

230

YHA Whitby [Book your stay now](#)

Abbey headland

Coastal headland walk

Distance: 1.4 miles (2.3km) **Ascent:** 53m (174ft)

Time: Allow 30m to 1h

Map: OS Explorer (OL27) North York Moors – Eastern area

Start/Finish: OS Locate NZ 902 111 **what3words** ///love.custodial.dimes

A lovely walk with views over the coast, harbour, town and surrounding countryside. From the hostel turn right and head around the building to the courtyard. Pass through the gatehouse archway ahead, turn left and pass through the gates into the church yard. Continue to the top of the 199 steps, turn right and alongside the church to a viewpoint. Return along this path, bear left around the church and pass back through the church gates. Continue ahead and bear left to follow around the Abbey walls, then turn left onto the Cleveland Way Coast Path. Continue on the path when the tarmac road ends. Pass through a wall then turn right through a gate and into a grassy field. Cross to a stile, which may say 'private' but it is a right of way. Cross the stile and pass the buildings to the road. Turn left, then turn right into the Abbey car park. Head down the steps past the Abbey (car park) entrance, follow the footpath ahead downhill towards the harbour (Caedmon's Trod). Pass through a gate and turn right to follow the path past the former hostel to Church lane. Turn right and right into the courtyard and to the hostel.

Hazards

Take care crossing the roads around the Abbey and watch out for cyclists. Fenced drops from the coast path. May be windy, the cliff top is exposed to the weather.



Accessibility

There is a stile and short section of grass after the Cleveland Way. To avoid this turn back to the road at the gate into the grassy field then turn left at the road to re-join the route. There are steps near the Abbey car park which can be avoided by detouring through the car park. Gates and paths are wider than one metre and single steps or kerbs in places.

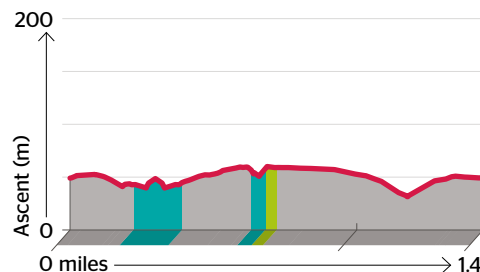
Navigation

Straightforward route on good paths around Whitby Abbey, one section across a field, the onward stile is visible from the gate.

Terrain

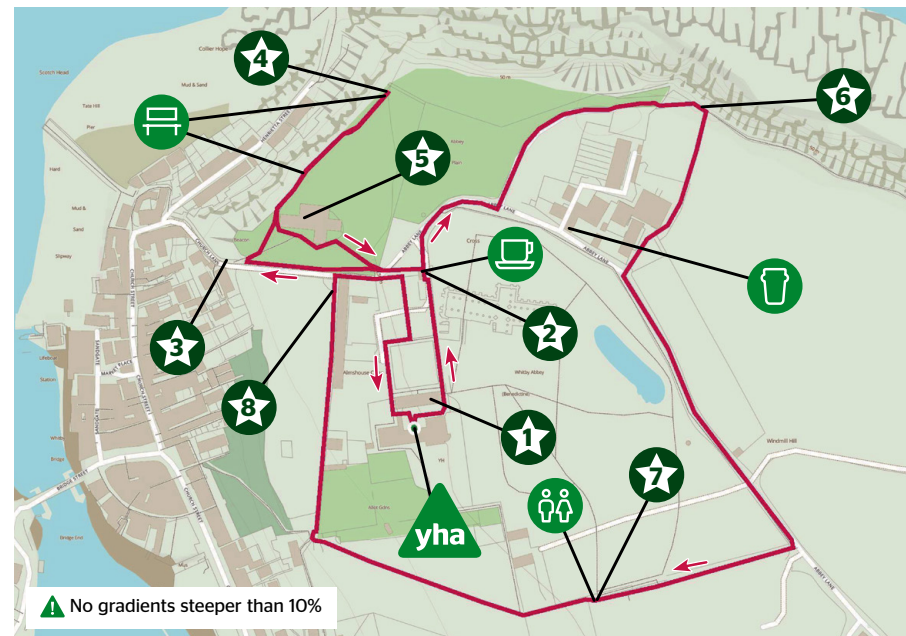
Mostly paved with slabs and tarmac. Some crushed stone paths and a short section of grass.

● Paved ● Unpaved (flat) ● Grass



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.

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



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★ Points of interest (see map)

Stunning views around the historic headland. **1** Whitby Abbey visitor centre and **2** Abbey entrance. **3** 199 steps. **4** Great view over Whitby harbour from the churchyard of **5** Church of St Mary. **6** Great views from the Cleveland Way Coast Path. **7** Abbey, car park entrance. **8** "Digging the donkey field" information board with evidence of Anglo-Saxon and medieval activity.

🚻🍷🗑️ Facilities (too many to map)

Toilets and café at YHA. Toilets near the Abbey car park. Takeaway food and drinks near the Abbey entrance. Brewery tap room on Abbey Lane.

🪑 Seats on route (see map)

Near the church, fewer elsewhere.

Accessible for some (with detour)

Not a touch free route

Accessible for some (with detour)

One stile (can be avoided)



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).
- Check the tide times for coastal routes (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/emergencysms).
- For further information on how to stay safe visit adventuresmart.uk

In case of emergency call 999 (or text 999 if pre-registered) and use OS Locate or what3words to provide a detailed description of your location.

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



Countryside Code

Respect everyone

- Be considerate to those living in, working in and enjoying the countryside.
- Leave gates and property as you find them.
- Do not block access to gateways or driveways when parking.
- Be nice, say hello, share the space.
- Follow local signs and keep to marked paths unless wider access is available.

Hazards

- Take extra care and stay alert where a right of way crosses a railway line.
- When walking on a road without a pavement keep to the right-hand side, so that you can see oncoming traffic. Keep close to the side of the road, and walk in single file if necessary. It may be safer to cross the road well before a sharp right-hand bend so that oncoming traffic has a better chance of seeing you. Cross back after the bend.
- Give wild animals, livestock and horses plenty of space.

Protect the environment

- Take your litter home – leave no trace of your visit.
- Do not light fires and only have BBQs where signs say you can.
- Always keep dogs under control and in sight.
- Dog poo – bag it and bin it – any public waste bin will do.
- Care for nature – do not cause damage or disturbance.

Enjoy the outdoors

- Check your route and local conditions.
- Plan your adventure – know what to expect and what you can do.
- Enjoy your visit, have fun, make a memory.

What to wear

- Comfortable clothing suitable for the conditions.
- Use several layers, so you can add and remove clothing to regulate your temperature.
- Extra warm clothes in case it gets colder.
- Hat, gloves and scarf.
- Sun hat, sun cream and sunglasses.
- Waterproof jacket and trousers.
- Cushioning comfy socks.
- Comfortable well fitting trainers, walking shoes or boots.

Kit

- Map and compass.
- Water, lunch and snacks.
- Charged mobile phone and portable charger.
- First aid kit.
- Torch and spare batteries.
- 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

- Picnic blanket.
- Waterproof baseball cap, if you wear glasses.
- Walking poles.
- Tissues and hand sanitiser.