

South Devon WALKING Guide

.....

Walking advice

From the National Farmers' Union and
the Maritime and Coastguard Agency

.....



Our favourite routes

For families, food lovers
and four-legged friends



14 Guided walks



Starehole Bay, near Salcombe

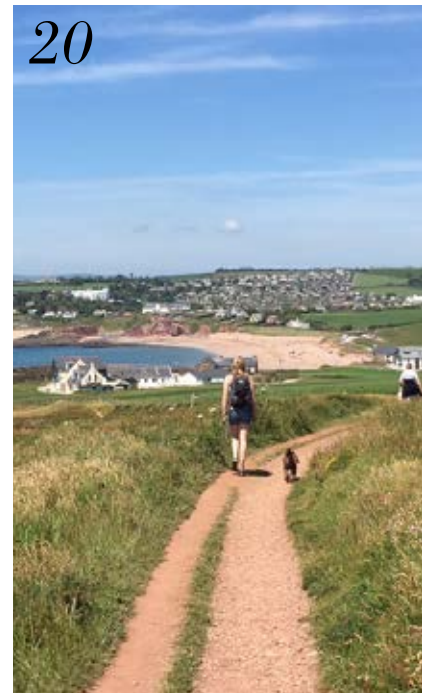
With a spectacular coastline, breathtaking views, beautiful woodland and stunning countryside, it is not surprising that South Devon is a wonderful place for a walking holiday. Whether experienced hikers looking to tackle a new challenge, couples keen to explore different areas of South Devon, wildlife enthusiasts seeking out particular flora and fauna, or families with children needing to burn off some energy, there are walks perfectly suited to all.

Our brand new walking guide offers an exciting overview of some of the most popular routes in South Devon. The guide includes a feature walk from the National Trust as well as advice on nature spotting from South Devon based forest school Forest & Beach. Plus, the National Farmers' Union gives us their advice for safe walking in the countryside. For those with small children, Claire Hall, author of the 'Tin Box Traveller' family travel blog, and Corinne Lynn, owner and founder of Salcombe's 'The Kidz & Co', offer their tips for where best to walk whilst having to push your little ones along in the pram!

Ninety miles of the South West Coast Path can be explored in this corner of Devon – providing well-trodden routes between some of the most stunning bays and popular seaside towns and villages. Expect incredible cliff-side trails, exceptional photography opportunities and picnic spots with backdrops like no other.

Now dust off your walking boots and happy hiking!

The team at Coast & Country Cottages



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SALCOMBE, SOUTH DEVON

Delight in South Devon's home of sailing, succulent seafood and sandy beaches

Salcombe is a fantastic destination to explore on foot, offering a variety of sweeping estuary views, stunning sandy beaches and picturesque rolling countryside, only a short distance from the buzzing town centre. Set out on a walk before returning to the town to browse the boutique shops or enjoy locally-caught seafood.



'When I first moved to Salcombe, I had two tiny children and was keen to make the very most of life by the sea. I loved walking to Bolt Head and jumping in puddles with the children at North Sands, which is what inspired the creation of Rudds Wellies.

There are so many fantastic walks to enjoy around Salcombe, I wanted to make boots that are truly pleasant to wear all day and give support like a walking boot, allowing us to enjoy the area to its fullest!'

- Rachel Rudd, owner and founder of Rudds Wellies, Salcombe



Salcombe holiday homes

Enjoy beautiful backdrops from your holiday property



4 BOLT HEAD

Situated in an ideal position for enjoying the beach at South Sands and exploring the coast path to Bolt Head, this first floor apartment is in a sought after development and offers stunning, panoramic views over the Salcombe Estuary and out to sea.

Salcombe

Sleeps 4

From £662

VisitEngland 4 ★ Gold

coastandcountry.co.uk/cottage-details/4bolt/



SEAGULL COTTAGE

In the very heart of Salcombe, this delightfully presented holiday home boasts estuary views and is ideally positioned to catch the ferry across to the sandy beaches at East Portlemouth and explore the stunning coastline around Gara Rock.

Salcombe

Sleeps 8

From £661

VisitEngland 4 ★ Gold

coastandcountry.co.uk/cottage-details/35buck/



FERRYSIDE

Situated right on the beach at East Portlemouth, this pet-friendly property provides very comfortable accommodation for a family holiday. It is just a stone's throw from the South West Coast Path, so is an ideal base to explore the area.

East Portlemouth

Sleeps 8

From £753

VisitEngland 4 ★

coastandcountry.co.uk/cottage-details/fersid/



OVERSTEPS HOUSE

With direct access to South Sands plus a private beach house, Oversteps is a stylish and luxurious property that has been renovated to the very highest standard. Enjoy strolling on the beach, or hop on the ferry to the heart of picturesque Salcombe.

Salcombe

Sleeps 16

From £2,985

VisitEngland 5 ★ Gold

coastandcountry.co.uk/cottage-details/overhs/

East Portlemouth to Gara Rock



Distance: 4 miles



Difficulty: Moderate



Terrain: Pavement, tracks, grass, muddy and rocky paths. Steep and uneven in places



Circular: Yes



Starting point: East Portlemouth car park (TQ8 8PU) or catch the passenger ferry from Salcombe town centre

This short, circular hiking trail is just under four miles long. Combining the stunning Salcombe Estuary and the dramatic South West Coast Path, this popular walk is ideal for exploring South Devon's picturesque beaches - perfect for a summer's day.

Boasting fabulous views across the Salcombe Estuary towards Bolt Head and the dramatic cliffs near Gara Rock, a number of sandy coves, plus areas of beautiful, peaceful woodland, the variety of scenery on this walk is sensational. Explore the popular beaches at East Portlemouth and Mill Bay, or the lesser known Sunny Cove, Splat Cove and Stink Cove on your route.

Fascinating for nature lovers, spot a wide variety of coastal flowers, especially cliff-top bluebells and wild garlic in spring. Look out for gannets and terns plunging into the water, or cormorants flying over and around the boats bobbing on the harbour. There have also been sightings of dolphins, basking sharks, and dustbin lid jellyfish (enormous but harmless) on this trail!

For those who would prefer to break up the route, visit the Venus Café takeaway at East Portlemouth, or stop for refreshments at 'The Restaurant' at Gara Rock Hotel (reopening summer 2018).

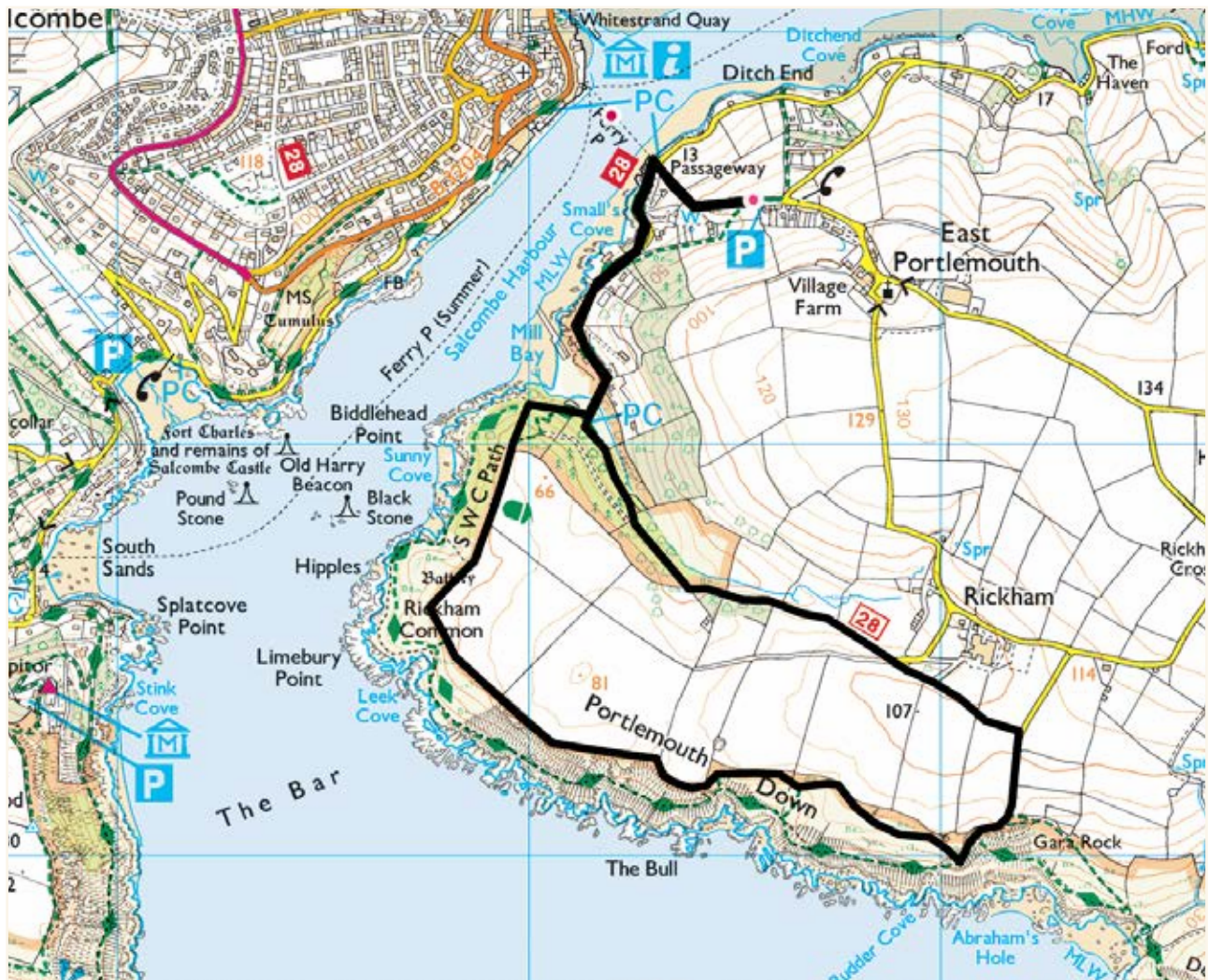


Step-by-step guide

1. From East Portlemouth Beach, head up the ferry steps to the road and turn right. Continuing down the road, you'll see Mill Bay beach on your right and the car park with National Trust information hut in front of you.
2. Go right at the car park, up the hill, signposted for Gara Rock. Keep to the right for the coastal walk.
3. You'll soon come to Sunny Cove, giving you the choice of either popping down to the sand for a detour or carrying on along the coastal path.
4. Carrying along the path you'll come to a gate, which signifies that there may be sheep grazing in this area, so if you are walking with a dog, make sure to keep them under close control.
5. Follow the path until you catch your first glimpses of Gara Rock Beach ahead.
6. When you come to the Gara Rock signpost, head right to go down to the beach or left to make your way to the hotel.
7. If you've chosen to visit the beach, you won't regret it! Gara Rock Beach (Seacombe Sands) is a beautiful, unspoilt sandy cove.

