

The Two Moors Way

Devon's Coast to Coast Walk

Cross the magnificent
moorlands of Dartmoor
and Exmoor on the
Two Moors Way



Walk further

As long-distance walks go, the Two Moors Way is not especially challenging, although there are some long stretches between overnight stops. Much of the route is signposted, but there are unsigned moorland stretches where competence with map and compass is essential in poor weather conditions.

Stay over

Visit the website www.twomoorsway.org for full accommodation listings and details of baggage transfers, local taxi firms and public transport (check Traveline for the latest schedules - 0871 200 22 33 www.travelinesw.com).

Learn more

To get the most out of a walk along the Two Moors Way a guidebook, *Walking the Two Moors Way: Devon's Coast to Coast* by Sue Viccars is available as well as a range of maps and other guides. These are available to order online as well as through local information centres.



More to see

If you wish to walk further, the walk links with other promoted routes such as the South West Coast Path, Tarka Trail and the Coleridge Way. Visit www.explored Devon.info for more information.

Dartmoor: Dr Blackall's Drive



The South West's National Parks

Dartmoor and Exmoor are both protected for the nation as National Parks. The only two National Parks in the South West, they host some of the UK's most outstanding scenery and offer unrivalled opportunities for recreation.

Dartmoor National Park

Designated in 1951 Dartmoor covers some 953 square kilometres of heather-covered moorland, rocky granite tors, stone circles and medieval villages, iconic Dartmoor ponies and vibrant villages with traditional events. It has provided the inspiration for many books and films.

www.dartmoor.gov.uk

www.visitdartmoor.co.uk

Exmoor National Park

In just 694 square kilometres Exmoor, designated in 1954, offers a vast diversity of landscapes as the moorlands give way to the sea with some of the highest cliffs in England. Exmoor is Europe's first International Dark Sky Reserve and is a great place to view wildlife.

www.exmoor-nationalpark.gov.uk

www.visit-exmoor.co.uk

The Two Moors Way is managed by Dartmoor and Exmoor National Park Authorities and Devon County Council who have collectively funded this leaflet. They work together in partnership and support the Two Moors Way Association.



Discover Moor

South Devon

On leaving the coast at Wembury the route follows well-signed rights of way through the rolling fields and copses of the South Hams:

a gentle, unchallenging landscape. This stage ends at Ivybridge, sitting in the shadow of Western Beacon on the southern edge of Dartmoor.

Dartmoor

Barren and lonely moorland, peppered with granite tors and evidence of Bronze Age activity, is encountered here. But Dartmoor has a gentler side: sheltered wooded valleys and sparkling rivers, small stone-walled fields and attractive hamlets such as Drewsteignton, where the route leaves the National Park.



South Devon: New Stone from the Erme, Plym Trolls



Mid Devon

For many this is real Devon: little-visited and hilly country criss-crossed by a complex network of narrow hedged lanes, scattered farms and hamlets, and remote churches.

Exmoor

Folded sedimentary rocks give rise to smooth and rounded slopes on the moorland plateau, dissected by picturesque rivers in steep-sided combs. This is a landscape of small walled fields, historic farmsteads and pretty hamlets. And at the coast, towering sea cliffs make for a dramatic end to the walk at Lynmouth.



Dartmoor: Hameldown Tor cairn



Exmoor: Lynmouth



Two National Parks, Two coasts and over 100 miles of breathtaking countryside

Dartmoor: view from Hameldown

www.twomoorsway.org



Highlights

History Prehistoric settlements and stone rows, medieval bridges, ancient churches.

Wildlife Ponies, red deer, otters and buzzards.

Flora Purple heather-covered moorland, hedgebank primroses and woodland bluebells.

Food & drink Sample fresh and tasty local produce along the way.

Escapism The chance to get away from the hustle and bustle of everyday life!

Background

The Two Moors Way was officially opened on 29 May 1976: more than 100 miles of wonderful walking from Ivybridge on the southern edge of Dartmoor to Lynmouth on the north Devon coast. In 2004 sculptor Peter Randall-Page created a testament to the route's initiator, Joe Turner: two halves of an inscribed granite boulder now sit on the edge of Dartmoor and Exmoor, facing each other across 30 miles of rolling Mid Devon countryside.

