

Biblins Bridge and Symonds Yat Rock

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

River and woodland walk

Distance: 14.4 miles (23.2km) **Ascent:** 433m (1,421ft)

Time: Allow 6h 30m to 7h 30m

(caution slow walkers, may require over 10h)



Map: OS Explorer 1:25k (OL14) Wye Valley & Forest of Dean / Dyffryn Gwy a Fforest y Ddena

Start/Finish: OS Locate SO 591 177 **what3words** ///innovate.blinking.monopoly

A long riverside walk, crossing the rope bridge at Biblins and back through the forest. From the hostel head to the river, turn right and follow the north bank around its many turns. Pass Symonds Yat Rock on the opposite bank, Huntsman Bridge, Whitchurch and two ferries before arriving at Biblins Bridge. Check the bridge is open before setting off (www.forestryengland.uk/biblins-bridge).

Turn left, along the south bank. Take the second turning on the right, by a wooden finger post. Head uphill and go straight over at the junction and then follow the pink Malscot Wood Trail to Symonds Yat Rock viewpoint. Take the road from the viewpoint, turn left to follow footpaths through farmland and cross the bridge back to the hostel.

Hazards

Caution required on the road sections, some without footpaths. May be cattle in fields. Watch out for cyclists on woodland tracks. Do not walk this route if the river is flooded.

Accessibility

There are stiles on the route and paths are mostly less than one metre wide with rough

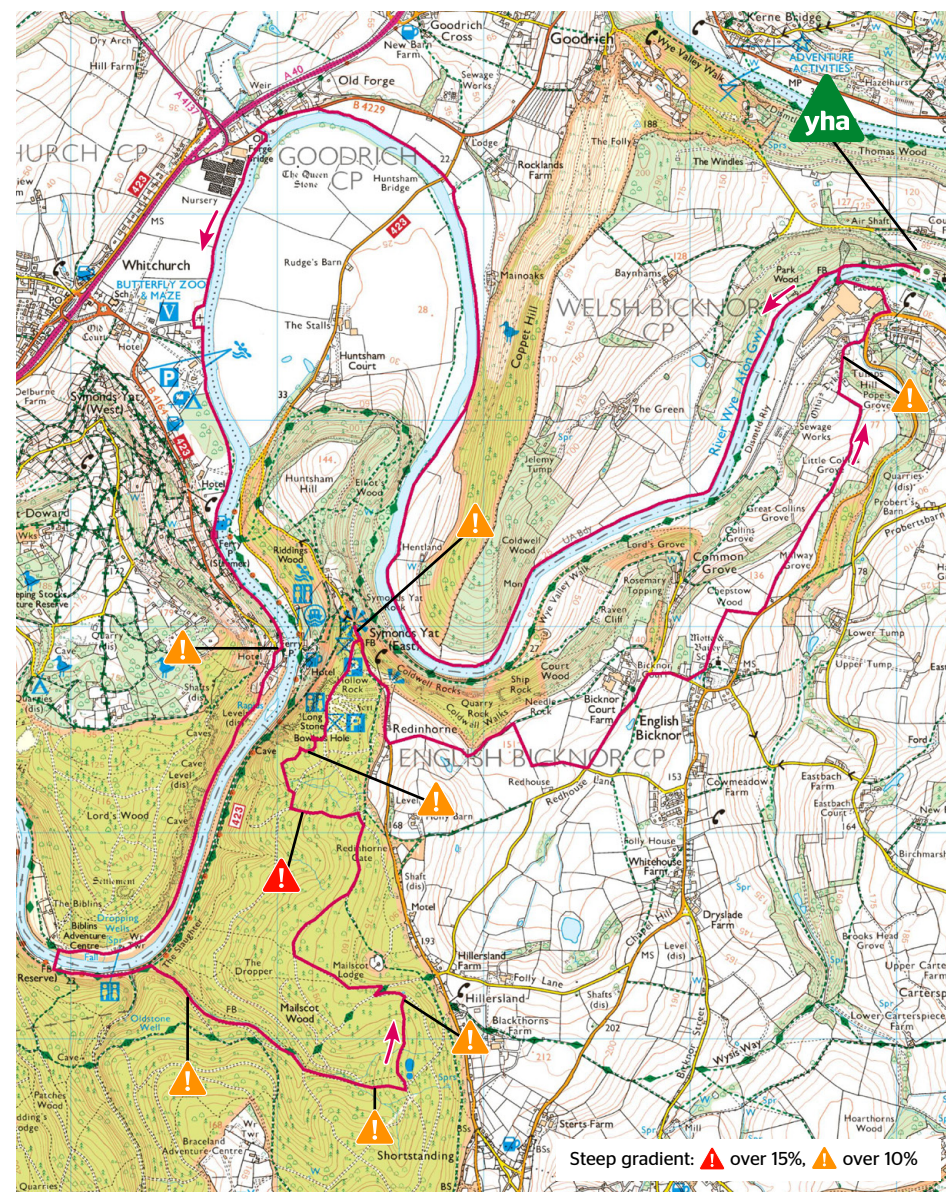
ground and ruts or stones greater than 10cm in places. Good navigation is required after Biblins Bridge. For less ascent on the return leg after Biblins Bridge follow the south bank path back to the hostel.

