

Craven Arms Railway Station to Broome Railway Station

8.5km

1. Leave Craven Arms railway station from Platform 2 into the car park and turn almost immediately right along a narrow urban path, signed to Town Centre, between gardens and fencing. You need to follow the black iron heritage signposts through town. Cut left at the junction, then slightly right across the supermarket car park to pass by the supermarket entrance then left to the main A49 road. Cross it very carefully and turn right to reach Corvedale Road (B4368) running left from a mini roundabout. Go down this until you reach Market Street on the right, take this and walk straight ahead, past the Land of Lost Content Nostalgia Museum until you reach the Stokesay Inn. Just beyond is the entrance of the Shropshire Hills Discovery Centre, an alternative starting point, open daily and ideal for refreshment, maps and books.

2. If starting at the Shropshire Hills Discovery Centre, leave via the main pedestrian entrance, through the car park. Step over the road and turn left. Cross the A49 at the pedestrian crossing, go left and immediately right along a path into Dodds Lane. Keep ahead to join a track; this runs beneath the Marches railway line to a stile by a gate. Enter the field and head slightly right following the line of several old trees. Cross a stile and head slightly right towards the hedge alongside the Heart of Wales railway. Go ahead, making your way over three stiles as you walk through fields to Park Lane.

3. Go right here, under the railway to the B4368. Cross with care over to a tarmac road and then ahead to join Watling Street. Go left on a path at a finger post showing the Shropshire Way, passing several houses to a second kissing gate. Go onward over two more stiles in field boundaries to leave Craven Arms. Look for a gateway and stile on the left mid-way up the next field. Go through this and head slightly right,

aiming for a waymark post then to a stile which leads into a lane.

Beware of traffic!

4. Climb a double stile directly opposite into parkland. Head slightly left by the waymark post and you'll see the buildings of Sibdon Carwood to the right. Go through a kissing gate, over the drive, and through two more gates, a footbridge and wooden stile to enter a large pasture. Now aim very slightly right near to large oak trees. Continue to aim to the left of a stone cottage ahead where you cross a stile a few metres beyond.

5. Rise up on an ancient track into a pasture just left of a hedge and follow the hedge line for about 100 metres, before easing slightly left up the field to a stile by a gate with tall Scots pines beyond. Head left up a track and follow the woodland boundary all the way round to the top left corner of the field, where you pass to the left of a ruined building: there's wet ground hereabouts. Rise up to step over a stile and continue along the fence to a junction of footpaths marked by a fingerpost.

6. Cross the stile onto Hopesay Common, owned by the National Trust, where you see Burrow Iron Age Hill Fort on the skyline ahead. Take the path ahead for about 100 metres and then slightly left to reach the high point of the hill where there is a nearly 360-degree view - the Long Mynd and Stiperstones to the north, Herefordshire to the south and Ludlow to the south east. Keep ahead to the left of a clump of tall trees and down the hill aiming to the right of a large house in the valley. You'll see the village and church of Hopesay below on the right. In the bottom corner of the Common slip through the small gate and turn left to drop down to a kissing gate and a drive, passing a dwelling on right. Cross over the lane and go through a second small gate and over a footbridge. The path leads slightly right through the woodland to exit over a stile into a pasture.

7. Continue slightly to the right towards a waymark post; the path bends slightly left to another stile. Proceed through another small wood keeping ahead alongside a fence to your left into a pasture. The path passes by gorse and scrub as you continue ahead to soon follow a grass track beneath a bank of gorse. There are several waymark posts here to guide you. The track runs beneath cottages and down to a field gate. Once through, go ahead on a lane which bends right to drop down to Aston on Clun and the Arbor Tree, for which the village is rightly famous. At the junction, cross over the B4368 road with care and turn left to walk along the pavement to Redwood Drive. Ahead of you is the Kangaroo pub and just a few metres further on and down the lane to the right (B4369 to Broome) is the Community Shop and Café.

8. At this point you can link to Broome station by continuing along the B4369, past the Community Shop to the station, which is a further 0.5km down this lane. The entrance to the railway station is on the right before the bridge.

Walkers are welcome to download or photocopy these instructions, but please note that this text is copyright of Les Lumsdon as the author of the official guide to the trail.