

	WHITBY ABBEY AND WHALEBONES WALK PT 328 – 10km		
START VENUE	Whitby Railway Station, 11 Station Square, Whitby, North Yorkshire, YO21 1YN. The Railway Station, which is adjacent to the bus station, is situated in the town centre, close to the harbour and marina. It is well signposted along the major routes into Whitby. The walk is a figure of eight and can be started at other points, i.e. Ruswarp, West Cliff, Whitby Abbey or Park and Ride bus stops.		
CAR PARKING	Long stay pay & display parking is available on Langborne Road (Endeavour Wharf/Marina Front/Marina Back) near the Railway Station. Pay & Display is also available on West Cliff near the Whale Bones and at Whitby Abbey. Whitby Park and Ride, situated on the A171 Guisborough Road, Whitby, YO21 1TL is generally open from Easter to October.		
PUBLIC TRANSPORT	Whitby is well served by public transport. There are regular train services from Middlesbrough and regular seasonal train services via the North York Moors Railway from Pickering. Regular bus services from Middlesbrough, Scarborough and Malton also serve the town.		
GEOCACHING	There is at least one known geo-cache location close to the route of the walk.		
DISTANCE/GRADE	10km Grade 2+		
TERRAIN	The route is on well-made paths, through the town, fields, alongside a river & on the old Scarborough to Whitby Railway line (Cinder track). There are several sections of steep gradients, lots of steps and uneven paved/cobbled surfaces. It is not suitable for pushchairs and wheelchairs.		
GENERAL INFORMATION	Whitby is situated on the North Sea coast of North Yorkshire. It sits on the mouth of the River Esk and has rich maritime history. The oldest part of the town lies around the harbour and is protected by two imposing piers jutting out into the sea. Steeped in history, the most striking feature of the town is the imposing Whitby Abbey. St. Mary's Church is next to the Abbey on the south side of the river estuary with a statue of James Cook and the Whalebones to the north. James Cook lived in Whitby at a house in Grape Lane, now the site of the Captain Cook Memorial Museum. After joining the Navy, he became a gifted Cartographer and Topographer and these skills brought him to the attention of the Admiralty and led him to become one of the greatest maritime explorers of all time. Whitby was also the setting for Bram Stoker's gothic horror novel, Dracula [#1]. The town has a wonderful green area – Pannett Park which also boasts a museum.		
SPECIAL PROGRAMMES	River Connections: There is a River Connection on this PT. Royal Connections: There are several Royal Connections on this PT.		
REFRESHMENTS	There are several places to buy food and drink along the route.		
TOILETS	Public toilets are available close to the start and around the route.		
BWF / IVV	This trail is registered until 31st December 2026. BWF declaration on next page.		
ROUTE DESCRIPTION CHECK / UPDATED	10th May 2025 (Please make sure you are using the most up to date version, particularly if you printed this off a while ago). Admin update 05/04/2026.		
DATA PROTECTION	The data provided on this form will be retained until 1st February 2027 for statistical analysis and will then be securely destroyed.		
ENTRY FEE	£1.50 per walker. Payment preferred by Bank Transfer to Metro Bank Account: 45237087; Sort Code: 23-05-80; Name: IPA Region 3 (NB: Metro Bank do not operate "Confirmation of Payee" so a warning indicating this account cannot be checked is likely). Please use PT 328 + Surname as payment reference. Cheques, payable to Mrs J A Smith, accepted only by exception, when bank transfer is not possible please.		
TRAIL ORGANISER: (TO CLAIM IVV STAMPS)	Judith Smith (BWF), 13 Chantry Road, East Ayton, Scarborough, North Yorkshire YO13 9EP. Email: judith.a.smith@btinternet.com Please use the form on Page2 to submit your entry and claim IVV stamps. Please enclose a STAMPED SELF ADDRESSED ENVELOPE [A5 size (162mm x 229mm)] with this form and send it to the Trail Organiser.		
BWF DECLARATION	The organisers are not liable for accidents, thefts and/or damage to property. Every effort will be made by the organisers to make this a safe, enjoyable and memorable event.		

