Walk 1 - To The Viaduct

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Length: 4.1 miles / 6.5 km (approximately 2-3 hours, longer if stopping to explore the viaduct)

Grade: A little challenging

Good for: Big views and woodland trails.

Description: A hilly walk that takes you from South Tonbridge to a curiously 'grammable' viaduct tucked away in the pocket of countryside between Tonbridge and Tunbridge Wells

- 1. Start your walk at the Vauxhall Inn. Take the second right into Vauxhall Lane, walk under the flyover, cross over the road onto the shared cycle/foot path and then follow this until you reach a giant oak tree.
- 2. Turn right at the tree and then follow the road until you see the footpath branching off to your right through a gap in the hedge. Cross the little wooden bridge and then walk up into the field until you come to a fork in the path. Take the third path on the left and continue through the woods until you reach a clearing where the pylons pass through the trees. At this point turn left and walk uphill, past the private garden.
- 3. Go through the wooden gate, walk past the oast house and follow the lane downhill until you see a footpath on your right. At the top of the hill the

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path splits in two, stay to the right and walk through an older section of wood. Climb the stile and walk across the field.

- 4. Walk past the electricity pylon, cut through the trees and then climb over two more stiles, before carrying on downhill with the wood to your left and the railway line to your right.
- 5. Climb the stile at the bottom of the field and then follow the path round through the kissing gate.
 - If you want to explore the viaduct then cross over the stile and walk down the path on the opposite side of the tracks.
- 6. When ready to continue your walk, cross back over the stile and walk through the farm yard following the footpath signs between the barn and the building. Climb over the stile and follow the path uphill through the field until you come to a second stile. Climb this and join the track.
- 7. Pass round the metal gate at the top of the track and continue straight on along the boggy path. The worst of the puddles can be negotiated with a little forward planning.
- 8. Follow the path into the wood and stay to the right until you see a narrow path branching off towards a stile into a long field.
- 9. Cross over and walk to the end of the field continuing alongside the stables before climbing the very tall stile. This is not dog friendly.
- 10. Turn left and follow the path downhill until you re-join Vauxhall Lane.

 Once you reach Vauxhall Lane, retrace your steps back to The Vauxhall Inn.

If you've enjoyed this walk then please tag your photos #walktonbridge on Instagram or share with a friend. Visit my website for more beautiful walks in and around Tonbridge.

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When enjoying this walk, please remember to follow the countryside code:

Respect other people

Consider the local community and other people enjoying the outdoors

Park carefully so access to gateways and driveways are clear

Leave gates and property as you find them

Stay on footpaths but give way to others where it's narrow

Protect the natural environment

Leave no trace of your visit - take all your litter home

Don't have BBQs or fires

Keep dogs under effective control

Bag and bin your dog poo.

Enjoy the outdoors

Plan ahead, check what facilities are open, be prepared

Follow advice and local signs and obey social distancing measures