

Cycling in East Sussex:
Coastal Route Guide

1066 circular



This is a real rollercoaster ride with almost 3000 ft (900m) of climbing, linking the coast with the woods and hills of the Weald.

Hastings – Whatlington

The ride begins by following the wide promenade westwards along Hastings seafront before a steep climb away from the sea along the outskirts of the town towards Crowhurst. A busy climb on the B2095 is rewarded with the delights of historic Battle, the site of the Battle of Hastings. Continue north through Whatlington and you are back into woodland, carpeted with bluebells and wild garlic in the spring and verges of wildflowers until autumn.

Robertsbridge – Hastings

Passing through pretty Robertsbridge with its many fine old buildings, the descent towards the River Rother affords splendid views of Bodiam Castle. Ewhurst Green has lovely old oast houses and a curiously-shaped steeple on the church as you pass by on the way to Northiam. Keep an eye out for the unusual mullioned windows in the roof and the beautifully carved lych gate at Beckley church. Pass through the coppiced woodland of Beckley Woods then descend to almost sea level to cross the River Brede. A final long climb towards Three Oaks allows you to re-enter Hastings from the east, dropping down through the historic Old Town and back to the promenade.

Places of Interest ❖❖❖

Hastings The town is synonymous with the Norman Conquest, although the ruined castle on the hill is the

most visible evidence of that period. During the Middle Ages, Hastings was the head Cinque Port, duty bound to supply ships and men in the event of an invasion, and is now home to the largest beach-launched fishing fleet in the country. The Old Town to the east is the picturesque fishermen's quarter which features weather-boarded houses along its narrow alleys, sitting alongside the Jerwood art gallery on The Stade.

Phone: 01424 781111

Website: visithastings.com

Battle The Battle of Hastings was fought on the slopes of Senlac Hill, below the town. On the site of his victory William the Conqueror built an abbey; the high altar marks where Harold fell. Little but the foundations and the monks' dormitory survive.

Phone: 01424 773792

Website: battle1066.com

The High Weald Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) is a historical countryside of rolling hills draped by small, irregular fields, abundant woods and hedges, scattered farmsteads and sunken lanes. The word 'Weald' means wilderness or forest: the High Weald was once an untamed, wooded area, with patches of wild grassland and heathland. At the time of Domesday (1086) the High Weald was the most densely wooded area of England and even now boasts the highest proportion of ancient woodland in the country.

Bodiam Castle Built in the 14th century by Sir Edward Dalyngrigge to guard this vital crossing point on the River Rother

– a potential route inland for French invaders – Bodiam is a picture-book castle with rounded corner towers, battlements, portcullis and moat.

Phone: 01580 830436

Website: nationaltrust.org.uk/places/bodiamcastle

Northiam The ancient oak on the village green is said to be 1000 years old. Queen Elizabeth dined under the tree on her way to Rye in 1573. During the occasion she took her shoes off and let the villagers keep them when she left.

Great Dixter The fine timber-framed manor house dates back to 1460 and was restored by Sir Edward Lutyens in 1911. The house is surrounded by Christopher Lloyd's beautiful and ever-changing gardens. Great Dixter is open to the public from April to October.

Phone: 01797 252878

Website: greatdixter.co.uk

Starting point

Hastings train station

Distance

Full route via Bodiam and Northiam – 43 miles/69 kms

Southern loop with short cut via Sedlescombe – 25 miles/40 kms

Northern loop with short cut via Sedlescombe – 28 miles/45 kms

NB There are two shorter options – (a) start from Hastings but go via Sedlescombe to Brede and rejoin the main route, missing out the northern section or (b) start from either Robertsbridge or Northiam, use the Brede to Sedlescombe short cut and thus only do the northern half of the ride, cutting out Hastings

Off road/rough sections

None

Grade

Strenuous (almost 900m of climbing)