Step-by-step guide continued...

8. Head back up the trail towards the white building above. When you reach the top, take a right, going along the left-hand side of the hotel.
9. With the hotel on your right, walk up the road until you come to a sign for the South West Coast Path, pointing to a stile to your left. Go over the stile.
10. Cross the car park to the next sign, almost directly opposite. Follow this trail.
11. When the trail reaches a muddy track, cross the track and go through the gate opposite. Follow this path, which will lead directly back to the National Trust car park at Mill Bay.
12. Turn right at the end of the car park onto the road.
13. Simply follow the road back along the coast to where you began.



Click [here](#) to view the OS map for our East Portsmouth to Gara Rock walk.

For more information on this walk, discover our visual guide here:

<https://www.coastandcountry.co.uk/walks/blog/east-portsmouth-to-gara-rock-walk/>



East Soar Circular



Distance: 4 miles



Circular: Yes



Difficulty: Moderate



Starting point: East Soar National Trust car park (TQ7 3DR)



Terrain: Tracks, uneven steps, grass, and trails that are steep in places

The East Soar circular walk is one of South Devon's most popular routes, famous for its dramatic stretches of coastline, breathtaking views and inquisitive wild ponies. Our guide to this walk passes through East Soar, Bolt Head and Starehole Bay, with optional detours to Soar Mill Cove, Overbeck's House, South Sands or even Salcombe itself.

Despite being very close to Salcombe, you'll experience a sense of seclusion that's similar to exploring deepest Dartmoor. Bolt Head and Starehole Bay offer some of the most magnificent views in South Devon. On this walk, you should allow time to visit the National Trust property Overbeck's. Inventor Otto Overbeck owned this impressive building which is perched high on the cliffs, with the garden revealing a paradise of tropical plants and trees.

One of the best aspects of this walk is that it's only moderately strenuous in parts, making it accessible for a wider range of walkers. Of course, if you want to get closer to the water at Soar Mill Cove, the hill and steps provide more of a challenge for those who want it. There are lovely places to stop for a rest and enjoy the views, with benches dotted along the route at the most picturesque points.



Step-by-step guide

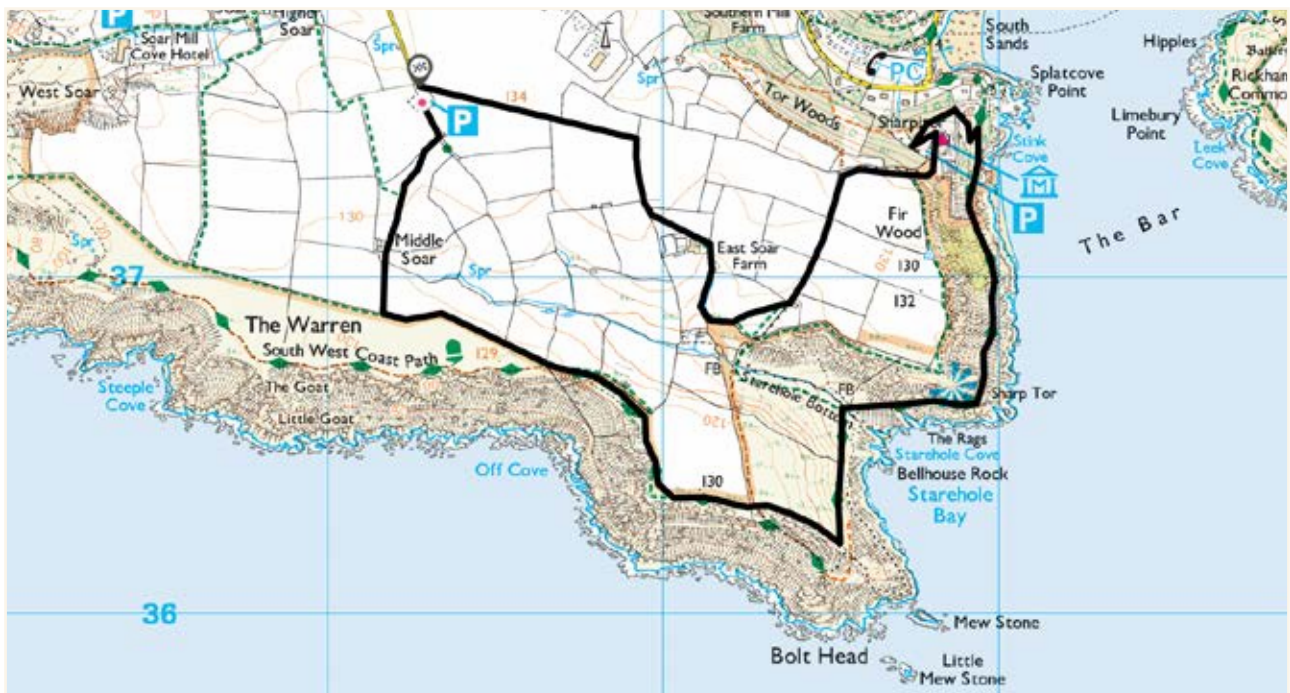
1. From East Soar National Trust car park, return to the road rather than following the trail signs leading out of the back of the car park. Turn left and follow the road for a few hundred yards.
2. You'll come to a brick building on your left. Take the right turn opposite.
3. Follow the trail, which passes to the left of a farmhouse.
4. Go through the gate behind the house and turn left. Go through the next gate.
5. Take a left and follow the trail alongside the wall (alternatively, turn right and head to Soar Mill Cove for a longer walk).
6. After going through the gate on your left, make sure to keep to the trail on the right for the most breathtaking views, rather than heading inland.
7. Follow the well-worn path around the headland and continue to the crest of the hill.
8. Go through the gate. Follow the sign that points right towards Overbeck's and Salcombe.

Step-by-step guide continued...

9. To your right, you'll see a steep downward path. Stay on your current track for an easier walk or take the right turn downhill for a more breathtaking (in both senses of the word!) option.
10. If you've stayed on the original route, at the corner of the field you'll see a sign pointing downhill. Follow this carefully as some of the steps are uneven.
11. Make your way back up the hill towards the tor.
12. The sign at the top will help you regain your bearings. Follow the arrow pointing towards Sharp Tor, Overbeck's and South Sands. You'll be able to catch sight of the stunning Starehole Bay from here.
13. Continue on the path where you'll find several well-placed benches for quiet contemplation. Follow the trail as it gives way downhill and take the steps down.
14. At the foot of the steps, you'll come to a sign. Take a right if you'd like to go to Overbeck's, South Sands or even Salcombe. Take a left to make your way back to East Soar car park.

Getting back

1. Follow the path lined with trees. Farmland will soon appear in front of you.
2. Make your way along the trail through the field. The windsocks ahead are useful landmarks – walk towards them.
3. Exit through the gate and follow the sign left towards East Soar car park.
4. Follow this lane a few hundred yards until you reach the car park. From February to October, the Walker's Hut is open for you to enjoy a slice of cake and cup of tea at East Soar Outdoor Experience – making this a real destination walk for you and your family.



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Click [here](#) to view the OS map for our East Soar circular walk.

For more information on this walk, discover our visual guide here:

<https://www.coastandcountry.co.uk/walks/blog/salcombe-walks-east-soar-circular/>



Hope Cove to Salcombe



Distance: 8.5 miles



Circular: No



Difficulty: Moderate - hard



Starting point: Hope Cove car park (TQ7 3HQ)



Terrain: Some moderate climbs along the cliffs, so a reasonable level of fitness is required

Favoured by many locals and visitors to the Salcombe area, this walk offers an exhilarating way to enjoy spectacular views from the South West Coast Path. The dramatic, rugged coastline contrasts with the gentle South Hams hills to create an unforgettable backdrop to your walk. There are many viewpoints, picnic spots and eateries to stop at along the way.

This is a linear route, so either be prepared for the hike back, park one car at the start and one at the finish, or arrange transport back to Hope Cove. Other than a couple of steep climbs, the main challenge of this walk is its length. The views over the sea are second to none and there are plenty of coves to explore, plus little detours you can take off the path, including one where you can see the remains of an old Iron Age fort at Hope Cove.

Showcasing South Devon's clear turquoise waters from start to finish, this coastal walk is ideal for nature lovers with spots known for wild ponies, pretty hidden beaches and wildlife native to the area. Also popular with foodies, discover a range of fantastic eateries throughout the trail, from The Cove Café Bar in Hope Cove to the Winking Prawn at North Sands in Salcombe.



