

# SANDOWN TO RYDE

**DISTANCE** 12 MILES

A coastal walk beginning on Victorian promenades, then rising over the chalk cliffs of Culver Down and passing around the more tranquil Bembridge Harbour, before returning to promenades once again.

**1** At the pier, walk along the Esplanade, and continue along towards Yaverland and the white cliffs of Culver Down. Walk past the Isle of Wight Zoo, continue through the public car park at Yaverland beach and follow the blue coastal path sign to Culver Down (SS43), to the right of Yaverland Sailing Club. Continue past the holiday centre and through the gate, away from the cliff edge, to follow the ascending path that leads to the monument on the top of Bembridge Down (NT) and ascend towards the monument on top of Culver Cliff.

**2** Go through the gate at the summit, across the road that leads to an inn and car park, through the swing gate and pass diagonally across the field, right of the large monument to the Earl of Yarborough. Walk through the gap in the corner of the field, and then down a steep chalk path to a stile into a wooded area leading to Whitecliff Bay. Pass several chalets and footbridges. Continue past the steps which lead to the beach along the cliff top to a white footbridge. Follow the path beyond.

Following the blue coastal path signposts through the wooded section. Continue along the edge of the old school playing fields and through to another wooded path.

**3** Continue along the cliff path, past the edge of Foreland Fields and through a small car park with steps to the beach. Continue on the narrow coastal path (BB10, towards Bembridge Point), to the seaward side of two large houses, then turn left into the car park of the Crab and Lobster pub, then right past the Coastguard Lookout and bear inland to meet Beachfield Road. Walk along road and turn right at the end (signposted as coastal path), through a modern estate and take the second road off the left, along Forelands Farm Lane. After about 50 metres (55 yards) turn right along the footpath. Go through the metal barrier at the end of the path, straight ahead past the entrance to the Bembridge Coast Hotel and walk along the Fishermans Walk above the beach to the lifeboat station and car park.

**4** Continue past the Lifeboat Pier and cafe and along the seawall to the end. Walk along the shoreline to Bembridge Harbour. Alternatively - and if the tide is high, bear left to take the path above the beach, turning left at tile junction with 886 (and more steps to beach). Turn right at the postbox and follow BB35 to Love Lane. Walk along the Lane until it bears left, then immediately on your right take footpath BB5 to Ducie Avenue and Bembridge Point to emerge at the Harbour.

Follow the main road clockwise around the edge of the sheltered harbour, passing several small boatyards, to the bridge that crosses the River Yar.

**5** Turn right just past the sign into St Helens, along Latimer Road, turning right again at the corner into North Quay and follow round to St Helens Mill, now a private residence. Keep to the harbour side of this and look out for an enamelled footpath sign indicating the route along the old Mill Dam Wall.

At the end of the wall, walk straight on across The Duver until a tarmac roadway is met. Turn left along the road and pass the old club house to the left. Bear round to the left and cross the road opposite the Old Church Lodge to a stile (footpath R85).

**6** Cross the stile and keep the hedge on the right to another stile in the far corner. After passing through a small area of scrub, walk diagonally left across the next field to a metal swing gate that leads onto an access road. Turn right and proceed for around 200 metres (220 yards) and then take a left fork towards the Priory Hotel. Turn left at the white gates along a tree lined bridleway with a field on the left. Turn right at the end onto a gravel track that leads down to Ferniclose Road and the sea. Just before reaching the Seagrove Bay slipway take the path immediately past the public toilets to the left (R105).

Follow it to Pier Road and continue into Seaview village and shops. Turn right down the High Street to the sea wall and follow the Esplanade round to the left, passing Seaview Yacht Club on the right. Just past this, turn right off the road to continue along the sea wall to the Toll Road. Maintain the same direction and continue onto Springvale Road, passing coastguard cottages on the way.

**7** Rejoin the sea wall opposite the Battery Hotel and continue around the edge of Puckpool Park to Appley, passing Appley Tower and Appley Park woodlands. At the end of the sea wall continue along the sea front pavement, passing the boating lake, children's fair and Ryde Pavilion at the Eastern Gardens. Turn inland at the Pavilion and continue along the Esplanade, with the railway line to the right and Hovercraft terminus beyond and finally arrive at the bus station with Ryde Pier adjacent.

