

**(NATIONAL ROUTE 18)**

42 miles (67km)  
7 miles (11km) traffic-free  
35 miles (56km) on road

**RAILWAY**

Stations at Ashford International, Tunbridge Wells and Rye. For train times call: 08457 484950

**BIKE HIRE**

Bewl Water, Lamberhurst.  
tel: 01892 891446  
[www.cuckmere-cycle.co.uk](http://www.cuckmere-cycle.co.uk)

Bedgebury Forest,  
Evernden Cycles  
tel: 01892 832823  
[www.everndencycles.co.uk](http://www.everndencycles.co.uk)

**INFORMATION**

Ashford: 01233 629165  
Tenterden: 01580 763572  
Tunbridge Wells: 01892 515675  
Bewl Water: 01892 890661  
Kent and East Sussex Railway  
tel: 01580 765155  
[www.kesr.org.uk](http://www.kesr.org.uk)  
Biddenden Vineyard & Cider Works  
tel: 01580 291726  
[www.biddendenvineyards.co.uk](http://www.biddendenvineyards.co.uk)

**MAPS & GUIDES**

Ordnance Survey Land Ranger 188, 189 and Explorer 125, 136, 137 maps cover this area, please telephone KCC on 08458 247 600 or email: [env.publications@kent.gov.uk](mailto:env.publications@kent.gov.uk) to order.

Interactive cycle mapping and free downloadable leaflets at [www.sustrans.org.uk](http://www.sustrans.org.uk)

Additional information about cycling in Kent [www.kent.gov.uk/cycling](http://www.kent.gov.uk/cycling)

[www.kent.gov.uk/explorekent](http://www.kent.gov.uk/explorekent)

*a guide to cycling  
in the Kent countryside*

# Ashford to Tunbridge Wells

This 42 mile (67km) route runs on small country lanes through the High Weald, a designated Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB). It's the best way to take in Kent's quintessential Garden of England scenery, complete with hops, apple orchards, oast houses and picture postcard villages.



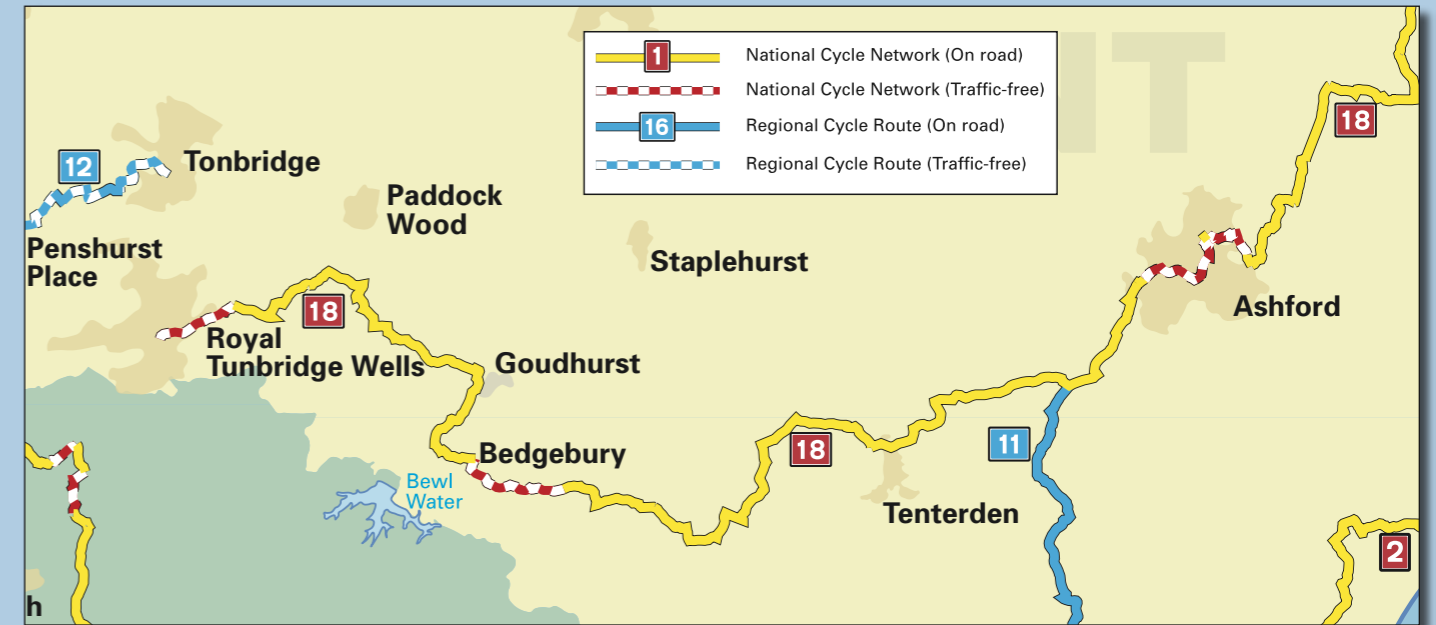
Anybody who thinks Kent is flat might reconsider after this ride, which is not recommended for novice riders. However there are a series of shorter rides that explore the Weald in more manageable chunks.

For those who want to tackle the full run, which forms part of the well signposted National Route 18, there are dedicated cycle lanes, running alongside main roads at both Tunbridge Wells and Ashford.

The main traffic-free sections on route 18 are at Bedgebury Forest, and, Victoria Park Ashford, perfect family cycling and ideal locations for novices and young children.

If you are interested in some more challenging mountain bike routes along the way, try the 12 mile circuit around Bewl Water at Lamberhurst. This offers lovely views across the lake, the largest inland water in the southeast.

The track is suitable for mountain bikes and hybrids in drier weather. It is open for cyclists from early May until the end of October.



Although generally level, Bewl has three significant hills and includes a short section along quiet country lanes. There is a large car park and bikes can be hired on site (see info box for contact details).

Places of interest on route include - Kent and East Sussex Railway where you can take a magical steam train journey to Northiam and Bodiam. Bicycles can be carried in the Guards Van however booking is recommended. Biddenden Vineyards, the oldest vineyard in Kent produce fine English wines, Kentish ciders and apple juices. Free admission to 22 acres of vines and free sampling of their produce makes it well worth a visit!



Bedgebury Forest in the High Weald of Kent has created a cyclist's paradise amongst the trees thanks to funding from Sport England and The Forestry Commission. The forest has a ten-kilometre family cycling route and twelve kilometres of mountain bike trails. A new Visitor Centre features cycle hire, including cycles for disabled people, plus showers for bikes and their riders.

