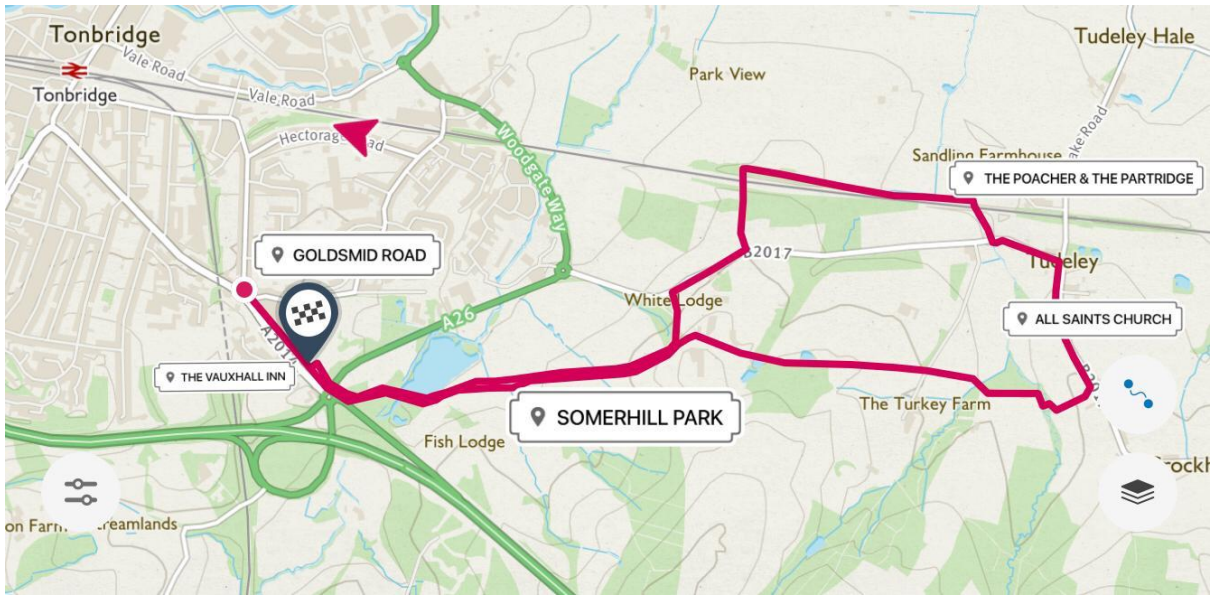


Walk 3 – The Goldsmid Trail

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Pic: Contains Ordnance Survey data © Crown copyright and database right 2013

Length: 4.1 miles / 6.7km (2-3 hours, longer if stopping at All Saints Church)

Grade: Lesiurely

Good for: Local history

Description: A long but leisurely walk taking in the grandeur of Somerhill House, the famous Chagall stained glass windows at Tudeley, and some gorgeous countryside.

1. Begin your walk at the top of Goldsmid road. Cross over neighbouring Tudeley Lane and continue over the roundabout as if joining the A21 towards Hastings.
2. On your left there will be a gatehouse signposted for The Schools at Somerhill. Pass through the side gate and follow the path to the top of the hill until you reach the school car park. Cross the car park and enter the sunken passage running alongside the house.

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3. Walk through the gate and follow the signs across the car park and into the sunken path running besides the school. This will take you through the woods and holly bushes until you come to a wooden gate leading into a large field.
4. Continue down the track through the field and pass through the gap in the trees. Cross over the lane and walk downhill towards Park Farm Oast /Oast Cottages. Keep going until the footpath branches off to the left into a grassy field.
5. Walk round the edge of the field until you reach a little bridge, cross over and go through the woods, over a second bridge and up into the field. There will be an Oast house on your right. Just before you reach the road, turn left, and continue along the field for approximately 300 metres. Cross the road with care and All Saints Church will be on your right.
6. Continue along the road until you get to the sharp bend. The Goldsmid cemetery is just down the road to your right, in the direction of Golden Green. The Poacher and Partridge is 400 metres down the road should you wish to stop.
7. Retrace your steps back to the junction and turn right towards Tonbridge. Walk past the cottages and allotment where there will be a footpath on your right. Follow this through the brambles until you reach the railway line. There is no gate after the stile so keep dogs on a lead and take care with younger walkers as trains pass by regularly and at high speeds.
8. Cross the railway tracks, climb the second stile and take an immediate left, tracing the path along the railway line until you reach Postern Lane. Turn left and continue over the railway bridge until you reach the end of the road.

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9. Turn right and follow the main road with care for 250 metres until you see a footpath on your left next to White Lodge. This path joins the main driveway for the Schools at Somerhill. Walk up the driveway and go back through the gate into Somerhill park.

10. Walk back down the hill and exit through the Lodge gate. Then retrace your steps back to Goldsmid Road or finish your walk at 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