*Route created by [www.visitisleofwight.co.uk](http://www.visitisleofwight.co.uk)*



# TENNYSON TRAIL

**DISTANCE** 14 MILES

A long and challenging walk which climbs up the downs and generally follows the crest through forests, past ancient burial sites, the Tennyson Monument, and The Needles to Alum Bay. Superb views in many directions.

- 1** The trail starts at Carisbrooke about two kilometres (1¼ miles) south west of Newport town centre. On the B3401 Alvington Shute, turn left into Nodgham Lane where a sign indicates the Tennyson Trail. Turn right opposite Park House and proceed uphill in a southwesterly direction along the ancient road which has banks on each side. Carisbrooke Castle can be seen on the left and later, again on your left the fertile Bowcombe Valley.
- 2** After about 1500 metres (1640 yards), continue through a gateway, crossing bridleways N125 and N127. Continue on level ground in the same direction following the hedge to your left. On reaching two field gates side by side, take the left and continue along the lane, going through another two gates on the way, and keeping the hedge to your right. Ignore Footpath N140 where the television transmitter mast is visible. The track starts to descend before reaching a gate to a crossing track at the bottom.
- 3** Cross straight over, following the sign for Bridleway N136a to Brighstone Forest, to another gate 80 metres (90 yards) beyond. Proceed ahead, passing under an overhead electric cable, and follow a narrow beech plantation on the right. Ignore bridleway N198 on the right and continue straight ahead and uphill through open fields before levelling off at a gate where you follow the signpost for Bridleway N139 to Brook and Freshwater. Continue ahead, passing through two more.
- 4** On reaching Brighstone Forest, a sign for the Tennyson Trail indicates straight ahead on the main forest track passing Bridleway Brook BS6 on the right. Ignore all other tracks crossing and follow signs for the Tennyson Trail. As the track starts to descend it crosses Bridleway BS58 shortly before reaching a five-way crossing gates.
- 5** Continue ahead, soon reaching a gate and signpost showing left to the Worsley Trail and Shorwell and right to the Tennyson Trail. Here you emerge onto Brighstone Down.
- 6** Continue west on the track with the sea to your left before descending steadily to exit by a picnic area into Lynch Lane. Turn right for 30 metres (35 yards) then left into the National Trust Jubilee Car Park going through the gate opposite next to the National Trust information board. Pass the Forestry Commission Brighstone Forest entrance to your right then climb the Down following the ancient road to the summit.

- 7** Leave the National Trust land through a gate and continue ahead on level ground, immediately passing ancient burial mounds or tumuli on the right. The track then descends to a further gate into a field where the Tennyson Trail is signposted onward. Descend through the field, to reach the B3399 to Freshwater and Yarmouth to the right and Brook to the left.
- 8** Turn right into the road then immediately left into the track by a bus stop or car park then take the left of two gates onto The National Trust Brook and Compton Down. The track immediately starts to climb steeply passing a chalk pit on the right then bears right to diverge from overhead electric cables. The Tennyson Trail continues ahead undulating gently, but steadily gaining height to Afton Down. Proceed to a further gate at the eastern boundary of the golf course, continuing along Afton Down, with the golf course on each side. The track descends to Freshwater Bay.
- 9** The Tennyson Trail joins the westbound Coastal Path next to the public toilets, on the lane to Fort Redoubt. Where the lane turns sharp left, pass through two consecutive stiles onto Tennyson Down then climb very steeply uphill to the information board. Although following the coastline from here on, one should keep away from the cliff edges. The incline lessens but continues to rise to the Tennyson Monument.
- 10** Continue ahead as you now descend. At the bottom cross a stile then climb steadily up West High Down until a radio aerial comes into view. Cross the stile by the aerial then pass it to the right onto a tarmac road. To your left is the Needles Battery. Follow the road a short distance until it turns sharply left below a row of cottages, cross a stile then bear left downhill to another stile leading back onto the road. Continue downwards on the road to Alum Bay which marks the end of this trail.

