

Ashford to Tunbridge Wells

This 42 mile (67km) route runs on small country lanes through the High Weald. It's the best way to take in Kent's quintessential Garden of England scenery, complete with hops, apple orchards, oast houses and picture postcard villages.



Anybody who thinks Kent is flat might reconsider after this ride, which is not recommended for novice riders. However there are a series of shorter rides that explore the Weald in more manageable chunks.

The Parish Pedals rides brochure features four circular routes totalling 45 miles through some of Kent's loveliest countryside. They are based around Benenden and Hemsted Forest; Brenchley and Horsmonden; Hawkhurst and Bedgebury Forest; Headcorn, Frittenden and Sissinghurst. Check out Kent's excellent cycling website www.kent.gov.uk/cycling for more information.

For those who want to tackle the full run, which forms part of the well signposted National Route 18, there are dedicated cycle lanes, running alongside main roads at both Tunbridge Wells and Ashford. Other than this, the main traffic-free section is through Bedgebury Forest, which offers a number of cycle routes, although not all are suitable for standard road bikes or racers.



(NATIONAL ROUTE 18)
42 miles (67km)
7 miles (11km) traffic-free
35 miles (56km) on road

RAILWAY

Stations at Ashford International, Tunbridge Wells and Rye. For train times call: **08457 484950**

BIKE HIRE:

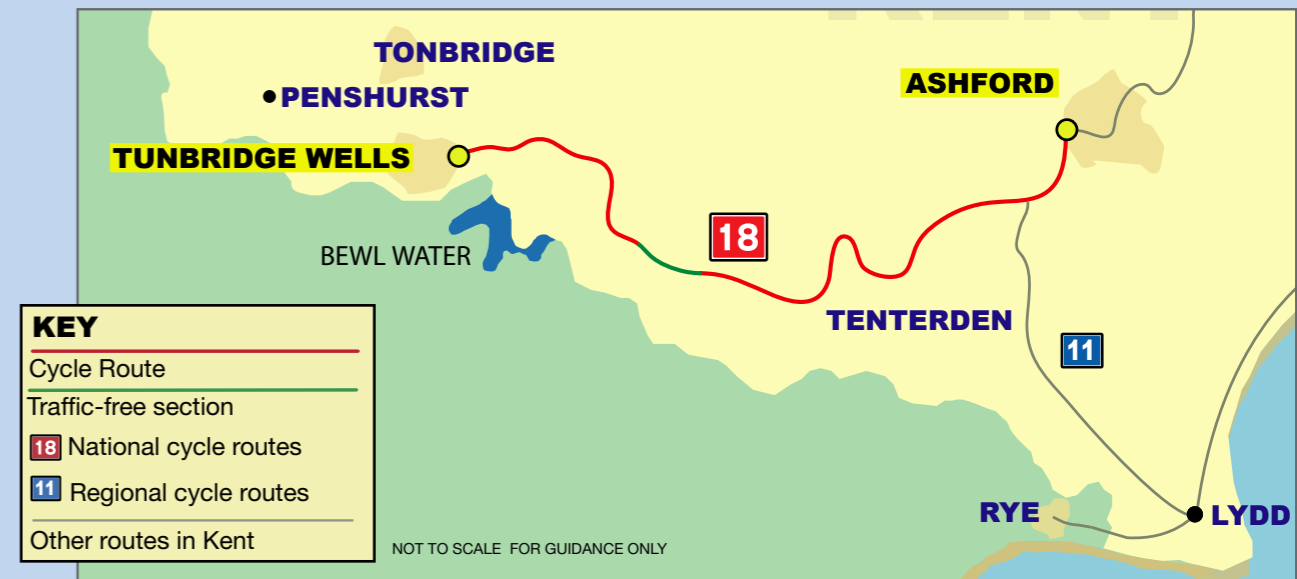
BEWL WATER, Lamberhurst.
Tel: **01892 891446**;
www.cuckmere-cycle.co.uk
PENSHURST OFF-ROAD CENTRE, Tonbridge.
Tel: **01892 870136**;
www.porc-online.co.uk

TOURIST INFORMATION

Ashford: **01233 629165**
Tenterden: **01580 763572**
Tunbridge Wells: **01892 515675**
Bewl Water: **01892 890661**
www.kenttourism.co.uk

MAPS & BROCHURES

- Ordnance Survey **Land Ranger 188, 189** and **Explorer 125, 136 & 137** maps cover this area, please tel KCC on **01622 663306** (Mon to Fri between 11am and 3pm only) to order
- Interactive cycle mapping at www.sustrans.org.uk
- **Parish Pedals** brochure can be purchased through www.kent.gov.uk/cycling or by calling the above number



If you are interested in some more challenging mountain bike routes along the way, try the 12 mile circuit around Bewl Water at Lamberhurst. This offers lovely views across the lake, the largest inland water in the southeast.

The track is suitable for mountain bikes and hybrids in drier weather. It is open for cyclists from early May until the end of October. Although generally level, Bewl has three significant hills and includes a short section along quiet country lanes. There is a large car park and bikes can be hired on site (see info box for contact details).

Alternatively, 3 miles north west of Tunbridge Wells is the Penshurst Off-Road Centre. This fantastic facility is open all year in Viceroy's Wood. It offers mountain bike trails for all levels of ability, from very technical to family leisure. Cycles can also be hired on site.

