

# Brownsea

## South west



OS maps: OS Explorer OL15  
Starting point: SZ 03165 87676  
Duration: 3 hours  
Distance: 5.5 miles  
Height gain: 450 feet  
Access: ferry from Poole & Sandbanks  
Activity: walking  
Terrain: easy trails  
Refreshments: National Trust's café; toilets at Reception & Visitors centre, Villa & outdoors centre

A nature lovers paradise on a secluded island with pine-framed views of the opulent Sandbanks and the yachty mayhem of Poole Harbour.

A mostly flat route on easy paths that meander through the peaty wetlands of Dorset Wildlife Trust's reserve on boardwalks and through the luxuriant pine and mixed forests of the islands.

# Route detail

<b>Brownsea</b>			
Distance (km)	Route description	Points of interest	Notes
0	Arriving at the Brownsea Island quay exit via the National Trust reception turning left towards the clock tower and follow pathway towards the Dorset Wildlife Trust reserve walking parallel to the Brownsea Castle garden wall.	1. National Trust Reception	Pick up a copy of the National Trust's 'Explore Brownsea Island' map. Shop and café in vicinity.
150m	After 150m turn right onto the boardwalk towards the nature reserve and continue until you reach the gravel track. Turn right and continue around the well marked trails around the reserve. After 2km exit the nature reserve and return to the main track.	2. Dorset Wildlife Trust nature reserve	NOTE there is a small charge for entering the reserve. It is well worth visiting the reserve and all four hides for the different views and diverse wildlife.
2.15	Exit the reserve and return to the main track and turn right passing the southern tip of the two lakes and then a wooden adventure ground.		
3.45	At the four-ways junction and take the second path on the right towards Maryland and Pottery Pier on the map. After 200m pass through the deer enclosure into Parkyn Copse and continue downhill then descend the steep stairs to Pottery Pier.	3. Pottery Pier	See the pottery fragments on the beach, lovely views of Arne Peninsula.
4.28	Turn left along the coast path NOTE Continuation along the coastal route for the next 2km is weather dependent. There have been a number of landslips so the route is only possible in dry weather. Follow the guidance and deviations given by the National Trust at this point.		

## **Brownsea (continued)**

Distance	Route description	Points of interest	Notes
6.4	Pass through the ruins at William Pit, (for simple refreshments or to visit the Scout Stone walk uphill to the Outdoor Centre). Walk across the grassy area past the flag pole and enter the woodland through the gate (avoiding the boardwalk) and continue to take the paths that hug the coast.	4. William Pit	The building remains of the original pottery built by William Waugh in the 1850's.
7.1	Reach the pebbly beach of South Shore and head uphill to pass the National Trust houses and follow the signs to the beach, downhill passed the Wardens cottage. On reaching the beach head immediately back uphill. At the top of the hill turn right along the sandy path. Along this path there are a number of options to walk down to the various viewpoints for views across to Shell Bay and Harry's Rocks. These can all be missed using the larger paths along Horse Field and Daffodil Fields.	5. South Shore	Popular beach for a paddle and picnic.
8.2	Pass to the left of the enclosure and on towards the farm buildings and arrive at the visitor and interpretation centre. Continue on the main path passed the church and turn right along the main track back towards the quay.	6. Farm buildings	Great interpretation and visitor centre for finding out more about the island's history and wildlife.
8.9	Arrive at the National Trust reception and quay.		