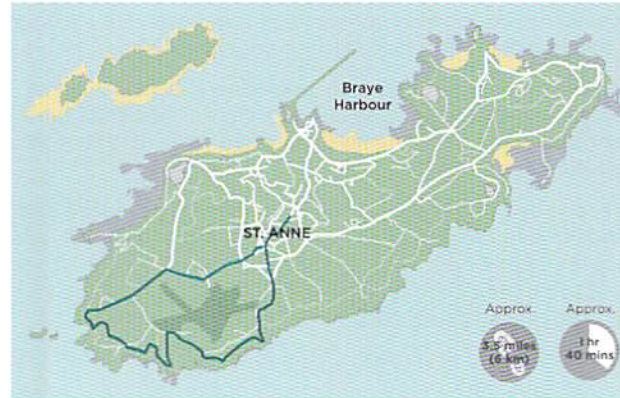


The Gannet Trail

A breathtaking walk along the southern cliffs



Best between March and October, this cliff-top walk takes in heathland flowers and spectacular views over the southern cliffs and the gannets on Les Etacs. Approximately 3.5 miles (6 km) long with very steep coastal path sections, it should take around 1 hour 40 mins.

- Wear good boots
- Take binoculars, bird and flower guides
- Please take care when walking near the cliff edges

Alderney Visitor Information Centre
States of Alderney
PO Box 1001
Alderney
Channel Islands
GY9 3AA

01481 823737

www.visitalderney.com
www.alderneylivingislands.com
www.alderneywildlife.org

*Photographic contributions and copyright;
images from Visit Alderney photo library, Neil Howard & Martin Batt
Cover image: Gannet, Les Etacs.*

Please note access to historic buildings and defensive structures is dangerous and in most cases not permitted. The States of Alderney can accept no liability for any injury caused.

There are lots of other Alderney walks and cycle routes to try. Why not pick up the leaflets from the visitor centre and discover more of Alderney on foot?

11 Warning: This section of the path is very steep. As you approach the bench at the top of Telegraph Bay, bear right and then left into the peaceful Val des Trois Vaux. Continue towards the sea and turn right up the extremely steep, but rewarding climb, which will take you to the Giffoine headland. **The path here passes close to the cliff edge so please take care.**

12 Directly out to sea you will discover an awe-inspiring view of the gannet colony on Les Etacs.



Les Etacs is home to some 12,000 gannets between March and October. From this view point you may see four islands in the far distance. To the left is Sark with Brecqhou immediately to the right, then the very small Herm before the bigger outline of Guernsey. To the right of Les Etacs, 7 miles distant, is the Casquets Lighthouse, the most westerly part of Alderney. Nearer and to the right is the second smaller gannetry of Ortac which has a further 5,000 birds. To the right is Burhou with its puffin and storm petrel colonies.

13 To return to St. Anne turn northwards, keeping the airport in front and to your right until you reach the point where the track changes to a tarmac road.

14 To the west of this road are some pig enclosures. The Oxford Sandy & Black pigs (a rare traditional breed) are recent arrivals. They are noted for their excellent temperament and produce meat of a high quality. They are now the second main livestock venture on Alderney.

15 Follow this road until you come to the main road by the Zig-Zag path sign.

16 Turn right, passing the airport entrance and back into St Anne.



The Gannet Trail

Approx.

3.5 miles
(6 km)

Alderney

THE CHANNEL ISLAND



The Gannet Trail

A breathtaking walk along the southern cliffs, best enjoyed between March and October. This cliff-top walk takes in heathland flowers with spectacular views over the southern cliffs and the gannets on Les Etacs.

1 Starting at the Visitor Information Centre, walk up Victoria Street, passing St. Anne's church on your right. At the top of the road turn right on to High Street.

2 Follow High Street into Le Huret until you come to Marais Square. Go straight across and carry on up Little Street to the far end.

3 Crossing the road ahead, pick up the airport perimeter track; follow this around the eastern end of the runway until you reach the 'Madonna Stone' which sits on the corner of a sharp right-hand bend.

This stone was originally a cattle scratching post in a neighbouring field. Known locally as the 'Madonna Stone', it was erected in its current position in the 1960s.

4 Leave the airport perimeter track here and follow the grassed path opposite which leads due south, straight towards the cliffs.

5 You will now enter the heathland. This path leads down a steep slope and becomes the winding and spectacular path, 'Les Couriaux'.

Please take care on all the cliff paths as they are often narrow, uneven and traverse close to the cliff edge. Many small coastal paths are marked using white marker stones to help identify them.

6 Follow the path along the southern cliffs in a westerly direction, over a small wooden bridge and straight across a crossroads on the Couriaux headland.

Watch out for a number of spectacular but small flowering plants, including sheep's bit scabious, English stonecrop and the nationally rare spotted rock rose. This small, five petalled yellow plant flowers as it feels the first rays of the sun and then sheds its minute yellow petals, each with a red spot near its base, as the light begins to fade after lunch.



7 When you reach the main airport track again, turn left.

8 Continue along the track through Val L'Emauve. To your right you will see a level area of ivy which marks the Kommandants Hut of Lager Sylt, the only German concentration camp in the British Isles. Continuing onwards, you will see Telegraph Tower, a circular Napoleonic-era signal beacon, on your left. On your right stand the concrete gateposts of Lager Sylt with a plaque commemorating the labourers who died in Alderney.

