

**FREE**



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*Discover Brixham's Secrets...*

# *Blackbeard's Trail*



*Start/finish* Prince William of Orange Statue, the Quay, Brixham. A wonderful circular walk of approximately 2.5 miles/1 hour combining history, beauty and spectacular views. Be prepared to climb a height of 170ft and to go down several flights of steps. Our walk is signed and in front of the Old Market House, built in 1799, you will see on the lamp column the first of the signs (marked W on the map). There are 8 in total and each has a different pirate symbol. Can you find them all? Complete the checklist at the end of this guide to find the whereabouts of Blackbeard's Secret Scroll!

**Follow the family  
treasure trail**

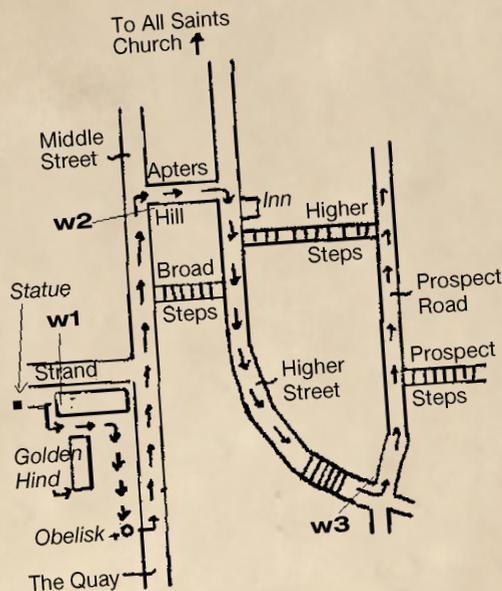
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# Blackbeard's Trail

Continue on under the covered building on your right. This building replaced the Old Fish Market, which up until 1870 was where the fisherwomen sold the catch of the day by Dutch auction. The auctioneer started at a high price and progressively reduced it until a buyer was found. It is now home to Pirate Day every Thursday through the summer! By a pillar on your left, look down to see a milestone indicating the terminus of the Dartmouth and Torquay turnpike.

Ahead is the obelisk which supposedly includes the first stone onto which Prince William of Orange stepped when he came ashore in 1688. It used to be topped by a lantern.

Walk towards the replica of Sir Francis Drake's ship, "The Golden Hind". This is well worth a visit and replaces an earlier replica which sank on it's way to Dartmouth in 1987!



All Saints Church, Brixham

On the opposite side of the road once stood The Royal Naval Shores, the Armoury for the Motor Torpedo Boats and the Royal Naval Sick Bay during World War 2. One of the buildings now trades as Bay Coffee Co.

Find a safe place from which to cross the road, then walk back inland. Soon you will reach Middle Street and a slight incline. Look out for Broad Steps on your right. Opposite is the site of the house where it is said Prince William stayed the night. If you wish to 'short cut', go up Broad Steps and turn right at the top into Higher Street. However, it is worthwhile continuing a little further along Middle Street to Apters Hill on the right.

You are standing on the site of what used to be a tidal creek. Straight ahead you will see a cream building with a grey tiled roof. This houses Brixham Library, opened in 1993. Walk up Apters Hill - steep but thankfully short (you can rest assured that you will not climb anything as steep again on this walk!).

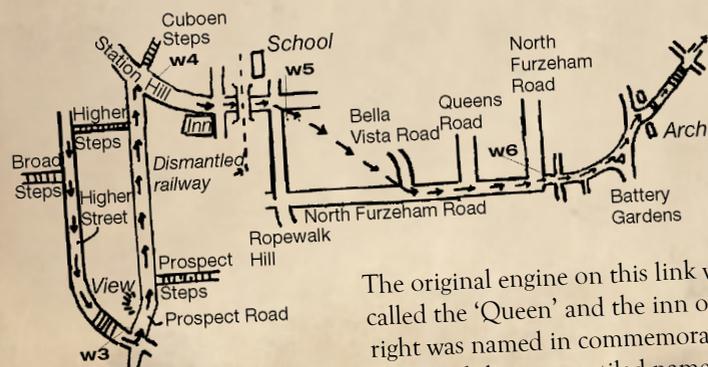
Before you turn right past the Manor Coffee Shop, look to the left - All Saint's Church is a short and level stroll and definitely a worthwhile diversion if time permits. It was built in 1816 as a chapel of ease and became a parish church in 1824 when Henry Francis Lyte M.A. was appointed Curate-in-Charge.



