



03 SOMERSET BREAN DOWN

▶ Distance: 5 miles/8km ▶ Time: 2½ hours ▶ Grade: Moderate



The view from Brean Down.

PHOTO: NIGEL VILE



CHOSEN BY...

NIGEL VILE

Coastal walking is always an exhilarating experience. Little wonder that a Guardian article placed Brean Down in a list of 'Top 10 UK Walks'. Before the rocky headland, however, there is a stroll along the beach with Brean being one of those few places where visitors can literally park on the sands. Brean Down has plenty to offer in terms of both natural and military history. The rare plant species include white rock rose, goldilocks and Somerset hair-grass. The military history is Brean Down Fort, built to defend the country against a possible Napoleonic invasion. It's the

views, however, that are the primary attraction. Look west, for example, and there is the whole of the South Wales coast stretching from Newport to the Gower, encompassing Cardiff, Port Talbot, Swansea and the Mumbles. To the south lie the Quantock Hills and Exmoor, whilst to the east the Mendip Hills tower above the Somerset Levels.

1 Start

Walk along the beach towards Brean Down, the rocky heading protruding into the Bristol Channel. In ¾ mile, at the end of the beach, turn R and walk up a ramp to reach a National Trust shop and café. Walk ahead to a road, turn L and continue to another tea

PLAN YOUR WALK



ROUTE

Start/parking Brean Beach car park, postcode TA8 2RS (approx), grid ref ST297575

Is it for me? A gentle stroll along a firm sandy beach before a steep ascent onto Brean Down, a rock headland that protrudes into the Bristol Channel

Stiles None

PLANNING

Nearest town Weston-super-Mare

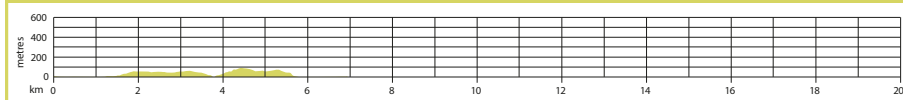
Refreshments The National Trust Café just below Brean Down for an excellent selection of cakes and snacks, plus teas, coffees and assorted soft drinks

Public toilets Alongside the National Trust Café

Public transport Bus 20 from Weston Station to Brean (firstbus.co.uk)

Maps OS Explorer 153; Landranger 182

GRADIENT PROFILE



03 SOMERSET
BREAN DOWN▶ OS Explorer map 153 ▶ Buy maps at: ordnancesurvey.co.uk/shop

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DON'T MISS...



Nearby Weston-super-Mare, an archetypal English seaside resort with an iconic Grand Pier. And look out for Papa's fish & chip shop, where every day is a 'Fryday'.

shop. Beyond, ignore the steps climbing uphill onto Brean Down, keeping on the road as it bears R. In 50m, bear L onto a path that climbs uphill onto the signposted Brean Down.

2 1 mile/1.6km

Follow this path for 1.2 miles along the northern side of Brean Down, taking in fine views of Weston Bay below, to reach the western tip of this rocky headland. Cross a footbridge to explore the remains of Brean Down Fort. Leave the fort on footbridge, turn R and follow the line of a fence on the R. Where this fence ends, follow a grassy path uphill to reach a trig point in 400m.

3 2¼ miles/4.4km

Having paused to take in the fine views of Brean Beach, continue following the grassy

path beyond the trig point for ¾ mile to reach a flight of steps on the R, just before another former military installation. Descend these steps, walk back to the National Trust shop and café, and re-join the beach. Then retrace your steps to the L back to the start at the Brean Beach car park. **CW**

VIEW THE WALK ON OS MAPS ONLINE:

walk1000miles.co.uk/cwroutes

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DATE WALKED

TIME TAKEN

YOUR RATING

