

Walk 5 – Tunnel and valleys

Please read the general introductory notes before walking

Total distance – 6.1kms. 3.8miles. Duration – approx. 1½ hours at a moderate pace.

Starting with your back to the front of the Bath Spa railway station turn L, pass the bus station and turn L at the end of the bus station. Cross the entrance road to the bus station then turn L and follow the pedestrian route across the bridge over the River Avon.

At the end of the bridge keep straight, under the railway arch and into the subway. Enjoy the community mural commissioned in August 2021. At the end of the subway turn R. At the top of the slope go straight on and follow the pavement round to the L. Where the path divides, fork R and then L up the slope to Holloway until you reach a small chapel (Magdalen Chapel) on the R. Opposite the chapel note the horse trough and read the inscription.

Magdalen Chapel was originally built in about 1100. At the end of the 12th century a small hospital for lepers was founded close by. The chapel was rebuilt in 1495 followed by further work in the 18th century. The leper hospital became an asylum in the 13th century and was rebuilt in 1761. It is now a private house.

Continue on up Holloway, which becomes Hayes Place. Where a road joins from the L, cross over towards a flight of steps and turn R, Wellsway will be on the R. This area is known as Bear Flat and has a selection of shops and places to eat and drink.

Cross Wellsway at the traffic lights and turn L. In approx 150 metres fork R into Elm Place.

After approx 150 metres turn R into the park (Bloomfield Green) and follow the path down to where it turns L. Follow it round to the L. Turn L at the junction onto the Linear Park which is part of the Two Tunnels walking and cycling route, be aware there may be many cyclists on the path.

The Two Tunnels route runs along the line of the Somerset and Dorset Railway. This walk goes through the first tunnel, the Devonshire Tunnel which is the shorter one at about 400 metres. The Combe Down Tunnel is 1672 metres long. The path was opened as a walking and cycling route in 2013.

Continue through the Devonshire tunnel which has low lighting so a torch might be useful. Approx 200 metres after leaving the tunnel, go over the bridge, then after approx. 80 metres, double back on a footpath to the R which drops back down to the bridge. Go under the bridge, through a steel gate to join Lyncombe Vale Road. Go down the road and continue L uphill at the fork. At the crossroads go straight over into Lyncombe Hill. Continue down Lyncombe Hill and at the bottom, turn R and at the traffic lights cross the dual carriageway and go over the footbridge to the back of the railway station.

Map of the walk

