Chester

Cyclists Touring Club (CTC) Chester and North Wales award winning cafés and pubs listed at www.chestercyclehire.com. Including:

**Cafés & Pubs**
1. Cheshire Ice Cream Farm, Tattenhall
2. Tilly’s Coffee Shop, Burtnby
3. Shady Oak Pub, Tarporley

Various refreshment facilities are located in the main villages.

**Bike Shops**
1. Global Bikes Cycle Shop, Tattenhall

Cycle hire in Chester www.chestercyclehire.com

Please check opening times before you visit any of the shops.

Visit www.cicac.org.uk/ncn for more information on the National Cycle Network.

Key:
- Towers and Spires cycle route (40 miles) on road / traffic free
- Shorter route (28 miles) on road / traffic free
- Suggested direction of travel
- National Cycle Network on road / traffic free
- National / Regional Cycle Network route number
- Church of interest
- Railway station

Use this link to avoid Chester altogether and enjoy the Towers & Spires route as a more rural ride.

At this junction head to Husley if you wish to ride the full 40 mile route or to Tattenhall for the shorter 28 mile option.

For cycle parking and other information see www.chestercyclecity.org

www.chestercyclecity.org
A 40-mile cycling tour of churches around Chester, with a shorter 28-mile route option.

This is one of a country-wide series of cycle tours linking our magnificent cathedrals with some of the remarkable parish churches surrounding them. Each tour will use the cathedral as a start and finish point and take in a number of our most outstanding churches.

Chester Cathedral
Situated in the heart of the historic city, Chester Cathedral offers a warm Benedictine welcome. Explore the architecture which blends Romanesque with early and late Gothic styles, enjoy refreshments in the old monks’ Refectory and take home a souvenir from the shop. If you have more time, savour the views of five counties from the top of our tower, meet the birds at the Cathedral Falconry or just relax in our award-winning gardens. Toilets and café.

Chester - St John the Baptist
St John’s, Chester has a remarkable history. It is the oldest standing building in the city still used for its original purpose and the oldest Christian site. Dating back to Saxon times (688AD) later the Normans built a cathedral on this site. Remarkably much has survived, making St John’s the earliest and finest Norman architecture in Cheshire. There is a 4th-Century ‘column’ painting of John the Baptist and the Organ was used to play Queen Victoria to her crowning in Westminster Abbey (it was ours – they borrowed it). Toilets and café.

Christleton - St James
An ancient Christian site for over 1,500 years. The name Christleton means “the village or place of Christ”, or alternatively “Christ’s haven”. “The enclosed farm of the Christians.” The church building has evolved over time. Anglo Saxon, medieval (1464-45), surviving the Civil War (1642-45), rebuilt in the Georgian style in 1736 and again substantially in the Victorian era (1876). Made from local sandstone it is the church you see today. A beautiful and tranquil space, full of the history of people and place.

Waverton - St Peter’s Church
There has been a church on this site since Saxon times. Evidence of the Norman church can still be seen. Look for the capping (top) of the pillar on the south side of the nave (right side of the main area of the church). The tower was built in the reign of the Tudor king, Henry VIII (1545-59). There are eight bells in the tower, four of which date from 1635. Admire the new glass doors with the keys of St Peter and look for the ‘super door’ on the south side (right side) of the church.

Hargrave - St Peter’s Church
St Peter’s is a Grade 2* listed building, a rare 17th-Century country church, homely and welcoming. It was built in 1627 of ashlar sandstone and a roof of slate tiles. See such features as the original oak doors with artisan ironwork and a window designed by the famous Chester architect, John Douglas. The ‘ych gate’ (the muffled gateway to the churchyard) is relatively new - it was a millennium project. The gate stands on sandstone blocks from the old hall, former home of the patron and founder Sir Thomas Mouison.

Bunbury - St Boniface Church
This magnificent Grade 3 listed church, standing prominently in the picturesque village of Bunbury, is open every day. The church you can see today is Medieval, built about 1343, at the instigation of Sir Hugh Calveley. His tomb lies in the middle of the chancel. Other features include the Ridley Chapel and the tomb of Sir George Beaton, a commander from the Spanish Armada. Listen out for the tenor bell that strikes the hour - it’s over 500 years old. Due to serious bomb damage during WWII, the replacement windows of clear glass give the church a uniquely light interior. which, combined with the warm sandstone, creates a wonderful uplifting atmosphere. Toilet facilities available.

Tattenhall - St Alban’s Church
A Church has existed in Tattenhall since Medieval times, 1300AD, and without doubt on this same site since the early years of the Tudors. The tower is the only part of the current building that dates back to the Tudor era, built in 1535 – around 500 years old! The rest of the building, ‘having fallen into great decay’, was demolished and rebuilt in Victorian times, 1869-70. The present building, the work of the famous Chester architect, John Douglas, is notable for its scale and proportion. The oldest window depicts St Alban and St Stephen and is known as the ‘memorial of blood’ window - it dates from medieval times, possibly 14th Century. Also look out for the large brass chandelier which is dated 1725.

Farndon - St Chad
The Church of St Chad’s lies nestled between the historic villages of Farndon and Holt. The church had an exciting role in the English Civil War (1642-1651). It was once used as a garrison for the Parliamentary forces and has the battle scars that pock mark both outside and inside of the Church. The Church is also famous for the Civil War Window which is situated in the Barnston Chapel. Visitors come from far and wide to photograph the window. There is also an ancient yew tree in the Churchyard estimated to be over 700 years old.

Aldford - St John’s Church
The present church was built in the Victorian era in 1866. It’s adjacent to an ancient Motte and Bailey (castle) structure which is still visible. Why not have a piece; there beside the hollow tree. Inside the church, look out for the marble pulpit (from where the vicar preaches), mosaic reredos (the ornamental screen covering the wall at the back of the altar) and the ‘angelic choir’ on top of the pillars. (See Psalm 100 for their meaning). Do note the window in the chapel designed by the famous Victorian artist, Edward Burne-Jones, and the ‘altar’ in the Baptistery which was used to bring the coffin to Church.

Brurua - St Mary the Virgin
This little church was established nearly a thousand years ago. It was anouting chapel to Chester’s monastery in the 11th century. A walk round the churchyard will give the visitor a feeling of the social history of England. Many names are repeated – families didn’t move very far – and numerous children indicate the health hazards of life in times past. Some members of the Westminster family are buried here. Visits into the church may be permitted at specified times of the day. Please contact the Parish Office to book a visit.

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