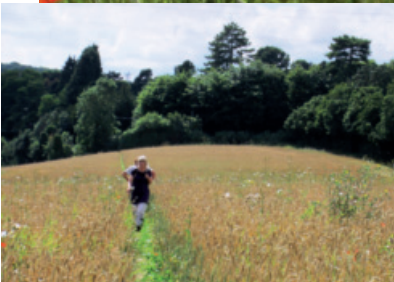


CANTERBURY TALES





GEOFFREY CHAUCER CV

Born	London, around 1340
Education	Law at the Inner Temple in London
Career	Civil servant, a.o. military, foreign service, customs and Member of Parliament.
Prisoner of war	Rheims 1360
Author	A.o. The Canterbury Tales, The House of Fame, Parlement of Foules, The Legend of Good Women.
Died	London, 25 October 1400
Buried	London, Westminster Abbey, Poet's Corner
Family	Chaucer was married to Phillippa de Roet. They had two sons, Thomas and Lewis, and possibly two daughters, Elizabeth and Agnes.
Best known for	Having shaped written English by integrating Anglosaxon and French as then used in England.

FROM THE PROLOGUE TO THE CANTERBURY TALES



*han that Aprill, with his shoures soote
The droghte of March hath perced to the roote
And bathed every veyne in swich licour,
Of which vertu engendred is the flour,
Thanne longen folk to goon on pilgrimages
And specially from every shires ende
Of Engelond, to Caunterbury they wende.*

In the fourteenth century everyone travelling south through London crosses the Thames by using London Bridge. On the south bank there are many taverns and The Tabard is one of them.

Geoffrey Chaucer joins a group of pilgrims and is willing to report on the venture for the benefit of his readers. But he warns us that some of his companions are a bit rough.

The host of the Tabard enjoys the company of these guests and suggests he will come with them. His proposition is that on the way everyone tells stories and that the best storyteller will be rewarded with a free meal at his tavern on the way back. That is to say the others will pay for his or her dinner.

Everyone accepts and early the next morning the group starts out.

LONDON BRIDGE

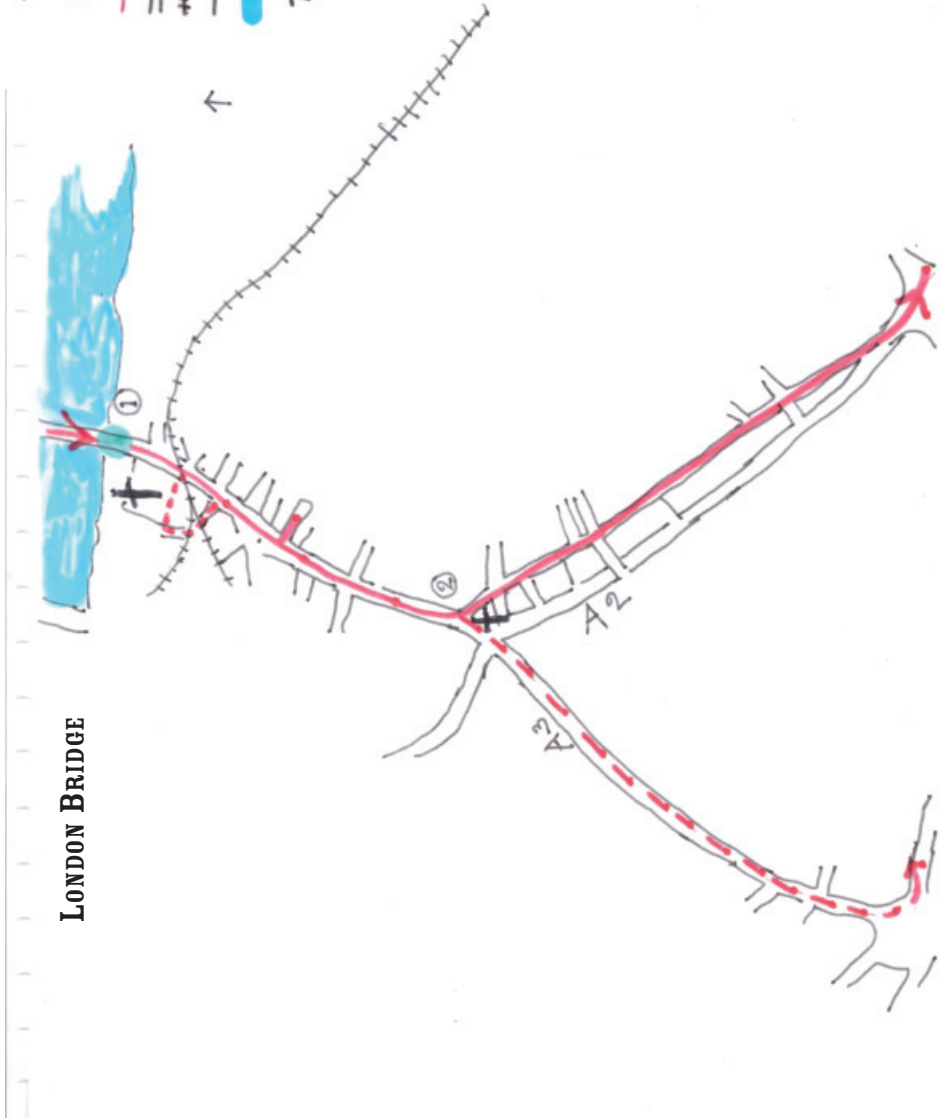
- 1 *Directly south of the river Borough High Street leads away from London Bridge.* To the right some steps lead down to Southwark Cathedral. Halfway through the western nave there is a picture of Chaucer in one of the windows.
Borough High Street has always been a very busy through road. The market around the viaducts for the railroad is at least as old as the original bridge. A little bit further on the right is George Inn Yard. The George Inn gives an impression of the lay-out of medieval inns. The horses were driven into the yard and the guests often slept on the first floor.

In Southwerk at the Tabard as I lay

The next alley on that side of the street is Talbot Yard where even two centuries ago the Tabard Inn was situated. The print- and copy-shop shows a memorial on the outside.

