

Portishead - Clevedon Coast Path

Distance: 6 miles

Walking Time: 3 hours

GRADE : Easy/Moderate 3

12

This walk follows the coastal path between Portishead and Clevedon for a distance of approximately six miles. There are many features of interest to be found along the route and excellent views of the coastline and Bristol Channel.

Maps:

Explorer 154

Bristol West &
Portishead
1:25 000 scale

Landranger 172

Bristol & Bath
1:50 000 scale

Grid Ref:

ST 461 769



PUBLIC TRANSPORT INFORMATION

To get to the start of the walk at Portishead take the 358/359 or 658 service from Bristol Bus Station. The 358/359 service runs every half hour Monday to Saturday and the 658 runs hourly on Sundays and Bank Holidays. Get off either at the stop on Combe Road (358 and 658 service) or the stop opposite the White Lion (359 service).

Ask the bus driver if you are unsure. To get to the start of the walk in Portishead walk along the High Street towards the Esso petrol station, turn left into Cabstand and then right into Battery Road. Turn left into Beach Road West and continue on round until you reach the Lake Grounds sign on your left. Enter the picnic area and you will find the start of the Mariners Path.

The 364 Clevedon to Bristol service operates hourly on Mondays to Saturdays and can be caught from Albert Road (off Six Ways). The X7 also operates hourly to Bristol on Mondays to Saturdays from Bellevue Road (also off Six Ways). The two services combined therefore offer a half-hourly service to Bristol. To get to Six Ways walk along Alexandra Road, which is opposite the Pier. On Sundays and Bank Holidays the 362/363 services operate on an hourly frequency from Six Ways.

We recommend you check your journey times by logging on to www.firstgroup.com or by calling the Traveline number .

REFRESHMENTS EN ROUTE

Portishead - various cafes, restaurants and pubs

Clevedon - various cafes, restaurants and pubs

CREDITS AND FURTHER INFORMATION

Information for this walk has been taken from a booklet entitled 'The Gordano Round'. This contains a series of circular walks around the Gordano Valley and was written by Jim Dyer, chairman of Gordano Footpath Group. The information is reproduced with kind permission of North Somerset Council. The booklet is available from Environment Group, North Somerset Council (01275 888528).



traveline
public transport info
0871 200 22 33

PUBLIC TOILETS

Western end of Esplanade, Portishead

Ladye Bay, adjacent to coast path.

Alexandra Road (near pier), Clevedon

PLACES AND FEATURES OF INTEREST

Clevedon Pier

The Clevedon Pier Company was formed in 1867 and construction was completed in 1869, one of 78 piers built around the British coastline between 1854 and 1904. One of the most important reasons for its construction was its closeness to the main railway line from London to Bristol and the South West and the opening of the line from Yatton to Clevedon in 1847, this offered a through route from London to South Wales via a steamer connection. This type of traffic fell away sharply after the opening of the Severn Railway Tunnel in 1886, but the rise of excursion steamer trips operated by Campbell's White Funnel fleet in the Bristol Channel compensated for this and kept the pier in business. In 1970 two of the spans collapsed under the stress of routine load testing, since when large sums of money have been raised to restore the pier to its former glory. The pier was reopened in 1998 following several years of restoration.



Clevedon Pier

Walton Signal Station

In its early days, messages were sent to passing shipping by means of flags flown from its flag staff. This building was used to signal ships at anchor in the channel that "all was ready" to proceed up to the docks at Avonmouth and Bristol. Modern communication systems are now used and the building is no longer manned. It is mainly used as a structure to carry radar aerials. Just below the signal station there is a seat, it is well worth resting here to admire the panoramic view. On a clear day across the Bristol Channel you can see the Llanwern Steel Works. Up the Channel into the Severn you can see the Second Severn Crossing and the Severn Bridge. Down the Channel on the Welsh side you can see Newport and Cardiff. Further down on a clear day, the islands of Flat Holm and Steep Holm and beyond the distant hills of the Quantocks, Exmoor and the Brecon Beacons come into view.

Black Nore Lighthouse

This was built in 1894 and until 1940 the light was operated by gas. It had its own gas storage tank, fed from the village mains, which held enough for two nights so that it would not be affected by any disruption to the local supply. Between those years the Ashfords of Black Nore Farm used to visit it twice a day in order to light up and extinguish. They also wound the mechanism which used weights to keep the optical system revolving. In 1940 the power source was changed to electricity with a master switch at the farm so that the light could be switched off during air raids. It now operates automatically with time switches and electric motors. Although the lighthouse has been here since 1894 a few ships have been stranded on the beach including a Campbell's pleasure steamer.

Sugar Loaf Beach is so known because of a sugar loaf shaped rock, which stood at the eastern end of the beach. The rock was felled during a severe storm in spring 1990. The beach is an excellent venue for a picnic during the summer months.

Just before Redcliff Bay we come to a small coastal strip owned by the National Trust. This was given to the Trust by North Weston Parish Council to protect it from development.



Path along estuary

Care should be taken in the Walton Bay area as coastal collapses have occurred during large storms. Follow diversion signs when advised.

This is the start of the coast path between Portishead and Clevedon and is popularly known as Mariners Path. The whole of the path is subject to constant erosion; please be prepared to follow any diversions that may be in place.



View of Portishead to Second Severn Bridge

Ladye Bay is a well-visited spot but local historians are unable to say why it is so-called. An early 20th century guidebook describes the beach being filled with limestone detritus and says that you can find 'potato-stones' with their crystal centres and also fronded sea-fern.



View of Ladye Bay

Follow the coast path into Clevedon where it becomes tarmac. The path runs below the Walton Bay Hotel and other imposing buildings built high on the left between path and road, until the end of the coast path is reached. Ahead is Clevedon Pier.

