

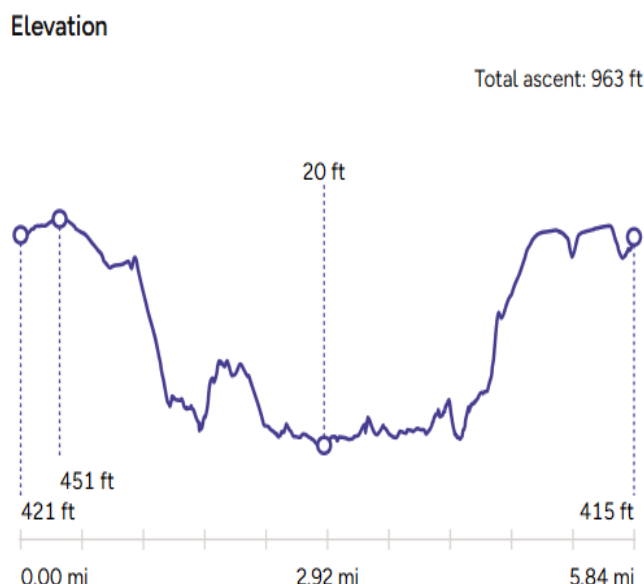
The Pigs Nose Inn, East Prawle, South Devon

Fabulous South West Coast Path walk around Devon's most southerly point, 5.8 miles

OVERVIEW

East Prawle's name comes from the Anglo-Saxon *Præwhyll* — lookout hill — and people have kept watch from here longer than almost anywhere else in the county.

Prawle Point, a short walk from the village, is Devon's most southerly tip, watched over since the Bronze Age and today staffed 365 days a year by the National Coastwatch Institution. The circular route is around six miles with close to a thousand feet of climbing. Head west first and then onto the coast path near Gammon Head, one of the best views the whole walk offers.



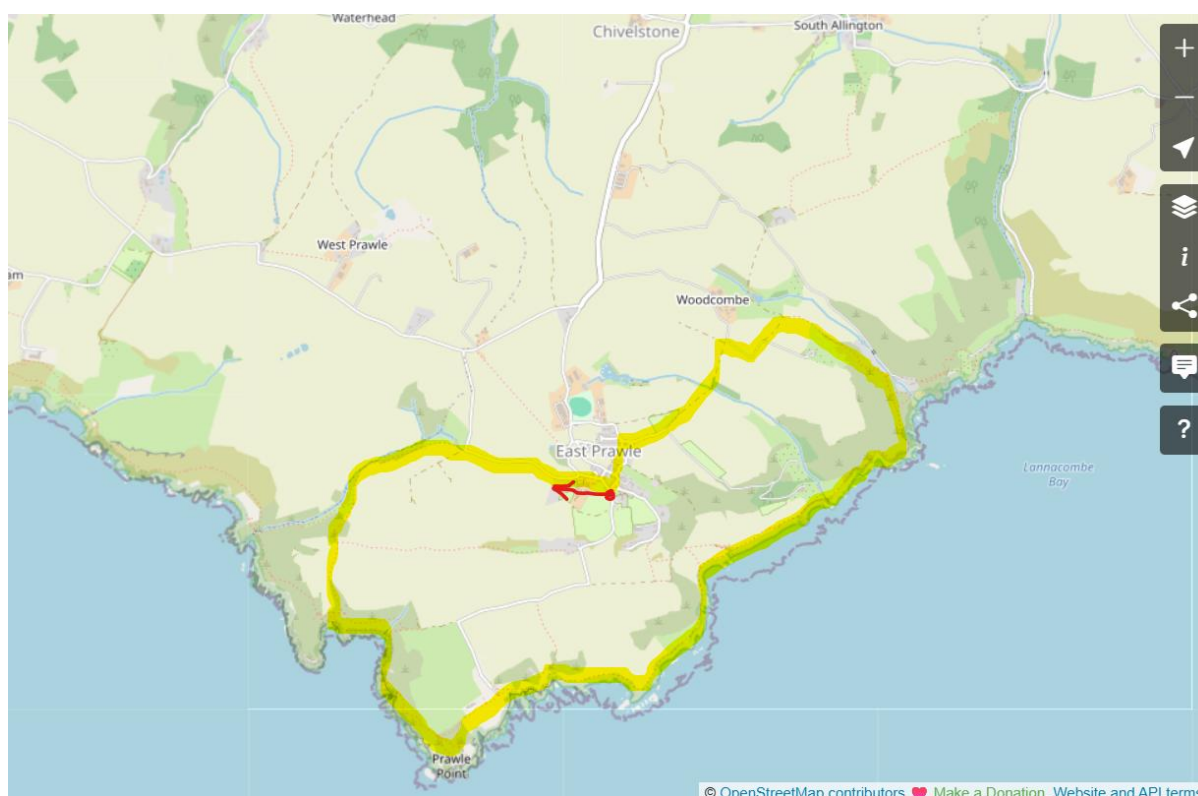
The stretch east to Prawle Point is just as good, and the lookout station is worth stopping at: a small history exhibition sits alongside it - the number of wrecks recorded up and down this stretch of coast is sobering.

