The Weatherman Walking maps are intended as a guide to help you walk the route. We recommend using an OS map of the area in conjunction with this guide. Routes and conditions may have changed since this guide was written. The BBC takes no responsibility for any accident or injury that may occur while following the route. Always wear appropriate clothing and footwear and check weather conditions before heading out.
Weatherman Walking

Swansea Walk

Start: Directly outside the house where Dylan Thomas was born, 5 Cwmdonkin Drive
Starting ref: SS 6406 932
Distance: About 3.7 miles
Grade: Easy/Moderate
Walk time: Allow 1.5 hours

Starting at Dylan’s old home on Cwmdonkin Drive in the Uplands area of Swansea, this walk will take you through three beautiful parks before reaching Swansea Bay. You will then take a short stroll along the Wales Coast Path, meeting the famous Swansea Jack on the way. The route then takes you to the city centre and around Castle Square, before dropping back down to the Maritime Quarter to end with a drink in one of Dylan’s infamous watering holes.

Dylan’s Home (SS 6406 932)

Dylan Thomas’s parents moved to the newly-built 5 Cwmdonkin Drive in 1914 and Dylan was born here on October 27th of that year. Dylan lived in the house with his sister and his parents; his mother a seamstress and his father an English teacher at the local grammar school. It was here that he went on to write some of his most well-known work. The house has been lovingly restored and the present owners offer guided tours.

Directions

Starting at 5 Cwmdonkin Drive, with Dylan’s family home on your right hand side, take a short but steep walk to the top of the hill - crossing Hillside Crescent. At the junction of Penlan Crescent, cross the road and turn left. Continue and after a few minutes you will see the green entrance gates to Cwmdonkin Park. Enter the gates and head into the park.
After entering the park take the first left and walk down the steep windy path – there’s a handrail to your left if you need one. At the bottom, turn right and head towards the bowling pavilion. On your left you should spot the cast iron fountain referenced in Dylan’s work.

Follow the pathway around and keep bearing left, passing the triangular Dylan Thomas memorial shelter. Continue and you’ll also pass the children’s playground on your right. To leave the park, don’t take the first exit, which you will see on your left, instead carry on along the tarmac and it will lead you down a fairly steep hill. Exit the park at the bottom of the hill under the green arch gates.
You will come out on to The Grove. Keep to the left side and take the first left and then the next right on to Uplands Terrace. The first left off Uplands Terrace will give you a quick detour to number 32 Mirador Crescent where Dylan attended primary school.

Dylan’s old school, 32 Mirador Crescent (SS 640 930)
Dame schools were common in the 1920s – private primary schools which were usually run by women from their own homes. In ‘Quite Early One Morning’ Dylan describes his time here at Mirador Crescent. Later, he enrolled at Swansea Grammar School where his father taught English. 32 Mirador Crescent is now a private house and there is no public access.
Retrace your steps back to Uplands Terrace. Take a left and keep going until you reach the busy main road, Uplands Crescent. Turn right onto the Crescent and at the first set of traffic lights to your left, cross the road safely. You should be standing near a noodle bar called Wasabi. Take the first left off the Uplands Crescent to Gwydr Crescent, a road lined with terraced houses.

Continue on this road passing Pantgwydr Baptist Church on your right. The road becomes Glanbrydan Avenue.

Take a left turn on to Oakwood Road and on your right you will see the entrance to the second park of the route – Brynmill Park.
Enter Brynmill Park and follow the tree-lined pathway to your immediate left. If you would like to take a look at the lake, you can take a quick detour to your right. Continue ahead for several minutes, leaving the park at the exit with two stone pillars on either side. Cross Park Place Road at the traffic lights and you’ll end up at the Spar shop. Then immediately cross the road to your right (Brynmill Lane) and make your way into the third and largest park on the route – Singleton Park.

This route is a thoroughfare for students from Swansea University so it’s likely you’ll have plenty of company as you stroll through! Take the first pathway which veers off to the left (it has a beautiful curved tree edging it) and continue until you reach the top opposite the university entrance.

At the top of the pathway bear left and continue all the way down to the Gothic looking lodge and the main entrance of Singleton Park. Go under the lodge archway and safely cross the road which is immediately to your left. Then cross the busy dual carriage way on Mumbles Road which will bring you to Swansea’s vast and glorious beach.
Once you’ve crossed the road, take the second exit / ramp up onto the Wales Coast Path and follow it towards Swansea’s town centre. You will now be walking along the route of the old Swansea and Mumbles Railway line, the world’s first passenger railway which was often used by Dylan to go to his rehearsals at the Little Theatre in Mumbles.

If you’re feeling energetic you could give the outdoor gym equipment that line the path a go.

