



A journey through time from Runswick to Staithes



© Tony Bartholomew

This linear amble starts in Runswick Bay. Once a fishing village, located a few miles north of Whitby, it shelters at the end of an extensive, beautiful beach. Fishermen-style cottages cluster around narrow, winding paths leading down a steep hillside to an expansive bay.

It's worth making the descent into the lower village. Travel along Bank Top Lane, past Cliffemount Hotel and wind your way down the old route. Colourful old buildings give way to panoramic sea views. Look out for small caves, where hobgoblins reputedly lived. In times gone by, local people brought ailing children to these 'Hob Holes' and recited a rhyme in the hope it would cure them.

At the bottom, you'll find a thatched cottage, once the coastguard's house. It was the only building left standing after a massive landslide in 1682 swept away the whole village. Pause for a coffee at the Royal Hotel or an ice cream on the steps next to the Lifeboat station. Or stay for longer and experience a guided kayak tour with Barefoot Kayak.

Back at the top of the hill, take the Cleveland Way path that runs alongside the Runswick Bay Hotel to the cliff edge and turn left at the pond. Seemingly out of place, this reservoir was created to supply water to an old iron works – a reminder of the industrial heritage of this coastline.

WARNING



- **There are steep hills in Runswick Bay and Staithes**

You may spot other evidence of the industrial past along this route. From Lingrow Cliffs, there are views over to Kettleness and the alum works. An important chemical in the textile dyeing process, alum was quarried here between 1727 and 1871.

Further along, there was once a harbour below Port Mulgrave. The only remaining traces are the old jetty and tunnel entrance, a handful of fishermen's huts and a couple of small boats. From the 1850s, the harbour was used to transport ironstone quarried here to fulfil demand in the railway and ship building industries. It was later connected to a narrow gauge railway to a neighbouring mine at Grinkle, with stone brought here until 1917.

At Port, as it's affectionately known by locals, take a breather on the bench. Cast your eyes over the information board and learn more about its fascinating past. Then head for a cup of tea and slice of cake at The Ship Inn Tearooms just down the road.

Continue to follow the cliff-top path towards Staithes. Travel past Old Nab, Penny Steel, Jet Wyke - names evocative of times gone by – and head down into the village.

Once one of the largest fishing ports on the North East coast, Staithes is filled with old fishermen's cottages, arranged around higgledy-piggledy, winding streets. It was an important herring station. At the turn of the 20th century, 80 full time boats were based here. Fish were landed on the beach and cured in the smokehouses built into the cliffs.

Although renowned for the locally-built boats, called cobbles, Staithes was also home for a short time to James Cook. He worked as an assistant at a local grocery store here before heading to Whitby to start his seafaring career. Find out more by visiting the Captain Cook and Staithes Heritage Centre.

Finish with a visit to Dotty's Tearoom for tea and cake, or sample a pint and food with a view at the Cod and Lobster.

A journey through time from Runswick to Staithes



Essentials

This linear amble is 4 ½ miles long.

Park your car in the pay and display car park in Staithes and take the 10 minute bus ride to Runswick Bay.

Useful information

Captain Cook and Staithes Heritage Centre

– call for details 01947 841454

Barefoot Kayak - www.barefootkayak.com

Royal Hotel - www.theroyal-runswick.com

Runswick Bay Hotel - www.therunswickbay.com

Cod & Lobster - www.codandlobster.co.uk

The Ship Inn Tearooms – open Saturdays/Sundays and Bank Holidays throughout the year from 12 - 6 pm

Dotty's Tearoom – open daily except Wednesdays

The Woodlands café and restaurant - www.thewoodlands-sandsend.com

The Wits End Café - witsendcafe.co.uk

There are plenty of cafés, pubs and restaurants in Staithes and Runswick Bay



How to get here from Whitby or Middlesbrough

Bus

Pick up the X4 service www.yorkshiretravel.net

Cycle

The National Cycle route 1 runs from Middlesbrough to Staithes.

Car

Take the A171 and A174. Follow the signs to Staithes. Pay and display car parks can be found off Staithes Lane



Cleveland Way

NATIONAL TRAIL

