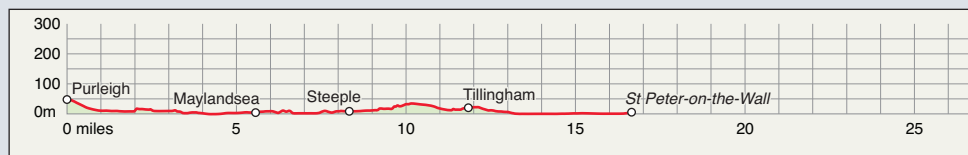


PRACTICAL INFORMATION



● **Terrain** Very flat, generally distinct paths over farmland. One short stretch after Steeple along busy road with no pavement.

● **Difficulty** Easy

● **Directions & GPS*** 011.pdf, 011.gpx, 011.kml at <https://trailblazer-guides.com/press>

* See p10-11 for more information on downloads

ROUTE OVERVIEW

16.6 miles (26.7km)

This mainly level walk along St Peter’s Way offers plenty of bird-spotting opportunities so you might want to take binoculars. Check the weather forecast before setting off and be prepared with the right clothing as the flat Essex marshes can experience harsh winds off the North Sea.

Purleigh to Steeple

8 miles (12.8km)

● **Time** 3 hours actual walking time

● **Total ascent** 49m/160ft

● **Map** OS Explorer 176 *Blackwater Estuary*

From Purleigh, follow St Peter’s Way across flat fields for **3.2 miles** to Mundon, and then over the marshes and along the shore to Maylandsea in a further **1.9 miles**. Then it is back inland to Steeple, reached in a further **2.9 miles**.

Steeple to St Peter-on-the-Wall

8.6 miles (13.9km)

● **Time** 3hrs 15mins actual walking time

● **Total ascent** 51m/168ft

● **Map** OS Explorer 176 *Blackwater Estuary*

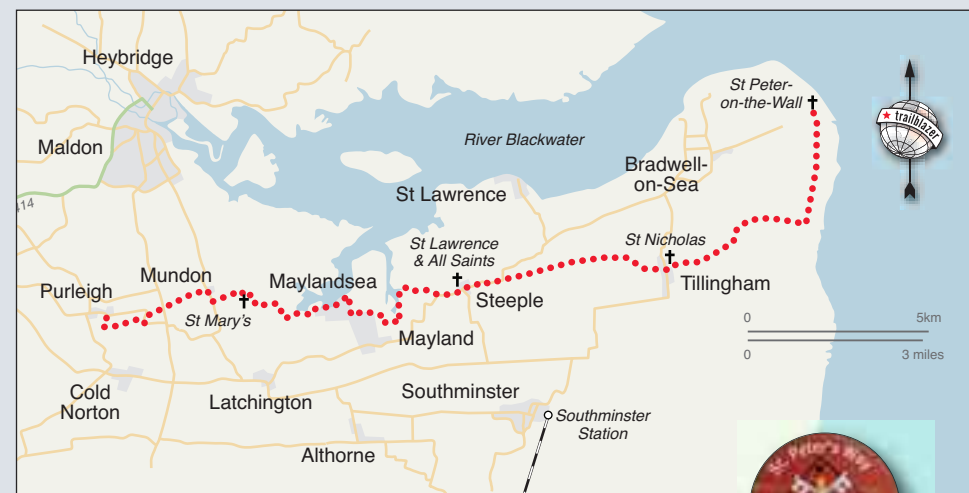
From Steeple, St Peter’s Way rises gently but steadily over farmland, then drops down to reach Tillingham after **4 miles**. You then cross marshes to the seawall, which it follows north to the Chapel of St Peter-on-the-Wall, in **4.6 miles**. The nearest village to the chapel is Bradwell-on-Sea, just under 2 miles away.

Day walk options

For a little more of a challenge, this entire walk could be completed in one day. For a shorter walk, begin at Steeple.

