

3.6 Saltburn by the Sea to Sandsend

Map panels 3 and 4

Distance 17 miles (27½ km)

Terrain mostly grass and field paths which can be muddy; some pavement, beach and shore

Grade undulating route, with many steep gradients; highest point reached at Rock Cliff (over 200 m/650 ft)

Food and drink Saltburn, Skinningrove, Staithes, Runswick, Sandsend (wide range)

Summary a strenuous day along the coast with many points of historic interest; bracing sea views and imposing sea cliffs punctuated by hidden coves



Saltburn is an amazing place. Its thriving arts scene seems out of all proportion to its modest population (6000) with events such as art exhibitions, film and jazz nights, vintage fairs and beer and folk festivals. Old Saltburn was a tiny fishing village and smugglers' haven, transformed in 1861 into a Victorian seaside resort with handsome architecture including the railway viaduct, seaside pier and cliff lifts. The founder of modern Saltburn was Henry Pease – railway owner, philanthropist and Member of Parliament. While continuing to celebrate 150 years of its Victorian past, the town has reinvented itself for the 21st century with a lively leisure scene including health and wellbeing, restaurants and superb surfing.

Britain's oldest surviving water-balanced cliff lift





West over Saltburn

- Cross Skelton Beck and go past the beached boats and tractors nearby. Take the path up steps behind the Ship Inn, signed to Skinningrove 3½ miles. At the top, look behind you for great views over Saltburn, and Roseberry Topping briefly returns to view.
- Route finding is easy along the clifftop path. The entire coastline from Saltburn to Scalby Ness is recognised as the North Yorkshire and Cleveland Heritage coast. The Way goes through Hunt Cliff Nature Reserve, and in a little over 1 mile passes the site of a Roman signal station, with an information board.
- Soon the path is in close company with the railway line around the edge of Warsett Hill, and passes the Guibal Fanhouse and information board after 2 miles. The jetty at Skinningrove and the steelworks above the town can be seen ahead.
- From Cattersty Cliffs, follow the path down steps to the sands below. The Way reaches Skinningrove over low dunes and through a gap in the old jetty. Go past cottages (Marine Terrace) and over the Kilton Beck Bridge.



Guibal Fanhouse

- Leave the road at the sign and climb steps up the cliff edge again. In less than 1 mile pass above Hummersea beach and follow the CW signs soon to turn inland, bypassing a small farm. Pass to the right of a stable building where there's a stile.



Skinningrove Bay with jetty

- The path regains the cliff edge above extensive alum workings, reaching its highest point near Rockhole Hill (212 m/695 ft), identified by trig point and mast nearby. You are walking above Rock Cliff, the highest cliff anywhere on England's east coast.
- The Way overlooks the huge alum quarry workings for more than 1½ miles, returning to the cliff edge approaching cottages at Boulby. Go along the road past the row of cottages and keep straight on. At a bend in the road, with the grey chimneys of Boulby potash mine in view, continue straight ahead (east) onto a grassy path.
- Cross the field paths for half a mile to join the old coast road (Cowbar Lane) where cliff erosion has claimed part of it. A fence protects the Way from the edge, to rejoin the lane into Staithes.
- Go left down the road to the village and over the footbridge into the main street, to pass the Royal George. Go ahead past the Cod and Lobster, and turn right up Church Street. There's a plaque recording Cook's apprenticeship in Staithes on the right.
- At the top of Church Street continue ahead, signed to Port Mulgrave. Bear left at a fingerpost to pass by a farm. The Way follows two large field edges to rejoin the cliff at the top of a steep rise.
- Walk along the road to Port Mulgrave, and turn left at the fingerpost for Runswick Bay. Ignore a footpath to the left here. The Way keeps level along the road and around the jumble of Rosedale Cliffs, returning to the cliff edge as it makes its way towards Runswick.

- There are two small ravines to negotiate along the cliff path, before arriving at the road through the car park of the Runswick Bay Hotel. At the road, turn left to pass the Cliffemount Hotel, where a path winds down to the lower part of Runswick bank. (Alternatively you can cross over at the Runswick Bay Hotel and walk straight down the steep bank on the road.)



Boats moored at Staithes

- At a turning circle, keep on down towards the shore. In stormy weather, the next section may not be passable at high tide: if need be, wait for the sea to retreat a bit. Otherwise, continue across the sand for 500 m past the painted timber buildings of the sailing club, where a green sign points to the Cleveland Way up the next gully.
- Go past the base of cliffs (with caves known locally as *hob-holes*) and find the narrow gully entrance. A handrail offers some help along the slippery shale. Go forward 20 m, cross the stream and climb steeply up the long flight of steps.

Staithes





The Way crossing a ravine near Runswick

- Resume the grassy clifftop path after the steep climb, soon passing an old railway embankment on your right.
- A further $\frac{3}{4}$ mile along the cliffs, turn left in front of the farm at Kettleness: don't miss the sign on this telegraph pole. Sandsend is now just over 3 miles ahead.
- After the farm road a fingerpost sends you left to rejoin the cliff path, and the Way sweeps around two fields to meet the dismantled rail track. Walk a few metres to the right of the path to see the old tunnel entrance in the cutting.
- Go along the field edge cliff path for another mile, ignoring a right turn signed Lythe. Very soon the Way bends to the right side field boundary, away from the edge, and directly towards a gap in the fence, into woodland. Climb carefully down the steep steps into the workings of the former Sandsend alum quarries.
- Look back to see the other end of the rail tunnel. The Way joins the railway trackbed for the remaining mile to Sandsend.

Runswick Bay

