

BBN – Torquay: 30th Aug – 3rd Sept 2025



Torquay is a traditional and thriving seaside town set on Devon's English Riviera coast and a top trending UK holiday destination. With its iconic palm trees, busy harbour, international marina, sandy beach and wonderful array of continental style cafes, restaurants & cocktail bars, Torquay is the perfect spot for a South Devon seaside holiday. If its more of an active break you are looking for, Torquay has a range of activities on its doorstep.

Located in South Devon and comprising the towns of Torquay, Paignton and Brixham, The English Riviera is a walker's paradise. Its sheltered position, mild climate and numerous walking trails through verdant woodlands, along winding coastal paths and hidden tracks, provide the perfect destination for walkers of all abilities.

Not only does the stunning South West Coast Path meander along the coastline, The English Riviera also holds the accolade for being a UNESCO Geopark. There are 140 Geoparks in the World and Torquay is the only seaside resort which holds that status.

We have the luxury of a 5-Day holiday starting on Saturday afternoon with a Torquay town circular walk once you've driven and parked at the hotel. The Sunday, Monday & Tuesday will be all-day walks following established long distance paths with plenty of opportunities to break away or shorten the length. Wednesday we'll stop in Teignmouth and walk to Dawlish Warren before returning back to Teignmouth on the bus and departing for home.

This programme gives information about the walks and their starting points. If anyone has difficulty in getting to the start points or is delayed please contact:

Roy Carter 07784208997

Accommodation is booked at the **Metropole Hotel**, Belgrave Road, Torquay, **TQ2 5HN**.

Walks are on Explorer Maps OL20 & 44 & 28 'South Devon, Torquay & Dawlish, Dartmoor'.

It's 210 miles from Milton Keynes to Torquay and takes 4 hours to drive, outside rush hour. The direct route being: A421>A420>M4>M5>A380 Devon Expressway.

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Day 1: Metropole Hotel – Saturday 30th August – 1:30pm – 9.0 miles – KentsCave

The walk starts from the Hotel Car Park in Belgrave Road and heads through suburbs of Upton & Plainmoor to reach Oddicombe Beach. Following the South West Coast path around Torquay we can visit many attractions such as the Model Village, the Cliff Railway, Ansteys Cove, Hope's Nose, Kent's Cavern, Daddyhole Cove and the new Harbour before the evening meal at 6pm.

Explorer Map OL44 What3Words: [direct.judges.survey](https://www.what3words.com/direct/judges.survey) Postcode: TQ2 5HN



Kent's Cavern in Torquay

Kents cavern was formed about 2 million years ago. Rainwater found its way through cracks in the rock dissolving the limestone and creating fissures which grew larger. As water makes its way through layers of soil it collects carbon dioxide. This carbonic acid very slowly dissolves the limestone and forms calcium bicarbonate. The fissures in the rock continue to grow, slowly getting larger to form small passages. The small passages begin to fill with water gouging out parts of the rock into caves. Huge circular passages and caves were left behind once the water table dropped. Boulders and rocks then collapse from the roof of the caves widening it further. Calcite is left behind once the carbon dioxide built up in the water has dissipated. It can slowly build over time, piling up over thousands of years forming stalactites and stalagmites.

Parking Information:



Parking is free at the Metropole Hotel Torquay, where we are staying. About a 4 hour journey from MK.

Free Parking with Toilets

Start Time 1:30pm
From the carpark. TQ2 5HN.

A 9 mile circular around the town.

Evening Dinner begins at 6pm.

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Torquay Circular Walk – Saturday 30th August



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Day 2: Torquay: Sunday 31st August – 9:15am – 15 miles – JMHT Day1

The walk today begins by catching the No.11 bus from the stop just around the corner at 09:30. We are walking the John Musgrave Heritage Trail from it's start at Maidencombe back towards the Hotel. I've divided the Trail into two sections, the first day being the shortest at 15 miles:

Day1: Maidencombe to Cockington to the Metropole Hotel.

Day2: Cockington through Totnes to Dittisham Greenway.

