

# Try a Trail...

Cleveland Way  
NATIONAL TRAIL



## North Yorkshire Coast 20.8 miles (33.5km)

A two day walk, or two separate day walks, taking in the classic coastal scenery between Whitby and Scarborough.



### Highlights

The gothic delights of Whitby and its Abbey, combined with the stunningly scenic former fishing village of Robin Hood's Bay; hearing and seeing some great coastal birds; the curiosity of Ravenscar; the delightful waterfall and hidden rocky cove of Hayburn Wyke.

### A bed for the night

The YHA at Boggle Hole just a mile south of Robin Hood's Bay is an excellent stop over. In addition there are 2 campsites and many B&Bs in the village.

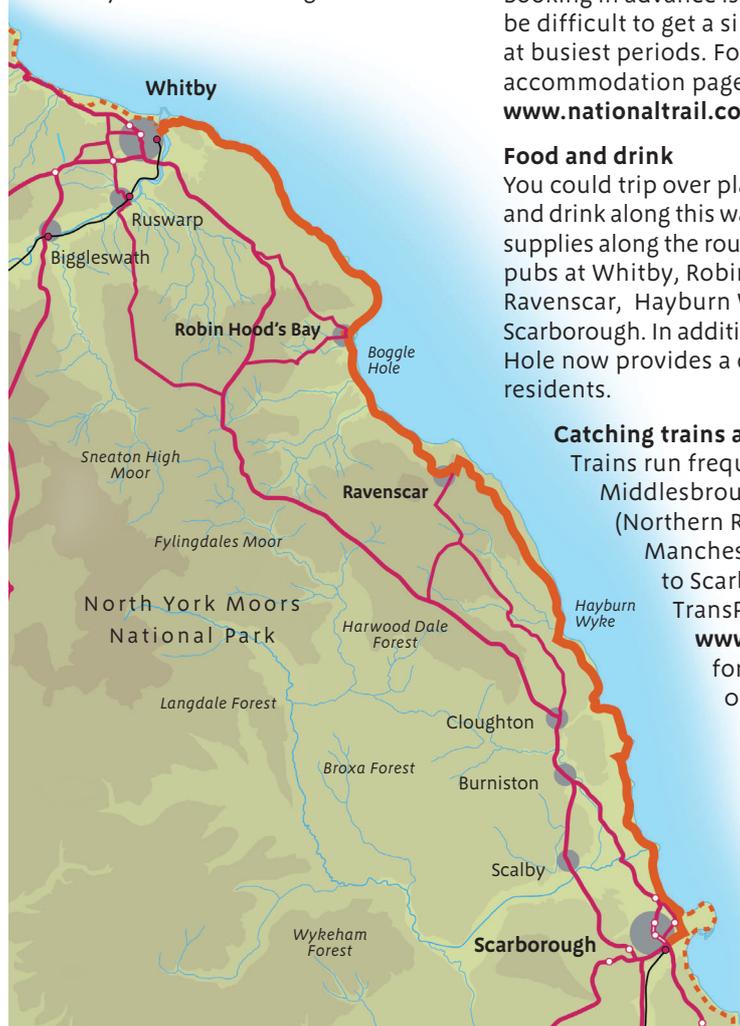
**Day 1** Whitby to Robin Hoods Bay - 6.9 miles

**Overnight stay** Robin Hoods Bay

**Day 2** Robin Hoods bay to Scarborough - 13.9 miles

**Travel** Both Whitby and Scarborough can be reached by rail and bus. There is also a regular Whitby to Scarborough bus service

**Terrain** Regular ups and downs of coastal walking, with the greatest rise up to Ravenscar (188metres)



Booking in advance is essential and it may be difficult to get a single night booking at busiest periods. For details visit the accommodation pages on [www.nationaltrail.co.uk/clevelandway](http://www.nationaltrail.co.uk/clevelandway)

### Food and drink

You could trip over places supplying food and drink along this walk. There are regular supplies along the route, with cafes and/or pubs at Whitby, Robin Hoods Bay, Ravenscar, Hayburn Wyke and Scarborough. In addition the YHA at Boggle Hole now provides a café service to non residents.

