

**Edition:** 01  
**Date:** 24-05-2009  
**Type:** General Consumer  
**Frequency:** 52 Per Year  
**Circulation:** 1245483  
**Page:** 30

**ArticleId:** 23893968



## Where was I?

### Win a nine-day felucca tour for two in Egypt, with Imaginative Traveller

**S**adly, I do not have the time to walk the length of this trackway: neither national trail nor long-distance path, and of indeterminate age. About 80 of its original 120 miles remain; broadly, it follows the course of a national trail. Its original “traffic” flow was east-west, although history subsequently saw a sudden reversal.

I am heading east — aided by a friend ferrying me to and from strategic points en route. Yesterday, she dropped me near a 17th-century mansion, once the family seat of a politician and inventor (born 1753). He arguably invented the world’s first steam-propelled vessel. These days, it is an “official” residence. From there, I joined the trackway and headed east, passing near a village that witnessed battles in AD776 and 1016. There, too, died an archbishop — 50th incumbent of a bishopric not so far distant.

Today, I am further east, hoping to walk seven miles northeast to a river. Although the track occasionally follows the course of narrow lanes, I am, for now, in splendid isolation as it hugs the scarp some 550ft above sea level. With just birdsong for company, and treading the weary, time-worn footsteps of those before me, I stop to enjoy the view. Short-cropped turf; the expectant verdancy of forthcoming summer; villages that have long been witness to the trickling sands of time. Some 2½ miles south, a second village, where I might find a quintain; four miles northwest across folded contours, a “new” village, originally 430 acres, designed in the last century; three miles southeast, a fourth village — home to a 13th-century lord, the country’s first admiral of the fleet.

I, though, stroll on — the track turning northeast as it again joins the national trail. Here, joined by pirouetting butterflies, I feast on cheese sandwiches and ginger beer. Hunger and thirst sated, I resume my journey towards a fifth, riverside village where died a second archbishop, 41st incumbent of the aforementioned bishopric. There, as well as the remains of a bishop’s palace, I should find my friend. And there, too, the

trackway’s course becomes less clear. Possibly it crossed the river nearby; nobody knows for sure, the answer shrouded in the mists of time.

#### THE QUESTIONS

- 1 What is the name of the trackway?
- 2 What is the name of the fifth village?

#### THE PRIZE

Win a nine-day Felucca Saitrek tour in Egypt for two, with Imaginative Traveller. The winners will join an escorted tour of the Nile Valley — visiting the Pyramids and Luxor — that offers plenty of free time for relaxation and extra excursions. The highlight is a two-day cruise from Aswan to Kom Ombo in a felucca, sleeping each night on the banks of the Nile. The prize, which includes return flights from London and transfers, must be taken between October 1, 2009, and September 1, 2010, subject to availability.

Imaginative Traveller specialises in adventurous, intriguing holidays from Albania to Antarctica, from luxurious hotel-based trips to grass-roots tours and volunteer holidays, working on wildlife projects with local communities. For more details, call 0845 077 8803 or visit [imaginative-traveller.com](http://imaginative-traveller.com).

#### HOW TO ENTER

Via our website, [timesonline.co.uk/wherewasi](http://timesonline.co.uk/wherewasi), by Wednesday. The winner will be announced in next week’s Directions. Only one entry per person. Normal Times Newspapers rules apply. No correspondence will be entered into.