Explorer Map OL44 What3Words: save.soaps.dome Postcode: TQ1 4TS



John Musgrave Heritage Trail

JMHT Signage

John Musgrave was a keen walker from Torquay who left a legacy to the South Devon Group of Ramblers to create a walking route around Torbay. The result was the John Musgrave Heritage Trail, established in 2006, in partnership with the local authorities and the Torbay Coast and Countryside Trust. The 35mile trail takes in a large section of south Devon's wonderfully scenic and varied landscape of rolling hills, secret combs, captivating villages and stunning coastline. The trail explores over 40 of the regions finest heritage features and the route is easy to follow, waymarked, suitable for walkers of all abilities and accessible by public transport.

Parking Information:

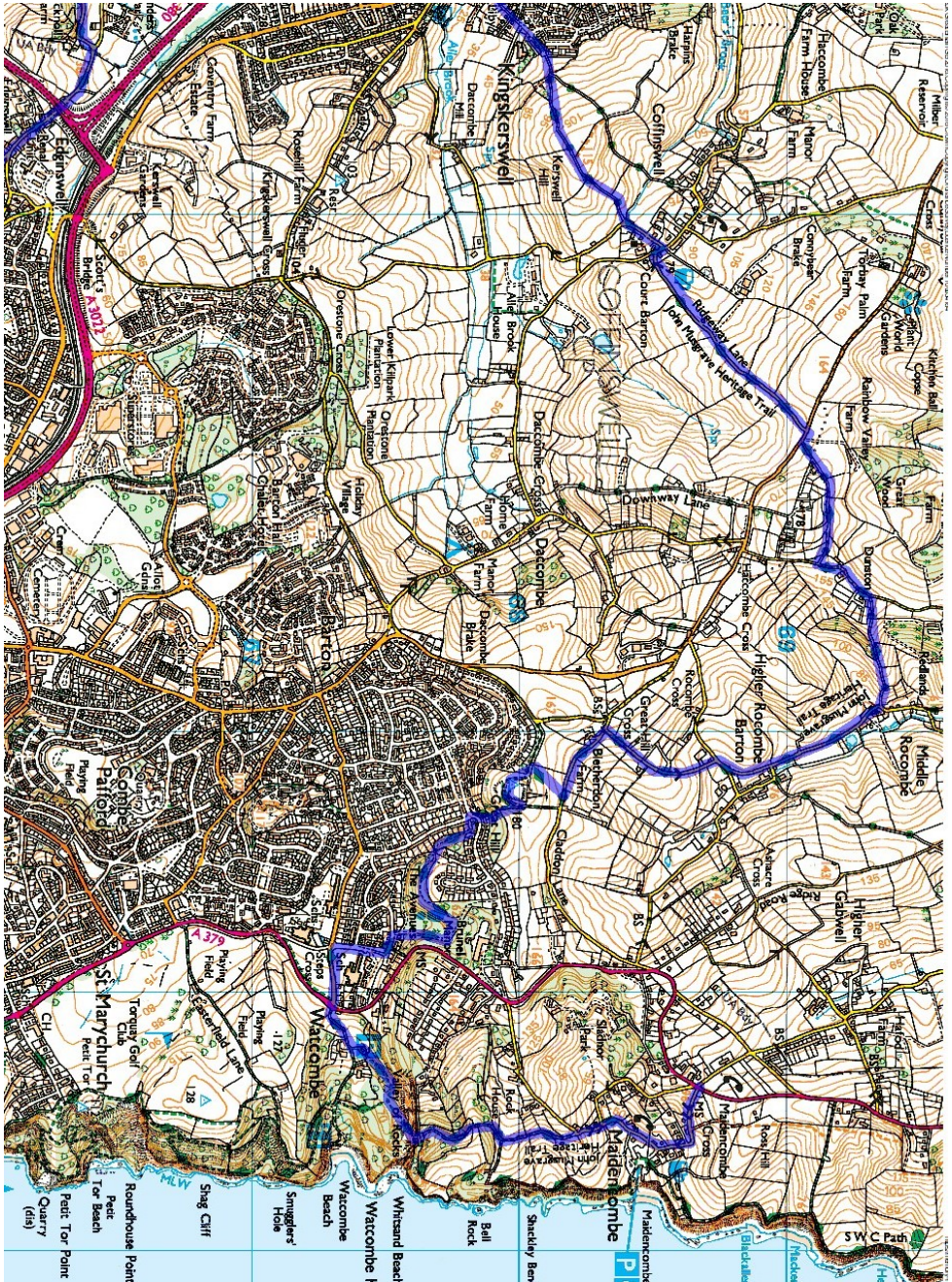


Depart after breakfast at 09:15 to the Derwent Hotel bus stop around the corner in Belgrave Road.