He wrote 'Abide With Me' (1847), 'Oh Worship The King' and 'Praise My Soul The King Of Heaven'. You will find a memorial tablet of him in the chancel of the church. The roof of the nave was blown off during a storm in 1877 and the church was completely rebuilt and the tower and side chapels added in 1906. Next to the church are cottages dating back to the 17th century.

Turning right at the top of Apters Hill continue past the Manor Coffee Shop along the aptly named Higher Street. Soon you will see the Higher Steps on your left and look out for the Broad Steps on your right. Eventually, after passing 'White Cottage' and 'Gull Haven' on your right and walking up a set of steps, you will reach a "crossroads" where you turn sharp left into Prospect Road. There is a splendid view of the harbour and beyond! Further along the road on your left you will notice a distinctive blue and white tiled name sign ('Higher Steps') and on your right ('Prospect Road').

When you reach Station Hill, Cobden Steps are opposite and there is another tiled name sign to look out for! Turn right up Station Hill, and rounding a corner you will see a disused railway bridge. To the right of this bridge was Brixham railway station, the terminus of the Torbay and Brixham Railway (1869 - 1963).



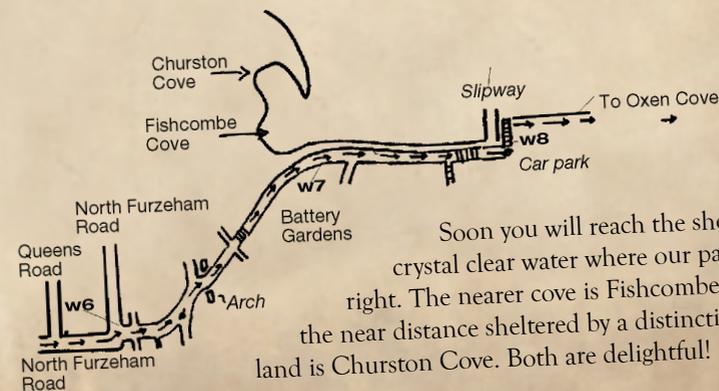
The original engine on this link was called the 'Queen' and the inn on the right was named in commemoration of her. Find three more tiled name signs and then go under the railway bridge.

Soon you will come to a crossroads. On the right is Ropewalk Hill, on the left behind you is Furzeham Primary School, a tall granite building. Lord James Callaghan (Prime Minister 1973 - 1979) was a pupil from 1919- 1923, and he returned to Brixham in 1989 to take part in the school's centenary celebrations. Take the path that diagonally crosses the pleasant gardens on your right and enjoy the stunning views over the outer harbour - you can have a rest on one of the benches if you like.

You will leave the gardens at the junction of North Furzeham Road and Bella Vista Road. Continue straight ahead along North Furzeham Road passing the lovely Bonsey Rose Gardens on the right. This is a wonderful spot where you can have a break and take in views over the harbour and Bay.

Where the road makes a sharp left turn, continue straight on into Battery Gardens. A battery was sited here in 1940 to help defend the beaches of Torbay against enemy landings during the Second World War. There is an information board as well as benches to let you take a breather and enjoy the lovely gardens and sea views. Visit [www.brixhambattery.org](http://www.brixhambattery.org) for details about a fascinating nearby museum.

Continue straight ahead, then bear left (an ammunition store was on your left). Go through the stone archway and down two sets of steps. Another path crosses ours but continue straight ahead and down some more steps.



Soon you will reach the shoreline with crystal clear water where our path turns right. The nearer cove is Fishcombe Cove and in the near distance sheltered by a distinctive finger of land is Churston Cove. Both are delightful!

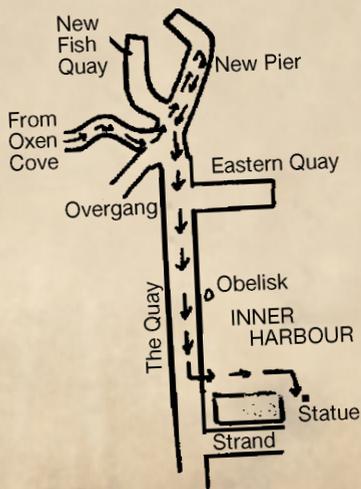


**The Stone Arch,  
Battery Gardens**

You are now on the Marine Parade, which will lead you back by the shoreline to Brixham Harbour with views all the way. Eventually you will go down another flight of steps and past the AstraZeneca offices (Brixham Environmental Laboratory) into Freshwater Quarry. A cave - the Bench Bone Cavern - was discovered here 100 feet above sea level in 1861, but was destroyed by quarrying. The quarrying continued until 1927 when the Marine Parade was built.

