Walk 2: Shoreham circular

An idyllic village set in a pastoral valley is the start and finish point of this walk with a trout stream, water meadows, hills and woodland.

THE WALK IN SHORT
Points 0-1: 150m. Leave Shoreham station and walk under bridge down Station Rd to footpath on left.
Point 1-2: 550m. Follow footpath through trees, across golf fairways (take care) and by a cricket pitch to narrow lane.
Point 2-3: 400m. Turn right down lane to Home Farm buildings.
Point 3a-4: 800m. Walk over bridge then bear left along stream. Enter Water Lane and pass cottages, cross Filston Lane, then take farm track opposite uphill to hillside field.
Point 4-5: 100m. Steep climb, then, half way up hill, watch out for footpath in front of scenic bench.
Point 5-6: 500m. Turn north (right) up footpath along side of valley. Walk straight on.
Point 6-7: 800m. At path ‘crossroads’ continue straight on until you can see lane and barrier ahead (cottage on left).
Point 7-8: 800m. Take the path on the right along edge of field back towards village for 100m or so. When the path comes out on the High St, cross, then walk down Mill Lane nearly opposite. Cross river on bridge, then turn right and walk along river path to war memorial.
Point 8: Half mile back to station or car. Turn left on Church St, past cottages to church (can cut through churchyard) and Ye Olde George.

T he path will take you through the escarpment at Kemsing north of Darent Valley, where children will be delighted to cut through churchyard and Ye Olde George.

How long? 1½ hours/3.5 miles (5km)
Public transport: Thameslink and Southeastern trains run a regular service to Shoreham station (on the London Blackfriars to Sevenoaks line). Arriva Kent’s 403 bus from Bluewater to Tunbridge Wells is hourly.
Parking: easy: car park in Filston Lane or park near station
Start of walk: footpath 80 metres west of Darent Valley golf club
Steep slopes? One short, quite steep uphill section. Moderately easy walk.
Kid friendly? The walk might be long for younger children but they’ll love wading in the river at the war memorial and picnics in the meadows (best picnic spot at Point 4 on hillside).

Walk and local highlights
Delightful 15th-century village houses; the Water House, associated with early 19th century landscape painter Samuel Palmer of the Ancients fame; Shoreham Aircraft Museum, with tea shop attached, which has loads of exhibits from Battle of Britain aircraft and local stories concerning captured German aircrew being bought drinks in the pub; sparkling wine specialist Mount Vineyard (open on Sundays); Castle Farm shop and lavender fields nearby. Also the Darent river, hillside views, wild flower meadows, hedgerows, beech trees and old, flint and wooden houses and a great church dating from the 11th century. Four pubs too. Not bad for the ‘most bombed village in England’ during WW2.
Covered on Ordnance Survey Explorer 147 map.

More info on Shoreham on localkentwalks.wordpress.com and shorehamvillage.co.uk

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