



South West Coast Path 3: Lynton to Combe Martin walk

SWCP Day 3 - Spectacular and remote coastal walk with a nice lunch pub

Length 21.8 km / 13.6 miles

OS Maps Explorer 9 (Exmoor)

Toughness 10/10 - Good, waymarked paths with easy navigation but lots of ascent and descents - 1,250m of ascent

Walk Notes This walk is day 3 of the South West Coast Path (SWCP), and a very pretty walk in its own right

Lynmouth is a small touristy village (lots of hotels though). Above it is Lynton, a small touristy town with a 'Lake District' feel, and many fine looking B&Bs, with its very own attraction, the over-rated Valley of the Rocks!

This is a long and strenuous walk - the route passes the Valley of the Rocks, Heddon's Mouth Cove and Great Hangman (at 318 metres, the highest point on the entire SWCP). The only refreshments are the pretty Hunters Inn pub, 0.5km inland from Heddon's Mouth.

Note the coast bus service between Combe Martin and Lynmouth is summer only and takes a long detour inland, so there are no drop out points along the route

Lunch and Tea • [The Hunter's Inn](#)

SWCP The South West Coast Path (SWCP) is the longest of the national paths and follows the coastline of Somerset, Devon, Cornwall, Devon again and finally Dorset. This section, along the Exmoor coast, is its traditional start, as is done anti-clockwise.

The walk may be done as one long walk, staying overnight along the way, or as a series of day walks, returning by bus to your car or accommodation.

By car, you'd be better in a B&B, renting a cottage, or staying in one of the caravan parks near Combe Martin, and doing day trips by car (returning to it by bus), then you don't have to worry about carrying your kit, provisions, booking accommodation, etc. With 2 cars you can shuttle, and have far more freedom over how far you walk each day.

Stages

Minehead is a large seaside resort town with shops accomodation, but only heritage rail, not national rail.

- [Day 1\) Minehead to Porlock Weir : 14.1km / 8.7 miles / 408m of ascent](#)

Porlock is a small touristy village with several pubs, restaurants and B&Bs a few km inland. Porlock Weir on the coast has a hotel and a good pub.

- [Day 2\) Porlock Weir to Lynmouth : 18.5km / 11.5 miles / 1,072m of ascent](#)

Lynmouth (seafront) and Lynton (above it at the top of the hill) are a large very touristy village with lots of accomodation. Year round bus service inland, but summer only bus service along the coast

- [Day 3\) Lynmouth to Combe Martin : 21.8 km / 13.6 miles / 1,250m of ascent](#)

Coombe Martin is a small seaside village a few km from a much larger one - Ilfracombe

Links

The SWCP National Trail website has more details on each day's route. The SWCP Association has an annual handbook with updated accommodation guide.

- [SWCP Association](#) : updated accommodation and trail news
- [SWCP Official Website](#) : details of each day (choose 'longer walks')
- [Exmoor Public Transport](#)

Exmoor

Exmoor is a small National Park (NP) on the north coast of Somerset and Devon. It has a dramatic rocky coastline with the highest sea cliffs and largest coastal forest in England. Inland are steep sided valleys which lead up to bleak moorland plateau ("The Chains") and the NP's highest point - Dunkery Beacon at 519m / 1703 feet. The southern side of the plateau, bisected by steep valleys slopes much more gently, as is used for sheep farming. Formerly a royal forest, the NP has few towns, but 2 large seaside resorts outside it - Minehead and Barnstaple. See [Exmoor's wiki page](#)

Travel

There are no train stations nearby. To get here, take 1) a National Express Coach to Minehead or 2) a train to Taunton, and then a bus to Minehead.

Regular buses run along the coast on the SWCP day 1 route to Porlock, then a summer only services along the SWCP day 2 route to Lynton. The coastal road heads inland, and doesn't rejoin the coast until the end of SWCP day 3 route - a summer weekend only bus service. NB the #300 bus along the coast runs in 2 sections: i) Minehead to Lynmouth, and ii) Lynmouth to Ilfracombe

Bus Routes

- National Express : London to Minehead
- #28 Taunton (train station) to Minehead : year round
- #39 Minehead (day 1 start) to Porlock and Porlock Weir (day 1 end / day 2 start) : year round
- #300 Minehead (day 1 start) to Porlock (near day 1 end / day 2 start), County Gate (day 2), Lynmouth and Lynton (day 2 end) : April to October, reduced service on Sunday
- #300 Lynmouth (day 2 end / day 3 start) to Combe Martin (day 3 end / day 4 start) and Ilfracombe (day 4) : April, October: weekends; May-September: daily

Help Us! After the walk, please leave a [comment](#), it really helps. Thanks!

You can also upload photos to the  [SWC Group on Flickr](#) ([upload your photos](#)) and [videos to](#)  [Youtube](#). This walk's tags are:

By Car **Start** Lynton, Devon **Finish** EX34 OAW

Map Walk This walk **requires** an OS map and a compass or GPS for navigation. You can print out OS maps using the link above.

