




Ogmore by Sea Walk

Cliffs, Dunes and Common (8 miles / 13 km)

Plus optional St. Brides Taster Walk (4 miles / 6.5 km)



WALKING IN THE VALE

Walking in the Vale of Glamorgan combines a fascinating 60 km stretch of the Wales Coast Path with the picturesque, historic beauty of inland Vale. Along its rugged coastline walkers can discover the last manned lighthouse in Wales (automated as recently as 1998), a college unlike any other at St. Donats and 16th Century walled gardens at Dunraven Bay, plus the seaside bustle of Barry and Penarth. Whichever direction you are walking look for  at regular points along the way.

Inland, walkers will find the historic market towns of Cowbridge and Llantwit Major, as well as idyllic villages such as St. Nicholas and St. Brides Major, where the story of the Vale is told through monuments such as Tinkinswood burial chamber and local characters like Iolo Morganwg, one of the architects of the Welsh nation. Our series of 5 coastal and 5 inland Vale Trails will help you get to the very heart of this fascinating area.



Footpaths around Ogmore provide so much variety in a compact area. On offer are wonderful natural views such as the Merthyr Mawr sand dunes, the sedimentary formations of Dunraven Bay, and man-made contributions at Ogmore Castle and St. Bridget's Church as well as the walled gardens and ruins of Dunraven Castle.



The walk takes you along the Glamorgan Heritage Coast, designated for its unique geology and wildlife. The area is popular with walkers of all abilities. Some tackle the full 8 mile walk, but there are also shorter options (including a buggy and wheelchair accessible route) from Dunraven Bay which has the added bonus of the historic walled gardens and one of the best views along the entire Heritage Coast.

TIP A mobility scooter can be hired free of charge from the Heritage Centre.

THE COUNTRYSIDE CODE

- Be safe – plan ahead and follow any signs.
- Leave gates and property as you find them.
- Protect plants and animals, and take your litter home.
- Keep dogs under close control.
- Consider other people.

 Footpaths / Llwybrau  Bridleway / Llwybr ceffyl

 Restricted Byway / Cilffordd gyfyngedig  Byway / Cilffordd

Many thanks to Valeways and to Vale of Glamorgan Ramblers for their valuable contribution to Vale Trails and their continued support for these walks and leaflets.

creative 
RURAL COMMUNITIES




Cronfa Amaethyddol Ewrop ar gyfer Datblygu Gwledig: Ewrop yn Buddsoddi mewn Ardaloedd Gwledig
The European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development: Europe Investing in Rural Areas



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

THE ROUTE

 **920 kcal**
Estimated calories:
70kg walking at 3mph

 **1100 kcal**
Estimated calories:
83kg walking at 3mph

 Family
friendly



Wheelchair access on
certain areas of the walk

visitthevale.com



Getting there Exit the M4 at J35 on to the A473 heading for Bridgend. Join the A48, then the B4265, until you turn right on the B4524 Ogmore Road.

Terrain Generally flat with some short steep hills as well as gradual climbs.

Distance Main walk 8 miles. Optional shorter walk 4 miles. Dunraven coastal loop 2 miles.

Map OS Explorer 151 Cardiff and Bridgend.


Parking Large car parks at Ogmore by Sea and Dunraven Bay (fee payable all year at Ogmore, in summer at Dunraven Bay). Also free car park at St. Brides Major.

Public Transport Regular buses between Bridgend and Llantwit Major. For up to date travel information visit www.traveline-cymru.info

Refreshments & Toilets Toilets at Dunraven Bay and Ogmore by Sea. Seasonal refreshments kiosk at Dunraven Bay. Seasonal ice cream van at Ogmore by Sea. Shop and pubs in St. Brides and a pub in Ogmore.

THE WALK (A) *Grid ref: SS862756 Postcode: CF32 0PD* Cliffs, Dunes and Common (8 miles)

Start the walk at the main Ogmore beach car park.

Starting at the main Ogmore beach car park head up the estuary to join a grassy, then sandy, narrow path. You are following the Wales Coast Path, identifiable by the logo . Continue walking straight on between the river and the road, with views of Merthyr Mawr Warren across the river (1), until you reach a rough lane and a pair of garages ahead of you. Turn right onto the lane, to shortly arrive at the main road. Turn left and either walk alongside the road until you reach the Pelican in Her Piety pub on the right or cross the road at the 'no motor vehicles' sign

There is a possibility of livestock in some fields. Please keep dogs on a lead and follow the Countryside Code.

opposite the sharp bend to climb a sandy path parallel to the river and road to reach the pub. This option may be overgrown at times. Go down the lane opposite the pub to see the remains of medieval Ogmore Castle and the ancient stepping stones (2). Return to the main road and turn left. Cross back when you reach the colourful 'Ogwr / Ogmore' sign opposite. Climb the lane to Ogmore Down.

On reaching the Down keep an eye out for waymarkers as you enjoy views along the track. Head straight on towards a wooden transmission pole with a large box attached behind the 15th tee. (The views from the tee are amazing!). Turn 90 degrees right here and shortly afterwards follow a track between gorse bushes on the left (3) to take you across the Down with the quarry on your left. At the end of the quarry aim for a small cluster of white houses (4). Walk along the road to the left of the houses down to **St. Brides Major**.

TIP You can shorten your walk at this point; see directions for St. Brides Walk opposite.

