

**11 Warning:** This section of the path is very steep. As you approach the bench at the top of Telegraph Bay look for the path in front and to the right, which leads down 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 here you will see four islands in the far distance. To the left is Sark with Brecqhou immediately to the right, then very small Herm*



*before the bigger outline of Guernsey. To the right of Les Etacs, 7 miles distant, is the Casquets Lighthouse, the furthest 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 tarmacked road. To the west of this road are some pig enclosures.

*These pigs are Oxford Sandy & Black pigs, a rare traditional breed noted for their excellent temperament and produce meat of a high quality. They are now the second main livestock venture on Alderney.*

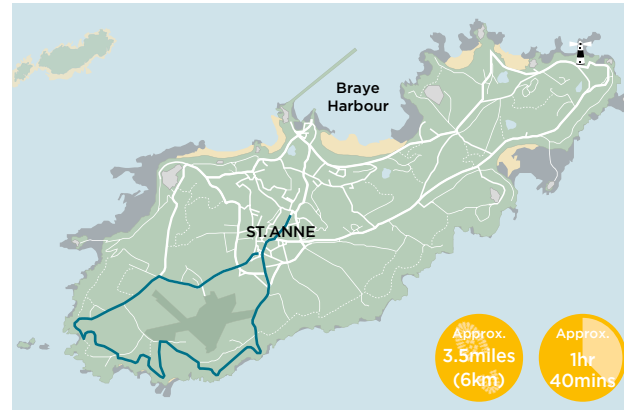
**14** Follow this road until you come to the main road by the Zig-Zag path sign.

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



Southern coastline

## Walk summary



Best between March and October, this cliff-top walk takes in heathland flowers and spectacular views over the south cliffs and the gannets on Les Etacs. Approximately 3.5 miles (6 km) long with 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
- Some very steep sections



Alderney Visitor  
Information Centre  
Victoria Street

Tel +44 (0)1481 822333  
[www.visitalderney.com](http://www.visitalderney.com)  
[www.alderneywildlife.org](http://www.alderneywildlife.org)

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Cover image: 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.

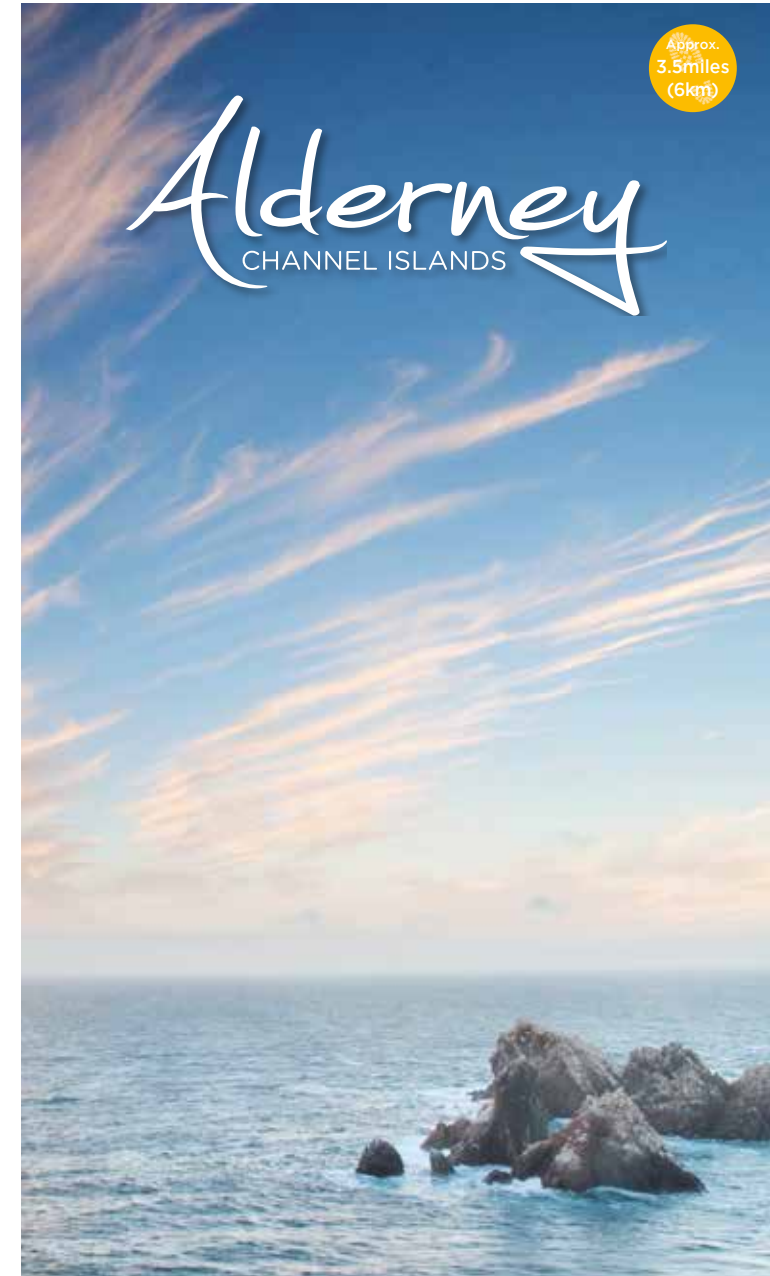
There are lots of other Alderney walks and cycle routes to try. Why not pick up the leaflets from the visitor centre and discover more of Alderney on foot?