PERMANENT TRAIL COMPLETION & IVV STAMP CLAIM FORM

(Please print details clearly)

PT NAME:	WHITBY ABBEY & WHALEBONES WALK	PT NUMBER:	PT328
DATE WALKED:		ROUTE UPDATED:	10/05/2025 Admin – 29/12/2025

NAME:			
ADDRESS:			
POSTCODE:		TELEPHONE: *	
E-MAIL: *			

NAMES OF <u>ADDITIONAL</u> WALKERS:		

AWARD & SOUVENIR STICKER:	A sew-on cloth badge (See top of Page 1) is available - £2.50
	A free Souvenir Log Book sticker is available YES / NO

Please put my IVV stamps on a new set of insert cards.	YES / NO
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ENTRY FEES:		Walkers @ £1.50 each=	£
		Awards @ £2.50 each =	£
	Total transferred / enclosed (delete as necessary) =		£

ANSWERS	
Q1:	Q5:
Q2:	Q6:
Q3:	Q7:
Q4:	Q8:

If you wish to make any comments, please add them to a separate sheet.
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If you have a problem with this trail, please try to resolve it with the trail organiser. If you are unable to resolve the problem, please contact the BWF Trails Officer.
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The details on this form will only be used in order to process your claim for IVV stamps and will not be used for any other purpose. Your details will not be passed to any third party.
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*These Details will only be used in the event of a query relating to this claim for IVV stamps.

ROUTE DESCRIPTION

TL = TURN LEFT TR = TURN RIGHT SO = STRAIGHT ON

Start at the Railway Station entrance on Station Square opposite Wellington Road. From the main steps TR and follow the path to the roundabout. TR onto Langborne Road. Use the signal-controlled crossing near the entrance to the Station Car Park to cross Langborne Road. After crossing, TL towards the War Memorial and the entrance to the replica of the HM Bark Endeavour [#2] (Photo opportunity).

Turn round and walk back along Langborne Road (Do not cross the road) towards Endeavour Wharfe (**HINT: Royal Connection – please research**) and the car parks keeping the Coop Supermarket to the right on the opposite side of the road. Walk past the Tourist Information shop on the left then immediately TL towards the rear of the building and follow the footpath as it meanders to the right alongside the Marina which is on the left. Stop and take note of the wooden sculpture on the left.

Continue SO along the footpath until you pass the slipway to the River Esk and cross the car park (CAUTION TRAFFIC) towards the entrance of Coates Marina. To the right of Coates Marina, TL at the railway pedestrian crossing (Do not cross the railway) and take the footpath sign posted “RAILWAY – RIVERSIDE WALK TO RUSWARP PERMITTED FOOTPATH”.

Carry SO on this path for about 1.9km keeping the railway to your right and the River Esk (**HINT: River Connection**) to your left. Watch out for steam locomotives on the railway line which links Whitby with the North York Moors Railway (Heritage Railway) [#3]. Walk under a high-level road bridge (Bridge 57A). The low stone building with curved corners on the left is a former railway waiting room that served the nearby gas works. It is reported to be one of the oldest buildings associated with a railway in the world. Walk under the brick railway viaduct (photo opportunity). Keep walking along the path keeping Ruswarp Church spire in front of you.

At Ruswarp, the Old Station House is on the right on the opposite side of the railway track. Walk through the gate and then TR (**CAUTION TRAINS – COMPLY WITH CROSSING SIGNALS/BARRIERS**) crossing the railway line.

QUESTION 1: What purpose did the old blue and white wooden building on the right serve?

Stay on the right side of the road and walk into the village. After passing the locally famous Jackson’s Butchers Shop on the right (worth a stop for a Pork Pie!) TR along the Monks Trod [#4] path towards Whitby (the path looks like an alley between the butcher’s shop and Ruswarp Hall). It is sign posted “RUSWARP FIELDS” and “PUBLIC FOOTPATH WHITBY 1 MILE” The path is paved and passes through two kissing gates and fields which may contain livestock. The paving stones may be slippery when wet! Stay on the path until you reach the steps that lead uphill through the trees.