In 2005 the Two Moors Way was linked with the Erme-Plym Trail from Ivybridge to Wembury on the south Devon coast to create a Devon coast-to-coast route of over 115 miles.

In 2016, to mark the route's 40th anniversary, the Two Moors Way Association was reinvigorated, in close partnership with Exmoor National Park, Dartmoor National Park and Devon County Council.

The Two Moors Way Devon's Coast to Coast Walk

Follow this 'off the beaten track' route of 102 miles across the southwest peninsula, crossing two spectacular National Parks - Dartmoor and Exmoor - via the rural heart of Devon and part of western Somerset.

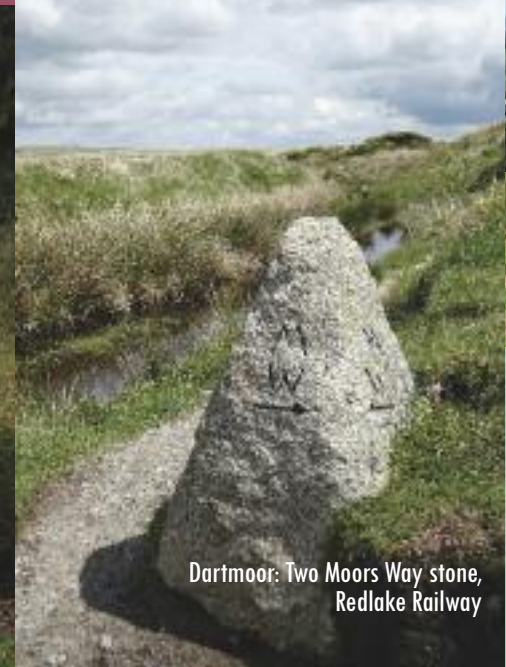
And if you feel like extending your walk you can start on the south Devon coast at Wembury which will add around 15 miles.

Walkers looking for a challenge could complete the route in a week, but it can be split into manageable day walks for those taking a more leisurely approach.

Photos courtesy of Sue Viccars and Exmoor National Park. Front cover: Simonsbath, Exmoor.



Exmoor: Peter Randall-Page sculpture



Dartmoor: Two Moors Way stone, Redlake Railway



Visit www.twomoorsway.org for all the information you need to plan your trip. If you have any questions call the Exmoor National Park Centre at Lynmouth Pavilion on 01598 752509 or the Ivybridge Information Centre on 01752 892220.

Highlights along the Two Moors Way/Devon's Coast to Coast Walk:



Two Moors Way
Devon's Coast to Coast

1 Wembury The start point is on the south Devon coast at Wembury Bay; on a clear day it is possible to see the Eddystone Lighthouse, 17 miles out to sea. There is a signing-in book in the Old Mill Café (on the South West Coast Path).

2 Brixton The route shares the Erme-Plym Trail and passes Cofflete Creek, where you may see kingfishers and egrets.

3 Yealmpton St Bartholomew's church holds the 'Goreus Stone', thought to be 1400 years old and celebrating a British chieftain who embraced Christianity. In the wall of Dunstone House above Yealmbridge is a shrine to St Dunstan, born AD910, Archbishop of Canterbury.

4 Ivybridge This busy town owed its early prosperity to the River Erme, which powered several mills. The southern boundary of Dartmoor National Park at Stowford Bridge is marked by a Two Moors Way marker stone.

5 Ugborough Moor Follow the disused Red Lake Railway across remote moorland, with fine views. The land above the Erme Valley has many Bronze Age antiquities, including hut circles, standing stones and Dartmoor's longest stone rows. Pass the Redlake China Clay workings, closed c.1932.

6 Holne Cross the Avon river near 16th-century Huntingdon Cross on the Abbots Way, which linked Buckfast Abbey with those at Tavistock and Buckland Monachorum. The village has a shop/café and 14th-century church.

