

INTRODUCTION

The Two Saints Way is a 92-mile pilgrimage route between the cathedral cities of Chester and Lichfield. If you walk from Chester to Lichfield the easier walking is at the beginning and you have time to prepare for the hillier section in Staffordshire. However, if you walk between October and March from Lichfield to Chester the views are often better as the sun is behind you.

REDISCOVERING MERCIAN HERITAGE

A princess and a young man of noble birth, Werburgh and Chad, are the two Saxon saints who helped to spread Christianity across the ancient Kingdom of Mercia in the seventh century and who give their names to the footpath. The shrines of St Chad at Lichfield and St Werburgh at Chester were popular destinations for mediaeval pilgrims and the recent discovery of Saxon treasure in a field near Lichfield has increased interest in this fascinating period of history. Walking the Two Saints Way provides an ideal opportunity to learn more and see the 'Staffordshire Hoard' at the museum in Stoke-on-Trent, midway along the route.

RECOVERING PILGRIMAGE FOR HEALTH IN BODY, MIND AND SOUL

The last twenty years have seen a revival of interest in the idea and practice of pilgrimage; the famous Camino to Santiago in northern Spain now welcomes over 300,000 walkers annually and across the UK, ancient pilgrimage routes are being rediscovered and new routes created.

Mediaeval pilgrims set off in search of healing, forgiveness or courage to face life's difficulties and some were looking for adventure. These days people go on pilgrimage walks for many reasons: some are taking a break from the demands of everyday life with time to think and reflect. Others simply want to enjoy the benefits of walking in nature. Some people are motivated by faith and others walk to practice mindfulness. Writer Robert McFarlane comments that pilgrimage is about "the outer landscape prompting subtle exploration of the inner", for pilgrimage is a journey inwards as well as outwards.

Whatever their motivation, all walkers on The Two Saints Way can benefit, as they experience the countryside, towns and cathedral cities of Cheshire and Staffordshire along the route.



STOKE MINSTER



Guidebook

A guidebook is available containing detailed directions for the route and extracts from OS maps, along with many interesting facts about the places visited along the route.

Please check the website for details.

WWW.TWOSAINTSWAY.ORG.UK

THE TWO SAINTS WAY

Pilgrimage route and long-distance walk
between Chester and Lichfield

TWO SAINTS WAY ROUTE

Chester



CHESTER CATHEDRAL



BEESTON CASTLE

Nantwich

Stoke-on-Trent



MIDDLEPORT POTTERY

Stafford



CANNOCK CHASE

Lichfield



LICHFIELD CATHEDRAL

The 92 mile route can be walked from either the north or the south, through the beautiful countryside of Cheshire and Staffordshire along footpaths, canal paths and lanes which link the villages, towns and cities along the way.

SECTION 1 - CHESTER TO NANTWICH
From Chester Cathedral mostly along canal paths and through pastureland, passing the dramatic Beeston Castle before ending at the fine market town of Nantwich.

SECTION 2 - NANTWICH TO STOKE-ON-TRENT
Along this rural section are notable churches such as the intriguing Primitive Methodist Chapel at Englesea Brook and villages with traditional black and white timbered houses and pubs.

SECTION 3 - STOKE-ON-TRENT TO STAFFORD
Starting out in the city of Stoke-on-Trent with the Staffordshire Hoard treasures at the Potteries Museum, the route continues south past Trentham Gardens and through the charming town of Stone following the Trent Valley.

SECTION 4 - STAFFORD TO LICHFIELD
On leaving Stafford the route crosses the extensive moorland and woodland of Cannock Chase, an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, before the last few miles into Lichfield, past the cathedral and ending at St Chad's Well.



Follow the cross of St Chad to walk from Chester to Lichfield



Follow the goose of St Werburgh to walk from Lichfield to Chester

