







ROUTE INFORMATION

-  Start location: Carisbrooke Castle
-  Difficulty: **Moderate**
-  Walk distance: **7 miles**
-  Places to stop for food & drink
-  Viewing & rest stops on route
-  Family friendly route

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13 Shepherd's Trail

Shepherd's Trail Landmarks

The Norman Conquest gave the Island its most impressive medieval building - Carisbrooke Castle. During the Civil War King Charles I was imprisoned in the Castle for a year before being returned to the mainland to be tried and executed in 1649. You can still visit the rooms where the King was held, walk along the walls and take in the breathtaking views from the Keep. Carisbrooke Castle is now in the care of English Heritage.

Gatcombe House was once the residence of the Seely family, along with its thirteenth century church; the hamlet of Kingston consisting almost entirely of the Manor House, farm, and church which houses an interesting 16th Century brass; Shorwell is about one kilometre (1 1/4 miles) in a westerly direction off the trail and is regarded as one of the prettiest villages on the island. Visit the ancient church with a mural of St Christopher.

- 1** The trail starts at Whitcombe Cross. From St Dominic's Priory, in the shadow of Carisbrooke Castle, proceed in a westerly direction with car park on your right until you reach Whitcombe Cross, and entrance to Frogland's Farm. From the viewpoint car park on the Gatcombe / Chillerton Rd, to the South of the Castle, proceed westwards for 200 metres (220 yards) to corner where narrow farm lane runs off to your right. Do not go down farm lane, but enter opening on left of lane entrance and pass along side of field with hedge on your left (N108). This leads into a sheltered bridleway.
- 2** Great Whitcombe Manor is on your left to the east. Continue straight ahead on G6 not N107 and, on emerging, the path crosses field to run beside hedge on your left (do not descend the track on your left). Go through farm gate and continue with field boundary on your right.
- 3** Go through the gate at the far side of the field and continue straight ahead across track which crosses the Shepherd's Trail at right angles. Descend (with view of Gatcombe House and church on your left) along track to the road, approx 30 metres (35 yards), Gatcombe House is on your left.
- 4** Turn right and then straight away left into Newbarn Lane. Pass Little Gatcombe Farm on your right. Where the lane turns to the right go left in the direction indicated on the guidepost (Bridleway to Chillerton G6). Proceed with hedge on the left. At the top of the slope bear left, and then right. Sheet Manor is signposted 800 metres (880 yards) to the east but do not take this track.

Starting beneath historic Carisbrooke Castle walking up and down the chalky hills of the Island to the coast with great views over the surrounding countryside.

- 5** Proceed ahead with hedge on your left through two large fields. Through the metal gate the track curves left down to the road. Turn left, then after 90 metres (100 yards) turn right at the Village Hall on your right, (signpost to Ramsdown). Continue along sheltered bridleway called Hollow Lane. Where the way divides, bear left (G15) and then right, following the telephone poles.
- 6** At the top turn sharp right along the track descending to Ramsdown Farm. At this point the trail follows the Worsley Trail for approximately 275 metres (300 yards). Pass between the two barns and leave the farm yard by main entrance. Bear right and follow the road around to the left. Turn left off the road at bridleway G15 (thus leaving the Worsley Trail), keeping close to wood on your right. At end of wood continue in same direction with hedge on right, passing through gap in corner at far end of field to continue with hedge on left. You will now have a view of Billingham Manor. Descend until the track runs into road. Turn left passing Little Billingham on your right. Chale Green is straight ahead, but turn right off main road (sign posted SW43 to Bucks Farm) and continue round field with hedge on your left. At far corner go through opening on left and continue in direction as before with field boundary on your right.
- 7** Cross bridge at end of hedge and go left diagonally to far corner of field to gateway and road. Shorwell to right and Chale Green to left.
- 8** Turn right passing a house called Tall Trees and then left along drive to Bucks Farm. Where the drive forks, take right hand track walking around the farm buildings. Two metal gates give access to track between fences running southward and into a field. Continue with hedge on your left to where path is crossed by another at right angles. Watch for waymarkers and turn sharp right into ancient road and track descending to Dungewood Farm. Pass to the left of red brick barn to tared lane and follow this round for 800 metres (880 yards) to road. Ancient road ends here.
- 9** Turn right at road, proceed for 200 metres (220 yards) and then turn left through field opening across field, climbing to the top of Samber Hill. At top of hill turn left, and proceed in a southerly direction on farm track, across field to small bridge. Cross bridge and continue with ditch on left. Where the ditch turns sharply left, go straight across to the next field to the Military Road. Shepherd's Chine is on your left and access to the beach can be made through the gate opposite, keeping to high ground until steps are reached. Shepherd's Trail joins the Coastal Path at this point.