Help National Rail: 03457 48 49 50 • Traveline (bus times): 0871 200 22 33 (12p/min) • TFL (London) : 0343 222 1234

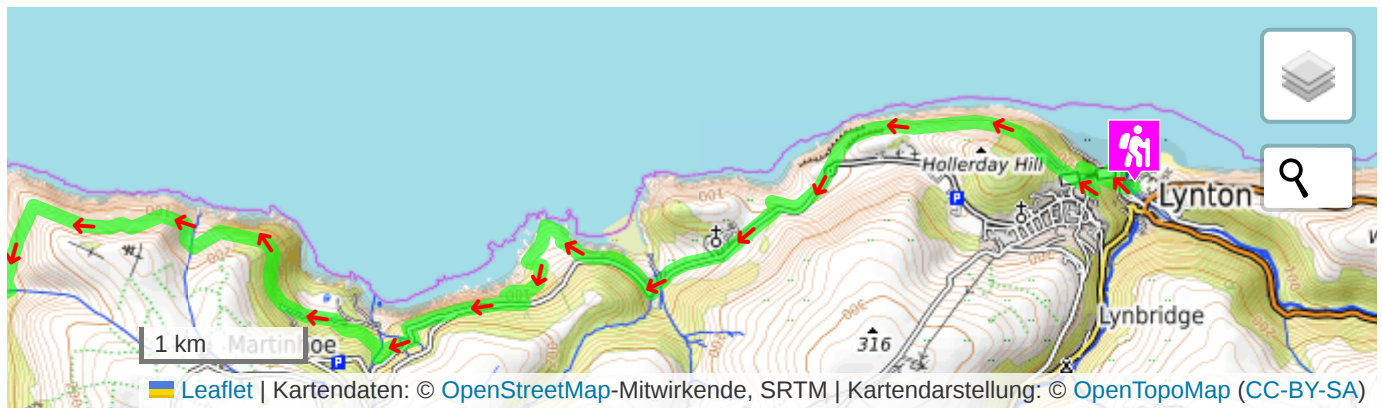
Version Apr-17 [Andrew](#)

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Walk Directions

OpenStreetMap (not OS) mapping is used in the PDF for licence reasons.