7 Ponsworthy A small attractive settlement with a ford. In the 19th century Dr Blackall, Lord of Spitchwick Manor, created a carriage drive above the Dart from where there are magnificent views.

8 Widecombe-in-the-Moor St Pancras church, just off the official route, is known as the 'Cathedral of the Moor'. Look out for the memorial to Uncle Tom Coble, celebrated each September at Widecombe Fair.

9 Hameldown The ridge features several Bronze Age barrows and rises to 529m at Hameldown Beacon, with magnificent views. At the northern end is the enclosed settlement of Grimpsound, the best-preserved Bronze Age 'village' on Dartmoor.

10 Chagford Common The complex remains of Birch Tor and Vitifer mines and Bennett's Cross, a 13th-century waymarker, are passed near the B3212, crossed half a mile from the isolated Warren House Inn. There is a well-preserved double stone row on Hurston Ridge.

11 Teigncombe The route shares the Mariners Way, used by sailors who walked between Dartmouth and Bideford. The confluence of the North and South Teign rivers is passed at Leigh Bridge.

12 Chagford Follow the River Teign just north of Chagford, formerly one of four stannary towns where tin was brought for assay and stamping in medieval times. There are several buildings of interest and St Michael's church dates from the 15th century.

13 Drewsteignton Caste Drogo, the last castle to be built in England, was designed by Edwin Lutyens for Julius Drewe. Holy Trinity church dates from the 15th century. Near Veet Mill sits one of two memorial stones created by the artist Peter Randall-Page and dedicated to Joe Turner. Close by is the northern boundary of Dartmoor National Park.

Key:

Two Moors Way

Devon Coast to Coast extension

Point of Interest



14 Hittisleigh A small hamlet with a 15th-century parish church dedicated to St Andrew. Much of the way in this area is on minor roads and through fields.

15 Clannaborough The route crosses the little-used Exeter-Okehampton railway line. The hamlet lies off a pre-Roman trackway and the name derives from 'Cloueneberge' or 'cloven hill'. The church is dedicated to the Celtic saint Petroc.

16 Morchard Bishop Roughly halfway along the Two Moors Way, with fine views of Dartmoor and Exmoor from the churchyard of St Mary's. There is a Two Moors Way stone by the path as it exits the village.

17 Washford Pyne The attractive church of St Peter's was completely rebuilt after a disastrous fire in 1880.

18 Witheridge A busy little village, its centre a conservation area with many pre-18th-century buildings constructed with traditional materials such as cob and thatch. The parish church of St John the Baptist is 13th century.

19 Knowstone The route crosses the A361, which cuts through Knowstone Moor (nature reserve). The Masons Arms dates from the 13th century, and the parish church of St Peter has a 12th-century doorway.

20 West Anstey The church of St Petrock is medieval and the font dates from the 12th century. The southern boundary of Exmoor National Park is reached just north of the hamlet. The second memorial stone to Joe Turner is found close to Badlake Moor Cross.

21 Hawkridge One of Exmoor's remotest and oldest villages, situated on a high ridge between the Dane's Brook and the Barle.

22 Tarr Steps A well-known beauty spot on Exmoor. The ancient clapper bridge is the longest example of its type in the country.

23 Withypool The route follows the River Barle through a beautiful wooded valley, crossing the old six-arch stone bridge at Withypool.

24 Simonsbath Downriver from Simonsbath, a small settlement with a pub, tea rooms and hotel, the route passes Cow Castle, an Iron Age hillfort, and the remains of Wheal Eliza mine. The path from here to Simonsbath is accessible to all users.

25 Exe Head The source of the River Exe is in open and wild moorland. Pass above Hoar Oak Water to reach the Hoar Oak tree on the boundary of the Royal Forest of Exmoor (an ancient hunting ground).

26 Lynton and Lynmouth The twin resorts of Lynton and Lynmouth mark the end of the route where the moors meet the sea with views across the Bristol Channel towards south Wales. The signing-in book is held in Lynmouth Pavilion National Park Centre, where the Two Moors Way meets the South West Coast Path, Tarka Trail and the Coleridge Way.