

Visit Somerset's 360°s

Brean Down



Photograph: Greentraveller

A wonderful location for a day out combined with a visit to the beach!

The Down stands 97m high and the 360° views from the top are truly spectacular: Weston-super-Mare to Sand Point, Clevedon and the M5; over the Bristol Channel to the Brecon Beacons, Newport and Cardiff and out towards Port Talbot; Flat Holm and Steep Holm in the foreground, before sweeping over to Exmoor, with Dunkery Beacon visible; then back to the Quantocks and Hinkley Point, Bridgwater Bay and the Somerset Levels, Glastonbury Tor, Brent Knoll and Crook Peak.

Venture to the top of the Down and take the exhilarating 3 mile walk on Somerset's greatest natural pier. Uncover the secrets of Brean Down as you discover the site of a Roman temple and explore the Palmerston Fort.



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HOW TO GET THERE

By bus: Burnham – Brean – Weston-super-Mare
http://www.firstgroup.com/ukbus/bristol_bath/journey_planning/

By car: 8 miles from exit 22 of M5

Walk route: 3 miles - approx 1-2 hours

This is a moderate route along paths with a steep flight of steps at start. There is a gate at the bottom of the military road. The cliffs are extremely steep. Please stay on the main paths, especially with children and dogs. At low tide the deep mud can be dangerous.

Start/end: National Trust Cove Café Car Park (Pay and Display, NT members free)
Grid ref: ST 290590

Facilities: NT Cove Café, toilets including Mobility toilet

Directions: Climb up the very steep flight of steps, pause for breath and enjoy the view over Brean sands to Burnham-on-Sea. Continue up the hill and pass over the remains of a Romano-British Temple, Bronze Age Burial site and remains of Bronze Age field systems. Continue on down into a small combe – South Bottom – and then back up to the trig point, the highest point on the Down. Follow the steep path down to explore the Victorian Palmerston Fort. Head back along the old military road passing through the ramparts of an Iron Age hill fort, and on the left a stone building. The road then descends steeply. At the gate turn right and head back to the car park and refreshments at the Cove Café.

Finding out more: www.nationaltrust.org.uk/breandown

NT Brean Down downloadable walk includes information on wildlife and heritage.

<http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/brean-down/things-to-see-and-do/article-1356404870375/>