Continue down Borough High Street. After 250 meter there is the white church of St George the Martyr. At this busy crossroads Watling Street, the old Celtic road, led to a ford through the Thames river and on to Westminster. The Romans built a small temple to Venus on this spot and made the track into a military road. Nowadays the old roads are covered by the hectic Great Dover Road and Old Kent Road and go by the name of A2.

- ↑ north
- start/finish
- route
- road
- +— railroad
- path
- ▭ water
- ⊕ church



LONDON BRIDGE

First choice

At this point the first choice will have to be made as to means of transportation. Chaucer's pilgrims were on horseback, but that would be awkward here. In his time, many people walked or could ride part of the way with waggons. Nowadays there is more choice.

Bicycle

By using the National Cycle Network it is possible to make a trip from London Bridge through Greenwich, Gravesend and Sittingbourne to Canterbury. This is not Chaucer's way but can be quite pleasant.

Coach

Walk on along London Borough High Street and the A3. After one kilometer you reach the Elephant and Castle roundabout. Turn left into New Kent Road. Every hour a National Express coach departs for Dover and Canterbury from platform K. Get out at shopping mall Bluewater for the start of your walk out of London.

Train and bus

Walk back to London Bridge railway station and take the train to Greenhithe or Ebbsfleet. From there Arriva Fastrack buses go to Bluewater. Leave the train at Dartford if you wish to avoid the enormous shopping mall at Bluewater. Take the Arriva Fastrack to Darent Hospital and walk east.

- 2** *Doubledecker along the A2.* Turn before the Church into quiet Tabard Street and walk along Tabard Garden Estate. Ignore the streets left and right that are called Pilgrimage Road, Pardoner Street and Prioress Street. Cross Tower Bridge Road at the roundabout and follow Great Dover Road. Cross the road further on at the traffic light and continue your direction east until you come to Burgess Park with a big pond. In

Chaucer's time this point was called St. Thomas-a-Wateringhe. The pilgrims had a short stop here to get clean water for the horses and themselves.

*Unto the Watering of Seint Thomas, and there our
Hoost began his hors areste*

From now on the A2 runs through London under various names. Bus 53 stops a bit further on the other side of the road. Tickets are available at the machine. A day ticket is a good idea. Or Oyster Card if you plan on coming back to London later. After about twenty minutes the bus leaves the A2 and veers left at Shooters Hill Road.

*Lo Deneford! And it is half-way pryne.
Lo Greenwich, ther many a shrew is inne!*

Sidetrack at Greenwich

If you wish to see the Royal Observatory, want to enjoy a majestic view of London City and have a nice tea or coffee, get out at Greenwich Park. While working on *The Canterbury Tales* Chaucer lived here. In the spring he saw pilgrims file past on their way to St. Thomas's shrine in Canterbury Cathedral.

Leave Greenwich Park past the rosarium and deer park in an easterly direction. Cross Maze Hill and walk about two kilometers past VanBrugh Park till you see shops and arrive at a roundabout.

- 3** *If you wish to continue, stay on the bus till the next stop and walk on to the shops and a roundabout.* Take the Old Dover Road on the other side of the roundabout and on over motorway A102. Old Dover Road finally joins Shooters Hill Road near a bus stop. Get bus 89 to Dartford. There Watling Street changes into a pedestrian area cum shopping centre. Change from bus 89 to 96. Some 96 buses stop at Darent Hospital, some go directly to Bluewater.

OUT OF LONDON

- 4 *Bluwater.* In order to get out of the shopping mall of Bluewater, you have to go through it. Follow the signs to the red parking area. Between John Lewis and the House of Fraser you'll find bookshop Waterstone's. A corridor leads past it to the village restaurants. At the end turn left, go outside and cross the bridge. Follow the water to your right, cross the street and go through the viaduct. Turn right and you will see a road for emergency vehicles. Climb out of the chalk pit past the many budleias and go through the fence. Turn left and walk past a school, a church and a graveyard. You reach a roundabout. Go around it by turning left and right again. In front of you there is a field crossed by electricity cables.

- 5 *Darent Hospital.* To the east of Darent Hospital there is an open field. Follow the cables if there is nothing on the field. If it has been sown in, walk along the edge and go to the right to find the spot at the edge of the wood where the electricity poles climb the slope. Follow the cables until you hit a small road. Turn right and continue. You cross a motorway and later reach a field on your left. Follow the edge between wood and field down the slope until close to the farm and turn right. Follow the track all the way to the other end of the field. Ignore paths to the left. You come to Shellbank Lane and cross it to come a country park. Inside the park turn left when you see Shellbank House on your right. Continue until you see a T-junction. Go left and at the first possibility climb the slope on your right.

