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Clacton-on-Sea to Walton-on-the-Naze

Start: Clacton-on-Sea station

Finish: Walton-on-the-Naze station

Length: 11.7km (7.3 miles)

Time: 3 hours 30 minutes. For the whole outing, including trains, sights and meals, allow at least 7½ hours.

Transport: Trains go from London Liverpool Street to Clacton-on-Sea journey time one hour 26 minutes.

Buy a day return to Clacton-on-Sea. Clacton-on-Sea and Walton-on-the-Naze are two branch lines off Thorpe-le-Soken. In the event that your return ticket from Clacton is not permissible from Walton-on-the-Naze, buy a single from Walton-on-the-Naze to Thorpe-le-Soken.

OS Landranger Maps: 169.

OS Explorer Maps: 184

Toughness: 1 out of 10

Walk Notes: This is an easy walk – it is entirely flat – and the directions from [Clacton](#) to [Walton-on-the-Naze](#) are straightforward and consequently minimal. This walk is ideal for a hot summer day, not too strenuous with plenty of swimming opportunities. It is worth extending the walk, as just to the north of Walton is the Naze - a peninsula. It is a prominent site for migrating birds and has a small nature reserve.

Walk options:

A detour to the two pub lunch options adds 1.3 km.

An Extension is possible right at the end around the Naze peninsula, adding 9.2 km (5.7 miles)

Saturday Walkers' Club: Take the train nearest to 10.45am from Liverpool Street Station to Clacton-on-Sea.

WALK DIRECTIONS

Coming out of the main entrance of Clacton-on-Sea station turn right along Skelmersdale Road. In 35 metres, turn left along Carnarvon Road, your direction 150 degrees. In 600 metres you reach the coast to *turn right* for 50 metres to a flagpole and to follow a path down to the seafront, with Clacton Pier about 300 metres off to the right, and with the neatly arranged rows of wind turbines of the Gunfleet Sands Offshore Wind Farm 7 km away out at sea. *Turn left* along the coast path, your direction 60 degrees.

From here it is a straightforward north-easterly walk along the coast via Holland-on-Sea, Holland Haven Country Park and Frinton-on-Sea.

Prior to leaving Holland-on-Sea, there are a few cafés en-route for a possible lunch stop. (Please note many of these cafés are seasonal.)

These cafés and other land marks as you pass them: Sea Breeze Café -> Beaches Café (just before a row of beach huts) -> Gunfleet Sailing Club -> Public Convenience block (summer only) -> 150 metres to Flags Beach Café.

150 metres past the Flags Beach Café you reach a flight of steps which you need to take if you want to go inland for a pub lunch at The Oakwood Inn, Holland-on-Sea. (Please refer to the directions at the end.)

In another 400 metres the detour to the lunch options joins from the left along a path. 900 metres further on (and 500 metres before a radar mast) you reach a small café, the recommended café lunch stop. This is your last chance on the coast before reaching Walton-on-the-Naze.

300 metres after the radar mast you have left Holland-on-Sea behind and the open landscape of Holland Haven Country Park lies inland. For the next 2.3 km up to the fringes of Frinton-on-Sea you can also walk on the sea wall or even on a parallel path below landside. From the fringes of Frinton-on-Sea you can also walk higher up on

cliff-top grassland, instead of following the concrete coastal path.

170 metres before reaching Walton-on-the-Naze's New Walton Pier you have a choice:

For the main walk *turn left* up some steps between beach huts and in 60 metres *turn right* at a T-junction with a road. In 30 metres *turn right* at another T-junction and in 40 metres *turn left* to reach the entrance to Walton-on-the-Naze station in another 40 metres on the left.

For an extension around the Naze Peninsula continue along the coast and past the New Walton Pier. (Please refer to the directions at the end.)

Directions for the Oakwood Inn.

At the top of the steps cross over the coast road (Kings Parade) and *turn left* for 25 metres to then *turn right* along York Road. After 500 metres *turn right* at a T-junction with Frinton Road to reach Maffia's in 75 metres and The Oakwood Inn on your left after 180 metres. After lunch from front of pub cross over Frinton Road and *turn left* to take the first turning on the right (Primrose Road). After 400 metres at a T-junction with Cliff Road *turn left*. After 60 metres you reach the coast road. Cross over and *turn left* to then after 40 metres *fork right* down a path down to the bottom of the cliff.

(Walking inland to the Oakwood Inn will add 1.3km to the overall walk length.)

Directions for the Naze Peninsula Extension.

In 1 km *fork right* along East Terrace, a cul-de-sac, where the main road veers left away from the coast. In 300 metres continue in the same direction between beach huts and the beach. In 800 metres continue along the beach at the end of the row of beach huts. In 360 metres continue

in the same direction along Crag Walk, a raised 150 metres long walkway at the south end of Naze Cliffs. Step down to the beach at the end of Crag Walk and continue along the foot of the cliff.

In 880 metres *veer left* at a cliff corner and continue to the left of a beachside pond, your direction 310 degrees, with the ports of Harwich and Felixtowe in the distance half right. In 490 metres *turn left* along the path on top of the sea wall, now with Cormorant Creek on the right, and Hamford Water National Nature Reserve behind it. In 1.2 km *turn left* with the path at a corner of the peninsula.

In 2 km *turn right* at a three-way path junction and continue with a water channel on the right, circumventing a Holiday Park on your left. In 850 metres *turn right* with the path at the Holiday Park's end, still with the water channel on the right.

In 440 metres *fork left* away from the water and in 40 metres continue in the same direction along North Street, a residential road. In 220 metres *turn right* at a T-junction with High Street. Follow this for 390 metres to a four-way junction, just after passing a church on your left, and *turn left* along Church Road. In 200 metres *turn right* and find the station in another 40 metres.

Lunch and Tea places:

Various cafés en-route prior to leaving Holland-on-Sea.

Maffia's Bar & Brasserie, 143 Frinton Road, Holland-on-Sea, CO15 5UR, (Tel 01255 812 151, <http://maffias.co.uk/>) Food served 12.00-14.00 and 19.00-21.30 Thu-Sat and 12.00-18.30 Sun. Located 4.2 km from the start of the walk.

The Oakwood Inn, 175 Frinton Road, Holland-on-Sea, CO15 5UT, (Tel 01255 812 209) Located 4.4 km from the start of the walk.