



Royal
Geographical
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The way of the bay

A self-guided walk around Weymouth



Explore one of Britain's first seaside resorts

Enjoy the town's golden sands and blue water

Find out how Weymouth brought the Black Death and cured a king

Discover international stories of our great British seaside

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the stories of our landscapes
discovered through walks





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Cover image: Ice cream stand, Weymouth beach © Rory Walsh

The way of the bay

Discover why Weymouth became a popular seaside resort

The Dorset town of Weymouth is one of Britain's many popular seaside resorts. It is also one of the oldest. Weymouth became a fashionable holiday town in the 18th century, when King George III visited several times for health reasons.

Weymouth has remained a popular with holidaymakers ever since. Many visitors still enjoy traditional seaside activities; swimming and bathing, walking along the promenade, donkey rides, beach games, ice cream, fish and chips...

But how British are these features of the 'great British seaside' resort?

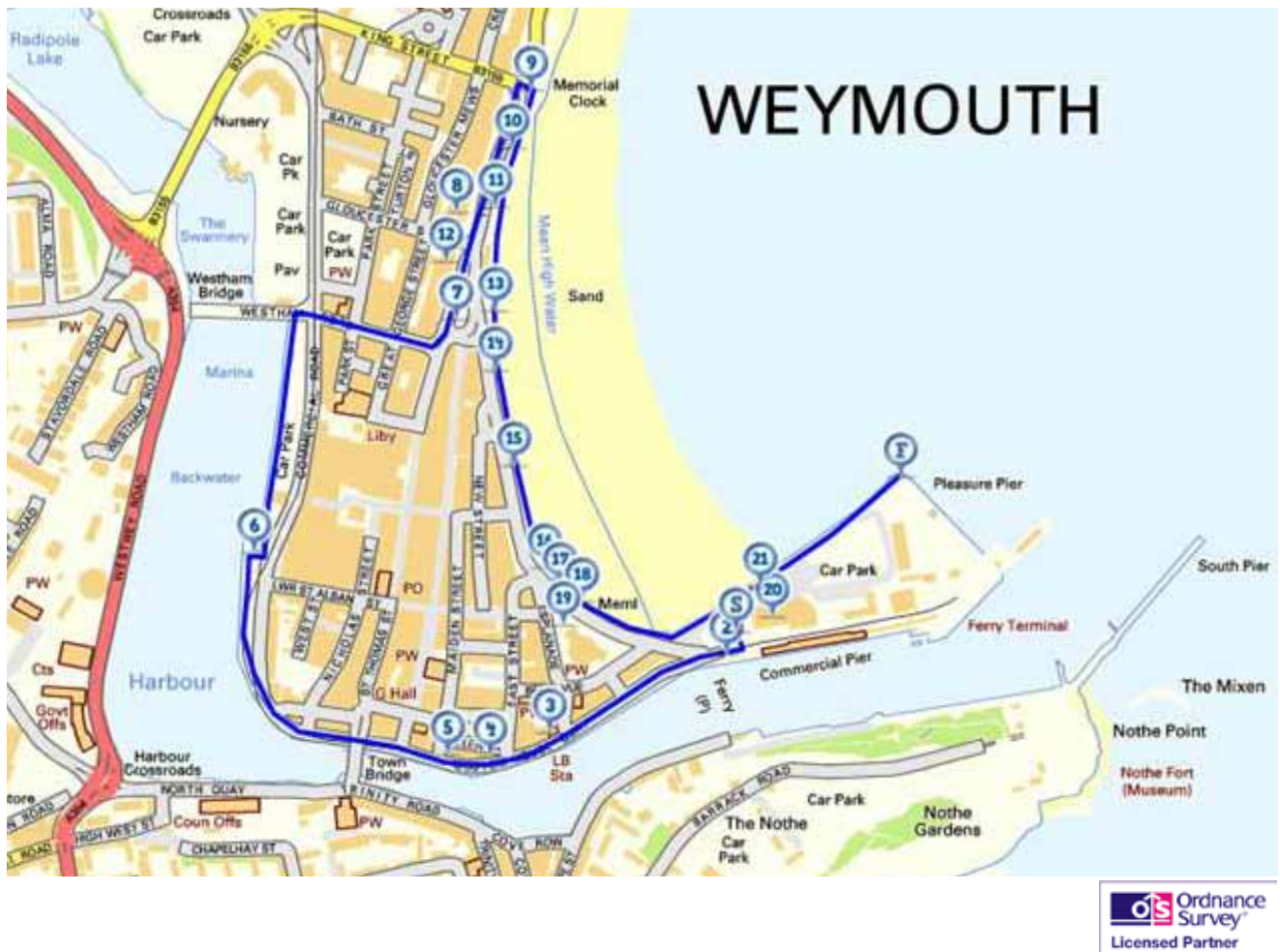
From buckets and spades to fish and chips, this walk uncovers the surprising origins of some of our seaside favourites.

