

**Swan Walk 4: Wells-Wookey Hole circular walk - 4.2 miles long and takes approx. 2.5hrs. Includes hills, steps, stiles and possibly livestock at certain times of the year. The red text identifies points of interest to look out for.**



Standing on what was the drawbridge, with your back to the beautiful 13<sup>th</sup> century Bishop's Palace, turn right and walk over to the viewing area beside the moat. From here you can see a little window on the side of the gatehouse. **1) If you look carefully you can see the metal bell beneath it that the swans here on the moat have been ringing for food for almost 150 years.** The large swan floating on her nest on the water, was one of sixty swans here in Wells during 2012, celebrating the Queen's Diamond Jubilee. Leaving the moat behind you, walk through the large gateway 'The Bishop's Eye' into the Market Place, and then right again through Penniless Porch and onto Cathedral Green.

**2) Built around 800 years ago, Wells Cathedral** is regarded as one of the finest cathedrals in the country. The West Front has the largest collection of medieval statues in Europe. Walk past the West Front and turn right, passing under The Chain Gate (with covered walkway above it) and then turn left. **3) Vicars' Close was built in 1363 and is the longest continually inhabited street in Europe.** Walk to the end and then up the steps to the right of the chapel and over the pedestrian crossing. Turn right past The Cedars, one of the buildings of Wells Cathedral School, and then left into College Rd.



Walk straight up College Rd until you reach the busy Bristol Rd. Cross with care onto Ash Lane and then turn right up The Old Bristol Rd for about 30m (there is no path). On your left you will see a kissing gate in the hedge line. Pass through (please put the rope back to keep it secure) and head up the hill. **4) Glance back for wonderful views of the cathedral, and on a clear day, Glastonbury Tor.** Keep the bench on your right and climb over the stile ahead. Carry on up the hill and through the kissing gate in the top left hand corner of the field. Cross the driveway (please visit [www.miltonlodgewardens.co.uk](http://www.miltonlodgewardens.co.uk) for seasonal opening times) and climb the steps ahead. Go through the kissing gate and straight ahead until you meet another gate onto the road. Follow the road around to the left and then once past **5) Milton Manor**, take the second turning left into the farm buildings marked Manor Farm, following the footpath signs until you meet a kissing gate after about 30m. Go through it and then down the hill, all the time enjoying wonderful views of the area, the Mendip Hills to your right and the Somerset Levels ahead.



Go through the kissing gate at the bottom of the hill and straight across the field and track ahead of you, aiming for the stile in the far left corner. Step over the stream and cross the stile. Keep the hedge line and the orchard of Model Farm on your left and carry straight on up the hill until you pass two gates on your right. Go through the second one and into the camping field. Head for the stile in the far left hand corner that brings you onto a quiet lane. Turn left and continue down the lane until you reach the village of Wookey Hole, famous over the centuries for its caves and paper mills. (You can turn right into the village at this point.) Turn left at the bottom of the lane and go through the kissing gate on your left. Keep to the right hand hedge line and go through three small gates until you reach Lime Kiln Lane. Carry on up the road until you reach a left turn towards the woods and after 20m look to your right where you will find **6) abandoned lime kilns.** Return to Lime Kiln Lane and turn left up the road (you are very near Underwood Quarry, now disused and barely visible from the road). Carry on until you meet another road and then turn right. Pass through a gate and after 20m take the path down to the right of the house at the top of the lane. Gardens back onto this path as you go downhill. Cross over two roads and then take a few steps left to follow a path on your right between the houses into a field. This leads you to a gate into the grounds of **7) The Blue School**, the largest school in Somerset dating back to 1641, founded by Ezekiel Barkham, to whom the first building on your right is dedicated.

Go straight ahead on the path through the school field and over the footbridge. Turn right after the skatepark and then keeping Waitrose on your left continue to the pedestrian crossing. Walk left past Waitrose to the corner and turn left onto Chamberlain St. Cross the zebra crossing leading to Priest Row and then cross over to **8) St Cuthbert's Church.** It is the largest parish church in Somerset and in its grounds are **9) the oldest almshouses in Somerset.** Cross back over the road to the High St and on the corner is **10) The City Arms, once a jail.** Carry on up the High St, noticing the well known gutters with the water running down them. On returning to the Market Place you will pass by **11) The Conduit.** The original Conduit was given by Bishop Beckynton in 1451, a practical and symbolic gift of water from the springs that give Wells its name. Continue through the Market Place and the Bishop's Eye gateway, returning to The Bishop's Palace.



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