*Route created by [www.visitisleofwight.co.uk](http://www.visitisleofwight.co.uk)*

THE SOLENT

YARMOUTH

NEWPORT

FRESHWATER

FRESHWATER BAY

THE ENGLISH CHANNEL

CHALE GREEN

A3020

A3054

SHALFLEET

B3401

CARISBROOKE

START

2

CARISBROOKE CASTLE

CHEVERTON COPSE

3

B3323

SHORWELL

A3055

APPLEFORD ROAD

B3431

LYNCH LN

6

BRIGHSTONE

B3399

CHESSELL

7

8

SHALCOMBE

B3399

FINISH

TENNYSON MONUMENT

10

ALUM BAY

NEEDLES BATTERY



# NITON TO SANDOWN

**DISTANCE** 9 MILES

A coastal walk that starts high above the seashore and passes through Ventnor and areas of National Trust land before walking along Victorian promenades next to the sandy beaches of Shanklin and Sandown.

- 1** Take the footpath off Barrack Shute, the A3055 Niton to Ventnor road, signposted to Ventnor (NT31). Turn right at the end of the gravel drive (signposted to St Lawrence and Ventnor (NT29), then bear up to the left and follow the cliff top path above the undercliff looking down to Binnel Bay and Puckaster Cove.
- 2** Follow the edge of fields and continue past the BT transmitting station. Upon reaching a signpost shortly afterwards, turn right and follow the public footpath to St. Lawrence (V81) down the winding stone steps, turning left at the bottom along Seven Sisters Road. Turn right at the junction and walk down Spindlers Road, passing the Post Office off to the left.
- 3** Cross over the main road (A3055) onto Old Park Road (signposted to a glass making studio and the Old Park Hotel), then turn left along Woolverton Road for a short distance then take the footpath to the right, through a wooden swing gate towards Woody Bay. Before reaching the coast turn left along the landward side of Woody Bay Cottages following the coast path diversion signs. Continue along the cliff path, up to Woody Point, and on to Orchard Bay. Walk on the track around Orchard Bay House and, following the footpath to Ventnor sign (V90), walk around the edge of the field, then up the steep concrete steps to the edge of the Botanic Garden. Turn right and walk along the wooden boundary fence of the garden.
- 4** Upon reaching the cricket ground, turn right down the steep steps to Steephill Cove. At the foot of the steps, take a sharp left, followed by a sharp right, and continue down slope to the shore. Continue around to Castle Cove on the concrete path built as part of coastal defence works. Ascend to the cliff top and follow path to Ventnor. Drop down from the cliff path to Ventnor Esplanade.
- 5** Follow the sea wall for around 1500 metres (1 mile) to Bonchurch. Continue past a pottery, then turn left at the start of the row of houses. Go up the steps signposted as the Coast Path. Climb the path behind the houses and follow the tarmac path uphill through the copse to Bonchurch Old Church.
- 6** Turn right at the Old Church and follow the public footpath to the Landslip and Shanklin, along the front of a sports field, with Monks Bay out to your right. Continue past the entrance to Carrigdene Farm and into the Landslip, eventually passing the Wishing Seat. On emerging from the Landslip, pass the entrance to Rosecliff Lodge and walk down the stoney lane past Dunnose Cottage on the left and continue to the top of Luccombe Chine.

- 7** There is a National Trust sign at the top of the chine for Luccombe Cliffs and a signpost for the Coastal Path (SS2) to Shanklin. Walk up through the cliffs and up out of the landslip emerging at the end of Luccombe Road (single track). Turn left past a building called Highcliff from where there are good views along the coastline. Continue along Luccombe Road for about 800 metres (870 yards) and at the end turn right into Popham Road opposite Rylstone Gardens, through the small concrete bollards and towards the sea. Walk down the steps directly ahead to Appley Beach, pausing to admire the views to Culver Down to the north-east. Turn left at the bottom of the steps, along beach path, passing the beach huts and the 'Fishermans Cottage' pub.
- 8** On reaching the road by Palestine Slipway, turn left around the sharp bend and walk up the steep path which zig-zags round to pass the Chine Inn at the top. Cross the bottom of Everton Lane and follow the coastal path to Sandown signposted along the cliff top promenade. Pass the top of the cliff lift to the beach. Immediately below is the site of the Victorian pier which was swept away in the Great Storm of 1987. At the end of Eastcliff Promenade cross Hope Road, onto Delphi Road and continue past the Channel View Hotel, up the slope to rejoin the undulating cliff top walk, passing through Lake Cliff Gardens and descending into Sandown.
- 9** At Ferncliff Gardens walk down the flight of steps, then right at the bottom down the steep walkway to Sandown Esplanade, past the public toilets on the right. Turn left along the Esplanade and continue to the pier.

