

Exmoor Walk



Dunkery Beacon Circular walk 3 miles



All photographs by Julia Amies-Green

Dunkery Beacon is the highest point on Exmoor. The cairn on Dunkery Beacon scales 1705 feet and is the perfect place for a warning beacon 'in order to alarm the country in times of civil discord or foreign invasion'. On a clear day, it's estimated that the beacon can be seen from a 500 mile circumference and in 15 counties. It's also an ancient area, with Bronze Age barrows dotted around the landscape. They have wonderful names: Great and Little Rowbarrow, Kit Barrow, Robin How Cairns and Journey How Cairns. Walk softly here as Red Deer favour the area if you're lucky, and there are plenty of insects, birds and animals to be seen. This is a moderate one hour walk of about three miles in length. Plus there is an easier 20-minute walk with great views and wooden sculptures. Bring your dog and dress for mud!

The Walk 8 miles 3 hours

Directions: Take the A39 from Minehead towards Porlock. At Allerford you'll see a right-hand turn signposted 'Luccombe'. Webber's Post is on Crook Horn Hill.

Sat Nav: TA24 8TB

Leave the Webber's Post car park by the path in the far left-hand corner (left as you look at the information panel). This leads through the gorse and across the road. Once over the road, you climb steadily for about a quarter of a mile until the path levels off. Ignore paths to left and right.

Continue along the side of Dunkery Hill until the path slopes down towards a small combe. Descend into Hollow Combe.

Emerge from the combe and follow the path as it climbs upwards. On reaching a point where four paths meet, turn right and head downhill to the woodland edge.

At this point, if you want to walk to the Beacon itself for a photo opp, turn left uphill to the Beacon. Then return back to the four paths and continue on the walk.

Ignore paths that join from the right and left and continue down into the valley. As you enter the tree line, the path will become steep and rocky as it approaches the valley bottom. Cross the footbridge onto the road and turn right.

Continue along the road for about a quarter of a mile, then

bear left onto a path before the river crosses the road. Shortly after turning onto this track, a path bears off to the left. Ignore this and carry on along the valley bottom.

After about three quarters of a mile of weaving across the river (via footbridges), there's a junction with a brideway on your left. Ignore this and cross over the river once more.

Shortly after crossing the river, turn right and follow the

Priestway bridleway up and out of the valley. This path is steep but eventually reaches a broad, flat track at the top of Horner Hill. When you reach this point, turn right and walk the short distance back to your car.

There is an easier and shorter route lined with wooden sculptures and benches on the right hand side of the car park. The path is relatively accessible and will take approx 20 minutes. Some good views too.



P Webber's Post Car Park.
Sat nav: TA24 8TB

 Nearest toilets head to NT Car Park at Horner Woods (5 min drive).
Sat nav: TA24 8HY

 Horner Tea Garden open 10am - 4pm, closed November to March.
Sat nav: TA24 8HY

 Dog friendly but watch out for the Exmoor ponies.

Buy 'The Little Book of Walks' online at:
Not Two Deer in Dunster village:
<https://rebrand.ly/LBOW>



Lucy Green, owner of Exmoor Character Cottages, researched this and 11 other walks, and her friend and talented photographer Julia Amies-Green supplied all the images. The routes are designed to suit all abilities, from short and easy to longer and more challenging. Most are dog friendly, but please always be ready to leash your dogs and close gates – and follow additional requests from farmers where you see them.

Our maps are for guidance, and for more detailed maps we recommend the 1:12,500 versions sold in the Exmoor National Park Centres. Collectively the walks are published in 'The Little Book of Walks' which was created in response to requests from guests at our four luxury holiday cottages in Dunster and Minehead. You can find out more about the Book and holiday cottages here:

www.exmoorchartercottages.co.uk