This walk was originally created in 2012 as part of a series called Walk the World. This series of walks in different parts of the UK explored how the 206 participating nations at the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games have been part of the UK's history for many centuries.



Scenes from Weymouth
Rory Walsh © RGS-IBG Discovering Britain

Route map



Stopping points

- | | |
|---|--|
| S. Outside Weymouth Pavilion | 12. Bluebird Coaches |
| 2. Clark Endicott memorial | 13. Punch and Judy booth |
| 3. Harbour Master's office | 14. Stalls and shops, The Esplanade |
| 4. Custom House | 15. Seafront telescopes |
| 5. Old Fish Market | 16. Sculptures in Sand pitch |
| 6. Weymouth Marina | 17. Weymouth beach |
| 7. King George III statue | 18. Weymouth beach |
| 8. Gloucester Lodge | 19. Alexandra Gardens |
| 9. Jubilee Clock Tower | 20. Weymouth Pavilion |
| 10. Rossi's Ice Cream Parlour | 21. Weymouth Ferry Terminal |
| 11. Palm trees and palmistry booth | F. Jurassic Skyline tower |

Practical information

Location	Weymouth, Dorset, south west England
Getting there	<p>Train - Direct services run from Bath Spa, Bristol Temple Meads, Southampton Central, Bournemouth, Poole, Dorchester South, Basingstoke and London Waterloo (every 30 minutes).</p> <p>Bus - Served by a variety of local bus routes across south Dorset and long distance coaches</p> <p>The Jurassic Coast Bus service links Weymouth with 88 miles of Devon and Dorset coast (Exeter to Wareham) and allows walkers to join the South West Coast Path.</p> <p>Car - Access via the A31 from Southampton, A35 from Exeter and A37 from Bristol. Limited town parking (charges apply). Drivers are advised to use the Park and Ride scheme at Mount Pleasant</p>
Start point	Outside Weymouth Pavilion, DT4 8ED
Finish point	Jurassic Skyline (formerly Weymouth Sea Life Tower), DT4 8DX
Distance	1 ½ miles
Level	Gentle - a flat seafront and harbour walk
Suitable for	<p>Families - plenty of family-friendly attractions</p> <p>Pushchairs / wheelchairs - an entirely step-free route</p> <p>Dogs - must be kept on a lead in the harbour and in town</p>
Conditions	The whole route is on pavements. Take care at the water's edge in the Old Harbour and watch for traffic throughout.

Getting from the railway station to the walk start

From the station exit, bear right and head towards the station sign. Use the traffic lights to cross King Street then continue towards the red clock tower.

When you reach the tower turn right. Follow the length of The Esplanade, keeping the sea on your left. Weymouth Pavilion is at the end of the road after the bay curves to the left.

Refreshments

There are many cafes, pubs and restaurants around the harbour and the seafront.

Toilets

Public toilets are available on The Esplanade, Maiden Street (off Custom House Quay, Stop 4) and Cove Street across the Town Bridge.

