

# EXMOOR

*past and present*

## WALKING BREAK

### *Route 1*

#### Step back in time

The idyllic village of Simonsbath has been fundamental in shaping present-day Exmoor. Starting and finishing in the historic village, this walk takes in some of the best river valley and open moorland scenery on the moors, and showcases evidence of past industry and human settlement.

#### Highlights of the day

- The wild Barle Valley
- Wheal Eliza Mine
- Cow Castle's Iron Age hill fort
- Possibility of red deer herds

#### Walk details

**Time:** Drive to Simonsbath (Ashcombe car park, Simonsbath, TA24 7SH) to meet your guide, John, at 9.50am for a 10am start. Allow yourself about 45 minutes to drive from the hotel. Toilets available at the car park.

**Walking distance:** Approximately 7-8 miles circular walk.

**Terrain:** A variety of footpath trails and farm tracks. Naturally, a few modest undulations to navigate enroute.

**Pace:** Always at a walking pace to suit the make up of the group, with frequent pauses to take in a view or chat about a point of interest.

**Finish:** Simonsbath.

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# VALLEY

*of Rocks*

## WALKING BREAK

### *Route 2*

#### Spectacular coastal landscape

This dramatic slice of coastline – also known as England's 'Little Switzerland' – on the northern edge of Exmoor is where steep valley slopes and towering cliffs meet feral goats and remarkable scenery.

#### Highlights of the day

- Incredible coastal views
- Pass through arguably the most picturesque setting for a cricket ground in the country
- Opportunity to spot The White Lady
- Resident feral goats climbing the crags

#### Walk details

**Time:** Drive to meet your guide, John, at Bottom Meadow car park in Lynton (Castle Hill, Lynton EX35 6AR) at 9.50am for a 10am start. Allow yourself about 45 minutes drive from the hotel. Toilets available at the car park.

**Walking distance:** Approximately 6 miles circular walk.

**Terrain:** A variety of footpath trails and dirt tracks, with a couple of steady climbs while circumnavigating the valley.

**Pace:** Always at a walking pace to suit the make up of the group, with frequent pauses to take in a view or chat about a point of interest.

**Finish:** Lynton.

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### Highlights of the day

- Ancient oak woods that hug the hill sides and age-trodden tracks over open moorland
- The Blackmore Memorial, discovered along the sheltered valley of Badgworthy Water
- Oare Church (featured as a marriage location in the novel Lorna Doone)
- The picturesque 17th century Malmsmead Bridge and adjacent ford (next to the National Trust Buttery Cafe, where we'll call into at the end of the walk)

### Walk details

**Time:** Drive to meet your guide, John, at the National Trust car park in Malmsmead (Buttery Cafe, Malmsmead EX35 6NU) at 9.50am for a 10am start. Allow yourself 50+ minutes drive from the hotel. Toilets available at the car park.

**Walking distance:** Approximately 8 miles circular walk.

**Terrain:** Mostly easy rolling terrain over a variety of footpath trails and tracks, with a couple of steady hills out of the valleys.

**Pace:** Always at a walking pace to suit the make up of the group, with frequent pauses to take in a view or chat about a point of interest.

**Finish:** Malmsmead.

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### What to pack for your walking break

Walking expert John Ward reveals his must-haves for an autumnal walking holiday at Saunton Sands Hotel.

### Recommend kit list

- Day rucksack
- Hiking boots
- Comfortable clothing suitable for layering
- A fleece for cooler days
- Lightweight waterproof jacket and trousers
- Hat and gloves for cooler days, peaked cap for warmer days
- A waterbottle. A packed lunch will be provided by the hotel
- Sunglasses and walking poles (optional)

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