

## Five beautiful coastal multi-day walks

Walking along a sea coast appeals to many people's imagination. There's something magical about it. The endless, empty horizons, the undulating stimuli to let your imagination run wild. Unencumbered by distracting and attention-calling or screaming elements. But also the certainty of having solid ground under the walking feet. Nothing can happen to you. And then enjoying, imagining and dreaming, but also clearing your head, is a great gift. Below our experiences with five beautiful coastal walks.

### 1. The Lycian way ( Likya Yolu )

This signposted coastal route of 400 km on the Teke peninsula in southern Turkey is of unprecedented beauty. While walking through a magnificent Mediterranean landscape with views of an azure blue sea, you will also meet many silent witnesses of various past cultures. Cultures that realized much earlier than us, hikers, that it is very good to stay here. Or witnesses of peoples and cultures who, often out of greed, hunger for power or jealousy of all that beauty, went on a conquest-oriented rampage here.

#### Silent witnesses

Many have left their mark. Still visible, present and tangible. You "just" walk past it. Or about. Or on. Tombs of the original inhabitants, the Lycians, sometimes built high in the mountains so that the soul could go to heaven faster. Forts for the protection of the crusaders on their way to their holy land. Legacies of the Greeks and remnants from the period of Roman rule. Have you ever walked hundreds of meters over a 2000-year-old Roman aqueduct? Or your sandwiches - *pide* - eaten high at the top of a Roman amphitheatre overlooking the classic city gate of the Roman city of Patara? The apostles Paul and Luke who switched ships here, on their way to Crete. They say. Where, by the way, via the E4 that runs over that island, you pass the place where Paul came ashore again. And what a [place!](#) Not to mention the Genoese, the Arabs, the Venetians... or the Bishop of Myra. Indeed: he is not from Spain but from Lycia. It's still there. At least a particle. In the middle of the current, ubiquitous and prominent, symbols of Islam.

#### Landscape

And all these cultural highlights in a landscape full of surprises: dense, deep forests, with fast-flowing rivers through beautiful ravines, the mountainous chalky hinterland, the ascent of Mount Olympos (2366 m) - you can also walk around it -, idyllic beaches of which Robinson Crusoe might think: "Why didn't I wash up here".

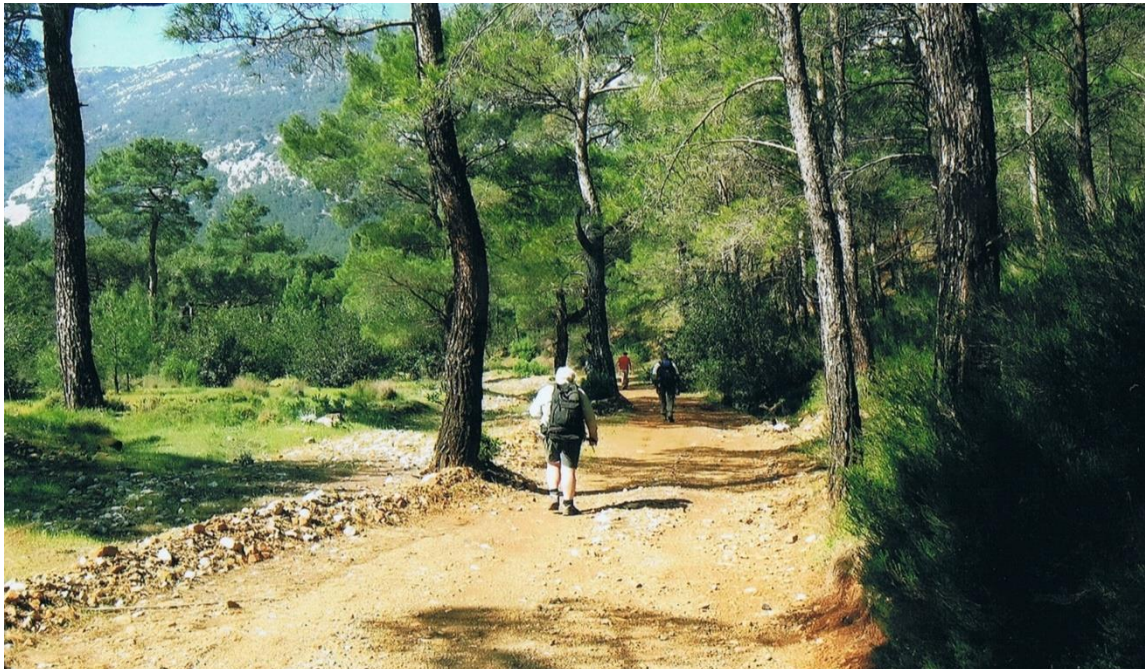
The eternal flames of Chimaera. The waterfalls at Göynük, the castle ruins of Gedelme. The shepherds with their goat herds. Or with their camels. You don't know what you're seeing..... Olive plantations, sunken cities. Turtles on the route. No hiking day without a highlight.