Walk up the steps and continue along the paved path to a junction where there is a pedestrian gate on the left and a seat on the right. TR at this junction, sign posted Whitby Marina/Cinder Track (Caution: Low sign – mind your head) and follow the path through the trees up and down slight gradients. After a further set of upward steps, there should be an area of woodland on your right. On the left is a tall hedge with allotment gardens behind. Carry SO for about 300 metres until you reach some downward steps. Take the steps onto the cinder track (former railway track) and cross straight over, signposted Whitby, taking the steps up the other side of the embankment.

From the top of the steps, walk a few metres SO and pass through a gate. Then TR, sign posted Cinder Track Scarborough along the former Whitby to Scarborough railway line (now disused) and which has been paved with tarmac.

Carry SO and walk onto, and begin to cross the viaduct (**HINT: River Connection**) [#5] which you passed under earlier. The next question is about half way along the viaduct. Whitby Abbey should also be in full view to the left and behind and this presents a great photo opportunity.

QUESTION 2: What is the Bridge Number of Larpool Viaduct?

Continue over the viaduct and then almost immediately TL along the first path/track you come to. Follow the road/track as it descends to the left and at the junction, TR and walk through a brick gateway (no gates) to a T junction.

You have reached Larpool Lane, a minor road. **CAUTION: NO FOOTPATH FOR ABOUT 300 METRES** When safe, cross Larpool Lane and TL keeping to the right-hand side of the road. You have 2 options here. (a) After about 100 metres, walk through a gap in the hedge and then walk along the edge of a grass playing field parallel to the road keeping the hedge and road to your left. When you reach a small car park, pass through the entrance/exit and turn right onto Larpool Lane and walk past the 30mph speed limit signs and past the entrance to Larpool Hall; (b) Keep walking along the right-hand side of the road. After about 300 metres, just after the 30mph speed limit signs, pass the entrance to Larpool Hall on the right. A footpath begins in a few metres on the right-hand side of the road.

Go SO to the entrance to Whitby Cemetery. The stone building with twin gables, arch and a spire directly in front of you towards the centre of the cemetery is the former Police Mortuary.

Continue on Larpool Lane to the junction (staggered crossroads) with the A171 Whitby to Scarborough road, a major road where you will be crossing and walking straight on. As you approach the junction, keep to the left hand (lower) footpath. Use the signal-controlled pedestrian crossing on your right to cross the A171, TL and then follow the footpath around to the right and downhill onto Spital Bridge (name of road), crossing the junction with Abbots Road. Remain on the footpath on the right side of the road. You will find the sign for Spital Bridge on the left-hand side of the road several metres from the junction. Walk SO to the junction with Green Lane which is signposted 'Abbey Headland Car Park' and 'Whitby Abbey'.

TR on Green Lane and as soon as it is safe to do so, cross to left hand side of the road. Walk along Green Lane up the steep hill.

Continue SO past the junction sign posted for St Hilda's Business Centre to the Green Lane Centre.

QUESTION 3: At the Green Lane Centre on the left, who should beware of the protection from Smartwater.

Continue SO with allotment gardens on the right to the T Junction at the end of Green Lane.

TL at the T junction and walk past the entrance to the Abbey car park. Continue onto the paved path alongside Whitby Abbey [#6] (**HINT: Royal Connection. Please research**) keeping the Abbey on the left (Photo opportunity).

QUESTION 4: What do they make at the building on the opposite side of the road from the Abbey?

At the end of the road there is a turning circle/car park by the entrance to the Abbey. Keep to the left and walk round the turning circle/car park in a clockwise direction before entering the grounds of St. Mary's Church. Walk along the path through the church yard to the top of the 199 steps. Take in the splendid views over Whitby and the harbour before walking down the steps.

QUESTION 5: At the bottom of the steps there is a café on the left symbolised by a teapot and cup. What is the name of the café?

Now bear left towards the Board Inn and Duke of York public houses. TL and follow Church Street (cobbled) past Whitby's famous Jet shops to the junction close to the Swing Bridge. Cross the road when safe to do so and go SO (also Church Street) keeping to the right-hand side of the road. Do not walk to the Swing Bridge.

TR before the small car park/turning area into Grape Lane. Directly in front and on the left is the James Cook Memorial Museum. This is where the famous explorer James Cook [#7] lived before joining the Royal Navy.

