

1 Turn left out of the hall car park down to The Yew Tree.

2 Go right towards Dursley. Immediately after the pub turn left, then immediately left again into The Quarry.

3 Stay on this road, going past Woodfields school on your right, and then onto a tarmac path (no cars allowed). Ignore the footpath on your left after a couple of hundred metres. At the bottom of the hill, the path turns sharp left (follow the blue signs Draycott and Cam). After turning left here, carry on until you reach Manor Avenue by the Upper Knapp Farm day nursery.

4 Turn left onto this road and proceed down to the road junction.

5 Turn left into the area of Draycott, going past Millwoods (the Shell garage) on your left. After a further 100 metres, take a right turn towards Coaley and the Cam and Dursley Railway station.

6 Ride past the station, over the bridge and after 800 metres, take a left turn (opposite Coaley Mill). This road takes you over the M5 motorway and you then meet the A38. Take care here as it is a very busy road.

7 Turn left onto the A38. After The George pub, turn right into Ryalls Lane.

8 Turn first left which will take you down to a T junction. Turn right at the junction towards the Canal and Wildfowl Centre.



Cycle ride to Slimbridge

9 From here, you can now decide whether to go all the way to Slimbridge Wildfowl Centre, or part way to the canal. The canal is approx 1.2k from here, the wildfowl centre is about 2k. (**7.2km/4.5mi**)



You can return the same way. But why not make it a more circular route?

10 Return to Slimbridge Village and the beautiful spired church. (Ignore the left turn where you met this road on the way). 150 metres past the church, take a right hand turn into Moorend Lane. This is part of the number 41 National Cycle Route.

11 At the next road junction turn left signposted Gossington and Gloucester.

12 You now reach the A38 where you should turn right after crossing over the dual carriageway. Take care – there is a cycle lane on this stretch of the A38 so please use it.

13 Ride down hill past the Gossington Truck Stop, up hill and down again and you reach the Haven Homes Animal Feed garage. Just before turn left into Woodend Lane. (**16.8km/10.5mi**)

14 Go over the motorway. If you want a short cut back to Stinchcombe, take the first right after 50 metres or so into Field Lane. You will however need a good number of gears, strong lungs and fit legs to get up the very steep hill that is ahead. It's also single track, so take care and be prepared to dismount. This road leads onto The Quarry. Turn right there and follow the way you came - back to Stinchcombe.

15 If you want a gentler climb back to Stinchcombe, continue along Woodend Lane. At the end you will reach Manor Avenue where you turn right for a couple of hundred yards. At Upper Knapp Farm day nursery, turn right and retrace your earlier route back to Stinchcombe.

Cycle ride to Slimbridge



Cycling around

Stinchcombe

Cycling in and around the village of Stinchcombe

11

This ride enables you to linger at the canal side watching the boats or to visit the Wetland Centre. The cycling is fairly easy but with gradual ascents back to Stinchcombe from the Vale. There are no off road or tracks, so it is suitable for any bike.

The route is 21.5 kilometres/13.5 miles if you do the whole ride but you are offered ways to shorten it. The distances in bold in the text tell you how far you have already done.

Start: Stinchcombe Village Hall

Refreshments: There is the Tudor Arms and the Boat Station Café at the canal and a café/restaurant at the Wetland Centre.



THE WILD FOWL
A cycle ride to Slimbridge

1 With your back to the War Memorial, looking at the church, head off to the right down Wick Lane and continue to the end where there is a T junction.



2 Turn right, go over the motorway bridge and then take the first turning on the left after the motorway bridge. This is about 100 metres, signposted Damery and Lower Wick. There is a small hill going down here, so enjoy some speed!

3 Keep going along this lane to a small hump back bridge over the railway line. This is a good place to stand over the track when the trains come and you might be lucky **(3.2km/2mi)**. If you have a racing bike, continue on this road until the T junction. Turn right and meet the route at 5 below.

4 For those on other bikes, immediately after the bridge, turn right down a track. This track is perfectly bikeable. There may even be some puddles to splash through if you want. Ride to the end of the track where you will join a country road. Turn right onto this road.

5 Continue ahead to the A38. This is a dog leg cross roads. Cross this road (be very careful as it is a busy road) and head down the road for Berkeley and Sharpness.

6 Continue along here again to the T junction **(6km/3.75mi)**. Now you have the choice of either turning right to go to Cattle Country (just a hundred yards or so along on your left) or left to enjoy the delights of

Berkeley town or the castle (800 metres).

7 As an alternative to going back to Stinchcombe the same way, head into Berkeley. Just as you arrive in the Market Place, turn left (signposted Jenner Museum and St Mary's Church) and continue along this road for 4.4km/2.75mi until you arrive back at the A38 by Stone and Woodford Primary School **(11.2km/7mi)**.



8 Cross the A38 onto the pavement opposite. Turn left, leaving the pavement, to bear right after a few yards down a path which leads into a road (the old road?) running parallel to the A38.

9 Ride up a short hill and the road bears right into Damery Lane. This road leads over the M5 (a short sharp hill) and then enjoy some sharp descents and ascents through the woods alongside the Little Avon River. Enjoy the smells of the wild garlic in springtime.

10 When you finally come out of the woods, and the road flattens out into a straight hedge-lined road, at the end of the hedges you have another alternative **(16km/10mi)**.

11 For the first option: carry straight on past the Pepperpot Restaurant (formerly the Pickwick Inn), under the motorway and take the next right just before the caravan site. Carry on up to meet your original route at the railway bridge (6 above) and retrace your steps back to Stinchcombe.

12 Option 2 is a slightly more hilly route back. Turn right (signposted Middle Wick and North Nibley), go past Middle Wick Business Park (steepish ascent) until you come to a staggered cross roads where you turn left and enjoy the downhill. In 1.2km, turn right retrace your steps (from 3 above) back to the War Memorial in Stinchcombe.



Cycling around Stinchcombe

Cycling in and around the village of Stinchcombe

12

This cycle ride takes you to Berkeley where you can visit Berkeley Castle, the Butterfly House and the Edward Jenner Museum. It will also take you to Cattle Country.

It is a reasonably flat route with a few sharp hills on the alternative return. The route is mainly on roads, though there is one short track (which can be avoided by racing bikes), and so is suitable for any bike. The distances in bold in the text tell you how far you have already done.

Start: The War Memorial by St. Cyr's Church

Refreshments: Several pubs/cafes in Berkeley. Pepperpot Inn at point 11

THE WILD WEST
A cycle ride to Berkeley

