



Chepstow to Tintern circular



Chepstow Castle

Route detail

A walk from Chepstow and its fine castle, along the Wye Valley Walk to Tintern and its abbey ruins, returning on the Offa's Dyke Path.

Distance:	13 miles / 21km
Start location:	Chepstow Railway Station
Start Grid Ref:	ST 53641 93689
Start What3Words:	corkscrew.flopped.enrolling

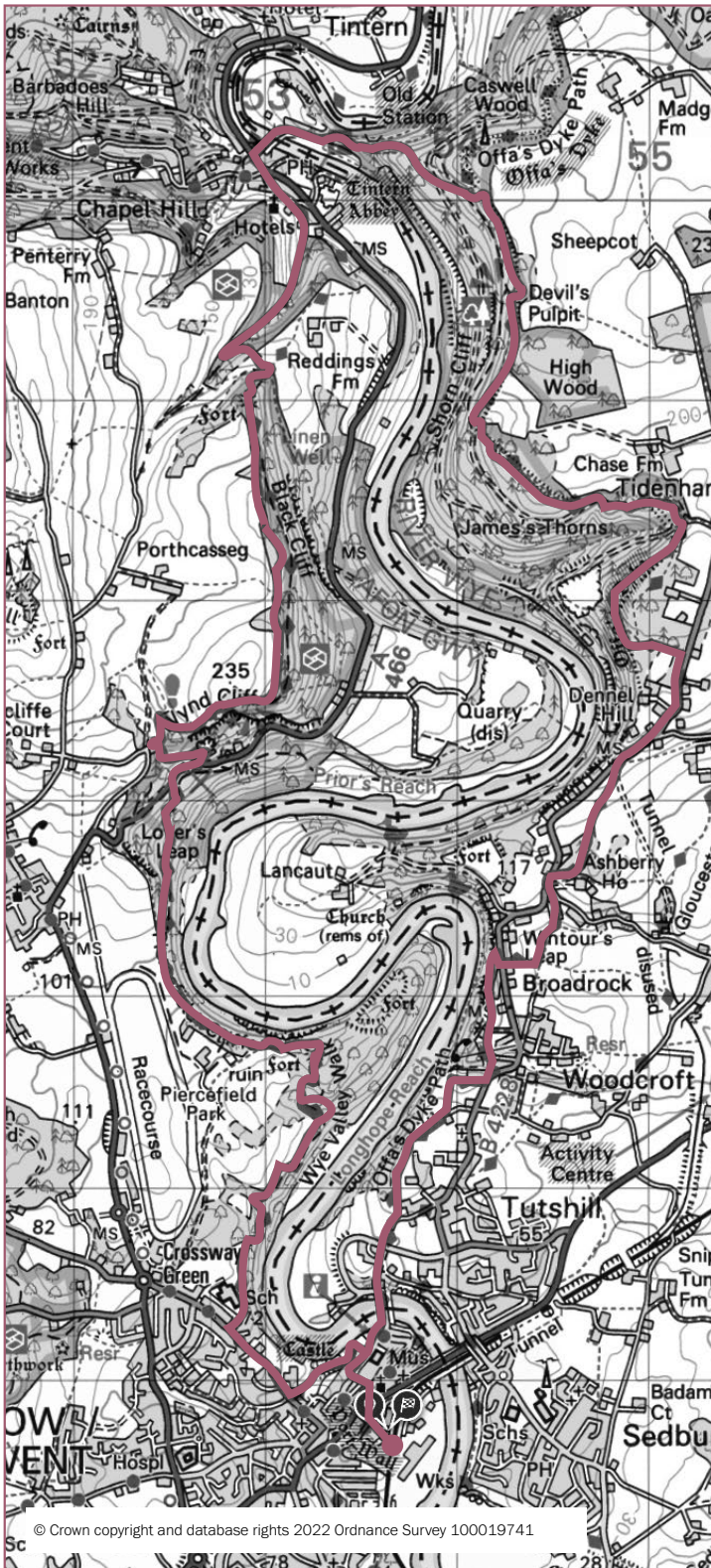
Start

Start at Chepstow railway station and follow the road away from it. Walk straight through a crossroads to reach traffic lights and turn left to go through a subway beneath a busy main road. Climb steps and turn right to walk towards Chepstow Parish Church, or the Priory Church of St Mary. This was founded by the Benedictine order in 1072. Turn left as signposted for the town centre,

reaching the Powis Almshouses. Turn right down Bridge Street to reach the Three Tuns Inn, then turn left towards Chepstow Castle. By all means visit the castle, which was founded in 1067, otherwise turn left just beforehand, following a path into the valley of Castle Dell.

