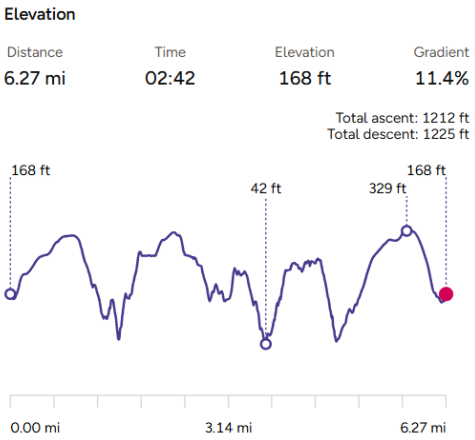
PUBS WORTH THE WALK

# The New Inn, Veryan Pub Walk

## Veryan & Portloe – Ancient Landscapes, Coastal Legends and Hidden Histories, 6.3 miles

### OVERVIEW

This circular walk begins in the heart of the Roseland Peninsula at Veryan, a village whose story stretches from Bronze Age burial mounds and Cornish legends to the remarkable legacy of the Trist family.
Crossing ancient farmland towards the coast, the route reveals the mysterious earthworks of Veryan Castle and the legendary resting place of King Gerennius before reaching the dramatic cliffs of Nare Head, Gull Rock and the fishing village of Portloe.




Returning inland through peaceful countryside, the walk uncovers the layers of history that have shaped this special corner of Cornwall.
As you walk around Veryan you'll keep encountering the name Trist. For around seventy years, three generations of the family served as the parish's vicars, and their influence is still woven into the fabric of the village—from its famous round houses to the well that once supplied the community with fresh water.

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| **Start/Finish** | Veryan. Small wooded car park below Veryan Church & War Memorial. |
| **Parking** | As above. Parking options are limited to street parking in the village, though not much of it. On street outside the New Inn is an alternative. |
| **Grid Reference** | SW 916 396 for the parking area |
| **What3Words** | ///dizziness.shortcuts.update for the parking area. |
| **Distance** | 6.3 miles / 10 km **Time** 3 hrs **Ascent** 1200 ft / 370 m |
| **Paths/Terrain** | Quiet country lanes, fields, and coast path. Gates and stiles. Might be livestock in some fields. Some steep sections. |
| **Difficulty** | Moderate. |
| **Public Transport** | Buses every few hours to/from St Austell direction, except Sundays. |
| **Toilets** | In The Square at Veryan, and at Portloe. |
| **Other Pubs Nearby** | The route passes The Ship at Portloe, a community-owned pub. The Barley Sheaf at Gorran, near Mevagissey is excellent. |

## DIRECTIONS




1. Start from the small wooded parking area just below the church. There are toilets across the road on 'The Square', opposite the Primary School. The well was installed by Rev Samuel Trist, the third generation of Trist's to run Church matters in the village, in the days when houses didn't have their own water, and in 1913 it was restored by his son – Pendarves Trist – to commemorate the coronation of their majesties George V and Queen Mary.
2. There's a red phone box to the side of the toilets in The Square, take the lane to the side of it, with the phone box on your left as you proceed gently uphill. Continue, following the sign for Pendower on Tollyfrank Hill. Pendower is the name of the beach about 1.5 miles down the lane. It joins with Carne beach to create a mile long south facing beach across Gerrans Bay. The Nare is a 5-star country house hotel at Carne Beach. We turn off before reaching it!
3. There are five round houses in Veryan, you'll pass between Roundhouse East (a holiday let called Chyrond) and West at the top of the hill, built by Jeremiah Trist in c.1816-1818.
4. Continue ahead, on your way out of the village. Pass Leonards Boatbuilding at Churchtown Farm, then 25m further on look for a footpath sign to the left. Take the steps and stile into the field and follow the left-hand hedge on a well-marked path to a metal farm gate.