Step-by-step guide

1. The walk starts at Hope Cove, by the edge of Harbour Beach in Inner Hope. From Inner Hope, take the steps near the Lifeboat station which will lead up a steep hill towards Bolt Tail. From Bolt Tail, enjoy fantastic views back down towards Hope Cove.
2. Continue along the coast path from Bolt Tail towards Bolberry Down.
3. Once you've reached Bolberry Down, stop for refreshments at Oceans Restaurant or continue along the coast path for just over a mile until you reach Soar Mill Cove, a much-loved local beauty spot. The beach itself is right next to the path, making a quick rest at the water's edge irresistible – you may even spot some wild ponies!
4. From Soar Mill Cove, cross the bridge at the top of the beach and follow signs towards Bolt Head and Salcombe. Along this trail, you will be able to see some beautiful secluded coves when the tide is out.
5. The coast path continues to follow the dramatic cliffs to Starehole Bay, where you will be spoilt with stunning sea views.
6. As you follow the path, the Salcombe Estuary will come into sight and you can look out across the water towards Gara Rock on the other side.

Step-by-step guide continued...

7. Follow the path for around a mile until you reach the National Trust sign for Bolt Head. From here, you can glimpse the sandy beaches at East Portlemouth through the trees.
8. Eventually you will reach the road which leads downhill towards South Sands. Before continuing to the beach, we would recommend visiting the National Trust property Overbeck's.
9. Stop at South Sands to enjoy the beach, or continue along the road to North Sands, where you can visit the Winking Prawn restaurant for a hot chocolate or an ice cream, located just a stone's throw from the sand.
10. The final stretch of this walk is from North Sands to Salcombe town centre, which follows the road along the estuary for just under a mile (around a 15-minute walk). Once in Salcombe, explore the boutique shops, relax on the waterfront or indulge in a choice of fantastic restaurants and cafés.
11. If you've left your car at your starting place in Hope Cove, you can catch the bus from Salcombe to nearby Malborough, then on to Hope Cove – please make sure you check the bus times!



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Click [here](#) to view the OS map for our Hope Cove to Salcombe walk.

For more information on this walk, discover our visual guide here:

<https://www.coastandcountry.co.uk/walks/blog/hope-cove-to-salcombe-walk/>



DARTMOUTH, SOUTH DEVON

Discover breathtaking river views, secret coves and unique landmarks from this historic maritime town

Dartmouth is a wonderful location for a walking holiday or day trip. The pretty riverside, cobbled streets and boutique shops give the town a real charm. With sites of historical and natural importance, not to mention mesmerising sea and river views, this is more than the usual stretch of walking path!



Dartmouth holiday homes

The best bases for exploring Dartmouth



BERRY COTTAGE

Dog-friendly, this beautifully renovated waterfront cottage is located in the pretty village of Dittisham. This is a great location from which to walk to Dartmouth or catch the ferry across the River Dart and explore the National Trust's Greenway House and gardens.

Dittisham

Sleeps 4

From £556

VisitEngland 5 ★

coastandcountry.co.uk/cottage-details/berry/



8 THE POTTERY

This pet-friendly, first floor apartment provides a contemporary open-plan living space, situated in the historic Pottery development at Warfleet. From here, explore Dartmouth Castle, Sugary Cove or walk down into the heart of historic Dartmouth.

Dartmouth

Sleeps 4

From £479

VisitEngland 4 ★ Gold

coastandcountry.co.uk/cottage-details/8pott/



GOODER HOUSE

A well presented property, Gooder House has river views and is ideally located only a five-minute walk from Dartmouth's town centre. From here, catch the ferry across to Kingswear, or venture further afield to Blackpool Sands or Dittisham.

Dartmouth

Sleeps 6

From £588

VisitEngland 4 ★ Gold

coastandcountry.co.uk/cottage-details/gooder/



BUTTERWELL BARN

Nestled in scenic farmland just outside Dartmouth, Butterwell Barn provides luxury dog-friendly accommodation for your holiday. Delve into the surrounding countryside on foot, or take the short drive into picturesque Dartmouth.

Near Dartmouth

Sleeps 8

From £915

VisitEngland 5 ★ Gold

coastandcountry.co.uk/cottage-details/bwellb/

Dartmouth to Sugary Cove



Distance: 2 miles



Difficulty: Easy (but there are steep steps to reach the beach)



Terrain: Pavement, walking trails, steep steps down to beach



Circular: Mostly not, but our route is circular from the castle



Starting point: Dartmouth town centre (TQ6 9PS)

Dartmouth to Sugary Cove is a walk that gives you the chance to discover a little corner of South Devon that you may have previously missed. Walking through the town, you'll get to watch the boats on the water, before passing Bayards Cove, Warfleet Creek and eventually Dartmouth Castle. Once at the castle, enjoy a tour and pour over information on the astonishing history of Dartmouth. Of course, once at Sugary Cove, the natural beauty of the area comes into play so there really is something for everyone on this fantastic South Devon walk.

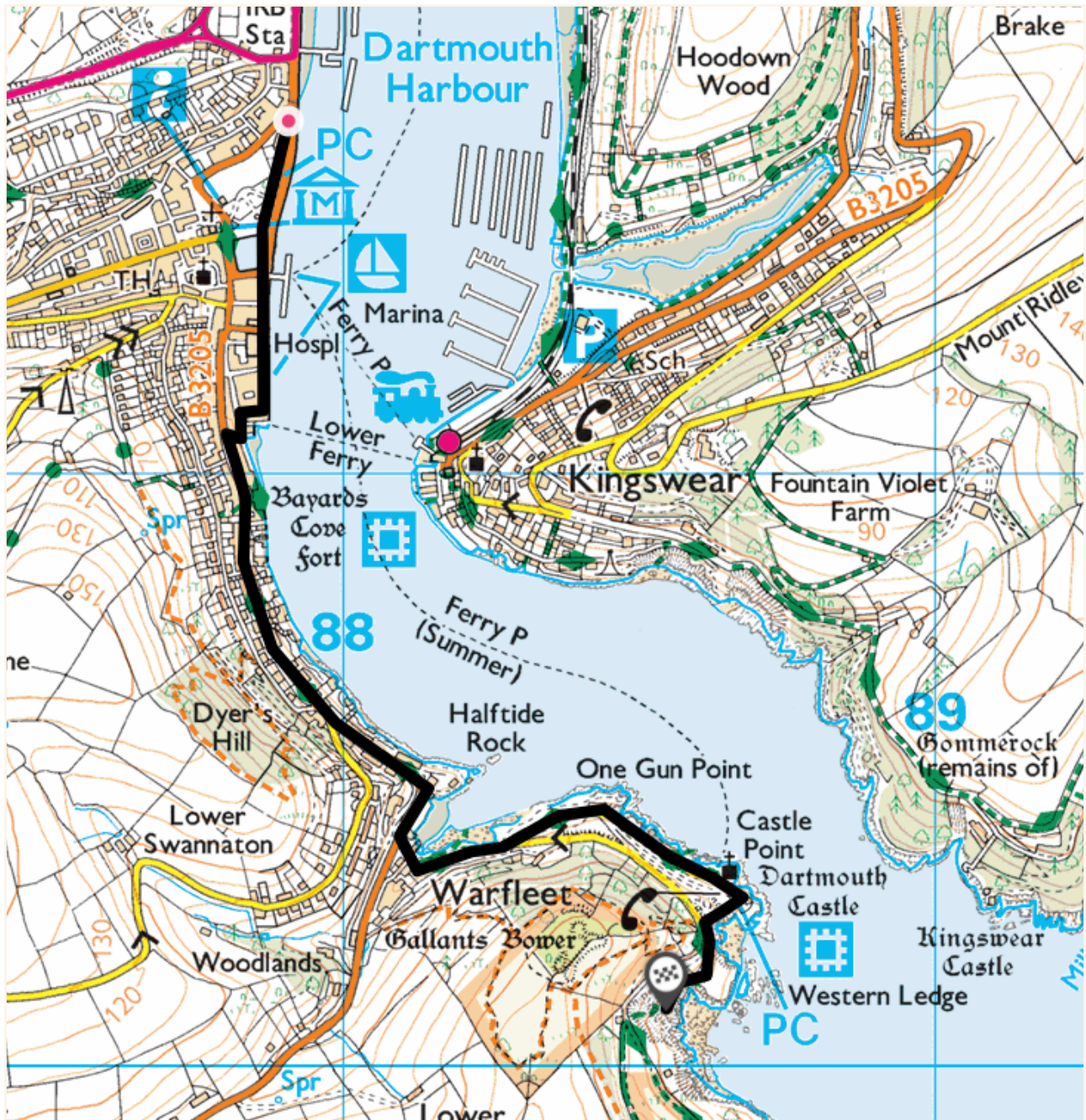


Step-by-step guide

1. Walk through the town towards Newcomen Road, following signs for Dartmouth Castle.
2. Take a left down Castle Road just before beautiful Warfleet, around half a mile from the centre of Dartmouth.
3. There are benches to your left just past the bridge, which provide beautiful views of Warfleet Creek.
4. Castle Road splits into two. Either way will take you in the right direction.
5. If you take the lower road, you can branch off to the left for a direct, waterside route to the castle. Walk around the back of the ruins and go up the steps.
6. For a more circular option, head up the hill.
7. Halfway up the hill you'll come to a cottage. A path loops back down the hill to your left. Take this path.
8. Turn right and follow the trail. This will take you to Sugary Cove.
9. Continue along the trail or head down the steps to the beach.

Getting back

10. Head up the steps from the beach and turn right. This trail will take you to Sugary Green, where there are picnic benches and space for kids to run around and have fun.
11. Follow the trail until you reach Castle Road again.
12. That's it! Head back to Dartmouth along Castle Road. Take the steps down to Dartmouth Castle to make the most of the estuary views, or walk through woodland by staying on your current path.



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Click [here](#) to view the OS map for our Dartmouth to Sugary Cove walk.

