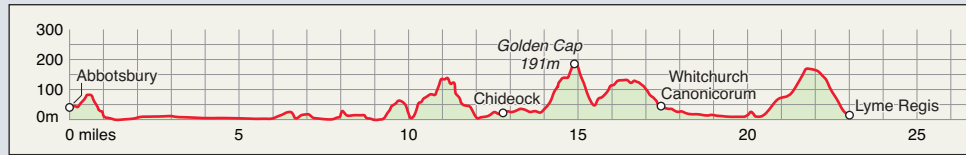


PRACTICAL INFORMATION



- **Terrain** Mainly shingle beach and cliff paths on Abbotsbury to Chideock section, a mix of footpaths and pavements on Chideock to Lyme Regis section.
- **Difficulty** Mainly moderate, but with some challenging stretches
- **Directions & GPS*** 005.pdf, 005.gpx, 005.kml at <https://trailblazer-guides.com/press>

* See p10-11 for more information on downloads

ROUTE OVERVIEW

22.9 miles (36.9km)

This walk is a switchback ride involving fabulous views from high points as well as beach walking at sea level so allow yourself plenty of rest breaks. Take a packed lunch for the Chideock to Lyme Regis section.

Abbotsbury to Chideock

12.9 miles (20.8km)

- **Time** 5hrs 15mins actual walking time
- **Total ascent** 649m/2130ft
- **Map** OS Explorer OL15 *Purbeck & South Dorset*,

A steep climb out of Abbotsbury to St Catherine's Chapel (0.6 miles) is followed by a sharp descent, joining the combined South West Coast Path and Macmillan Way to walk along the flat beach via West Bexington (3.3 miles) to Hive Beach (2.9 miles). Here the route leaves the coast path briefly, re-joining it at Burton Freshwater (1 mile) and climbing over East Cliff to reach West Bay, in 1.3 miles. A rollercoaster cliff-top ride to Seatown (3 miles) follows, where you head inland for Chideock (0.8 miles).

Chideock to Lyme Regis

10 miles (16.1km)

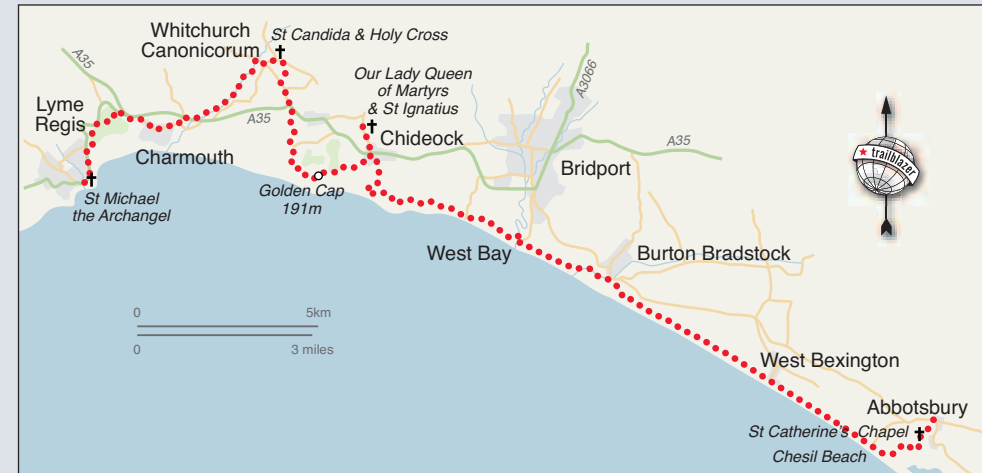
- **Time** 4 hours actual walking time
- **Total ascent** 1243m/4080ft
- **Map** OS Explorer 116 *Lyme Regis & Bridport*

From Chideock, lanes then tracks reach the coastal summit of Golden Cap (2 miles), then you descend and turn inland along farm tracks for the village of Morcomblake (1.7 miles), and on quiet lanes to Whitchurch Canonorum (1 mile). A path alongside the River Char takes you to Charmouth (2.9 miles) where you re-join the coastal path as it climbs steadily along the main road through the town, then descends steeply to Lyme Regis, reached in 2.4 miles.