Take a flight of steps (just past the slipway) down to the shoreline and follow the path past Oxen Cove (now a coach and car park built on reclaimed land). Soon you will see the Yacht Club above you. This building was converted from a sail loft where many of the sails for merchant and naval fleets were made. (Brixham had five sail lofts in all.) The sails were preserved with a mixture of powdered oak bark, linseed oil, red ochre and other ingredients. This gave the sails of the Brixham fleet their distinctive reddish brown colour.

Passing the New Fish Quay on your left you soon reach New Pier. The fish quay and jetty were opened in 1971 and improvements were made during the late 1980s. In 2007 works began to include a new fish market, extended quay space, new offices, a fish processing unit, fish retails units and a first-floor restaurant. Princess Anne toured the facility in Spring 2011, and then opened the modern new building.



Walk along New Pier (signposted 'Harbour Viewing Platform') noting on your left the foundation stone of its construction (1808). There are public toilets - they have trawler information plaques on the walls as well as a great viewing platform above. From this platform you can see the trawler basin, a deep water harbour where trawlers up to 130 feet can be safely berthed, the market building and the ice plant at the end of the New Fish Quay (it is fully automated and can make 100 tons of ice a day).

After visiting the platform continue along the pier to where, under the navigation light, there is stone commemorating the Duke of Clarence (later William IV) as Lord High Admiral of the UK when he visited Brixham in 1828. It is said he also stepped on the same stone as William of Orange when he first landed!

There are good views from the pier of the Breakwater, Marina, and Grenville House activity centre.

Return to the entrance of the Pier and follow the Quay past the boat trip kiosks to the starting point. There is another walk, the Buccaneers Way, that starts and finishes here too but covers the other side of the harbour and town, still with lovely views of the harbour, sea and town itself.

**Checklist** There are 8 signs in total on this walk and each has a different pirate symbol on it. Did you spot them all? The symbols consist of PARROT, CUTLASS, HOOK, CHEST, TRICORN, TELESCOPE, MAP, and FLAG.

Complete the table here...

Sign	Symbol
w1	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
w2	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
w3	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
w4	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
w5	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
w6	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
w7	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
w8	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<input type="checkbox"/> S <input type="checkbox"/>

The shaded letters spell out the name of a café on the Quay. Be sure to look in its windows to discover Blackbeard's secret scroll, and see what treasures await for you!

The Brixham Buccaneers hope you have enjoyed your walk! Donations are welcome for this leaflet. Please ask where you picked up your copy.

Walking regularly will improve your health and that of the town by keeping driving to a minimum. Aim to walk as far as you can, building it up each walk.

Too far to walk back? Why not hop on a local bus. There are many bus stops along the walks all with frequent buses too. For times, phone 0871 200 22 33.

### *Why not try these walks?*

- Buccaneers Way – goes the other side of the harbour starting from the same place!
- Brixham Breakwater 1 mile round robin
- Paignton Green - Circular one mile walk
- Torquay Harbour to / from Paignton Harbour (3¼ mile)



### *Don't want to walk alone!*

Bay Walks are free and supervised. They are great for getting healthier and meeting new people. They're fun and sociable and the places you can discover are amazing!

Bay Walks are graded to allow you to choose the one that's right for you. SHORT walks are ideal for beginners, those recovering from surgery or for those with mobility limitations.

For more info on Bay Walks, phone 01803 321867 or visit [www.torbaycaretrust.nhs.uk](http://www.torbaycaretrust.nhs.uk)

The Brixham Blackbeards' pirate trails are supported by:

Brixham Town Council		Torbay Council	
Brixham Community Partnership	The Brixham Chamber of Trade	English Riviera Tourism Company	
Brixham Museum	The Golden Hind	Ghost Walk	
Sheepskin and Suede Shop	Smuggler's Story	Torbay Care Trust	

Photos kindly supplied by Sandra.Hall915@btinternet.com. Original artwork by Daphne Van Marle

Special thanks to DJ Croney – for supplying the text and putting the walks together

**Brixham Visitor Information Point (Open all year)**

Located within Hobb Nobs Gift Shop, 19-20 The Quay, Brixham, TQ5 8AW. Tel: 0844 474 2233

For more information visit [www.brixhambuccaneers.co.uk](http://www.brixhambuccaneers.co.uk)



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Thank you to: Joe Brown (Spiral Studio) for the waymark sign design