

Route supplied by

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Ale Trail 2011

Ely, Cambridgeshire

MINIMUM TIME: 1.5 hours

DISTANCE: 3.4 miles

LEVEL/GRADE: Easy, generally level walking except for a short climb and descent in Ely itself

PATHS: Towpath, field paths, woodland paths, tarmac paths and some roads in Ely

LANDSCAPE: Riverside, fens, woodland and historic Ely

Enjoy this circular walk around Ely – taking in the cathedral, a stretch of the River Great Ouse and a choice of pubs and tea rooms



KEY TO SYMBOLS

- Your route
- Public road
- Footpath/Bridal Way
- River
- Railway track
- Points on the route
- Pub

Please drink responsibly

SUGGESTED STARTING POINT

You will find plenty of parking in Broad Street.

OS MAPS

Explorer 226 (Ely and Newmarket) Landranger 143 (Ely and Wisbech)

THE WALK

- From the Station Road end of Broad Street, turn down Victoria Street which soon brings you out next to the popular Cutter Inn (☎ 01353 662713) with its superb riverside location. Turn left to follow the tow path.
- Head along the river and you soon come to Peacocks tea rooms which won the Tea Guild's title of UK's Top Tearoom 2007. Continue along the river bank past narrow boats and cruisers, under a bridge and through a metal kissing gate and then out onto the Fens.
- Follow the river bank until you reach a fence and then turn left towards a wooden gate. Through the gate you pick up a tarmac path which soon meets a lane. Here you turn left at markers for Fen Rivers Way and Black Fen Waterway Trail.
- Take care as you cross the level crossing then turn immediately left following the public footpath sign for Hereward Way and continue through the trees which brought some welcome shade on the afternoon that we did this walk.
- At the end of the footpath, pass through the wooden gate, and turn left

along the road. This is the least attractive part of the walk but you soon pass the light commercial buildings and enter Ely again.

- At the T-junction turn right, ignoring the turning on the left and also passing The Royal Standard (☎ 01353 669496) on the left. As you reach the top of Fore Street, keep straight on past the square on your right and this brings you into the High Street.
- A little further along High Street, you reach Steeple Gate Tea Rooms. Turn left under the arch here and enter the grounds of the Cathedral where you turn right. This is a popular place to rest either on one of the benches or just on the grass.
- Continue walking along the edge of the grass until you reach the road (Minster Place). You can make a short detour by turning right to the The Minster Tavern (☎ 01353 668492) which is in sight, or just keep going on the path that continues straight ahead of you. If you do stop off here, return to this point and turn right, walking away from the cathedral to pick up the path again.
- When you reach a parking area, pass through this and bear left onto

Church Lane. Keep going a short distance until you reach Oliver Cromwell's House on your left. This houses Ely Tourist Information and makes a fascinating stop to get a glimpse of domestic life in the 17th Century.

- Past Cromwell's House turn left into Silver Street opposite the Vauxhall garage. Choose a refreshment stop at The Prince Albert (☎ 01353 663494) or The Fountain (☎ 01353 663122) or continue by crossing the road and keeping to the left of the grass triangle. Go straight across at the mini roundabout and head down the hill.
- At the bottom of the hill there is a sign on the left to The Maltings, River and Car Park (Broad Street). Turn down here to head straight back to your car, or to take a last look at the river, continue on past the row of old terraced cottages "Castlehythe" on your left to reach Annesdale where you turn left.
- Just a few more minutes and you are at The Cutter Inn and the river once again. From here turn left and continue along the tow path until you are back on the road that brought you to the river at the start of your pub walk.