

Golden Valley Pilgrim Way [GVPW] March 2026

7 Day direction guide using OS Maps:

Explorer 189 Hereford & Ross-on-Wye

Explorer OL 13 Parc Cenedlaethol Bannau Brycheiniog (Brecon Beacons National Park) - Eastern Area

Escape routes in the text are [in blue](#). These are either short cuts or sections that are easier to walk, provide extra facilities or a place of interest nearby.

Disclaimer: This direction guide is not infallible, the landscape always changes and whilst writing there were some junctions where I could not remember whether there was, for example, a gate or a stile. I have used names of woods and farms etc. on the OS 1:25 000 scale maps for the directions. The only exception to this is the use of street names in Hereford. I have not put distances between each direction. Sometimes a direction uses a number of fields that are to be crossed. This is a guideline only as sadly hedgerows can disappear! This guide should help those using hard copy maps only. Using the digital download, however, does mean it's very difficult to get lost. We hope by the summer of 2026 to have waymarked the 4- and 7-day routes. Please check all pubs and cafe websites for opening times.

Glossary:

Footpath or Path: Legal right of way

Bridleway: Legal right of way

Green lane: Legal right of way

Farm track: untarmacked

Holloway: Footpath/Bridleway cut into the bedrock and often overhung by trees

Lane: Yellow on OS Map: C roads with tarmac

Road: Brown on OS Map: B roads with tarmac

Day 1 Hereford Cathedral to Eaton Bishop/Madley/Tyberton Night Sanctuaries

Explorer 189 Hereford & Ross-on-Wye

Start at Hereford Cathedral at the north porch then head west to the west porch and out through the gates. Turn left into Palace Yard. Bear to the right onto Gwynne St then turn left onto St Martins Street and over the old bridge crossing the River Wye. At the end of the bridge on the west side turn right onto the riverside footpath. There is an Asda here on the left where you can park before starting the pilgrimage and buy provisions if you need to.

Follow path along river and keep going past houses on Luard Walk and Villa Street eventually you will have a block of flats on your left with a grassy area going down to the river with metal railings keep these on your right and just after the curve into Golden Post there is an opening you can take which takes you down to the bridge over the stream take this right turn and you will enter a modern housing estate. Cross over Sydwall Rd, Abbotsmead Rd and Northolme Rd until you come to the first field.

[Escape Route: Just before you enter the 4th field with a huge lime tree there is a footpath to the left that takes you to Belmont Abbey a Benedictine Abbey with regular hours of prayer. Accommodation is available here for pilgrims as well.]

Keep following the path until you come across the Ruckhall Lane turn right onto this and follow the lane keeping right at a junction so that you go past Perryhill Farm Keep going along the lane past Vallets Farm and take a turn right onto a footpath that takes you through Ladies Coppice to Tuck Mill. Turn left along the track and then take a footpath on the right that takes you up through scrub. On the right, further along and over a stile there is an interpretation board explaining the site of a Roman Camp. You need to pop back over the stile to continue. At the top of the incline, you will come across a lane which you go straight over. The path is narrow with a garden fence on the left and heads up to a stile. Head into the field and there is a stile on your right, go over it and turn left along the field boundary to another stile. Go over this and keep going along the hedgerow to another very rickety stile. After this the path goes diagonally across the field to the right to Cophill, turn left onto lane and then turn right almost immediately keeping on a lane that eventually brings you to Eaton Bishop Church, a night sanctuary with kitchen and toilets if open.

When you come out of the churchyard on the south side turn right and follow the footpath along a track between two fields. Go through the gate at the end turn right immediately through another gate and then turn right keeping the hedgerow close to you on the right. You will go across a large field to Upper Wormhill Farm turning left onto a lane. After a short while, turn right to take a path across four fields to a road. Turn right here and you will arrive in Madley. At the crossroads turn left where you will go past the shop and church. Madley Church is a night sanctuary.

At the cross roads in Madley head straight on and go past the Red Lion Pub on your right. Go past the school and just past the right turn on the road to Bridge Sollars take the footpath on your right that has a wooden fence along it that marks the boundary of a new housing estate. After roughly 5 fields this path takes you to Lower Chilstone Farm and across a new footbridge. Straight after the footbridge the path goes across the field but you might want to turn left immediately and go along the headland of the field. Once through the next field boundary the path meets a bridleway here you turn left onto the bridleway. The bridleway turns into a track after 5 fields **[Explorer OL 13 Parc Cenedlaethol Bannau Brycheiniog (Brecon Beacons National Park) - Eastern Area]** and then brings you to a lane with a tiny cottage on your right. Turn left onto the lane this eventually brings you to the Yew Tree Pub and a further $\frac{3}{4}$ of mile on you can visit Preston on Wye Church [not a night sanctuary]. To get to Tyberton night sanctuary