Day walk options

If you only have one day, start from Chideock.

- **By public transport** The nearest railway station to Abbotsbury is Weymouth, and for Lyme Regis it's Axminster. To reach Chideock take a bus or taxi from Axminster.
- **Taxi option** Axminster Taxis (☎ 01297 34000, axminster-taxis.co.uk).



Where to eat or stay along the way

- **Abbotsbury** Stay at the *Ilchester Arms Hotel* (☎ 01305-873841, theilchester.co.uk, 9 Market St), or at the *Abbey House* (☎ 01305-871330, theabbeyhouse.co.uk, Church St) among the abbey ruins.
- **Hive Beach** Lunch by the sea at *Hive Beach Café* (☎ 01308-897070, hivebeachcafe.co.uk, Beach Road; daily from 10am) with crab and lobster from West Bay fishermen.
- **Chideock** Stay at *Chideock House B&B* (☎ 01297-489242, chideockhouse.co.uk, Main St) and eat at either the *Clock House Inn* (☎ 01297-489423, clockchideock.co.uk; food noon-2.30pm & 6-9pm) or the pretty thatched *George Inn* (☎ 01297-489419, georgeinnchideock.co.uk; food Thur-Sat & Mon noon-9pm, Tue & Wed 5-9pm, Sun noon-4pm).
- **Whitchurch Canonorum** The *Five Bells* (☎ 01297-489262, thefivebellsinn.pub) currently serves lunch only on a Sunday.
- **Lyme Regis** This seaside town has many options for both staying and eating.

PILGRIMAGE HIGHLIGHTS

- Climb to **St Catherine's Chapel** and enjoy your first view of **Chesil Beach**.
 - Visit the hidden **Martyrs Church** chapel (chideockmartyrschurch.org.uk, church and museum; 10am-4pm) in **Chideock**, which commemorates seven Catholics executed for celebrating mass in the secret barn chapel (contact them in advance to visit the secret part).
 - Climb to **Golden Cap**, the highest point of the **Jurassic Coast**, with views east to Portland Bill and west to Start Bay.
 - Seek out the shrine to obscure local saint **St Wite**, a place of veneration for a millennium, at **St Candida and Holy Cross, Whitchurch Canonorum** (cathedralofthevale.co.uk; 10am-4pm; Services Sun 11am, except first Sun in month 8am)
- St Catherine's feast day: 24 or 25 November St Wite's feast day: 1 June*

			Walk 5 Jurassic Coast pilgrimage
Distance from start	Distance from last direction	OS refs	Direction
0	0	SY 57862 85247	From St Peter's Abbey in Abbotsbury walk north to road through village and bear left round bend, along to Spar grocery shop.
220yds/200m	220yds/200m	SY 57589 85370	Turn left by Spar grocery onto track up the hill to St Catherine's Chapel.
990yds/900m	770yds/700m	SY 57269 84852	Reach St Catherine's Chapel. Leave to the south, taking indistinct path downhill over grass.
0.7mile/1.2km	550yds/500m		Halfway down the descent towards the coast, turn right on a distinct path which, although not signed, is the South West Coastal Path.
0.8mile/1.3km	110yds/100m		Pass through stile and continue along South West Coastal Path, running parallel with the coast, until you reach a track.
1.1mile/1.7km	440yds/400m	SY 57269 84852	Turn left onto track which runs towards the beach, which becomes signed Macmillan Way in addition to South West Coastal Path.
1.5miles/2.4km	770yds/700m	SY 56261 84431	Reach the shingle beach and turn right.
1.6miles/2.6km	220yds/200m	SY 55976 84602	Tack right into car park and then follow lane (Burton Rd) that runs along back of beach to West Bexington.
3.8miles/6.2km	2.2miles/3.6km	SY 53111 86457	At West Bexington, walk straight on through car park and continue along the lane that runs behind the beach, all the way to Hive Beach.
6.7miles/10.9km	2.9miles/4.7km	SY 49080 88826	At Hive Beach, leave the beach, following the Coastal Path sign immediately after Hive Beach Cafe, crossing diagonally left across the cafe's grass car park.
6.8miles/11km	110yds/100m	SY 49034 88958	Cross a stile into a field, continuing diagonally left, following sign for Burton Bradstock, across field, and do the same across a second field.
7.1miles/11.5km	550yds/500m	SY 48722 89254	When you reach the far corner of the second field, descend steps to Cliff Rd. Cross Cliff Rd and continue up Southover, the lane opposite, to the end.
7.3miles/11.7km	220yds/200m	SY 48477 89323	When the lane ends continue along a footpath, with the River Bride to your right, until you reach a footbridge.

