



Ross Town Walk

SUMMARY A walk through the market town of Ross-on-Wye visiting some of the principle sights and the riverside.

START From the A499/A40 take the B4234 to the town centre and the short stay car park (charge) in Brookend Street.

WALK INFO

DISTANCE 1¾ MILES

No. OF GATES 4

No. OF STILES 0

- Leave the car park and turn right into Brookend Street [1] walking uphill into Broad Street towards the Market Hall [2]. A market is still held underneath this red sandstone hall built c1660 and upstairs is the Heritage Centre with displays of the town history. Nearby is a black and white house where John Kyrle lived. Kyrle, known as the Man of Ross, was a local philanthropist and evidence of his life can be seen throughout the town.

- Explore High Street before turning into Church Street to enter the church yard [3]. The area around St. Mary's Church has some delightful buildings including the Rudhall almshouses and the former National School. At the entrance to the church yard is the plague cross for 315 people who died in 1637 "buried at night without coffins". If you have time, explore the church and search for the 14 hedgehogs and learn of their link with the town.

- Make your way to the corner of the spire to a path leading to the cemetery behind the church. On your right is the Prospect [4], a walled garden created by John Kyrle, giving superb views over the Wye to the Welsh mountains beyond. Return to the cemetery and continue to walk away from the church; turn right at the T-junction and leave the churchyard via a gate. The path now runs alongside a school [5] on your left, crossing a road with The Glebe and Cliff House on your right.

- Shortly you will reach another gate into a broad path downhill before turning left and resuming your original direction (near a marker post with many signs). Go through a gate into a field to your left; continue into a second field leaving via a gate and steps onto a wide track. Turn right and follow the foot of the cliffs back towards the town [6]. This path descends gently and runs to the right of playing fields into a car park. Keeping in the same direction, you will notice the path goes through a tunnel under the road to enter a grassed area next to the River Wye [7].



- Make your way to the bandstand, cross the road and follow the path by the Riverside Inn to the riverbank where you turn right [8]. At the Hope and Anchor car park, leave the river, and follow the path (signed the Rope Walk) to the right of the recreation area. In the 18th and 19th century this was the centre of river trade with boat building and rope making and from here horses towed barges to Hereford and Monmouth.

- Follow the Rope Walk as far as the coach and car park where you turn right onto a path

alongside a stream [9]. This path crosses Trenchard Street and continues next to a brightly painted corrugated iron fence. After a very short distance, turn right to cross a bridge to return to the car park. Just over the bridge, opposite the swimming pool is a low brick wall that commemorates Dennis Potter, the Forest of Dean playwright who lived in Ross [10]. If you are familiar with Potter's work, try to identify some of his plays that include Pennies from Heaven and the Singing Detective.