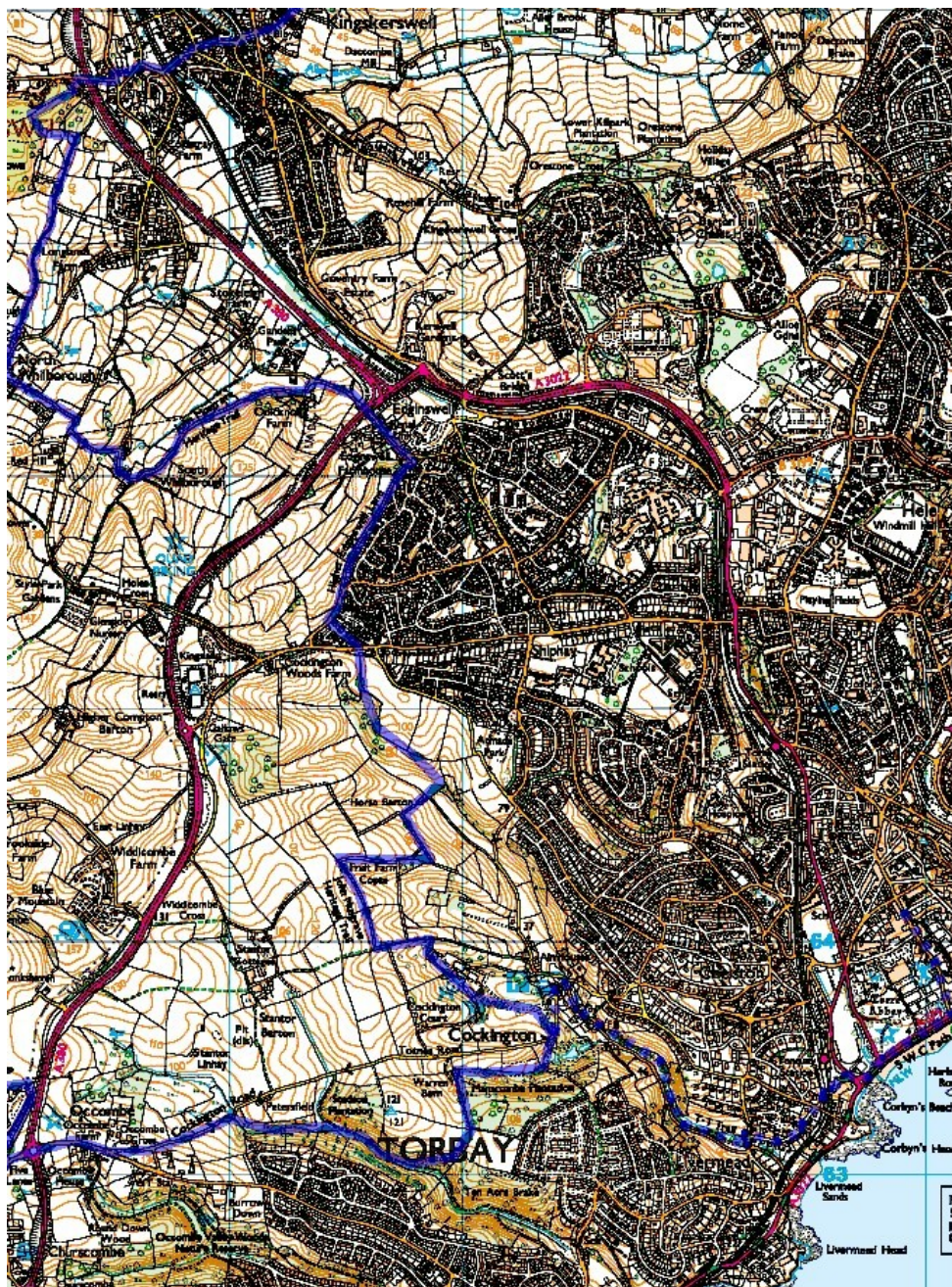
Catch the No.11 bus at 09:30 to Maidencombe Cross, Steep Hill.
(if parking there - TQ1 4TS)

