

Le Grand Tour de Bures

Le Grand Tour de Bures is a long walk taking the best part of a day to accomplish but the path is at no time more than four kilometres (2.5 miles) from Bures and is often much closer. Because you may not wish to complete the whole tour on one occasion the itinerary is marked from time to time with references to other walks in the booklet. Turn to the other walk and look for the asterisk (*) which marks where you can turn back to the village.

1. Turn left out of the station car-park and then right into Station Hill and walk down to "The Swan". Cross the road diagonally to the right to a path, marked with a public footpath and waymark sign that runs between a wall and a house. Continue ahead and walk between the wall and a barbed-wire fence to a waymark sign where the wall ends.
2. Turn left and immediately right onto a farm track with a hedge on the right which runs parallel to the river. Continue on this track which has variously a hedge, broadleaf trees and pines on the right. After the last stand of pines continue on the path which curves slightly to the left with a hedge again on the right. Follow the path past more pines, this time on the left, into a clearing. Go ahead through bushes where the path dips down to a stile with a waymark sign. Cross the stile into the corner of a meadow by the river.
3. Keeping the hedge on the left walk along the high ground, passing a waymark on a post, to a stile with a waymark sign opposite a pillbox. With care cross the railway line to a path opposite between a metal handrail and a wire fence and then over a stile into a path between trees.
4. This soon joins another path leading to a house on the left, turn right and continue on the path past houses on the right to join a minor road. Here turn to the right, walking past "The Lamarsh Lion" (or stopping if you are feeling thirsty already) and ignore turnings left to Homes Green and Alphamstone and Pebmarsh. Walk past the Village Hall and a public footpath sign on the left and continue past the church "Holy Innocents" to a public footpath sign on the left opposite Lamarsh Hall farm.
5. Walk up the hill in the direction indicated by the footpath sign. At the waymark sign at the top turn right keeping the hedge, steep slope and farm on the left. Remain on this path to a stile with a waymark sign at a gap in the hedge and cross into the farm. Walk straight across the field with, at first, trees on the right. When the trees end continue ahead to the right of the farm buildings.

6. Just before the path enters the farmyard cross a stile into a minor road. Turn left and walk down the hill to a small stream in the valley bottom then up the hill (houses on the right) to join a wider road at the top of the hill (ignore footpath sign on right just before road junction). Go straight across the road to a public footpath sign and path beside the church.
7. Beyond the church continue straight ahead across the centre of the field to a gap between trees (Walk No 1). Walk straight across the field to a second hedge gap and cross an earth bridge over a small stream. Turn to the left and walk along the righthand edge of a wood. As the boundary of the wood bends to the right enter the wood on a clear unsigned path on the left.
8. Follow the path through the wood and exit into the corner of a field. Turn right and walk to the end of the wood and turn right onto a track. Walk a short distance to another hedge and turn left into the corner of a field. Walk ahead keeping the hedge on the right and follow it as it curves to the left in front of Clees Hall.
9. Keep beside the hedge and at the field end exit onto a paved roadway passing in front of a pair of cottages on the left. Turn left on the roadway and follow it passing woods on the right until where just beyond two low brick pillars it turns sharply to the left. Turn right in the direction indicated by the public footpath sign and cross an awkwardly placed stile to the left of double wooden gates. Follow the left-hand edge of the field crossing another stile in the corner of the field.
10. Go ahead but now with the hedge on the right, passing an unusual shaped pond, which is probably dry yet is described in the Ordnance Survey map as a moat. Pass through a hedge-gap into the next field continuing beside the hedge. At the field end cross a wooden footbridge between to closely planted trees into another field and walk straight across to a hedge-gap and public footpath sign opposite. (If no footpath has been installed you may prefer to walk around the field boundary to the right).
11. Exit onto a minor road and turn to the left. Walk down the road to the junction with the road to Lamarsh on the left. Turn right and then right again onto a farm track by a Public Byway sign (Walk No2). Follow this track, sometimes between hedges, to where it meets a bend in a minor road at Ravensfield Farm.
12. Ignore the public footpath sign on the left and turn right onto the road (this is effectively straight ahead). Follow this road down a dip, crossing a small stream and then up again to a crossroads. Turn left in the direction of White Colne and continue to where on the left, just beyond a corrugated iron barn, there is a gate and a public footpath sign.
13. Go through the gate and cross the middle of the field to a stile and public footpath sign by a metal gate opposite. (This section of

footpath merely cuts off a loop in the road, so in the event that there are unwelcoming cattle in the field it may be omitted and the road can be followed instead).

