



# PUB WALKS with Darcy

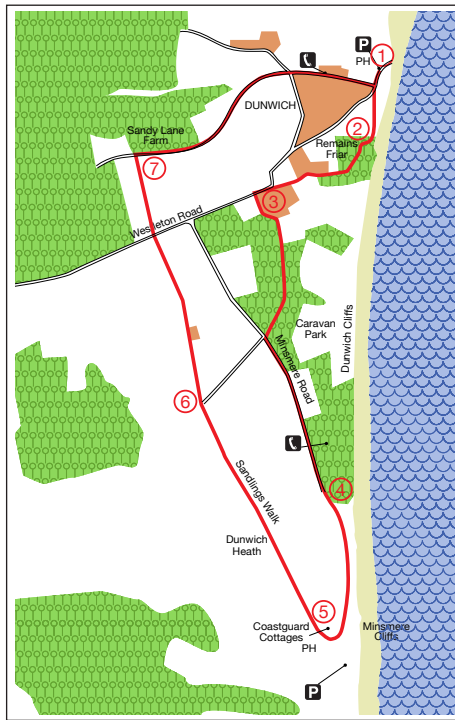
Darcy, our two-year-old golden retriever, loves nothing better than to stretch her legs exploring the beautiful Suffolk countryside. Our ideal walks involve at least one refreshment stop, preferably at a welcoming dog-friendly pub and we're not short of truly enticing routes to choose from.

**T**his month's pub dog walk (or POG as we refer to them) is what I think of as the perfect morning walk around Dunwich.

I suggest morning purely because, if you time it well, you can justify a well-earned slice of homemade cake and cup of coffee at the award-winning National Trust tea rooms at the mid-way point.

Then there's the promise of lunchtime refreshment at the welcoming dog-friendly pub, The Ship, a little later. With a wood-burner for warming your weary feet and Calvors Suffolk larger on draught I think of The Ship as a little bit of my heaven on earth.

This circular walk offers a spectacular range of Suffolk landscapes from shady woodland paths, stretches of purple-carpeted heather heaths and the signature big open East Anglian skies that are so easy to take for granted. If you're lucky you'll also see some rather handsome sheep grazing in St James' Church yard in the final stretch. ■





## THE WALK

**Distance:** Approx 4 miles

**Time:** 1 ½ to 2 hours depending on your pace

**Terrain:** Moderate; farm tracks and sandy paths, quiet road and woodland paths

**Stops:** National Trust Tea Rooms, The Ship, Dunwich

**Ordinance Survey Map:** 212 & 231

**Start point OS reference:** 478 706

For a printable version of this walk go to [placesandfaces.co.uk](http://placesandfaces.co.uk)

1. Park at the beach car park in Dunwich and walk back towards the village centre. Keeping The Ship to your right, at the bend in the road take the public footpath signposted to your left.
2. After a short climb you're at the 13th century ruins of the Greyfriars Friary. Follow the perimeter to where the path re-enters woodland and keep straight ahead until you reach a T-junction. Turn right and follow the track until it meets Westleton Road. Turn left walking on the roadside for 100 yds or so, re-joining the public footpath with a left turn at The Dairy House.
3. Continue straight ahead through the woods until you reach the road. Turn left on to Minsmere Road and continue past two caravan sites on your left hand side.
4. As you enter the National Trust land turn immediately left following the cliff top path to the tea rooms.
5. Head across the heath to the right of the Field Study Centre. As the path forks take the right hand route.
6. After 10 to 15 minutes along this path (at our moderate pace) you'll approach a small wooded area. Take the third right hand turn marked as the Suffolk Coast Path (yellow arrow in blue circle) and continue to the crossroads at Mount Pleasant Farm. Walk straight ahead along a farm track, eventually passing the farm buildings. At Westleton Road cross over and continue ahead taking the well marked gravel farm track to the cattle grid.
7. Turn right long the tree lined path and follow this until you meet St James' Street. Turn right, and passing the church you'll reach The Ship on the right-hand side. A left turn at the top of the road takes you back to the car park.

**Useful links:** [www.nationaltrust.org.uk](http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk),  
[www.shipatdunwich.co.uk](http://www.shipatdunwich.co.uk), [www.dunwichmuseum.org.uk](http://www.dunwichmuseum.org.uk)

Words: Lesley Rawlinson, Photographs: Adrian Rawlinson

## the SHIP AT DUNWICH



Once a haunt of smugglers The Ship at Dunwich is now one of the most popular inns on the Suffolk coast. You will find: real ales, real food and real fires, comfortable, traditionally furnished bedrooms, some with views over the marshes to the sea, an enormous garden, and a beach that really is just a short stroll away. A perfect base from which to explore this wild and wonderful coastline, partake of some of the best fish and chips on the Suffolk coast or simply enjoy a pint or two of Adnams.

- Traditional home cooking
- Selection of real ales
- Crackling log fires
- Large garden
- 15 inviting and comfortable bedrooms
- Children and dogs very welcome

Ideally situated on the Suffolk Heritage Coast in between Aldeburgh and Southwold, just a few minutes off the A12.

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[www.shipatdunwich.co.uk](http://www.shipatdunwich.co.uk)