



Bere Alston woodland & riverside walk

Difficulty Moderate

Distance 5 miles

Walk time Approx. 2 hours

Line Tamar Valley Line

Start/End Bere Alston station

Facilities Toilets on the train

A varied circular walk which takes you along the riverbank and under the impressive Calstock viaduct.

Depending on the season, it can be quite muddy and slippery in the woodland and farmland sections, so stout walking boots are recommended.

Leave the station forecourt and turn right at the end of the road, to lead you under the railway bridge.

After a few steps down this lane, cross through the gate on the left hand side.

Once through the gate, head downhill through the middle of the field, following a worn path.

At the bottom of the field, cross through the little stream, and through the gate which leads you into the woods.

Follow the path downhill; when the path forks, keep left, still following the apple symbol.

After a short climb, the path starts to descend steadily down towards the river. When you reach the bottom, keep to the left path, which leads down a green lane towards a farm. (This farm, now called Ferry Farm, used to be the Passage Inn, and is on the site of an ancient ferry crossing which is said to have originated in Saxon Times and continued until the 1950s.)

When you reach a wooden gate, go through this gate and briefly into the farmyard, bearing right, and you will see some steps ahead of you leading up onto the embankment.

At the top of the steps, turn left which will now take you all along the riverbank and under the viaduct. (Calstock Viaduct was built between 1904 and 1907 and is constructed of pre-cast concrete blocks, which were made alongside the river, where you are walking).

As you walk along the embankment you will notice an impressive property with a veranda. This was once the Ashburton Hotel, now Danescombe House, and was opened up to cater for the number of tourists who visited Calstock from the early 1800s by ferry.

Follow the embankment around as it passes Cotehele Woods, taking a moment to look back and admire Calstock viaduct in all its glory.

At the end of the embankment, cross the stile to your left and turn right once on the other side.

Walk through the field, parallel with the river, passing through a gap in the hedge.

Walk to the end of the field, cross the stile and follow the path into the woods.

Keep to the main path as it climbs to a gate.

Go through the gate and continue ahead past the house and keep going straight until you go through the gate at the far end of the yard.

Once through the gate, you will see a junction of tracks; fork right, downhill.

Walk along the grassy track until you get to the entrance to South Ward Farm.

Follow the detour marked out by the farmers (this detour is to keep people away from the properties during the Coronavirus pandemic) which leads you up the bank to your left, through the gate and into the field.

Follow the worn track in this field, until you get to a gate. Go through the gate and walk along the track at the top of the field, then down some steps through a gap in the hedge.

Walk across the top of this next field and downhill again, until you reach the gate at the bottom.

Go through the gate and walk and after a couple of minutes you will see another metal gate up ahead.

Go through this gate and bear right, following the bottom of the field.

As you start to reach the end of the field, turn left and start heading uphill, alongside the bank.

Half way up you will see a gate in the hedge, go through this and carefully cross the little bridge over the river.

Walk up the bank, after crossing the river, and go through the gate up ahead and turn left.

After a minute you will see another gate ahead of you, go through this and walk straight up the track alongside the field.

At the top of this field, you will see another gate leading onto a farm track.

Go through the gate and walk up this track for about 10 minutes.

As you approach the farm, go past the buildings and onto a hard track.

Follow the lane uphill away from the farm, passing more farm buildings to your left and right.

When you come to the road that crosses over the railway, bear right, and then left to continue along the quiet lane.

After walking for another 5 minutes you will come to the road and a signpost showing $\frac{1}{4}$ mile to the station.

Turn left and follow the road downhill until you reach the station again on your right.



Train times

■ **GWR.COM**
■ **03457 48 49 50**

More walks to enjoy

GREATSCENIC.COM/WALKS

All public rights of way cross private land, so please keep to paths and keep dogs on leads. Occasionally work may mean diversions are put in place. If so, please follow local signs.

These directions are intended as a guide only. It is always advisable to carry the relevant OS Map whilst out walking.