For more information on this walk, discover our visual guide here:

<https://www.coastandcountry.co.uk/walks/blog/dartmouth-to-sugary-cove-walk/>



Dartmouth to Blackpool Sands



Distance: 10 miles (or around 4.5 miles one way to Blackpool Sands)



Circular: Partly



Difficulty: Moderate



Starting point: Dartmouth town centre (TQ6 9PS)



Terrain: Pavement, tracks, grass and rocky paths. Steep and uneven in places

Walking from Dartmouth, the beautiful views and fresh air begin the moment you start your hike. This breathtaking route to Blackpool Sands incorporates unspoilt farmland, picturesque villages, stunning sea views and even some of South Devon's lesser known secluded coves.

Popular with families, Blue Flag-awarded Blackpool Sands is a must-visit destination for both holidaymakers and locals in South Devon. Tempt the children to come on this walk with the promise of delicious ice creams from the Venus Café on arrival, or make a day out of it by hiring stand up paddleboards or kayaks from the beach shop.

Another thing that makes Blackpool Sands such a great walking destination is its fine shingle; you don't have to deal with the hassle of getting sand out of your shoes before continuing on your route (although if you are tempted by a dip in the sea, there are well-maintained showers and toilets available!)

Once at the beach, those who would prefer to tire themselves with watersports or swimming can catch the bus back to Dartmouth. For the more adventurous, make your way back around the coast and discover some of our favourite detours, which reveal beautiful secluded beaches such as Compass Cove.



Step-by-step guide

1. From Dartmouth, make your way towards Newcomen Road. Follow this road away from the town and in around half a mile, you'll come to peaceful Warfleet. Turn left down Castle Road.
2. A few hundred yards later, Castle Road divides. Continue along the upper road which will lead through woodland.
3. Follow the road all the way up the hill. At the top, there's a bench with a wonderful view, ideal for getting your breath back!
4. Pass through the 'kissing gate', walk along the ridge of the hill and go through the gate.
5. Continue on the path until you pass Little Dartmouth car park. When the road bends right shortly afterwards, take a left (essentially continuing straight on).
6. Keep going along this road until you reach Stoke Flemming, where you will reach a junction with the Village Hall to your right (behind this building is a public toilet and water fountain if needed).
7. Cross the road and make your way across the park. Exit the park to the left of the boules area. Turn right out of the gate and follow the road for a few hundred yards.
8. Take the alley to the left, signed for the coast path.
9. Continue straight, heading in the direction of the church. When you reach the crossroad, carry straight on, or stop for a drink at the Green Dragon pub!
10. Make your way down the hill past the pub. You'll come to a junction. Carefully cross the A379 and turn right, following the pavement.

Step-by-step guide continued...

11. Leave the roadside when the path appears, making your way through the woods. Following the path will lead you to the car park by Blackpool Sands.
12. To get back to Dartmouth, head back the way you came until you get to Little Dartmouth car park, where you can turn right and walk up to the gate at the far end, then walk down the hill.
13. At the bottom of the hill, go through the gate and follow the trail to the left and down the hill.
14. Continue along the trail, keeping the sea to your right. (Alternatively, you can head uphill and rejoin the track you took on the way.)
15. Go through the gate and take the central path. When the woodland clears, go down the hill to your right.
16. Why not take a quick detour? Instead of following the trail around to the left, go through the gate and turn right. This will take you to Compass Cove, a beautiful secluded beach beloved of locals 'in the know'. There are steps all the way down (due care and attention is advised).
17. Back on the beaten path, follow the trail along the bottom of the field. Go through the gate at the end.
18. Follow the trail uphill. A little way up the hill, look out for a small path leading off to the left. When you rejoin the single track road, continue downhill.
19. At the foot of the hill, you can either continue straight on towards Warfleet and Dartmouth, or take the steps off to the right. These will take you to Dartmouth Castle, where the Dartmouth Castle Tea Rooms offer a range of tasty snacks, meals and drinks.
20. Just past the castle, you'll find the stop for the Dartmouth Castle Ferry – a good option for those with tired legs!
21. Follow the road back to Dartmouth. There are plenty of places to stop on the way, including several benches at Warfleet with lovely views of the creek!



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Click [here](#) to view the OS map for our Dartmouth to Blackpool Sands walk.

For more information on this walk, discover our visual guide here:

<https://www.coastandcountry.co.uk/walks/blog/dartmouth-to-blackpool-sands-walk/>



Dartmouth to Greenway and Dittisham



Distance: 10-12 miles depending on exact route



Circular: Yes



Difficulty: Hard



Starting point: Dartmouth Quay or Kingswear (TQ6 9PS)



Terrain: Pavements, roads, grass and rocky paths which can become muddy at times. Very steep ascents and descents

This famous hike along the Dart Valley Trail is considered one of the very best circular routes when it comes to showing off the natural beauty of South Devon. A challenging walk with many steep ascents and descents, the stunning views of the Dart Valley and beyond make it well worth the effort.

This popular circular route incorporates some of South Devon's most loved charms, including acres of unspoilt farmland, waterside pubs oozing with character, and rail crossings where you may even spot a steam train!

If you're not feeling up to completing the whole circle, we would recommend taking a break in the village of Dittisham. Visit the Ferry Boat Inn or Anchorstone Café on the water's edge, where you can enjoy locally-sourced seafood or traditional pub grub, both with stunning panoramic river views. From here, you can cut the route short and catch the ferry back to Dartmouth.

If time permits, before getting the ferry to Dittisham, a visit to the National Trust's Greenway House is a must. Explore the former holiday home of author Agatha Christie and make the most of the house, gardens and café.

Offering famously beautiful views of the Dart Valley, countless picnic spot opportunities and popular waterside eateries, we would recommend doing this walk on a sunny day.

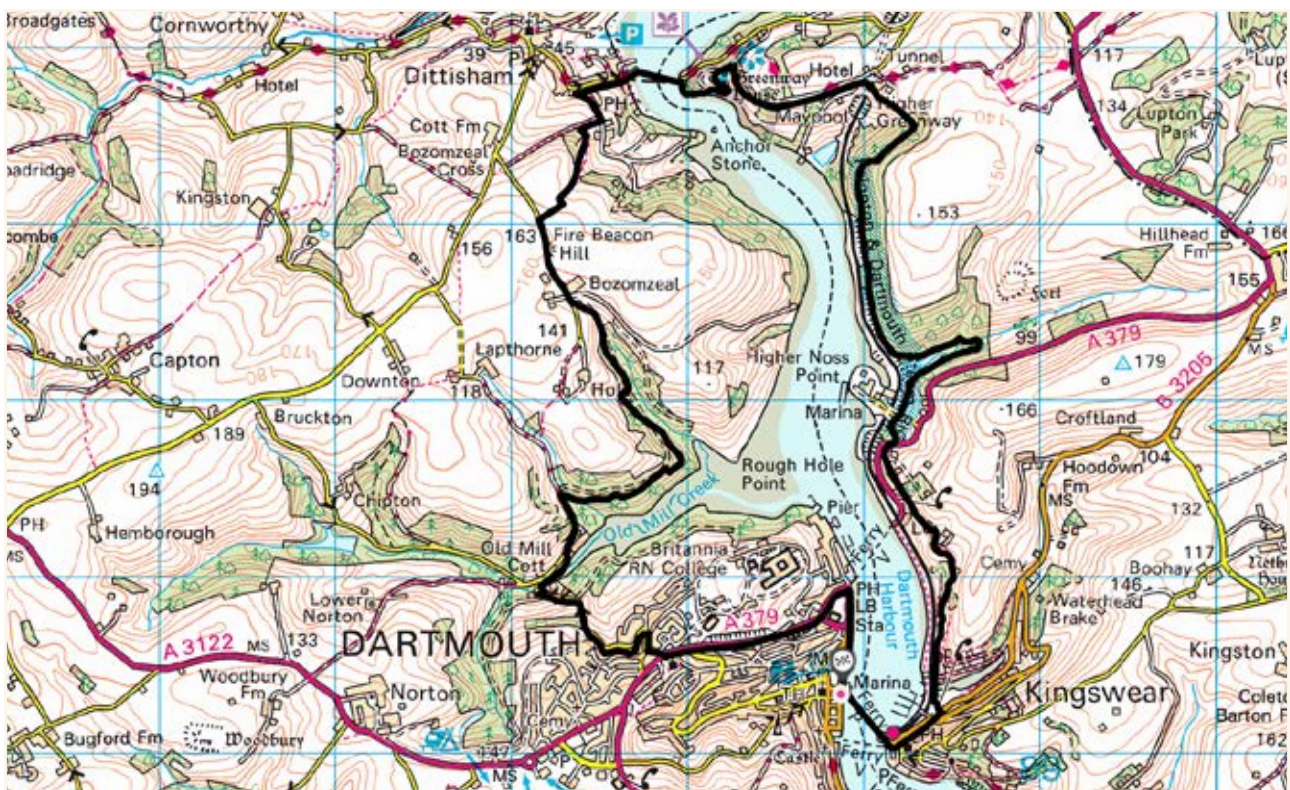


Step-by-step guide

1. Head to Dartmouth Quay and take the passenger ferry across to Kingswear (it's £1.50 for a single adult ticket at the time of writing).
2. Opposite Kingswear Village Stores, you'll see some signposted steps down towards the boatyard. Take these steps and make your way through the boatyard, following the marked path.
3. Continue on the path with the railway line to your right, and look out for steam trains!
4. Cross the rail crossing and walk a few hundred yards up the road until you see a path leading upwards into the forest on your right.
5. Follow the Dart Valley Trail signs through the forest. Turn left when you come to a driveway, signposted for Greenway Ferry and Maypool.
6. Continue on this trail, following signs for Greenway gardens as they appear. When you reach the Greenway Estate, don't forget to have your camera ready for views of the Dart Valley!

Step-by-step guide continued...

