

Suggested Walks 15

Hope Cove to Bolberry Down via Bolt Tail.

This walk starts at the end of Inner Hope Cove. There is some free parking out of season along the road & paying parking opposite the Sun Bay Hotel. Otherwise there is more parking in Outer Hope but payment will be needed here too.



The Village at Hope Cove was a centre for both fishing and smuggling in the 1800s. Kegs of brandy and rum were dropped to the sea floor by ships from France, having been weighed down with stones. Local fishermen would then recover them at the same time as they hauled in their crab pots, and bring them ashore.

Follow the waymarked footpath up the steps beside the slipway in Inner Hope and up along the slope through the trees. The path passes a signpost at Pilchard Bay and then leads on towards Bolt Tail. Keep on the right hand paths rather than taking the ones forking left, until reaching the end of the bay. The view back from Bolt Tail is pretty impressive and even Cornwall can be seen on a clear day.



In the summer of 1588, thousands of people gathered at Hope Cove & Bolt Tail to watch the ships of the Spanish Armada moving up the English Channel from Spain. By October it was all over and the defeated Armada was fleeing back to Spain having been driven all around England & Scotland by the storms. One ship, the San Pedro el Mayor, a transport ship fitted out as a hospital, was driven onto the Shippen Rock between Inner and Outer Hope. The survivors were eventually ransomed back to Spain.

Carry on along and up the coastal path, going past Red Rot Cove, until reaching a signpost where the more direct paths back to Hope Cove branch off.

It was off the coast here where the HMS Ramilies was shipwrecked in 1760, having been caught in a severe gale in the Channel and attempting to make it back to land. Unfortunately the crew mistook Bolt Head for Rame Head near Plymouth and the ship tried to round Bolt Tail into what they thought would be Plymouth Sound.

Go through the gate and carry on to Hugh's Hole and then along the edge of Bolberry Down until reaching the NT Car Park & Hotel. Total time taken: around 70mins.

Return by the same route back to the signpost. Here there are 2 alternatives. The shortest way back is to take the short cut down the side of the field and straight into the back of Inner Hope.

Otherwise take the more scenic way & retracing the path back to Bolt Tail and then down the path to Inner Hope.



The Hope and Anchor Pub in Outer Hope is great for refreshments.