SHERINGHAM PARK & TOWN EXPLORER

Including option to return by the North Norfolk Railway

(Can be extended by 2 miles with our Sheringham Priory Maze ride)

A trip to Sheringham Park (and its 40-foot viewing tower), the pubs in the village of Upper Sheringham (search the church pews for the cat with the kitten), Splash leisure pool, the seaside town of Sheringham (pitch and putt to the biggest boating lake in East Anglia), and call in on the Weybourne and Sheringham stations of the North Norfolk Railway (your return trip is a gentle - mostly! - uphill ride, or come back by train)

Distance: Around 8 miles there and back.

Conditions: Some 70 per cent of this ride is off-road, but there is a road section into Sheringham. However this road is not heavily used, has good visibility, and a pavement for much of its length which is rarely walked.

PLEASE TAKE CARE TO LOOK AHEAD FOR OBSTACLES WHEN RIDING ON TRAILS - AND ADVISE THOSE WHO ARE BEHIND YOU

Leave the Kelling Heath site by its main entrance, turning left at the road junction to drop down the short but steep hill **EXTREME CARE please control your speed**. Just before the bridge by Weybourne Station (North Norfolk Railway) turn right through the large gap in the hedge. Follow the grassy track which runs parallel to the railway (heading for Sheringham).

Follow the twists and turns of the track (keep left at all forks) until you reach the back entrance gate to the National Trust's Sheringham Park (this track may become busy with other people, so please ride slowly). Just before this section you will have to negotiate a barrier - but it is easy.

DETOUR: Before going through the gate, turn left for a few hundred yards to visit the gazebo (signed) - a 40-foot tall tower on a 250-foot rise with great views. (Lock your cycles on the trail while you walk up to the tower, and please do not leave them in the way of others).

Return to the park gate and pass through (Sheringham Park was designed by the famous landscape gardener Humphry Repton). Continue straight on to where the path becomes tarmac. To your left is Sheringham Hall (private).

DETOUR: The path rising up to your right is Rhododendron Drive (flowering late May and early June). At the top is the visitor centre and tearoom (seasonal). It is a steady climb, and please be aware of people out for a stroll... there is a cattle grid some halfway up the climb.

If you ignore the detour continue straight along the tarmac path (there is a large pond in the grassland to your left - ahead is Thomas Upcher's Temple, and a cattle grid - the whole area is great for a picnic). As you leave the park across another cattle grid you join a quiet lane leading into the village of Upper Sheringham.

At the junction with the Give Way sign continue straight on, or

DETOUR: You can turn right onto the B1157 for a couple of hundred yards to the Dales Hotel, a friendly country hotel in pleasant grounds (open to non-residents for drinks and snacks). If you are in the mood for a challenge continue along this road for a short but stiff climb CARE (when you reach the top you will see the main entrance to Sheringham Park - another way to reach the tearoom).

If you do not visit the Dales continue straight on. On your right is All Saints Church (search the pews for the cat with the kitten. Also, in the graveyard is a memorial to the crew of an American Liberator bomber which crashed nearby in 1944). Note the water feature which once supplied the village.

The road (Sheringham Road) bends sharply to the left **CARE** and you follow this for one mile into Sheringham (there is a pavement running for much of its length). Follow this road (passing Sheringham High School on your right) until you reach the t-junction with the main coast road.

DETOUR: The Splash Leisure Centre (wave machine!) is just a few hundred yards along the main road, to your left. Use the pavement.

Cross straight over the main road **EXTREME CARE** into Church Street. Cross the railway bridge and turn right into Station Approach. North Norfolk Railway's Sheringham Station and its friendly platform cafe is on your right (and pitch and putt on your left). There are public toilets next to the station.

Take time to explore the many attractions of Sheringham (market day is Saturday). For attractive sea views take a short ride to the boating lake (the biggest in East Anglia). Instead of turning into Station Approach continue straight on, turning left into The Boulevard. At the war memorial roundabout cross straight over. The sea (and public toilets) are straight ahead of you, and the boating lake is up to your left.

Once you have explored Sheringham retrace your route back to Kelling Heath.

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