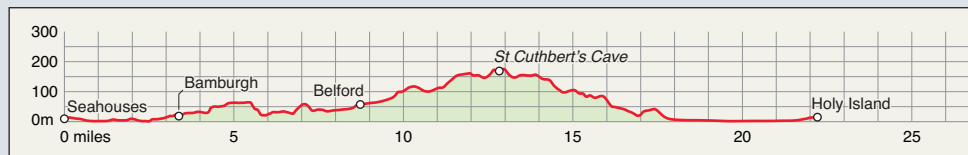


PRACTICAL INFORMATION



- **Terrain** A mix of beach walking and footpaths over fields and moorland
- **Difficulty** Moderate
- **Directions & GPS*** 019.pdf, 019.gpx, 019.kml at <https://trailblazer-guides.com/press>

* See p10-11 for more information on downloads

ROUTE OVERVIEW

22.2 miles (35.7km)

Walking along sandy beaches and through dunes and fields, following the route of St Oswald's Way, in some places your exact route will be influenced by the tide. The walk culminates in a causeway crossing only accessible at low tide so it's important to check the tide times before you set out.

Seahouses to Belford

8.8 miles (14.2km)

WARNING! When you reach the point where the route crosses a major railway line, you will need to phone the signal box to check it is safe before crossing the line.

- **Time** 3 hours actual walking time
- **Total Ascent** 120m/393ft
- **Map** OS Explorer 340 *Holy Island & Bamburgh*

Begin by walking along the beach, or over the sand dunes, for **3.3 miles** to Bamburgh, then alongside the B1342 for **1 mile**, before following St Oswald's Way overland. The route, generally well marked, runs over gently undulating farmland for **4.5 miles** to Belford.



Belford to Lindisfarne

13.4 miles (21.5km)

WARNING! Check the safe crossing times for the Lindisfarne causeway before setting out. See holyislandcrossingtimes.northumberland.gov.uk

- **Time** 5 hours actual walking time
- **Total Ascent** 430m/1476ft,
- **Map** OS Explorer 340 *Holy Island & Bamburgh*

Today's walk is all on St Oswald's Way, apart from one short diversion. The route runs over pasture for **2 miles** to Swinhoe Farm, then rises gradually through woodland to emerge on rough moorland and reach St Cuthbert's Cave after a further **2.1 miles**. From there, after retracing your steps for half a mile, you begin a long gentle descent through woodland, reaching Fenwick in **3.7 miles**. From here, it is **2.3 miles** to the causeway across to Holy Island, and a further **3.5 miles** to reach Lindisfarne Priory.



Day walk options

- **By public transport** Take the train to Chathill station, then a taxi to the start of the walk at Seahouses or Belford. To return to the mainland from Holy Island there is a mini-bus service in the summer (run by Woody's Taxis; ☎ 01289 547009, berwickupon-tweedtaxi.co.uk), or call a taxi.
- **Taxi back to mainland** Knight's Taxis (☎ 07760-751667, knightstaxi.com).

Where to eat or stay along the way

- **Seahouses Stay** the night before your walk at the *Olde Ship Inn* (☎ 01665-720200, seahouses.co.uk/theoldeship, Main St NE68 7RD), a friendly pub perched above the harbour, then pick up a **picnic** lunch at Seahouses Co-Op on Main St before your boat trip to the Farne Islands.
- **Belford Stay** at the *Blue Bell Hotel* (☎ 01668-213543, bluebellhotel.com, Market Place), an old coaching inn that welcomes walkers.

PILGRIMAGE HIGHLIGHTS

- **Bamburgh** St Oswald's *Bamburgh Castle* (bamburghcastle.com; 10am-5pm) and St Aidan's church (staidan-bamburgh.co.uk; 10am-5pm; Radcliffe Rd).
- **Seek out** the hidden *St Cuthbert's Cave*.
- **Navigate** the tidal causeway to **Holy Island** (Safe crossing times: holyislandcrossingtimes.northumberland.gov.uk).
- **Visit Lindisfarne Priory** (english-heritage.org.uk/visit/places/lindisfarne-priory; usually 10am-5pm depending on tide times), the Holy Island home to St Cuthbert and St Aidan.