5. Exit the field with a tarmac lane in front of you. Immediately see a footpath sign to the left before the lane, into another field via steps and a stile. This is the area of the Parish known as Carne. In a field to the right of you is the site of the old Veryan Castle, with some earthworks providing the evidence of its location overlooking Gerrans Bay.
6. In front of you in this field is a barrow, in which Gerennius (or Gerrans), a mythical king of Cornwall, was said to have been buried many centuries ago, with his crown on his head, lying in his golden boat with silver oars. It was opened in 1855 when nothing but a kistvaen (a rude stone chest) containing his ashes was found. More recently, the barrow was used as a beacon and as an observation post during World War II. The remains of the observation post remain as a concrete platform.
7. The distinct path diagonally across the field to and past Carne Beacon lead to the exit from the field by steps. Continue straight ahead on a lane, and at the junction continue ahead where a sign says 'no access to Nare Head', which isn't true since this route takes you to Nare Head.
8. Soon a footpath sign shows itself, guiding you on the lane past Beacon Cottage on the right. The lane approached a private garage with a wooden door, and then a house called 'The Cottage'. Continue past it onto a grass path, and within c.10 metres, take the path to the left.
9. Continue all the way down until you meet the South West Coast Path (SWCP) at a low earthen wall. Continue ahead over the wall.
10. From here, there are SWCP signs and a clear route all the way to Portloe.
11. Take the opportunity to explore the 'side shoot' paths to get a better view of Nare Head and Gull Rock, although the route offers plenty of vantage points for the latter. Gull Rock is located just under half a mile off Nare Head. It is a birdwatcher's paradise, and a nightmare to the odd mariner who has run aground on it. Perhaps the best-known shipwreck here is the German steel barque Hera, wrecked in 1914. Out of a crew of 24 only 5 survived long enough in the freezing conditions to be rescued by the Falmouth lifeboat. Those who didn't make it are buried in Veryan churchyard.
12. Upon reaching Portloe, take time to explore – The Lugger on the slipway is a highly regarded small hotel that serves food. For the return route to Veryan, leave the SWCP at the slipway to head uphill on the lane, bear left to head in the direction of The Ship, which is well signposted throughout the village. It closed last year, but the local community intervened to buy it and got it back open in time for Christmas. Give it a go!
13. Continue uphill, amongst houses in the upper part of Portloe, called Sunny Corner, until you see a footpath sign for Veryan to the right. This takes us in the direction of Trewartha Hall Farm.
14. Turn off the road through the village, then turn immediately left to pass in front of a house. You'll see an old metal gate ahead, which requires you to pass in front of the next house along too.

15. Go through the gate into the field, then follow the hedge line on the left initially. The path in the field is clear, but the route soon cuts straight across the field to a small stone wall, which includes a stile, just below a telegraph pole.#
16. Climb over into the next field and follow it gently uphill with the hedge boundary on your left. Exit the field through a metal farm gate and proceed through the farmyard of Trewartha Hall Farm, then turn right to head up the drive.#
17. Ignore footpath signs off this lane at a little cluster of houses called Trewartha, and continue straight ahead, up to a junction where the drive meets a slightly bigger road with houses opposite.
18. Cross over and head to the left. Take the lane to the side of Pencarrow Barn, passing the converted Trewartha Chapel ('Eglos Coth 1826'). Continue straight ahead down a grass track through 2 metal farm gates into a livestock field, close now to Veryan.
19. Exit the field through gate into a copse, then ahead into another livestock field towards the village. The path downhill is clear, heading diagonally to the corner. Exit the field, pass the play area, and enter the part of Veryan known as the water gardens, a gift to the Parish in 1931. The pond was described in old records as the old swan pond, a reference to the name of the local manor to which much of the parish once belonged – Elerky, which in Cornish means swannery, Take time to admire the bridges.
20. Continue ahead past the pond, then turn left. You'll recognise this as your starting point. The church is to your left, along with the War Memorial, and a little further ahead is the New Inn.

**NOTES – THE TRISTS OF VERYAN**

Few families can have shaped a Cornish village quite as profoundly as the Trists shaped Veryan. For around seventy years, three generations served as successive Vicars of the parish. John Trist arrived in 1772, his son Jeremiah succeeded him in 1782, and on Jeremiah's death in 1829 the role passed to his son Samuel. Their combined ministry spanned a remarkable period of continuity, during which each sought to improve the parish they had inherited.

John laid the foundations, planting many of the trees that still soften the village today and adding two bells to the church. Jeremiah possessed an extraordinary breadth of interests. As well as his pastoral duties, he established parish schools, improved the church, built his own residence at Parc Behan when the old vicarage proved inadequate, and between 1816 and 1818 commissioned the five iconic round houses that have become the symbol of Veryan.

Historic England records that they were built by the Lostwithiel builder Hugh Rowe, while the familiar stories that they were intended to keep the Devil from hiding in corners have become part of Cornish folklore.

Jeremiah's interests extended far beyond architecture. He encouraged agricultural improvement through better drainage and the use of lime to enrich the soil, believing that practical innovation could improve both farming and the lives of his parishioners.

His enquiring mind is perhaps best illustrated by events in 1798. During the invasion scare prompted by the wars with Revolutionary France, the Government required vulnerable coastal parishes to prepare emergency plans. Jeremiah responded by compiling an astonishing inventory of the parish's people, livestock, boats, carts, horses, tools and weapons before producing a detailed evacuation strategy in the event of a French landing on the Roseland Peninsula. It provides a remarkable snapshot of life in Veryan at the close of the eighteenth century.

Samuel Trist continued the family's work after succeeding his father in 1829, overseeing the restoration of St Symphorian's Church in 1847 and maintaining the tradition that the parish should continue to improve rather than simply preserve.

Although the line of Trist vicars ended with Samuel, the family's affection for Veryan did not. In 1913, Pendarves Trist restored the village well that Samuel had originally installed to provide fresh water for local people before homes had their own supplies. The restoration commemorated the coronation of King George V and Queen Mary, but it also served as a quiet tribute to the generations of his family whose vision had helped shape the village.

Visitors inevitably remember Veryan for its delightful round houses, yet they represent only one chapter in a much bigger story. The village's distinctive character is the legacy of three generations who believed that a parish could always be left a little better than they found it.