Start Time 09:15am
From the Metropole Hotel
TQ2 5HN

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Day 3: Torquay: Monday 1st September – 09:15am – 17 miles – JMHT Day2

We continue with Day2 of the JMHT from the Metropole hotel by starting at Ocombe Farm. The walk takes us to Totnes for lunch via Berry Pomeroy Castle. After lunch the trail joins with the Dart Valley Trail for a bit before diving off to catch a ferry from Dittisham across the river to Greenway. We cut the JMHT short by catching the No.12 bus from Churston, not Brixham.

Explorer Map OL20 What3Words: design.spring.violin Postcode: TQ3 1RN



Berry Pomeroy Castle



River Dart at Totnes

The Pomeroy's motive for building a castle was certainly the disturbed state of Devon, then the most lawless area of southern England. Local feuds, escalating from 1455 into the conflict later known as the 'Wars of the Roses', and involved the Pomeroy's on the 'Yorkist' side. The strength of Berry Pomeroy's fortifications leaves no doubt that it was designed for serious defence. In 1547, Edward Seymour, Duke of Somerset, purchased the castle from the Pomeroy family. After his execution, his heir made plans for a new building within the castle walls, removing some of its internal structure in the process. Intending it to become the most spectacular house in Devon, Seymour started building his four-storey house in 1560. Enlarged by his son from 1600, it was never completed and was abandoned by 1700. It is reputed to be one of the most haunted castles in Britain.

Parking Information:

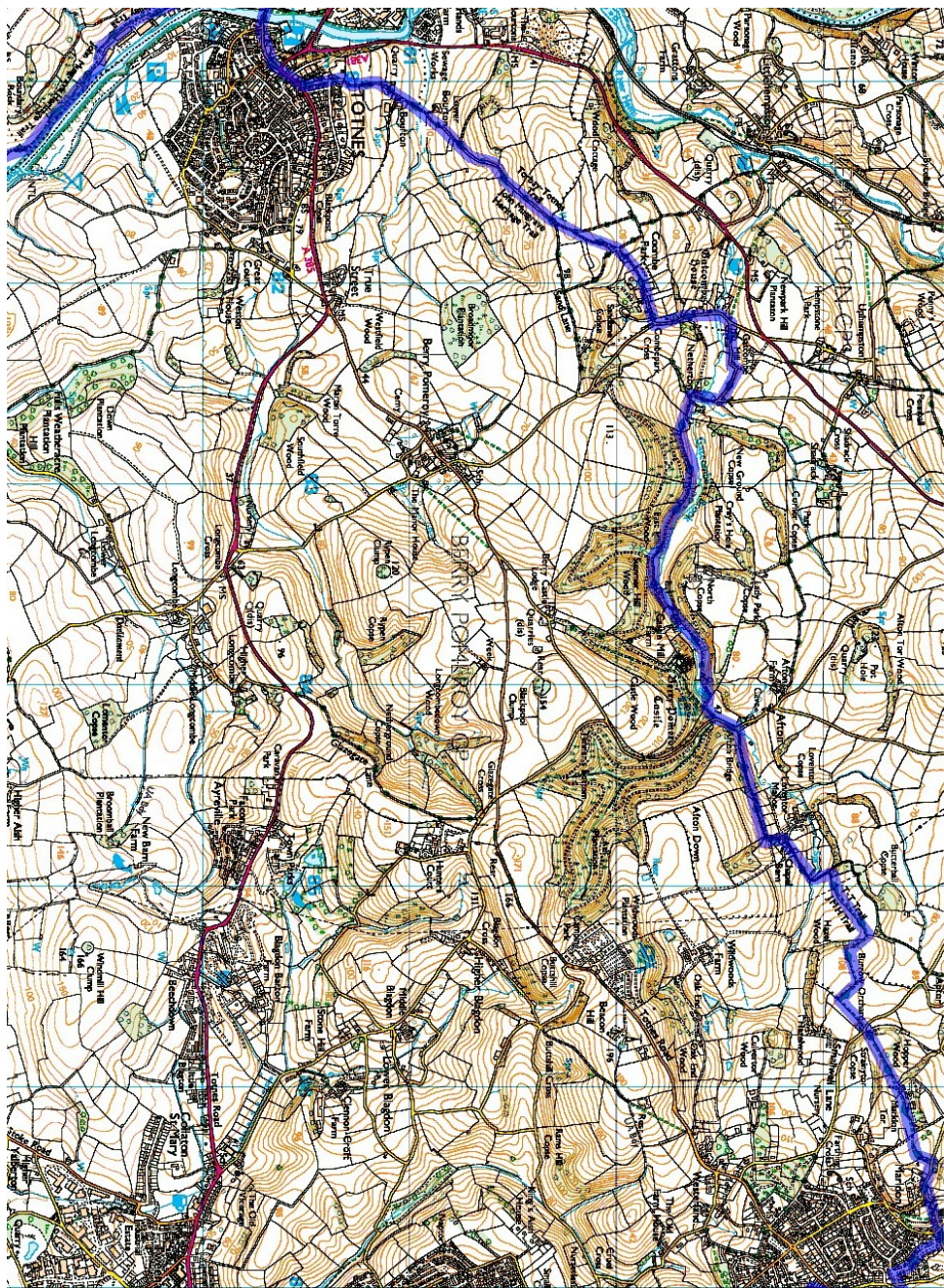


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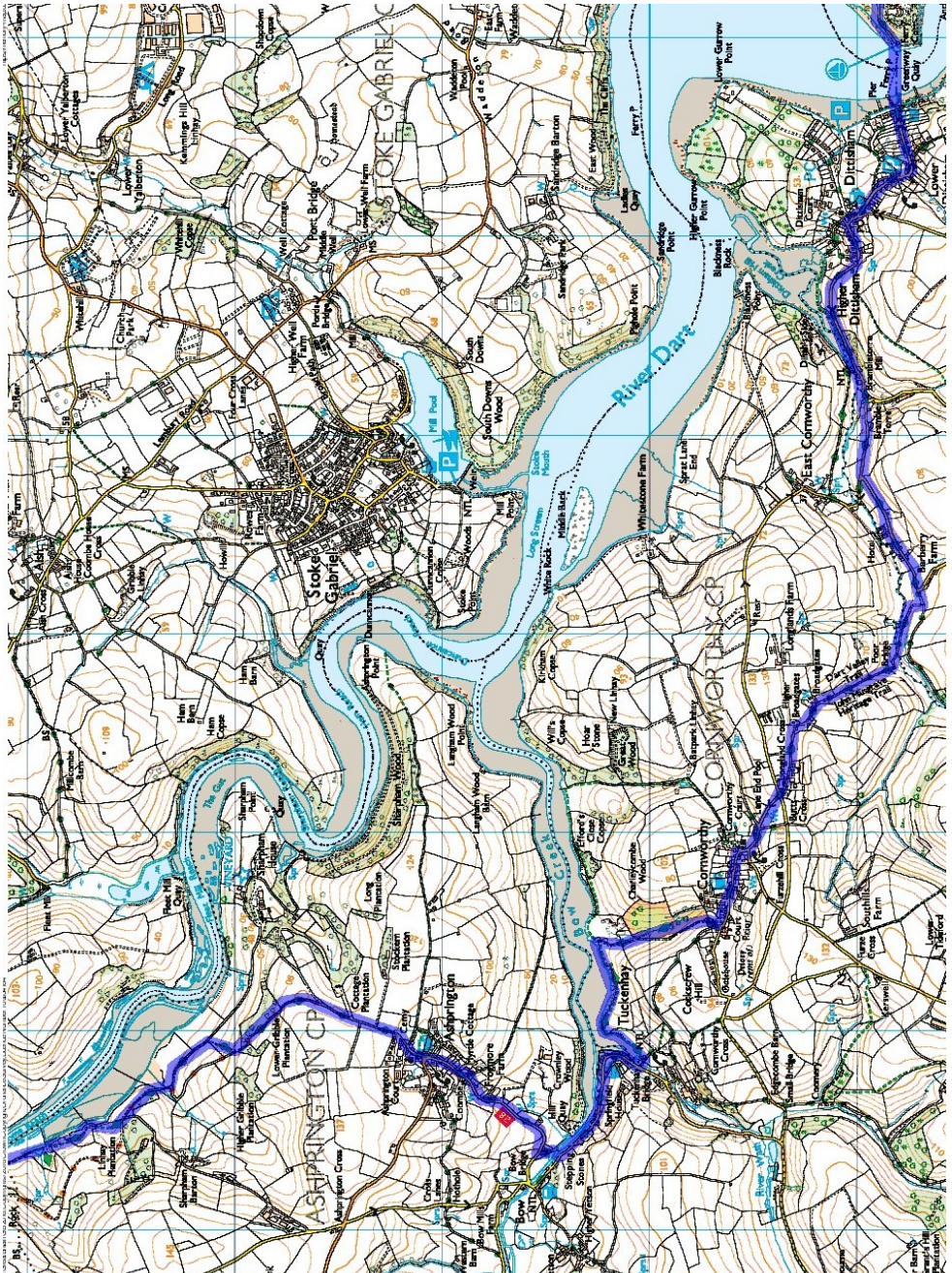
Catch the No.11 bus at 09:30 to Maidencombe Cross, Steep Hill.
(if parking there - TQ1 4TS)

