

## Symonds Yat East and Peregrine Path

**Distance and time** Walk as far as you wish, up to a maximum of 5km.

### **Brief description of the walk, path conditions and facilities**

Symonds Yat East is a small hamlet nestling on the east bank of the River Wye, almost directly beneath the famous viewpoint at Symonds Yat Rock. This is a pleasant place for a short stroll, watching the waterborne activity or perhaps enjoying a meal or drink overlooking the river. Although very quiet out of season, it can be very busy at peak periods during the summer.

Those wanting a longer walk can use the Peregrine Path which is an easy access route following the line of the former Ross-on-Wye to Monmouth railway. The traffic free section leading south from Symonds Yat East is suitable for all abilities and disabled users. It has been constructed by Sustrans to meet exacting requirements in view of the highly sensitive nature of this area of international nature conservation significance. This is a barrier-free walk, over 5km in each direction. Visitors preferring a shorter walk could go as far as the rapids, where they can watch canoeists receiving instruction (400m each way from the Saracen's Head) or perhaps to the Biblins suspension footbridge (2.3km each way).

### **Start point for the walk**

The easiest approach to Symonds Yat East is from Huntsham Bridge on the unclassified road leading from its junction with the B4229 south of Goodrich. Turn right after 1.6km from the bridge down the dead-end road leading into the village. The approach along the B4432 from Coleford is more difficult involving a very narrow downhill gradient from Symonds Yat Rock, and a difficult and acute left turn at the bottom of the hill into the road leading to Symonds Yat East.

Arriving in the village, park your car in the small pay and display car park with adjacent toilets (open April to November) with a separate disabled WC operated by Radar key. If the public car park is full either leave your car in the adjacent private field car park (charge made) or

continue driving along the narrow road past the Saracen's Head, to arrive at the spacious New Weir car park (charge made).

In the centre of the village, steps lead down to Kingfisher Cruises which offer boat trips along the river upstream. Other steps and a steep ramp lead down to the hand operated passenger ferry which is operated on request at the Saracen's Head – 80p adults, 40p children and 40p cycles.

### **Relevant OS Maps**

Explorer OL14 – Wye Valley and Forest of Dean

Outdoor Leisure 162 – Gloucester and the Forest of Dean

### **Detailed Walk description**

Start the walk from any of the above car parks by heading south past the Forest View Hotel. The Peregrine Path, briefly mentioned above, starts from the New Weir car park and follows the old railway line from Symonds Yat towards Monmouth. This is an easy access path for all abilities, as well as cyclists. A short stroll will take you to the rapids which are a popular place for canoeists to practice their skills under instruction. It is over 2km from Symonds Yat to the Biblins suspension bridge which carries the Wye Valley Walk over the river, and over 5 km all the way to the end of the off-road section of the Peregrine Path in Hadnock Road at the Monmouth end.