Major climbs

Over a dozen climbs of 35m-100m

Refreshments

Hastings, Battle, Bodiam, Great Dixter & Northiam

Tourist Information Centres

Hastings: 01424 451111

Battle: 01424 773721

Cycle Hire

Hastings Cycle Hire and Sales: 01424 444013

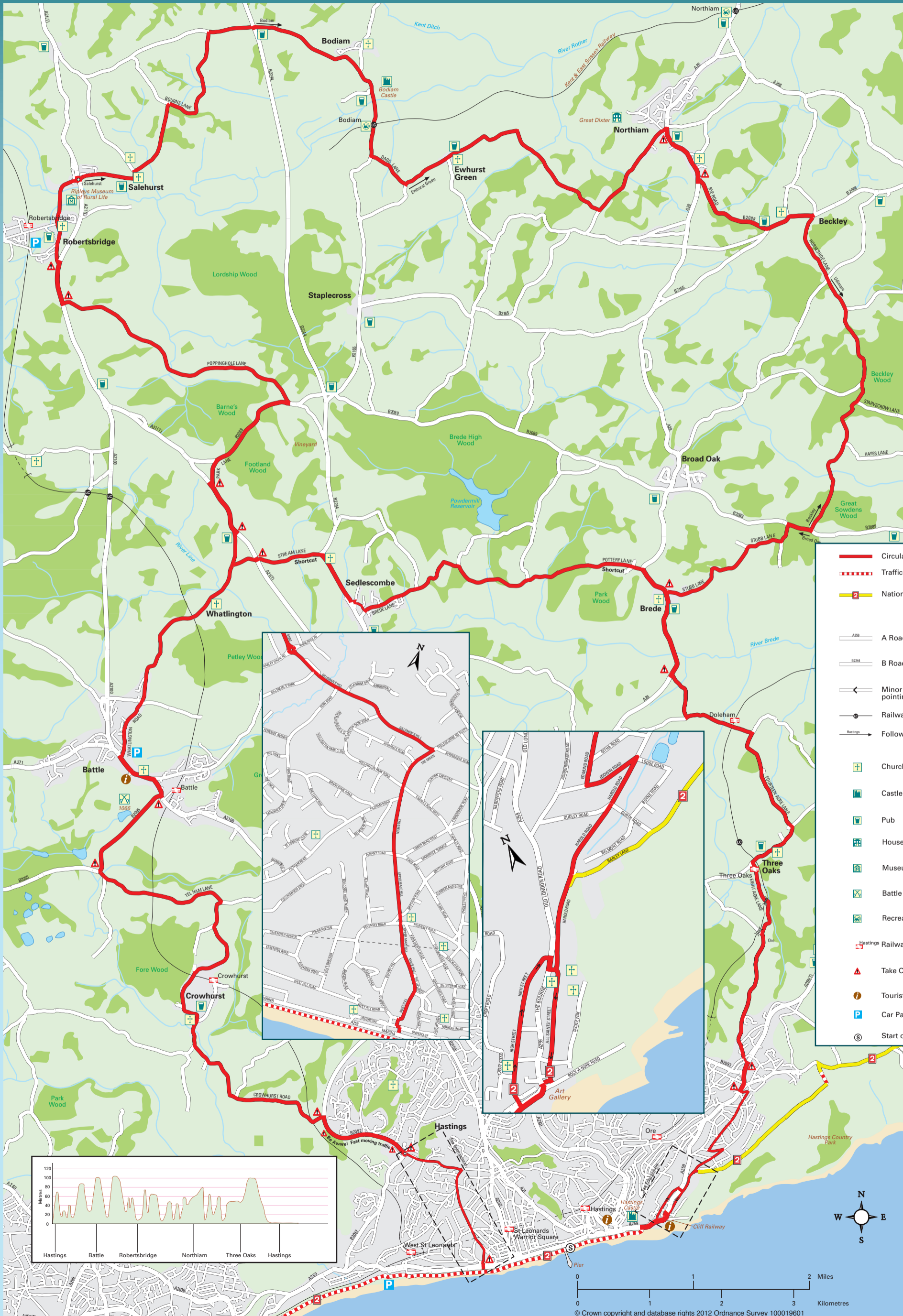
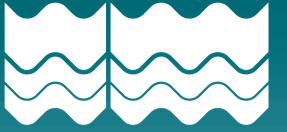
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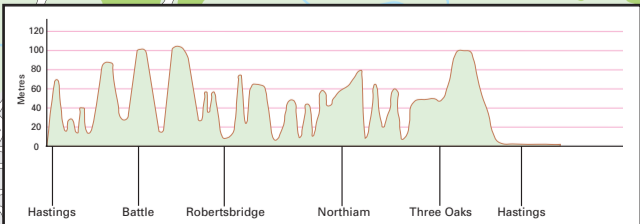
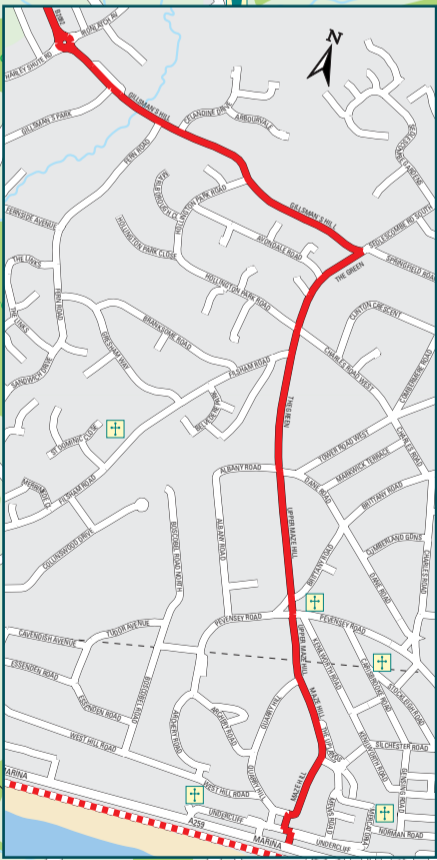


Tour de la Manche

East Sussex
County Council



- Circular Route (On Road)
- - - Traffic Free Sections
- National Cycle Network (On Road)
- A Road
- B Road
- Minor Road (arrow indicates steep hill pointing downhill)
- Railway (with Level Crossing)
- Follow Road Sign as Marked
- + Church
- 🏰 Castle
- 🍺 Pub
- 🏠 House of Interest
- 🏛️ Museum
- 🏰 Battle Site
- 🚆 Recreational Railway Station
- 🚆 Hastings Railway Station (with name)
- ⚠️ Take Care!
- i Tourist Information Centre
- P Car Parking
- Ⓢ Start of route



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