

INFORMATION | TOURISM

Modbury TIC, 5 Modbury Court,
Church Street, Ivybridge PL21 0QR.
Tel 01548 830159

Walk on the WILD SIDE

INFORMATION | GENERAL

NEAREST CLUB SITE: Broad Park, Higher East Leigh, Modbury, Ivybridge PL21 0SH. Tel 01548 830714.

Open 27 March to 9 November

DISTANCE: 5 miles/8km

TERRAIN: Varied

NUMBER OF STILES: 7

ESSENTIAL EQUIPMENT: Ordnance Survey Explorer map OL20 – Brixham to Newton Ferrers

LEVEL OF DIFFICULTY: Intermediate
REFRESHMENTS: Bigbury-on-Sea seafront

DIRECTIONS AND PARKING: Drive seven miles to Bigbury-on-Sea, and park in the main beachfront car park just off Marine Drive. Price £3.60 for up to three hours; £5.90 all day

TOILETS: Bigbury-on-Sea seafront

JO VAUGHAN ENJOYS THE SEA AIR ON A WALK ALONG DEVON'S SOUTH COAST

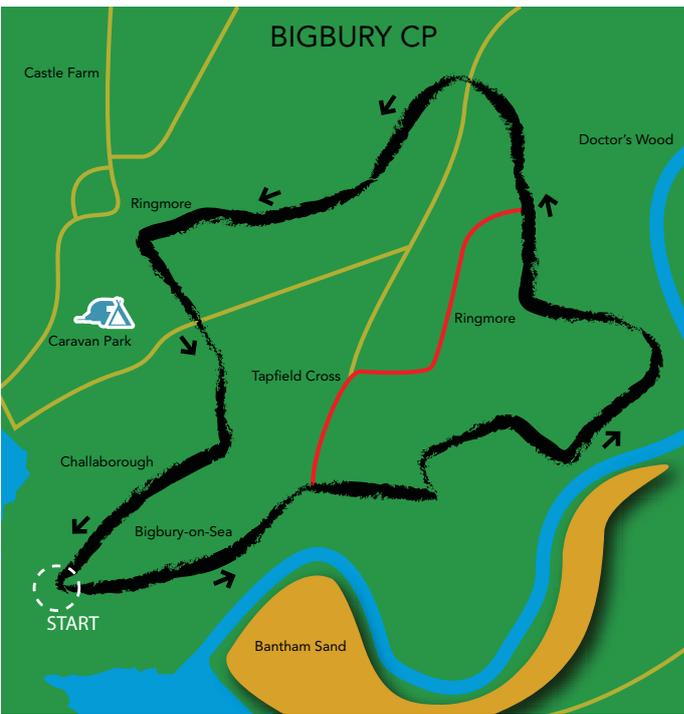
SITUATED ON Devon's glorious south coast, Bigbury-on-Sea is a small seaside resort with a large stretch of golden sandy beach, part of which is dog friendly. Just a 200m stroll across the bay is Burgh Island, famous for its Art Deco hotel which once attracted visitors such as Agatha Christie, The Beatles and Noel Coward. I say a 'stroll' across the bay as at low tide you can walk to the island via the sands, though as the sea comes in you'll have to take the sea tractor instead.

Bigbury-on-Sea is just over seven miles from the site so you'll need to drive, although there is generous pay-and-display

parking. The walk starts off relatively easily – it's towards the end (as you cross the valleys before descending back to the coast) that it becomes more challenging. The views are spectacular, but do be careful at the couple of road sections as there is fast moving traffic and no pavement.



Ordnance Survey
Landranger Map 202



DIRECTIONS

The Club currently offers a 30% discount on Ordnance Survey Landranger and Explorer Maps – see caravanclub.co.uk/bookshop for details

- 1** Leave the car park via its southern exit (beside a mini roundabout and opposite a white double garage marked 'Southway'). At the road, immediately veer right along a footpath above the beach (follow the acorn and a yellow arrow sign).
- 2** Turn left at the slipway (yellow arrow sign). Before you reach the road, turn right (signposted 'Coast Path Bantham via seasonal ferry – 1 1/2 miles'). On approaching some houses, veer left (still following yellow arrow signs), walking slightly away from the sea.
- 3** Having joined a tarmac road, veer left (yellow arrow) before turning right along the main road. Be careful where the road gets narrow and bends. Continue past Mount Folly Farm before taking a right turn, following a public footpath sign through a small wooden gate. Continue ahead following the overhead lines, along the right side of the field.
- 4** Go over a wooden stile and continue along the golf course's right flank. Turn

left at a public footpath sign along a small tarmac path. Just before the grey sheds, turn right (following a white arrow on a blue background sign) and pass through a wooden gate beside the cattle grid marked 'Hexdown'. Go through another wooden gate (beside a stile) and continue along the now gravelled track.