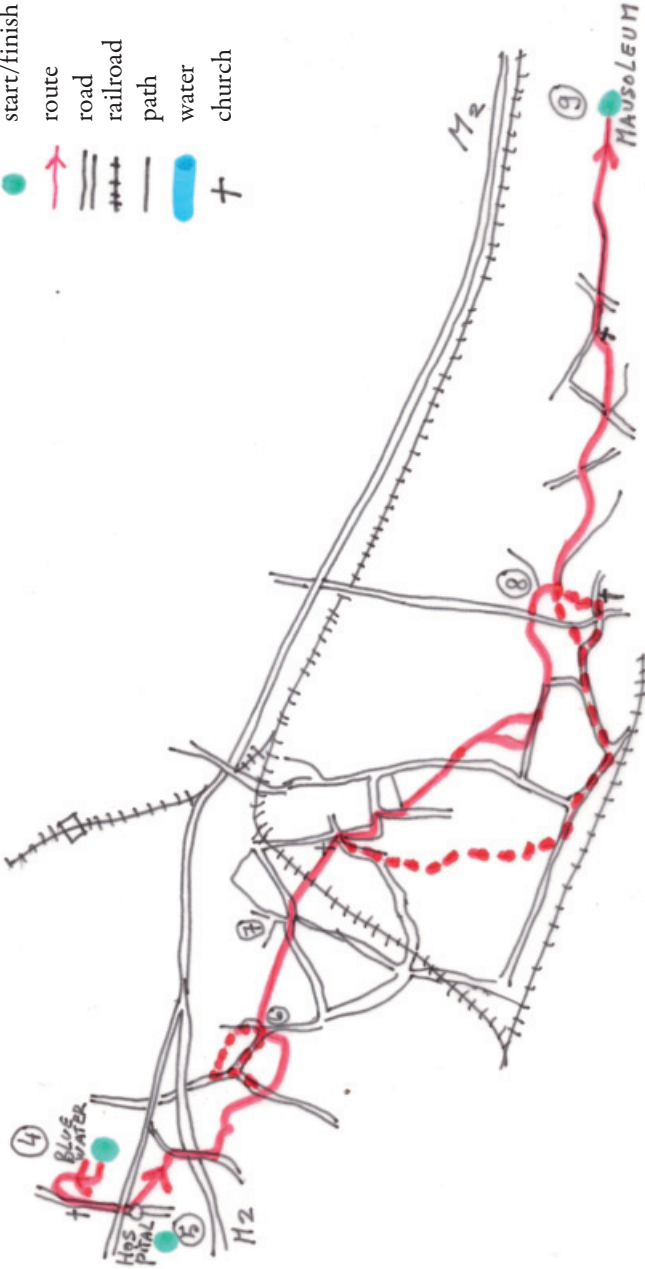
Night in Bean

You may want to spend the night in Bean or visit the pub. Then don't climb the hill on your right but walk on to another exit on your right. Outside the park turn left, and you will find the Black Horse and the Black Horse Cottage. To join the route, walk back from the pub, take the first public footpath on your left next to a fence.

- 6 *You see a school.* Walk down School Lane and in the first bend is the entrance to a farm. Next to it is public footpath DR 25. Follow it to Betsham.

OUTSIDE LONDON

- ↑ north
- start/finish
- route
- road
- +— railroad
- path
- water
- + church





THE KNIGHT

*A knight there was, and that a worthy man,
And though that he was worthy, he was wise,
He was a very perfect gentle knight.
At many a noble army had he be.
At mortal battles had he been fifteen,
But for to telle you of his array,
His horse was good, but yet he was not gay.
For he was late y-come from his voyage,
And wente for to do his pilgrimage.*

The knight had taken part in battles all over Europe and further; Alexandria, Prussia, Lithuania, Russia, Granada and Algeciras. For him it was important to cleanse his soul after all the fighting. So, together with his son, he undertakes this pilgrimage.

He tells the story of a fight to the death between two comrades in arms.

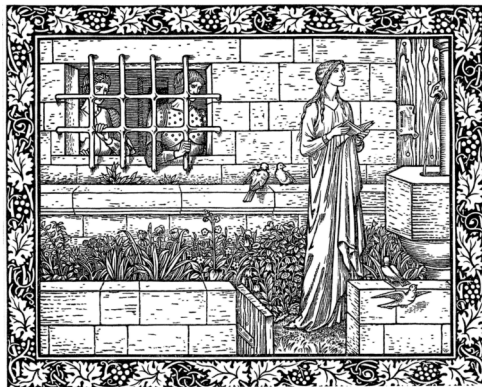
FATAL FIGHT BETWEEN TWO FRIENDS

Akrites and Palaemon are two Greek cousins and sworn comrades. They are prisoners of war in Athens when they see Emilie walk in the gardens outside. Both immediately fall in love. Emilie has hopes of becoming a nun and knows nothing of the two prisoners and how the friends are transformed into bitter rivals.

Quite unexpectedly Akrites is released and banished from Athens. But he cannot stand the thought that Palaemon can still see Emilie from his cell every day. Palaemon is just as frustrated because he knows that his rival is free. And indeed Akrites returns to Athens, no one recognises him and he succeeds in getting a job as a servant at court. And within seven years he manages to become a chamberlain.

Then Palaemon escapes from prison. Because of a coincidence they run into each other and a bitter fight follows. They are arrested and condemned to death. The Queen hears about the case and implores her husband to intervene. Then the king decides that the men should fight an official fight for Emilie's hand. Akrites wins but is mortally wounded. He lies dying and realises Emilie will never be his wife. With his last words he begs her to marry Palaemon.

Emilie is so touched by the events in which she has unwittingly played such an important part. She resigns her religious hopes and marries Palaemon.



COBHAM

- 7** *Pass the crossing in Betsbam and, between houses on the right, there is a public footpath that leads to the church in Southfleet.*

Night in Longfield

In front of the church take the first street on your right, Hook Green Road. After 500 yards there is a bend to the right. There enter the yard, walk past the trucks and barns to climb a ridge. Turn left at the highest point and go down the slope again in front of the houses. On the road turn left and walk to the high gate of Broomfield House. The pub is one kilometer further on Longfield Hill.

Return to the route by turning left into Longfield Hill and later, at a fork in the road, keep going to the right. After some bushes there is a public footpath that is not always visible and leads under Wrotham Road to where paths cross near Nurstead Court. If you do not take this path, keep on walking along the road, cross Wrotham Road and turn left when you see a chapel on your right. Now you follow a footpath that leads to the same crossing.

- 7A** In front of the church take the second street to the right, Red Street. It turns to the left and after that take Brakefield Road on your right. After 500 yards take a footpath to your left that leads southeast and on to New Barn Road. Cross it and continue. At a fork both paths lead to a street in New Barn. Turn left and continue. Cross Wrotham Road and turn right at the houses of Nash Street to reach a crossing near Nurstead Court and turn left.

- 8** *At the crossing near Nurstead Court there are two footpaths going east. Take the one that leads slightly more to the north. You cross Copt Hall Road and then Church Road. After a third road the path leads on to the church of Cobham. On the Floor of the chancel there is a beautiful collection of medieval brass figures. If you wish to make a rubbing, contact Reverend Angela Walker, Ahiangel@aol.com.*

The village of Cobham has several historical pubs.

