

## Walk in the footsteps of Pilgrims

Via Francigena is the ancient route from Canterbury to Rome, followed by archbishops travelling to receive their symbols of authority from the pope as well as ordinary pilgrims en route to Rome or onward to Jerusalem.

It was originally described by Archbishop Sigeric in AD990 and his route has been adopted by the Council of Europe Institute of Cultural Routes as the definitive way from Canterbury to Rome. Today people of all ages and beliefs enjoy the physical challenge of this 1,200 mile journey. Join the Kent Ramblers as we retrace the steps of pilgrims from days gone by, following the Kent part of the Via Francigena route across the North Downs Way. The walks are lead by fully qualified members of Kent Ramblers.

You will get a Via Francigena 'pilgrim's passport', which will be stamped along the way, for completing either of the two walks. Your 'passport' will entitle you to a treat at the Canterbury Food and Drink Festival 2012 between 28 and 30 September. Simply hand it in at the Canterbury information point.



## The Dover walk

Date: Tuesday 25 September Start time: 10am Start place: Market Square, Dover, the official start of the Via Francigena on UK soil Distance: four miles Return by bus

## The Canterbury walk

Date: Saturday 29 September Start time: 9.30am Start place: Bekesbourne train station Distance: three and a half miles

Return by train from Canterbury East station

The walk is hilly so anyone wishing to join the walk should be of appropriate fitness, be wearing walking boots/shoes, be dressed appropriately for the weather and have a drink with them. The walk is not suitable for young children, push chairs, wheelchairs or those with mobility problems.

For more information on the walks, call Alison Hargreaves on **01227 862 082** or email **alison.hargreaves@canterbury. gov.uk**. For details on the ancient route, visit **www.canterbury. co.uk/viafrancigena** 







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