

4 Coastal Path
Niton to Sandown

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A coastal walk that starts high above the seashore and passes through Ventnor and areas of National Trust land before walking along Victorian promenades next to the sandy beaches of Shanklin and Sandown.

Niton to Sandown Landmarks

St Lawrence

The village takes its name from the parish church which is dedicated to Lawrence, Archdeacon of Rome, who was burnt to death on a gridiron in AD258.

Ventnor Botanic Garden

The Garden covers 22 acres and has extensive collections of plants from temperate zones. There is also a visitor centre, with lift to garden level, shop, cafe, picnic area and children's playground.

Ventnor

A small hamlet in 1830, it rapidly developed as a fashionable health resort after the benefits of the extraordinary micro-climate of the undercliff were identified in the 1840s.

Bonchurch Old Church

The Old Church is a tiny building dating from the 11th century and dedicated to the Saxon monk St. Boniface, who is said to have brought Christianity to this part of the Island.

The Landslip

The land originally slipped in 1810. It is still slowly sliding towards the sea. The reason for this movement of the land is the bed of Gault Clay which underlies the Chalk and Upper Greensand and slopes towards the shore.



ROUTE INFORMATION

- Start location: **Niton**
- Difficulty: **Moderate**
- Walk distance: **9 miles**
- Places to stop for food & drink
- Viewing & rest stops on route
- Family friendly route

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1 Take the footpath off Barrack Shute, the A3055 Niton to Ventnor road, signposted to Ventnor (NT31). Turn right at the end of the gravel drive (signposted to St Lawrence and Ventnor (NT29)), then bear up to the left and follow the cliff top path above the undercliff looking down to Binnel Bay and Puckaster Cove.

2 Follow the edge of fields and continue past the BT transmitting station. Upon reaching a signpost shortly afterwards, turn right and follow the public footpath to St. Lawrence (V81) down the winding stone steps, turning left at the bottom along Seven Sisters Road. Turn right at the junction and walk down Spindlers Road, passing the Post Office off to the left.

3 Cross over the main road (A3055) onto Old Park Road (signposted to a glass making studio and the Old Park Hotel), then turn left along Woolverton Road for a short distance then take the footpath to the right, through a wooden swing gate towards Woody Bay. Before reaching the coast turn left along the landward side of Woody Bay Cottages following the coast path diversion signs. Continue along the cliff path, up to Woody Point, and on to Orchard Bay. Walk on the track around Orchard Bay House and, following the footpath to Ventnor sign (V90), walk around the edge of the field, then up the steep concrete steps to the edge of the Botanic Garden. Turn right and walk along the wooden boundary fence of the garden.

4 Upon reaching the cricket ground, turn right down the steep steps to Steephill Cove. At the foot of the steps, take a sharp left, followed by a sharp right, and continue down slope to the shore. Continue around to Castle Cove on the concrete path built as part of coastal defence works. Ascend to the cliff top and follow path to Ventnor. Drop down from the cliff path to Ventnor Esplanade.

5 Follow the sea wall for around 1500 metres (1 mile) to Bonchurch. Continue past a pottery, then turn left at the start of the row of houses. Go up the steps signposted as the Coast Path. Climb the path behind the houses and follow the tarmac path uphill through the copse to Bonchurch Old Church.

6 Turn right at the Old Church and follow the public footpath to the Landslip and Shanklin, along the front of a sports field, with Monks Bay out to your right. Continue past the entrance to Carrigden Farm and into the Landslip, eventually passing the Wishing Seat. On emerging from the Landslip, pass the entrance to Rosecliff Lodge and walk down the stoney lane past Dunnose Cottage on the left and continue to the top of Luccombe Chine.

7 There is a National Trust sign at the top of the chine for Luccombe Cliffs and a signpost for the Coastal Path (SS2) to Shanklin. Walk up through the cliffs and up out of the landslip emerging at the end of Luccombe Road (single track). Turn left past a building called Highcliff from where there are good views along the coastline. Continue along Luccombe Road for about 800 metres (870 yards) and at the end turn right into Popham Road opposite Rylstone Gardens, through the small concrete bollards and towards the sea. Walk down the steps directly ahead to Appley Beach, pausing to admire the views to Culver Down to the north-east. Turn left at the bottom of the steps, along beach path, passing the beach huts and the 'Fishermans Cottage' pub.

8 On reaching the road by Palestine Slipway, turn left around the sharp bend and walk up the steep path which zig-zags round to pass the Chine Inn at the top. Cross the bottom of Everton Lane and follow the coastal path to Sandown signposted along the cliff top promenade. Pass the top of the cliff lift to the beach. Immediately below is the site of the Victorian pier which was swept away in the Great Storm of 1987. At the end of Eastcliff Promenade cross Hope Road, onto Delphi Road and continue past the Channel View Hotel, up the slope to rejoin the undulating cliff top walk, passing through Lake Cliff Gardens and descending into Sandown.

9 At Ferncliff Gardens walk down the flight of steps, then right at the bottom down the steep walkway to Sandown Esplanade, past the public toilets on the right. Turn left along the Esplanade and continue to the pier.