#Alderney

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## The Gannet Trail



Alderney  
CHANNEL ISLANDS

# The Gannet Trail

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

- 1 Starting at the Visitor Information Centre, head 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 and walk to the far end.
- 3 Crossing the road, 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 'Standing 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.

Look 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.



Spotted rock rose

- 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. Continuing onwards, you will see on your left a circular Napoleonic-era signal beacon, Telegraph Tower, and on your right the concrete gatesposts of Lager Sylt.

During WWII, while all the local population had been evacuated, Alderney was occupied by the German troops. The island constructed four forced labour camps run by the Organization Todt including Lager Sylt which was later run by the SS for 15 months. Lager Sylt was the only German concentration camp on British soil, there is a plaque commemorating the labourers who died in Alderney on the gateposts.

- 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, running westwards.

The southern cliffs are home to a number of spectacular resident birds including peregrines, common buzzards and ravens. The

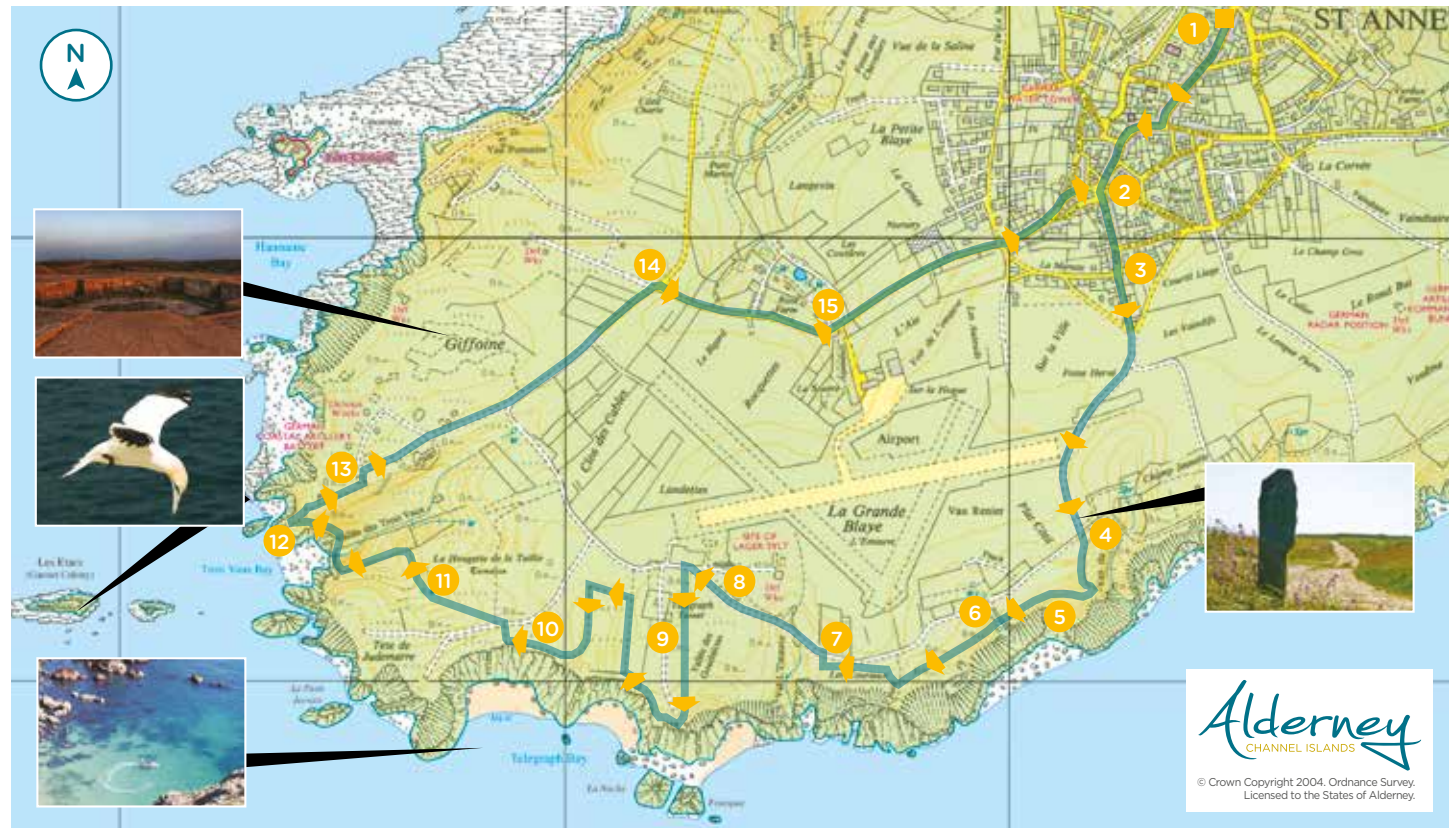
cliff-tops are perhaps at their best during the spring flowering season, when migrant and resident birds vie for priority over the swathes of yellow and pink flowers.

- 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 scarce, and the rare parasitical greater broom rape, which grows up to 30cm high.



Telegraph Bay



Alderney  
CHANNEL ISLANDS

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