14. Continue ahead on the road for a short distance to a public footpath sign on the right opposite a thatched cottage. Climb the steps up into the field and walk ahead keeping the tree-filled hedge on the left. As the hedge turns sharply to the left cross a wooden footbridge and then immediately go over a stile. (Do not follow the smaller hedge that goes straight ahead.)
15. Once past the stile continue walking along the left-hand edge of the field to another stile and waymark sign. Once over the stile continue in the same direction towards the overhead electricity cables ignoring waymark sign and wooden footbridge to the left. Just before the end of the field where the hedge turns sharply to the right exit onto a minor road by a public footpath sign through a gap in the hedge.
16. Turn left and walk along the road ignoring both the public footpath sign on the right at Little Catley's Farm and the turning on the left just beyond Little Catley's. Walk up to the crossroad with the Bures-White Come road and go straight across walking in the direction of Wakes Colne. Go past apple orchards on the left to a dip in the road just beyond Reedings.
17. Go left at the public footpath sign by the small bridge over the stream. Walk beside the stream just inside the right-hand edge of the small wood. On emerging from the wood continue ahead with the stream or ditch on the right to a waymark sign and cross the wooden footbridge on the right.
18. Traverse the middle of the field towards the farm buildings opposite. Do not enter the farmyard but go to the left of the tall hedge to a public footpath sign at a bend on a minor road. Turn right onto the road (effectively straight ahead) and walk the short distance to the T-junction with another minor road and turn left.
19. Where this road turns sharply to the right go left through an iron gate onto a grassy path between hedges. Good views of Bures and Mount Bures are to be had on the right. Emerge at the corner of a large field and continue along its right-hand edge descending to the corner of the field where a waymark sign indicates a gap in the hedge leading into a small wood.
20. Continue on the path through the wood to a stile in the barbed-wire fence on the right. Cross the stile but do not follow the path indicated by the Conservation Walk sign. Instead turn left and walk the short distance to the next stile and cross back over the fence. Go over two wooden footbridges and through a gate into a field used for motorcycle scrambling events.
21. Turn left and walk up the slope passing on the left the commentary box. At the top of the hill ignore the path on the left but continue ahead on the concrete track that goes around the left-hand

edge of the scrambling course. Just beyond the redbrick toilets cross a stream beside a metal gate.

22. Go straight ahead with a hedge on the left, through a fence and across a grassy track to the next field continuing ahead with the hedge on the left eventually exiting onto a farm track.
23. Turn right immediately after Wood Cottage and continue straight ahead to a T-junction (Walk No2). Turn right and continue on the road as it curves to the right and enters the farmyard of Valley Green farm. Go over a stile with waymark sign in the fence opposite farm buildings and walk across the middle of the field a short distance to another stile in a barbed-wire fence. ***This may not be a permanent fence and stile and may not be in place when you are doing the walk .***
24. Cross the stile and walk towards three large trees midway across the field. Walk between the two large oaks and continue forward to a stile and waymark sign in the hedge opposite. Cross the stile and a wooden footbridge and turn right onto a path with a tall wire fence on the left and a hedge on the right.
25. Cross the stile in the fence on the left and walk across the field to a metal gate in a wooden fence and then towards the stile on the right-hand side of the house. Go over the stile and walk with the house on the left to a track at a gap in the hedge. In front of the house turn right onto a well made track and walk between hedges to the road. (A detour to the left of about 200 metres or so will take you to the Thatchers' Arms).
26. Cross the road entering the side-road opposite. Very soon, on the left, a gap can be seen in a rail fence at the other side of a concrete yard. Enter the yard at the entrance with low brick walls and cross the stile into a field. Cross the field keeping to the left of a fenced enclosure for trees to a stile with a public footpath sign and waymark sign in the fence by an enclosure.
27. Cross the next field diagonally to the left to another stile and waymark sign in the hedge and carefully cross the railway line. At the pillbox, which in the summer is lost amongst foliage and easy to miss, immediately after the two little fences, turn right and walk between fences the short distance to a stile and waymark sign on the left.
28. Once over the stile walk across the middle of the field to a wooden footbridge with and a waymark sign and cross the into another field. Go across the centre of the field heading towards the right-hand side of the house and the public footpath sign. Turn right on the minor road and walk to another public footpath sign on the left where the road turns sharply to the right.
29. Take the direction indicated by the sign across a big field heading for the clump of trees on the left. At a dip in the field cross a wooden footbridge by a post with waymark sign and continue ahead going to the left of some trees onto an virtually non-existent indistinct track.

