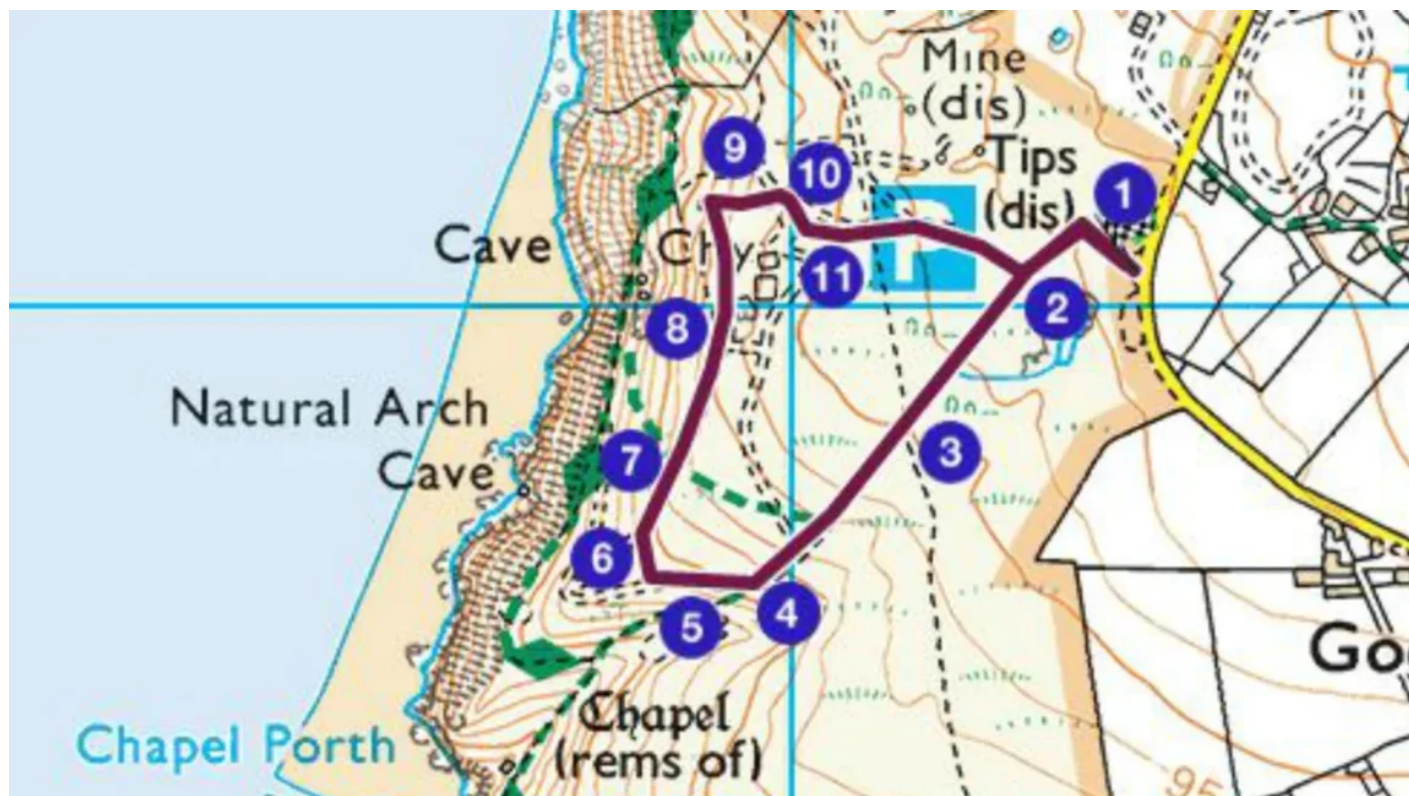


CORNWALL

Wheal Coates tin mining walk

Explore the remnants of Wheal Coates's tin mining history, while taking in beautiful views of the Atlantic, on this short circular coastal walk. Visit old mining buildings, including Towanroath Shaft engine house, with its distinctive chimney, stop to gaze down at the bottom of one of the disused shafts, and look out along the coast to Chapel Porth, Porthtownan and beyond.



Information

Address: Wheal Coates, Beacon Drive, St Agnes, Cornwall, TR5 0NT

OS map: Explorer 104

Activity: Walking

Moderate: The route includes some steep climbs and stony, uneven and narrow paths. For further details, please see Terrain section.

Dog friendly

Full trail: Miles: 1 (km: 1.6)

Short trail: Miles: 0.8 (km: 1.28)

Access: Challenging

Duration: 30 mins - 1 hour

Terrain

This short walk is a combination of coastal footpaths and steep, sometimes zigzagging, climbs. Some sections of the path are broad and flat but others are narrow, stony and uneven.

Total steps: 12

Start point: Wheal Coates car park, grid ref: SW707497

1. Go through the gap in the hedge to the left of the information sign. You'll immediately be able to see part of the tin mine ruins of Wheal Coates, against the backdrop of the Atlantic Ocean.
2. Take the first left as the path forks and carry on down the wide gentle sloping pathway.
3. You will reach a crossroad. Go straight across, following the path away from the ruins, and down toward Chapel Porth.
4. You will pass several footpaths and a triangular patch of heathland on your right. You have an option here to go left and follow a steeper path down the valley, with a couple of benches along the way. For an easier walk, stay on the wider, less steep pathway and carry straight on toward the sea to meet with the South West Coast Path.
5. Notice the mine shafts topped with conical grids, known as Clwyd caps, dotted along on your left. You'll pass over a metal revetment (a supporting barricade) and the Chapel Porth white stones sign will soon come in to view, also on the left.
6. As you reach the viewpoint, a number of paths lead off left to Chapel Porth, but follow the pathway round to the right. Here you'll find a bench where you can stop to take in the view, which changes depending on the tide and the weather.
7. Head toward Wheal Coates along the wide coast path, with the sea on your left. The Towanroath Shaft engine house will soon come into view. You are walking in the footsteps of the miners who worked here over 200 years ago.
8. Have a good look around the engine house. Find the hole in the ground just past this first building. Stand on the grating and look down to see the water deep at the bottom. Imagine heading down this shaft to work every day.

9. Listen for the rumble of the sea below as you head further into the ruins. The path gets quite rocky as you head uphill, so watch your step. You'll reach a waymarker with a pink arrow pointing right and up. Zigzag back on yourself as you climb the hill. You'll pass a very smart Cornish hedge on your left and see a wooden barrier up ahead.
 10. Follow the smaller paths in and out of the tin mine buildings to explore.
 11. Keep heading up the hill. You'll reach a lone chimney and a large granite boulder. The information signs here should answer any questions you have about the tin mine, and the surrounding heathland you've been wandering through.
 12. As you walk back to the car park, you'll see the small hill known as St Agnes Beacon in front of you. If you have some extra energy before finishing your walk, there are several footpaths leading to the viewpoint at the top.
- End point: Wheal Coates car park, grid ref: SW707497
-