



Walk on the WILD SIDE

JO VAUGHAN PUTS HER BEST FOOT FORWARD ON A MEMORABLE AND SCENIC HIKE ALONG THE SOUTH CORNISH COAST

THERE ARE many sites to choose from when travelling to Cornwall, but if you wish to explore the southern coast then Looe Club site is conveniently central. It also has lots of facilities, particularly aimed at the kids,

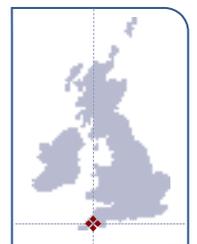
with an open-air swimming pool, two tennis courts, a crazy golf course and a large ball game area. But what's off site is most appealing, with the attractive fishing port of Looe being just a short drive away, and the even more picturesque village of



Polperro just a little farther on (both have large parking areas suitable for motor caravans). The Eden Project is just a 40-minute drive from the site, and if the weather's bad there are lots of museums and the aquarium to visit in Plymouth.

Our walk starts around 16 miles from the site, which may seem a long way to travel but the views from Rame Head are worth the trouble. To top it off there's a stunning pub in Cawsand, the Halfway House Inn, which serves great food and welcomes dogs with open arms. Motor caravanners should stick to the main road through Kingsand, however, as you would get stuck through the village's tiny streets!

If the Looe site is fully booked, then this walk is equidistant between this and the Plymouth Sound site – although from the latter you'd have to use the ferry at Torpoint to avoid the drive through Plymouth itself.



ABOVE: You may be accompanied by wild ponies on certain parts of this walk
LEFT: Pretty little Cawsand Bay

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INFORMATION | ATTRACTIONS

- **Old Guildhall Museum**, Higher Market Street, East Looe PL13 1BP. Tel 01503 263709. Open all year. Disabled access. Tudor building with a magistrates court, jail cells and a history of Looe
- **The Monkey Sanctuary**, Looe PL13 1NZ. Tel 01503 262532 or see monkeysanctuary.org. Open all year. Cost: adults, £6; children (5-16), £3.50; students and seniors, £4.50. Disabled access: very sloping in parts, but some areas are accessible. Home of a protected colony of Amazon woolly monkeys
- **National Marine Aquarium Animal Collection**, Rope Walk, Coxside, Plymouth PL4 0LF. Tel 01752 600301 or see national-aquarium.co.uk. Open all year. Cost: adults, £9.50; children (4-15), £5.75; seniors, £8. Full access for disabled visitors. Britain's largest aquarium including three newly-built floors dedicated to climate change and the seabed

INFORMATION | GENERAL

NEAREST CLUB SITE: Looe, St Martin, Looe PL13 1PB. Open all year
DISTANCE: 4.5 miles/7.2 km
TERRAIN: Some steps and road walking, but mainly minor tracks and small heathland paths
NUMBER OF STILES: 1
ESSENTIAL EQUIPMENT: Ordnance Survey Explorer 108 – Lower Tamar Valley & Plymouth
LEVEL OF DIFFICULTY: Easy/moderate
REFRESHMENTS: In Cawsand
TOILETS: In Cawsand (close to the slipway)
DIRECTIONS: Leave the site and turn right on to the B3253, then turn right again towards Plymouth (A387). Head towards Torpoint (A374), then leave that road following signs to Millbrook and Cremyll (B3247), before diverting to Kingsand. Do not drive into Kingsand itself – instead as you approach the village follow the road to Cawsand Bay. Large vehicles should park in the large car park set just back from the beach, signed 'Cawsand, Parking for Coaches'.

INFORMATION | TOURISM

Looe TIC, Fore Street, East Looe, Cornwall PL13 1AA. Tel 01503 262072



Polhawn Cove

DIRECTIONS

- 1** Leave the car park at Cawsand via its main exit. Cross the road to the bus shelter on the island and continue straight on along the road ahead (Forder Lane), past the derestricted road signs.
- 2** Take the first road on your right, opposite a cream-coloured house (Hat Lane), but almost immediately turn left following the public footpath sign through a wooden kissing gate.
- 3** Ascend the steep hill keeping the hedgerow on your left, but soon veer left following a yellow arrow keeping another hedgerow on your left. Go through a wooden kissing gate at the end of the field, and turn right up the lane.
- 4** Where the lane bends sharply to the right, continue straight ahead following the public footpath signs to a gate marked 'Polhawn Fort – Private Drive'. Go down the drive, ignoring the stile on the left.
- 5** Soon veer right following the signs to 'Polhawn Cottage – Public Footpath'. Before a metal gate turn right following a yellow arrow over a stile. Immediately turn left following the line of the fence, enjoying the views to the right.
- 6** Pass through the kissing gate and turn right to continue down the lane, but almost immediately continue straight ahead down a small path following the acorn sign and the yellow arrow, keeping to the left of Polhawn Cottage B&B.
- 7** Climb the steps, cross the lane and continue up some more steps, still following the yellow arrow and the acorn. At the top of the steps, veer right, and continue following the arrows past a green gate. Go through the kissing gate and continue along the right side of the field.
- 8** Go through another kissing gate, down three steps and continue along the path. Pass over a little wooden bridge and

- then follow the yellow arrow along the coastline, towards the chapel on the hill in the distance.
- 9** A little farther on, at the footpath sign, turn right following 'Coast Path – Public Footpath Cawsand 3 miles', still heading towards the chapel. At the next footpath marker, turn left following the yellow arrow or the acorn. Alternatively, you can walk up to the chapel and return to this point before turning down that path.
 - 10** Continue along the other side of the peninsula. Follow the footpath around to the right of a metal gate, and continue along the cliff top, still following the acorn sign. Go through a kissing gate and continue straight ahead at the wooden signpost ('Coast Path – Penlee Point 1 mile, Cawsand 2 miles'). Soon, ignore the wooden signpost marking a car park to the left and continue along the coastline.
 - 11** Go through the kissing gate, and keep to the right side of the hairpin bend, following the yellow arrow and the acorn. Continue as the track turns to tarmac, and then keep ahead until you come to a wooden footpath sign – turn right following the yellow arrow and the acorn down a sometimes-muddy track.
 - 12** Continue ahead as the lane turns to tarmac once again. Walk past the house, then veer right following a yellow arrow along a narrower footpath. By the cottages and the parking area, again continue straight ahead on a similar footpath still marked by a yellow arrow and an acorn.
 - 13** At the end of the lane, past all the houses, turn right following the 'Coast Path – Kingsand 1/4 mile' sign towards the centre of the village. At the Cross Keys Inn turn left, walk up the narrow road, past the 'No Entry' road sign, and continue until you return to the car park.