5 Go through another wooden kissing gate before keeping right down a grassy path, following the line of a barbed wire fence (yellow arrow). Go through a large wooden gate and continue ahead. At the lane, turn left following the footpath sign. Look behind you to enjoy the views of the estuary as you reach the top of the hill.

6 The track turns from gravel to tarmac, and then back to gravel again. Turn right at the road and walk very carefully towards the church spire (there's fast moving traffic here and no pavement). Just before a road narrowing sign, pass through the staggered fence on your right following the white arrow once again, passing along the left side of a field.

7 Continue straight ahead at the next public footpath sign, but just before the field's end veer left towards a thatched roof, descending back down to the road. Turn right down the road to a white house (Sea View Cottage), where you cross the road before walking around Bigbury Green (passing a park bench and a telephone box) before returning to the main road. Almost immediately turn left, passing Mariners Cottage and a 'No through road' sign, following a public footpath sign.

8 Continue ahead down the grassy path through a narrow alley of decorative plants and bushes. Go over the wooden stile and carry on ahead, veering very slightly right through the centre of the field, down the hill. You can now see the sea ahead of you. At the end, continue following the yellow arrow, passing along the left edge of the next field.

9 Go over the wooden Y-stile and then turn right (yellow arrow). Jump over the very narrow stream and again keep ahead (this section can get quite muddy). Go through the metal gates and veer right



(yellow arrow) to continue along a barbed wire fence to your left.

10 At the next public footpath sign carry straight on, still towards the sea. At the end of the grassy track do not pass through the metal gate in front of you – instead veer right, passing through a kissing gate beside another metal gate before immediately turning left, following a yellow arrow along the left side of a field.

11 At the end, veer right and pass through a metal gate where there's a black arrow pointing diagonally right across the field. Follow this signpost up to the top left-hand corner of the field. Head over a wooden stile and continue along the right side of the field towards the house. At the field's end, don't go through the wooden gate – instead turn left following the public footpath sign along the right side of the field into the valley.

12 Halfway down the hill, go through the kissing gate beside a metal gate on your right, continuing the descent. Go through a wooden gate and keep heading down the hill. Where the path splits, keep left and go over a V-stile, and then a concrete bridge across a stream. Go through another makeshift gate.

13 Walk up the left side of the field, which is now a steep ascent. Go through a metal gate and then turn a quick right and left on the lane to immediately cross over a wooden stile, following another public footpath sign. Roughly continue the same line as before, down into the next valley.

14 Pass through a kissing gate and walk straight ahead up another incline via the right side of a field, keeping to the line of the hedgerow. Pass the kissing gate and continue ahead, again keeping to the right flank.

15 Go through the metal gate and walk ahead once again (yellow arrow). Follow the wire fence on your left until you get to another footpath sign, where you should turn right (signposted 'Public Footpath Bigbury on Sea 1/2 mile'). Pass through another wooden gate and head all the way down the hill towards the island, keeping the wire fence on your left. Cross the V-stile and walk down the road towards the beach and the car park.

INFORMATION | ATTRACTIONS

■ **Lukesland Gardens**, Lukesland House, Ivybridge PL21 0JF. Tel 01752 691749 or see lukesland.co.uk. Open 23 Mar to 9 Nov. Price adults £4, children free. Partial disabled access, but wheelchair users enter free of charge. This 24-acre garden is particularly attractive in spring with a huge display of rhododendrons, camellias and azaleas. Dogs are allowed on a lead

■ **Sorley Tunnel Adventure Worlds**, Loddiswell Road, Kingsbridge TQ7 4BP. Tel 01548 857711. Open 15 Apr to 24 Dec. Phone for admission prices. Full disabled access. This 200-acre working organic eco-farm offers an indoor play area, pedal karts, trampolines, animals, pony rides, walks and refreshments

■ **Cookworthy Museum of Rural Life**, The Old Grammar School,

108 Fore Street, Kingsbridge TQ7 1AW. Tel 01548 853235 or see devonmuseums.net. Open 21 Mar to 30 Sep. Price adults £2, children £1, concessions £1.50. Disabled access to the ground floor, viewing gallery, farm gallery and walled garden only. This local museum has a collection of Cookworthy Porcelain, as well as a number of agricultural exhibits and a Victorian kitchen