



**5 County Hall** The offices of Kent County Council. As you turn the corner, you start walking along the high wall of...

**6 Maidstone Prison** Designed by Daniel Asher Alexander (the architect of Mote House in Mote Park) and built of local Kentish ragstone, it was opened in 1818 with the capacity to house 552 inmates. 58 executions took place here, the last one in April 1930. Cross Well Road at the traffic lights and turn right into...



**7 Boxley Road** As you walk gently uphill, notice the ragstone walls and a variety of architectural styles of the houses. Stop to look at the pretty terraced houses in Waterlow Road, Grecian Street and Pine Grove. At the brow of the hill you get the view of the...

**8 North Downs** Chalky hills that formed at the bottom of a tropical sea about 100 million years ago in the mesozoic era. Now designated as an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. By the mini-roundabout, cross Penenden Heath Road and walk onto a recreation ground known as...

**9 Penenden Heath** The site of important medieval gatherings, a cattle market and of public executions by hanging until 1830. At the far end of the recreation ground take the public footpath between the play area and the edge of...

**10 Heath Wood** A piece of 'ancient woodland', with anemones and bluebells in spring, it is an old chestnut coppice. In the past it used to be cut down every 10-15 years to provide material for fencing and charcoal making. Follow the path through the wood along the back gardens. Cross Sittingbourne Road and follow the signed public footpath around the office building. Cross Bearsted Road and follow the path along...

**11 Lower Fullingpits Wood** 'Fuller's Earth' (a type of clay) was once quarried here and used in the wool processing and paper making industries that thrived in this area. Walk through a wooden gate on your left and any one of the paths will take you into...

**12 Vinters Valley Nature Reserve** Old parkland, rich in natural habitats. As you walk along the 'woodland ride' note large trees of various species and the...

**13 Lake** Enjoy a pleasant few minutes watching the ducks, geese and other waterfowl who have made their home here. Leaving the reserve, turn right onto a straight tarmac path. Pass school grounds and at the end bear left. Cross Ashford Road at the traffic lights and walk downhill. Turn right into Riverbank Close and onto the path running along the...

**14 River Len** With its shady, overgrown banks, the river forms a valuable riverside habitat in a valley between two busy roads. You are now following a section of the Len Valley Walk that runs for 12 miles from Lenham to Maidstone. As the River Len disappears under the Chequers Centre, continue along Romney Place, turn right into Lower Stone Street and cross the bottom of Gabriel's Hill. In Palace Avenue you can see on your left the...

**15 Police Station and Magistrates' Court** Built in the 1930's in a pseudo-Elizabethan style, and on your right a...

**16 Mill Pond** Made by damming the River Len. Cross Mill Street and behind the old Gatehouse go down the wide steps to the river. Hidden under the road you will see the remains of...

**17 The Medieval Bridge** An ancient monument. You are now in the beautiful...

**18 All Saints Historic Area** Take time to visit the c.14 All Saints Church and Carriage Museum set up in the old In the church you will find the tomb of Lawrence Washington (ancestor of George) with stars and stripes on the family arms. In the graveyard lies buried William Shipley who founded the Royal Society of Arts in 1754. The College, next to the church, trained priests and since the c.14, the Archbishops' Palace (now a Registry Office) was used by the Archbishops of Canterbury as a country residence and a stopping place whilst on their travels.

For more information please contact:  
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# Walk Maidstone

## Walk 4 : Penenden Heath



improving our parks  
and open spaces

**MAIDSTONE**  
Borough Council

# Walk 4 : Penenden Heath

**Distance:** 4.5 miles (7 km)

**Time:** about 2 hours

**Suggested start/finish:** All Saints Historic Area  
**Suggested route-break points:** Penenden Heath, Bearsted Road, Ashford Road

**Terrain:** varied with some unmade paths, slope/steps, step-over rail. Seats available along route.

Refreshments available along the route

**Public toilets:** by Maidstone Bridge, Brenchley Gardens, Penenden Heath, Mote Park



Enjoy the walk that combines a wealth of historic landmarks with peaceful green get-aways - all within a mile of the busy town centre. Learn about Maidstone's gruesome past at Penenden Heath. Relax as you watch waterfowl by the lake at Vinters Valley Nature Reserve. Discover the green oasis on the banks of the River Len.

From the grounds of the All Saints Historic Area, walk through the stone archway to the...

**1 River Cruise Mooring** Passenger boat cruises to Allington Lock run from here most days between spring and autumn. **Walk north under the two bridges along the riverside path, past a section of the Maidstone Rose Trail and up a set of steps towards...**

**2 Fremlin Walk** This new retail street was created on the site of the former Fremlins Brewery. **Turn right into St. Faith's Street, passing a pretty timber-framed building on the corner, to the...**

**3 Maidstone Museum and Bentlif Art Gallery** Free to visit and open every day (except for Christmas), it offers exhibitions about history and the natural world. **Turn left round the corner of the Museum into...**



**4 Brenchley Gardens** Victorian park with a wealth of historic features, colourful plants, peace and tranquility. **Take one of the paths through the Gardens, walk past Maidstone East Railway Station and bear to the right in front of...**

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