



This walk takes in the breathtaking scenery of the south cliffs and the gannets on Les Etacs. It will take about two hours. With a steep incline, it is not for those who have difficulty walking.

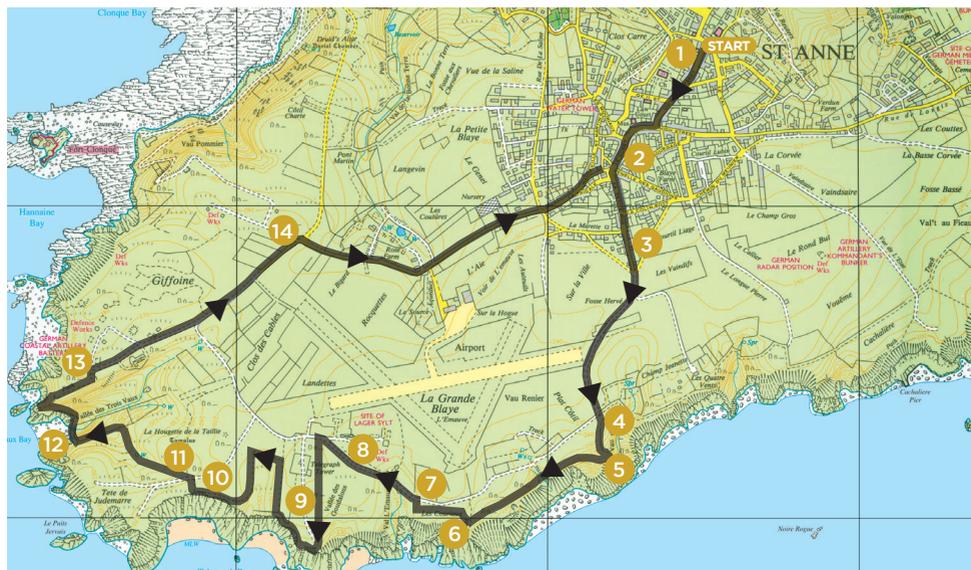
- 1 Starting at the Visitor Information Centre, head up Victoria Street, passing St Anne's church on your right. At the top of the road turn right on to High Street.
- 2 Follow High Street into Le Huret until you come to Marais Square. Go straight across and carry on up Little Street and walk to the 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.
- 4 Leave the airport perimeter track here and follow the grassed path opposite straight towards the cliffs.

5 Continue straight down. This path leads down a steep slope and becomes a winding and spectacular path and heathland of '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 towards a bench. Here turn right, away from the headland, then immediately left on the narrow cliff path.

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.

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



8 Follow the track through Val L'Emauve. Continuing onwards, you will see on your left a circular Napoleonic signal station, 'Telegraph Tower' and on your right, down a track, the concrete gateposts of Lager Sylt.

TELEGRAPH TOWER

Built in 1809, this signalling tower was used to communicate vital information on the movement of French shipping with other Channel Islands during the Napoleonic Wars.

LAGER SYLT

During WWII, the local population had been evacuated and Alderney was occupied by German troops. They built 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 compete over the swathes of yellow and pink flowers. In spring listen out for skylarks.

10 Follow this path around the next cliff-top valley, away from Telegraph Tower, 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

This bay was once a popular retreat for locals and visitors alike. However, since the steps fell out of repair 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 yellow prostrate broom, which is nationally scarce, and the rare parasitical greater broom rape, which grows up to 30cm high.

11 Warning: This section of the path is very steep. As you approach the bench at the top of Telegraph Bay follow the path, bending to the right and take the second path on the left, marked with a white stone. This leads down into the peaceful Val des Trois Vaux. Continue towards the sea.

12 Make sure you enjoy the breathtaking views of the gannet colony on Les Etacs, before turning right up the extremely steep cliff, which will take you to the Giffoine headland. **The path here passes close to the cliff edge so please take care.**

LES ETACS

Les Etacs is home to 6,000 pairs of gannets between March and September.

GIFFOINE HEADLAND

From here you may be able to see our neighbouring islands. Far left is Jersey, then Sark with Brecqhou immediately to the right, then a very small Herm before the bigger outline

of Guernsey. To the right of Les Etacs, 7 miles distant, is Casquets Lighthouse, the furthest part of Alderney. Nearer and to the right is the second smaller gannetry of Ortac which has a further 2,500 pairs of birds. To the right is Burhou with its puffin, storm petrel and grey seal colonies.

13 To return to St Anne take the path that goes around the side of a large WWII gun emplacement. Keep the airport in front, and to your right, follow the track until it changes to a tarmac road and go straight on passing, on your left, the pig enclosures.

ALDERNEY PIGS

The Oxford Sandy and Black pigs are a rare traditional breed, noted for their excellent temperament and high quality meat.

14 Follow this road, turning right at the fork, passing the airport entrance and back into St Anne.