			Walk 19: Seahouses to Holy Island
Distance from start	Distance from last direction	OS references	CAUTION: This walk involves crossing to Holy Island via a tidal causeway, which is submerged at high tide. You must only cross when it is safe to do so. To find out safe times on the day you intend to walk, go to holyislandcrossingtimes.northumberland.gov.uk
0	0	NU 22086 32099	Facing the harbour in Seahouses, walk north west along Harbour Rd.
100yds/90m	100yds/90m	NU 22028 32157	Turn left onto Main St and continue to the roundabout.
220yds/200m	120yds/110m	NU 21950 32077	Turn right on to Seafield Rd, the B1340 and continue out of Seahouses with the sea on your right.
720yds/660m	500yds/460m	NU 21244 32509	After passing the rocks known as The Tumblers, you have the choice of walking on the beach, the sand dunes or staying on the road if you prefer. I will assume you are walking on the beach.
2.5miles/4.1km	2.1miles/3.4km		Turn left to leave the beach opposite Islestone Rock, taking the wide path through the dunes, then bear right to pick up the sandy track that runs across to Links Rd.
2.8miles/4.6km	550yds/500m	NU 18872 34678	Reach Links Rd and turn right onto the pavement and walk to Bamburgh.
3.3miles/5.3km	660yds/600m	NU 18319 34992	Reach Bamburgh Castle. Continue along Links Rd through Bamburgh village.
3.4miles/5.6km	330yds/300m	NU 18066 34931	Where the road divides, take the right-hand fork onto the B1342, Church St.
3.5miles/5.7km	110yds/100m	NU 17887 34925	St Aidan's church is on your right. To continue, keep walking along the B1342 as it becomes Radcliffe Rd.
4.3miles/7km	0.8mile/1.3km	NU 16644 34776	Take the lane on the left, opposite Galliheugh Bank, where the B1342 curves right, and look out for a St Oswald's Way sign in 30m on your right. Walk over fields until you reach a lane.
5miles/8km	0.6mile/1km	NU 15812 34296	Turn left onto the lane, then almost immediately right and follow it as it bears left to pass Waren caravan park.

			Look out for a five-bar gate hidden in the hedge to your right.
5.2miles/8.5km	550yds/500m	NU 15619 33995	There is no sign post here, but the walk continues through the gate on your right, running just inside the caravan park.
5.3miles/8.6km	110yds/100m	NU 15456 33975	Leave the caravan park via the stile and enter a field, keeping to the right-hand field margin, with woods to your right, then descend through woodland below Spindlestone Heughs to emerge on a lane.
5.5miles/8.9km	330yds/300m	NU 14922 33735	Turn left on the lane and continue to the junction.
5.9miles/9.5km	660yds/600m	NU 14892 33471	At the T-junction of lanes, turn right, crossing Waren Burn, with Spindlestone Mill to your left.
6miles/9.8km	330yds/300m	NU 14656 33509	At the junction, take the road to your right, opposite the former windmill and continue up to the junction with the B1342.
6.2miles/10.1km	330yds/300m	NU 14388 33602	Keep right at the junction, on the B1342, for 100m.
6.3miles/10.2km	110yds/100m	NU 14340 33709	At the Y-junction take the left-hand fork, leaving the B1342. Continue along and look out for a signpost for St Oswald's Way on the left.
6.6miles/10.6km	440yds/400m	NU 14186 34033	Turn left onto the St Oswald's Way footpath, across meadows.
7.4miles/12km	0.9miles/1.4km	NU 12829 33868	Where the path joins a service road at a bend, keep straight on along road.
7.5miles/12.1km	110yds/100m	NU 12699 33892	Where the service road turns left at a right angle, leave road and keep straight on along the path.
7.6miles/12.3km	220yds/200m	NU 12538 33924	Cross the disused rail tracks, then follow the path as it turns 45 degrees left and runs through a wood to the main railway line.
7.8miles/12.5km	220yds/200m	NU 12394 33892	CAUTION: The path crosses the main rail line and trains pass at up to 100mph. You MUST pick up the phone to check with the signal staff that it is safe for you to cross. The path then passes to the right of a series of silos up to the A1.

8.1miles/13.1km	660yds/600m	NU 11782 33779	CAUTION: The path crosses the busy A1 at this point. It then crosses a field and an access road, then runs to the left of Belford Burn towards the town of Belford.
8.5miles/13.7km	660yds/600m	NU 11179 33582	Turn right on to South Rd, the B6349, towards Belford, where it becomes High St.
8.8miles/14.2km	550yds/500m	NU 10870 33896	Reach the centre of Belford. Turn left on West St, the B6349 to continue.
9miles/14.5km	330yds/300m	NU 10610 33800	Take the narrow, tarmacked lane on your right, signposted St Oswald's Way.
9.1miles/14.7km	220yds/200m	NU 10480 33920	At Belford Burn bear left off the lane, keeping to the left of the farm buildings at West Hall.
9.2miles/14.8km	110yds/100m		Pass to the right of the hedge and continue straight on.
9.3miles/14.9km	110yds/100m	NU 10260 33839	Turn right, crossing a series of fields and then Weetside Crag towards Swinhoe Farm.
10.6miles/17.1km	1.4miles/2.2km	NU 08512 34932	Keep straight ahead through Swinhoe Farm's yard
10.7miles/17.2km	110yds/100m	NU 08360 35057	Turn left after the last barn, then almost immediately right, to follow the tarmacked farm road signposted St Oswald's Way. Follow this road to skirt to the right of Upper and Lower Swinhoe Lakes and through the woodland at Virgin Hill to emerge on a track crossing rough moorland.
12.1miles/19.5km	1.4miles/2.3km	NU 06733 35879	Where the track meets another at a T-junction, you reach the point where the route leaves St Oswald's Way for St Cuthbert's Cave. A fingerpost, bearing both Cuthbert and Oswald signs, points left at a right angle, but to get to the caves involves you almost doubling back on yourself, continuing at an acute angle to your previous direction of travel. There is a separate St Cuthbert's Cave fingerpost pointing the way. The path ahead is indistinct so, to get your bearings, aim for the right-hand end of the belt of woodland on the horizon.