*But first, quod he, heere at this alestake I wol bothe
drynke, and eten of a cake*

Walk down the street towards the east. After a crossroads it turns into a country lane and then a track that leads to a mausoleum on top of a hill. The mausoleum was built towards the end of the eighteenth century for the Darnleys, a local family of considerable wealth and nobility. No one was ever buried there because the church refused permission. Restoration was undertaken in the beginning of this century. The results were disastrous so the building still stands unused.

Fear of heights

If you wish to avoid the high bridge over the Medway River, walk straight on, down the hill over the rail bridge and under the motorway near Strood. Straight ahead is Albatross Avenue. Turn right when you reach some shops and take the bus on the other side of the road. It will bring you to Rochester. Get out at the first stop past the bridge. Cross the street and you will find High Street. If you want to spend the night in Rochester, you can ask for B&Bs at the visitor information centre at 95, High Street or have a look at Magees at the end of High Street over the road. There are also two B&Bs in Borstal Road that can be reached by taking the road between the castle and the cathedral and walking up the hill.

- 9** *Walk around the mausoleum and you will find the yellow sign of a public footpath.* Go through the fence and straight into the woods to a tree with two yellow arrows. Go right and at the next crossing left, but always downhill. You leave the woods and walk through a field past a brown post with more yellow arrows and follow the path straight on. After an area with trees you will come to the middle of a field where footpaths cross. Turn left and now you follow the North Downs Way. It leads you past Ranscombe Farm and then turns right with the paved way.

MEDWAY

Loo, Rouchestre stant heer faste by!

You reach a small car park with a panorama of the gigantic Medway Bridge on your left, Blue Bell Hill is straight ahead and on your right, the part of the Medway river where the Romans beat the Celts in a decisive battle.

Take the public footpath to your left, under the viaduct, and left again. At a junction with four white poles follow the North Downs Way. It leads you to bridge. Steel yourself against the wind and the noise. On the other side go down to Borstal Street and you will see a white statue of Apollo.

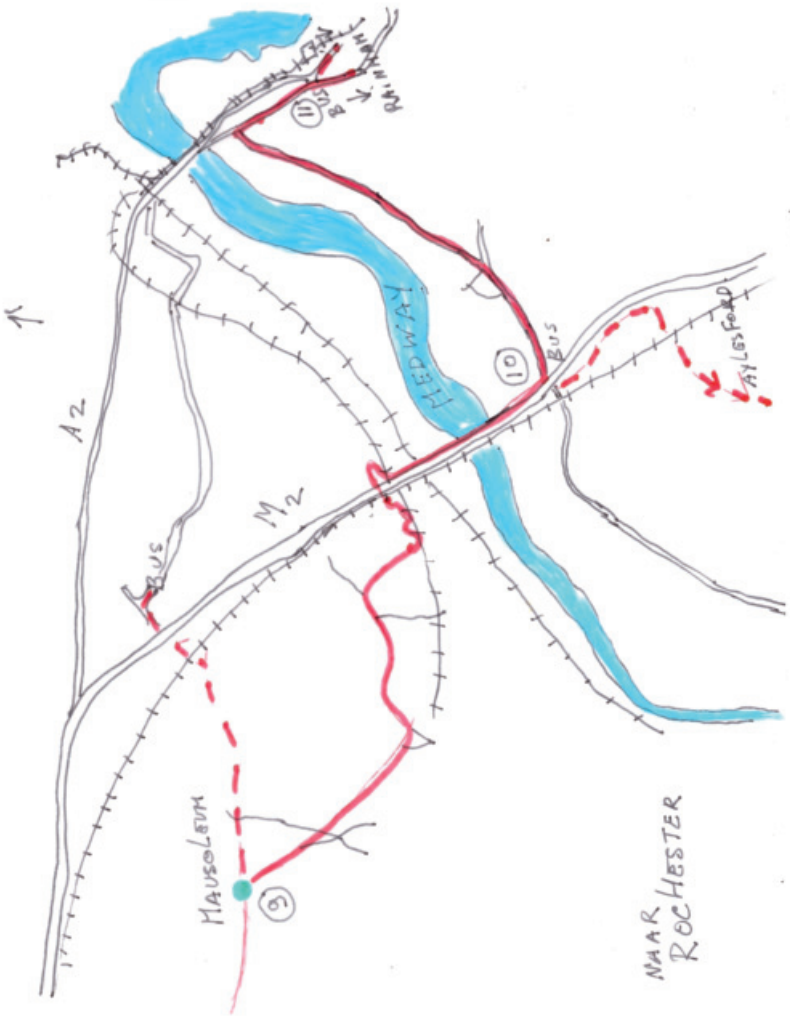
Night in the abbey

At the foot of the statue there is a bus stop. Every hour an Arrivabus155 leaves for Maidstone, once every two hours on Sunday. Get out at The Friars, just before Aylesford. It is also possible to walk there. It will take two to three hours. Just keep on following the North Downs Way. Go under the bridge, turn left and follow the signs through a farm and up Blue Bell Hill all the way to the top where there is a magnificent view. After the car park, the North Downs Way hits a road. Take a public footpath to your right downhill. You finally reach a street. Turn left and right again into Bull Lane. Walk all the way down Bull Lane until you reach The Friary. The next day you can take the bus back to Rochester and get out at Star Hill.

- 10** *Night in Rochester.* Turn left on Borstal Street. It continues further on as Borstal Road which has two B&Bs. Rochester is another quarter of an hour's walk. The High Street is worth a visit and well known for its connection with Charles Dickens. Other attractions are of course the castle and the cathedral.

- ↑ north
- start/finish
- route
- road
- +— railroad
- path
- water
- + church

MEDWAY



MARK
ROCHESTER



THE SHIPMAN

*A SHIPMAN was there,
A dagger hanging by a lace had he
About his neck under his arm adown;
The hot summer had made his hue all brown;
He knew well all the havens, as they were,
From Scotland to the Cape of Finisterre,
And every creek in Bretagne and in Spain:
His barge y-cleped was the Magdelain.*

The shipman of the Magdalena is a wary professional, and knowledgeable about what goes on in the world of trade and commerce. He has a lot of experience with pilgrims as his ship has taken many of them across to Spain on their way to Santiago de Compostella. He tells the story of a surprising transaction involving a lot of money.

