



1 DAY PILGRIMS WAY DETAILED ITINERARY

Chilham to Canterbury Cathedral

Terrain: Mixture of quiet country lanes and easy-to-follow tracks through woodland and open farmland (apple orchards)

Difficulty: Not strenuous, though some uphill stretches may challenge participants

Group Size: 15-20 participants with school staff member per group

Vehicle Access: Several accessible points for emergency assistance if required

09:00 - Arrival at Chilham

Journey Begins

Groups arrive by coach at Chilham Car Park (CT4 8BY). Set down and toilet facilities available. Final preparations and group organisation.

09:15-10:00 - Departure from Chilham

Setting Off

Groups depart at staggered intervals. Begin historic pilgrim route through medieval Chilham, following ancient pathways used by pilgrims for centuries.

Morning Walk - Key Highlights

No Man's Orchard - Unique community orchard straddling boundary between two parishes. First 'old' orchard designated as Local Nature Reserve in 2002, sponsored by local families and community groups who pick the apples.

Bigbury Camp - Ancient Iron Age Hillfort occupied from about 350BC. Thought to have been attacked by Julius Caesar and his Roman army in 54BC. Little visible sign remains, but climbing the hill allows you to admire the position of this ancient settlement.





14:00 - Arrival at Canterbury Cathedral

Pilgrimage Destination

Groups arrive at Canterbury Cathedral, a World Heritage Site and the oldest Christian structure in England. Founded in 597 and rebuilt by the Normans between 1070 and 1077, it was a major pilgrimage destination during Medieval England.

14:00-15:00 - Cathedral Experience

Guided Exploration

A 40-minute guided tour of Canterbury Cathedral, exploring the heritage and history of this magnificent building.

15:00-15:30 - Pilgrim's Blessing

Spiritual Conclusion

Traditional pilgrim's service and blessing in the East Crypt, which can be delivered by Cathedral staff or the school chaplain.

16:00-16:30 - Departure

Journey's End

15-minute walk to coach park for departure, completing this historic pilgrim experience.

SUPERVISION AND SUPPORT

Resilience Education Staff: Marshalling and Points of Interest guidance

Teaching Staff: General supervision and pastoral care on route

Recommended: 3 staff with independent transport for road crossings and navigation assistance

Navigation Aid: OS app recommended as an advantage for staff

Pre-trip: Comprehensive online staff briefing, T-shirt selection and teacher pack with kit lists and route preparation worksheets