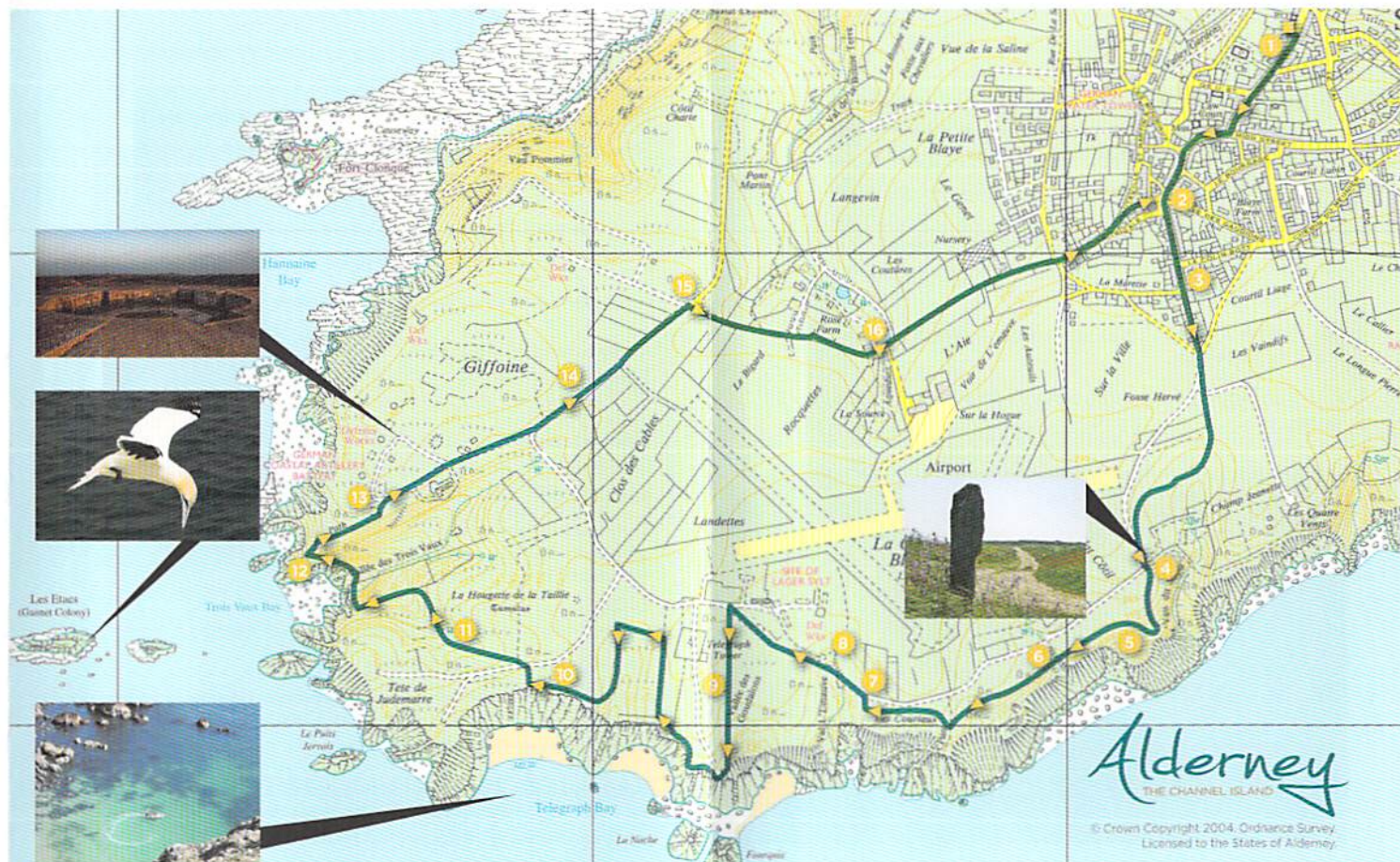
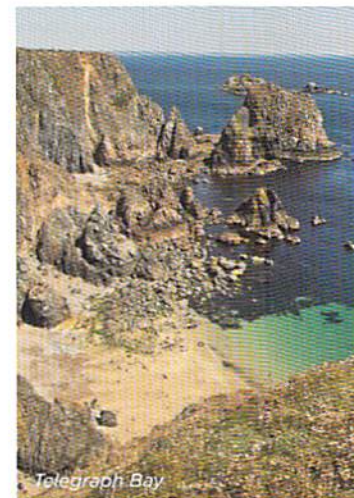
9 Just before you reach Telegraph Tower turn left on to a grass track leading towards the cliff edge. This bends to the right after a few hundred metres to follow the coastline again, travelling westwards.

The southern cliffs are home to a number of spectacular resident birds including peregrines, common buzzards and ravens. The cliff-tops are perhaps at their best during the spring flowering season, when migrant and resident birds vie for priority over the swathes of yellow and pink flowers.

10 Follow this path around the next cliff-top valley and you

will reach a bench at the top of the Telegraph Bay steps. **Do not attempt to go down to Telegraph Bay as the steps are now unsafe.**

Telegraph Bay was once one of the most popular retreats for locals and visitors alike. However, since the steps fell out of repair in the early 1990's the beach, with its red tinged sands and spectacular cliffs, has been out of reach, except from the sea. The cliffs in the area are covered in the yellow prostrate broom, which is nationally rare, and the scarce parasitical greater broomrape, which grows up to 30cm high.



Alderney
THE CHANNEL ISLAND

© Crown Copyright 2004. Ordnance Survey. Licensed to the States of Alderney.