

This walk takes in some of the islands fascinating fortifications, migrant birds and spectacular views and will take around one-and-a-half hours. The terrain is quite gentle but can be challenging with some slopes and steep sections.

1 The walk starts at the Visitor Information Centre. Turn right up Victoria Street and take the first right through the grand, granite archway of the Prince Albert Memorial Gate into St Anne's Churchyard.

# ST ANNE'S CHURCH

St Anne's Church, the largest and the only one with a 12 bell peal in the Channel Islands, was built in 1850 and was designed by the eminent Victorian architect Sir George Gilbert Scott.

- 2 Bear left around the church, past the main door and then out of the churchyard through a small wooden gate onto Church Street
- 3 Turn left and follow the road up on to the cobbles of Royal Connaught Square.

- 4 Walking around the Island Hall you leave the cobbles, passing the large 'Les Mouriaux House' (the former home of the island's Governors) on your left. Walk on towards the concrete tower of the WWII Luftwaffe HQ, which is known locally as the Water Tower.
- 5 At the Water Tower, turn left, following the old garden wall of 'Les Mouriaux House'.
- 6 Reaching the end of the road turn left onto Allée ès Fées. The houses in this area occupy the old field boundaries where many of the island's farms kept their livestock and grew their produce. You can still see one of the old stone-walled fields on your left as you pass the turning to Archies Row.
- **7** Continue up this road to the crossroads and turn right.
- **8** You are now on the airport road, Le Grand Val, and passing the old Brickfields site on your right, now a modern housing estate.



The poor quality clay found in this area produced coarse bricks used locally in pre-war building. Further down this road you can see an old brick chimney on the right which was part of a later brick kiln. In the field in front of the chimney, you may see a depression which marks the spot from which the clay used to construct the majority of artist Andy Goldworthy's 'Stones', in 2011 was taken.

9 Around 300m down this road, you will pass the entrance to the airport and Judge Barbenson's cattle trough and fountain. The road bends hard right (be careful of the blind corner) before rising and falling as it passes Rose Farm to your right.

You will reach a junction and across the road in front of you is a sign marked the Zig-Zag. Follow this track.

(1) Walk down the track and after about 50m at the signpost turn right towards Fort Clonque. You will see an old brick pump house in front of you.

12 Follow this winding track, heading down towards the sea. The path rises and falls and is somewhat rough, but should not prove difficult unless very wet. The island of Burhou will come into view. Fort Tourgis can then be seen on your right with a white cone-shaped marine navigation day mark in front of it.





down the hillside. On the second turn of the path you will find a bench and nearby a small walker's shelter, which acts as a refuge in case of rain. Please note the entrance is very steep.

From the path over the top of the shelter you can see the offshore coastal stack of Les Etacs, which is home to 6,000 pairs of northern gannets. These amazing birds have a wingspan of nearly two metres and dive to catch food at speeds of over 60mph!

At the bottom of the zig-zag track head along the coastline with the Victorian fortress, Fort Clonque (a Landmark Trust owned property which can be rented as self-catering accommodation) behind you and continue along Clonque Bay. This is a wonderful place for rock-pooling at low tide.

# **BURHOU**

To your left you look out across Alderney's Internationally Important Wetland (RAMSAR) site, to Burhou island. With the largest population of puffins to be found in the English Channel and the only colony of storm petrels, the islet of Burhou is the heart of this unique wetland.

At low tide, Clonque Bay is the largest intertidal area on Alderney with over 180 different species of seaweed and many other interesting species of invertebrate including green ormer and numerous types of crab.

(5) Continue along the coastal track passing the lower wall of Fort Tourgis on your right.

### **FORT TOURGIS**

Completed in 1855, Fort Tourgis is the second largest of the Victorian forts. It was designed to mount 33 guns and accommodate 350 men. During WWII it became a powerful German defensive position.

#### ANDY GOLDSWORTHY 'STONES'

Inside the German artillery position along Clonque Road, just before you reach Fort Tourgis, you can see one of Andy







Goldsworthy's 'Stones'. The British scupltor created a set of 11 giant 3 tonne 'stones' in 2011 around the island's coastline. Each one is filled with different material and objects. This 'stone' was the only one to be built on location as it was much too large to be taken into the bunker after it was created.

The coastal track turns into a tarmac road before meeting the main road. If you turn right at the road junction and go up the hill you will be able to enter the Fort's outer wall through a caponier, or further up, through a German passage leading under the wall and up into the original 19th century 'Cambridge Battery' above. You will find information boards throughout the site

Here you bear left along the dirt track which parallels the shingle beach, Platte Saline.

(B) A third of the way along this track you pass a ruined Victorian coastal battery, now the local gravel works, then the island's tennis courts on your right, before reaching a row of houses.

(S) Continue to the end of these houses and with Fort Doyle in front of you, turn right up a cobbled lane to join the main road.

# FORT DOYLE

Fort Doyle is the smallest Victorian fort. It was completed in 1854 to house four guns and 22 men. It defended Crabby Bay to the east and Platte Saline to the west. In WWII it had two anti-tank guns firing east and west. Open daily 10-4.

20 Turn right when you reach the main road. Take care as there is no footpath.

21 Just after the first corner bear left, heading uphill, back towards St Anne.

Follow the main road, heading uphill on the wooded La Vallée road, passing the log cabins on your right.

Towards the top of the hill you will find a water trough on your right. Just after this, turn left up the steeply cobbled road called Stoney Lane. This leads up past the attractive Methodist church which was opened in 1852.

At the top of the lane turn right on to Victoria Street.