7. Continue following the signed path over the fields through the estate until you reach the road. Turn right and head along Greenway Drive towards the official Greenway entrance. From here, you can either make a pit-stop to explore Greenway, or carry on and at the end of the road, turn left and head downhill towards Greenway Quay.
8. Take the ferry across to Dittisham. (At the time of writing, a one-way ticket across the river is £2.) Stop and enjoy picturesque Dittisham and then either get the ferry back to Dartmouth, or continue this route on foot.
9. The road from the Quay passes up the hill between the Ferry Boat Inn and the Anchorstone Café. A few hundred yards up the hill, take a sharp left onto Rectory Lane. Shortly afterwards, turn right onto the track and follow the signed trail – you will make your way across fields with stunning views of the River Dart, and eventually Dartmouth will come into sight.
10. The trail will lead you into an area of woodland, where you will continue past a lake and through the pine forest until you reach the Raleigh Estate information board. Take a left turn here and continue until you arrive at Old Mill Creek.
11. Continue on this road until you arrive in Townstal.
12. Turn right onto Archway Drive and take the first left onto Townstal Crescent. When you reach the main road, follow the road downhill towards Dart Marina and walk along the Embankment back to Dartmouth.



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Click [here](#) to view the OS map for our Dartmouth to Greenway and Dittisham walk.

For more information on this walk, discover our visual guide here:

<https://www.coastandcountry.co.uk/walks/blog/walk-dartmouth-to-greenway-dittisham/>



THE SOUTH HAMS

Explore the breathtaking coastline and countryside surrounding South Devon's most loved towns and villages

From sweeping coastal path to sandy beaches and rolling countryside, the South Devon Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty offers a diverse place to walk for all abilities. Start your route from the seaside villages of Hope Cove or Thurlestone, explore the popular towns of Kingsbridge and Totnes, or discover the Start Bay coastline on foot.



South Devon holiday homes

Experience rolling countryside and stunning coastline



THE OLD MILKING SHED

This beautifully converted barn offers luxury, pet-friendly accommodation for a family or three couples looking to escape to South Devon. Explore the sandy beach at Bantham or walk the coast path to Thurlestone or Aveton Gifford.

Bantham

Sleeps 6

From £772

VisitEngland 5 ★ Gold

coastandcountry.co.uk/cottage-details/milksh/



CLOVERWELL

A delightful cottage annex with lovely rural views, this well-equipped property is ideal for couples looking to explore. Delve into the surrounding countryside with your four-legged friend, or indulge at the café at the nearby Avon Mill Garden Centre.

Woodleigh

Sleeps 2

From £296

VisitEngland 4 ★

coastandcountry.co.uk/cottage-details/clovwl/



HIGHER HILL BARN

This stylish countryside retreat boasts beautiful views over rolling hills and makes a perfect base for a special family holiday. Explore the coastline from Beesands to Hallsands, or around Prawle Point, from this stunning barn conversion.

Sherford

Sleeps 10

From £891

VisitEngland 5 ★ Gold

coastandcountry.co.uk/cottage-details/hilbar/



KITTIWAKE

Positioned above the beach at Hallsands, this spacious holiday home is ideal for a group getaway or luxury family retreat. With the South West Coast Path directly 'on the doorstep', Kittiwake is a stylish base for exploring the Start Bay coastline.

Hallsands

Sleeps 8

From £742

VisitEngland 5 ★ Gold

coastandcountry.co.uk/cottage-details/kittiw/

Thurlestone to Bantham



Distance: 4 miles (depending on exact route)



Difficulty: Easy - moderate



Terrain: Pavement, tracks, road, fields, some steep hills



Circular: Mostly



Starting point: South Milton Sands National Trust car park (TQ7 3JY), although there are several possible alternative starting points in the area

The Thurlestone to Bantham circuit is a slice of South Devon at it's very best. Encompassing both coast and countryside, you will find yourself trekking sandy beaches, ambling through green fields, and navigating the coast path.

With breathtaking scenery (and benches dotted along the way to enjoy the view!), a fabulous choice of eateries and four beautiful beaches to explore, this walk is perfect for those who want to slow down and enjoy a gentler walk.

This route is great for families and suits all ages, perfect for little legs! Expect clear waters with clean surf, birds and blooms in abundance, and quiet coves calling keen swimmers. One of the major positives about this route is that it's peppered with great places to eat. Our top tip is to make sure you're tactical regarding your food choices, being sure to leave enough room to stop at each establishment!



Step-by-step guide

1. Head to South Milton Sands beach and turn right, walking along the sand.
2. At the end of the beach, go up the stairs and along the edge of the car park to join the South West Coast Path.
3. You'll pass a few smaller beaches on your left including Leas Foot and Yarmer, and a golf course on your right (as the signs say, do keep an eye out for stray golf balls!)
4. Don't forget to look back at the wonderful views of Thurlestone Rock.
5. There are some perfectly placed benches along the path for enjoying views of Burgh Island. Take a rest on one of the benches and soak it all in.
6. Go through the gate at the end of the path.
7. There's often livestock grazing here, so the farmer requests you keep to the edge of the field.
8. When you reach Bantham Beach, turn right and walk through the car park.
9. Carry on up through the village of Bantham, past the thatched cottages, until you reach the Sloop Inn. Turn right here (either into the pub if it's time for a rest or just past it if you plan to continue the walk!)
10. The road leads directly to a footpath.
11. Go through the gate and turn left.

Step-by-step guide continued...

12. Turn right when you reach the corner of the field. There will be a gate in front of you. Go through it.
13. Go over the stile straight ahead.
14. Go through the next gate and climb the steep hill.
15. At the waymarker at the top, you can go right to re-join the coast path or carry on towards Thurlestone village.
16. Go through the gate. Keeping to the edge of the field, head towards the church.
17. Go through the gate by the church and walk down the road with the church on your left.
18. Walk around the church and turn right, passing the war memorial on your right.
19. Now, simply follow the road.
20. When you come to the golf club, walk through the golf club car park by the road.
21. Turn right and walk down the footpath.
22. Turn left to rejoin the coast path heading back towards South Milton Sands. When you pass the small car park you'll see a gate leading to a footpath, a little inland. Go through it.
23. Cross the bridge and follow the trail back to the South Milton Sands National Trust car park.



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Click [here](#) to view the OS map for our Thurlestone to Bantham walk.

For more information on this walk, discover our visual guide here:

<https://www.coastandcountry.co.uk/walks/blog/thurlestone-bantham-walk/>



Totnes to Sharpham Vineyard



Distance: 6 miles



Difficulty: Moderate



Terrain: Paths, fields, woodland, several steep hills



Circular: Mostly



Starting point: The Plains, Totnes (TQ9 5DR)

Take a trip along the Dart Valley trail, from the bustling town of Totnes to Sharpham Vineyard, where you can sample locally-produced wine and cheese!

The bustling ancient market town of Totnes is situated at the head of the estuary of the River Dart, and is the starting point to The Dart Valley Trail, a scenic walking route that follows the lower valley of the Dart to its mouth at Dartmouth. The first length of the trail links Totnes to the village of Ashprington, and, because of the network of paths (and cycle routes!), it's possible to walk from Totnes to Ashprington and back using mostly different paths.

A major bonus of this walk is the riverside vineyard and creamery at Sharpham, where you can sample both cheese and wine, and even tour the vineyard if time allows! If you're feeling really energetic, then extend the walk a little further and visit the strawberry picking fields in Ashprington, or head to Bow Bridge to enjoy a well earned tippie by the water's edge at The Waterman's Arms.



Step-by-step guide

1. Walk through The Plains and when the road swings right, bear left onto the public footpath alongside the leat. Top tip: The café next to the roundabout found just before you walk through The Plains (The Curator) serves brilliant coffee and freshly baked pastries!
2. When the leat joins the River Dart, follow the path back to the road and you will reach the Steam Packet Inn on the left. Here, take the marked diversion to your right up the hill and follow the signs taking you onto The Dart Valley Trail.
3. Choose the footpath option instead of the fully paved cycle path, taking the route that runs parallel to the River Dart.
4. At the end of the fenced path, continue ahead into the wood. Wind through the woods keeping close to the river. Look out for the small riverside beach nestled under the trees which makes for a serene rest point!
5. You will soon emerge in a field. Continue along the bottom of this field (still parallel to the River Dart) and then bear right, continuing to follow the bottom of the field.
6. You will soon find yourself above riverside marshes, keep following the footpath to a stile and then descend alongside the reed beds.
7. A further couple of stiles later, you will find yourself at the bottom of another field. Follow the bottom of the field to another stile that enters woodland.

Step-by-step guide continued...

8. Go into the woods, continuing to a gate that takes you into a further field. Head through into this field, cross the valley and head diagonally left (uphill) over the field, to rejoin the cycle path.
9. At this point, The Dart Valley Trail joins the cycle route and in this elevated position you can enjoy fantastic views of the reed beds, the river and the opposite side of the valley.
10. Following the cycle path, you will soon pass through a gate and reach a junction. The cycle route (and the walk's return) bears to the right, but for the outward leg of the walk continue ahead down the track.
11. Keep your eyes peeled for a stile on the right-hand side. Cross the stile, and then climb diagonally across the field towards the next stile at the top.
12. After a steady climb you will reach a viewpoint, which boasts epic views of The Dart Valley. Don't forget to look towards Dartmoor and try to seek out the craggy outline of Haytor in the distance.
13. Once over the stile, you will rejoin the cycle route. Continue climbing this path through the woods.
14. The path will soon reach a lane. Down the lane to the left is the route to Sharpham, so take this route if the lure of sumptuous cheese and wine is too tempting. The views are spectacular down this lane, so even if you're not planning a visit to the vineyard, it's a great viewpoint and well worth the extra walk.
15. To continue towards Ashprington, follow the lane ahead to reach the village. Here, you will find the The Durant Arms, a popular pub serving homemade food and fine ales.
16. To return to Totnes from Ashprington retrace your steps up the hill past the church and follow the lane to the entrance gates to Sharpham.
17. Bear left along the path next to the gate and continue downhill through the woods, passing the stile used for the outward leg.
18. Continue on the cycle route for the remainder of the walk.
19. At the end of the path turn right and then immediately left next to the Steam Packet Inn.
20. Continue along the road to return to The Plains and the walk's starting point.