### Catching trains and buses

Trains run frequently from Middlesbrough to Whitby (Northern Rail) and from Manchester, Leeds and York to Scarborough (First TransPennine Express). [www.nationalrail.co.uk](http://www.nationalrail.co.uk) for details, or call 08457 48 49 50.

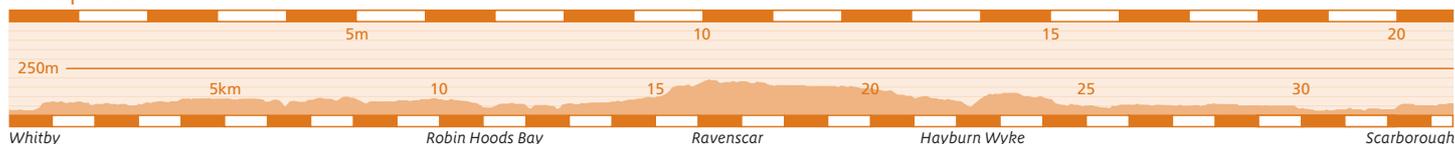
The Yorkshire Coastliner bus service runs daily between Leeds, York, Whitby and Scarborough. Check [www.coastliner.co.uk](http://www.coastliner.co.uk) for details, or call 01653 692556.

In addition for those walking one day only from Whitby to Robin Hood's Bay or Robin Hood's Bay to Scarborough, there is a regular bus service between Whitby and Scarborough that calls at Robin Hood's Bay. Check [www.yorkshiretravel.net](http://www.yorkshiretravel.net) or ring Traveline on 0871 200 22 33.

### Following the trail

From Whitby station head into town alongside the River Esk and cross the main bridge in the old town, turn left along Church Street then right to climb the famous 199 steps leading up to Whitby Abbey. Pass the Abbey then turn left beyond Abbey Farm, joining the Cleveland Way. Now it's a case of keeping the sea on your left until you reach Scarborough! The signposts for the Cleveland Way and maps provided are clear enough. To reach the station at Scarborough, from Scalby Mills continue past the Sea Life Centre and along the seafront of North Bay. Then turn right and up Albert Road onto the cliff top. Turn left on Queens Terrace then right on Clarence Road. Turn left and along North Marine Road. Go straight across at the roundabout and along St Thomas Street. Turn right up the main pedestrianised shopping street of Newborough. At the top of the street cross the main road and the station is on your left.

### Route profile





**Whitby**  
 An inspirational town, not least for some literary giants. Charles Dodgson visited several times before he wrote 'Alice in Wonderland' Bram Stokers Dracula is also thought to have been set in Whitby. Every year this gothic connection is recognised with the visit of thousands of Goths to Whitbys Goth Weekend.

**Whitby High Light**  
 Standing 70 metres above sea level, the Whitby Lighthouse flashes every 10 seconds. It has been fully automated since 1992 and is now controlled from Harwich.

**Snakestones**  
 Legend has it that St Hilda, founder of the original Abbey at Whitby, was plagued by snakes. She summoned them all and cut off their heads, throwing them over the cliff. Look around you and you can see them today – fossilised ammonites!

**Whitby Abbey**  
 The original abbey was founded in 657 by Oswy, Saxon king of Northumbria and was the site of the Synod of Whitby in 664 which reconciled the Celtic Church of Northumbria with Rome. Sacked by the vikings in 867 and abandoned until it was refounded under orders of William de Percy. The second abbey flourished until the dissolution by Henry VIII in 1540.



**Fulmar**  
*(fulmaris glacialis)* looks very much like a gull but is a member of the petrel family which have prominent tubular nostrils on top of the beak. Fulmars glide for long periods with stiffly outstretched wings and repel intruders to their nesting sites by squirting a foul-smelling oil, produced in the stomach, over them

**Robin Hoods Bay**  
 No-one knows how Robin Hoods Bay got its name, but it was recorded as such from the 16th century. Local legends talk of a shooting competition between Little John and Robin Hood – Whoever shot furthest had the Bay named after them!