7.5miles/12.1km	440yds/400m	SY 48208 89544	At the footbridge, cross the river, then turn left to follow opposite bank up to the edge of a caravan park.
7.6miles/12.2km	110yds/100m		Bear left through caravan park, alongside river.
8miles/13km	220yds/200m	SY 47534 89712	In far corner of caravan park, continue up cliff path. The path climbs to the top of the cliffs, passes a golf course then descends to West Bay.
8.7miles/14.1km	0.7mile/1.1km		Descend to the beach and continue over the sands.
8.8miles/14.2km	110yds/100m	SY 46300 90320	In West Bay, turn right off beach, passing the Watch House Cafe and Bridport Arms, then through car park to reach the harbour.
		SY 46107 90406	Turn left beyond the harbour and skirt it, following the road to a roundabout on the far side, where you should turn left into Quayside, then follow it as it bears right to become Esplanade, and run along the shore.
9.3miles/15km	880yds/800m	SY 45889 90494	At the end of Esplanade, continue straight on along the path, signposted South West Coast Path, and ascend the cliff path.
10.1miles/16.3km	0.8mile/1.3km		Continue on coast path as it descends and passes through Eype Mouth, then climbs again to cross Thorncombe Beacon and Doghouse Hill, before descending once more to the hamlet of Seatown.
12.1miles/19.5km	2miles/3.2km	SY 42037 91821	In Seatown, walk through the car park, cross the footbridge on your right and turn right into Sea Hill Lane, then almost immediately right again into Mill Ln, a tarmacked lane, marked as a bridleway, leading all the way to the village of Chideock.
12.4miles/19.9km	440yds/400m		At a Y-junction of lanes, bear left to continue on Mill Ln.
12.7miles/20.4km	550yds/500m		At a Y-junction of lanes, bear left, continuing on Mill Ln.
12.8miles/20.7km	330yds/300m	SY 42190 92765	When Mill Ln reaches Chideock at T-junction, turn right into Duck St.
12.9miles/20.8km	110yds/100m	SY 42133 92858	Chideock is a suggested overnight stop. When you reach the A35, Main St, cross diagonally left, passing St Giles' church, and then turn immediately right up North Rd. There is a sign for Chideock Martyrs' church.
13.3miles/21.5km	770yds/700m	SY 41969 93438	Reach Chideock Martyrs' church. To continue, retrace your steps.
13.8miles/22.2km	770yds/700m		Cross A35, Main St, and dogleg left into Duck St, the lane you arrived by.