THE PAYBACK

A Flemish trader and his wife are well to do. He is very sensible about money but his wife is a shopaholic. The husband gets frustrated and refuses to keep on paying for her expensive taste in clothes and jewellery.

The woman complains to a monk who happens to be a family friend. She regrets her husband's stinginess and his diminishing attentions in bed. The monk promises to help her out on both accounts. As regards the money, he borrows one hundred francs from the trader and gives it to the wife.

Time elapses and the trader wants his money back. The monk tells him that he has already given the money to the wife. At home the trader reproaches his wife for not passing on the hundred francs. She says that she has spent the money on her beautiful body and that she knows him to be very satisfied with that. She is prepared to pay the money back in the bedroom.



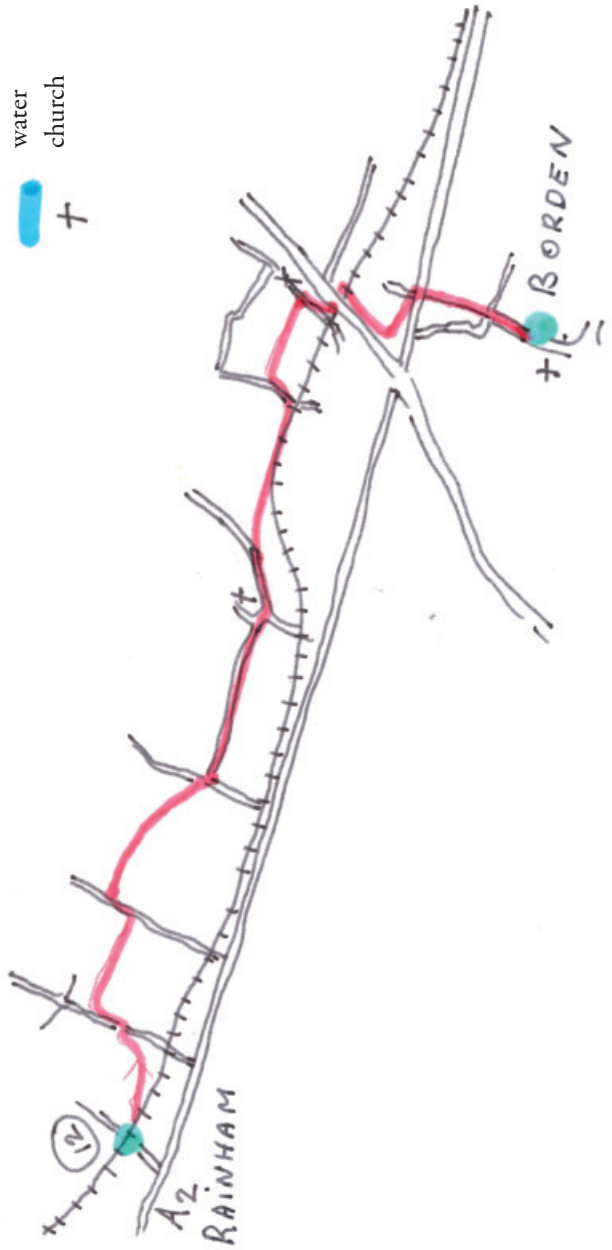
FROM ROCHESTER TO SITTINGBOURNE

- 11** *Cross at the traffic lights at the eastern end of High Street to Star Hill. If you wish to follow the original Watling Street and Roman Road, take bus 136 or 701 to the High Street in Rainham. But you can also take the train from Rochester railway station to Rainham.*
- 12** *Walk to the northern side of Rainham railway station and follow the tracks past the car park and cross the green field diagonally. Walk down Wakeley Road as far as the T-junction, turn right and go left on Otterham Quay Lane. At the crossroads go right past the golfing course. Cross Oak Lane and cross the field to Breach Lane. Go to the right and left again. Follow this road past the church and the oasthouse at Newington. Continue past the houses and meadow, and where the road veers to the left, take the track ahead up the slope. You come to an old barn and an old orchard where the track bends to the left. Find your way up the slope ahead of you and you will come to a field. Round it on the left hand side and find your way to the church of Bobbing you see in the distance. It dates back to pre-Chaucerian times and usually the door is open. Inside, peace and quiet in spite of the thunderous noise of Sheppey Way.*

Then walk south along Sheppey Way, cross the street and pass between MacDonalds and the Bobbing Apple to find a public footpath behind the Premier Inn. Go under the viaduct and cross the railway line with care. Walk along the sports fields to Grove Park. Cross the grass to your left until you come to where Sandford Road hits London Road. This is the A2 again. Cross it at the traffic lights and a bit further to your right is a cycle-track annex footpath that leads through a newish suburb, past water and a play area to an open field and then Wisers Lane in Borden with its B&B. Pub round the corner

FROM RAINHAM NAAR SITTINGBOURNE

- ↑ north
- start/finish
- route
- road
- +— railroad
- path
- water
- + church





THE WIFE OF BATH

*A good wife was there of beside Bath,
But she was some deal deaf, and that was scath.
Bold was her face, and fair and red of hue.
She was a worthy woman all her life,
Husbands at the church door had she had five,
In fellowship well could she laugh and carp
Of remedies of love she knew perchance
For of that art she coud the olde dance.*

The good wife of Bath is a bit deaf, but a proud and expert weaver. She has already put five husbands behind her. And has a lot of experience with pilgrimages too. She visited Jerusalem three times and was in Rome, Bologna, Cologne and Santiago de Compostella as well. She is looking for a sixth husband now. Her story lets the listeners in on what women want.

WHAT WOMEN WANT

In the times of King Arthur a knight is convicted of rape and condemned to death. The queen gives him a reprieve. Within a year and a day he will have to come up with an answer to the question what women want. If not, he will be executed. He sets out but fails to find a satisfactory response. On the very last day he runs into an old witch who promises to help him. There is a condition. If his life is spared he must do whatever she wishes him to do. He agrees.

The next day the knight appears in front of the Queen and tells her. “A woman wants to dominate her husband or her lover.” All ladies present agree that such was the case. Then the old woman speaks up and tells them about their agreement. Now she wants the knight to marry her.