Other info

Weymouth can be very busy at weekends and in the summer tourist season. The seafront part of the walk is open to the elements, so do take precautions from the weather.

Family-friendly activities

The Nothe Fort beside the Old Harbour is open daily March to September (Sundays only October - February).

The **Nothe Gardens** are free to enter. Access via a stepped path. Spectacular views and ideal for a picnic.

Sandworld sand sculpture park is open daily March to November. Located a mile from Weymouth beach at Lodmoor Country Park. Tel: 07411 387529

Jurassic Skyline Tower is open daily, seasonal open times (10am to 6pm in summer). Tel: 0871 423 2110

Tower tickets can be bought in combination with the **Sea Life Adventure Park**. Indoor marine exhibitions, children's rides, water play area.

Directions

These directions are for use with the Weymouth walk audio commentary. Listen to each track then read the directions below to get to the next stop.

1. Welcome to Weymouth

Outside Weymouth Pavilion

Directions 1 - If you are facing the front of the Weymouth Pavilion, the bay is to your left and the Old Harbour to your right. Go to the right, across the railway tracks in the road, and onto the harbour quayside. Near a one-storey viewing platform, look for a stone pillar with the names Clark and Endicott on it. Stop by this stone and listen to Track 2.

2. A new start

Clark Endicott Memorial, Commercial Pier

Directions 2 - Continue along the quayside with the water on your left. Take your time to enjoy the sights, sounds and smells as you go. Look on the right for the Harbour Master's building. There are actually two: go past the first one with 'Harbour Master' carved in stone over the door. Stop when you reach the second one, with 'Harbour Master' painted on the upper wall. Listen to Track 3.

3. Rivals and rats

Harbour Master's office, Custom House Quay

Directions 3 - Continue along the quayside until you reach the Custom House, which is a red-brick building with a coat of arms above the doorway. Stop outside this building and listen to Track 4.

4. Sailors and smugglers

Custom House, Custom House Quay

Directions 4 - Continue along Custom House Quay. Shortly before the bridge, look on the right hand side for a stone building with arched windows and doorways. This is the Old Fish Market. Stop outside this building and listen to Track 5.

5. Fishy tales

The Old Fish Market, Custom House Quay

Directions 5 - Continue along Custom House Quay and under the bridge. Take care to watch for traffic. Follow the quayside as it curves round to the right and becomes Commercial Road. Continue as far as a wide slipway (on the opposite side of the road is a multi-storey car park). Stop overlooking the marina and listen to Track 6.

6. Ships ahoy!

Weymouth Marina

Directions 6 - Continue along the path with the marina on your left and Commercial Road on your right. Shortly after the Marina office building, turn right opposite the bridge. Use the pedestrian crossing over Commercial Street and continue along Westham Road. At the end, turn left. On a traffic island on your right is a statue. Stop in a position where you have a good view of it and listen to Track 7.

7. A royal resort

King George III statue, The Esplanade

Directions 7 - Continue along the pavement with seafront buildings on your left and the road and sea on your right. After the first terrace, cross over Gloucester Street. Stop outside Gloucester Lodge, a large redbrick building. Listen to Track 8.

8. Royal residence

Gloucester Lodge, 85 The Esplanade

Directions 8 - Continue along the left hand side of the Esplanade. When you reach King Street on the left, use the pedestrian crossing to cross the Esplanade and go to the clock tower. Stop by the clock tower and listen to Track 9.

9. The sands of time

Jubilee Clock, The Esplanade

Directions 9 - Head back along the Esplanade the way that you came, this time with the beach on your left and the road on your right. Look across the road for the rather grand Royal Hotel. Immediately to the right is the Royal Arcade. At the time of creating this walk, the central part of this building was an amusement arcade and the right hand part was Rossi's Ice Cream Parlour. Stop opposite Rossi's and listen to Track 10.