When you reach the WWI and WWII war memorial, turn inland, heading up the three steps, then continue along the top tree-lined pathway. The St Helen’s Ground you’ll see across the dual carriageway to your left had particular significance to Dylan as he won a running competition there when he was a teenager.
The pathway winds down towards Mumbles Road and, on the way, you can get acquainted with the famous Swansea Jack who’s sitting quietly just off to your right.

**Swansea Jack (SS 639 921)**

The name Swansea Jack is believed to hail from the tale of a black Labrador who rescued 27 people and two canine friends from drowning. He lived with his owner William Thomas by the docks and responded to cries of help from the water. In 1936 he was awarded the ‘Bravest Dog of the Year’ by the London Star newspaper. He died in 1937.

Retrace your steps back to the pathway and use the crossing to cross the busy dual carriageway on Mumbles Road so that you’re on the same side as the sports’ ground. Head right, towards the Victoria Park Gardens, after crossing another two smaller roads.

Enter the gardens at the stone pillars, keeping to the right path initially and then the first path on the left towards the Patti Pavilion.
When you reach the William Thomas statue bear right and continue straight towards the Guildhall building.

Exit the gardens at Francis Street and make a left turn so that the Guildhall building is on your right. Then take the first right onto Guildhall Road North and follow this tree lined road which takes you behind the impressive building.

Continue ahead until the building is behind you, cross St Helen’s Crescent and head right.

When you reach St Helen’s Road, turn left and walk past The Wig pub. This next stage of the walk is along some busy roads so if you don’t fancy facing the traffic then you could jump on the Number 2 or 2B bus back to the city centre.
Still on St Helen’s Road, cross St Helen’s Avenue and you’ll pass an old church which is now an Indian restaurant called Miah’s. Continue and cross at the traffic lights on Brynymor Road. On your right will be another set of traffic lights, cross here so that you are now on the right hand side of St Helen’s Road. If you’d like to sample Swansea’s famous Joe’s ice cream then it’s just behind you.

Stay on the right side of St Helen’s Road, where you will find many of Swansea’s best curry restaurants, and continue ahead to the town centre – you will need to cross several small roads.

When you pass the YMCA which is opposite on your left hand side, you are about to reach The Kingsway road. The crossing here is very busy. You will see The Potters Wheel Wetherspoon pub ahead of you on the far right hand side of the road. Be careful as you use the crossing to cross this busy road and continue ahead so that you are walking on the right hand side of The Kingsway.
When you get to the junction with the Co-Op on your right, cross Portland Street so that you are outside the 1956 Morris Buildings. Bear right and you will spot the Kardomah Cafe on the corner before Park Street.

The Kardomah (SS 654 930)

Dylan and his friends would go to the Kardomah to put the world to rights when they were teenagers. In later life most of them became involved in the arts. Known as the ‘Kardomah Boys’ they would record arts programmes for the BBC. The original cafe no longer exists, but this one was built in the 50’s and it oozes nostalgia.

Cross the small lane in front of the Kardomah and take the next left at the Card Factory shop. Continue straight on passing several shops such as Topshop and Marks and Spencer. At the end, the road starts to widen into the Castle Square area.

Continue straight on, keeping to the left of Castle Square while heading up towards Pizza Express and the Swansea castle ruins. You’ll pass The Office pub on your left - this used to be called ‘The Three Lamps’ and Dylan was known to drink here.
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At the top of Castle Square make a right turn. You’ll be able to see Swansea Castle’s ruins on your left. Cross Caer Street opposite Yates Wine Bar and head down Wind Street.

Continue along Wind Street and pass the No Sign Wine Bar (another of Dylan’s haunts). Next to it you will see a small dark passageway. There is an old barber shop symbol at the entrance. Go down Salubrious Passage which leads you into Salubrious Place. This was somewhere sailors and drinkers came to meet women, haggle over deals and plot trouble and Dylan loved it here.

Take a left turn at the end of Salubrious Place on to York Street and continue ahead to the end of the road. At the end, turn right past the carpet shop and then just after you’ve passed Kwik Fit you will need to cross over the dual carriageway at the traffic lights on your left. This crossing is opposite the LC2 leisure centre and the National Waterfront Museum.
After crossing head left towards Swansea Museum (not the National Waterfront Museum). When you reach the museum turn right, walk past it and then cross Burrows Place.

Continue and on the next corner at Cambrian Place you will reach your final destination – the Queens Hotel pub. The Queens Hotel is one of the oldest pubs in Swansea so this is almost exactly how it would have looked when Dylan came here to enjoy a drink or two.

And Derek reckoned he too deserved a drink after the walk and he followed in Dylan’s footsteps. Now it’s over to you. Enjoy!