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Click [here](#) to view the OS map for our Totnes to Sharpham walk.

For more information on this walk, discover our visual guide here:
<https://www.coastandcountry.co.uk/walks/blog/totnes-to-sharpham/>

Aveton Gifford to Bantham



Distance: 3 miles



Difficulty: Moderate - difficult



Terrain: A small section of road, country lanes, fields, woodland and footpaths. Sturdy shoes are recommended



Circular: No



Starting point: Aveton Gifford car park (TQ7 4LB)

Offering breathtaking scenery, enjoy this challenging walk across the countryside from Aveton Gifford to the beautiful sandy beach at Bantham. You will have a true countryside experience, jumping over stiles and wandering down country lanes, through wide-open fields and alongside little streams...

Starting in Aveton Gifford car park, this walk is a fairly challenging hike with some absolutely incredible scenery. Although there are some steep climbs up and downhill, the views are worth it! You'll have to catch your breath more than once when you reach one particular viewpoint, overlooking the River Avon and out towards Burgh Island, as the scenery will take your breath away even more than the steep upward climb.

We recommend stopping at the Sloop Inn for lunch when you reach Bantham. Either as a wonderful way to end your walk or a half way point if you have challenged yourself to do the full loop back to Aveton Gifford. If you do this walk on a Sunday, their roast dinner is one of the best in the region.



Step-by-step guide

1. Starting in the Aveton Gifford car park, walk across to a path leading onto the main road over the river. Be careful here as there is no footpath whilst you are on the road.
2. Cross the road onto a permissive path alongside the road. Re-join the road again over the bridge and then use the path once more and finally cross the road and follow the lane opposite Bridge End. This is not a long stretch of the walk so as long as you have your dogs on leads and children safely held on to, it should not deter you from this hike.
3. Once following the lane, continue past farm buildings and up the steep hill. The climb is probably the biggest of the walk so you can get it out of the way early.
4. At the top, turn right along the lane and then bear left onto the footpath at the sign and then left again as it joins another footpath.
5. Follow this into the field where the beautiful views begin to unfold – make sure to stick to the right-hand side and then go through the next three gates, turning right at the last.

Step-by-step guide continued...

6. Just before the next field gate, leave the well-walked path and drop down the steep climb on the left. Keep an eye out for this turn as it can be missed. The views along this part of the walk are incredible and can be a slight distraction! You'll see rolling fields all shaping inwards to form the Avon Valley - it truly is an incredible sight! If you want to catch another beautiful image of the area, continue straight for a few moments and you'll see the water stretching out in front of you (don't forget to double back though...)!
7. At the foot of the hill, bear right by the next footpath post and head through the next two gates and follow to the left, over the little footbridge crossing the creek. This is a great spot for some photography with the water following steadily towards the sea!
8. As you go through the next gate, turn right and then walk through the field uphill.
9. Continue across the track into the stunning woodland before turning right along the next track after the stile and steps.
10. At the road, turn right down through Bantham and stop for a rest & some refreshment at the Sloop Inn.
11. You'll also pass the Bantham Stores café on your way into the village if you fancied a cup of tea with a view.
12. Before returning the way you came, head down to Bantham Beach to experience one of the most beautiful beaches in the area.



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Click [here](#) to view the OS map for our Aveton Gifford to Bantham walk.

For more information on this walk, discover our visual guide here:

<https://www.coastandcountry.co.uk/uncategorized/blog/aveton-gifford-to-bantham/>



Prawle Point - National Trust walk



Distance: 3 miles



Circular: Yes



Difficulty: Moderate



Starting point: The National Trust Prawle Point car park (TQ7 2BX)



Terrain: Some steep climbs and uneven paths, which can become muddy in winter. Dogs are welcome, but please keep them on leads and be aware of grazing sheep

This walk is full of drama: heart thumping cliff-top climbs, with rocky raised beaches below. Look out for the sunken Demetrios below Signalhouse Point and don't miss the ancient boundary stones that dot the landscape. Call in at the Coastwatch visitor centre to find out more about this wild and beautiful landscape.

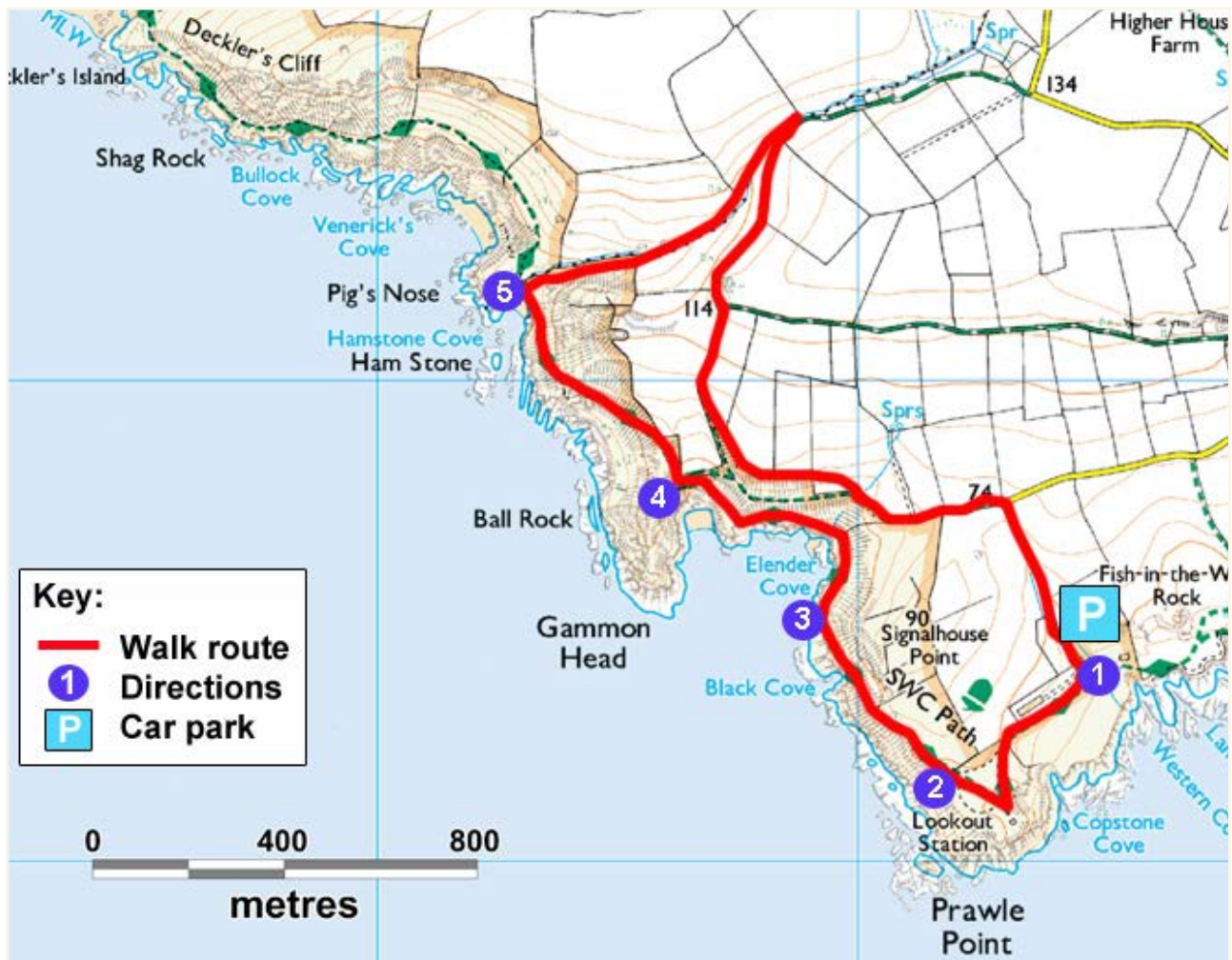


Step-by-step guide

1. From the car park join the South West Coast Path and turn right towards Gara Rock. Walk up the hill towards the look-out at Prawle Point, soon passing the row of coastguard houses.
2. Continue west along the coast path, through a gate, and onto the clifftop of Prawle Point. This headland, the most southerly in Devon, has served on and off as a coastguard station and Lloyds signal station since the 1860s.
3. Continue along the path as it climbs past cairns (built by walkers) and through the stone walls of ancient fields. These are protected Scheduled Monuments and are hundreds, if not thousands, of years old. At Signalhouse Point a late 18th-century Admiralty semaphore station once stood on the summit, similar to that near Soar. Follow the path as it cuts through the rock and out over Elender Cove, with views to Gammon Head.

Step-by-step guide continued...

4. Keep on the coast path, past a steep detour to Maceley Cove, and go through the gate and onto Gammon Head, taking the new path up the incline.
5. Continue along the cliffs to reach Pigs Nose; an unsuccessful iron mine operated here from 1857 to 1860, its cliff-face adit now hidden amongst the gorse. Turn inland at the waymarker, up the path and through a gate. Ignore the next gate and instead turn right and head uphill, with the wall on your left. Pass through a gate into a green lane, and at the next junction of paths go straight ahead to eventually emerge onto the cliffs, alive in summer with orange tip, heath brown and red admiral butterflies, as well as crickets. Ignoring all paths down to the right, keep to the higher path until you reach a lane which leads up to the road. Turn right and back to the car park.



For more information on this walk, visit the National Trust website: <https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/east-portle-mouth-to-prawle-point/trails/prawle-point-walk>



Eat, drink, walk, repeat: A walk for food and drink lovers

Walking in South Devon doesn't have to be without reward!