And the really, in every way, very hospitable inhabitants of the sparse villages you pass through along the way. The Lycian way is nature and culture in one route.

- total length of the route: 400 km;
- starting point: between Fethiye and Antalya;
- gravity: medium;
- advice: hire a local, specialized travel agency for all kinds of practical matters such as transport, possible travel, accommodation, etc.;
- Walk the route in sections. You can't and don't want to do so much beauty at once;  
[more about this route](#)



Lycian way



## 2. Rota Vicentina: the Fisherman's Path, Portugal

This signposted walking route of about 130 km continuously follows the Portuguese Atlantic coast. South of the capital Lisbon. The path, the Rota, actually consists of two interlocking paths: the Historic Road and the Fisherman's Path. We walked one stage of the Historic Road and then the Fisherman's Path, to the end of the route: the Cabo de São Vicente. The most southwestern tip of Europe.

Here, on the Cabo, it was thought for a long time, the end of the world can be seen. However, that later turned out not to be the case. But the view is no less. It is said that the Fisherman's Path is based on the old hiking trails between the villages and the best fishing spots. But that can also be a romanticized or popularized version. Either way, the route goes through a mighty, imposing and quieting stretch of coast with constantly changing views of the Atlantic Ocean.

### Landscape

It's not easy to describe the beauty of this route. What makes this route so beautiful? It has to do with extremes. Imagine: you walk almost constantly at height, "over" the cliffs, on narrow paths, with a lot of loose sand, a lot of low vegetation in full color - and that is putting it mildly. Say: explosions. Birds hover over you, the temperature is certainly bearable in spring, say delicious. Paradisiacal? Who knows. After which the sounds of the ocean attract your attention. Wildly crashing waves on the granite rocks and a little later a - there you have it again - paradisiacal beach, enclosed, the ocean seems to have no influence. Seems. Sometimes you can, reasonably safely, descend tens of meters to such a beach and look slowly up along the impressive rocks, only to feel very puny and small in this overwhelming environment. And to continue your way across the beach.

Small streams that come out of the rocks via subterranean passages ... that have made "deep" gullies in the beach sand. If you were a kid then....

It's that you have to move on, but otherwise.....

A good reason to continue walking is in any case to look for a delicious meal in one of the still sleepy blue and white villages in the spring. The bacalhau! Cod. Portions of the outdoor category! *Partes da categoria externa! Coma saboroso!* Portugal and the sea. Know that it was not so long ago that Spain and Portugal together owned half the overseas world.

totale lengte van het Visserspad: ongeveer 130 km;

1. recommended starting point of the Fisherman's Path: Porto Covo;
2. gravity: good condition, especially because of walking through rough sand (paths);

[more about this route](#)