The unhappy knight has to keep his promise and on the night of their wedding, the old woman asks him why he is so sad and passive? Is there anything she can do? He explains how unhappy he is with the situation.

Then she asks him to choose. Would she want him to be an ugly, old woman who would always be loyal to him? Or would he prefer his wife to be a beautiful young bride who would betray him whenever she can? He sighs deeply, closes his eyes and leaves the choice to her. “So I can choose what I want?” she asks. He answers: “I am resigned to whatever you decide.”

Once the woman hears this answer, she knows that he has learnt his lesson. She promises him to be beautiful and young, but also forever loyal. Then the knight opens his eyes and sees the most beautiful woman he has ever seen. And they live happily ever after.



FROM BORDEN TO BRENLEY CORNER

13 *Walk from Wises Lane around the pub and down The Street.* At the T-junction turn right and turn left after the next bend to the right. This footpath runs fairly straight, becomes a track and then a road. Ignore side streets and continue through an old, disused chalk pit. Cross Highsted Road and climb the hill to Rodmersham Green. At the junction in front of the pub, turn left, along the houses. Behind the last house on the right hand side, runs the footpath to Rodmersham Court Farm. Walk through it and cross the road and after that Dully Road too. Head up the slope and at the top take the footpath to the left. Take either the path through the farm or the next one on the right to reach Ludgate Road going to Lynsted. The pub is just behind the church and has the grumpiest old barkeeper of Kent.

Now, pay attention. Opposite the graveyard, between a garage and a hedge, there is a footpath. Follow it and you will cross two roads before you walk into the entrance to an orchard. Walk to the left of the buildings through the orchard to Norton Road. Turn left and take the first bridleway to the right. When you reach houses again, go right and follow the road to a T-junction. Turn left and take the first road to the right under the M2. Follow Well Lane to the left, passing some renovated oasthouses, until you can cross a bridge over the motorway. Ahead of you is a public footpath along a big field. Where there is a church, a path leads down to the graveyard and on to a street, Water Lane. Walk down the lane to Maison Dieu in Ospringe on the A2. The house is open on afternoons, Saturdays and Sundays in summer and used to be a place of reception and care for pilgrims.

- north ↑
- start/finish ●
- route →
- road |||
- railroad ||+||
- path |
- water [blue bar]
- church +

13

BORDEN

RODMERSHAM GREEN



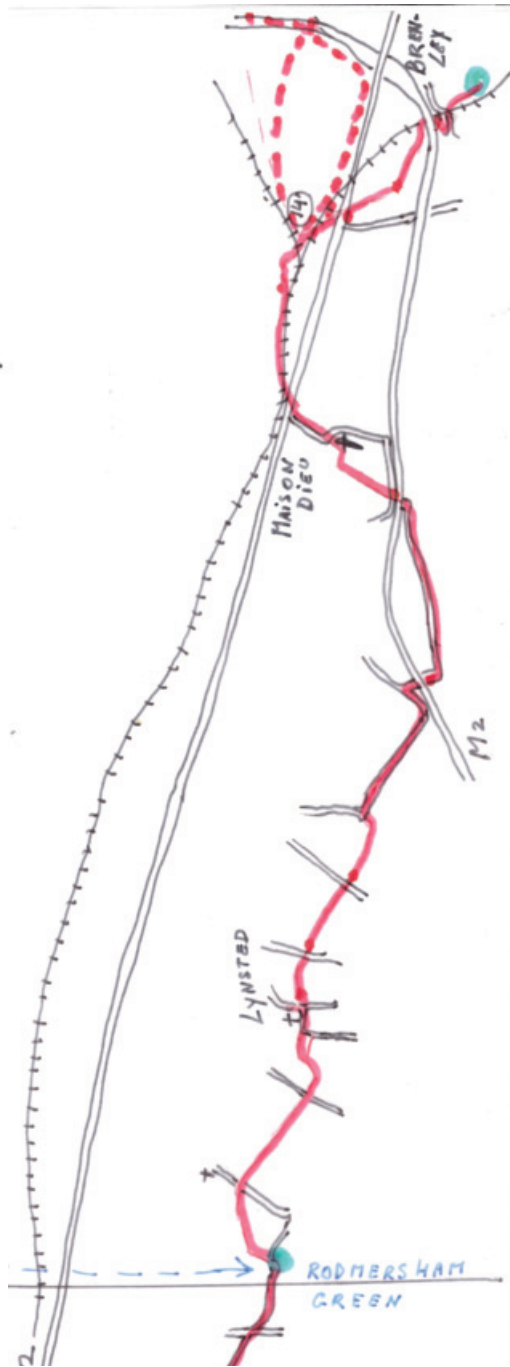
Cross the A2 and turn right at the pub. Just before the railroad tunnel there are some steps on the right to a park and playing fields. Cross it diagonally to a path between houses and the railway line. Cross the line over a bridge and follow the railroad line to Faversham Railway Station. Walk past it and when you see a bridge over the railroad and the railway works yard, veer left with the road and take the first side street to the right to a park. Pass the tennis courts and you will find, at the end to the right, the Preston Railway Bridge

If you spend the night in Faversham itself or Boughton Street

On the Preston Railway Bridge take the first steps down between the tracks. Walk past a cemetery and houses. At Love Lane turn left and take the first public footpath to the right. Go straight on. Cross the dangerous motorway. Continue behind Farming World to a T-junction. Go to the right, to the left and to the right again. Turn to to your left and walk down Boughton Street.

- 14** *Walk down the Preston Railway Bridge.* Walk through Bramley Street and the second street to the left Blenheim Avenue. At the end walk through to the A2. Go a little bit to the left and cross at Selling Road. Left of Selling Road, there is public footpath which leads around the Apple Craft Centre to a track that runs to a railway tunnel under a motorway and onto a country lane. Turn left and walk to a railroad crossing. Hidden to your right, between the small house and the railroad track, there is a public footpath that leads to a field behind the house. Walk to the orchard on your right. Behind it there is a play area where you can enter Brenley Farm.

