



# Bay to Boggle and back again

## Robin Hood's Bay



© Mike Kipling



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**Robin Hood's Bay is a fishing village steeped in history, dating back to the 1500s. Evidence suggests the nearby area was first inhabited by Stone Age settlers 3,000 years ago. It was a favoured smuggler's haunt in the 1700s. Walking through the narrow streets you can imagine illegal goods being smuggled ashore. It was said that silk, tobacco, brandy and rum was moved via a network of secret passages and tunnels without ever seeing the light of day.**

As you leave the car park, you'll notice a steep road links the old part of the village to the more modern development at the top of the bank. When the railway arrived here in 1885, this area grew steadily and was where rich sea captains lived.

Make your way down this road to the old village. Look out for Beckfield on your right, just past the bridge. This is the old police station, built shortly after the railway was constructed. The gate and post have two carved mice, the signature of well-known furniture maker Robert 'Mousey' Thompson.

Where the road meets the sea you'll find the National Trust's Old Coastguard Station on your right. This visitor centre has fun, interactive displays and information on fossils, sea life and tales of smugglers. From here, make your way down the slipway at low tide and on to the beach.

The beach is a fascinating place to explore. Over millions of years, seas have come and gone, dinosaurs have walked and died here, glaciers have moved landmasses. This has produced an abundance of fossils and ancient rocks, as well as excellent rock-pools. There are rocks here that have been transported in ice sheets from as far away as Norway. These are called 'erratics'.



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Want to know more? A Hidden Horizon's fossil hunt will fire your imagination as they take you back 190 million years when dinosaurs roamed.

At the end of the beach is an inlet called Boggle Hole. Legend has it that mischievous little people called hobgoblins or Boggles lived here in caves. It was a place that smugglers landed their illegal contraband. Ponder this, while warming yourself by the cosy fire in the Boggle Hole YHA café!

### WARNING



- **Walk on the beach between Robin Hood's Bay and Boggle Hole at low tide only. Avoid this walk 3 hours either side of high tide.**
- **Keep away from the cliffs and cliff edges.**
- **Not suitable for very young children.**



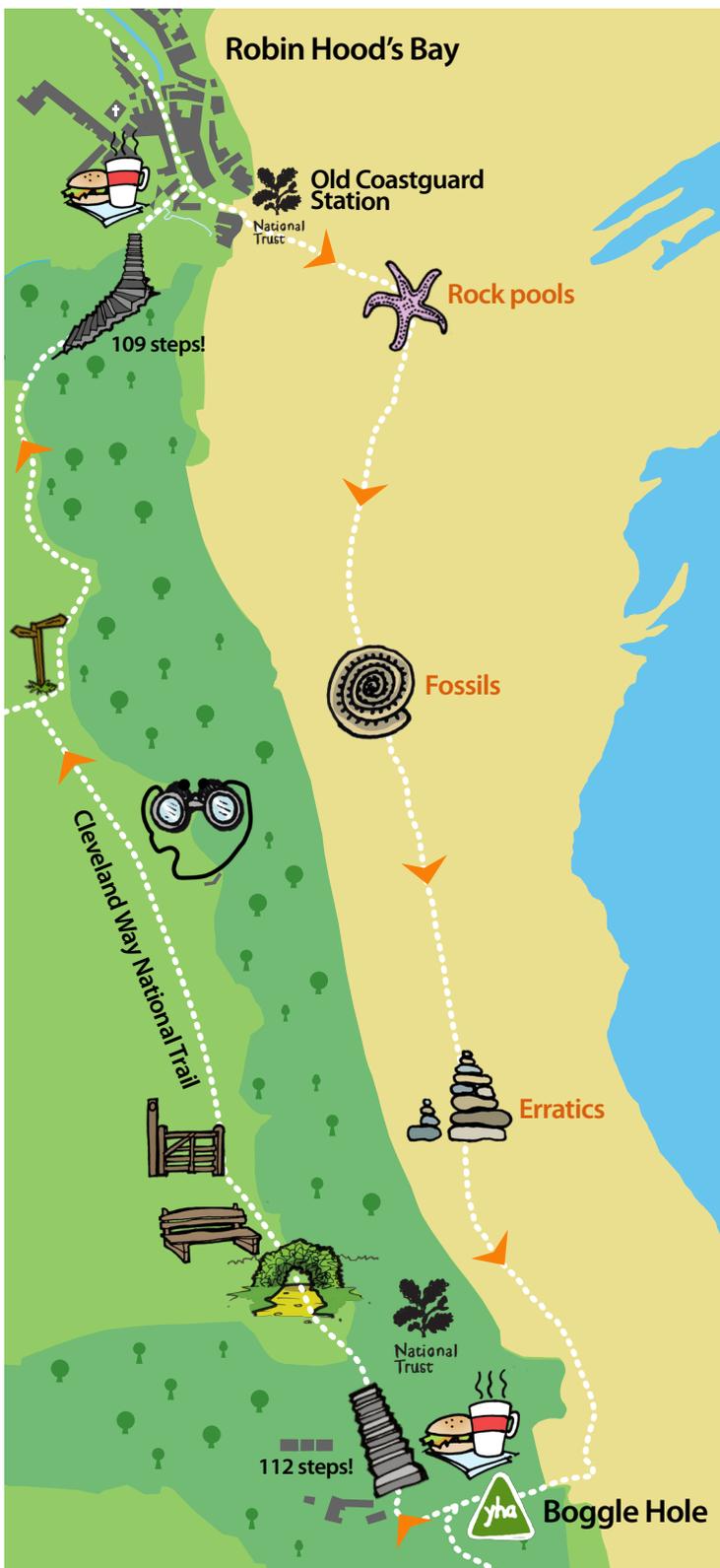
© Tony Bartholomew

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Heading back to Robin Hood's Bay along the clifftops, the sounds and views from the path are well worth the climb. As you follow the Cleveland Way National Trail up the steep steps, listen out for the roar of the sea. Sound is amplified here in the ravine. From the top, Robin Hood's Bay sweeps before you, from Ness Point to Peak Steel. At low tide ridges of shale and limestone are exposed. Formed 170 million years ago, these are known locally as scaurs, a Norse word meaning 'rock'. Look out for ancient fault lines running out to sea, created by moving rocks.

As you travel along the path, notice how the trees here are much shorter, scrubbier and grow at an angle. They adapt to being constantly battered by the elements. Stay on the Cleveland Way, following the signs back to Robin Hood's Bay.

Once back, treat yourself to a well-deserved, delicious cake and cup of tea. Or discuss the day's discoveries over a luscious lunch in one of the cafés and restaurants.



## Essentials

**This is a circular amble. It is 2¼ km (1½ miles) long and will take approximately 2 hours.**

**There are steep steps as shown on the map at Boggle Hole and Robin Hood's Bay.**

## Useful information

**There are plenty of cafés, pubs and restaurants in Robin Hood's Bay.**

**National Trust's Old Coastguard Station** – open weekends year-round, daily during school holidays and from Easter until the end of November

**YHA Café, Boggle Hole** – open daily February–October, weekends November–January, check their website for more details.

### Hidden Horizons

contact@hiddenhorizons.co.uk or 01723 817017

## How to get here from Whitby or Scarborough

### Bus

Pick up the X93 service [www.yorkshiretravel.net/](http://www.yorkshiretravel.net/)

### Cycle

Follow the multi-user Cinder Track (traffic-free former railway)

### Car

Take the A171 and follow the signs to Robin Hood's Bay. Pay and display car parks are found opposite Victoria Hotel (Bank Top car park) and just off Station Road (Station car park).



**Cleveland Way**

NATIONAL TRAIL

