

## **Coastal Round Walk 13 - Porthcurno, Roskestal, Gwennap , Porthgwarra 4.20 miles**

### **Route Directions – Non GPS Version**

#### **Porthcurno to Roskestal – 1.17 miles**

Start from the Porthcurno car park entrance. Go R on the road uphill for 260 yards and, at Seaview House, go sharp L uphill on track, through gate and on up to Rospletha. Go through the farmyard, L round cottages and R through an iron kissing gate, to follow a clear path across a field, passing a Cornish Cross at 38209/22339 at 798 yards. *The tower of St. Levan Church is now in view ahead, Roskestal (passed later) is half R. The view L is to Treryn Dinas and Lizard Point.* Continue on the path through a wooden gate and down a cattle stile and on downhill to the north lych gate of St. Levan Church ( $\frac{1}{2}$  mile).

A WM leads directly to the south lych gate but you should head L round the church for St. Levan's Stone and several Cornish Crosses. Leave the churchyard at the south lych gate to cross an open area with Underhill house on R, to a FP sign. Now follow the track west uphill through woodland. This becomes a path between hedges, passing cottages on R, up to a cattle stile to a field. Follow LH hedge to a massive cattle stile on L to next field at 0.73 miles. Now follow the RH hedge for 85 yards to a cattle stile. Do not cross this but follow a WM L across the field to a high cattle stile to R of gate. *(Roskestal now in view ahead)* Cross the field to a low cattle stile by a gate. Go forward on a path between high hedges, which continues as a grassy track *(can be muddy)* and up to the road at Roskestal at 1.17 miles.

#### **Roskestal to Gwennap Head – 0.80 miles**

Go L on the quiet road *(towards Porthgwarra)* through the hamlet of Roskestal and continue downhill *(Gwennap Head daymarks in view ahead)* passing Porthloe Cottage on R. Where the road bends R, ignore the FP sign ahead *(this track goes directly down to Porthgwarra)* to continue on the road. Go L round the hairpin bend for about 90 yards. Now go R *(FP sign)*, through a kissing gate, on a path through scrub downhill on to Open Access land *(you can now see the NCI station on the cliffs straight ahead)* and down to a FB at 1.67 miles.

Path now goes uphill between hedges to a tarmac track *(leads up to Gwennap Head NCI)*. Go R on the track uphill for 70 yards then go R on a narrow grassy path uphill through scrub. *Halfway up Longships comes into view to R.* Scrub becomes heather and furze, up to the NCI lookout at 1.97 miles. *There are long views from a Toposcope here – Wolf Rock lighthouse, The Isles of Scilly, Seven Stones lighthouse, Longships and their lighthouse, Lands End, the church at Sennen, Goonhilly Earth Station dishes, Lizard Point and Runellstone Rocks.*

#### **Porthgwarra to Porthcurno – 1.69 miles**

Go through the rock tunnel *(you may not be able to use this at high tide, in which case just follow coast path through the village)* and R on a track to continue on the Coast Path. The path is steep in places, with a little rock scrambling up to 190 feet. At a fork after 350 yards, the Coast Path goes R. When you pass a path on your L to St. Levan, the Coast Path heads fairly steeply, with 50 rock steps, down to St. Levan's Chapel and Holy Well. *(Here a path goes L up to St. Levan)* Another 65 steps lead down to a FB over a stream above Porth Chapel beach at 3.25 miles.

The path now climbs fairly steeply, with 10 steps up, before crossing duckboards over a marshy area. It continues up, with 40 steps, to Pedn-mên-an-mere at 3.41 miles and continues up to 185 feet. *Views ahead are over Porthcurno Bay to Treryn Dinas and on to the Lizard.* At 3.65 miles a kissing gate leads to the small Minack Theatre car park. Cross to the Minack Theatre entrance.

The coast path continues down to L of entrance. *(If you do not like idea of the vertiginous rocks steps down, follow the lane through the main CP for 100 yards or so to an easier descent. R down over rough ground, to rejoin Coast Path).* A short path leads to 156 steep steps down towards Porthcurno beach and continues to a track up from the beach. Cross this track to the Cable Hut. Turn L on a path up to the car park and on to the entrance at 4.20 miles. *If you would prefer the beach, at lower tides, you will find a path on R fairly steeply down to the beach before continuing up to Cable Hut.*

**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.**