Turn right when you reach the main road to reach the village. After a short detour to **St. Bridget's Church (5)** follow the main road through the village and out the other end, past the pond. Cross the stone stile (engraved 'Seamouth') opposite the **Farmer's Arms (6)** car park. Go straight ahead through an open gate next to a disused stile. Cross another stile (with metal gate alongside) into the field on the left. Keep to the right hand boundaries of the next two fields. Thereafter, keep straight ahead to eventually enter a picturesque wooded valley. Follow the track straight down to Dunraven Bay, ignoring minor paths to the left or right until you reach the **Heritage Coast Centre** on your left where you can learn more about this fascinating stretch of coastline (7).

*A short detour to the left of the beach will take you up to the historic walled gardens and amazing cliff top views above the ruins of **Dunraven Castle (8)**. Return to the main trail along the Wales Coast Path down to the beach.*



From the Heritage Centre head towards the beach to take the Wales Coast Path on the right up a flight of steps behind the beach buildings. When you reach the clifftop car park bear left to go through the kissing gate, then turn right. Leave the open land when you reach 'The Barn' to join the roadside verge and turn left following the Wales Coast Path signs which soon take you back close to the coast down a grassy limestone gully. At the bottom turn right and follow the Wales Coast Path (9). The final mile to the starting point is an easy level stroll along the top of the cliffs.

OPTIONAL WALK (B) St. Brides Taster Walk (4 miles)

Starting from the **Fox & Hounds** cross the road and head for medieval **St. Bridget's Church (5)**. Follow '**The Shilly**' to the right and continue uphill across a cattle grid.



Go left along a track leading to **St. Brides Court** and cross a stone stile to the left of the gate. Follow the right hand side of the field and cross a second stile and keep to the left hand side of the next two fields.

After crossing a third, bear right, pass a broad level grassy track on the right and descend to the right past limestone outcrops into a steep-sided sandy valley (this is **Pant Mari Flanders**) to the roadside (B4524). Turn right up a steep sandy path that leads to the **Pelican in Her Piety** pub. From here follow the directions of the longer walk to return to **St. Brides Major**.



PLACES OF INTEREST

Merthyr Mawr Warren is made up of sand from glacial debris that was carried downstream before being shunted inland by the tides of the Bristol Channel. The 70 m high dune known as the Big Dipper is a well known training location for professional athletes and adventurous locals.

Ogmoredown Castle was first established by the Norman William de Londres in 1116 to guard a major ford. The castle is open to the public. It can be accessed from the famous stepping stones across the Ewenny River. Audio guides near the entrance and within the grounds provide more information on the castle.

Ogmoredown is made up of a rare flora and fauna. The limestone heathland is rare, as are the High Brown fritillary butterfly and chough bird that have been seen on the coast near here. It includes Pant Mari Flanders, a hollow cut into the limestone with a stone structure covering an ancient well at its bottom.

The Heritage Coast Centre is the base for the Glamorgan Heritage Coast Project to conserve the unique character of the local coastline. A visit is recommended.

Dunraven Castle Walled Gardens date from the 16th century. Follow the path to the east for remarkable coastal views. The gardens belonged to Dunraven Castle, demolished in 1962. Its most notorious resident was Walter Vaughan, one of the Dunraven Wreckers, who in the 17th century lured ships to the harsh limestone coast to plunder. Tragically his only son was a passenger on one of those ships, and became a victim of his father's criminal activities.

St. Bridget's Church of St. Brides Major is one of several churches in South Wales dedicated to the 5th Century Irish Saint Bride (Bridget). Built in the 12th Century it contains several interesting effigies, including one of 13th Century military uniform.



To walk only the Wales Coast Path within the Vale, follow the Waymarkers.



1



2



3



4



5



Pond by the Farmer's Arms



6



7



7



8



Dunraven Walled Garden



9



VALE OF GLAMORGAN

OTHER VALE TRAILS FOR YOU TO EXPLORE

COASTAL WALKS

- 1 Ogmore By Sea Walk
St. Brides Major
- 2 Coast and Lighthouse Walk
Llantwit Major / Nash Point
- 3 Celtic Crosses and Coast Walk
Llantwit Major
- 4 Park and Seaside Walk
St. Athan / Rhoose / Barry
- 5 Coast and Pier Walk
Barry / Sully / Penarth

INLAND WALKS

- 6 Salmon Leaps Walk
Dinas Powys
- 7 Haunted Field Walk
St Nicholas
- 8 Magical Forest Walk
Peterston-Super-Ely
- 9 Iolo Morganwg Heritage Walk
Cowbridge
- 10 Ewenny & Spring Flowers Walk
Llandow / Ewenny

"The Glamorgan Heritage Coast at its best! An extra walk around Dunraven Castle gardens is a must... a secret hidden garden that leads to the most spectacular views along the coast!"
Darren Witts

LINKS FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

- cadw.wales.gov.uk/daysout/ogmorecastle
- pelicanpub.co.uk
- The Farmers Arms 01656 880 224
- thefoxandhoundstbrides.co.uk
- valeways.org.uk barn@westfarm.com
- valeofglamorganramblers.co.uk
- perfectpitchcamping.co.uk
- Heritage Coast Centre 01656 880157
- llantwitmajortowncouncil.gov.uk

Images courtesy of Treganna Design

Dunraven Gardens date back to Tudor times and fossils can be found along the surrounding coastline.