Rota Vicentina



### 3. South West Coast Path, England

The name says it all: a path along a southwest coast, in this case that of England. Along the coast of counties such as Cornwall, Devon and Somerset. In total more than 1000 km long..... Sorry: 630 miles..... fully signposted. When saying the names of these counties out loud and having to rethink units for almost everything, you realize: we are really in England! However, walking on the left on this walking route is not yet mandatory. Which is not really possible, because large parts of the route only consist of a path of less than 50 cm wide. The famous English painter Thomas Gainsborough said it all, in his case about the stage town of Lynmouth: "*the most delightful place for a landscape painter*". A beautiful coastal town where, even as a hiker, you should definitely use *The famous Lynton and Lynmouth funicular Cliff Railway*. A kind of public lift, made of robust English steel, which climbs a dune on the coast via a rack railway and where many English families shout "*hurray*" after the short ride, arriving at the top..... It provides a beautiful view! Do! On this peninsula in Victorian times the hills and dunes were described as "Little Switzerland" ..... Delicious!! And so recognizable....

#### Landscape

Cornwall, the self-proclaimed subtropical corner of England with its palm trees, where the weather can be just as bad as in the rest of the country, nevertheless offers the hiker a lot of walking pleasure. This longest *national trail* in the country leads along and over steep and high cliffs with mostly magnificent views of the ocean (the Celtic Sea or Bristol Channel). New experiences and new vistas every day. The route crosses or scours a number of national parks and areas designated as *Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty*. Which gives room for making [combinations](#): a stretch along the coast and then through a National Park inland. For example, a trip through part of the Exmoor National Park, via part of the equally famous walking route the *Two Moors Way*, then a piece of Coast Path.....

The route has steep drops and rises at times. Because of the so-called "combes". Through rivers, which for centuries flowed into the ocean, sharply eroded valleys. Now also co-namesake of many port towns through which the route runs. And for the hiker so take "bumps". Only to suddenly come across the Culbone Church, the smallest (*parish*) church in England, from the 12th century! Because preserving, preserving and cherishing legacies from the past: leave that to the English. As can also be seen from the mostly beautiful old buildings in the idyllic port towns, which may or may not be silted up, through which the route runs. Nothing short of magical. The highlight of the English's cherishing of the past is possibly all there is to see and experience upon arrival at Tintagel Castle. It is said that King Arthur was conceived here, or washed up on the waves of the sea - opinions differ - and from baby already cared for by Merlin. *Merlin's cave* - a sea cave - is prominent here and can still be admired! During your walking tour, take the time to let the story told here sink in! And continue with a peaceful feeling.....

- Gravity: a good condition is required. The route also has moments that are not really suitable for people with a fear of heights;
- Starting point: the route is not tied to a specific starting point. You can start anywhere, possibly depending on the number of days you wish to walk;

[more about this route](#)





South West Coath Path



## 4. Pembrokeshire Coast Path, Wales

*The Pembrokeshire Coast Path twists and turns its way for 186 miles along the most breathtaking coastline in Britain.* According to the official website of this signposted route.

I can hardly put it better. Indeed: a breathtaking coast. With ditto pad. With a total length of about 300 km. Through the Pembrokeshire Coast National Park. You have to realize that the National Park is hardly wider or more comprehensive than the coastal smoke and the accompanying path.

But that's enough. More than enough!

We are in Wales, part of the United Kingdom, west of Great Britain, on the southwest coast. The hiking trail largely follows the spectacular cliffs, at altitude, with constantly beautiful views of the pounding sea, the huge and jagged rocks, the beaches and beaches and leads past some beautiful Welsh villages and towns. Climbing and descending, to beach level and up again, it is part of this path. In spring, the coastal strip is in full bloom, with all the green, brown, yellow and white varieties you can think of. If you look at the other side, you will often see centuries-old and centuries-long cultivated farmland, with its own charms and challenges. Mansions, castles, castles, country houses and estates. Flowering rapeseed fields in spring. The fox hunt can start at any time..... It is not without reason that this beautiful beach environment formed, for a few scenes, a backdrop in two Harry Potter films (for lovers: parts 1 and 2 of *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows*).