Pass a stone commemorating the Wye Valley Walk, which runs for 136 miles (219km) to the source of the River Wye, high on Pumlumon in mid-Wales. Follow the path up through Castle Dell, passing through iron gates at the top. Turn right along a road, passing The Dell Primary School. Further up the road, turn right as signposted for the Wye Valley Walk, along the access road for Chepstow School and Monlife Leisure Centre. Walk straight ahead through a car park to find a signposted tarmac path leading down into woodland. The path is fenced on both sides, eventually reaching a gap in a stone wall where an information board explains about the Piercefield Walks, which were laid out in the 18th century and were much admired by artists and early tourists.

Offa's Dyke Path SHORT WALKS Chepstow to Tintern circular



Go down a flight of wooden steps to reach a viewpoint offering a glimpse of the River Wye. Continue through the delightfully mixed woods, eventually reaching a former viewpoint called The Platform. This is now in dense woodland and no longer offers views. The path later narrows, but it's still obvious, climbing through the woods and passing a shelter called The Grotto. This has been built into the embankment of a hill fort, which is very difficult to distinguish in the undergrowth.

The path passes Piercefield Cliffs and later passes below a small cave, then the path forks at two wooden posts. Go down to the right a short way and a fine viewpoint is reached alongside the Giant's Cave. To continue the walk, go through the cave (no torch needed) and follow the path onwards across a steep, well-wooded slope. Eventually, the path crosses a small stream, climbs flights of steps and reaches a car park. Cross the A466 road to continue up a woodland path on the other side.

A point is reached where the Wye Valley Walk is signposted to the left. (Turning right involves a steep and rugged climb up 365 steps. Save that for a future visit.) Walk up through the woods, soon turning right as signposted, climbing more steeply to reach a small car park. Don't enter it, but turn right again and keep climbing in sweeping zigzags on the wooded slope. When the path levels out above Wynd Cliff, a few steps down to the right lead to the Eagle's Nest viewpoint and a splendid view of the Wye Valley.

Go back up the steps and continue along the woodland path, which is mostly narrow, but obvious and well-trodden. Sometimes, it runs close to the edge of the woods, looking out into nearby fields. After a while, after a gradual descent, watch for a fork in the path, and spot a marker disk on a tree that indicates the path to the right. Another disk on a tree later marks the start of a steep descent across rocks and tree roots. Go through a gate at the edge of the woodland and turn left to walk uphill alongside a field. When the forest fence turns slightly to the left, leave it and walk straight across the field, looking ahead to spot a small gate giving access to another woodland.

Go through the gate and turn left. Although the path is narrow, follow it as it rises and falls across a well-wooded slope, and it eventually joins a rugged track on the floor of a valley. Turn right and walk down the track, taking care on rocky and stony parts. The track leads down to a farm access road where the Wye Valley Walk is signposted straight ahead. When a road junction is reached at some houses, either continue straight ahead along a minor road to reach the A466 road at Tintern, or turn right to walk down to Tintern Abbey, founded by the Cistercians in 1131, then follow the A466 road into the village. Either way, refreshments are available and number 69 buses run daily to Chepstow and Monmouth, except Sundays.

Follow the main road past Abbey Mill and turn right to cross a bridge over the River Wye. This is known as Tintern Bridge, Wireworks Bridge, or Old Tramway Bridge. It opened in 1876 as a branch railway. When engines stopped using it, horse-drawn trams used it. These days it is used by walkers and cyclists. Crossing the bridge leads from Wales (Monmouthshire) to England (Gloucestershire). Follow the old line onwards until there is a very obvious path climbing on the left, initially with rugged stone paving, soon giving way to bedrock on a wooded slope.

