

Your Adventure Your Way

Explore the world around
you with OS Maps.

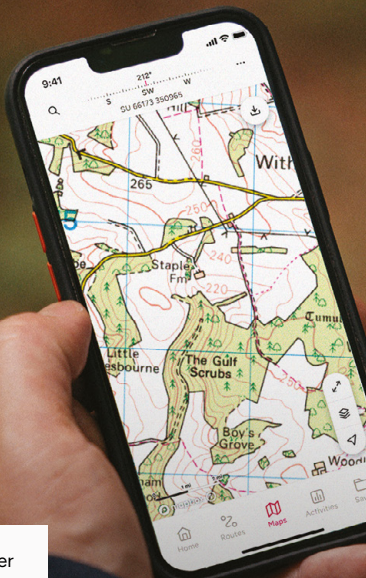
Routes, mapping and
navigation across the UK
whenever and wherever
you need it.

Find out more at os.uk/osm



Scan to
download
the app

YHA Members: Head to the member
benefits area at yha.org.uk/walk-os
to find your discount code for an
OS Maps Premium subscription



Hazards

Road crossings. Some walking on lanes and
narrow roads without pavements. Exposed cliff
edges on the coast path.

Accessibility

There are no stiles on this route. There are flights
of steps and gates and paths less than one-metre
wide. Some paths are narrowed by vegetation.
Much of the route is on good paths or pavements,
there are sections through fields or on grass
which may be uneven and muddy in places.

Facilities

Toilets and café at Durlston Head Castle.

Before you go:

- Check the local weather forecast and whether there is
enough daylight to complete the walk (metoffice.gov.uk)
and check tide times near you (easytide.admiralty.co.uk).
- Ensure you are wearing suitable clothing and footwear
for the route and weather, and that you take the right
kit — learn more at yha.org.uk/walk-skills.
- Download the OS Maps and what3words apps to
your phone.
- To be able to contact emergency services by text visit
relayuk.bt.com/emercencysms or text 'register' to 999.
- For more information on staying safe in the outdoors
visit adventuresmart.uk.
- Complete a route notification card (yha.org.uk/route-card)
to provide essential information for the Emergency
Services if you do not return when expected.
- Check all members of the group have the fitness and
skills to complete the route.

In case of emergency:

- Contact 999 and use OS Maps or what3words to help
pinpoint your location.
- To attract attention shout or give six blasts on a
whistle at regular intervals. In low light flash a torch
six times at regular intervals.
- If you can send someone for help, they need to know
your location, number of people in the group and the
nature of the emergency.

For more walks or information on route grading and
timings go to yha.org.uk/map-guidance

If you encounter problems with this route contact
walking@yha.org.uk

Walking has been at the heart of YHA since 1930, helping
people access the great outdoors. Today, YHA continues
to make adventures possible with mapped routes and
affordable hostel stays across England and Wales. Our
hostels are ideal for walkers, with drying rooms, self-catering
kitchens, and great trails from the doorstep. We're committed
to making adventure accessible to everyone, with walks for
all abilities and guided walking events that connect people
to nature, heritage, and each other.

Supported by

Share your walks



Produced by Matt Overd (<https://walkingpace.uk>). Contributions from Robert Priday & Simon Ainley.
Designed by HeylinSmith.com. Cover image: C A Creative/AdobeStock



Durlston Head & Dancing Ledge walk



052

YHA Swanage

Book your stay now yha.org.uk/stay-052

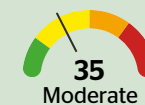
Coast walk

A great walk including a beautiful section
of coast path with amazing views and
interesting geological features.

Distance: 7 miles (11.3km)

Ascent: 307m (1,007ft)

Time: Allow 3h 15m to 5h 15m



Partnered with



Route directions

Map: OS Explorer (OL 15) Purbeck & South Dorset

Start/Finish: Grid ref SZ 030 784


what3words ///departure.contoured.pony

- 1 From the hostel turn right onto Cluny Crescent which becomes Grosvenor Road.
- 2 Turn right onto Durlston Road.
- 3 Turn left through the gate into Durlston Country Park and follow the main path to Durlston Head Castle.
- 4 Take the Coast Path to the left of the building, follow around the headland and continue past Tilly Whim Caves and Anvil Point Lighthouse to Dancing Ledge.
- 5 Just before the stone wall turn right, signposted to Spyway Barn car park.
- 6 After Spyway Barn turn right to join Priest's Way.
- 7 Near South Barn turn left onto a track, signed Alternative Route. Pass South Barn Lime Kiln and turn right to continue on Priest's Way.
- 8 When the track bends to the left near Belle Vue Farm take the path to the right, then turn left between two wire fences.
- 9 Turn left onto the road and follow it through the holiday park.
- 10 Leave the holiday park and before the first house turn right onto the footpath, signed Durlston Country Park (easy to miss).
- 11 Cross the car park and bear right at Panorama Road.
- 12 Follow the road as it bends to the right. About 100m after the bend take the path on the left (easy to miss) and head through Townsend Nature Reserve.

- 13 Cross a small road and continue through trees onto Rough Height.
- 14 Bear left onto Russell Avenue, turn left onto Bon Accord Road, right onto Queens Road, left onto St Vast's Road and left onto Cluny Crescent to the hostel.



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N


1km / 3/4 mile

Toilets Café/Takeaway/Shop

Steep gradient




over 25%



over 15%

OS map legend – find out what the other symbols on this map mean [os.uk/explorlegend](https://www.os.uk/explorlegend)



This route has been created by YHA to provide inspiration and to aid planning and preparation of your walk. It doesn't replace the need for an OS Map or the OS Maps App to navigate your walk safely. Digital maps are a guide and do not always reflect the conditions on the ground, ensure you are aware of your immediate surroundings.