

RUNSWICK BAY WALK

Staithes, Port Mulgrave and Hinderwell Route

Visit my website for full details: <https://www.paulbeal.com/runswick-bay-walk>

Introduction to the Walk

This Runswick Bay walk is a rewarding circular route along the North Yorkshire coast, linking the sheltered bay with Port Mulgrave, Staithes, Dalehouse and Hinderwell. It combines clifftop paths, fishing village charm, industrial heritage, woodland tracks and historic landmarks, before returning by an easy roadside path to Runswick Bank Top.

Highlights of the Walk

The route begins with time to explore Runswick Bay's lower village, its steep lanes, red-roofed cottages, sandy beach and sheltered shoreline. From there, the Cleveland Way leads north along dramatic clifftops, with far-reaching sea views, layered Jurassic cliffs and reminders of the ironstone industry at Port Mulgrave.

Later, the walk descends into Staithes, one of the most atmospheric fishing villages on the Yorkshire coast, with its harbour, breakwaters, narrow streets and lifeboat heritage. The return route follows the former tramway through Dalehouse and Oakrigg Wood, then visits Hinderwell, St Hilda's Church, St Hilda's Holy Well and the village war memorial.

Additional Information

Distance: 8¼ miles (13 kilometres)

Duration: Approximately 4 hours (excluding stops and breaks)

Difficulty: Moderate, with short descents and climbs, clifftop walking, woodland paths and some roadside sections.

Trail Conditions: Mostly clear paths, tracks and pavements, with some uneven clifftop and woodland sections that may be muddy after rain.

Recommended Map: OS Explorer OL27 North York Moors Eastern Area

Parking: Runswick Bank Top, Runswick Bay, where there are two large pay and display car parks on Bank Top Lane.

• **Google Maps Link:** <https://maps.app.goo.gl/Ah5MAevojgNogBPd7>

• **What3Words:** ///calendars.ombudsman.tribune

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STEP-BY-STEP DIRECTIONS

Start your Runswick Bay walk at **Runswick Bank Top (1)**, where there are two large pay and display car parks on Bank Top Lane. From either car park, exit and turn left onto Bank Top Lane, then turn left again almost immediately and follow the downhill road signposted to Runswick Bay beach. Follow the steep road downhill towards the coast. About three quarters of the way down, just before you reach a car park on your right-hand side, you will see a tarmac lane on your left signposted as the Cleveland Way. Do not take it yet. Continue down to the beach first to explore the lower village.

At the bottom of the hill you will reach a mini roundabout. Straight ahead over the roundabout will take you down to the beach, where there is a cafe, shop and toilet facilities. Left at the roundabout will take you into the **lower village of Runswick Bay (2)** to explore its cottages and maze of narrow streets and pathways. Both are well worth the time. When you are ready, walk back up the hill to the tarmac lane you passed earlier, signposted as the Cleveland Way, and follow it.

Keep straight ahead along this tarmac lane. It eventually becomes a footpath, still on the Cleveland Way. Follow the footpath as it winds its way up the hillside until you rejoin Bank Top Lane. Continue along Bank Top Lane until you reach a stone track on your right-hand side, immediately before a house called The Cow Shed (number 15). Follow the stone track, passing the Northern Powergrid brick building on your left. A little further along, take the grassy path on the right-hand side between the fence and the hedgerow. Follow this path to reach the clifftop and continue walking along the top of the cliff. After a third of a mile you will reach a junction with the **Cleveland Way (3)**. Continue straight ahead.

Head north along the Cleveland Way above Lingrow Cliffs, following the clifftop coastal path. After a mile you will reach a junction where the path splits. The right-hand path drops down onto the cliffs, but instead take the left-hand path along the gravel track, staying on the Cleveland Way. You will reach the road at **Port Mulgrave (4)**, where a signpost points left to Hinderwell. Ignore this and turn right, following the tarmac road signposted Cleveland Way to Staithes. This road is called Rosedale Lane.

Continue past the bungalow called The Boat House, past the terraced stone cottages and past a second bungalow a short distance further on. Keep following the gravel path along the top of the cliffs, signposted Cleveland Way to Staithes. After half a mile the path splits again. Take the right-hand fork for the Cleveland Way public footpath along the edge of the cliff. You are now entering the **National Trust area known as Old Nab (5)**.

After a further half a mile the Cleveland Way bends left and heads inland to reach a farm. In front of the farm, turn right and pass by the front of **Barn Cottage (6)**. Head downhill towards Staithes. The stone path descends and joins a cobbled lane. Keep heading downhill until the lane brings you out onto the harbourfront. Turn left and follow the cobbled street past the Cod and Lobster pub, continuing between the houses, shops and cafes.

At the point where the cobbled street bears around to the left, do not follow it. Instead, continue straight ahead down a narrow flagged alleyway between the buildings. This leads to the footbridge over Staithes Beck. Cross the bridge and turn right to explore the harbour area. You can walk all the way **along the breakwater (7)** to its far end if you wish.

When you are ready, retrace your steps back over the bridge and through the alleyway. Turn right and follow the road uphill for half a mile, all the way out of the village. When you reach the **A174 main road (8)**, turn right in the direction of Loftus and Saltburn. A short distance further on, turn left onto Dalehouse Bank, signposted Dalehouse, Borrowby and Roxby, and head downhill.

In Dalehouse, walk past the **Fox and Hounds (9)** on your right. Just before the bridge over the small stream, take the public footpath on your left. This starts as a concrete driveway and soon becomes a wide gravel track following the route of a former railway tramway. When you reach a **wooden footbridge (10)** over a stream near some caravans, cross the bridge and bear left, then immediately right to follow the track uphill. At the top, continue straight ahead, ignoring the left turn.

Follow the track through Oakrigg Wood Nature Reserve, passing wooden sculptures and carvings along the way. The track gradually narrows into a woodland path, but it remains well defined and easy to follow. When the path splits near the yellow Oakrigg Nature Reserve sign, take the left-hand fork onto the higher path. Continue along this narrow path with the valley down to your left. The path passes through an area of twisted, gnarly trees with ivy-clad branches forming a low canopy overhead.

At a junction, turn left and descend some wooden steps into the valley. Cross a **wooden footbridge (11)** at the bottom and climb the steps on the other side to make your way back up out of the valley. At the top, follow the stone track straight ahead towards Hinderwell. The track narrows to a path past some farm buildings. Keep following it straight ahead, passing between some houses, until you reach the A174 main road in Hinderwell.

Cross the road and walk down Old High Street opposite, signed Port Mulgrave. A short way down on the left you will find **St Hilda's Church (12)** and, in the churchyard, St Hilda's Holy Well. Both are worth visiting. After your visit, return to the A174 and turn left to walk through the village of Hinderwell.

Walk through the village until you reach the **war memorial clock tower (13)** near the far end. Take the road on the left here, signposted Runswick Bay. Follow this road for one mile. There is a footpath beside the road all the way. The road brings you back to the car parks at Runswick Bank Top where you started, completing your Runswick Bay walk.

MAP OF THE WALK