10. Melt in the mouth

Rossi's Ice Cream Parlour, 92 The Esplanade

Directions 10 - Continue a short way along the promenade until you are opposite Gloucester Lodge. There should be a fortune-teller booth and a flower bed with palm trees on the seafront. Stop beside these and listen to Track 11.

11. Palm to palm

Palm trees and palmistry booth, The Esplanade

Directions 11 - Continue a little further along the promenade. Look on the opposite side of the road for a light blue-painted building with the name Bluebird Coaches (it is to the left of Gloucester Street). Stop opposite this building and listen to Track 12.

12. Wings and wheels

Bluebird Coaches, 83 The Esplanade

Directions 12 - Continue along the promenade. When you are just about level with the side of the statue of King George III, look on the beach for a booth painted in red and white stripes. If you are visiting out of summer season, a small picket fence stands in its place. Stop by the booth or fence and listen to Track 13.

13. That's the way to do it!

Punch and Judy booth, Weymouth beach

Directions 13 - Continue a few metres further along the promenade and look for shops on the opposite side of the road selling seaside paraphernalia. Stop opposite these and listen to Track 14.

14. Tools for the tide

Stalls and shops, The Esplanade & Weymouth beach

Directions 14 - Continue along the promenade. Stop when you find one of the many viewing telescopes on the promenade railings. Stand by one and listen to Track 15.

15. Sea sightings

Seafront telescopes

Directions 15 - Continue a little further along the promenade. Where the road forks, stop opposite the statue and look onto the sand. In the summer season there should be a sand sculpture hut here. Listen to Track 16.

16. The sandman

Sculptures in Sand pitch, Weymouth beach

Directions 16 - Continue along the promenade for a short distance. As the promenade wall begins to curve to the left, stop in a convenient place and look out over the widest part of the beach. Listen to Track 17.

17. Seaside classics

Weymouth beach

Directions 17 - Remain on the promenade. Look out to sea and listen to Track 18.

18. Making waves

Weymouth beach

Directions 18 - Follow the promenade as it continues to bend round to the left. Look on the right hand side for a small fairground in the triangle of Alexandra Gardens. Stop opposite the fairground and listen to Track 19.

19. War and peace

Alexandra Gardens, The Esplanade

Directions 19 - Continue along the promenade to the end of the beach. Follow the promenade towards the large Weymouth Pavilion building where we started the walk. Stop when you have a good view of the Pavilion and listen to Track 20.

20. The butterfly tent

Weymouth Pavilion

Directions 20 - Continue a short distance along the promenade. Stop by the large anchor on the ground and listen to Track 21.

21. Channel hopping

Weymouth Ferry Terminal

Directions 21 - Continue along the promenade and under the Pleasure Pier arch. Head towards the tower. Pass the tower and stop at the corner of the sea wall. Look back towards the beach and listen to Track 22.

22. A towering end

Jurassic Skyline Tower

Directions 22 - We hope you have enjoyed the walk! From the sea wall you can retrace your steps back to the beach or the Old Harbour where you started the walk. Alternatively, you may like to go into the Tower or follow the sea wall to the Nothe Fort and gardens for spectacular views of the town and coastline.

Further information

Jurassic Skyline

www.jurassic skyline.com

Sandworld Weymouth

www.sandworld.co.uk

Sculptures in Sand

www.sculpturesinsand.com

Weymouth - local history website

www.weymouth-dorset.co.uk

Weymouth Harbour

www.weymouth-harbour.co.uk

Weymouth Pavilion

<http://weymouthpavilion.com>

Weymouth Punch and Judy

www.weymouthpunch.co.uk

Weymouth and Portland National Sailing Academy

www.wpnsa.org.uk

Credits

The RGS-IBG would like to thank the following people for their assistance producing this walk:

- **Rory Walsh** for creating the walk, providing photographs and the audio commentary
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- **Jacob Cooke** and **Nisha Alberti** for additional research
- **Caroline Millar** for editing the audio files
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Weymouth Old Harbour from the Town Bridge
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