13.9miles/22.3km	110yds/100m		Continue on past the junction with Mill Ln, where Duck St becomes Sea Hill Ln, until you reach a Y-junction.
14miles/22.5km	220yds/200m	SY 42090 92623	Bear right at the Y-junction, leaving Sea Hill Ln for Pettycrate Ln.
14.1miles/22.7km	220yds/200m	SY 42090 92623	Continue straight ahead as the lane becomes a track, and begins the ascent to Golden Cap.
14.3miles/23km	330yds/300m		Keep straight on, ignoring track to your left.
14.4miles/23.1km	110yds/100m		Keep straight on, ignoring track (Langdon Ln) to your right and continue along Pettycrate Ln.
14.8miles/23.8km	770yds/700m		When the track you have been following ends at a stile, take the footpath straight on over a field, heading for the summit ahead, which is Golden Cap.
14.9miles/24km	220yds/200m	SY 40706 92232	Reach the summit of Golden Cap. To continue, take the path on the far side of the summit, descending inland, signposted St Gabriel's.
15.3miles/24.7km	770yds/700m	SY 40206 92400	At St Gabriel's church, turn left to pass in front of the church, then pass to the right of a group of cottages and take the track that bears right, climbing between hedges.
15.6miles/25.2km	550yds/500m	SY 39934 92685	Where the track turns sharp right, follow it.
15.9miles/25.6km	440yds/400m	SY 39983 93045	At a crossroads of tracks, keep straight on.
16.4miles/26.4km	880yds/800m	SY 39948 93752	Look out for a well-hidden wooden signpost to St Wite's Well which is on the left of the path. From the well, continue on ahead.
16.5miles/26.6km	220yds/200m	SY 39971 93985	When the track reaches a lane (Ship Knapp) on the outskirts of Morecomblake, turn right along it, then bear left at the Y-junction to reach the A35.
16.6miles/26.8km	220yds/200m	SY 40004 94116	Cross the A35 and take the lane (Tizard's Knap) straight ahead, past the junctions with Taylor's Lane, to a Y-junction before Cockwell Farm.
17.1miles/27.6km	880yds/800m	SY 39731 94812	At the Y-junction, take the right-hand fork off Tizard's Knap on to Lower St to approach Whitchurch Canonorum.

17.4miles/28.1km	550yds/500m	SY 39727 95278	At a T-junction, where Lower St bears off to the left, turn right, looking out for a path on your left at the point where the road turns sharp right.
17.5miles/28.2km	110yds/100m	SY 39795 95364	Turn left down the path for St Candida and Holy Cross, Whitchurch Canonorum church. If you are lunching at the Five Bells (check that they are open for meals, see p69), continue along the lane for 150m, then retrace your steps.
17.6miles/28.4km	220yds/200m	SY 39584 95392	Arrive at St Candida and Holy Cross. To continue, follow the church path west to pick up Lower St once again, and follow the lane as it curves gently left.
18miles/28.9km	550yds/500m	SY 39249 95291	When Lower St reaches the crossroads, turn left into Becklands Ln and continue until just before the River Char.
18.1miles/29.1km	220yds/200m	SY 38982 95452	Turn left onto the footpath just before the River Char. Follow this path alongside the river, and as it bears right to run alongside the A35 towards Charmouth.
20miles/32.2km	330yds/300m	SY 36980 93953	When the path reaches a lane (Green Pit Knapp), turn left onto the lane and cross the bridge over the A35, continuing along to the junction.
20.2miles/32.5km	330yds/300m	SY 36851 93689	Turn right onto The Street, which will take you through Charmouth, becoming Axminster Rd, in a long, steady ascent through the town.
21.1miles/34km	0.9mile/1.5km	SY 35539 93874	When Axminster Rd reaches a roundabout, giving access to the A35, skirt to the left of the roundabout, to pick up a tarmacked path alongside the A3052. This is the South West Coast Path and runs parallel to the road. Look out for a footpath going into the woods on your left.
21.4miles/34.4km	440yds/400m	SY 35120 94099	Take the footpath on your left, signposted Coast Path. Pass through woods and cross Lyme Regis golf course.
21.8miles/35.2km	880yds/800m	SY 34625 93765	On the far side of the course pass through a belt of trees and turn left onto the A3052.
21.9miles/35.3km	110yds/100m	SY 34578 93683	Bear left off the A3052 (Charmouth Rd) onto Timber Hill, a narrower road which descends towards the town centre. Ignore signs for the South West Coast path and continue on Timber Hill as it bears right to rejoin the A3052.
22.4miles/36km	770yds/700m	SY 34306 93115	Turn left onto A3052 and follow it down into Lyme Regis.

22.9miles/36.9km	990yds/900m	SY 34316 92207	Reach St Michael's, Lyme Regis. Continue down the road for the town centre.
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