



Tour de la Manche

Rye & Winchelsea circular off National Cycle Route 2

Starting point: Rye train station

Distance: 20 miles / 32 kms

Offroad/rough sections: 1.5 miles / 2.4 kms traffic free path between Rye and Winchelsea Station at the start of the ride and 2.5 miles / 4 kms between Peasmarsch Church and Rye on a rougher bridleway at the end of the ride

Grade: Moderate / Strenuous

Climbs: Seven climbs of 35m - 70m plus several shorter ones.

Refreshments: Rye, Winchelsea, Icklesham, Friar's Hill and Brede

Tourist Information Centres:

Rye: 01797 226696

Cycle Hire and repair:

Rye Cycle Hire: 01797 223033



Cycle East Sussex Coastal Routes

East Sussex County Council

T&E, County Hall,
St Anne's Crescent,
Lewes,
East Sussex,
BN7 1UE

Tel: 01273 481000

Fax: 01273 479536

www.eastsussex.gov.uk/cycling

For more information on routes or the interactive mapping in your area visit Sustrans:

www.nationalcyclenetwork.org.uk



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Project part-financed by the European Union

**MAP
& GUIDE**





The ride links the fascinating old towns of Rye and Winchelsea, turning west to explore the broadleaf woodlands of Beckley Woods, fragments of the great forest that used to cover the Weald.

Leave Rye on National Cycle Route 2, picking up the easy, traffic-free bridleway to Winchelsea with good views to Camber Castle. Once beyond the A259 climb up to Winchelsea through an old fortified arch where you are rewarded with fine panoramic views back over Winchelsea Beach to the sea. The town that exists today was rebuilt in the 13th century under the direction of Edward I after old Winchelsea was destroyed by sea and storms. It was once a busy port trading in wines and spices, one of the ancient Cinque Ports.

Time for a cream tea, then on past the church and the New Inn to pick up Wickham Rock Lane and take in wide-ranging views on the way to Icklesham. Rejoin the A259 briefly before turning down the wonderfully quiet Watermill Lane at the Robin Hood pub through lovely woodland. Beyond Doleham Station enjoy the rollercoaster ride and fantastic views.



TAKE CARE for one mile on the busy A28. Climb to Brede then prepare yourself for another rollercoaster section with stunning views on the way to Beckley Woods. Beyond Peasmarsh Place, go past the Norman Church. There is a rough off-road route back to Rye that uses the bridleway starting by Clayton Farm, crossing several fields of pasture. The road alternative takes you via Iden and Houghton Green.

Rye

Perched high up on a bluff within sight of the sea, Rye boasts many ancient, timbered and Georgian buildings, with a smuggling past in every cobbled street. Rye was once one of the most prosperous ancient ports in Sussex. However, repeated attacks and the silting up of its harbour proved its undoing. One of the buildings to survive the French attacks was the Ypres Tower, now the town museum.

Winchelsea

Like Rye, Winchelsea was also a prosperous seaport and a member of the Cinque Ports. The sea receded in the Middle Ages, taking with it the prosperity brought by the port.



It is hard to picture the former iron industry in today's countryside of small fields, woodlands and steep, narrow, gill valleys. But in this landscape exist all the necessary raw materials that allowed iron to be smelted for over 2,000 years. The onset of the Industrial Revolution took heavy industry north to the coal fields, and the last furnace in the Weald, at Ashburnham, closed in 1813. The woods grew back over the former sites. Only the telltale waste, called slag, from the smelting process, and some of the hammer and furnace ponds are left to remind us of a once-great Wealden industry.



Cycle East Sussex

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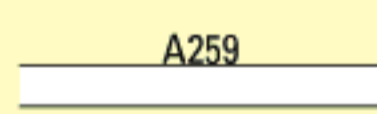
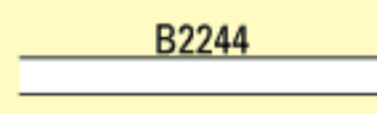
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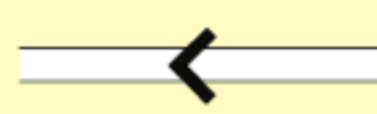

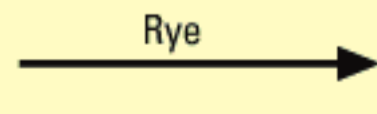


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-  Circular Route (On Road)
-  Traffic Free Sections
-  National Cycle Network (On Road)

-  A Road
-  B Road

-  Church
-  Pub
-  Railway Station (with name)
-  Take Care!
-  Tourist Information Centre

-  Minor Road (arrow indicates steep hill pointing downhill)
-  Railway (with Level Crossing)
-  Follow Road Sign as Marked

