



27 DORSET WORTH MATRAVERS & KINGSTON



▶ Distance: 12½ miles/20km ▶ Time: 6 hours ▶ Grade: Challenging

PURBECK PERFECTION



CHOSEN BY...
**FIONA
BARLTROP**

From the picturesque village of Worth Matravers, famed for its characterful 18th-century pub – the Square & Compass – this walk takes

in spectacular views along the Purbeck coast, notably from St Aldhelm's Head, Emmetts Hill, Houns-tout Cliff and Swyre Head. There's much of historic interest too, including disused quarries, like the impressive caves at

Winspit, and wartime radar development. It also passes the excellent Scott Arms at Kingston. The route is easily split into two shorter loops (the other starting from Kingston), with short cuts marked on the map. ➔

The sweeping view of Chapman's Pool from Emmetts Hil.



PHOTO: FIONA BARLTROP



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► OS Explorer map OL15 ► Buy maps at: ordnancesurvey.co.uk/shop



1 Start
Turn R out of car park and at T-junction bear R down to pond, forking L in front of it. Almost immediately turn L, ignore next L and continue down access road signed for Seacombe, turning L along raised footpath beside wall parallel to drive below. Go through gate and across grass, maintaining direction as path dips and rises. After crossing stile path descends to kissing gate. Steps lead down from gate towards valley below. Path levels out along Seacombe Bottom joining Coast Path (CP) before reaching coast itself.

2 1 mile/1.5km
Turn R up steps to open grassy cliff-top. In about 1km steps lead down to Winspit valley and T-junction. Short detour to L goes to remains of old quarry and quarry caves.



PHOTO: FIONA BARLTROP

Quarry caves at Winspit.

Return to junction and continue along CP which turns L up steps back onto cliff-top. A steady climb takes you to top of St Aldhelm's Head passing radar memorial sculpture. This commemorates pioneering work on radar undertaken during WWII, which played a crucial role in winning the war. Just beyond is NCI lookout and behind that St Aldhelm's Chapel. Of Norman origin, it was restored in 19th century.

3 3 miles/4.7km
Continuing along top you reach stone bench and view NW along coastline. CP then descends steeply and back up again (steps) to top of Emmet's Hill, where it carries on level - superb views over Chapman's Superb with Houns-tout Cliff beyond. Further along is a memorial to Royal Marines who have lost their lives since WWII.

4 4¼ miles/6.6km
For shortcut back to start take next path on R across fields. Otherwise continue on CP which soon descends to Hill Bottom and T-junction. Turn L along access road past cottages continuing on track towards coast, followed by steps up to top of Houns-tout Cliff. Path heads back downhill, crosses wooded valley and continues along undulating cliff top. Soon after crossing a footbridge you reach a stile on R and stone marker signed for Swyre Head.

5 7 miles/11.2km
Turn R up permissive path to trig point and large tumulus atop Swyre Head. With fence on R head N across grass along rim of valley, Encombe below to R, curving to R to continue alongside Polar Wood on L. Go through gate and carry on along track to car park and lane. Turn R to Kingston.

6 9½ miles/15.1km
Turn R along South Street just after Victorian church (for pub carry straight on). Follow lane S, keeping ahead at fork downhill to rejoin CP, turning L. Retrace earlier steps past Hill Bottom cottages, but then stay on lane up to Renscombe Farm and back to start. **CW**



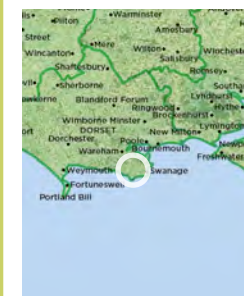
The view east from above Winspit, with the old quarry below.

PHOTO: FIONA BARLTROP



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PLAN YOUR WALK



ROUTE

Start/parking
Worth Matravers village car park, BH19 3LE, grid ref SY974776
Is it for me? Well waymarked coast path with ups and downs, couple of steep ascents and descents; grassy inland paths and lanes
Stiles 5

PLANNING

Nearest town Swanage
Refreshments Square & Compass (01929 439229)
Scott Arms (480270)
Public toilets At start
Public transport Breezer 40 bus from Swanage to Poole via Kingston (01202 338420, morebus.co.uk)
Maps OS Explorer OL15; Landranger 195

VIEW THE WALK ON OS MAPS ONLINE:

walk1000miles.co.uk/cwroutes

IN ASSOCIATION WITH



DATE WALKED
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TIME TAKEN
□ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □

YOUR RATING
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