



Harley Shute Walk

A generally easy beach and riverbank walk with no stiles, some hilly sections, and a pedestrian bridge over the railway line.



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Local Information

At the base of the bridge crossing the railway from the seafront, is an information board about the Dutch East Indiaman 'Amsterdam' which has lain buried in the sands here since running aground in 1749.

Essential Information

Distance: 3.5 miles/6km
Walk grade: Easy
Maps: OS Explorer 124
 OS Landranger 199
Start/Finish: West St Leonards Railway Station
Post Code: TN38 0AB
Grid Ref: TQ 789090

Route Description

- 1) Starting from West St Leonards Station, turn left to follow St Vincents Road to its junction with West Hill Road. Turn right and follow for a short distance before turning left into Keats Close. On reaching the main A259, at the end of Keats Close, cross and then turn left, and after a short distance, turn right into the West Marina Gardens, beside the Bowls Club. Turn right and follow the path around the bowling green, before crossing Sea Road to reach the seafront.
- 2) Turn right to follow the footpath and cycle route. At the end of the tarmaced section of cycle route, turn left to follow the route along the short section of road, crossing the Combe Haven near its sea outfall. Continue ahead, to follow the unsurfaced track, running through the area of beach huts. Continue to follow the route, now a stone surface cycle track to the rear of the beach, with the railway to your right, to reach a footbridge over the railway.
- 3) Cross the footbridge and follow Bridge Way beyond, to its junction with the main A259. Turn right and after a short distance, use the pedestrian crossing to cross the main road. Continue to follow the A259 in the same direction before turning left onto the signposted footpath which leads to a small car park and sports fields.
- 4) On reaching the Combe Haven, bear right to follow the bankside path, with the water course on your right hand side and the sports fields beyond the hedgerow to your left. The route now follows the banks of the Combe Haven for a total distance of approximately 1 km (2/3 mile). Ignoring the first main footbridge crossing the Haven, continue to follow the banktop path to reach a stile beside a field gate. Just after the stile, turn right to cross the footbridge over the Combe Haven.
- 5) Turn left after the bridge, before bearing right, pass the small bridge to your left, and follow the path along the line of the drainage ditch. Continue to follow the route with the drainage channel to your left, and the Sussex Wildlife Trust Nature Reserve to your right. After approximately 450 metres (500 yds.) the path bears right away from the drainage ditch. Continue to follow the well defined path, bearing left at the first junction. Follow the route around the edge of a small area of woodland, and then on to join the footpath at the foot of the railway embankment. Turn right to follow the path uphill, following the line of the railway to reach Harley Shute Road, at the top of the Hill.
- 6) Cross Harley Shute Road, taking care, and continue to follow the route along the footpath signposted to Filsham Road. The route now follows the enclosed path for a distance of 880 metres (approximately 950 yds.) running parallel to the railway line. Continue to follow the tarmaced path as it bears left and heads uphill to Filsham Road. Cross the main road and then head along St Vincents Road almost opposite. Follow the road for a short distance back to West St Leonards Station and the end of the walk.



Fishing Boats on the Beach