turn left onto a lane before the Pub and walk to a farm called The Field. Take a footpath on your right across a field and then an orchard to Lower Bellamore Farm. Walk through the farmyard and just before the farmhouse take a right to a gate that also has a stile on the left and head across a field to a footbridge. You then bear to the left into a field that can be very overgrown. Cut across to the corner of the wood and then keep the wooded sections on your right close to you. You then head for Woodfield Farm where you turn right after the buildings onto a farm track with the farm on your right. You then meet a lane and turn right onto this. Tyberton Church is then on your left.

Day 2 Tyberton to Dorstone Night Sanctuary

Turn left out of the churchyard onto the B4352 then turn right onto a green lane. At the beginning of the lane if wet the ruts can be very deep. The green lane passes some wonderful old oak trees on your left and takes you to Holywell. At the road head straight on and onto a lane. When the road takes a 90-degree turn to the right go slightly left on the footpath across the field. You will go over a couple of stiles. After the second turn right through the hedge and over the footbridge. There is another footbridge in the corner of the field to your left. Once over the bridge turn left and across a field through the hedge to meet a bridleway. Turn to the left and take the bridleway.

[Escape Route: This takes you past Byford Campsite with facilities. A slightly faster route as it's on tarmac: If you turn right on the bridleway you will eventually come to a lane turn left here and keep going past Bycross Farm with its campsite and facilities. There is a shop but do check the website for opening hours. They do welcome pilgrims. Continue on lane to Lower Moccas Farm and continue on lane round a 90-degree bend in the road in front of some white gates. Keep on the lane until you join up with path again]

Follow Bridleway through the orchard using the farm track skirting round the orchard. Pass over stiles and gates across six fields until you reach a wood to the southeast of Newcote. Turn right [This is one of the numerous occasions when a path mowed by the landowner does not completely tally with the OS Map for understandable practical reasons] and then left across another field to the lane just south of Lower Moccas Farm. Then turn left onto the lane that takes you past the official entrance to Moccas Court. You can head down this lane to see the Church [Not a night sanctuary] which has a portalo close by. Once you have visited the church back track along the lane and just after the Lodge House with the statue of Hermes above the door turn right into an ancient orchard. There is a permissive path not on the OS map keeping the copse to your right and the apple trees to your left. You go through a gate and turn left keeping the hedge on your left and you then come to the B4352. Turn right onto the road for the worst bit of road walking of the entire pilgrimage. It is a relatively quiet road but be careful of traffic on the bends. You will pass Moccas National Nature Reserve on your left with its ancient oak trees and deer herd. When you get to Cross End Farm take the bridleway straight in front of you as the road bears round to the left.

There is a gate and stile at the end and you turn left, keeping the River Wye to your right. Keep heading west with a wood on your right turning right over a stile to head for Pond Bay and the fishponds featured on the OS map. Eventually you will arrive at Bredwardine Church [Not a night Sanctuary]. There is a portaloo round the back on the north side of the church with a footpath down to the River Wye and a place where folk can wild swim but be careful of the current on the far side of the river.

From the Church Head west on a lane and through the avenue of trees to the Red Lion Pub and take the path/track on the left side of the pub past Bredwardine Village Hall which can be used as a night sanctuary. The footpath continues up past the hall on the right and then through a private garden though I always go through the gate to the right and then rejoin the path through another gate past the house. There are so many paths here, it can be confusing but once through the gate turn right and through another gate and head diagonally across a small field to a stile. Don't go straight on and continue on the path but take the stile in the corner of the field and on your left and go up a steep gradient to the left of the wooded area to Fine Street Farm. Keep the farm to your right. Head for the lane to the south and through a stile opposite a cottage go over into what becomes a very steep hill. This is the hardest hill of the whole pilgrimage but does not last too long. Keep going up, keeping hedge and tree line to your left then after a very steep bit you keep going over 5 stiles as the path flattens out. You will eventually come out onto a lane with Arthurs Stone just to your left. From Arthurs Stone head downhill to Dorstone. You will eventually meet a junction of three roads and a track by Lower Crossway Farm. Turn right up the track which enters a holloway called Spoon Lane.

[Escape Route: You can go straight on if it's getting late and you want a short cut to the church but this is on a road with some hairpin bends.]

Turn left and double back across the field over the dismantled railway track and across the playing field. At the road turn left and on your right, there is a footpath into the Churchyard and Dorstone night sanctuary.

