

Presteigne and Norton Walk 1

This walk is a gentle, flat stroll around town, designed to be accessible for everyone, including the use of wheelchairs, mobility scooters and buggies. Although only 1.8 km, it takes you around some of the fronts and backs of the delightful range of architecture in Presteigne, giving glimpses into the town's rich history. See how many blue plaques you can spot on your route.

1. From the Assembly Rooms, cross diagonally towards Daphne's and head up Green End. The pavement is narrow but the road is access only and should be safe for those on wheels. Walk straight between the bollards at the end and through the underpass which has painted murals on either side in which young children can spot their favourite jungle animals. At the end bear right to the pavement along the main road ; turning right to walk back across the underpass. Continue along the road as far as the pedestrian lights, cross over and return on the other side past the Memorial Hall.
2. At the entrance to the Memorial Hall, cross to the opposite pavement and turn downhill back towards the town. At the bottom, cross the road; turn left and then almost immediately right, down Harper's Lane (access only) which runs behind some of the grand houses in Broad Street. Walk down to the bottom and turn left just past the salmon pink cottage to walk along the alley between the stone walls. When you emerge on Broad Street cross to the opposite pavement, turn right and head down towards St Andrew's Church. Go into the churchyard and take the left hand path across the entrance to the church, which is worth a look inside if you have time.
3. At the end of this path turn left following the blue signs to the Nature Trail. For ease of travel you may need to use the access road rather than the pavement. At the junction take the right hand road. Follow the stone wall on your left all the way round the bend and back up towards the High Street (Pound Lane). Again you will pass through some of the many nooks and crannies at the back of some of the large town houses fronting onto St. David's Street; look up to your right and you will see some impressive windows at the top of the terrace of houses.
4. Turn left at the top and walk along the pavement; you will see the imposing black and white façade of the Jacobean Radnorshire Arms opposite, which is dated 1616. Take the next road left (St. David's Street), crossing to the opposite pavement for ease of access and head down to the bottom. On your left you will see the Manor House, which is thought to be the original Judge's Lodging in Presteigne. Follow the road round to your right, retracing your steps for a short distance to re-enter the churchyard. Keep straight ahead to pass to the left of the Church. On your left you will pass Garrison House and another blue plaque indicates what is thought to be the site of the original John Beddoes' Free Grammar School.
<http://history.powys.org.uk/history/prest/bedd1.html>
5. Leave the churchyard at the gate and turn right to head back up Broad Street. Here you will see many different architectures with grand houses such as the early Victorian Judge's lodging (well worth a visit, <http://www.judgeslodging.org.uk/>) side by side with tiny cottages, some dating back even earlier. At the top you will return to the Assembly Rooms, where if you wish you can turn right and wander along the High Street, where you will spot many more blue plaques and can enjoy everything from afternoon tea to a gourmet meal.