

Harnham, Cathedral and Britford Walks

Start point: Guildhall Square for all walks

Walk 1a: Town Path, Harnham, Cathedral Close – 2 miles

See: gardens, 'Constable's views', watermeadows, historic buildings

1. Walk along the south side of the **Market Square**, go between buildings to the **Poultry Cross** and turn R. Cross the High St. into Bridge St. then turn L beside the river. Turn R over Crane Bridge, cross the road and take the path beside the **River Avon** through **Queen Elizabeth Gardens**. Cross a footbridge, turn L and follow the path to another bridge over the **River Nadder**.
2. Cross the bridge signed **Town Path** and West Harnham and follow the path across watermeadows to reach the **Old Mill Hotel**. Turn L into the recreation ground by the river and walk diagonally R to reach Harnham Rd., turn L and walk along the main road.
3. Turn L down Harnham Rd., cross **St Nicholas Bridge** and turn L into De Vaux Place * to enter the **Cathedral Close** through the **Harnham Gate**. Take the footpath past the west front of the Cathedral to the **High Street Gate** to return to the City Centre.

*[*For a longer walk follow directions for walk 1(b.)]*

Walk 1b: Churchill Gardens, St Ann Street, Cathedral Close

Walks 1a and 1b – 3 miles

1. From * in section 3 of walk 1(a) continue along St Nicholas Rd., before the roundabout cross over to path opposite, walk to the river and under the road bridge into **Churchill Gardens**. Go past the Sea Cadet H.Q. and follow the path by the river. After crossing a stream go R to reach Southampton Rd. then L to cross at the pedestrian crossing, to Wiltshire College.
2. Turn R, and walk round to the back of the building to a footpath through **St Martin's churchyard**. Walk along St Martin's Church St. then take the ramp to the underpass. On emerging from the underpass, turn L up the slope to reach **St Ann Street**, with its many historic buildings.
3. Keep on the left hand pavement to Exeter St., use the pedestrian crossings to enter the **Cathedral Close** through **St Ann's Gate**. Walk along North Walk and turn R to the **High Street Gate** to return to the City Centre.

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Walk 1c: Churchfield's, Broken Bridges, Town Path – 3½ miles.

See: *Tranquil riverside, Cathedral views, rural meadows*

1. Follow section 1 of walk 1(a). Continue on footpath signed Churchfields to Mill Rd., turn L into Churchfields Rd. and L again into Stevenson Rd. Look out for a grass path on the L leading to the river. Follow this beautiful stretch of the **River Nadder**, the path can be muddy in wet weather.
2. When you reach the Canoe Club building on the riverbank leave the river and walk along the road, turn L onto Brunel R and L again at Lower Rd. Continue on the same side of the road along a section with no pavement and turn L onto a footpath, this is the **Broken Bridges Path**.
3. The crosses numerous small bridges. After the arched bridge, turn L onto a track known as **Gypsy Lane**. At the road, go straight on along Middle St. *[It is worth making a diversion into **Middle Street Meadow** on the left to visit the pond and wetland area.]* Return to the road and at the **Town Path** turn L. past the Old Mill Hotel, follow the path across the watermeadows and walk across Queen Elizabeth Gardens to return to the City Centre.

Walk 1d: Harnham Hill, Shaftesbury Drove, East Harnham Meadows, Britford Village – 5¼ miles (or 7 miles if including Britford Village)

See: *Woodland, meadows, wildflowers, landscape views*

1. Follow sections 1 and 2 of walk 1(a). On leaving the recreation ground cross at the lights, turn R, then L through a gap at the start of the hedge. Cross grass and go up the road opposite, Parsonage Green, onto a gravel track to reach a footpath at the bottom of the wooded area of **Harnham Slope**.
2. Turn R, ignore paths on the right and left and go straight on, the path climbs gently up the slope. At the top turn sharp L onto a narrow path to a **viewpoint with picnic table**. Continue until you reach a path on the right, the **Avon Valley Path**, turn R and walk uphill then down to a T-junction. Turn R and when this meets a wide track turn L to the main Blandford Rd.
3. Cross with care to the path opposite, this is an ancient green lane, the **Old Shaftesbury Drove**. *The fields on the left have wide grassy margins; although not public rights of way many people use this area for walking, with lovely views over the countryside and city.* Continue along the Drove, between hedges to reach Odstock Rd.
4. Cross over, turn L until you see a public footpath sign, turn R into the field and continue in the same direction inside the field as far as the trees. Turn R to the end of the tree line, go downhill to the main Downton Rd. and turn R. Take care here as no footpath and cross the entrance to the Park & Ride site. Cross the main road at the lights and walk down Lower Rd. to **Britford Village**.
5. *[To visit the village and the church, follow the roads and paths marked on the map].* To return to the city, turn L from Lower Rd. onto the bridleway beside a bench. Continue along the lane, at the main road turn R across the grass. After the bridge go down towards the river, turn sharp R under the bridge, at the road cross over and turn L to De Vaux Place. Return to the city through the Cathedral Close as in section 3 of Walk 1(a).