

W.1805 Shanklin to Ventnor, via the Devil's Chimney.

This walk is a proper adventure walk, not for the fainthearted !! I would allow 2/3 hours and is very easy to navigate.

Starting in the Old Shanklin village, easily accessible from King Harry's Bar; the Chine Inn; Holliers or the Village Inn. Take the small lane called Chine Hollow, more simply the lane signposted Rylestone Gardens/Crazy Golf and follow the blue Coastal Path signs. Up Luccombe Road, itself a noticeable ascent, you will get some great views of Sandown Bay.

Follow the coast path as it leaves the tarmac road (ignore a small earlier diversion into a field) and continue for a good hour, taking in the views of the Luccombe area before entering the Undercliff. This is a wild landscape, you will not get the full benefit of the area unless you walk.

Soon after entering the Undercliff, there is a right turn off the coast path, signposted V65 Smugglers Haven. This is a fairly steep ascent in places, but the Isle of Wight folk have been thoughtful and provided wooden steps along much of the path. Eventually you will come to the car park at the top of the main road, it's not a pub but I would recommend a brief 'comfort' stop at the Smugglers Haven. Nice tea room, the public toilets are just beyond the cafe (turn right to a further car park). Just beyond this a footpath sign V65c will lead you back down into the Undercliff and you can rejoin the coast path back into Ventnor.

You will however experience the Devil's Chimney. The path, which again has steps provided over the steepest parts, wends its way between a crack in the cliff, formed from an earlier landslip itself. This is a must for any walker.

As you come out of the undercliff and skirt Bonchurch before reaching the sea, visit the old church along the path which was *rebuilt* circa 1070. The coast path hugs the sea all the way to Ventnor. Taking the Shore Hill into the centre, please follow the Ventnor town map in your programme to the hostelry of your choice to complete the walk-