



ESCAPE TO THE COUNTRY

Jody Vaughan leads you on a stroll through a Cornish country park

The largest area of woodland in West Cornwall, Tehidy Country Park, boasts more than nine miles of pathways – and that doesn't include the nearby coastal trail that overlooks Cornwall's stunning northern shoreline. This walk takes you along the cliffs and then back into the country park where a huge variety of plants and animals can be seen throughout the year.

If you're not feeling too energetic and would rather take on a shorter walk, there are signed routes varying from 1 to 2½ miles long, all marked by different coloured arrows. Maps can be printed from the cornwall.gov.uk website, which also details two walks suitable for wheelchairs.

Please note that dogs are not permitted on a large portion of the estate around the lakes, which is why our stroll skirts this area. Here there is also a visitor centre and café (closed on Mondays during winter). There's even a place where you can hire a barbecue – a blissful end to a lovely stroll.

DIRECTIONS

1 Park in North Cliff Car Park (which can get busy at times) and head away from the woods towards the road, along which you drove in. Turn right at the main road along the embankment. Very soon, turn left to cross the road and continue straight ahead, following a public byway sign which leads you towards the cliffs.



2 Soon you get to a National Trust sign for Basset's Cove. There is an alternative car park if the one at the country park is full and, despite the narrow entrance road, it is probably more suitable for motorhomes.

3 Having enjoyed the view, look for a public footpath sign in the bottom left-hand corner of the car park marked 'Hayle - 9 miles'. Follow this footpath ahead, which continues along the cliff tops. Go through a kissing gate and keep ahead.

4 Go through another wooden gate to continue along the cliff tops (there's a bench here if you want a rest or a picnic).

Pass through a twin set of gates. Here, we leave the South West Coast Path, turning left to enter the car park before heading onto the road beyond.

5 Immediately opposite is a break in the grass-covered stone fence, marked with a metal pole stating 'Public Footpath', which takes you straight ahead between a hedgerow and a metal fence down towards the town of Camborne (which you can see in the valley beyond).

6 Go through a wooden gate, across a track and then immediately through another wooden gate, continuing down

the hill. Pass through two more wooden gates, still walking down the hill, before turning left down a tarmac lane immediately after another wooden gate and past the caravan site. Where the road bends around to the right, look for a footpath sign and a green dog-litter bin on your left, down a smaller tarmac road. Follow its direction to 'Tehidy Country Park, West Drive, Portreath 3 miles', past the small bollard and into the woodland.

7 Continue until you see a set of steps on your right with a signpost (which is just behind some wooden fencing) marked 'Oak Wood'. Turn right here, heading down the steps. Then, almost immediately, go over some small bridges and a boardwalk that crosses more streams. Ascend some more steps and then turn left at the crossroads, almost immediately passing a small circular bollard.

8 Go along the muddy path and, at the next crossroads, turn left to join the gravel track which takes you up a hill. Continue to the T-junction where there's a wooden fencepost marked with three arrows. Follow the left orange-coloured arrow, before continuing straight ahead (signposted 'North Cliffs Plantation - 550 yards'), almost immediately crossing over a little bridge and then climbing the hill in front of you (again passing another North Cliffs Plantation signpost).

9 On meeting a staggered crossroads, turn right, still following signs to North Cliffs Plantation. Follow the fenceline until you come to a junction marked with a small post (with 'PP' written on it) on your left, and a larger one on the right (beside a kissing gate) with three coloured arrows on it. Walk in the direction of the left arrow (the colour is hard to discern) along the gravel track that immediately heads uphill.

10 Continue following this main track, straight on past a junction with a wooden seat, as it bends slightly to the left. At the next major junction, where there's a signpost on your left marking various routes including 'parking' and a blue arrow, turn to the right. Follow this track all the way back to the car park.



INFORMATION

Club site: Godrevy Park, Upton Towans, Hayle, Cornwall TR27 5BL. For the most up-to-date details, see The Club website - alternatively, turn to p37 of the *Sites Directory & Handbook 2013/14*. Open 22 March to 4 November. To book, call 01342 327490 or see caravanclub.co.uk/searchandbook.

Walk distance: 3.6 miles

Terrain/level of difficulty: good paths, mostly away from roads/easy

Number of stiles: 0

Essential equipment: map printed from the Visitor Centre website or Ordnance Survey Explorer Map 104 - Redruth and St Agnes

Refreshments: short detour to café (not accessible with a dog)

Toilets: Visitor Centre (not accessible with dogs)

Directions and parking: from Portreath, take the B3301 west before turning left into North Cliff Car Park at Tehidy Country Park

