



Holy Island Discovery

ROUTE 19

DISTANCE: 5 KM (3 MILES)
GRADE OF WALK: EASY
TIME: 2-3 HOURS

STILES ON ROUTE



MAP KEY:

T ROUTE START **WC** WC
P PARKING

POINTS OF INTEREST

- A** Lindisfarne Priory
- B** Upturned Boats
- C** Lindisfarne Castle
- D** Bird Hide

See pages 56-61 for information on nearby attractions.

Joined to the mainland by a causeway exposed twice daily at low tide, Holy Island or Lindisfarne is the cradle of England's Christian heritage. The Castle and Priory, where the famous Gospels were written, can be visited from the route. The walk is also excellent for birdwatchers, and you can take a boat trip from nearby Seahouses to visit the Farne Islands to see puffins. Afterwards, relax and unwind with a glass of Lindisfarne Mead.

RECOMMENDED ROUTE:

- 1** From the car park, turn left and head up the road. Turn left along Green Lane (signposted coach/disabled parking). Pass the coach park and turn right and then left towards the castle. Look for Post 1 near the fourth gate on your left approximately 200 metres along the road. Look seaward. The tall beacons ahead of you helped sea-going vessels chart a course out of the natural harbour, known locally as the Ouse.
- 2** Continue along the road, and find Post 2 on the right just through the castle gate. The Whin Sill, a line of very hard rock running across northern England, provides a foundation for the 16th Century castle. You are standing at the end of a 19th Century waggonway which brought limestone, quarried in the north of the island, to be burnt in limekilns by the castle. Follow this track to the left of the castle.
- 3** Do not go under the bridge, but climb up onto the waggonway. Walk until you reach Post 3 next to the gate. Looking out to sea in clear weather, you see the Farne Islands. They are home to many grey seals and thousands of seabirds including guillemots, puffins and kittiwakes, which breed there.
- 4** Continue along the waggonway to Post 4. If you look across to the foreshore you may see wading birds.
- 5** Continue along the waggonway, to Post 5, at the bird hide by the Lough. From inside the hide, you can watch waterfowl such as little grebe, shoveler, mallard, moorhen and coot.
- 6** Continue along the waggonway over a stile, until you reach the kissing gate and Post 6, where you enter the Reserve. Turn left, following the path beside the farm wall. Look out for flowering plants such as a bird's foot trefoil and silverweed.
- 7** At the wall corner, you reach Post 7. The grassland here is grazed by rare breeds of sheep in late summer.
- 8** Please keep to the path, continuing until it meets the Straight Lonnen at Post 8 bearing left. You may see moths and butterflies, some attracted to the bright yellow flowers of ragwort in summer. Head along the track through a farm leading back to the coach park. From here head back to the car park.



TRAVEL & TRANSPORT:

HOW TO GET THERE

Holy Island is signposted from the A1 south of Berwick-upon-Tweed.

START/PARKING

Park in the visitor car park signposted after leaving the causeway. OS Map Grid Reference NU12542

PUBLIC TRANSPORT

Visit www.northumberland.gov.uk/vg/holyisland/ or contact Berwick Tourist Information Centre on **01289 330733** for details of the tide times and bus service to the island.

EXPLORER MAP 340

PLEASE NOTE: Do not attempt to cross the causeway at any other time than the safe crossing times, as the tide comes in very rapidly and is dangerous.