Day 3 Dorstone to Michealchurch Escley

Come out of the churchyard from the south side and head straight on into the village of Dorstone. After the village green on your right take a left on the lane keeping the Pandy Inn on your right. Keep going and then turn onto a lane called Pitt Road signed to Common Bach. Keep going along the lane. Eventually there is a rise in the road, and you take a left turn onto a footpath almost doubling back on yourself but heading into a field. Keep on the path which turns into a track until you get to Snodhill Hall and turn right onto the lane.

[Escape Route: If you want to explore Snodhill Castle take the first left and continue uphill on the lane]

To continue on the GVPW keep on the lane and go downhill to the ford. Go over the ford [there is a footbridge] and keep on the lane and when the lane turns to the right go straight on and into

a holloway/footpath. At the top turn left, staying on the Herefordshire Trail and going through a small gate made from a sheep pen. Turn right as you enter the field and soon you will get a great view of Peterchurch. Head down hill and at the bottom go through a gate and keeping the hedgerow on the left follow the path to Fine Street. Take a left on the lane and then immediately a right over a footbridge. You then follow this path to Hinton Cross keeping Westfields House on your left. You will come to a lane and turn right onto this and then straight over the crossroads. The lane takes you to Hinton Farm where you go left down a track and onto a path that leads to the St Peters Church, Peterchurch, a night sanctuary.

Follow the road, keeping the church on the right into the village. With the Boughton Arms on the left take a right turn and immediately opposite the village stores there is a track heading to Bazley Farm. Another little right and then left and you're heading up to another right turn which will eventually take you to St Peters Well. As the path turns into a track you take a right turn and head south with St Peters Well, being in the field to your right. Go through the little gate, check out the well head and then continue through the field over a stile on your left and then turning right onto the lane and past Wellbrook Manor on your right. At the junction with the B4348 go straight over and over a bridge. Just after the bridge there is a left turn onto a path across a field to a bridge and a ford over the River Dore.

After the ford head uphill, keeping Green's Wood on your left and head to Shegear Farm. Keep going through the gate by the farm. Don't go straight on but turn left into a bit of a farmyard then turn right almost immediately staying on the path that takes you to Cothill Farm and then down to Slough Bridge. You will cross what is actually a tarmac farm track [not yellow on OS map]. It's sometimes difficult to find the path here as the entrance is hidden by bracken but persevere by looking along the edge of the bracken. At Slough you will go over a footbridge into a private garden and then into Slough Breast Wood and Great Wood. Don't worry if you are finding it hard to follow the track in Great Wood we all do!! This is when the digital download is really helpful.

After the wood follow the path across 4 fields one with a very old stone stile or boundary marker. Once you get to the lane turn right and walk on the lane until you take a bridleway to Canon Tump Nature Reserve. Once through the reserve you come across another lane turn right onto this and then turn left off the lane on a footpath that crosses 6 or 7 fields to the Bridge Inn in Michealchurch Escley. You will head over the last stile with the pub in front of you and to get to the Church [A night sanctuary] turn right on the lane over the bridge which spans the Escley Brook. At the road junction you will see the church up on the right and there is a small gate into the churchyard

Day 4 Michealchurch Escley to Clodock

Head out of the churchyard using the lynch gate on the north side of the church, turn right onto the lane and then left uphill. After a bend to the right and just before another bend to the left go down a track to Garden Cottage and past Michealchurch Court keeping Holly Wood on your left. Head over a stile and bear right to the corner of the field and along to Grove Farm keeping on the footpath with Wilderness and Holt Farm House on your left. At Holt Farm turn right over

cattle grid and turn left immediately going through a gate then turn left. Go through 4 fields then go past Marsh Farm on your right. After Marsh Farm there is a farm track that is blocked head up onto the north bank to skirt round. Then there is a wood on your right and it's here that you have to take a left diagonally across the field to a stile in the hedge.

The path then takes you to Coed Robin Farm where the path goes right through the farmyard. Continuing on this path as it eventually goes through a wood after the third field from the farm. Finding the stile on the other side of the wood is always challenging but it's a small wood and you can't go far wrong. After this wood you should be able to see ahead of you each stile into the next field of which there are approx. 5 before you take a sharp left turn and head down the hill to Craswall with Court Farm on your right. The legal right of way winds through a field with a few trees but I have always walked down the farm track and have not used the footbridge that is marked on the map but is not safe. The legal right of way here goes to the north side of Craswall Church but you can continue on the track to a wonderful stone stile on the south side of the Church.

