walterstone** St Mary's Church beautiful depictions of angel faces on memorial stones

**Llancillo** St Peter's Church is isolated and wild

**Rowlestone** St Peter's Church

## **Day 6**

**Ewyas Harold to Kingstone 9 miles**

### **Accommodation**

**Kingstone Night Sanctuary:** St Michael and All Angels with all facilities

### **Food and drink**

### **Kingstone**

The Bull Ring

Village store and Post Office

### **Highlights**

**Ewyas Harold** St Martin's well on western border of Ewyas Harold Common

**Abbey Dore** Dore Abbey on path

## **Day 7**

**Kingstone to Hereford Cathedral 7 miles**

### **Accommodation**

**Hereford Cathedral Cloisters**

### **Food and Drink**

**Belmont:** The Cantilupe Restaurant, Hedley Lodge, St Michael's Abbey 500 yards detour

Many options in Hereford

### **Highlights**

**Clehonger** All Saints church

**Belmont** St Michael's Abbey Benedictine Monastery

## **Recommended route sections and accommodation for cyclists**

Cyclists can make up their own itinerary using the night sanctuaries as there are many lanes and alternative routes in this area. For stocking up with provisions please see walking recommended routes for the location of village stores

However here are some recommendations:

### **2 days 1 night going anti-clockwise**

The midway night sanctuaries if cycling the route in 2 days and covering approximately 40 miles each day are:

**Craswall Night Sanctuary: 41 miles from start:** St Mary's Church where a 4 metre bell tent to accommodate pilgrims is available in the churchyard for the months June, July and August. Pilgrims will be able to access water, toilets and showers at the Chapel House Farm Campsite. Chapel House Farm also has a farm shop, sells pizzas and can provide the most amazing breakfasts.

**Supper:** The Bull's Head or Chapel House Farm

**Michaelchurch Night Sanctuary: 45 miles from start:** St Michael and All Angels Church with hot drink making facilities. For washing, toilets and shower please use facilities at the Bridge Inn next door where there is also a campsite.

**Supper:** The Bridge Inn

### **3 days 2 nights anti-clockwise**

**Dorstone Night Sanctuary: 29 miles from start:** St Faith's Church, with portaloo toilet and basic washing and cooking facilities.

**Supper:** The Pandy Inn, Dorstone

**Clodock Night Sanctuary: 54 miles from start:** St Clydawg's Church with all facilities inside church including warm enclosed area.

**Supper:** The Crown, Longtown, 0.5 miles before Clodock church on the route.

The steepest and certainly the longest climb by far is before Craswall going anticlockwise:  
See link for elevation diagram:

<https://explore.osmaps.com/route/8589744/cycling-route-gvpw?lat=51.954309&lon=-3.005773&zoom=12.6996&style=Leisure&type=2d&overlays=&placesCategory=>

Here is the easiest recommended route:

### **5 days 4 nights clockwise:**

**Ewyas Harold Night Sanctuary: 16 miles from start:** St Michael's and All Angels Church with all facilities in the Parish Hall

Supper: The Temple Bar Inn or The Old Stables Fish and Chips

### **Michaelchurch Night Sanctuary: 36 miles from start**

St Michael and All Angels Church with hot drink making facilities. For washing, toilets and shower please use facilities at the Bridge Inn next door where there is also a campsite.

**Supper:** The Bridge Inn

**Dorstone Night Sanctuary: 52 miles from start:** St Faith's Church, with portaloo toilet and basic washing and cooking facilities.

**Supper:** The Pandy Inn, Dorstone

### **Tyberton Night Sanctuary: 68 miles from start**

St Mary's Church with portaloo toilet facilities and washing up and hot drink making facilities

**Supper:** There is no pub in Tyberton so you can either eat at the Yew Tree in Preston on Wye which you will pass about 3.5 miles before Tyberton or cycle on to Madley another 3.5 miles from Tyberton heading back to Hereford and eat at the Red Lion or the Comet Inn. You can also stay in the Madley church Night Sanctuary as another option.