Points of interest

Wye Valley is an unspoilt picturesque Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty with a beautiful, natural river. The area is well known for walking, cycling, climbing and water sports. Two hand ferries operate across the river. Biblins Bridge is an 'Indiana Jones' style rope bridge which is an adventure to cross – and is also a border crossing from England to Wales! Stunning views from the top of Symonds Yat Rock of the river, Huntsman Hill and beyond.

Facilities

Tea room and shop a short detour in Whitchurch. Café and toilets at Symonds Yat Leisure Park. Pubs by the ferries. Café, toilets and picnic area at Symonds Yat Rock.



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.



Thank you for choosing to walk from our hostel.
We hope you have a great time.

Walking in the national landscapes of England and Wales is part of YHA's heritage. With hostels on National Trails, in National Parks and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty, YHA plays a unique role in the nation's walking community.

To make it easy for everyone to enjoy walking from YHA hostels, we have curated three walks – an easy, moderate, and more challenging option. They have all been graded – the higher the grade, the more challenging the route.

Before you go:

- Check the local weather forecast ([metoffice.gov.uk](https://www.metoffice.gov.uk)).
- Check the tide times for coastal routes ([tidetimes.org.uk](https://www.tidetimes.org.uk)).
- Get the right clothing, footwear and kit for the route and weather.
- Ensure you have enough time to complete the route before dark.
- Download the OS Locate and what3words apps to your phone.
- Contact 999 by SMS text (must pre register by texting 'register' to 999) (relayuk.bt.com/emercencysms).
- Plan your walk by completing the YHA route notification card it helps Emergency Services if you get into difficulties or fail to return from your walk when anticipated (yha.org.uk/route-card).
- Ensure your entire group have the fitness and skills to complete the route.
- For further information on how to stay safe visit adventuresmart.uk

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

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



Scan or click to shop
for OS maps online
osmaps.com/yha

Share your walks



What to wear

- Base layer and mid layer.
- Walking trousers.
- Warm jacket(s).
- Take extra layer(s).
- Hat, gloves and neck gaiter.
- Sun hat, sun cream and sunglasses.
- Waterproof jacket and trousers.
- Cushioning walking socks.
- Walking shoes or boots.

Kit

- Map, compass and GPS device or OS Map app on your phone.
- Water, lunch and high energy snacks.
- Charged mobile phone and portable charger.
- First aid kit.
- Head torch, spare batteries.
- Watch.
- Whistle and survival bag.
- Rucksack, with waterproof cover or a dry bag or plastic bag inside.
- Medicines or toiletries you would usually use.

You might also want to take

- Spare socks, hat, gloves.
- Balaclava.
- Leg gaiters.
- Waterproof baseball cap (handy if you wear glasses).
- Walking poles.

- Bivi bag or group shelter.
- Spare food and hot drink.
- Duct tape (handy for fixing things).
- Penknife or multitool.
- Tissues and hand sanitiser.
- Plastic bags to take away your rubbish or dog poo.

In case of emergency

- Call 999 (or text 999 if pre-registered) and ask for the Police.
- Use OS Locate or what3words to provide a detailed description of your location.
- If you need to attract attention shout or give six blasts on a whistle at regular intervals. In low light flash your torch six times at regular intervals.
- If you can send someone for help, they need to know your location (grid reference), number of people in the group and the nature of the emergency.
- Help could be some time coming so whilst waiting make the casualty comfortable.
- Keep the casualty warm and dry using spare clothing. Use coats or rucksacks to insulate them from the ground.
- Remember the rest of the group could be getting cold whilst waiting. Use an emergency shelter or find a sheltered location.