Leave the churchyard through the gates and turn left downhill on the lane towards the Bulls Head Pub. At the pub turn left, keeping on a lane and then right onto a bridleway. At the top turn left and follow this bridleway which feels to me like a drover's road all the way to the Cats Back where there is a picnic table marked on the OS Map. It's a long stretch but easy to follow. There's a car park and interpretation board here where a lane begins. Go down the lane and follow a path through a gate on your left that takes you across common land to a stile where you then turn left heading diagonally through a wood. Then into a wild little field with termite nests/mounds and into another field with lots of scattered trees in. This path eventually gets you to Upper Blackhill Farm. The path turns left after the farm and heads to Cwm Steps and back to the lane just before Llanveynoe Church.

[Escape Route: There is a quicker route here if you're running late to get to the shop in time in Longtown. Instead of taking the path to Cwm Steps go straight onto the lane and this will get you to Llanveynoe Church [not a night sanctuary] where you can rejoin the GVPW. This lane goes all the way to Longtown if you are really running late - but you would miss a stunning bit of the pilgrimage if you went all the way.]

Either route, on the lane or the path, means you will end up on a lane just before the church and before a T junction on the lane. At the T junction take the left turn and then Llanveynoe Church will be on the right, Head up to the church on the track and when you leave take the path that comes out of the north side of the churchyard head left round the building but in the field and then head across to a stile near the south west corner of the churchyard. Head down into the valley towards Wern Farm. As you descend a big field there is a hard to see stile in the hedge at the bottom and on your left, immediately followed by a gate. Don't go through the gate but turn right into the narrow-fenced-off part of the field. This will take you to the footbridge. Head up what is normally a very well mowed path in long grass [summertime only]! At the top turn left into the field. Keep hedgerow close to your right as the path heads towards the river. This is a wild spot with a small waterfall and is followed by a footbridge before Lower House Farm. Turn

to the right off the footbridge as the path heads east with Olchon Barn Wood on your left. This path eventually becomes a farm track and then opens onto a lane where you go straight on. As the lane bends to the left, you go straight on into a field then another field with the path going diagonally to a stone stile and you pop out onto the road to Longtown

[Escape Route: If you turn right and keep going on the lane this is another 'escape route' into Longtown]

The GVPW, however, is an almost immediate turn to the right on a track with a brick building on the left. You then head into a field and turn back to the left towards the castle which you get a great view of hence this little diversion. The castle is on the left as you head towards the road where you take a right into Longtown. Head past the Crown Pub keeping it on your right and turn left to get to Hopes the Village Store. If you're heading straight to Clodock Church [A night sanctuary] go down the lane keeping the Crown on your left and head to Lower Ponthendre where there is a stone stile on the left side of the road. Jump over this and follow the path across 4 fields where you eventually meet the river. Keep the river close on your left-hand side and then you will reach Clodock Church and the Cornwall Arms.

Day 5 Clodock to Ewyas Harold

Turn to the left out of the porch door and skirt round the churchyard and you will come to a stone stile which takes you along by the river. Keep the river on your left and then at the road turn left over the bridge. At the far end of the bridge there is a footpath to the right to go past St Clydawgs Well and then rejoin the lane but heading across the lane and up towards Garn-Galed and after 8 or 9 fields [with no distinguishing features for me to use but with great views all round] to Parsonage Farm.

[Escape Route: Just before Parsonage Farm the path cuts back into the field and heads towards a stile in a hedge but if you go straight on [technically trespassing] keeping close to the hedge on your left you can join up with a lane that takes you to the Carpenters Arms Pub. This is quicker due to it being on tarmac but does mean you miss a section of the path that is often overgrown near to Cwm Farm.]

Head around the back of the house and then down the west side of Parsonage Farm to New Hunthouse Farm. Go across the lane then across and down the field and then over a sort of boardwalk bridge which is rickety and often overgrown. You then come out into an untidy field and a blackthorn thicket which means you cannot follow the field boundary where the legal right of way is. You have to follow where walkers have made a route through the blackthorn and then bear left up to the corner of the field. Turn left onto the track then straight on into a field and follow the path to a stile/gate and turn left onto the lane which takes you to Walterstone and the Carpenters Arms. Then take the lane to the right just before Walterstone Church [Not a night sanctuary] which takes you to Rockyfold and Grove Farm. At Grove Farm the lane turns into a path which eventually brings you to Walterstone Common where you come across a lane which you turn left onto. Keep on this lane until you get to a farm called Arcadia where you want to

