



TOUR PROSPECTUS

This prospectus sets out the contents of the tour and together with the Booking Conditions and Booking Form is the basis of our contract with you.

Herefordshire & Welsh Borders

14 – 17 April 2006

Tour 0602

This is a fixed centre tour based at the Talbot Hotel, Leominster. The area is interesting both historically and geologically and also has a wider variety of wildlife than the more intensively farmed parts of England. The terrain is not easy, but it is envisaged that three groups will travel at different paces, so that everyone who wants to ride in company should be able to do so. Any discrepancies in hill-climbing speeds are ameliorated by frequent photo opportunities and snack stops. Your leader can suggest worthwhile detours for riders who would like to ride faster than the main groups and also opportunities for short cuts. The main groups will spend most of the day cycling and sightseeing 'from the saddle' and, for hard riders, there are additional 150 km and 200 km Audax rides on the Sunday. Non-cycling partners are welcome.

Itinerary

- Fri 14 April Meet in the Talbot Hotel bar, Leominster, from 1900. The evening meal is 1930.
- Sat 15 April Groups 1 & 2: circular cycle ride to Kington, Hay-on-Wye and Weobley, approx 50 miles.
Group 3: out and back cycle ride (with loops) to Kington and Pembridge, approx 30 miles.
- Sun 16 April Group 1: choice of hilly Audax events (out & back): 150 km to Llanidloes or 200 km to Machynlleth.
Group 2: out and back cycle ride (with loops) to Withington and Ross on Wye, approx 60 miles.
Group 3: circular cycle ride to Withington and Weobley, approx 30 miles.
- Mon 17 April Groups 1 & 2: circular cycle ride to Ludlow and Clun, approx 55 miles (some steep hills).
Group 3: Circular cycle ride to Ludlow, approx 30 miles.
The tour ends on our return to the Talbot Hotel.

Note that (apart from the Audax) all groups visit the same café for morning coffee each day, so riders may change groups on the day if they wish.

Accommodation and meals

Bed and Breakfast at the Talbot Hotel, a 3-star Best Western Hotel in Leominster, sharing in twin and double rooms (single occupancy incurs a £15 per night supplement, subject to availability). A full English breakfast is provided. There is an introductory evening meal on Friday and thereafter the evening meals are optional, there being full restaurant meals or bar snacks available at the hotel, plus other restaurants nearby.

Participants may extend their stay for a maximum of two days prior to or following the tour. The hotel offers a special reduced Bed & Breakfast price of £35 per person, per day, provided the guest is sharing twin/double bedded accommodation. When extending their stay, guests must book directly with the hotel and are fully responsible for settlement of additional costs.

Price £160

The price is based on a minimum number of 20 participants taking part in the tour. If there are insufficient bookings by 10 February 2006 we will contact you and return all monies paid.



Price includes:

- 2 nights hotel accommodation on a B&B basis, sharing
- 1 night hotel accommodation on half-board basis, sharing
- CTC Cycling Holidays & Tours costs

Price does not include:

- Travel to and from the tour
- Evening meals on two nights
- Drinks with evening meals
- Lunches or refreshments at morning and afternoon stops
- Entry fees at any attractions
- Any other personal expenses
- Travel insurance
- Single occupancy supplement (£15 per night, subject to availability)

Payment schedule

A deposit of £70 per person must accompany the Booking Form, with the final balance of £90 per person to be paid ten weeks prior to departure, by 10 February 2006. Cheques should be made payable to **CTC Tours**.

Cancellations

Should you be forced to cancel your booking for any reason you must notify us in writing. Cancellation charges are as follows:

Written notice received:	Cancellation charge:
Before 10 February 2006	Deposit (£ 70)
10 February 2006 to departure	100% (£160)

To make a booking

Complete, sign and return the Booking Form together with your deposit **directly to the leader** (address on Booking Form).

LEADER'S INFORMATION SHEET

The information below is given by the tour leader to help enquirers decide if the tour is suitable for them.

Herefordshire & Welsh Borders **14 – 17 April 2006** **Tour 0602**

The area covered by the Tour

This is a fixed centre tour based at the Talbot Hotel, Leominster. The area is interesting both historically and geologically and also has a wider variety of wildlife than the more intensively farmed parts of England.

Rides and rest days

The terrain is not easy, but it is envisaged that three groups will travel at different paces, so that everyone who wants to ride in company should be able to do so. Any discrepancies in hill-climbing speeds are usually ameliorated by frequent photo opportunities and snack stops. The main groups will spend most of the day cycling and sightseeing 'from the saddle'. However, if you would like to cycle on your own you are free to do so. I know the area quite well and can suggest detours and also opportunities for short cuts.

Detailed route descriptions will be sent with the final tour information approximately 3 weeks before the tour starts.

Travel and parking

There is a railway station in Leominster, on the Shrewsbury main line.

There is car parking at the rear of the hotel and cycle parking in a meeting/function room in the hotel.

Accommodation / Meals

During the day we carry our own basic snacks (biscuits, cheese, fruit, peanuts, drink) and call in at cafés for lunch, 11's and afternoon tea.

For Saturday and Sunday evening meals I shall probably eat in the Talbot Hotel bar, which serves snacks, though there are alternatives in Leominster, which may be worth exploring.

Group information

The maximum group size will be 33 (including the leaders).

Smokers are welcome on the tour provided they agree not to smoke in shared bedrooms, or at the dining table whilst others are eating.

Weather and clothing

The weather is in the lap of the gods but I have had excellent Easter weather in this area.

A variety of thin/medium thickness layers of cycling, or outdoor, clothing which can be combined to cope with the variety of possible temperatures, waterproofs - plus a change for evenings.

Cycles / Equipment

Either a touring cycle or lightweight MTB, which must be in good working order, especially the brakes! A bottom gear of 30 inches or less is recommended.

Maps and Guides

You should carry a map in case you become separated from the group. The whole area is covered by the Ordnance Survey 1:250 000 Travelmaster 7, "Wales and the West Midlands" (you will need this map if you intend to ride the 150 km or 200 km Audax rides). For sightseeing detail: OS 1:50 000 Landranger 149 "Hereford & Leominster", 161 "Abergavenny & the Black Mountains", and 137 "Ludlow & Church Stretton" cover all but a few miles of the longer (Group 2) routes.

About the leader

I have spent some happy Easters touring in the Welsh Border country of Herefordshire and Shropshire, which is a popular cycling area. This is the fourth CTC Easter Tour I have been involved with in this area. I also lead cycle tours overseas, specialising in France and the Alps, and have toured with friends by cycle for over 20 years.

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