QUESTION 6: There is a plaque with MSD written thereon. What is the date on the plaque? (MSD is a reference to the builders of the property, Moses & Susannah Dring).

Continue along Grape Lane and then TL at the end of the street. Cross the Swing Bridge (**HINT: River Connection**).

Having crossed the bridge TR onto St. Anne's Staith / Haggarsgate / Pier Road and continue along the footpath keeping the harbour to the right. Walk past the famous Magpie Café on the left and past the amusements and seafood stalls and continue to the bottom of Khyber Pass (unsigned). TL and walk along Khyber Pass up the hill. Part way up Khyber Pass,

directly opposite a small car park and Coffee Hut, there is a set of steps cut into the rocks. Cross Khyber Pass when safe to do so and walk up the steps. The steps lead to Whitby's Whalebone Arch [#8].

QUESTION 7: The James Cook Memorial, a statue, is situated close to the Whale Bone Arch. What is the name of the sailing ship carved on the Memorial?

Cross the road when it is safe to do so and, keeping the side of the Royal Hotel to the left, walk SO along the left-hand footpath of North Terrace (no street name sign) but sign posted "Whitby Museum & Art Gallery; Town Centre and Pannett Park; Whitby Visitor Centre". TL at the first junction into West Terrace (no street name sign).

Stay on the left-hand footpath and continue SO along West Terrace which becomes Havelock Place, then Belle Vue Terrace and then Skinner Street.

At the end of Skinner Street (T junction), with Flowergate United Reform Church directly ahead on the opposite side of the street, TL onto Flowergate. When safe to do so, cross to the opposite side of the street and immediately after passing the Little Angel public house, TR onto Brunswick Street and follow the road downhill along the righthand footpath. Walk past St Hilda's Church which is on the right and at the T junction TR onto Victoria Square. Walk a few metres and at the Zebra Pedestrian Crossing, cross Victoria Square towards Bagdale Hall and then TL. Almost immediately TR onto Spring Hill keeping the side of Bagdale Hall on the right. Cross Spring Hill when it is safe to do so and walk uphill along the left-hand footpath around a left-hand bend in the road. Whitby Police Station should now be directly ahead. Immediately before the entrance to the Police Station car park, TL along a paved tarmac path leading to downhill steps and walk to the junction at the bottom of the steps.

QUESTION 8: What is the name of the path and steps?

TL at the bottom of the steps onto Windsor Terrace and cross the road when it is safe to do so. At the end of the road, TR onto Station Square back to the start point at the front of the Railway Station.

You should now be on familiar ground and recognise that you are close to the start or rather the finish.

Welcome Back. The Section UK IPA Walking Group hopes you enjoyed the Whitby Abbey and Whalebones Walk and that you have enjoyed exploring this fascinating town with its many interesting historical connections, only a few of which have been mentioned in this description.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

#1 Dracula is a Gothic horror novel written in 1897 by Irish author Bram Stoker. Based on Transylvanian folklore and history, the novel tells the story of a Transylvanian nobleman, Count Dracula, a vampire, who journeyed to England where he plagued the port of Whitby. Dracula travelled to Whitby aboard the ship Demeter which ran aground on Tate Hill Sands, the beach in the outer harbour. A small group, led by Abraham Van Helsing, investigated, hunted, and killed Dracula.

#2 HM Bark Endeavour was a British Royal Navy research vessel that Lieutenant James Cook commanded to Tahiti, New Zealand and Australia on his first voyage of discovery from 1768 to 1771. The full scale replica of HM Bark Endeavour, also known as the Endeavour Experience that you see before you, is the only life size replica of Captain Cook's HM Bark Endeavour in the Northern Hemisphere. You can climb aboard and experience two decks of interactive features and displays that will enable you to imagine what life was like for the 95 crew members during the three-year voyage.

#3 The North Yorkshire Moors Railway (NYMR) is a heritage railway in North Yorkshire that runs between Pickering and Whitby through the North York Moors National Park. It initially opened in 1836 as the Whitby and Pickering Railway and was planned by George Stephenson as a means of opening up trade routes inland from the then important seaport of Whitby. It subsequently became an important passenger carrying route. The line fell victim to the 'Beeching Cuts' and was closed to passenger trains in 1965 and freight in 1966. The line reopened in sections from 1973 by the North York Moors Historical Railway Trust Ltd. The preserved line is now a tourist attraction and has been awarded several industry accolades.

