

6 Coastal Path Ryde to Cowes



This coastal walk links the two historic towns of Ryde and Cowes meandering past abbey ruins, a former royal residence and a modern day vineyard.



Ryde to Cowes Landmarks

Built in 1814, Ryde Pier is the second longest accessible pier in Britain at nearly half a mile long.

Binstead Church stands on the site of a Norman Church built to serve workers who quarried stone for the old Quarr Abbey as well as Winchester and Chichester Cathedrals. Most of the present church is Victorian except for a Norman doorway containing a medieval effigy of a person sitting on a ram's head.

The original Quarr Abbey was opened in 1131 by a small Cistercian order of monks. The Abbey was dissolved by Henry VIII in 1537 and the new Abbey was built almost 400 years later in 1912 by a Benedictine order of monks using an eye catching rose-red coloured Belgian Brick.

Osborne House, built in 1846 for Queen Victoria in an Italianate style was designed by Prince Albert. Under the care of English Heritage, the private apartments and state apartments are open to the public throughout the year.

- 1 From the pier entrance, head west along Esplanade, then bear away from the sea into St Thomas' Street, taking the first turning right into Buckingham Road, bearing round to the left past Buckingham Close, uphill to the junction with Spencer Road.
- 2 Turn right into Spencer Road and follow it for about 800 metres (half a mile) until it becomes a gravel track ending at white gates. Pass through the gates and cross the entrance to Ryde House on the right to Public Footpath R48 to Binstead and Quarr, known locally as Ladies Walk. Ryde Golf Course now lies either side of the tarmac path which descends to cross a bridge then continues up the hill on the other side to pass Binstead Church to the right.
- 3 Follow round to the left away from the church for 50 metres (55 yards) then turn right into Church Road turning right again after another 50 metres (55 yards) onto a level driveway, disregarding Public Footpath R46 to the beach on the right. At the house gates, take the path to the left and continue through level woodland to reach Quarr Road.
- 4 Turn right and follow the lane which starts to descend and becomes a gravel track before meeting a gate through which you continue to pass the old Abbey ruins to the right. The track ascends to cross the entrance to the new Quarr Abbey, which is on the right, and continues in the same direction to the road junction with Fishbourne Lane.
- 5 Turn left, passing the car ferry terminal on the right, and at telephone box turn right onto Public Footpath R1 to Kite Hill and follow the narrow path between houses to a barrier. Turn left into Ashlake Copse Road which is an undulating private road. At the point where the road bends left, continue ahead on a gravel then dirt path into woodland, dropping down to a concrete footbridge over a stream then uphill to the main road (A3054).

- 6 Turn right down the hill to Wootton Bridge, crossing the road on the way as the bridge only has a footpath on that side. Once over the bridge, cross the road again to pass in front of The Sloop Inn in Mill Square to a short gravel lane at the top of which an alley runs up between houses to New Road. Turn right into New Road and in approximately 100 metres (110 yards) turn left next to the old school which is now Wootton Youth Club. At the end of the unmade road continue in the same direction along an ascending alley between the rear gardens of houses and exits next to lock-up garages. Follow the access road out onto St Edmunds Walk then turn left passing Whitehead Crescent on the right after which turn immediately left into a short alley between the houses. This leads to more lock-up garages where you continue ahead on steps up a small bank to another short alley between houses to come to Church Road.
- 7 Cross over into Footways and continue to the end to turn left into Palmers Road. Take the first turning right into Brocks Copse Road, passing Palmers Farm on the right and Westwood Lodge to the left. The road descends to cross the bridge over Palmers Brook then climbs the other side with Woodhouse Copse to the right and Brocks Copse to the left.
- 8 The road joins into Alverstone Road which finally levels off as it reaches houses then passes Whippingham post office before meeting the main road. Turn right here to follow the main road which steadily descends into East Cowes. The main road is Whippingham Road which becomes York Avenue shortly before the entrance to Osborne House.
- 9 Continue along York Avenue passing Newbarn Road on the right. Approach the town centre from York Avenue, and shortly after passing the Town Hall on the left bear left into Ferry Road (A3021) and continue to the floating bridge which crosses to Cowes.

