



Westward Ho!

Explore Bideford's seafaring heritage

Bideford became famous in the Victorian era as the "little white town" of Charles Kingsley's book *Westward Ho!* But this North Devon port by the River Torridge has a rich and much older maritime heritage.

Bideford was once one of England's greatest ports, with trades and people that made the town wealthy. They include a great Elizabethan adventurer, fishermen who braved the ocean off Newfoundland, and settlers and merchants who linked Devon to the New World.

On this walk you can discover hidden stories of cod and clay, tobacco and taxes, pottery and pipes, sailors and smugglers, death and disease. Along the way you can explore Bideford's obvious and unusual connections to nations competing in the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games.



Boat at Bideford Quay
Mike Jackson © RGS-IBG Discovering Britain

Location	Bideford, Devon	Suitable for	Families - A couple of steep climbs; take care at the quayside
Start point	Burton Art Gallery & Museum		Wheelchairs - A step-free route but some steep slopes
Postcode	EX39 2QQ	Refreshments	Plenty of cafes in the town
Finish point	Burton Art Gallery & Museum	Facilities	Modern public toilets on the Quay
Distance	1 ½ miles		
Level	Moderate - Some steep slopes		

Walk the World is part of Discovering Places, the London 2012 Cultural Olympiad campaign to inspire the UK to discover their local environment. Walk the World is delivered in partnership by the Royal Geographical Society (with IBG) with Discovering Places (The Heritage Alliance) and is principally funded by the National Lottery through the Olympic Lottery Distributor.