**Smugglers**  
 Because of the burden of high taxes smuggling was once commonplace. At one time, three quarters of all the tea drunk in Britain was reckoned to be smuggled. Brandy, gin and silk would also be brought in under the cover of darkness.

**Peak Alum works at Ravenscar**  
 Part of the worlds first chemical industry along and near the North East coastline. Here the long process to make alum, used for fixing dye, took place. Key ingredients needed were seaweed and human urine!

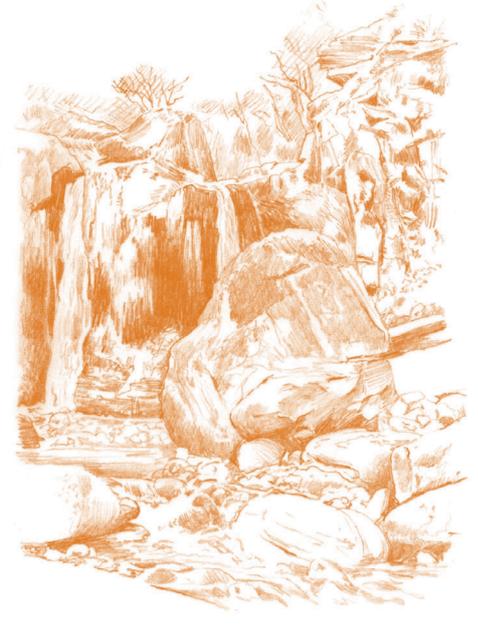
**Ravenscar**  
 Famous as the town that never was. The roads and drains for this planned Victorian settlement were laid out, but the developers went bust. The plans for the town can be seen in the Raven Hall Hotel.

**Coastal birds**  
 Of all the birds to be seen along the North Yorkshire coastline, fulmars, oystercatcher and kittiwake are amongst the easiest to recognise. Fulmars and oystercatchers can be seen throughout the year while kittiwakes return in the spring and depart for the arctic in late summer.



*Gorse - This yellow flowered plant is a common site – blooming from early spring with its distinctive coconut scent. It can however be seen throughout the year- giving rise to the expression ‘when the gorse is in bloom, kissing is in season!’*

