



The Wye Churches Trail

WALKING ROUTE **FROM CHURCH OF ST GILES GOODRICH** **TO CHURCH OF ST DUBRICIOUS WHITCHURCH**

Distance approximately 5 miles

Distance of alternative route is approximately 3.8 miles.

This walk includes the use of the ferry between Symonds Yat East and Symonds Yat West. It is advisable in the winter or times of flood to check that the ferry is operating by telephoning the Saracens Head Inn on 01600 890435. An alternative route is given in this guide for when the ferry is not operating or you wish to avoid the steep path as you cross Huntsham Hill. Caution: If you arrive at Symonds Yat East and the ferry is not operating about 4 miles will be added to your walk.

This walk is covered by the Ordnance Survey Explorer Map OL14 – Wye Valley and Forest of Dean.

No charge is made for this guide.

Thank you for visiting the ancient Church of St Giles Goodrich. We hope you have enjoyed your visit. A donation box is located just inside the main door. Your donation will help us maintain the church for future generations to enjoy.

WALKING ROUTE FROM ST GILES CHURCH GOODRICH TO THE CHURCH OF ST DUBRICIOUS WHITCHURCH

Distance approximately 5 miles.

Stage 1 Turn right as you leave the porch of St Giles Church and then turn immediately right and follow the path to the righthand corner of the churchyard. Pass through the gate and follow the track to the road. Turn left. Cross over the road and follow the path at the side of 'The Poplars' – one of two new houses. Follow this path as it falls away to join the road just before the 'Cross Keys Inn'. Turn right down the road. As you approach the 'Cross Keys Inn' and opposite 'Goodrich Manor' look for a track off to your left between the houses. Follow the track for a short distance until ends and divides into two footpaths. Take the righthand footpath and follow it for half a mile until it joins the highway.

The Cross Keys Inn serves refreshments and food.

Stage 2 The footpath ends at the busy B4229 on a fast section of road at a blind bend. Taking great care cross over the road and follow the lane opposite signposted to Symonds Yat East and Yat Rock for about 150 yards until you reach Huntsham Bridge over the River Wye.

Prior to reaching Huntsham Bridge you will see a footpath to the right that runs along the River Wye. This is the start of the alternative route to the Church of St Dubricious Whitchurch if the Symonds Yat ferry is not operating.

Stage 3 Cross over Huntsham Bridge. Immediately turn left at the side of the bridge and follow the footpath that runs alongside the river. Keep to the path for about 1.5 miles until it leaves the river to rise steeply.

At about 1 mile from Huntsham Bridge an alternative route to Symonds Yat East is available by following a path to the right – see OS Map OL14. The alternative route still involves crossing over Huntsham Hill.

Stage 4 At the junction with a path descending from the hill turn right and follow the path as it zig zags to the top of the hill. At the top of the hill continue to follow the path as descends steeply. When you reach the road turn left and follow the track diagonally opposite as it continues its descent into Symonds Yat East.

Symonds Yat East offers a number of tourist facilities. The Saracens Head Inn offers drinks, food and accommodation. There is the Royal Lodge Hotel. Boat trips and canoe hire are available.

Stage 5 The ferry to Symonds Yat West operates from the river landing in front of the Saracens Head Inn. The ferry operator runs to demand. The 2022 fare is £2.

Stage 6 On leaving the ferry landing turn right. Follow the lane as it runs alongside the River Wye. When the road turns away from the river follow a footpath to the righthand side of the road that continues to run alongside the river for three quarters of a mile. This path enters a wooded area and then crosses the tourist facilities at Symonds Yat West. Continue on the riverside path and the Church of St Dubricious Whitchurch is ahead nestling by the river.

As you walk on the road alongside the river you will pass the Old Ferrie Inn on your righthand side set between the road and the river. The Inn offers refreshment, food and accommodation.

A guide describing the next stage of your walk to the Church of St Swithun Ganerew is available at the Church of St Dubricious Whitchurch.

Self-service tea and coffee and toilet facilities are available at the Church of St Dubricious Whitchurch.

ALTERNATIVE ROUTE TO THE CHURCH OF ST DUBRICIOUS WHITCHURCH TO USE WHEN THE SYMONDS YAT FERRY IS NOT OPERATING.

Stage A Follow the directions for the main walk to the Church of St Dubricious Whitchurch as far as Stage 2.

Stage B As you walk along the road towards Huntsham Bridge you will see a footpath to your right. Follow this footpath as it runs alongside the river and crosses the field to end at the road (B4229).

Stage C Take great care as the B4229 is busy and narrow at this point. Turn left and walk along the road for 500 yards past the commercial enterprises. At the junction turn right and cross over the A40 by the road bridge. Cross over the roads and take 'Old Ross Road' as it runs alongside the A40 to end in Whitchurch village centre.

In Whitchurch you will find a number of facilities including 'The Crown at Whitchurch' (refreshments, food and accommodation), 'Woods of Whitchurch' (refreshments), the 'Potting Shed Café' (meals) and the 'Old Court Hotel' (refreshments, food and accommodation).

Stage D Cross over the A40 by the road bridge and follow the road as it descends from the bridge to sweep round to end at a roundabout. Take the exit from the roundabout that passes in front of the school, Butterfly Zoo and Maze and the Old Court Hotel. Immediately past the Butterfly Zoo the road turns right and on the lefthand side of the road on the bend is the wide main entrance to the tourist facilities at Symonds Yat West. Squeezed between the grounds of the Butterfly Zoo and main entrance to the tourist facilities is a signposted track leading to the Church of St Dubricious Whitchurch. Follow this track to the end to reach the church nestling on the bank of the River Wye,

The Wye Churches Trail is a walking route from Ross on Wye to Monmouth taking in the historic churches along the River Wye. Most of the churches are 800 to 900 years old and in picturesque settings.