From Martin's Haven a boat sails to Skomer Island in summer. That is, if the wind is not too strong. To make a circular walk of about 5 km there. Not so much because of the cliffs or the sea, but because of the puffins, the puffins. Birds with the cuddliness factor of penguins and seals together, so to speak. After a short boat trip - where in our case someone started singing *britannia rules the waves* during the cruise (and I'm not making this up) - you *can enjoy one of the most incredible wildlife experiences in Britain*. Thus this lyricist, not devoid of any chauvinism. But still: definitely do. Also do: take some extra time for a visit to the town of St. Davids, on the route. The name of the city does justice to its size: it is the smallest town in Great Britain. With the beautiful St. Davids Cathedral. The town became prosperous in the Middle Ages due to the arrival of many pilgrims. Pope Calixtus II had decided that two pilgrimages to St. Davids was equivalent to one to Rome. And then you know it. Even then. Why things went wrong with St Davids later can be found elsewhere.

- Starting point: the route is not tied to a specific starting point. You can start anywhere, possibly depending on the number of days you wish to walk;
- Heaviness: a good condition is required. The route also has moments that are not really suitable for people with a fear of heights;
- Keep in mind that mobile coverage may be limited, as well as the possibilities to withdraw money on the go. Many cash machines are only suitable for British pound cardholders. On this coast, Brexit has never gone away?

[More about this route](#)





**Pembrokeshire Coast Path**





## 5. Mare a Mare Sud, Corsica

**A walking tour through the interior of southern Corsica, from the east to the west coast.**

A route of exceptional beauty. From Porto Vecchio to Burgo: the Mare a Mare Sud. Fairly well signposted (orange stripes). Corsica is in fact a huge rock that rises above the Mediterranean Sea. Over the highest peaks in the central part of the island - up to more than 2600 m - runs the world-famous GR20, from north to south. Until late spring you can still find snow on this GR. And sunbathing on the beach.

### Landscape

The Mare a Mare Sud will introduce you to an exuberant wild nature, with classic Corsican villages, with the famous maquis - a biotope of mostly dense Mediterranean thickets, also the namesake of the French resistance during WW II. And with witnesses of former inhabitants and rulers over these inhabitants. During this trip you regularly have the azure blue Mediterranean Sea in view, at altitude. The highest point on this route is about 1100 m. De traverse can be done in five days. In which hefty climbs and descents. But then on day 1, after about 900 m of climbing, you also have a fantastic view of the harbor and the Gulf of Porto Vecchio. And it doesn't stop there. Views of the artificial lake of L'Ospedale, for example, follow. Almost unbeatable. Those are the moments when you think: Why always walk further? How did this deviation of always walking - on - ever start? Here I stay! To walk on through chestnut forests - introduced by the Genoese to this island for the food supply - , past excavations and ...yes ...past pigs! Lots of pigs..... For a moment you think it wanted to be.....to then see the meshwork.....very special!

Walking in Corsica is often bumping, climbing and descending on paths with loose stones and boulders. The route is not flat for a moment. And while bumping you arrive at a *gîte* on a kind of plateau, you have made a reservation, no one at home, the door of a farm is open, a few large dry sausages with a note of *Bon Appétit* on the table and a, say, fridge with a few beers in it. Then you will get an answer to your question from just now. In the evening, once the innkeeper-horse breeder has come home, to proudly be served a tripe, a freshly spiced cow stomach, specialty of the island ..... We are more of those eaters who find that "*no matter how you prepare and season the tripe, it remains a mediocre dish*" (quote: Pellegrino Artusi, world famous Italian cook).

It should not go unmentioned that Napoleon was born on this island. And you'll know that too. Especially in Ajaccio, where the ferry from Marseille arrives. And leaves again. Just like us. Corsica: île de Beauté, rightfully so!

- Start point Porto Vecchio. By bus from Ajaccio port to Porto Vecchio;
- A good condition is required. A lot of climbing and descending on mostly paths with loose pebbles and stones;
- Total length of the route: 68 km;

[More about this route](#)



**Mare a Mare sud, Corsica**





