

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

Crossing busy and fast roads without pedestrian crossings. Some walking on lanes and narrow roads without pavements. Exposed cliff edges on the coast path.

Accessibility

There are stiles on the route, flights of steps and paths less than one metre wide. The route includes some grass and uneven sections which may be muddy in places. Some boardwalk has collapsed. The route passes a bus stop on Ulwell Road, after Godlingston Hill.

Facilities

Toilets in Swanage and Studland. Pubs and cafés in Swanage and Studland. No facilities after Studland until returning to Swanage.

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/emergencysms 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: moofushi/AdobeStock



Studland and Ailwood Down walk



053

YHA Swanage

Book your stay now yha.org.uk/stay-053

Coast and countryside walk

A scenic walk with a stunning section of the South West Coast Path, pretty heathland and picturesque views from the Purbeck Way.

Distance: 14.3 miles (23km)

Ascent: 539m (1,768ft)

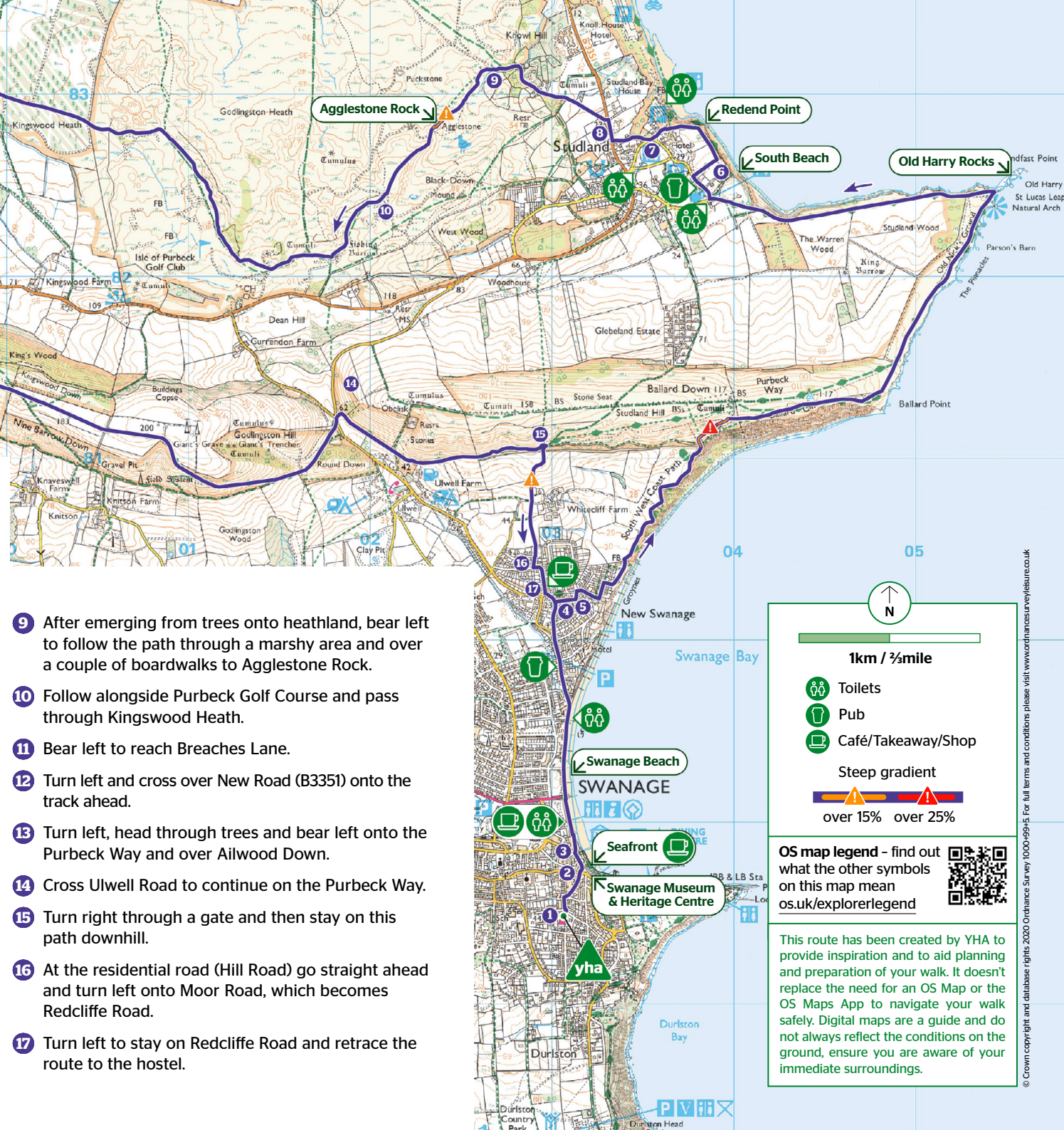
Time: Allow 6h 30m to 11h



Partnered with



Scan this link to view this route on the OS Maps App – also a route profile and GPX



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 left onto Cluny Crescent and turn right onto Stafford Road.
- 2 Cross High Street onto Institute Road.
- 3 At The Mowlem bear right onto Shore Road, which becomes Ulwell Road, then Redcliffe Road.
- 4 Turn right onto Ballard Road and as the road bends to the right take the footpath on the left to Ballard Way.
- 5 Turn right and follow Coast Path signs to a grass path. Follow the Coast Path past Ballard Point and around the headland next to Old Harry Rocks.
- 6 At the road turn right, pass the Bankes Arms, turn right to remain on the Coast Path and continue past Redend Point.
- 7 Turn left onto the road by the car park to leave the Coast Path. Pass Manor Road and take the footpath on the right.
- 8 Turn right onto Ferry Road, then left onto Wadmore Lane.
- 9 After emerging from trees onto heathland, bear left to follow the path through a marshy area and over a couple of boardwalks to Agglestone Rock.
- 10 Follow alongside Purbeck Golf Course and pass through Kingswood Heath.
- 11 Bear left to reach Breaches Lane.
- 12 Turn left and cross over New Road (B3351) onto the track ahead.
- 13 Turn left, head through trees and bear left onto the Purbeck Way and over Ailwood Down.
- 14 Cross Ulwell Road to continue on the Purbeck Way.
- 15 Turn right through a gate and then stay on this path downhill.
- 16 At the residential road (Hill Road) go straight ahead and turn left onto Moor Road, which becomes Redcliffe Road.
- 17 Turn left to stay on Redcliffe Road and retrace the route to the hostel.

1km / 3/4 mile

Toilets

Pub

Café/Takeaway/Shop

Steep gradient

over 15% over 25%

OS map legend - find out what the other symbols on this map mean os.uk/explorerlegend

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.