- ↑ north
- start/finish
- ↗ route
- ||| road
- ||+|| railroad
- path
- water
- + church





THE MAN OF LAW

*A Ssergeant of the law, wary and wise,
Discreet he was, and of great reverence:
Nowhere so busy a man as he there was
And yet he seemed busier than he was
And every statute coud he plain by rote
He rode but homely in a medley coat.*

This scholar knows every rule in the book and gives the impression that he is a very studious person.

He presents the story of a very pious woman who suffered many misfortunes caused by people who did not like her. She remained ever constant in her faith.

EVIL IN LAWS

A Syrian sultan wants to marry a Roman girl, Constance. She is a pious Christian and he promises her to convert to her religion. On the wedding day his mother kills all the Christian guests and sends her on her way in a small boat out onto the sea.

God leads her over the waters and in the end she lands in pagan England. There she starts her missionary work. A young man falls in love with her but she rejects him. He takes revenge by killing her hostess and pinning the murder on Constance. But God punishes him when King Aella makes him swear to speak the truth on the bible.

Aella marries Constance, but once more the mother in law plots against the bride. The king has to travel a lot and in his absence she sends Constance away again. The young woman, now together with her small son, is put again the same small boat she arrived in and she sails back to Rome where they are taken care of by her loving family.

Aella discovers the plot and, by way of penance, undertakes a pilgrimage to Rome. There he happens to run into a small boy who looks a lot like him. This leads him to discover the whereabouts of his wife. Finally Constance and Aella are united again.



BOUGHTON

Walk from the house past the hop pickers' barn and take the public footpath across the orchard in a south eastern direction towards St. Peter and Paul Church. Walk to the entrance. On the gate a quote from 'The Canterbury Tales'. Cross the street and take straight ahead the path through the golf course and over the motorway to Boughton Street. Turn right and continue on the old road.

*At Boughton under Blee us gan atake, a man that
clothes was in clothes blake*

On the steep slope to Dunkirk you need to slow down. In this spot coaches used to be plagued by highwaymen. Further on take the exit to the A2 for London. Over the motorway there is a private road on the right. Walk down to Forester's Barn, the first house to the left. Behind it is a public footpath between the houses to the woods. Follow the yellow arrows. At a fork take the left path. Finally to come to a field and turn left. Next to the field the path is overgrown but there is a good parallel path. Where another public footpath crosses this path, walk to the fence and a bit further on you can enter the field. Cross the field towards the end of a row of trees and walk on to a Style where you enter a wooded area again. Follow the path and you cross the small stream, then cross the orchard all the way until you come to a country lane. Turn left and continue along this lane until there are some houses on your left too. Just before a slope there is a path hidden behind the last house. Turn left and past the field on your right, you come finally to a T-junction and paved street. Turn left and past the crossroads at Chartham Hatch you will find the North Downs Way to your left past No Man's Orchard. The North Downs Way then goes downhill through a wooded area to another street. Cross the bridge over the motorway and turn right. The noise of the motorway is very clear here. To your left orchards.

FROM BRENLEY FARM TO CANTERBURY

- north
- start/finish
- route
- road
- railroad
- path
- water
- church



Historical aside

Almost at the top of the track there is a public footpath to the left leading to a barn in Harbledown.

*A litel foun, which that ycleped is Bohbe-up-and-down
under the Blee in Canterbury Wey*

Turn left on the paved street and to the right again up the slope to St. Nicholas Church and Hospital. Exhausted pilgrims could rest here. Erasmus of Rotterdam passed this place 500 years ago and an old man approached him offering up a shoe for kissing. The man told Erasmus a touching story of how the shoe had belonged to Thomas Becket. Yes, he had worn it on the day he was murdered in the cathedral. Erasmus gave the man some money for the interesting story but did not want to kiss the shoe.

Walk past the church and under the lychgate. Turn right and continue until you reach the motorway. You see Canterbury. Keep to the right of the road until you come to the traffic lights of Knight Avenue and go under the A2.

- 15** *Just after the top of the slope the path turns to the left in front of a row of trees. It leads to Mill Lane. Cross Knight Avenue and go under the A2.*

My tale is soon; we been almoost at towne

Quiet aside

Turn to the right into Queen's Avenue in and continue until you come to a wall. Through the gate (closed after sundown), cross the bridge over the small Stour and turn left. Walk on and cross the street carefully to reach the Westgate. Turn right into High Street.

- 16** *Walk along London Road and turn right at St. Dunstan's Church where the remains of Thomas More probably have been buried. Follow St Dunstan's Street through the Westgate to High Street. Walk on. After 500 yard there is narrow Mercy Lane on the left and you will see the cathedral.*



CANTERBURY

The cathedral of Canterbury is the most famous cathedral of Great Britain and the seat of the archbishop of Canterbury. In 597 Augustine founded a church here and became the first archbishop. In 1170 the then archbishop Thomas Becket was murdered in the cathedral. People mopped up the blood. Soon the rumour spread that the blood would cure blindness, epilepsy and leprosy. So a trade began in small bottles filled with drop of blood mixed with water. Canterbury grew into an important place of pilgrimage.

Until the sixteenth century Thomas Becket's tomb was to be found in the crypt but it was destroyed on orders of Henry VIII. There is still a monument. It is possible to speak with a priest here. The cathedral charges for entrance. It is possible to attend vespers if you notify beforehand by email: visits@canterbury-cathedral.org.

Other routes for pilgrimage

Apart from this route, there is another one. On www.walkawhile.co.uk you'll find more information on the route from Winchester, the former capital of England.

The cathedral in Canterbury is a starting point for the pilgrims' way to Santiago de Compostella and the Via Francigena to Rome.

In St. Margaret's Street, opposite Mercery Lane, The Canterbury Tales is a major tourist attraction. There the stories are brought to life in sound and image. More information on www.canterburytales.org.uk.

WHERE TO SLEEP?

