

MEVAGISSEY TO PAR South West Coastal walk with Pure Cornwall from Tailings

Length: 11 miles (17km)

Grading: Strenuous to easy

The day begins in the fishing town of Mevagissey, but try not to spend too long wandering the streets and waterfront as a Path of roller coaster climbs awaits! High cliffs pass rocky coves between Pentewan and Charlestown producing dramatic scenery, but tiring walking. The inland china clay works around St Austell come in and out of view. The clay industry boomed in the 19th century, resulting in the formation of the 'Cornish Alps', and continues today with 80% used to make paper. There are many steps to climb along this stretch as the Path continues to rise and fall past Phoebe's Point and Silvermine Point. Charlestown, with its beautiful historic harbour and quay, provides a welcome spot for rest and refreshment before the final stretch of the journey to Par.

Highlights along the path:

- Stocking up on refreshments in the interesting, narrow streets of Mevagissey.
- Views of undulating fields and white stretch of Pentewan Beach beyond.
- The extensive views from Black Head: a humped, windswept promontory which is the site of an Iron Age cliff castle. There is a memorial stone here to the Cornish poet A.L. Rowse.
- The woodland of Ropehaven Cliffs: a Cornwall Wildlife Trust Reserve and a good place to spot nesting fulmars. According to the CWT, fossils found in the rocks here indicate that 400 million years ago Ropehaven lay beneath tropical seas.
- Charlestown: Charlestown Harbour still remains relatively untouched by development and so has been a very important film and TV location over the years. It was used in the filming of the 1976 World War II drama *The Eagle Has Landed*, the 1975-77 romantic drama *Poldark* and the 1970s series *The Onedin Line*. [The Shipwreck and Heritage Centre](#) on Quay Road has many artefacts from shipwrecks and one of the largest underwater diving equipment collections in the country. Open from March to November from 10 am til 5 pm. Tel: 01726 69897.

Worth a look (interesting places close to the path):

- [The Lost Gardens of Heligan](#): Britain's largest ever garden restoration project. Open daily tel: 01726 845120.
- The World famous biomes at the [Eden Project](#).
- [The Wheal Martyn China Clay Heritage Centre](#) tells the history of one of Cornwall's most important industries.

Public transport info:

St Austell has a mainline train station. First Cornwall 26 and 26B run regularly from St Austell to Mevagissey, as does the Western Greyhound 526 bus service. The very regular 26 bus goes from Mevagissey to Par via Pentewan and St Austell. For details visit [Traveline](#) or phone 0870 6082608.

Refreshments:

You can stock up on refreshments at the beginning of the walk in the shops of Mevagissey, otherwise you will need to make the most of the few facilities in Pentewan as walking to Charlestown can be hard work. There may be some refreshments available at Porthpean. Par has a couple of shops, pubs and cafes.

Nearest Car park:

Mevagissey (Postcode for Sat Navs: PL26 6UQ), just before Gwendra Point, Porthpean, Charlestown, inland in St Austell and Par.

Toilets:

Mevagissey, Pentewan, Charlestown and Par.