Start Time 09:15am
From the Metropole Hotel
TQ2 5HN

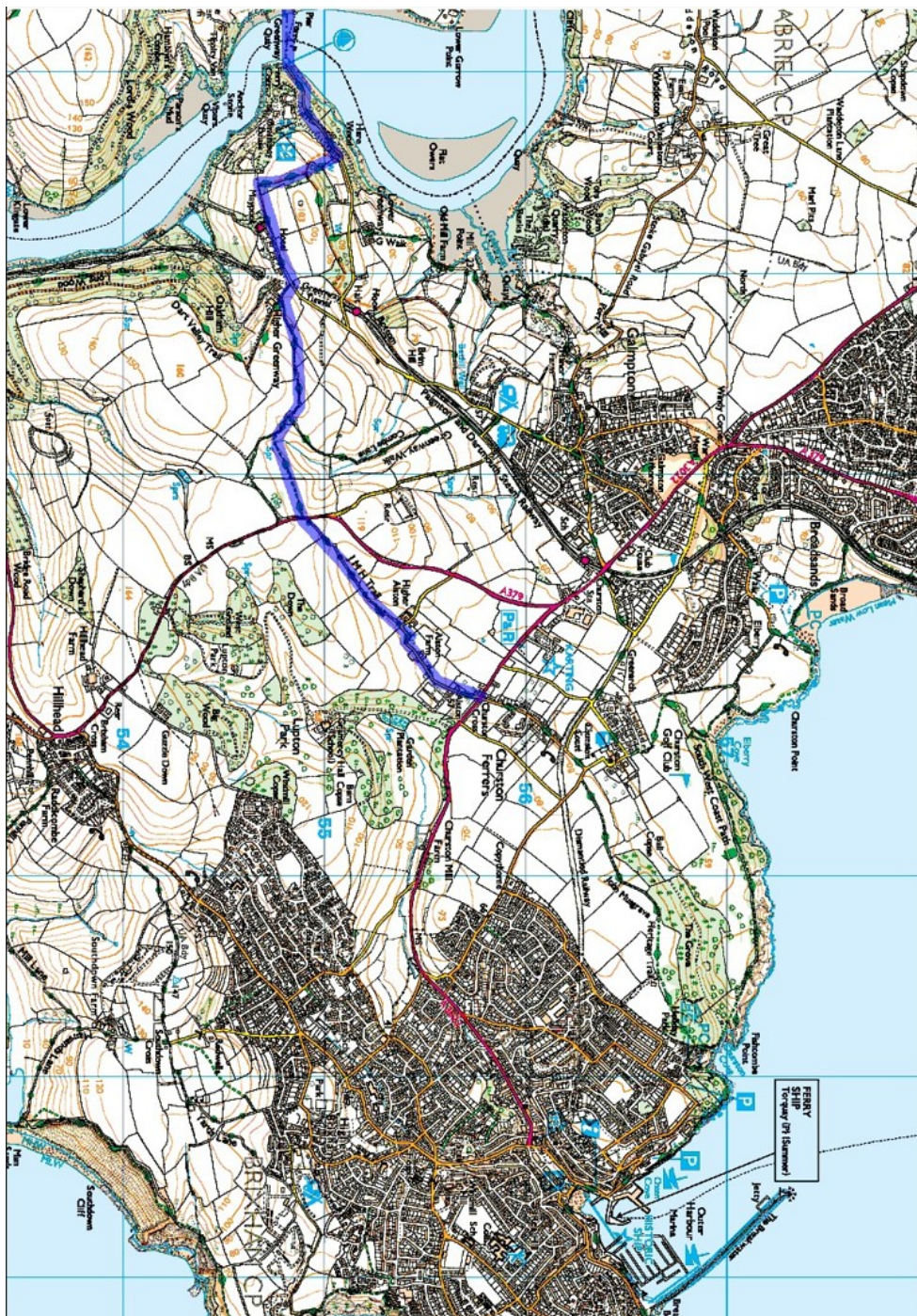
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Day 4: Paignton – Tuesday 2nd September – 09:15am – 16 miles – SWCP