● **By public transport** Take the train to Chelmsford, then a bus or taxi to begin the walk at Purleigh. If beginning at Steeple, the nearest station is Southminster. To return home from St Peter-on-the-Wall, walk to Bradwell-on-Sea for a bus to Southminster station, or a take a taxi directly from St Peter’s.

● **Taxi option** Dengie Taxis (☎ 07496-609697, dengietaxis.co.uk).



Where to eat or stay along the way

● **Steeple** Stay at the *Star Inn* (☎ 01621-772646, the-starinnsteeple.co.uk, The Street), a friendly village local with decent pub grub.

● **Maylandsea** is the perfect location for a picnic lunch.

● **Tillingham** Stop for **lunch** at the *Fox and Hounds* (☎ 01621-779416, facebook.com/pages/Fox-Hounds) a lovely pub on the village green.

Right: The route is well marked with the cross keys of the St Peter’s Way logo, as on this stile just outside Purleigh.



PILGRIMAGE HIGHLIGHTS

- The ‘petrified’ forest and 14th century church of **St Mary’s** at **Mundon** (friendsoffriendlesschurches.org.uk/mundon, 10am-4pm)
- Navigating the tidal creeks, mudflats and saltmarsh to **Maylandsea** and stopping to watch the boats and birds in the marina
- The walk across the wild marshes to **St Peter-on-the-Wall** where the **Othona Community** welcome pilgrims (othonaessex.org.uk; contact them for details)

Celebration day Bradwell Pilgrimage and Gathering, first Saturday in July
(bradwellpilgrimage.co.uk)

			Walk 11: St Peter's Way
Distance from start	Distance from last direction	OS references	Direction
0	0	TL 84139 02050	From Purleigh church follow the lane east and as it curves south up to a sharp bend left.
140yds/130m	140yds/130m	TL 84193 01985	At the bend take the lane on the right, with St Peter's Way sign, that runs south and becomes a footpath. Continue straight on towards a line of trees.
490yds/450m	350yds/320m	TL 84112 01685	Just after the trees at a path junction turn left, initially along the field boundary then across the field, aiming for metal railings on far side.
0.7miles/1.2km	820yds/750m	TL 84814 01863	Take steps over disused railway, then continue straight on to the corner of the next field.
0.9miles/1.4km	220yds/200m	TL 85071 01909	Follow path diagonally right across field to Roundbush Rd.
1mile/1.6km	220yds/200m	TL 85212 01834	Turn left into Roundbush Rd and continue towards the next house, called Briar Cottage.
1.1miles/1.8km	220yds/200m	TL 85230 02030	Just before Briar Cottage, turn right (not signposted) off lane and follow path across fields to the B1010 Fambridge Rd.
1.4miles/2.3km	550yds/500m	TL 85724 02250	Turn left into Fambridge Rd and after 100m cross over and look out for a footpath sign on the right, just before Eastcroft Cottage.
1.5km/2.4km	110yds/100m	TL 85720 02296	Turn right off Fambridge Rd onto footpath (signed), which takes you straight across fields, past Sparrow Wycke, towards Mundon.
2.3miles/3.7km	0.8mile/1.3km	TL 86905 02784	Turn right onto Main Rd into Mundon and look out for a footpath sign on the left.
2.5miles/4km	330yds/300m	TL 87029 02475	Turn left (signposted) onto farm track, which soon meets Vicarage Lane at a bend. Continue straight ahead and follow the lane as it skirts right around a farm towards the church.
3.2miles/5.1km	0.7mile/1.1km	TL 87975 02655	Reach St Mary's church. Then continue through churchyard to reach moat.

