

TORRS POINT

- Linear coastal walk**
- 14km/8½ miles**
- Allow 4 to 5 hours**
- Roadside pavement, minor road, hard surface track and grass paths. Stile.**
- Moderate to strenuous**
- Stout shoes or boots recommended**
- OS Explorer 1:25,000 map number 312**

PARKING is available at the Harbour Square car park in the centre of Kirkcudbright.

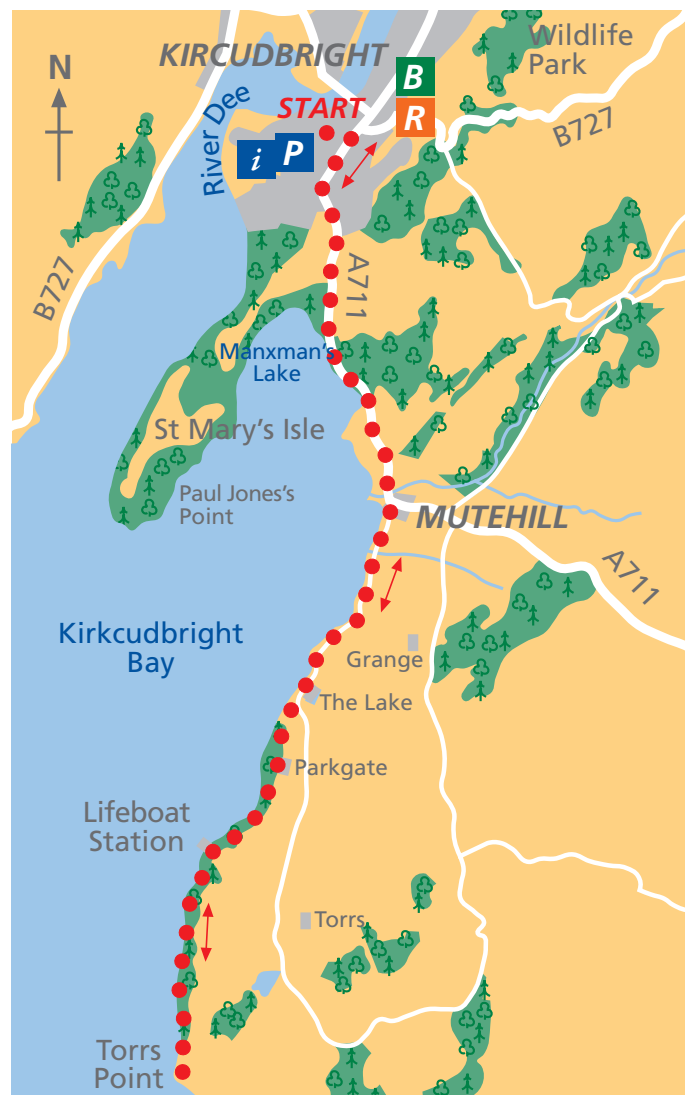
START from the car park. Leave the entrance opposite the Post Office and turn right then left. On reaching St Mary Street, walk out of town, following the A711 going south to Dundrennan and Auchencairn, along the roadside pavement. This road follows the coast until it reaches Mutehill. There are benches along the way and a few points where you can leave the road and get access to the shore. Immediately across the bay you will see St. Mary's Isle which is not really an island but a peninsula. Towards the end of this peninsula is Paul Jones's Point, named after John Paul Jones – the first hero of the American Navy. It was on St Mary's Isle in 1778 that he attempted to capture the Earl of Selkirk. His plan was to exchange him for captured American sailors but he was unsuccessful since the Earl was in England at the time.

The mudflats (known as Manxman's Lake) between St. Mary's Isle and the road are a great spot for watching waders and geese. Birds you have a good chance of spotting are oystercatcher, curlew, redshank, dunlin, common sandpiper (summer), shelduck and mute swans. There is always the chance that a bird of prey will fly over so keep your eyes open.

Continuing on from here, you will soon reach Mutehill. Take the minor road to the right. This quiet road takes you along the shore where you can enjoy uninterrupted views over the Bay. After about a mile you reach a group of houses and a fork in the road. Leave the road, taking the right fork and follow the track which continues alongside the shore. This takes you through a strip of woodland to the Lifeboat Station. The original lifeboat house was situated at the Creekhead in Kirkcudbright, where the boat had to be hauled on a wheeled carriage down the street to the quay. A new boathouse and slipway were constructed in 1892 to make life easier and improve response times. However, it was not until the 1950s that a road through the woods was made. Before this, the crew had to make their way through rough woodland for almost a mile before they could get to the boathouse.

From the Lifeboat Station, continue along the track through the wood, heading for the next stage of the walk – Torrs Point. Where the main track curves back round to the Lifeboat Station, take the grassy track straight ahead. This takes you through the woodland, keeping close to the shore where there are many opportunities to glimpse the stunning coastline. Soon you come to a stile which takes you into a field. Turn right and follow the edge of the field and you will arrive at the cliff top. The path then continues along the edge of the cliff top, with extensive views across Kirkcudbright Bay to the Wigtownshire coast, the Isle of Man and the Cumbrian Coast. The island in the foreground with its lighthouse is Little Ross.

Once you reach Torrs Point and have enjoyed the view and had a well-earned rest, you can then retrace your steps to Kirkcudbright.



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Leave gates as you find them - Keep dogs under close control at all times - Keep to paths across farmland - Take care on country roads
Use gates and stiles to cross fences, hedges and walls - Respect farm livestock, crops and machinery - Take your litter home with you
Protect wildlife, plants and trees - Guard against risk of fire - Make no unnecessary noise.