Offa's Dyke Path SHORT WALKS

Chepstow to Tintern circular

Reach a three-way signpost and turn right as indicated for Devil's Pulpit. Turn right again at the next signposted junction, also as indicated for Devil's Pulpit. Turn left at the next junction as indicated by a post bearing a directional arrow. After climbing gently, the path steepens and crude steps have been cut into the limestone bedrock. The path levels out then joins a track. Turn right, and soon afterwards turn left along another path, again as indicated for Devil's Pulpit. The path climbs gently at first, then steepens, eventually reaching a three-way signpost where it joins the Offa's Dyke Path, and note the acorn logos that mark the trail. The dyke itself can be discerned as an earthwork running parallel to the path in the woods.

Turn right to follow the Offa's Dyke Path, which rises, then gently descends. After a slight climb, cross a little footbridge, climb a few steps and turn right as signposted along a level path. Pass the Devil's Pulpit, which is an outcrop of rock with a view of the Wye Valley and Tintern Abbey. Apparently, the Devil would preach from the rock and try to turn the monks away from their righteous works. Continue along the path, rising and falling, until a flight of wooden steps take the path away from the actual dyke in order to avoid damaging it. Follow the path onwards and it later drops to a track where there is a notice about the dyke.

Turn left and follow the track, passing through a section of Offa's Dyke that has been closed off for protection. Reach a quarry access road and continue as signposted for the Offa's Dyke Path along a woodland path. This is obvious and later passes a three-way signpost, another notice about the dyke, and a kissing gate. Follow a fenced path through the woodland to reach the B4228 road. Turn right to walk along the road, keeping to the right to face oncoming traffic, then follow a stretch of pavement on the left, then return to the right-hand side of the road.

Pass a junction with Boughspring Lane, then soon afterwards look out for a signpost, steps and a kissing gate on the left. Go through this gate and another one, then walk across a field with views of the mouth of the River Severn. Go through another kissing gate and walk alongside a hedgerow. Yet another kissing gate leads onto a woodland path. Walk through another field and cross a stone stile to reach the B4228 road again. Turn left along the road and left again down Netherhope Lane. Turn right as signposted down a narrower road and continue down a woodland path to go through a kissing gate. Keep right to walk alongside a field. Go through a small gate beside a big gate, then turn right and walk alongside fields, eventually passing between houses to reach the B4228 road yet again.

Turn right along the road, then left up a path behind houses. (An overgrown path on the right leads quickly to the cliff-top viewpoint of Wintour's Leap.) Pass a fenced-off quarry, then signposts and markers lead onwards and the path eventually drops to a gate and the B4228

road. Cross the road and turn right to walk down it. Turn right as signposted through a kissing gate, following a path enclosed by a wall and a fence. Turn left through a kissing gate and follow a fence alongside a field. Go through a kissing gate and turn right along an access road, then left around the corner of a tall stone wall. Go through another kissing gate and turn right alongside a field. Yet another kissing gate leads into a patch of woodland, followed by a walk through a field. Notice an old lookout tower to the left while walking down to a road.

Turn right down the road, cross another road and continue down steps. Go straight down a narrow lane enclosed by stone walls. At the bottom, continue straight across the ornate cast-iron Old Wye Bridge, dated 1816, also known as Chepstow Bridge or Town Bridge. This takes you from England (Gloucestershire) to Wales (Monmouthshire). Entering Chepstow, walk straight up Bridge Street as far as the Powis Almshouses, then turn left along Upper Church Street. When the church is reached, turn right and follow a road until steps drop to the left. Go through a subway beneath a busy road, emerging at a junction with traffic lights. Turn right and follow the road straight back to the railway station to finish.

Parking: Parking at Chepstow Railway Station, Nelson Street, Welsh Street, Castle Dell and other locations around town.

Bus: Daily bus services link Chepstow with Newport and Bristol' Local buses serve Tintern from Chepstow and Monmouth, except Sundays.

Train: Daily CrossCountry and Transport for Wales trains serve Chepstow from Cardiff, Cheltenham Spa and Birmingham