Keep the hedge and trees on the right and walk to a minor road opposite a house.

30. Turn right onto a farm track with at first a hedge and then farm buildings (Wellhouse farm) on the left. After the last building leave the farmyard and enter a field keeping a ditch on the left. Walk to a hedge gap and enter the next field. Walk across the centre of this field to a point where the higher part of the field on the left is separated from the field on the right by a short hedge. At the point where this hedge meets the hedge opposite cross the footbridge by a post and waymark sign.
31. Turn left and then immediately right with a hedge and a plantation of trees on the left. At the end of the plantation at a post and waymark sign walk diagonally right across the centre of the field to the right-hand end of a small wood which encloses a lake.
32. At about 20 metres to the left of the end of the wood descend the steps and cross the wood. At the waymark sign turn left and walk keeping the edge of the wood on the right and after a short distance the lake on the left. Exit the wood onto a grassy path. Cross diagonally to the left and go through a wooden gate in the fence opposite.
33. Cross the field towards farm buildings and through another wooden gate. Almost immediately go through another wooden gate in the fence on the left and turn to the right keeping the farm buildings on the right. Go through yet another wooden gate and immediately through a wrought iron gate. The path now crosses the lawn of a private residence and exits through the metal garden gate so please respect the privacy of the occupants.
34. Walk ahead to a wide roadway in front of a large house (Wormingford Hall) with ornamental iron gates. Turn right and just before an old petrol pump cross a stile with a waymark sign in a fence on the left. Descend through the field with, at first, a wall on the left. Bear to the right and head for the fence line. At a waymark sign go through the gap between a fence and a hedge and walk up the slope to its crest and then down to a stile and a public footpath sign in the hedge opposite. Cross the stile and emerge onto the B1058.
35. Cross this busy road carefully to the footpath sign and stile opposite. Once in the field walk with the barbed wire fence on the left to a stile and waymark sign in the field corner. Go over the stile and the wooden footbridge and cross the field to the stile opposite.
36. Walk straight up the steep slope to exit through a white painted metal gate in the top left-hand corner of the field. Now on top of the hill walk diagonally right to a metal gate and waymark sign in the fence opposite. Do not go through the gate but turn right and keeping the fence on the left walk to a metal kissing gate by a barred iron gate.
37. Go onto the wide grassy track and walk down the hill to a hollow. Cross the stile by a gate on the left with a waymark sign and turn immediately right over the earth bridge into the next field. Walk across

the middle of this field to a wooden kissing gate and emerge onto the lawn of a private house. (If the ground is very muddy by the gate in the hollow then it is possible to cross into the field higher up by continuing on the track up the hill and crossing a stile in the fence on the left).