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# THE ENGLISH CHANNEL



**START**

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

**FINISH**

**CHEVERTON COPSE**

**SANDOWN**

VENTNOR BOTANIC GARDEN

SHANKLIN CHINE

LUCCOMBE CLIFFS

THE LANDSLIP

BONCHURCH

VENTNOR

ST LAWRENCE

SHANKLIN

WROXALL

WHITWELL

NITON

GODSHILL

ROOKLEY

LAKE

BERRY SHUTE

WHITWELL ROAD

ALPHEA ROAD

CHATFIELD RD

B3327

B3399

A3020

A3056

A3055

WINFORD ROAD

CANTEN ROAD

MERSTONE LANE

# GODSHILL

DISTANCE 4 MILES

A circular walk from Godshill taking in Appuldurcombe House.

- 1** Start at the public car park (free) opposite "The Griffin" public house, where there is also a bus stop.
- 2** Leaving car park, turn left along main road. Turn right across cattle grid onto tarmac farm lane (GL44). Proceed along path with rolling fields on right. Continue past farm where path will climb gently uphill and soon the arched gateway to Appuldurcombe Estate will appear. This is "Freemantle Gate". Pass through gate (right hand one) and after 100 yards, a signpost indicates path to left GL44. This is marked to Wroxall. This route will give you very good views of Appuldurcombe House much better than the more direct path (GL47) "to Appuldurcombe". Follow clear path downhill across fields through two gates to come to a road which leads to the House. Cross this road to footpath exactly opposite (GL45). Follow this path across field for fine views of House and garden. This Eastern part of House is roofed and windowed, but is unfurnished. The rest is a hollow roofless shell. On reaching boundary fence, turn hard right to follow path round to main entrance and car park. The House and grounds are in the care of English Heritage and there is an Owl & Falconry Centre on the site.
- 3** Continue the walk along GL47 at the upper side of the car park. This will take you back to Freemantle Gate. Turn left immediately after going through gate (GL49) The path follows the Northern boundary wall of the Appuldurcombe Estate below gat cliff. Continue until you come to a high stock fence and gate. Turn right to follow path GL58 to Sainham. The high fences are a relic of a deer farming venture which has now ceased. Continue on this path which is generally downhill to Sainham Farm. At this point turn hard right past converted barns. Path will lead into a beech copse which is a mass of bluebells at the end of April/beginning of May. On entering copse take left hand path downhill. At bottom go through gate out of wood into a quiet meadow. This will bring you alongside the extensive garden of "The Griffin" with its maze in the shape of a griffin. You now have the choice of refreshment in the pub or a cream tea elsewhere in the village. Binoculars are handy for birdwatching and the extensive views on this walk (when it's clear!).
- 4** Godshill has much to offer the tourist. The 14th century church which rises above a group of picturesque thatched cottages, contains a unique medieval mural. There are plenty of gift shops, tearooms, two public houses with restaurants, museums, gardens and also a model village. There is a useful information board in the car park.

CHEVERTON  
COPSE

SANDFORD

B3327

ISLE OF WIGHT  
DONKEY SANCTUARY



APPULDURCOMBE  
ROAD

WROXALL

REDHILL LANE



APPULDURCOMBE  
HOUSE

3

FREEMANTLE  
GATE

2

A3020

GODSHILL



wc

1

THE  
GRIFFIN

ALL SAINTS  
CHURCH

4

HOLLOW LANE

SHEEPWASH LANE

WEST ST

MERRYL LANE

WHITWELL ROAD

