



Walk on the WILD SIDE

FANCY JOINING JO VAUGHAN FOR A HIKE ALONG THE SOUTH DEVON COAST? ONLY SERIOUS WALKERS NEED APPLY



Ordnance Survey Landranger Map 202

THIS IS by far the most strenuous route I've done. It may only be eight miles long according to the map, but once you've wound your way up and down into the coves on the zig-zagging and twisty paths it is, and feels, much more.

Start off by catching the bus from outside the Club's Hillhead Holiday Park to Kingswear. If you intend doing the entire walk then only buy a single ticket. There are three or four different paths that take you back inland to the lane that returns to Kingswear if you don't want to walk all the way back to the site. One of these takes you past the National Trust's Coleton Fishacre, but note that you can't enter the grounds with a dog.

The instructions are pretty simple in essence – just keep to the coast path with the sea to your right and enjoy the spectacular views. Do save some energy for that last killer climb back to Hillhead.



INFORMATION GENERAL

NEAREST CLUB SITE: Hillhead Holiday Park, Hillhead, Brixham TQ5 0HH. Tel 01803 853204. Open: 14 March to 5 January, including Christmas and New Year
DISTANCE: 8 miles/12.8km
TERRAIN: Some lanes and tracks, mostly muddy footpaths
NUMBER OF STILES: 7
ESSENTIAL EQUIPMENT: Ordnance Survey Explorer OL20 – South Devon, Brixham to Newton Ferrers, walking boots and a walking pole
LEVEL OF DIFFICULTY: Very strenuous
FRESHMENTS: In Kingswear
TOILETS: In Kingswear

DIRECTIONS

- 1 Catch a bus to Kingswear from just outside the site entrance. Get off the bus, then turn left and walk past the 'No parking or turning beyond this point' sign.
- 2 Go past the Royal Dart Free House and the entrance to the ferry, and walk through an arch between Kingswear Bear and Friends Shop and the Post Office. Very soon turn left, following the 'Coast Path – Brixham 10 miles' public footpath sign. Walk up the steep flight of steps and turn right following the 'Coast Path' (CP) sign.
- 3 Continue between the high walls and then along the road, passing a 'Prohibited All Vehicles' sign. Continue up the steep hill, past the park benches, and keep ahead as you join a small lane, still following the 'CP' sign.
- 4 Carry on ahead as you join another slightly larger lane, passing a 'Private Road' sign. At some more houses and a fork in the road marked 'Kingswear Court – Private Drive', keep left following the 'CP' sign positioned on a lamppost.
- 5 At a public footpath sign next to a plaque marked 'Warren Woods', turn right following the 'Coast Path, Forward Point 1 1/4 miles' sign, down a flight of wooden steps (beware, these can be slippery). Continue ahead over the lane, still following the signs down more steps.
- 6 At the bottom, go over the stile and veer right up a tarmac track. Just before the 'Public No Right of Way' sign, turn left following the signpost, up some more steps.
- 7 Keep along the main track, following the occasional signs, for quite some distance, and then go over the wooden V-shaped stile marked 'National Trust – Higher Brownstone'. Go through the kissing gate and continue.
- 8 Once at Brownstone Battery, where there's an information panel, turn right following the signpost 'Coast Path Brixham 8 3/4 miles', keeping to the right side of the Forward Point Watch Station. This takes you past an acorn sign and down some concrete steps. But be very careful down the ramp to the lower gun position as this is very slippery, even when dry. Turn right just past another information panel and continue along the coast path.



INFORMATION TOURISM

Paignton TIC, The Esplanade, Paignton, Devon TQ4 6BN. Tel 01803 558383

- 9 Having gone down a steep flight of steps, continue to the left of another smaller battery. Soon veer left following the acorn and yellow arrow. At a fork in the path keep right, enjoying the glorious views of the coast to your right. The path, having zig-zagged up the hill, meets a larger grassy track – turn right following the acorn sign.
- 10 Go through a wooden gate and continue straight ahead (signposted 'Brixham and Pudcombe Cove'). Go through another wooden gate and continue ahead again.
- 11 As you zig-zag down to the cove, at the signpost turn right following the yellow arrow. At another signpost, just before the entrance to the National Trust property, turn right (signposted 'Sharkham Point'). Continue through the wooden gate. At the next signpost ('Scabbacombe Sands 1 1/2 miles'), continue straight on. At the next signpost go straight ahead, still towards Scabbacombe Sands. Go over two more V stiles. Now you can see Coleton Sand in front of you.
- 12 At the next sign, continue ahead as the path almost takes you down to the level of the sands. Go across a wooden bridge and continue along the coast path. Cross a wooden bridge, but turn left at the



- 13 Go over the stile and continue straight ahead (signposted 'CP') up a steep incline. Go through another wooden gate and continue to the white cottages. Walk past them and through a metal gate onto a gravel track. Turn left and continue along the track, now ignoring the 'CP' signs and leaving the coast behind you.
- 14 Just before the wooden gate leading to a National Trust car park, turn right following the signpost to 'Penhill Lane and Mill Lane' along a gravel track that immediately descends. At the path's crossroads, continue straight ahead (signposted 'Public Byway – Penhill Lane'). At the top of this steep hill, go through the gate or over the stile and veer right up the tarmac lane.
- 15 At the main road, turn left and then immediately veer left again through a small gap in the hedgerow. This takes you along a small path along the road's embankment, which you follow until you're back at the site.

INFORMATION ATTRACTIONS



■ **Paignton & Dartmouth Steam Railway**, Queens Park Station, Torbay Road, Paignton TQ4 6AF. Tel 01803 664313. Open: March to October (some seasonal trains around Christmas). Cost: adults £8; children (5-15 years) £5.50; seniors £7.50. Family tickets available. A 'Boat Train' ticket covers a ride on the steam railway, a ferry and river cruise. Full disabled access

■ **Coleton Fishacre House & Garden**, Brownstone Road, Kingswear TQ6 0EQ. Tel 01803 752466 or see nationaltrust.org.uk. Open: 3 March to 31 October. Cost (for the house and gardens): adults £6.40; children £3.20; families £16; free for National Trust members. This 24-acre garden is home to a charming house with an art-deco influenced interior. Disabled access

to some of the gardens and the ground floor of the house
 ■ **Dartmouth Castle**, Castle Road, Dartmouth TQ6 0JN. Tel 01803 833588 or see english-heritage.org.uk. Open all year (weekends only from November to March). Cost: adults £4; children £2; concessions £3.20; free for English Heritage members. 14th-century castle. Not suitable for wheelchair users