

Schulensee to Ihlkatenweg

NOW
7

Start	Schulensee, Eiderbrücke
Finish	Ihlkatenweg, N of restaurant
Distance	3.66km
Duration	46 minutes
Access	Buses 501/502 at start of section; bus 62 at 550m distance from end of section.
Facilities	Restaurant and snack-bar at start of section; restaurant at end of section.

7.1	Schulensee, Eiderbrücke	0m
7.2	From P+R, drop to bank of Eider, flowing on L; after 1.1km, R away from river to houses at Eiderbrook. Cross frontage of houses to crossing road.	1330m
7.3	Continue W, then L to reach river; R, following river past bridge on L to side channel, where R; L on Ihlseeweg; where main road bears R at game reserve, ahead to rise through woodland (two deer-gates) to descend to Ihlkatenweg at restaurant; R to point where Ihlkatenweg bends slightly R at track leading off to L.	2330m

The red and blue stripes running down the pages in these documents (and separating the text from captions and users' notes) are the heraldic colours of the *Land* of Schleswig-Holstein, through which the route passes.



*Nord-Ostsee Wanderweg:
the first waymark*

*The first acquaintance
with the River Eider*



7.1 This section of the walk starts from the Eiderbrücke at Schulensee, on Hamburger Chaussee, on the west side of the city of Kiel.

Here, we make our final meeting with the 501/502 bus services, which connect with Kiel, Schilksee and Strande. There is a restaurant here, and a simple snack-bar at the small park-and-ride station.

There is no suitable location to park a support vehicle on this section, though a drop-off at the park-and-ride station is possible.

The river flowing beneath the bridge is the Eider. It rises about 11km to the south of here, filling and emptying Schulensee, before crossing the entire peninsula to reach the North Sea west of Tönning.

7.2 After looking out towards Schulensee (the view is rather obscured by trees), turn and cross the road. On a traffic sign is a distance list for the Nord-Ostsee-Wanderweg and a waymark, a yellow arrowhead within a green border.

The official start of the coast-to-coast route is here: about as far from the sea as you can be and still be within Kiel. The 23km already covered from Bülker Leuchtturm may be seen by some as an unnecessary prelude, or by others as a prelude and transit from water (or, in some seasons, ice) to earth (or, in some seasons, mud). But a true traverse of Schleswig Holstein surely demands being next to salt water at each end: that is why this is section 7, rather than section 1.

Pass to the left of the park-and-ride station, and drop to the level of the River Eider, flowing with you towards the North Sea, now on your left. The path keeps to the riverside for about 1.1km: the company on the right is woodland, then housing, and finally open land.

The Eider is tamed throughout its length: in the days of the first canal at the end of the eighteenth century, the river had to be navigable for much of its course, so water levels had to be managed. The river helps feed the Nord-Ostsee-Kanal with fresh water, and is still navigable.

The most impressive piece of river management is, of course, the huge Eidersperrwerk at its meeting with the North Sea, but even here, there are management

stations along the length of the river, some of which will be passed on the way.

At length, where the river bends sharply to the left, the route strikes off right, away from the river, along the right-hand side of a large meadow (which is bounded over to the left by the river). Soon, the path joins a road across the frontage of some houses, up to a crossing road. This is the hamlet of Eiderbrook.

7.3 Continue over the crossing road to the last of the houses bordering the route on your right. Woodland appears, firstly on your left, then on your right: while bordering the latter, the route bends round to the right.



Eiderbrook

At a T-junction of paths, turn to the left to regain the river bank, where turn right to keep the river on your left. After a bend to the left, the path passes a bridge over the river (the bridge carries a path which leads to the eastern outskirts of the village of Mielkendorf), but carries on ahead to reach a side channel. Turn right here to follow the side channel: after a bend to the right, the path reaches a road (Ihlseeweg): turn left here and cross the bridge.

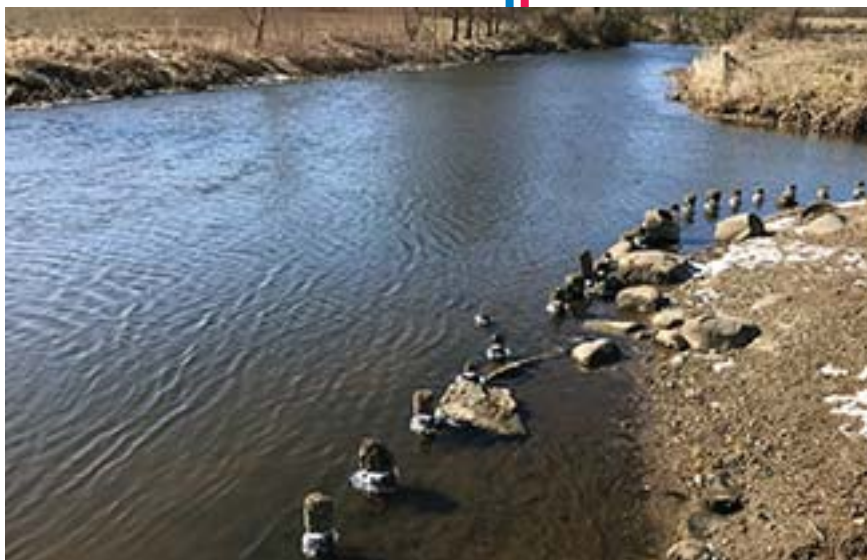
On the far side of the bridge, at a pen which is part of a local game reserve, the road bends off to the right. Keep straight ahead on a path which rises slightly. Go through two deer-gates to continue ahead, descending to reach Ihlkatenweg in front of a restaurant, which is across the road and beneath road level.

The restaurant car park is, at a pinch, suitable for pick-up or drop-off by a supporting car and driver, but there is no suitable location nearby to park a supporting vehicle.

Turn to your right, and follow Ihlkatenweg northwards, passing the end of Ihlseeweg on the right.

Ahead, the road bends slightly right at the point where a farm track goes off to the left.

This is the endpoint of this section of the Nord-Ostsee-Wanderweg: it may seem, at first glance, a rather puzzling spot for a section split to be located, but there is method in the madness.



Ice-petticoats around the posts at the side channel's outflow into the River Eider



The distance to the next facility casts a long shadow

This point is at the very edge of Kiel, and is a good point to take stock.

If you follow Ihlkatenweg to its end, on Rendsburger Landstraße, you will see bus stops to the right. These are served by the 62 bus, the last outpost of the Kiel city bus services on the route of the Nord-Ostsee-Wanderweg.

Ahead, there is a sporadic service at Hohenhude, but the next point with a reasonably regular service is Westensee, over 16km away. More pointedly, the next outcrop of shops is not found until you reach Rendsburg, a minimum of 35km away.

Think very carefully before passing up this escape-point, unless you are furnished with a supporting car and driver.