



www.foweyharbourheritage.co.uk

Audio Trail: Fowey - Bodinnick - Polruan

Approximate trail length: 11 km/6.5 miles

Approximate walking time: Allow a full day to do all of it or break it into three sections of 1, 2 and 2.5 hours

Please note: There are two trails that cover the same route around the harbour. This one goes in in a clockwise direction.

The Trail

There are three communities around Fowey harbour. This trail starts and finishes in Fowey and takes you in a clockwise direction around the harbour. Fowey is the largest town and is sited on the west bank. Further up river on the east bank is Bodinnick and it is from here that the car ferry runs. Directly opposite Fowey is the large village of Polruan connected by passenger ferry. This audio trail introduces you to all three communities and the harbour and is a walk around the harbour using the two ferries and designated paths.

Fowey Harbour background

This harbour is one of the two naturally deep water harbours in Cornwall, the other being Falmouth. Fowey was the main port of Cornwall and one of the most significant in the South West for much of the medieval period. Today it is still a working port exporting large quantities of china clay to other countries. Over the centuries this harbour has seen pirate ships, privateers, pilgrim ships, foreign navies, potential invasion fleets, immigrant ships, merchant sailing ships, royal yachts and cruise ships. Its charms have attracted many visitors and continue to do so. Among the well known past residents are Daphne du Maurier author of *Rebecca*, *Frenchmans Creek*, *My Cousin Rachel* and whose short story, *The Birds*, was made into a film by Alfred Hitchcock. Sir Arthur Quiller Couch, a noted Cambridge Professor of English, lived here from the late nineteenth century until his death in 1944 and wrote a series of novels based on local people and events. Other writers drawn to the area include Kenneth Grahame, author of *Wind in the Willows*, who was said to be inspired by the river here. Famous artists have depicted Fowey, from Schellinck in 1662 who made three drawings of the busy port and who was possibly a Dutch spy, to Joshua Southall, 1861 to 1944 who painted a well known picture *The Botanists* that was used in many famous railway posters. Fowey has been promoted since 1928 as part of the Cornish Riviera.

Where do we start?

Fowey Town Quay PL23 1AT

OS Explorer Map 107 SW124517 GPS 50° 20' 06.21" N 4° 38' 22.09" W

How to get there: For all latest public transport information please refer to
www.cornwallpublictransport.info

By train

- To Par station. Distance from Fowey 31/2 miles. Buses available
- To St Austell station Distance from Fowey 9 miles. Buses available

By car/bike

- From the **A30** leave at the Bodmin exit following signs for Lostwithiel, B3268 / B3269. Take the B3269 towards Lostwithiel until reaching the T-junction with the A390. Here turn right onto the A390 and follow signs for Fowey. After about ½ mile take the first left, back onto the B3269 for Fowey.
- From Plymouth take the A38 west. At Dobwalls take the A390, direction St Austell, then after Lostwithiel take the B3269 signposted Fowey.
- From West Cornwall. Follow signs for Truro then St Austell and the A390. Leave the A390 at the roundabout junction with the A3082. Continue on the A3082 through Par following signs for Fowey.

Parking

There are several Pay and Display car parks around the town, please follow the signs. Minibus service to Fowey town centre available from Main Car Park. Telephone **07703 292531** for details.

By bus

- Western Greyhound 524 and 525 operate from St Austell via Par and Tywardreath to Fowey, Safe Harbour Hotel. Half hourly service during the day and hourly evenings and Sundays. **www.travelinesw.com**



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By Ferry

- From Mevagissey. Ferry operates 7 days per week from late April until 1 October, weather and operational circumstances permitting. Crossing time is approximately 35 minutes. Telephone **07977 203394** or visit **www.mevagissey-ferries.co.uk** for timetable and fares.

Ferry Services

Fowey to Polruan Passenger and Cycle Ferry

Summer service runs 1st May - 30th September from Whitehouse Slip 0715 to 1815hrs Monday - Saturday and 0900hrs on Sunday.

From 1830hrs service operates from Town Quay until 2300hrs.

Winter service runs 1st October - 30th April leaving Town Quay.

Monday - Saturday 0715hrs until 1900hrs continuous service.

Sundays 1000hrs until 1700hrs continuous service.

All ferry services are subject to weather conditions.

The operator reserves the right to alter the service without prior notice.

For more information visit **www.ctomsandson.ltd.uk** or telephone: **01726 870232**

Fowey to Bodinnick Vehicle Ferry

Summer service operates 1st April - 31st October.

Service starts 0700hrs Monday - Saturday and 0800hrs on Sunday.

During early April service finishes at 1900hrs.

From mid April to mid June service gradually finishes later until it reaches 2045hrs.

From mid June to early September the service runs until 2045hrs.

Throughout September the service will gradually finish earlier until it reaches 1900hrs.

Please check the boards by the slipway or notices on the ferry for current finishing time.

A passenger service operates on some summer evenings, see the ferry men for details.

Winter service operates 1st November - 31st March.

Service starts 0700hrs Monday - Friday, 0800hrs on Saturday and 0900hrs on Sunday.

Throughout the winter the service finishes at 1900hrs.

All ferry services are subject to weather conditions.

The operator reserves the right to alter the service without prior notice.

For more information visit **www.ctomsandson.ltd.uk** or telephone: **01726 870232**



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About the trail

- **Approximate walking time:** Allow 2 hours to explore Fowey, 2.5 hours to walk from Bodinnick to Polruan around the harbour and 1 hour to explore Polruan.
- **Grade of Walk:** Easy to difficult with some steep climbs. The terrain consists of well-maintained tarmac paths, pavements and unmade tracks (these can be very muddy in wet weather).
- **Accessibility:** Suitable for wheelchair users in part only.
- **Toilets:** There are several toilet facilities in Fowey Facilities in Bodinnick and Polruan are close to the ferry slips and there are also toilets in the main car parks.
- **Health & Safety:** This walk takes in some fascinating features but also takes you along some busy roads, especially in summer. Please take care not to place yourself or others at risk whilst enjoying the trail.
- **Other trails:** There are several other town trails with specific interests. These are available from the local Tourist Information Centre. **www.fowey.co.uk**
Telephone **01726 833616**
- **Facilities:** Fowey, Bodinnick and Polruan have a variety of cafés and pubs.

For further information please contact : the local Tourist Information Centre.
www.fowey.co.uk Telephone 01726 833616



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