#4 The Monks Trod stone path is said to be one of several pathways that fanned out from Whitby Abbey to local villages which was used by Mediaeval Monks and local people.

#5 Larpool Viaduct, on the Scarborough to Whitby Railway Line, is a 13 arch viaduct built using over 5 million bricks. It is 915 feet (278 metres) long with the rail level reaching 120 ft (36 metres) high. It was completed in 1884 and crosses the River Esk in addition to the railway lines into Whitby from Middlesbrough and Pickering. The viaduct is mentioned in Bram Stoker's 1897 novel *Dracula*. The route over the viaduct, now known as the Cinder Track, is now a popular 21 miles (33Km) long traffic-free walking and cycling route along the Yorkshire coast. When in operation, the track into Whitby continued into the now demolished station on West Cliff.

#6 Once a magnificent Gothic Benedictine Monastery, the ruins of Whitby Abbey are among the most celebrated sights of North Yorkshire. The first monastery, founded here in about AD657, became one of the most important religious centres in the Anglo-Saxon world. The Anglian Princess Hild became the first Abbess. In AD664 it was the setting for the Synod of Whitby, a landmark in the history of the Church in England. The headland is now dominated by the shell of the 13th-century church of the Benedictine abbey founded after the Norman Conquest. Whitby Abbey is now managed by English Heritage and is open to the public. Members of English Heritage are generally eligible to enter free of charge.

#7 Captain James Cook (1728 – 1779) was a British explorer, cartographer (map maker) and naval officer famous for his three voyages between 1768 and 1779 in the Pacific Ocean and to New Zealand and Australia in particular. He made detailed maps of Newfoundland prior to making three voyages to the Pacific, during which he achieved the first recorded European contact with the eastern coastline of Australia and the Hawaiian Islands and the first recorded circumnavigation of New Zealand. Cook joined the British Merchant Navy as a teenager and joined the Royal Navy in 1755. He served during the Seven Years' War and subsequently surveyed and mapped much of the entrance to the St. Lawrence River during the siege of Quebec, which brought him to the attention of the Admiralty and the Royal Society. This acclaim came at a crucial moment for the direction of British overseas exploration, and it led to his commission in 1768 as commander of HMS Endeavour for the first of three Pacific voyages. He was born in the village of Marton in the North Riding of Yorkshire, the second of eight children. After 5 years of schooling, he began working for his father, a local carpenter. Despite having no formal education, Cook was capable in mathematics, astronomy and charting by the time of his Endeavour voyage. After starting a shop work apprenticeship in the village of Staithes, a role he was unsuited to, he moved to Whitby with his wife Elizabeth where he was introduced to the sea working as a merchant navy apprentice aboard vessels plying coal along the English Coast. As part of his apprenticeship, Cook applied himself to the study of algebra, geometry, trigonometry, navigation and astronomy – all skills he would need one day to command his own ship. Cook progressed through the merchant navy ranks, and within a month of being offered a command, he volunteered for service in the Royal Navy, when Britain was re-arming for what was to become the Seven Years' War. Despite needing to start back at the bottom of the naval hierarchy, Cook realised his career would advance more quickly in military service and entered the Navy at Wapping on 17 June 1755. Cook has no direct descendants – all of his children died before having children of their own.

#8 In recognition of Whitby's important whaling history, a whale bone arch was erected on Whitby's West Cliff in 1853. The archway frames a view of the town's quaint cottages and cobbled streets as well as the ruins of the medieval Whitby Abbey, located across the bay on the East Cliff. Picturesque though it might be, the current whale bone arch in Whitby is not original; it is actually the third arch to stand in this spot. In 1963 the original whale arch was replaced by 20-feet (6 metres) long jaw bones from a 113-ton Fin whale killed by a Norwegian whaling ship. The present-day Whalebone Arch was positioned in 2003. These bones are from a Bowhead whale killed legally by native Alaskan Inuits.