Round the point, the path drops easily almost to sea level past the old coastguards' cottages, then roughens up again past Maelcombe House. It soon turns inland and climbs hard through the combe above Woodcombe Sand, before levelling out across the fields on the way back to the green — and the pub. It's tricky underfoot in places, more so in wind and rain, which down here is a fair bet on any given day. But few six-mile stretches of the coast path pack in as much: cliffs, wrecks, wildlife, a working lookout station, and a proper pub waiting at the end of it.

Start/Finish	The Pigs Nose Inn, East Prawle, TQ7 2BY			
Parking	Around the village green, near the pub.			
Grid Reference	SX 781 364			
What3Words	///confident.pumps.honey			
Distance	5.8 miles / 9.3 km	Time	3 hrs	Ascent 960 ft / 300 m
Paths/Terrain	Some tarmac walking along quiet lanes to start, then onto stony bridleways and grass tracks to the coast path. Narrow but perfectly safe footpaths from here, sometimes over tricky rocky ground. Some field walking on the return might encounter docile cattle. Some gates.			

Difficulty	Moderate
Public Transport	None
Toilets	Public convenience on the green at East Prawle. Toilets at The Pigs Nose Inn.
Other Pubs Nearby	Gara Rock Hotel along the coast to the West has a wonderful bar on the terrace high above the sea. Other pubs are well worth seeking out: The Millbrook Inn at South Pool; The Cricket Inn at Beesands; The Tradesman's Arms at Stokenham; The Bear and Blacksmith at Chillington; and the Start Bay Inn at Torcross. When the Slapton Line re-opens, The Tower Inn at Slapton is superb.

DIRECTIONS



1. The walk starts at the village green in East Prawle. Set off on the road with the Public Toilets on your left, heading out of the village, likely via the narrow road into the village upon which you arrived. Passing houses, the road bends to the left before passing a long stone building on the left, which runs all the way up to a junction on the left-hand side at a bend.
2. Turn left here, past properties called Winter Hill and The Retreat. Follow this lane until it bends to the right, and here continue straight ahead onto a public bridleway, a stony track. The route is clear from here.

3. Pass through a gate and continue straight ahead, joining a grassy track slightly and the first sea views of this walk – Bolt Head at the entrance to the sheltered harbour of Salcombe.
4. Pass through a wooden gate, continuing uphill on a ‘hedge path’ to a footpath junction. Take a moment to sit at Josephine’s Bench. One of the landmarks on the cliffs to the right is called Pig’s Nose, annotated on OS Maps.
5. From your seat on the bench, our route to the coast path is straight downhill between hedges directly in front of the bench.
6. As you approach the coast path at the footpath marker above the coast, turn right for a short distance to join the coast path. Take a moment to enjoy views of Elender Cove and Gammon Head.
7. Now follow the coast path to the left (East) to make your way to Prawle Point and the lookout station. There are some fascinating insights into the history of shipwrecks on this coast, and why the work of the National Coastwatch team is so important.
8. Continue on the coast path in the direction of the coastguard cottages, and downhill towards sea level on a grassy path in fields. Beyond the houses a path leads back into East Prawle, for those who wish to hasten the visit to the Pigs Nose!
9. The coast path is clearly marked, and relatively easy walking at low level. Some of the markers will guide you towards Lannacombe – that’s the correct direction, although we’re not going that far. Some sections of the path from here are narrow, with undergrowth on either side – ingredients for wet trousers and footwear after rain.
10. You’ll notice a distinctively large property you’re walking towards, called Maelcombe House. The path eventually passes in front of this on its way to Stinking Cove, and soon requires some caution as it continues over rocks that require concentration and careful placement of feet.
11. The path then turns away from the coast a little and starts uphill to a footpath signpost for Woodcombe Sand. Go straight on here, to start the climb up the combe away from the coast path.
12. Over a shaded footbridge ignore the sign for Lannacombe now, instead following the path in the direction of East Prawle 1.5 miles away. This steep path took some effort on a hot day, but at least offered welcome shade.
13. Reaching a bridleway junction at the top of the combe, go left and eventually through a gate onto a lane. Continue ahead.
14. The lane turns 90 degrees right, then as it turns again, follow a footpath 90 degrees to your left into a field, to follow the hedge-line with the hedge itself on your right. Plenty of cattle in this field when I visited, completely disinterested in me.

15. After leaving the field, continue ahead on a farm track towards the road to East Prawle. Join a tarmac road now, a quiet lane into the village. Head left downhill through the village, and left at a junction.
16. The Pigs Nose is around the corner!