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Discover some of our favourite eateries along this popular trail from Hope Cove to Thurlestone, including The Cove Café Bar in Hope Cove, the Beachhouse at South Milton and The Village Inn in Thurlestone.



Distance: 3 miles



Difficulty: Easy - moderate



Terrain: Coastal path, beach, some along road



Circular: No



Starting point: Hope Cove car park (TQ7 3HQ)

Walking the South West Coast Path can work up a bit of an appetite so, if like us, you're one of those people that loves to plan your day around the different places to eat, the best walk you can do is from Hope Cove to Thurlestone. This walk is also perfect if you're on holiday with a larger group and some members of the party are slightly reluctant hikers – the promise of different eateries keeping even the most resentful walker at bay...

Set yourself up

Before you set off, pop into The Cove Café Bar for brunch. This dog-friendly café bar serves some of the best breakfast foods in the local area, utilising the abundance of delicious Devon ingredients and offering wonderful takes on the classics. One of the most popular choices is the veggie breakfast – delicious!

Hope Cove to South Milton Sands

- Now you've fuelled yourself up for the day, set off over the beautiful cliffs towards South Milton Sands. When you reach the top of the steps, make sure to pause for a moment at the lookout where you can fully appreciate the spectacular view across Hope Cove and Bolt Tail. This view still takes our breath away and we're lucky enough to be able to visit all the time!



- Follow the path for around 20 minutes until you reach South Milton Sands.
- Once at the beach, paddle along the shores or explore the rockpools before stopping for a coffee and cake at the Beachhouse. With South Milton Sands being dog-friendly all year round, the Beachhouse always has water bowls for your pooch so they are also well catered for.

South Milton Sands to Thurlestone Village

- Once you've rested your legs and finished your coffee, take your time ambling along the beach.
- Follow the steps up towards Links Court and then take the path down the hill towards Thurlestone Golf Club.
- At the Golf Club, keep going along the South West Coast Path – be careful to avoid golfers along the first stretch as they have right of way.
- Veer right and walk across the designated path across the golf course, making your way towards Thurlestone Village where you'll find The Village Inn. This is a perfect pub for grabbing an early afternoon drink or, for those who may have opted for the lighter brunch option, this pub does brilliant fish and chips.

From here, you can either amble back the way you came, or if you feel you may have overindulged, there are many local taxis that can help you find your way home! If you want to try out a final pub, head to The Hope & Anchor in Hope Cove for one last drink - the local ales and beach view will prove to be a great way to end to your day.

Other walks where you can discover wonderful places to eat along the way:

- Thurlestone to Bantham
- Torcross to Hallsands
- East Soar circular
- Loddiswell Woods

For more inspiration on the best places to eat and drink in South Devon, download our FREE South Devon Cookbook, including a food and drink directory: <https://www.coastandcountry.co.uk/downloads/>

Click [here](#) to view the OS map for our Hope Cove to Thurlestone walk.

Put your best foot forward: 5 tips on wise walking in the West Country

Including advice from the National Farmers' Union and the Maritime and Coastguard Agency



If you are looking to truly submerge yourself in the peace and tranquillity of the South Devon countryside, exploring it on foot is undoubtedly a wonderful way of seeing the region's unspoilt beauty. Whether you are a seasoned walker or are just finding your feet, here are five things to consider to keep both the countryside and yourself safe during your visit.

1. Be route savvy

The South West Coast Path comprises 190,808 steps and incorporates 90 miles of picturesque beach strolls, beautiful countryside ambles, and dramatic clifftop trails. Whilst the coast path offers something for everyone, there are many different terrains and levels of difficulty - ensure you choose carefully the sections you tackle, as some stretches are more challenging than others.

2. Rocks, drops and sticky mud!

Whilst clifftops can provide jaw dropping sea views, always be aware of the dangers that cliffs can pose. Don't be tempted to try taking a 'selfie' in a dangerous spot close to the cliff edge... the photo might look dramatic, but the consequences could be severe. Similarly, rockpools are fascinating for discovering marine life with the children, but wet rocks can be slippery, especially when wet, so exercise caution! With many coastal wetlands and mudflats in the area, mud can also be a hidden danger and is something to be aware of when walking.

3. Troubled waters

Whether you are walking on the beach, exploring hidden coves only accessible at low tide, or planning your walking route to include sections of a tidal road, always be conscious of the tides and tide times – don't get caught out and trapped by the incoming water. Tides can come in quickly and take you by surprise.

4. Diligent Doggies

The countryside in South Devon is a wonderful place to explore for dogs, with new scents, massive expanses of land and numerous opportunities for a paddle in the sea! Let your dog enjoy their surroundings whilst also keeping them safe and being mindful of the potential dangers like livestock.

Mike Thomas, Media Advisor at the National Farmers' Union, said, 'We want the general public to enjoy the countryside. But simple steps such as keeping to the right of way unless wider access is available, using gates, styles and gaps and bagging and binning dog mess can ensure you do so in a safe and responsible manner.'



Our advice if you have a dog with you is: keep it close by your side and under control; where there are cows and sheep put it on a short lead; remember, cows are inquisitive and may come to investigate, if you feel threatened walk calmly towards the field boundary and release your dog so you can both get to safety separately’.

“We want the general public to enjoy the countryside. But simple steps can ensure you do so in a safe and responsible manner”

Advice from the Coastguard also stresses the importance of keeping dogs under control on clifftops, to avoid them getting in to difficulty on the cliff edge.

5. Perfect preparation

Ensure your walks in South Devon are memorable for all the right reasons and be prepared before you head off. The Maritime and Coastguard Agency advice outlines ‘In particular remember to wear sturdy shoes or boots and check the weather forecast before you set out. Carry a mobile phone, tell people where you are going and when you expect to return.’ For more advice from the Maritime and Coastguard Agency visit coastguardsafety.campaign.gov.uk.

If you are interested in finding out more about walking safety and ethics, The Countryside Code is a short and simple document outlining further key tips for enjoying the countryside. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-countryside-code/the-countryside-code>

Take a walk on the wild side: Nature in South Devon through the seasons

Top tips from Forest & Beach and the Slapton Ley National Nature Reserve Field Centre



Images by Forest & Beach



A designated Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, South Devon is home to an abundance of wildlife, plus extraordinary flora and fauna, all of which are just waiting to be discovered!

Head out for a walk along one of the region's stunning footpaths or coastal trails, and you will not only be treated to mesmerising sea and country views aplenty... for nature enthusiasts, there is also a multitude of unusual wildlife to be found. Keep a keen eye on the skies, seascapes, hedgerows, and even the path at your feet - look closely, and the rewards will be fantastic! From ospreys to otters, you are sure to spot an array of creatures. Here, two local experts give us an insight into the enticing habitats of South Devon.

Peter Moore is a founder of the forest school based at Beesands, **Forest and Beach**. He gives us information on what you might find in South Devon through the seasons:

'A walk along the coast path in South Devon is indeed a wildlife treat for young and old! The stunning coastline is home to some fantastic creatures ranging from the peregrine falcon, the fastest animal on earth, to the grey seal, the largest predator in the UK! There is a chance to spot wildlife all year round whether looking down on the path or gazing out to sea. Children are very good at spotting creatures along the way.'

In the summer, keep watch for a bloody nosed beetle slowly making its journey, oblivious to others on the path. Or perhaps spot a common lizard warming itself in the morning sun on a rock. Autumn is a great time to spot grey seals - at

low tide, they can often be seen resting on the rocks, whilst at high tide they tend to swim close to shore, especially around Start Point.

In the winter and early spring there is the possibility of spotting common dolphins and porpoises feeding off Berry Head. Whilst in Start Bay, a good tip is to look out for gannets looking for food, their black-tipped wings outstretched then suddenly arrow shaped as they dive for fish. And if you are incredibly lucky there may be a return visit of the humpback whale which visited for six weeks in 2017, certainly something to entice the children to keep their eyes peeled, you just never know...'

"The stunning coastline is home to some fantastic creatures ranging from the peregrine falcon, the fastest animal on earth, to the grey seal, the largest predator in the UK!"

If you are looking to walk 'off the beaten track', the Slapton Ley National Nature Reserve is a wildlife haven,



where you can expect encounters with a fascinating array of species. Slapton Ley is the largest natural lake in South West England, and whilst it is only separated from the sea by a narrow shingle bar, it is entirely freshwater. There are three walking trails through the reserve, ranging in length from 1.5 miles – 2.5 miles. Wander along the paths, stopping to survey the scene from one of the viewing platforms, or to spot birds from the purpose-built hide.

Andy Pratt, Senior Head of Centre at the **Slapton Ley National Nature Reserve Field Centre**, tells us more...

'Look out for a range of ducks and wildfowl on the Lower Ley including the great crested grebe that feeds on fish in the lake. In spring you can see courtship displays and young chicks riding on the parents back. Listen out for the very distinctive songs of the warblers that live in and around the reeds on the water's edge including black caps and cetti's warbler. On the Shingle Beach Ridge look out for plants flowering at different times of the spring and summer, including sea thrift, viper's bugloss and yellow horned-poppy.'

Here are just a few things to spot in South Devon...

With so much to look out for, a fantastic way to keep children entertained during their walk is to take a checklist with you, ticking off things you find along the way. Here are just a few things to spot:

- A heart shaped pebble
- A grey seal, often spotted off the Start Bay coastline
- Sea glass
- A glow worm, more prevalent in the summer months
- A limpet shell with a hole in it – perfect for making a necklace!
- A shooting star
- A gannet

To find out more about Start Bay and the places to walk and explore, visit our Start Bay guide:
<https://www.coastandcountry.co.uk/beaches/blog/start-bay-guide/>

THE BEST FOR FAMILIES

Wonderful walks for all ages and abilities

For families looking to stretch their legs whilst visiting South Devon, we've put together a guide to some of our favourite easy walks. They are ideal for anyone bringing along a pushchair, walkers with little legs, or those who simply want a slightly shorter route with a sturdy path and no steep sections.

