

Walks around Tetbury

 Walk Route
  Points of Interest
  Route Instructions

















To Avening with a view of Royal Parkland

A circular walk to Avening and back with views of Gatcombe Park, Poldark's Chavenage House and a break for refreshment.

Distance - 14 km (8.5 miles)

Walking Time – 4 hours plus a break for lunch

Starts and finishes at the Market Hall: point 1 on the map

Grade A/B on a scale where A is easy and D difficult

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Description

Distance – 14 km (8.5 miles)

① From the Market Hall cross to the Snooty Fox and go along Chipping Street, passing Christ Church on the left and a car park on the right. Continue part of the way down the hill to the end of the iron railings. Here turn left into Love Lane. This lane starts between high stone walls, crosses The Damsells road and continues to join Northfield Road. Carry on along this road in the same direction until it turns sharply left and, after 150 metres, joins the main London Road

② Turn right and continue carefully along the main road for 300 metres, to a gap in the hedge just before the third mini-roundabout. Go through this and turn right through the housing development crossing the road and through a garage court to a fence on the eastern boundary and over the wooden stile. Turn right and follow the waymark sign direction across a small meadow, and the drive to Highfield Farm and on, across the grass, to another stile in a line of beech trees. Follow the footpath, bearing left about 45° and aiming to the left of a tall pine tree in the hedgerow to reach a wooden 5 bar gate in the corner. Cross this and go ahead following the waymark sign, into a field. Continue straight ahead across the field towards a gate in the far boundary crossing the drive to Broadfield Farm which can be seen on the right.

③ Go through the gate into the pasture and up an incline towards a large oak tree on the right of a five-barred gate. Go through the gate and continue across the pasture to a wooden stile straight ahead into a small spinney. Follow the path over a stile through the spinney, keeping to the left of a pond, over a demolished stone stile and then a wooden one into the field beyond. Keep to the left hand edge of the field to find a wooden stile at the far corner. Go over this into another very small and overgrown spinney and leave it by another stile into the next field.

④ Keeping in the same direction, follow the waymarked path towards the hedge. Turn left and continue following the waymarks around the field until reaching a hedgerow with tall trees. Turn right along these until reaching a marker post where the path turns left over a stile in the wall. Head straight up an incline to a gate in the far left-hand corner of the field. Go through the gate and follow the path with a hedge on each side and, after 200 metres, bear left where the path becomes a wide track through a wood. After 100 metres turn right into Ridges Lane. (The previous paragraph involves crossing several fields with crops in and the farmer does not always mark the footpaths as he should, expecting walkers to use short diversions along the edge of fields. We have asked him to sign post these diversions as it is easy to get lost at this point)

⑤ Follow this for 8000 metres, slightly up hill, to Star Farm. At the farm, follow the track round to the right between the farm buildings and, after 50 metres or so, turn left and go on to reach an iron gate onto a metalled road. Turn right along the road for 150 metres to a junction.

⑥ Turn left down an old green lane at the public footpath sign (Roundabout Lane) and follow it for 1 km to its end. Look out for a **WWII concrete pill-box** near a pair of cottages across a field on the left **A**. After the lane has begun to descend you can see (over a metal gate) Avening Court lying in a hollow to the left **B**.

⑦ When the lane reaches a metalled road (Mays Lane), turn sharp right, pass the entrance drive to Avening Court on the right and, a few metres further on, notice the oval opening in the stone wall on the left providing an impressive view of the landscaped gardens. At the road junction turn left and, after 300 metres, left again at the next junction and follow the road into Avening village. Continue downhill through the village to the Memorial Hall.

⑧ Immediately after passing the Hall turn left down a side road to go past the school and reach Holy Cross churchyard. Follow the path through the churchyard, passing to the right of an ancient yew. At the **church C** follow the path round to the right and then, after 20 metres, to the left through the graveyard, up the incline to a wooden gate at the top. Pass through this and the adjoining kissing gate. Turn right and follow the fence line on the right for about 50 metres and then head diagonally left up the incline of the pasture towards a row of cottages. At the top go over a stile and then another, which leads into a small grassed garden area and, after 30 metres or so, over a stone stile into Point Road. Cross to a six barred gate opposite.

⑨ From here the footpath is part of the **Macmillan Way D**. Go through the gate and bear right to follow the steep grassy footpath which keeps close to the boundary on the right. Continue on up to a wooden gate. Pause to look back as you climb at the view across Avening to **Gatcombe Park E**. Pass to the right of a group of trees and over a stile into the next pasture.

⑩ Continue in the same direction following the low stone wall on the left to a wooden stile. Go over this, cross the tarmac track and climb the next wooden stile. At this point you have climbed 65 metres from the High Street in Avening. Continue on and over the next stile into another field.

⑪ Shortly before reaching the far boundary go over a stone stile near the corner of the field. Head diagonally left to the far corner of the field (follow the cut path if the field is under crop). Go through a gap, turn left through another gap and on to the Tetbury - Avening road. Turn right along the road for 200 metres and then turn off the road to the right onto a footpath just a few metres before the Footpath sign. Follow the path round to the left and then go diagonally right across the field (again with a path cut through the crop) to reach a stone stile in the far corner.

⑫ Go over the stile onto the road and turn right. Cross the road diagonally to a gap through an old low wall on the left, leading into the field. The right of way continues in the same direction going across the middle of the field to a waymarked post on the far side. (If the path is not clear aim to the right of a group of tall trees in the far hedgerow.) The path continues as directed by the waymark into the next field, keeping along the field boundary to the right of the wall. Go over a stone slab over a ditch and over a wooden stile to your left and cross the narrow field to a stone stile next to a gate into Chavenage Lane.

⑬ By turning left in the lane for about 100 metres you can see, through the entrance gates, the frontage and chapel of **Chavenage House**, a handsome Elizabethan Manor dating from 1576 **F**.

⑭ Return to the stile and cross slightly right to The Wild Carrot Cafe (a welcome stop for refreshments). Follow a bridleway which passes Wildlife World and then a cottage set back on the left and on into a field with a wood on the left. The bridleway continues left through a gap in the hedge near the end of the field and then right through a wood descending to a metal gate into a valley.

⑮ Bear round to the left, following the line of the wall. (Soon the Macmillan Way which you have been following since leaving Avening bears right, climbing to follow a hedgerow out of the valley.) Continue along the valley bottom for about 800 metres, with the wall on your left. On approaching the short field boundary ahead of you (hedge and fence) look for a stile by a metal gate on the left.

⑯ Cross the stile, go forward for about 20 metres, then follow the path curving right through a grove of trees for about 400 metres, heading East. The path, which is sometimes difficult to follow and can be wet and rough underfoot, keeps near the bottom of the sloping ground. When it converges with the course of a small stream (sometimes dry) continue, keeping the stream on your right. But a little further on, diverge away from it bearing left (towards an old wall) and continue through the wood to emerge quite soon through a metal gate onto the road to rejoin Chavenage Lane. There are the remains of two **caves** in the hill above the footpath which are reputedly the home of a hermit many years ago **G**.

⑰ Turn right. Ignoring an almost immediate right turn walk along the road for about 1 km to reach Hampton Street. Bear right and continue to the crossroads. Here take the road straight ahead up Long Street to return to the Market Hall.