

Coastal Round Walk 02 – Boscastle, Valency Valley, St, Juliot, Beeny Cliff – 6.42 miles

Route Directions – Non GPS Version

Boscastle Car Park to St. Juliot Church - mostly through woodland – 2.01 miles

Start at the car park entrance. Cross to the riverside and follow a track along N bank of the R. Valency. Join the main track out of the car park and follow the river bank through broadleaf woodland, with Minster Woods on R. After ½ mile you pass a WM (*to Minster*) leading over massive granite stepping stones. Soon after, you go through an open grassy area to a wooden gate, a slate seat to its right, back into woodland. At 0.92 miles, you pass a wooden FB on R signed to Minster Church. Now the track continues as a path, still through woods. At the beginning of Newmills, pass attractive Rose Cottage on L and, in a few yards, go through a kissing gate and forward to a tarmac lane that comes in from L at 1.17 miles. Go R on this lane past the sign to NT Elm Cottage and, with Elm Cottage on R, follow a WM (*St. Juliot 0.5 miles*) L up 4 steps and back onto a narrow path into woods. At 1.20 miles go through a gate. At 1.24 miles pass a white cottage below on the R. You now climb fairly steeply before dropping down to a kissing gate (*FP sign and WM*) at 1.52 miles.

Leave the woods here into an open field. (*Views R to wooded valley below and small hedged fields beyond*) Follow LH hedge, passing an attractive cottage above on L. At 1.63 miles go through a gate, following a FP sign (*St. Julitta*). Here a path goes L up to the Old Rectory but continue forward to a gap and another FP sign *St. Julitta*. (*The Smugglers Way, not waymarked, which you have been following to this point, here goes R to Halamilling*). In the next field bear L to the LH hedge and go over a tall slate cattle stile (*WM*) into the next field. Ignore the gap with a metal gate and follow the RH hedgerow over two wooden stiles to 1.93 miles. Here go diagonally L to a gap in the fence, up massive granite steps and over a cattle stile into St. Juliot's churchyard at 1.97 miles. Follow the path round the E end of the church and up to the north gate, which leads to a small CP area and to a lane at 2.01 miles.

St. Juliot Church to Beeny Cliff - through farmland - 1.67 miles

Go left on the lane uphill, passing on R Endelstow (*the name that Hardy gave to St. Juliot Rectory, but this is not it; it is also, however, the name of one of his poems*) at 555 feet, highest point of the walk, at 2.24 miles. Continue on the lane to Penventon Farm on L at 2.36 miles. Immediately after farm buildings turn L down a track for a few yards. At a WM on the R, by the Old Rectory sign, go R and over a wooden stile by a gate into a field. (*Hardy fans may like to continue down the track to the Old Rectory, distance included*) Follow the RH hedge (*view L to Willapark Coastwatch Station and Tintagel Island*) to a WM at a (missing) kissing gate. Continue NW across 4 fields and over 4 stiles to steps down to a road. Cross the road to a lane downhill to Trebyla Farm.

Where the lane goes R at 2.99 miles, go forward over a wooden stile into a camp site. Cross the site to the far R corner and go over a wooden stile to a field. Go straight across the field, roughly NNW, on a path downhill. Follow WM into woodland to a wooden stile and FB over a stream and then over another wooden stile (*WM*) into a field. Head uphill diagonally L, roughly NW (can be muddy) and continue up fairly steeply to the top LH corner to a wooden stile by a gate. Follow a track up to a lane opposite Manor Farm house at Higher Beeny at 3.30 miles. Go R on the lane fairly steeply up to a road at 3.43 miles. Go L on the road for about 140 yards, passing North Lodge on your R, to 3.51 miles. Go R on a narrow path (*FP sign*) between hedges up to a kissing gate to a field at 3.59 miles. Follow the RH hedge up and down to a kissing gate on the R at 3.68 miles at around 400 feet, where the Coast Path heads N towards Crackington Haven. (*You could cut off the corner but you would miss the superb view from the gate of Rusey Cliff*)

Beeny Cliff to Boscastle Car Park – along the Cornish Coast Path – 2.74 miles

Turn L here to head roughly SW on the Coast Path to Boscastle. At Fire Beacon Point you enter the NT's Beeny Cliff estate. (*10 yards on, a wooden stile on your L leads to NT Open Access land with a WM for an alternative route to Pentargon. This is much easier going and cuts out steps and an awkward ascent and descent on a loose stony surface, so some may prefer it*) There is now a steep descent along Beeny Cliff, with 67 steps, to a point above Seals Hole. (*It can be very wet here at times, thanks to springs*) After some undulation there is a steep descent, with more steps, to a FB at Pentargon Shute. Leaving Pentargon, you enter the NT's Hillsborough estate. It gets tougher here with 189 steps up in a 180 foot climb. At the top, at around 350 feet, there is a fine view back over Pentargon Cove. And, as you drop down again, Boscastle comes into view for the first time. Progress from here is fairly easy with just one short steepish climb from a stile by an NT Pentargon Cliff sign. At the foot of Penally Hill a waymarked path leads up to Penally Point, worth the detour for its views of Boscastle's harbour, of the River Valency, of the former Coastguard Station on Willapark, and of the massive Meachard Rock. The Coast Path back into Boscastle drops fairly gently, with 50 easy steps down, then follows the river back to the centre of the village.

Distances in the directions text are cumulative.

A fuller version of these route directions, complete with GPS data including 10 figure grid references, spot heights and detailed distances, is also available. Return to the walk page and click for it.