The walk starts from Paignton Bus Station on arrival and follows the South West Coast Path to Brixham for an early lunch perhaps. Then onward on the SWCP to Kingswear where there will be time to look around before catching either a steam train or bus No.120 back to Paignton and then the No.12 bus back to the Torre Abbey Meadows bus stop close to the Metropole Hotel.

Explorer Map OL20 What3Words: punks.amber.stir Postcode: TQ4 5EA



Dart Valley Steam Railway

The English Riviera is a diverse and outstanding landscape underpinned by inspiring geology of global importance. The extraordinary landscape and blooming biodiversity that live here have stories to tell. Stories of tropical seas and scorching deserts, raised beaches, and drowned forests, hippopotami and mammoths, straight-tusked elephants and sabre-toothed tigers, cave bears and earliest man. Walking this beautiful stretch of the South West Coast Path is a must. Kingswear has always been closely linked with maritime activities, benefiting from trade and providing shelter for ships. During World War II, Kingswear played a role in naval operations and was even targeted in air raids due to its strategic importance. The village is renowned for its location at the end of the Dart Valley Steam Railway, with the vintage station at its heart.

Parking Information:



Depart after breakfast at 09:15 to the Torre Abbey Sands bus stop at the bottom of Belgrave Road near the harbour in Torbay Road.

Catch the No.12 bus at 09:32 to Paignton Bus Station.

The walk starts from there at 09:55.

Start Time 09:15am
From the Metropole Hotel
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Day 5: Haytor Vale – Wednesday 3rd September – 10:00am – 8 miles – Haytor

The walk on the last day starts from the National Park Visitor Centre above Haytor Vale on the B3387, TQ13 9XT. From here a popular walk up onto Haytor Rocks then across to Hound Tor and back via Smallacombe Rocks. However I reserve the option to add a visit to Black Hill or further and the pub in Haytor Vale seen on the map, if the weather permits.

Explorer Map OL28 What3Words: beak.fishnet.abolish Postcode: TQ13 9XT



Situated on the south eastern edge of Dartmoor, Haytor has spectacular views across Dartmoor and the South Devon coast and offers good opportunities to experience Dartmoor's fascinating past and the stunning wildlife and heritage within a walk from the National Park Visitor Centre. Covered in lichens and mosses, the imposing granite rocks of Haytor formed over 280 million years ago are within a protected area for its geological interest. Haytor quarry was opened in the 19th century by local landowner and businessman, George TEMPLER. A tramway uniquely built from granite and designed to take horse-drawn trucks, was built in 1820 to transport quarried granite down to Stover Canal, where it was then taken to Teignmouth Docks. It is unique because of its parallel lines of rectangular granite setts, rather than iron rails. When laid end to end, the flanges formed a continuous rail, along which flat-topped trucks could run on flangeless wheels. Each truck could carry up to three tons!

Parking Information:



Depart after breakfast to Haytor Vale via Bovey Tracey to park close to the Dartmoor Visitor Centre.

The Overflow carpark could be free?

The walk starts from there when we all arrive.

Start Time 10:00am
From the Dartmoor Visitor Centre
TQ13 9XT

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