

Laugharne



A statue of Dylan Thomas stands in Laugharne

The walk leaves Laugharne past the Dylan Thomas Boathouse, continuing through woods and fields above the Taf Estuary. After a steep climb from Delacorse, a narrow lane is followed down to St Martin's Church. Roads and field paths skirt the edge of Laugharne to Broadway and a narrow trail that drops steeply through woodland to a track below Sir John's Hill. A good-quality path leads back across wooded slopes to Laugharne.

The Dylan Thomas connection

Dylan lived in Laugharne for a total of seven years – between 1938 and 1941 and then from 1949 to his death in 1953 – but always regarded the town as a kind of spiritual home. There is no doubt that he revelled in the town's reputation for eccentricity, exaggerating its peculiarities in the fictional Llareggub ('bugger-all' backwards) of *Under Milk Wood*. A different kind of influence, more melancholic and introspective, is evident in later poems such as 'Poem in October', 'Poem on his Birthday' and the elegiac 'Over Sir John's Hill' – all imbued with the town's distinctive atmosphere and landscape.



A simple wooden cross marks the poet's grave

As perhaps the most significant place in Dylan's life, it is fitting that he should be buried in the town – his grave, shared with Caitlin, can be found in the new cemetery of [St Martin's Church](#). Dylan's home for his final four years, the [Boathouse](#), is now a museum dedicated to his life and work.



Under Milk Wood was written in the Boathouse

While you're there

A walk round the town is highly recommended. [Laugharne Castle](#) contains a garden summer house used by Dylan Thomas as a writing room in the 1930s, while a pint in the poet's former local, [Browns Hotel](#), is surely essential for any Dylan Thomas fan. Better still, complete Dylan's Birthday Walk on your own birthday and get your drink free!



Dylan and Caitlin were regulars at Browns

Fact file

Distance: 5.5 miles / 8.8 km

Height gain: 260 metres

Start/finish: Free car park in the centre of Laugharne below the castle (SN 301 106)

Map: [OS Explorer 177 Carmarthen & Kidwelly](#)

Viewranger: Click [here](#) for an interactive map

Refreshments/facilities: There are pubs, cafes, restaurants and a general store in Laugharne, and public toilets a short distance up the main street from the car park.

The walk



The Boathouse at the water's edge

1. From the car park in Laugharne, take a tarmac path below the castle signed to the Dylan Thomas Boathouse. Pass a summer house built into the castle ramparts and bear left on to a path climbing away from the estuary. This is also signed to the Boathouse and is part of the Wales Coast Path.
2. Emerge by a large house (Seaview – another former home of Thomas's in Laugharne) and bear right along a narrow street. At a T-junction a short distance ahead, turn right again and continue past a graveyard to reach a junction of lanes opposite the entrance to a holiday park. Again following a sign for the Boathouse, turn right on to a narrow, dead-end lane running high above the Taf Estuary.
3. Keep ahead past Dylan Thomas's 'writing shed' and then the Boathouse itself (access to the latter is down steps on the right). At the end of the lane, continue on to a gravel track running across the wooded slopes above the estuary. Cross a private drive (part of the holiday park) and continue through woodland to a kissing gate into a field.
4. Follow the curve of the estuary along the bottom edge of a long field. At the end of the field, cross a footbridge over a ditch and continue ahead towards a large house called Delacorse. Go past some beautiful gardens and pass through a kissing gate into the yard. Keep ahead towards the house and join a gravel track to the left of the building. Start a long, steady climb along a tree-enclosed track.
5. At the top of the hill, leave the Wales Coast Path by continuing past the tarmac lane to Brixtarw on the right. About 50 metres further along, turn left on to a lane marked 'Unsuitable for wide vehicles'. Almost immediately, follow the lane round a sharp right-hand bend where a private track to Delacorse Uchaf continues straight ahead. Follow the steadily descending lane back towards Laugharne.

6. On the edge of Laugharne, turn right through a metal kissing gate into the graveyard of St Martin's Church. Descend a flight of concrete steps and bear left towards the church. Go round the top end of the building and descend through the graveyard with the church to your right. To visit Dylan Thomas's grave, cross a footbridge to the new cemetery over the lane on your left. The grave, which is shared with Caitlin, is marked by a simple white cross.

7. Return across the bridge and turn left down the wide tarmac path towards the lychgate. Turn right at the main road (the A4066) and then shortly left, on to Horsepool Road. This narrow street leads gently downhill between terraced cottages to a bridge over the River Coran. Facing the entrance to Horsepool Farm, turn left over a stile into a field immediately after the river.

8. Keep ahead alongside a fence on your right. Cross another stile and continue straight ahead across a field to join a path below trees. This continues into a narrow lane (Holloway Road) between houses. At a junction with a wider road, bear right and follow the road to a T-junction with a lane on the edge of town.



Laugharne Castle

9. The walk can be shortened here by turning left, back towards Laugharne's town centre. However, for the full route, turn right, away from the town, and follow the lane gently uphill alongside a stream on the left. Where the tarmac forks, bear to the left of a house and continue climbing gently alongside the stream.

10. At the end of the lane, continue on to a gravel track, still with the stream to your left. The track eventually crosses the stream shortly before ending at a house. Keeping to the right, walk along the back of the house and join a rough, sunken track between hedges. This climbs to a gate and then continues as a level grassy path (potentially muddy in winter). Emerge in a field and continue ahead with a hedge to your left.

11. Before long, reach a waymark post where the field boundary turns at a right angle to the left. The path you want is the one continuing straight ahead. Drop slightly left and pick up a

worn path along the bottom edge of the field. Cross a stile at the end of the field and bear left to reach a lane. Turn left for about 50 metres and reach a T-junction with the A4066.

12. Turn right and follow the grass verge of the road for about 75 metres, as far as the entrance to a caravan site on the right. Cross carefully to a stone stile opposite and climb straight up a field to a stile and gate at the top. Continue along the right-hand edge of the next field, shortly cresting the hill so that the sea and Laugharne Burrows become visible ahead. With a wooden fence straight ahead, cross a stile on the right. Turn left immediately, over a second stile into woods.

13. Descend steeply through woodland (the path can be slippery when wet) and emerge at the bottom of the trees on to a gravel access track for Salt House Farm. Turn left towards the farm, which is about 600 metres further along the track (you are now back on the Wales Coast Path). As you approach the farm buildings, the track forks. Take the right-hand track, which bypasses the farm and continues for another 700 metres or so before ending at a stile. Continue ahead and climb steeply through woodland on a narrow path.

14. Go past a bench and information board about the Dylan Thomas Birthday Walk. Continue climbing to another bench and viewpoint where a path joins from the left. Keep ahead along a level woodland path above the estuary. After a gate, the path begins to descend towards Laugharne, eventually dropping to a tarmac lane near sewage works. Turn left and follow the edge of the harbour back to the large car park below Laugharne Castle.