



MUCH WENLOCK SHROPSHIRE

HOME OF THE WENLOCK OLYMPIAN GAMES

Two Towns Circular Walk Ironbridge & Much Wenlock

This walk is an excellent way of visiting two historic Shropshire towns: Ironbridge within a World Heritage site and Much Wenlock a charming historic town *"the birthplace of the modern Olympic Games"*.

Both towns offer good pubs and coffee shops for the midway walkers break.

Start: either The Square, Ironbridge (Route A)

or The Square, Much Wenlock (Route B)

Distance: 10.3 miles 17k ms. 4-5 hours

Terrain: Undulating

Public Transport: Arriva service 88 operates between the two towns and can be used by walkers who wish to walk only half the route.

Details at information centres Ironbridge and Much Wenlock www.Shropshire.gov.uk/bustimes

Route A Ironbridge to Much Wenlock (5.8 miles / 9.7 km)

From The Square ❶ cross the bridge and go up the facing steps – continue up the road to a junction ❷ – turn right into Spout Lane and continue along the road until it becomes an unmetalled bridal way, then after 200m turn left through a gate and – continue along path to reach the driveway of Benthall Hall (a metal grave "stone" at the back of the old cemetery is worth visiting). Cross the metalled drive to the bridleway beyond, then bear right past the present cemetery and go left over a waymarked stile ❸.

After the stile go diagonally across the field to its far corner. Go through the hedge gap and proceed diagonally left to the stile in the far corner of the next field. In the following field again go diagonally left to a stile in the top corner. Then go to and over, the stile slightly to the left of the house. Follow the lane to the road ❹, turn right, then left and then right again following the road down a steep slope. After the bottom of the slope go left over the footpath bridge ❺ and follow the path alongside three fields, then through a pedestrian gate and continue for 100m to a sign post on your left, follow it's direction to the hedge above. Go right along the hedge and through the facing gate ❻. Immediately turn right down a track past cottage and straight on through gate, over ditch and then across a field in front of farmhouse. Cross driveway and continue across field to hedge corner.

Proceed with a hedge on your left, then turn into narrow pathway. After a stile into a field continue straight ahead along hedgerow and down through a narrow wood to the bottom stile into a field. Follow the line of an old hedge and then go half left down to stile ❼. After stile go left to end of

pathway then turn right through gate into field. Continue with a hedge on your left for 250m. Go through a kissing gate and after a further 300m cross a bridge and go through another kissing gate onto the road ❽. Turn left and walk into Much Wenlock ❾.

Route B Much Wenlock to Ironbridge (4.5 miles / 7.5 km)

(Follow Shropshire Way signs whenever visible)

From The Square ❾ go past the guildhall and the church and turn right into the Bullring and continue to the end of the lane ❿. Go along driveway and over a footbridge then turning left follow the path across a field. Go through kissing gate to next field, turn left and proceed along the hedge to a green lane. At the lane end ❶❶ cross the road into a farmyard. Turn left then right and go through the metal gate at the back of the farmyard. Cross the field heading towards the tall chimney, enter next field and walk with the hedge on your right, cross a small stream and head to the left of nearest oak tree then head towards the tall chimney and a kissing gate ❶❷ in the field corner.

Go along unmetalled lane to the metalled road, turn right and proceed for 1km to road junction, turn left and left again ❶❸ signed Vineyards Farm. At the farm go over the facing stile ❶❹ up to the field corner and over a stile. Keep straight on with a hedge to your left, then continue straight on, following the Shropshire Way signs, into Ironbridge ❶❺.



Supported by the Shropshire Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty's Sustainable Development Fund

