

Staithes and Port Mulgrave

Fishing at Staithes

Staithes might be well known to visitors and tourists today, but it owes its existence to the fishing industry which, in its heyday, employed 300 men and supported 120 boats. The women played an active part in the work, helping with repairing nets, baiting hooks and launching boats. When the railway opened in 1885, three trains per week transported Staithes fish to British cities. At the turn of the twentieth century steam trawlers from larger ports killed the locals' livelihood, until only one full-time fisherman remained in the village. However, in recent years fishing has revived its fortunes in Staithes (particularly lobster fishing) and the seafaring tradition is still strong, with traditional flat-bottomed, high-bowed boats called 'cobles' setting out from the harbour, as they have for centuries.



Port Mulgrave

There's a different reason for the existence of Port Mulgrave – ironstone mining, which transformed this part of the coast in the mid-nineteenth century. There were ironstone seams in the coastal rocks, and also inland at nearby Grinkle, and the sheltered bay made a good harbour for boats coming to ship the ironstone out to Jarrow. The industry is long gone, and little remains of the harbour, but the shoreline at Port Mulgrave makes a great diversion from our walk. Follow the steep path down to discover quirky fishermen's huts built from flotsam and jetsam, plus coastal rocks rich in fossils.



Get some sea air on this 4-mile circular walk, starting at the atmospheric old fishing village of Staithes, with its harbourside cottages, cobbled streets and winding alleys. Leave the sheltered harbour and follow the Cleveland Way National Trail for the first half of the walk, tramping across the high cliffs to Port Mulgrave and enjoying wonderful coastal views. The return is across fields and through woodland, via the small hamlet of Dalehouse.

Did you know?

The young James Cook worked in Staithes in the 1740s as an apprentice shopkeeper. He developed a love of the sea, went off to Whitby – and the rest is history!

Great for:

coastal capers, history buffs, big-sky views

Length:

4 miles (6.4km)

Time:

2 hours 30 minutes

Start/Finish:

Staithes car park - NB, don't drive down into the old village

Grid Reference:

NZ 781 185

Map:

OS Explorer OL 27

Refreshments:

Staithes and Dalehouse

Toilets:

Start/Finish of walk

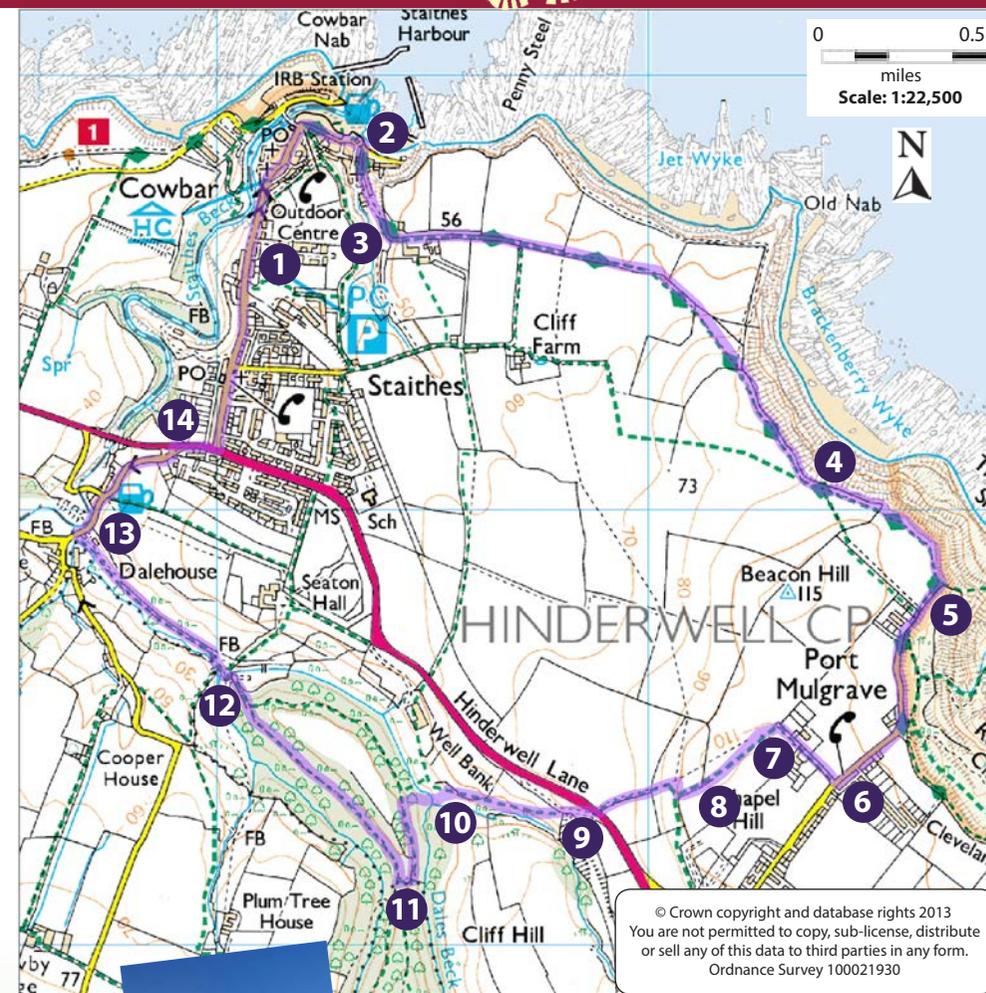


There are several cafés, pubs and restaurants in Staithes, while on the clifftop at Port Mulgrave is the Ship Inn, a B&B with tea room that's open every Saturday, Sunday and bank holiday afternoon. The return route passes the Fox & Hounds pub in Dalehouse.

... fish, cliffs and seas ...

Route instructions

- 1 From the car park, turn right down the hill into the old village.
- 2 Immediately past the Cod & Lobster pub, turn right up the road (Church Street).
- 3 At the top of the road, continue ahead (signposted 'Cleveland Way, Port Mulgrave 1 mile') through a gully. Bear left at another Cleveland Way signpost.
- 4 Keep left on the clifftop path.
- 5 Go through the gate, and continue into the village along the road (ignore the Cleveland Way sign off to the left).
- 6 Opposite the telephone box, turn right along a stone track.
- 7 After the last building, turn left at a wooden signpost to cross the fields.
- 8 Cross a stile and follow the path downhill, crossing another stile to reach the main road (A174).
- 9 Cross the main road into the lay-by, turn right down the lay-by slip road and then turn left down wooden steps into the wood (at a Public Footpath sign).
- 10 Follow the path downhill into the wood, cross the footbridge and follow the left-hand path up the hill (ie, not the steps).
- 11 The path swings sharply back on itself and soon leaves the woodland.
- 12 Continue downhill, pass the caravan site, turn right over the bridge and continue ahead (signposted to 'Dalehouse'), bearing left along a track.
- 13 At the road, turn right uphill (Dalehouse Bank) to reach the main road.
- 14 At the main road (A174), turn right, then turn left along Staithes Lane into Staithes – use the pavement – and return to the car park.



The walk follows quiet lanes and paths through fields, woodland and along the cliffs. It's a steep climb from Staithes harbour up to the cliff top, and there's a descent/ascent (including steps) in the woods. You'll also encounter several gates and two stiles en route. The walk crosses the busy A174 twice – be careful when crossing.



The clifftop section is unfenced on the seaward side with a steep drop – keep your dog on a short lead for safety. There may be stock in the last field before point 4, and also between points 7 and 9. Please keep your dog on a short lead where livestock are present.



Like this walk?

The Cleveland Way clifftop section is a joy to walk – there's more information about the long-distance walk on the Cleveland Way website. www.nationaltrail.co.uk/cleveland-way