There is usually a pub nearby for evening meals. Brenley Hall and The Friars can provide evening meals if notified. In urban areas there is of course alternative accommodation

St Christopher's Village - backpackers' hostel
165 Borough High Street, London, 00-44-(0)207 4071856,
www.st-christophers.co.uk

Dover Castle Hostel - backpackers' hostel
6A Great Dover Street, London, 00-44-(0)20-7403 7773,
www.dovercastlehostel.co.uk

Black Horse Cottage - B&B
High Street, Bean, tel. 00-44-(0)1474 704 962, www.blackhorsecottage.net

Broomfield House - B&B or apartment
Main Road, Longfield, Kent, tel. 00-44-(0)1474 709675, mail:
lenhwilton@btinternet.com

Mrs H. Colvin, St Martin – B&B
104 Borstal Road, Rochester, tel. 00-44-(0)1634 848192, mail:
icolvin@stmartin.freeseerve.co.uk

The Friars – B&B, evening meal possible and/or church service
Aylesford, tel: 00-44-(0)1622 717272, www.thefriars.org.com

Premier Inn – hotel

Bobbing Corner, Sheppey Way, Sittingbourne, tel: 00-44-(0)08701 977,
www.premierinn.com/en/hotel/SITBOB/sittingbourne-kent

Holly House - B&B

Wises Lane, Borden, Sittingbourne, tel. 00-44-(0)1795 426953/7840
067936, www.hollyhouseandb.org.uk

Brenley Farm – B&B or hop pickers' barn, evening meal possible

Brenley Lane, Boughton, Faversham, tel: 00-44-(0)1227.751203/7860
505359, www.brenley-farm.co.uk

Kipps Independent Hostel - backpackers' hostel

40 Nunnery Fields, tel. 00-44-(0)1227 786121, www.kipps-hostel.com
(Walk back through Mercery Lane, continue to St. Margaret's Street. Turn left at crossroads into Watling Street and pass the bus station. Go under the roundabout, straight ahead past the police station. Nunnery Fields is the first street on the right.)

Youth Hostel Association - backpackers' hostel

54 New Dover Road, Canterbury, tel. 00-44-(0)845 371 9010,
mail: canterbury@yha.org.uk
(Walk back through Mercery Lane, and turn left into The Parade. Pass the bus station and go under the roundabout. You come out in New Dover Road)

Canterbury Cathedral Lodge – cathedral hotel

The Precincts, Canterbury, tel. 00-44-(0)1227 865350,
www.canterburycathedrallodge.org.

FIND MORE ON

www.visitlondon.com

www.visitkent.co.uk

TRANSPORT

Canterbury has two railway stations and a bus station with direct connections to Londen en Dover. More information Bus: www.nationalexpress.nl en www.arrivabus.co.uk Trein: southeasternrailway.co.uk Londen: www.tfl.gov.uk

READING

E.N. Robinson, *The works of Geoffrey Chaucer*

Jack Ravensdale, *In the Steps of Chaucer's Pilgrims*

Peter Ackroyd, *The Canterbury Tales, a retelling*

Terry Jones and others, *Who Murdered Geoffrey Chaucer?*

Mike Poulton, Nick Herne, *Chaucer's The Canterbury Tales, adapted for the stage*

WATCHING

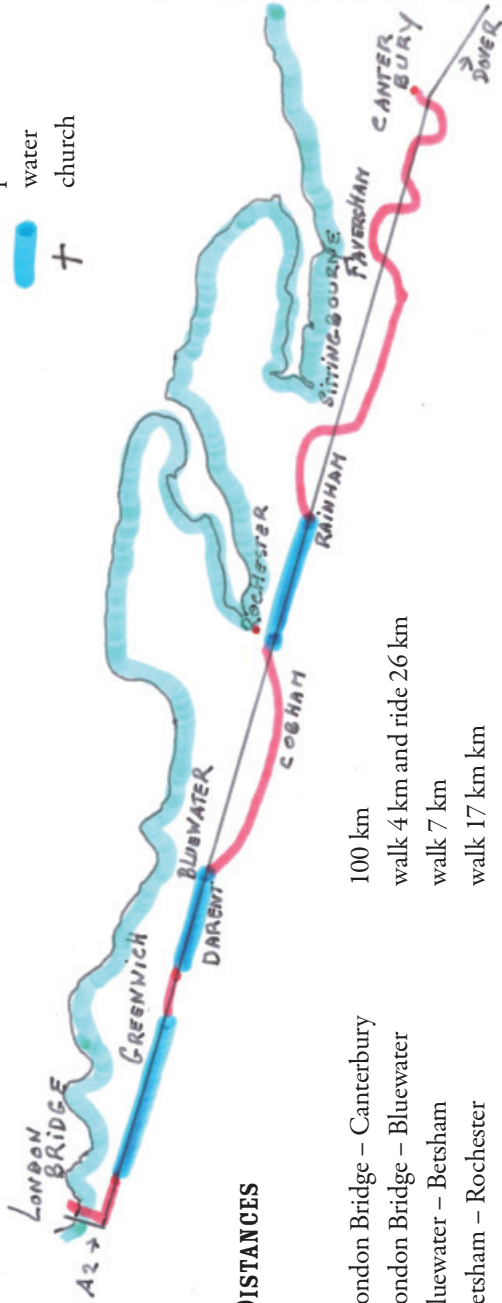
The Canterbury Tales, A Modern Re-telling, BBC (DVD)

Youtube: The words Geoffrey Chaucer and Canterbury Tales produce a host of surprises: actors reading the Prologue, lectures by experts, school trips, music by The Mama's and the Papa's and much more.



LONDON - CANTERBURY

- ↑ north
- start/finish
- route
- == road
- +++ railroad
- path
- ▬ water
- + church



DISTANCES

London Bridge – Canterbury	100 km
London Bridge – Bluewater	walk 4 km and ride 26 km
Bluewater – Betsham	walk 7 km
Betsham – Rochester	walk 17 km
Rochester – Sittingbourne	walk 7 km and ride 9 km
Sittingbourne - Brenley Corner	walk 20 km
Brenley Corner – Canterbury	walk 11 km

EUROPEAN PILGRIMS' ROUTES



DISTANCES

London Bridge – Canterbury	100 km
Canterbury – Santiago de Compostella	2000 km
Canterbury – Rome	2700 km