turn right onto a path that takes you down to Llancillo Church [Not a night sanctuary]. Close to the Motte between the Church and Llancillo Court is a path that heads uphill. At the top keep Llancillo Wood to your right then past a pond on your right to a stile in the corner of the field. Go over the stile and turn left across two fields then across a footbridge and then downhill and uphill to Rowlestone Church [Not a night sanctuary]. You will come across a lane with the church just to your right and you turn right here. Once you have visited the church keep going down this lane until you come across Rowlestone Court Farm. You can turn left into the farmyard where there is a cafe and some very good ice cream! When the Cafe is open there is a permissive path for customers and pilgrims through woods that eventually joins up with the GVPW. If you want to keep to the pilgrimage route or if the Farm Cafe is closed head back down to the lane and almost immediately you will find a footpath going left into a field which turns to the north with Lakes Wood to your right. Then turn to the right with Birches Wood on your left. The footpath heads along the hedge on your left and at the track to Graig Farm you turn left onto a lane and then right onto a track and left onto a path across a field that takes you downhill towards Ewyas Harold. At the lane turn right and then, in the center of the village, turn left keeping the Chip Shop on your left and you will see a short stretch of lane that takes you to the churchyard that goes past the Village Stores on the right. The path in the churchyard takes you up to the church.

Day 6 Ewyas Harold to Kingstone

If you're heading out of the Church porch you can turn right then right again onto a lane which joins you to the path. You then take a path to the left up a steep hill and onto Ewyas Harold Common. There are a myriad of different paths on the common but if you can keep to the Herefordshire Trail you can't go too wrong. The Herefordshire Trail takes you away from the common, close to a disused quarry, as shown on the map but not seen, on your right and down to Dore Abbey. The path heads to the right of the Abbey then across a field still following the Herefordshire Trail to Abbeydore Court until eventually you turn left at a lane and then before a bridge turn right onto a path which takes you to Riverdale. After Riverdale you come across a lane where you turn to the left and then left again onto the B4347. After Rose Cottage turn right [you are now no longer on the Herefordshire Trail] keeping Mill Wood on your left. This path takes you to Newcourt Farm where you go through the farmyard bearing round to the right and heading across to the Red Cow Restaurant at Morehampton Park Farm.

Cross the B4347 and go straight on and uphill to Newbarns Farm. At Newbarns farm take a path heading southeast to the corner of the field. Head along this field keeping the hedge on your left and at the next field boundary turn left towards Newbarns Spinney. The path goes diagonally across the field, but I have always had to follow the headland to the left with the spinney close by on the left. Keep following the headland until you rejoin the footpath towards Blackmoor Farm. It's a bit confusing here in that I have never found the footpath that takes you just north of Blackmoor Farm. Instead, there is a farm track that takes you just south of the Farm.

When you come to the lane just south of Blackmoor Farm turn left and at a T junction you will see a footpath almost straight ahead that goes diagonally uphill and across the next field into Nells Wood.

Explorer 189 Hereford & Ross-on-Wye

This part of the path can be very overgrown in summer but only for a short distance. At the top head to the right. You are now heading for Kingstone and once you have crossed Barrow Common you will come to a lane where you turn left into the village. At the crossroads is the Bull Ring Pub, go straight over and after the pub bear right onto a gravel drive and Kingstone Church [A night sanctuary] will come in sight on the left.

Day 7 Kingstone to Hereford Cathedral

Leave the church from the Northeast of the Churchyard and take the footpath across one field then a footpath on your right that cuts across a field heading southeast. Head towards woodland and a wet area and bear right heading to Brookfield. Cross over the B4348 and up a lane then a left along the path to Thrupton church [Not a night sanctuary]. Turn left onto a lane after the church which takes you down to the B road again. Be careful here when crossing the road due to traffic. Take lane heading to Hungerstone and then a footpath beside a private garden that heads in the direction of Wallbrook Farm. At the next hedge head across the field diagonally right and onto a lane that heads northeast. Turn left onto the lane and keep going straight. You will shortly come to a crossroads, keep Cobhall Farm on your right and go straight over the junction until near The Butts which is on your right, but where you turn left down another lane. Before the Laurels you turn right onto a path that takes you to Courtlands Farm. When you head over a stile you turn left onto a track that eventually turns into a path on entering a field. Keep the hedge close to your right and Courtlands Plantation to your left. After three fields you will come to the busy B4349. Cross the road and, using the wide verge, turn to the left and then right down the lane to Clehonger Church [Not a night sanctuary]. Opposite the church there is a path heading east to Belmont. After 3 fields go over the stile and cross Ruckhall Lane to the stile opposite head over this and turn right and then you have re-joined the path you walked as you headed out of Hereford 6 or 7 days ago.