Combining picturesque backdrops with fresh sea air, get the kids' wellies on and enjoy the outdoors!



'We moved to Devon just over two years ago after living by the sea in Hampshire. I'm not sure we really appreciated what a beautiful coast walk was until that point. There are so many places we like to go walking with our two girls aged two and five - some more adventurous than others.

Blackpool Sands, just south of Dartmouth, has so much to amuse kids - a freshwater river, rocks to clamber over and crystal clear seas in the summer. Let's not forget the Venus Café on the beach for a scrummy lunch or slice of cake too! If you're feeling a bit more adventurous then a wander along the South West Coast Path between The Daymark at Kingswear and Coletton Fishacre is achievable with a baby or toddler carrier.'

- Claire Hall, Tin Box Traveller family travel blog

'A walk that I really enjoyed with my son, Bobby, when he was in a pushchair was along the cycle path from Salcombe to Malborough where we would spend some time in the park, have a picnic and then walk back. The path is relatively flat and the views are great!

I also recommend the gentle walk to Batson Creek in Salcombe, where you can sit on the bench and spot ducks in the water. End your adventure with a visit to see us in The Kidz & Co soft play café, for a well deserved cuppa and a bite to eat.'

- Corinne, owner of The Kidz & Co soft play café, Salcombe



Snapes Point, Salcombe



Distance: 1.5 miles



Difficulty: Easy



Terrain: Wide paths, gentle



Circular: Can extend into a circular route



Starting point: Snapes Point National Trust car park (TQ8 8NQ)

A stone's throw from the picturesque town of Salcombe, yet worlds away from any hustle and bustle, the gentle terrain of the walk at Snapes Point offers 360 degree views of rolling hills and the delightful Salcombe-Kingsbridge Estuary. This is an ideal walk for tots wanting to stretch their little legs, or those wishing to enjoy the comfort of their pushchair.

Offering impressive views of the Salcombe-Kingsbridge Estuary, this short stroll is a fantastic activity for the whole family. The wide path and gentle terrain make it ideal for those bringing along a pushchair, or young children wanting to practice their hiking skills. Peep through the hedge to get the perfect picture of Salcombe, with the estuary on both sides.

This peaceful route is accessible and enjoyable all year round, but remember your wellies as it can get muddy during the winter months! With plenty of benches to stop and admire the views and access to some pleasant grassy areas close by, why not bring along a picnic and make the most of your afternoon on the outskirts of the vibrant town of Salcombe.



Step-by-step guide

1. A short drive from the Creek car park in Salcombe, follow Batson Creek all the way to the end. Where the road forks, take a left and follow to the next fork. A signpost will direct you to turn right and simply follow this road to the National Trust car park. Leave your car here and set off on foot.
2. Exit the car park through the small gate and the path will lead you down the gentle terrain - make sure to peek through any gaps in the hedgerows to take in the delightful views!
3. Follow the path down the slight hill, running parallel to Batson Creek.
4. Eventually you will reach a signpost directing you to Snapes Point. At this point the terrain becomes a little more 'off-road', so depending on what type of pushchair you are bringing (if any), this may be a good point to head back towards the car park.
5. If you're feeling adventurous and either have an all-terrain pushchair or are all walking, you can continue the circular walk that will end back at the car park.
6. To complete the circular walk, continue along the path and when you reach the end, turn left. Follow the markers through the field and past 'Tosnos Point', eventually you will return to the car park.

Bolberry Down



Distance: 1 mile



Difficulty: Easy



Terrain: Sturdy walkways, flat



Circular: Yes



Starting point: Bolberry Down car park (TQ7 3DY)

With stunning panoramic views of the beautiful coastline and South Devon countryside, Bolberry Down is a mainly flat section of the South West Coast Path featuring a resurfaced and slightly widened path. The shallow terrain and sturdy walkway makes this circular walk ideal for those bringing along a pushchair.

Bolberry Down is just a short drive from Salcombe, Hope Cove and Kingsbridge, with ample parking available at the beginning of the route. The gentle pathway with little incline makes this route easily accessible to all, but, due to its proximity to the cliff edge, please keep dogs and children close by!

Stop en route at the newly opened, dog-friendly, Oceans Restaurant for a meal, hot drink or tasty cake, or if you prefer to bring your own picnic along, a handful of benches can be found just outside the car park with more benches along the route.

In addition to the impressive local wildlife, the Bolberry area is surrounded by a variety of points of historical interest, from the 2,500-year-old Iron age fort at Bolt Tail, more recently used as a coastal look out in the 1700's, to the many shipwrecks on the sea bed below.



Step-by-step guide

1. Bolberry Down is around a 15-minute drive from Salcombe town centre.
2. From the National Trust car park, follow the trail along the edge of the road toward the houses and Oceans Restaurant.
3. When you reach a metal gate, bear left on the tarmac path which heads out towards the sea. Bear left on the path again to join the South West Coast Path.
4. Continue along the South West Coast Path taking in the incredible views out to sea.
5. When you reach the 'kissing gate' set in the dry-stone wall, take the path on the right and head back inland towards the Oceans Restaurant, then back towards the car park.
6. If you would like to continue on a longer route, go through the 'kissing gate' and continue on the South West Coast Path for as long as you like, the views over Hope Cove and out towards Bigbury Bay and Burgh Island are particularly spectacular. Please note that this section is not a circular route and is steep and uneven in places, you will need to retrace your steps to re-join the main route.

Family friendly holiday homes

Book a break the whole family can enjoy



3 NEW BARN

Set within the beautiful grounds at Hillfield Village, this superb two-storey cottage is only a short drive from Dartmouth and is ideally located for family adventures in the South Devon countryside, or for visiting Blackpool Sands, Slapton Ley and Start Bay.

Hillfield Village, near Dartmouth

Sleeps 4

From £448

VisitEngland 4 ★ Gold

coastandcountry.co.uk/cottage-details/game/



PROSPECTS

Boasting views towards South Pool creek, this comfortable, family-friendly apartment is a short walk from central Salcombe, perfectly located to enjoy a stroll to Batson Creek or The Kidz & Co soft play café.

Salcombe

Sleeps 6

From £421

VisitEngland 4 ★

coastandcountry.co.uk/cottage-details/prospe/



SOUTH WING

Set on a working farm in the rural village of Sherford, this 'wing' of a traditional Devon farmhouse offers the ideal base for families looking to explore the countryside, with or without a dog. Enjoy the pet-friendly beach at Slapton Sands, just a few miles away.

Near Kingsbridge

Sleeps 6

From £374

VisitEngland 4 ★ Gold

coastandcountry.co.uk/cottage-details/keybar/



MOULT HILL BARN

Positioned in the rolling countryside just outside picturesque Salcombe, this spacious, modern property is just a 10-minute walk from South Sands beach. Guests staying here also enjoy a free family pass to award-winning Pennywell Farm!

Salcombe

Sleeps 12

From £1,390

VisitEngland 5 ★ Gold

coastandcountry.co.uk/cottage-details/moulthb/

THE BEST FOR DOGS

Take your four-legged friend to explore South Devon

Going on holiday doesn't have to mean leaving your dog behind. In fact, South Devon is a pooch's paradise, with multiple dog-friendly beaches to run on, miles of the South West Coast Path to explore and several welcoming eateries and attractions to visit.



Beesands to Hallsands



Distance: 1.5 miles



Difficulty: Moderate



Terrain: Includes pavement, tracks, grass and rocky paths. Steep in places with some overgrown sections – covered legs are recommended!



Circular: No



Starting point: Beesands car park (TQ7 2EL)

Start Bay is a beautiful and historic 15-mile section of coastline stretching between just south of Dartmouth and towards Start Point. This stunning dog-friendly route enjoys outstanding views of some of the bay's most breathtaking sights, and includes elevated views of the picturesque village of Beesands, the ruins of South Hallsands and, in the distance, the iconic Start Point Lighthouse.

The stretch of coastline alternates between rugged cliffs, dog-friendly beaches, secluded coves and excellent eateries, making it the perfect route for you and your four-legged friend.



Step-by-step guide

1. Park at Beesands (for free), with the sea in front of you. Walk along the sea front past Britannia @ The Beach and The Cricket Inn on your right.
2. Where the promenade comes to an end, follow the track right, leading up the hill.
3. As the track leads uphill, look behind you to enjoy an elevated view of Beesands. You'll have another chance to see it on the way back, but it's a sight we never tire of!
4. Stick to the lower track en route to Hallsands. Keep an eye out for ever-improving views of the Start Point Lighthouse as you head south.
5. Go through the gate, making sure you keep a close eye on your dog as this field is often occupied by cows.
6. Hallsands will come into view. Head down to the beach, keeping to the edge of the field.
7. Cross the beach, walk along the row of houses and climb up the steps.
8. Follow the path left at the end and continue towards Prospect House.
9. Take a quick detour left, following the signs to the viewing platform. Learn more about South Hallsands as you look over the ruins, across to Start Point and out to sea.
10. Before you start the walk back to Beesands, why not let your dog run free on the beach at Hallsands whilst you bask in the beauty of this hidden cove?
11. Follow the route you came on back to Beesands. When you reach Beesands, head to the Cricket Inn for a scrumptious lunch. The bar area of the pub is dog friendly.



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Click [here](#) to view the OS map for our Beesands to Hallsands walk.

Fancy taking your four-legged friend on a South Devon holiday? Click [here](#) to view our range of pet-friendly holiday homes: <https://www.coastandcountry.co.uk/dog-friendly-holidays/>

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coastandcountry.co.uk/downloads/



Coast & Country Cottages manages around 400 holiday homes in Salcombe, Dartmouth and throughout South Devon. To book your South Devon holiday today, call our friendly, locally-based team on 01548 843773, or book online at coastandcountry.co.uk