



Medieval Pilgrimage

Self-guided heritage walk

'Medieval Pilgrimage' walk from St Catherine's Chapel to Church of St Martha-on-the-Hill

The walk from St Catherine's to St Martha's has many route options which can be taken, depending on the type and length of journey preferred. Suggested circular routes from a starting point in Guildford are provided, both via a return train journey from Chilworth and as a walk entirely on foot across Pewley Down.

Length: approx. 4.6 miles (train option) / 6.3 miles (by foot)

Duration: the journey will range from 2.5 to 3 hours, not counting stoppage time at the sites

Moderate level of difficulty (steep climbs)

Heritage sites of interest

St Catherine's Chapel The ruins of this now roofless chapel are largely 14th century, though they sit on the site of an earlier chapel. Disused by 1546 and partly restored in the 18th century, the site is now railed off, though the interior can still be viewed. See its [list entry](#) and [HER record](#) for more info.

St Martha-on-the-Hill A few 12th century remains are incorporated into the church's mid-19th century rebuild, including a Norman font from Hambledon. See its [list entry](#) and [HER record](#) for more info.

Chilworth Gunpowder Works The remains of the gunpowder factory's middle works are largely late 19th century, although the mill site was almost continually used since 1626, including for paper-making. See its [list entry](#) and [HER record](#) for more info, including its [heritage trail leaflet](#).

Pewley Hill Mobilisation Centre This late 19th century mobilisation centre is no longer accessible, but see its [Victorian Forts and Artillery listing](#) for more info.

Guildford Castle This substantial Norman keep is 12th century (though with earlier origins) and visitable by paid entry (the bailey grounds are open to the public). See its [list entry](#) and [HER record](#) for more info.

St Mary's Church The church has pre-Conquest origins, with both Late Saxon and Norman features, including on the tower which are visible from the ground (the interior is normally locked in the day). See its [list entry](#) and [HER record](#) for more info.

Starting route from Guildford Station

1 Walk SE on Station Approach towards Walnut Tree Cl, taking the pedestrian tunnel and aiming for High St. Right before the White Horse pub, turn left onto the footbridge and cross over the River Wey, turning right onto Millbrook/A281. Continue to follow Millbrook for 0.3 miles until passing The Weyside pub.

2 Turn right onto the footpath which crosses back over the Wey, right before the Guildford Rowing Club. Follow the river, walking on its righthand side, for 0.5 miles.

3 Turn right onto Ferry Ln and walk uphill for 0.1 miles, before turning left onto Old Portsmouth Rd/A3100. The footpath which leads up the hill to St Catherine's Chapel (4) is immediately on your left.

5 An optional stop is Ye Olde Ship Inn on Portsmouth Rd, as you turn right out of Ferry Ln.

(Total length for this journey leg = 1.2 miles. Although the most direct route (1.0 miles) is along Portsmouth Rd, the more scenic walk is outlined here).

Main route from St Catherine's Hill to St Martha's Hill (Pilgrims Way)

6 Walk back down the footpath from St Catherine's Hill and turn right onto Ferry Ln. At the end of the lane, turn right and continue along the footpath as it crosses over the footbridge. Continue along this path on the other side of the river, following it as it turns right and crossing over the meadows until reaching Shalford Rd/A281.

7 Cross over Shalford Rd, using the crossing a few metres to your left, and continue along the Pilgrims Way / North Downs Way for 0.2 miles. At the end of the road, as it forks to the left, take the righthand Shepherd's Way, which will take you past Chantries Car Park.

8 At you come out of the carpark, turn left onto the road and take a slight right onto the footpath (North Downs Way). Continue along this route for over a mile as it runs along the northern edge of Chantry Wood, cutting across a meadow at one point, before re-entering the woods.

9 At the edge of the woods, the path will split. Turn right and continue for 0.1 miles, before turning left and walking for approximately another 0.1 miles, reaching Halfpenny Lane. Turn left onto Halfpenny Lane and walk for just over 100 feet, before continuing on the footpath to your right, passing St Martha's Hill Halfpenny Lane Car Park. Continue along this route for over 0.4 miles, as it reaches the church of St Martha-on-the-Hill (10).

(Total length for this journey leg = 2.5 miles)

Return route via Chilworth Station

11 Exit St Martha's from the south gate and follow the footpath down the hill, passing Chilworth Manor Vineyard on your right (note this is a very steep descent, and a slightly longer option is to continue eastwards along the North Downs Way as you leave the church, turning right and downhill onto the Downs Link, and then back westwards on the path before reaching Chilworth Manor). As you reach Chilworth Manor on your right, continue straight downhill into Chilworth Gunpowder Mills, following the path over the pack horse bridge (12).

12 Once over the bridge, take the left fork left to the track junction, and then left again, arriving back at the Chilworth Gunpowder Mills and picnic area. Take the righthand path across the footbridge over the Tillingbourne and follow the path which passes Chilworth Infant School, before turning left onto Dorking Rd/A248.

13 An optional stop is The Percy Arms pub, next to the school and opposite from Chilworth Station (14). The train service is normally hourly, with the journey back to Guildford (stopping at Shalford) lasting about 10 minutes (note there is no ticket machine at Chilworth).

(Total length for this journey leg = 0.9 miles)

Return route via Pewley Down

15 From the church, head back westwards along the North Downs Way to the previous point (9). At the path junction, continue straight ahead instead of turning left, and follow the footpath along the edge of Chantry Wood. Continue along the footpath for about a mile as it crosses the fields and heads NW across Pewley Down. As you enter a residential area (passing the site of Pewley Hill fort (16) on your left, continue onto Pewley Hill for another half mile, before turning right and immediately left again onto Castle St.

17 Continue down Castle St, passing Guildford Castle and Guildford Museum (18) on your left (note that the Museum is best entered via Quarry St). Turn right onto Quarry St, passing Guildford's parish church of St Mary's (19), before turning left onto High St.

20 Walk to the bottom of High St, crossing over Millbrook and the river, before turning right onto the path which runs alongside Portsmouth Rd Car Park. Take the pedestrian tunnel back to Guildford Station.

(Total length for this journey leg = 2.6 miles)

