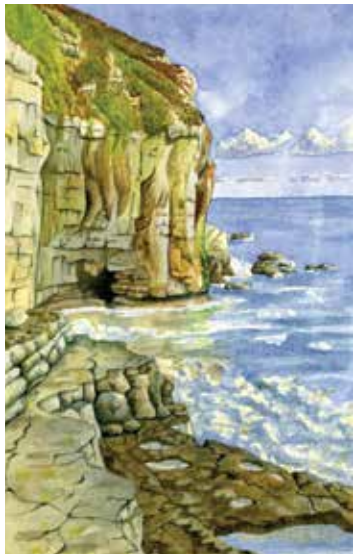


Priest's Way

Distance: 3 miles, 4.75 km
Start: Swanage (see map)
Finish: Worth Matravers
Terrain: Easy going but with some gentle hills



The Priest's Way follows an ancient track taken by a local priest as he travelled back and forth between the churches in his care at Swanage and Worth Matravers.



If you wish to extend your walk, you could take a detour to Dancing Ledge or to the lovely picturesque village of Langton Matravers. Both are well worth a visit.

The National Trust that looks after the heritage around the Priest's Way, takes care to protect and nurture the environment and archaeology found

Dancing Ledge

along the route. Much of the land is traditionally grazed by sheep and cattle. Typical limestone plants thrive here which encourage a rich variety of butterflies and insects. These, in turn, ensure a plentiful supply of food for birds and bats. A small pond on the Priest's Way is home to a population of rare great-crested newts, and there are equally rare greater horseshoe bats in the old quarries.



Great-crested newt

Further Information

Langton Matravers Refreshments

The Kings Arms - 01929 422979
Putlake Adventure Farm/Tea Room - 01929 422917
Burngate Stone Carving Centre - 01929 439405
Post Office (for drinks and snacks)

Worth Matravers Refreshments

The Square & Compass - 01929 439229
Worth Matravers Tea & Supper Rooms
- 01929 439368

Travel Information

Swanage Railway - 01929 425800
www.swanagerailway.co.uk
Wilts & Dorset Buses - 0845 0727 093

General Information

Swanage Tourist Information Centre
- 01929 422885

Also check out the
Langton Matravers Parish Council website
for all recent news

www.langtonmatravers-pc.org/priests-way

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Priest's Way

Swanage to Worth Matravers
passing Langton Matravers



Follow in the footsteps of a medieval priest as you walk along the ancient track known as the Priest's Way. It passes between quarries and across open fields with spectacular views along the way. The walk finishes near one of Dorset's most famous pubs, the Square & Compass.

www.langtonmatravers-pc.org/priests-way



Priest's Way



Langton Matravers Museum was once a coach house. The museum provides a picture of the village history and how local stone has been quarried and used over time.



Swanage Railway is a six mile heritage railway that follows the old Purbeck branch line from Swanage to Norden. It calls at Herston Halt, Harman's Cross and Corfe Castle.



Square & Compass has been an inn since 1752 and has been in the same family for over 100 years. A museum in the pub houses fossils, dinosaur bones and local archaeological finds.

- Parking
- Toilets
- Pub
- Tourist Information Centre
- Post Office
- Lighthouse
- Railway
- Footpath
- Bridleway
- South West Coast Path
- The Priest's Way**



Spyway Barn was used by smugglers to store contraband landed on the Purbeck coast. The smuggled goods were often moved inland to Langton Matravers church and stored in the roof. The barn is owned by the National Trust and has a display of local flora and fauna.



Dancing Ledge is so called as at certain tides the ledge appears to dance as the waves wash over it. A swimming pool was blasted out of the rock in the early 20th century for use by the school boys from Durnford School in Langton Matravers (now closed).



Limekilns were used to burn limestone to produce "quick lime". This was spread on the land to reduce acidity and encourage plant growth. Mixed with water (slaked) it was used in mortar, as a whitewash for houses and as a disinfectant in cow stalls!

Limestone Quarries in Purbeck are important both geologically and economically. Famous for fossils and dinosaur footprints, Purbeck Limestone has been used since Roman times for building simple houses to great cathedrals. Why not try your hand at carving at Burngate Stone Carving Centre just to the north of the Priest's Way?