3.2miles/5.2km	110yds/100m	TL 88075 02684	Turn right, with moat and then petrified trees on your left.
3.5miles/5.6km	450yds/400m	TL 88215 02353	After the petrified trees, at the corner of the field on your right, turn left (not signposted) to walk across a field. Cross a field boundary and continue straight on to the next field boundary.
3.9miles/6.2km	660yds/600m	TL 88822 02499	Turn right (not signposted) just after the boundary and walk to the corner of the field.
4.1miles/6.7km	550yds/500m	TL 88971 02122	At the corner turn left (not signposted) for 100m towards the footbridge.
4.2miles/6.8km	110yds/100m	TL 89124 02171	Cross right over drain via footbridge, then turn left. When you meet the Sea Wall turn right towards Maylandsea.
5.1miles/8.3km	0.9mile/1.5km	TL 90365 02499	Reach Maylandsea Marina.
5.3miles/8.6km	330yds/300m	TL 90677 02714	Turn right off sea wall onto North Drive and continue to the end.
5.6miles/9.1km	550yds/500m	TL 90732 02278	At the junction turn left onto Imperial Ave.
5.7miles/9.2km	110yds/100m	TL 90831 02237	As Imperial Ave bends right, turn sharp left between gardens onto footpath which then bends right. Beware, St Peter's Way sign is obscured. When the path meets Nipsells Chase turn right for a few metres.
6.4miles/10.3km	0.7mile/1.1km	TL 91253 02322	Turn left (not signposted) off Nipsells Chase and follow footpath past Nipsells Farm, across a field and then left (signed) past a pumping station towards Mayland Creek.
6.6miles/10.6km	330yds/300m	TL 92104 02148	Reach Mayland Creek and bear right around water, then follow path alongside it as it bears left. Continue along as creek widens to the right, and path turns sharp right then left.
7.3miles/11.8km	0.8mile/1.2km	TL 92214 03045	Turn right (not signposted), away from creek on to farm track. Continue past farms as the track becomes a lane, up to the main road into Steeple.
8miles/12.8km	0.6mile/1km	TL 93144 02915	Reach road and turn left onto The Street for Steeple village, passing St Lawrence & All Saints church on the left.

			<i>Steeple is my suggested overnight stop – you'll find The Star further along The Street on the right.</i>
			Continue along The Street out of the village, as the road becomes Steeple Rd, up to where it bends sharp left. CAUTION: While there is footpath through the village, the stretch after that must be navigated by walking on the narrow grass verge, or in the road.
9.1miles/14.6km	1.1miles/1.8km	TL 94886 03395	Leave Steeple Rd when it bends sharp left, taking signed footpath straight ahead between fields. Continue on this straight path between fields, then through woodland, before crossing a field and then along a track to Southminster Rd.
		TL 96518 03849	Cross Southminster Rd and continue on signed path across fields. It passes to the left of a house and on to the end of the next field where the signed path turns left then almost immediately right onto St Lawrence Rd. Continue to next junction.
		TL 98352 03986	At the junction with Reddings Ln continue on the signed path straight ahead, over a track and between more fields to Tillingham.
12miles/19.2km	2.8miles/4.6km	TL 99253 03816	Reach North St (B1021), Tillingham, with St Nicholas's church opposite. <i>Turn right here for the Fox & Hounds pub.</i> There are no St Peter's Way signs here, but turn right, then bear left into churchyard, then follow the path as it turns left, then right, and exits the churchyard. The signs reappear at this point. As the path meets Marsh Rd on a bend, continue straight ahead on the road.
12.9miles/20.8km	0.9mile/1.6km	TM 00681 04385	Reach farmyard, marked Dots and Melons on OS maps. Continue straight through on a track. Note: Path can be indistinct from here, so look out for St Peter's Way symbols and stiles.

		TM 01062 04746	Just after a bridge the path leaves the track at a bend, and heads across fields towards a barn.
13.7miles/22km	0.7mile/1.2km	TM 01461 05199	Pass barn marked Weatherwick on OS maps and continue on across fields.
14.3miles/23km	0.6mile/1km	TM 02404 05276 TM 02404 05276	Pass farm marked Sandbeach on OS maps and continue straight ahead along track to junction. Turn left towards sea wall.
14.6miles/23.6km	660yds/600m	TM 03026 05385	Reach sea wall, turn left and continue north along sea wall initially, with sea on your right. Keep going straight ahead, ignoring any turns to right and left.
16.6miles/26.7km	1.9miles/3.1km	TM 03099 08166	Reach St Peter-on-the-Wall.