

ALTERNATIVE TRANSPORT
august 2013
ST ALBANS to WALSINGHAM

General Notes: It is recognised that some pilgrims may become tired or blistered after walking long distances and may prefer the “luxury” of being transported over part of the route. It is for this reason that the following information is provided to help you. Please note that not all days have viable means of alternative public transport available. Usually bus information is to/from town centre or bus-station which may not be the most accessible from the overnight hall. Out of town, conventional bus-stops don't always exist and you may need to “Hail & Ride” at places - check with locals. This information is provided as a guide, not necessarily the best or cheapest choice of transport!

It is MOST important, if you plan to deviate or drop out from the guided pilgrim route, that you advise Monica McLauchlin (in the drinks car and elsewhere) so that we don't worry that you have got lost! Use mobile telephone in case of emergency.

Aug 10, Day 1: Work out your own route to St Albans. From London and the South-East there are frequent trains (First Capital Connect) through St Pancras: 4 trains an hour taking 20 minutes to St Albans (City) station: originating from Brighton, via London Bridge and Blackfriars; There are 4 further trains from Sutton (ie total of 8 an hour!) but these stop at a number of stations in North London and are overtaken by the following “Brighton” train. Price for a standard single ticket is £11.00 from the London stations, £26.10 from Brighton (takes about 90 minutes) or £16.30 from Redhill (change at East Croydon). There are no cheaper “Advance” fares available but a group of four travelling together can travel for the total price of two, e.g. £5.50 each for four people from St Pancras (railcards make no difference).

The Hall is approximately 600m from the station: if that is too far to walk, there is a bus (route S1) from outside the station, towards St Peter's Street, get off after 2 stops at “Cell Barnes, opp Dellfield”.

From the north of the country, St Albans connects to Luton and Bedford on the East Midlands line from Derby, Nottingham, Sheffield etc.

Aug 11, Day 2 (Sunday): St Albans – Verulamium – Sandridge – Ayot St Lawrence - Whitwell –
No buses to (or near) Whitwell on a Sunday! Uno bus 304, 657 from St A (Station @ 1055, 1150 St Peters St @ 1059, 1154 Sandridge @ 1108, 1203) for lunch. It's a long walking afternoon but take the 304, 657 (1408, 1503, 1638) to Wheathampstead (1414, 1511, 1644) which appears to be the nearest access by public transport. 6 mile walk from here!

Aug 12, Day 3: Whitwell – St Paul's Walden – Preston – Gt Offley - Barton-le-Clay – bus 304 (0919, 1119, 1315), via St Paul's W (6 min later) to Hitchin, St Mary's Square (0937, 1137, 1357) then **102** (0954, 1154, 1354) to Great Offley (1005, 1205, 1405). From GO continue on route **102** (5 min past hour) to Luton town centre, Midland Road (26 min past) then walk (10 min) to Galaxy Centre (Stop G1) for **81** (15 min past hour) to **BIC** (34 min past).

Aug 13, Day 4: Barton-le-Clay – Houghton Conquest – Ellstow Abbey - Bedford – bus 81 (0934, 1134) to Clophill Green (0944, 1144) then 200 (0952, 1152) to Ampthill then 42 (1028, 1226) to HC (1034, 1232); bus 42 continues (32 min past hour) to Bedford (arr 40 min past). Bus route 9 (12 min service) connects from Bedford bus station to Harrowden Road. (Eastcotts, adj Catholic Church stop).

Aug 14, Day 5: Bedford (rest day).

Aug 15, Day 6: Bedford – Sandy - Little Gransden – bus 73 (29, 59 past the hour) from Harrowden Road direct to Sandy (arr 52, 22 past); then 190 (1326, 1526) to Gamlingay (1342, 1542) and then 28 (1358, 1653) to LG (1405, 1700).

Aug 16, Day 7: Little Gransden - Elsworth - St Ives – bus 28 (1110, or 1108 from Great Gransden) to Cambourne (1128), then Citibus 4 (1208) to Coton (1220), then 8 (1243) to Elsworth (1310) [note it's just 2 miles to walk from Cambourne to Elsworth]; after lunch, route 8 at 1335 to Bar Hill then route 1A (1400) to St Ives, arr 1410. *Note: there are no later buses.*

Aug 17, Day 8: St Ives - Earith - Stretham - Ely – A complicated day! There is an early bus (Route A 0926) to Wyton Airfield (0941), then 30 (0954) to Warboys (1006), then 22A (1017) to Earith (1045) – and a late bus (Route 22A at 1315) direct to Earith (1333). This is a long walking afternoon and from Earith the only viable public transport link requires returning to St Ives! Route 22A (1333) to Pidley cum Fenton (1350), then route 22 (1427) to St Ives (1440), then route C (1450) to Chesterton (1516) and, finally, route 9 (1552) to Ely (Market Street) (1634). Half-way through the afternoon, from Stretham (The Lazy Otter) bus route 9 (20 min past hour) to Ely (40 past). To miss out the pilgrim day and lunch stop at Earith, travelling directly from St Ives to Ely: there are regular “busway” route A services to Cambridge station, then catch the train directly to Ely.

Aug 18, Day 9 (Sunday): Ely - Littleport - Downham Market – Direct rail connection (dep hourly +20 min), via Littleport (+27 min) to DM (+36min)

Aug 19, Day 10: Downham Market – Wiggenhall - King's Lynn – All the way by rail: dep hourly (+10 min) to KL (+25 min). To Wiggenhall go first to KL, then bus 46 (1207, 1232) takes 14 min. Return on bus 46 (1337, 1437, 1612, 1655) to KL (1352, 1452, 1627, 1710). The nearest bus stop to the hall is “Gayton Road Health Centre” (route 10 or 48 from town centre).

Aug 20, Day 11: King's Lynn (rest day)

Aug 21, Day 12: King's Lynn – Castle Rising – Sandringham - Snettisham – direct bus service (route 11), departs hourly at 40 minutes past, through C.R. (+ 51) and Sandringham (+ 07) arrives Snettisham (+ 27).

Aug 22, Day 13: Snettisham – Docking - Burnham Thorpe – bus 10 (0958, 1042, 1058, 1140, 1158, 1256 . . .) via Hunstanton (1018, 1105, 1118, 1205, 1218, 1308 . . .); then CH2 (1040, 1110, 1140, 1210, 1240, 1310 . . .) to Burnham Market (takes 33 min) – some services you do not need to change buses at Hunstanton. Then 30 minute walk to BT.

The lunch stop at Docking is not accessible by public transport.

Aug 23, Day 14: Burnham Thorpe – East Barsham - Walsingham – walk to Burnham Market (allow 30 min) then bus (Coast Hopper route 2 at 12 and 42 min past hour) via Barsham, to Wells-next-the-Sea (32 and 58 past); the 58 min past then continues to Walsingham (approx 30 minutes journey)

Aug 24, Day 15: Walsingham (Celebration Day)

Aug 25, Day 16 (Sunday): As usual, you find your own way home!

The recommended route is to make use of the coach offered to take you and your luggage from Walsingham to Kings Lynn. There is a regular rail connection (28 minutes past the hour) to London (Kings Cross) – takes 1h 40m. There is a rail or bus route from KL for connection to Peterborough for the East Coast main line to Yorkshire and Scotland and for the CrossCountry line to Leicester, Birmingham etc..

Standard single fares from KL to KX £22.90, to Redhill £36.90, and to Brighton £33.00 are the ones that come from the National Rail web-site – another example of curious ticket pricing on the railways! No advance-booking rates for these routes but again group discounts are available which, since I imagine quite a few will be travelling together, seems worth following up for the route to KX.