38. Walk across the lawn to a gravel drive and turn right, with the house on the right and the River Stour on the left. Exit the drive over a cattle-grid onto a minor road. Turn left across the bridge over the Stour and turn right at a public footpath sign immediately after the bridge.
39. Walk diagonally across the field to a hedge gap back onto the minor road by a small bridge. (If the footpath here has not been maintained then the white painted guardrail of the bridge can be used as a direction indicator when making the diagonal crossing of the field, alternatively you can simply walk round by the road).
40. Turn right onto the road and cross the bridge and continue down the road to the junction with the drive leading to Smallbridge Hall (Walk No4). Take the road to the right and walk up a gentle rise to the crossroads. Continue over the crossroads and walk up the hill.
41. Continue past Overhall Cottages on the left (Walk No5) and W A Church on the right (note the interesting topiary). Further on still, pass Arger Fen Nature Reserve (worth a visit if time permits) and carry on down the hill crossing the ford at the bottom.
42. Immediately after the ford turn left by a public footpath sign and walk ahead with the stream and hedge on the left. Go through a metal gate and continue along the hedge and stream to the field corner and a substantial wooden footbridge (do not cross) (Walk No6).
43. Turn right in the direction indicated by the public footpath sign keeping the hedge on the left. At the corner of the field go through a metal kissing gate by a waymark sign and public footpath sign and enter a wood. Keep to the well marked winding path that follows the stream along the left-hand edge of the wood. Emerge by a fence and a waymark sign.
44. Walk with the stream on the left and the fence on the right to another waymark sign and a wooden footbridge into a small wood. Exit the wood after a short distance and bear diagonally to the right across rough pasture to a wooden post and waymark sign. Follow the path to the right the short distance to a stile in a fence.
45. Cross the stile and walk the short distance to another fence, turn left and walk along the fence to another stile. Cross the stile into a large undulating field. Walk diagonally up the slope to the left to another stile in a fence and cross this into another large field and cross diagonally to the right, aiming towards a waymark sign at the corner of an enclosure adjacent to houses.
46. Turn the corner and walk along keeping the fence on the right and cross a stile, walk ahead with the fence on the right to another stile and a public footpath sign. Cross the stile and immediately turn to

the left and walk ahead with the fence on the left. Pass a cottage and continue on a concrete drive to a minor road.

47. Turn left and walk downhill to the valley bottom crossing a bridge over a small stream. Continue uphill to the junction and go ahead towards Workhouse Green and Great Cornard. Pass Granary Barn on the right and take the signed farm track at the far end of the concrete standing on the left. At the end of the section of the track with hedges on each side emerge into a field.
48. Continue on the track to a gap between trees into another field and walk diagonally to the left to a hedge gap at the corner of a wood. Cross the centre of the field to the other corner of the wood and a hedge gap and emerge into another field. Proceed across the centre of the field walking parallel to trees on the left to steps leading down to a road (B 1508).
49. Do not go down to the road but follow the direction of the sign pointing to the left, walking parallel to the road for a short distance and keeping the wood on the left. Walk uphill across the centre of the next field, aiming to the right of a slate roofed house, to steps and a waymark sign descending to a lane.
50. Turn left along the lane, passing the slate roofed house on the right, to Corn Hall and other buildings and a pond on the right. Follow the direction indicated by the waymark sign following the path round to the right and go through a gateway in a wall and passing a barn on the left. Go uphill following the track bordered on the right by a ditch and remnants of a hedge. At the top of the hill turn right at the corner of a hedge and walk with the hedge on the left to the corner of the field. Go through a hedge gap into a narrow hedgeline path, passing a fenced enclosure (Transco gas installation) on the right and emerge onto a minor road.
51. Turn right walking past a turning on the right signed as a by road and continue to St Edmunds Lane also on the right. Go down St Edmunds Lane to a signed public footpath on the right opposite the cemetery. Enter the narrow path (fence on the left). Cross two stiles and exit onto the B1508.
52. Cross this busy road carefully and walk to the right. Turn left at a public footpath sign through a metal gate into a path, eventually emerging onto an unpaved road between houses. Continue down this road turning right at the bottom into Bures High Street and walk the short distance to the village church.

To return to the village hall car park continue past the church in the direction of the bridge. At the end of the churchyard wall turn left into the lane beside the church and walk to the recreation ground. Walk along the left edge of the field following first a brick wall and then past tennis courts and a hedge to the village hall.

To return to the station cross the bridge and pass the shops. Keep to the right and turn into Station Hill. Walk up Station Hill past "The Swan" to the railway station.