12.7miles/20.4km	990yds/900m	NU 06017 35277	At this point you are in the final approach to the woodland that shields St Cuthbert's Cave. Cross the stile and aim for the right-hand corner of the woodland.
12.8miles/20.6km	220yds/200m		Look out for a stile on your left, and a round, silver National Trust Sign reading St Cuthbert's Cave. A narrow path bears slightly right into the woodland and descends to reach the cave after 80m. To continue, retrace your steps back over the rise, down through the first field then half way up the next one.
13.3miles/21.4km	880yds/800m	NU 06498 35583	Stop retracing your steps half way up the incline, and turn left to follow a faint path at right angles to your current direction of travel until you reach a point further up the track you left earlier.
13.5miles/21.8km	440yds/400m	NU 06462 35936	At the track, cross the stile and turn left onto the now-combined St Oswald's and St Cuthbert's ways. The route is also shared by the Northumberland Coastal Path, and the blue roundels of this route are also a good guide to your path.
13.9miles/22.4km	660yds/600m	NU 06087 36391	Shortly after entering woodland, take the right-hand fork in the path towards Hunters Crag. From here the path is straight on, and well signposted with Northumberland Coastal Path signs.
14.8miles/23.9km	0.9mile/1.5km	NU 06079 37726	Emerge from the woodland. The path now continues straight on, with fields to your right, woodland to your left.
15.3miles/24.7km	880yds/800m		The path skirts right, at first keeping to the edge of the wood, then passing through it for a short stretch, before curving left again on the edge of the woodland.
15.6miles/25.2km	550yds/500m	NU 06379 39033	At a crossroads of paths, turn left.
15.8miles/25.5km	330yds/300m	NU 06214 39185	Turn right before a house called Blawerie, and continue on the tarmacked lane towards the village of Fenwick.
16.5miles/26.5km	0.6mile/1km	NU 06631 40080	Arrive at Fenwick and turn right on to the B6353. Continue to the A1.
16.6miles/26.8km	330yds/300m	NU 07008 40137	Reach the A1 and cross straight over, continuing along the lane to Fenwick Granary. Look out for a footpath sign on the left just after the Granary.

17miles/27.4km	660yds/600m	NU 07240 40569	Turn left off the lane onto a grassy track between hedges and continue to a tarmacked lane called Fisher's Back Rd.
17.3miles/27.9km	550yds/500m	NU 07279 41038	Turn right onto Fisher's Back Rd for 100m.
17.4miles/28km	110yds/100m	NU 07387 41026	Turn left, off the tarmacked surface onto a stony track. Confusingly, this is also called Fisher's Back Rd. Continue to the railway line.
17.8miles/28.6km	660yds/600m	NU 07653 41583	CAUTION: The path crosses the main rail line and trains pass at up to 100mph. You MUST pick up the phone to check with the signal staff that it is safe for you to cross. Continue straight ahead.
18miles/29km	440yds/400m	NU 07846 41914	Cross the footbridge and follow the path as it bears left.
18.3miles/29.4km	440yds/400m	NU 07734 42296	Follow the path as it bears right.
18.5miles/29.7km	330yds/300m	NU 08005 42409	Turn sharp left to follow the path as it passes between two rows of large concrete tank traps towards the Holy Island causeway.
			CAUTION: Holy island is reached via a tidal causeway. You must only cross when it is safe to do so. To find out safe times on the day you intend to walk, go to holyislandcrossingtimes.northumberland.gov.uk/
18.6miles/30km	330yds/300m	NU 07924 42696	Turn right onto the Holy Island Causeway. Follow this road all the way to Holy Island village, Lindisfarne Priory, and other pilgrim points.
22.2miles/35.7km	3.5miles/5.7km	NU 12582 41848	Arrive at Lindisfarne Priory.