

Swanston Walk

Follow in the footsteps of RLS for a low level walk if you are not able to do the high level hike or prefer easier options.

The start point is the car park for the Brasserie at Swanston Golf Course or the smaller car park to its east for the Regional Park.

Walk west by the side of the golf course (you are permitted to go between the huts to reach the good track). You will soon see on your right an attractive two storey building with a prominent bay set in attractive gardens. This is Swanston Cottage.

Continue along the track until you come to a kissing gate ahead of you. You have two options. The shortest route is to turn to your left before the gate and go through the other kissing gate a short way up the hill. That route takes you back towards Swanston with good views across much of Edinburgh.

If you do decide to go straight ahead you will still come back to this same point and can take the route through the other gate back to Swanston. Straight ahead your route pulls steadily uphill until you come to a stream with a hut slightly to your left. This is Green Craig Cistern. Do take a look at it. You may also want to go to its right and then take the left branch of path that leads to a dry-stane shelter constructed by the Friends of the Pentlands. Now return the way you came turning right after you go back through the kissing gate.

From the kissing gate a short way up the hill you pull steadily up a well-made path. Always keep to your left. You will pass close to a golf tee box numbered 12. (It is due south of the Brasserie.) Enter the golf course and go behind the tee area and down the path beyond it. A path leads off to your right and passes over the Swanston Burn. Take that path and continue on the far side of the burn until it leads you down to thatched cottages. The second one on your left was John Todd's. The path then leads you down through trees to the car park.