



Walk 8

FORT ALBERT & BIBETTE HEAD

3.3 miles (5.3 km)

1 hour 30 minutes



A walk that takes you past Alderney's largest Victorian fort and round a headland that has one of the best views on the island, to the well-preserved German Strongpoint and then on to the northernmost Victorian fort.

1 The walk starts at the Visitor Information Centre. Turn left down Victoria Street, right at the bottom and left down Braye Road towards the harbour.

2 At the train station turn right, cross the road and walk along Braye Common.

If the tide is low, you can see in Braye Bay the wreck of the German patrol vessel VP 703, a converted trawler originally named Henny Fricke. The vessel was driven ashore on 12 January 1943 during a storm and several attempts by the Germans to re-float her were unsuccessful.

3 At the end of the common, after a row of four benches, join the road and follow it up the hill, past the football pitch until you reach the shelter with a bench and map.

4 Turn left and walk up the hill towards Fort Albert. On your left you overlook the Victorian Mount Hale Battery and the Arsenal and Store Establishment. These were part of the Fort Albert complex.

Towards the top note the unusual enclosed rifle gallery which runs down the embankment on your left. This was intended to fire on attackers should the whole complex of the Arsenal and Store Establishment be overrun.

5 On reaching the bend at the top of the track enjoy the beautiful view over Braye Bay and Harbour. Take the path to the left. Below you is Roselle Battery.

ROSELLE BATTERY

The seven-gun Victorian Roselle Battery, was later converted to Batterie Marcks during WWII. It was then armed with four 10.5cm guns in concrete bunkers which guarded the entrance to the harbour. At the front, two British searchlight shelters and an octagonal machine gun pillbox were installed in the early 20th century.

6 Walk on round the track, passing steps down to the German fire-control bunker for the three-gun 17cm *Batterie Elsass* which was located inside the fort during WWII. After the bunker go up to have a look over the wall to see the ditch of Fort Albert.

7 Follow the path, dropping down to Bibette Head – the location of German Strongpoint *Biberkopf*, the best preserved example of its kind on the island.

cupola, two mortars, a unique 60cm searchlight shelter plus numerous machine gun positions in Tobruk pits. You will find information boards throughout the site.

8 From Bibette Head follow the gravel road towards Saye Campsite, behind Saye Bay and go through the gate on the left.

9 Continue through Saye Campsite towards the arch tunnel.



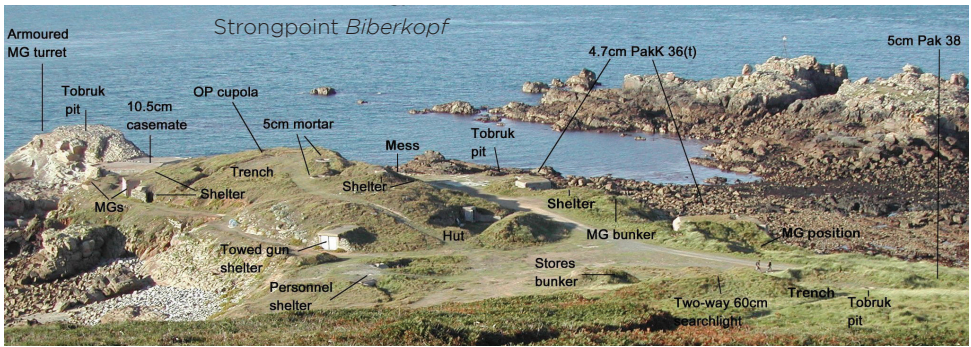
BIBETTE HEAD

The strongpoint was heavily armed having a 10.5cm beach defence gun, a 7.5cm field gun, four anti-tank guns, an armoured machine gun

LAGER NORDERNEY

This area was Lager Norderney, one of the four WWII German forced labour camps set up under the Organisation Todt (OT) in 1942, holding up to 1,500 workers.





10 Go through the tunnel, turn right up the path and then right onto the road.

FORT CHÂTEAU À L'ÉTOC

The Victorian period brought huge change to Alderney and its landscape. The British heavily fortified the island in response to the French extending their fortifications and harbour at Cherbourg. Fort Château à L'Étoc was completed in 1855. It was designed to mount 23 guns and accommodate 128 men. During WWII it was used by the Germans and re-named 'Flakbatterie Einsiedlerschloss' (Hermit's Castle).



11 Follow the road with the campsite on your right which will take you to the Hammond Memorial.

HAMMOND MEMORIAL

Alderney was occupied by the Germans during WWII. However, unlike the other islands the whole population was evacuated to the UK. Subsequently slave labour was used to construct the fortifications which you've seen during this walk and across the island. This memorial was built by local residents on their return to commemorate the many slave labourers who lost their lives on Alderney.



13 Follow the main road to return to St Anne or turn left towards the Roman Fort and join **Walk 9**, Longis Nature Reserve Trail.

12 At the Memorial continue straight on the road until you reach the track on your right that leads to Fort Albert.