

11.5km/7.25 miles

Combe Martin

This contour-busting walk starts from the famous Pack o' Cards pub in the centre of England's longest high street. The first half of the walk takes you up to Great Hangman Cairn and then follows both the Tarka Trail and South West Coast Path around Holdstone Down. The second half of the walk brings you back to the interesting town of Combe Martin, past the remains of long-deserted silver mines.

The walk

1 From Pack o' Cards, turn L along High Street, passing by front of pub. Then turn R up Shute Lane by brown sign for Silverdale Nurseries. Follow lane to pass nurseries and 50m past these turn L along public footpath to Great Hangman and Knap Down Lane.

2 On reaching T-junction, turn L downhill along concrete farm track. Pass Girt Down and then uphill toward Great Hangman, enter a more open track just past ruined barn. At wooden barn go through gate and follow R-hand field boundary heading uphill and then over stile at top R-hand corner. On meeting South West Coast Path at Blackstone Point Cross, turn R heading initially gently downhill. On reaching steep sides of Sherrycombe, head diagonally R steeply downhill, taking care towards bottom. Over bridge at stream and through V-shaped stile. Then head uphill on other side.

3 On meeting wooden gate, continue straight ahead gently uphill and this swings

3.5hrs

round to L. Follow SWCP sign to Heddons Mouth, continuing to follow contour round hill, admiring views across Bristol Channel. Just after completing two sides of hill, a bungalow will be seen ahead and to R. Ignore a SWCP sign heading L and continue up towards bungalow. On reaching road, turn R and follow for 1.2km.

4 On reaching driveway to Holdstone Farm, climb wall just beyond track and follow fingerpost 'Combe Martin 2 miles', keeping field boundary R. The fields soon meet Vellacott Lane. Here turn R and follow road for 1.2km. As road bends to L downhill, keep looking out for a solitary standing stone in a R-hand field.

5 At Knappdown Farm, turn L down farm track following a public footpath sign. After 100m, and at Y-junction, turn R downhill. Look out for a disused silver mine on L. Lane follows stream and a concrete watercourse. Eventually path joins narrow road and then joins High Street. Turn R here and head back to pub.

moderate

DETAILS

Country Walking ID 2748
Mag Route 1, March 2007
Region South West Area Devon
Length of walk 11.5km/7.25 miles
Time needed 3.5hrs
Difficulty Moderate

IS THIS WALK FOR YOU?

Terrain Initially all uphill. Very steep descent and ascent at Sherrycombe. Remainder gentle field and road work

PLANNING

Parking Pack o' Cards, grid ref SS583467. Car park at Combe Martin or Pack o' Cards car park (if using pub and ask permission)

Start grid ref

SS583468

Nearest town

Combe Martin

Public toilets

At car park

Public transport

Nearest railway station at Barnstaple. Buses (First 0870 608 2608) Exmoor Coastlink 300 (from Taunton and Barnstaple)

MAPS

Ordnance Survey Explorer OLS; Landranger 180

IAN PEARSON



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