



## St Oswald's Way – Stage 1 – Holy Island to Bamburgh

This is the first stage of the 97 mile St Oswald's Way, taking us from Holy Island to Bamburgh on this 19 mile walk. We take in many historical sites, with some stunning views. The walking is varied and immensely enjoyable.



### Turn by Turn Directions

We commence the walk on Holy Island in northern Northumberland. Remember you must check the local tide tables before starting this walk as you can only cross the causeway to the mainland on low tide, further info can be [found here](#). There are many points of interest to explore on the island, including [Lindisfarne Castle](#), [Lindisfarne Priory](#) and [Lindisfarne Harbour](#), these can be viewed in the video From 4:30.

We head towards the causeway and have a couple of options for our crossing, either by following the causeway or by taking the Pilgrims Route across the sands and following the posts. In the video, I took this route (Video 6:00), which adds to the experience.

Once on the mainland, we follow the signage, which takes us south (Video 8:50). We head over the fields, where the tranquillity is good for the soul. Following the signed route, we have some great views over to Holy Island. Our route takes us to a rail crossing of the main north-south east coast line. You will need to ring the control room for permission (Video 10:40). Continuing along the route, we come to the A1 north-south trunk road. Please be careful when crossing. We need to undertake both of these crossings later in this section.

Passing through Fenwick (Video 12:40), we head up the road and a slight incline, until we get to Blawearie (Video 13:10) and continue across the fields towards the wooded area. It is worth taking some time to appreciate the views on the way (Video 13:50). Our walk through Shiellow Woods is very pleasant.

Upon exiting the woods (Video 16:50) we once again have some great views from Bamburgh Castle to Holy Island and the magnificent scenery in between. We shortly reach the point where we leave St Cuthbert's Path (Video 17:30), and continue southeast.

We come to Virgin Hill Woods, and it is worth taking in the delights of Lower Swinhoe Lake (Video 18:20). We pass through Swinhoe Farm (Video 18:50) and pass The Hag (Video 19:20) on our way to Belford (Video 20:25).

Leaving Belford, we head along Belford Burn (Video 21:20) and cross the A1 once again (Video 21:30), before undertaking our second cross on the rail line (Video 22:10). Our route now takes us

across open fields, on our way to Warren Mill. We pass Warren Burn (Video 23:45) and head through Spindlestone Heughs (Video 24:10), which is a great section of the walk. We pass through Warren Mill Caravan Park and have a small section along a country road. At the next junction, we have some great views of Bamburgh Castle (Video 24:50). Continuing across the fields we come to our next junction, where the views of the castle only improve (Video 25:22).






The route takes us north for a small section along the road before we head over the golf course. We now get some great views across Budle Bay (Video 25:50). As we head along the dunes, there are two larger dunes, it is worth taking a slight detour to make the most of the 360° views (Video 27:05), and you can track the route you have taken from Holy Island.

As we conclude, what has been a magnificent walk, we head towards the lighthouse (the most northern in England) and Stag Rock (Video 27:50). The view of Bamburgh Castle and the beach will stay with you for a long period.

We now have a nice stroll into Bamburgh and the conclusion of the first stage, and the anticipation of what lies ahead in stage two.

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	Normal
	19.0 miles
	OS Explorer 340
	8:15
	Start Point

### Walking Statistics

Distance Walked - 30.13Km / 19.2 Miles

Highest Point - 155Mt / 509 ft

Duration - 8hr 10min

Total ascent - 390Mt / 1280 ft

POI

- Holy Island – Priory, St Mary's Church
- Pilgrims Route crossing
- Belford – St Mary's Church, Great North Road
- Bamburgh – Bamburgh Castle, St Aiden's Church, Grace Darling Museum

Facilities:

- Holy Island – Café, B&B, Hotel, Shops, WC
- Fenwick - Shop
- Belford – Café, B&B, Hotel, Shops, WC
- Bamburgh – Café, B&B, Hotel, Shops, WC

#### Elevation