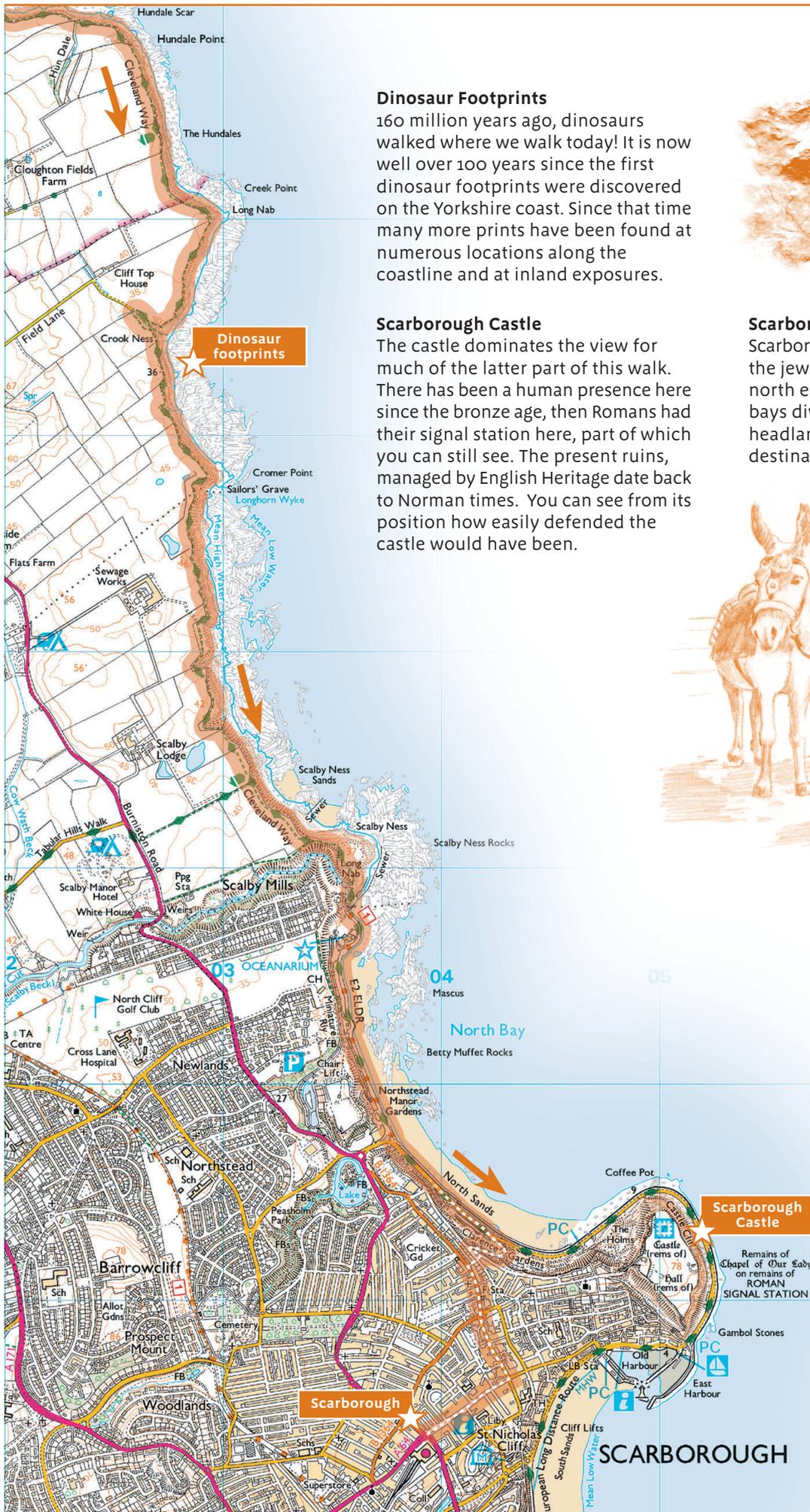
**Scarborough to Whitby Railway**  
The railway ran for just 80 years until 1965. This would have been a superb visual journey – and it can still be enjoyed – on foot, bicycle or horseback!



**Hayburn Wyke**  
A hidden cove washed by the North Sea and backed by dense woodland through which tumble attractive streams make Hayburn Wyke a lovely place to visit at any season of the year.

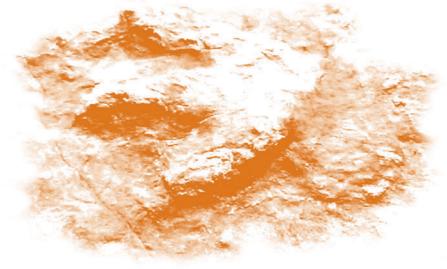
*Sea Buckthorn - When the attractive orange berries of Sea buckthorn appear in September there is a strong scent of sherry in the air and many birds appear to be slightly tipsy after gorging on the fruit! The birds seem able to avoid the vicious spines that cover the plant throughout the year.*





**Dinosaur Footprints**

160 million years ago, dinosaurs walked where we walk today! It is now well over 100 years since the first dinosaur footprints were discovered on the Yorkshire coast. Since that time many more prints have been found at numerous locations along the coastline and at inland exposures.



**Scarborough Castle**

The castle dominates the view for much of the latter part of this walk. There has been a human presence here since the bronze age, then Romans had their signal station here, part of which you can still see. The present ruins, managed by English Heritage date back to Norman times. You can see from its position how easily defended the castle would have been.

**Scarborough**

Scarborough is a wonderful town, quite the jewel of the seaside resorts on the north east coast. With its two sandy bays divided by the impressive castle headland, it is a popular holiday destination.



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