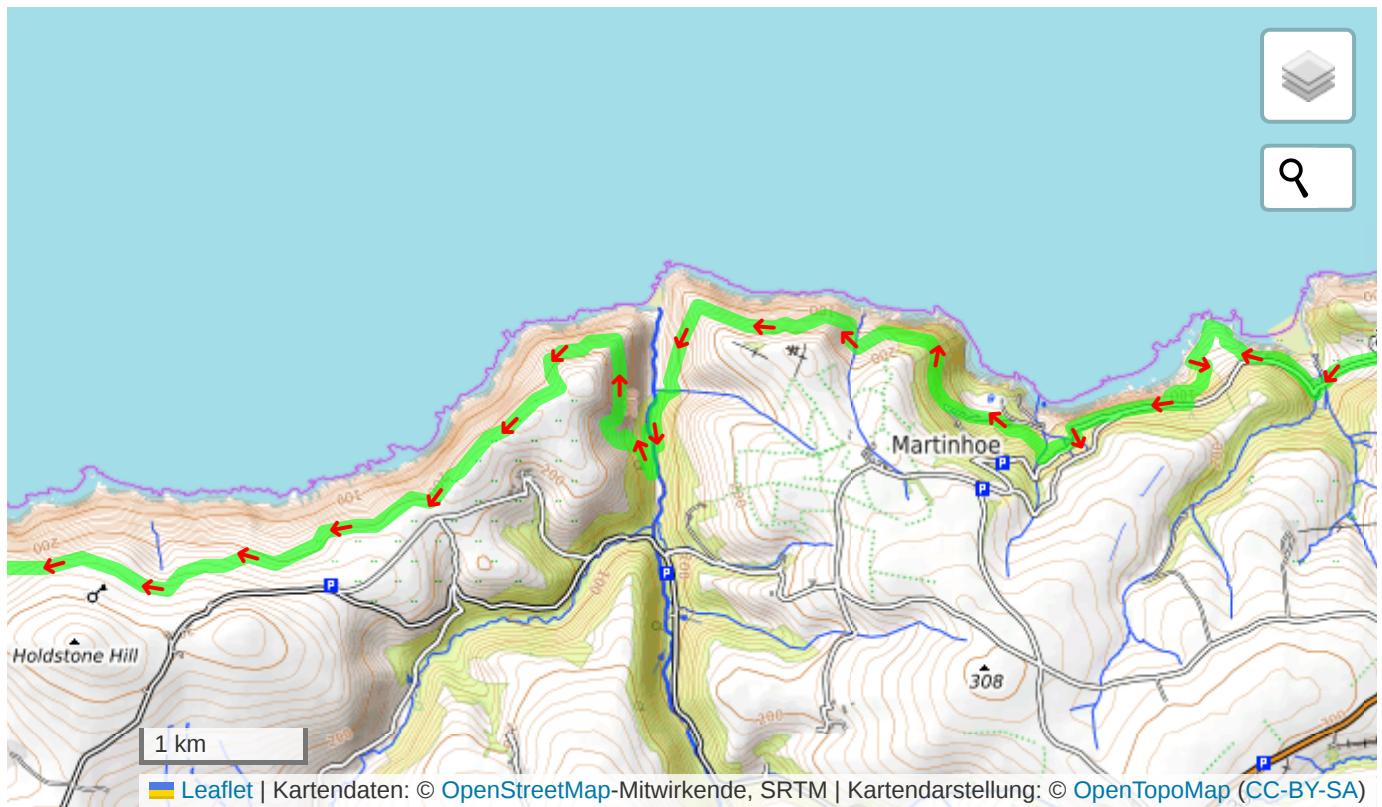
Map 1 : Valley of the Rocks



The official route (marked on the map) goes along the road from Lynton, but it's nicer to follow the signposted route to the Valley of the Rocks, which starts just by Lynton's Church. There is a tea room in the Valley of the Rocks - there is nothing else until lunch.

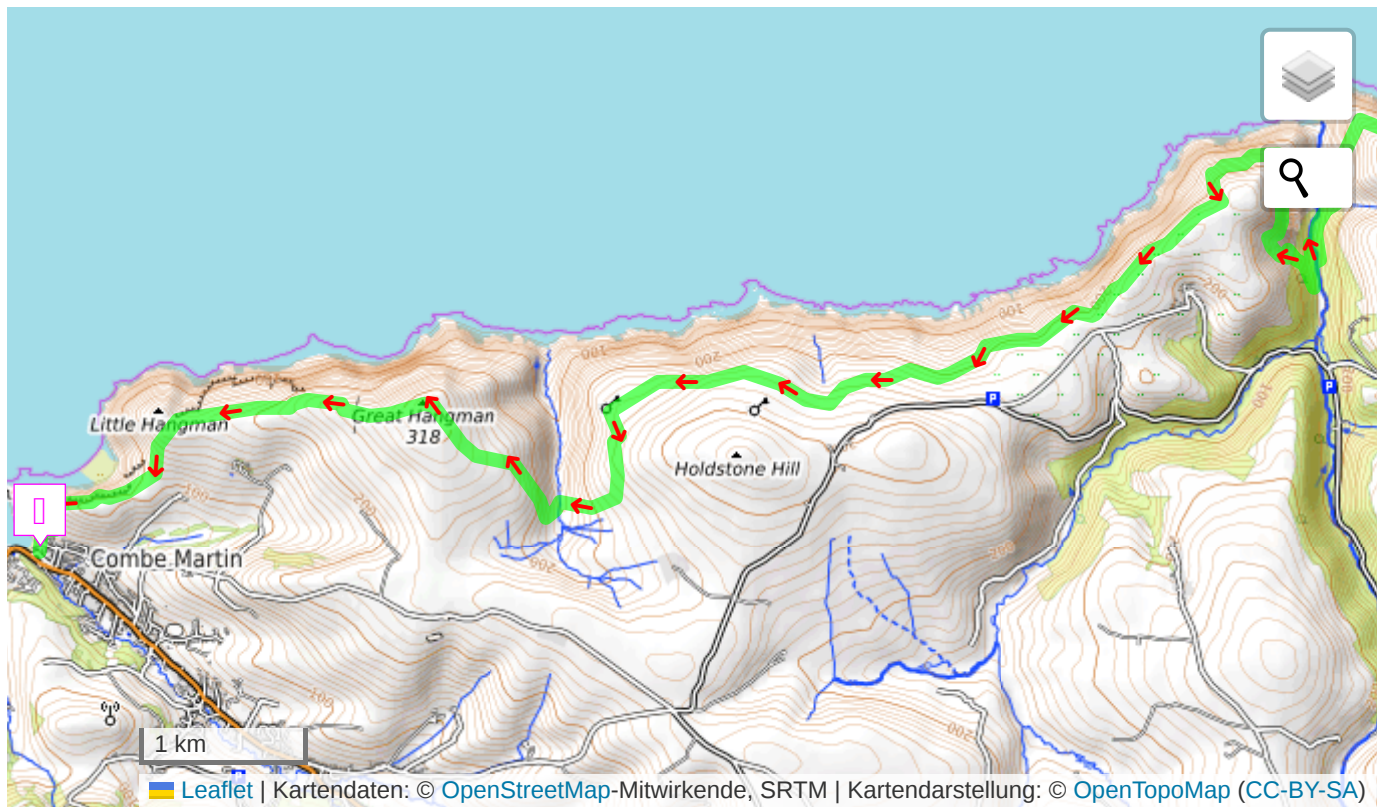
The road after this point is a toll road with very little traffic.

Map 2 : Heddon's Mouth



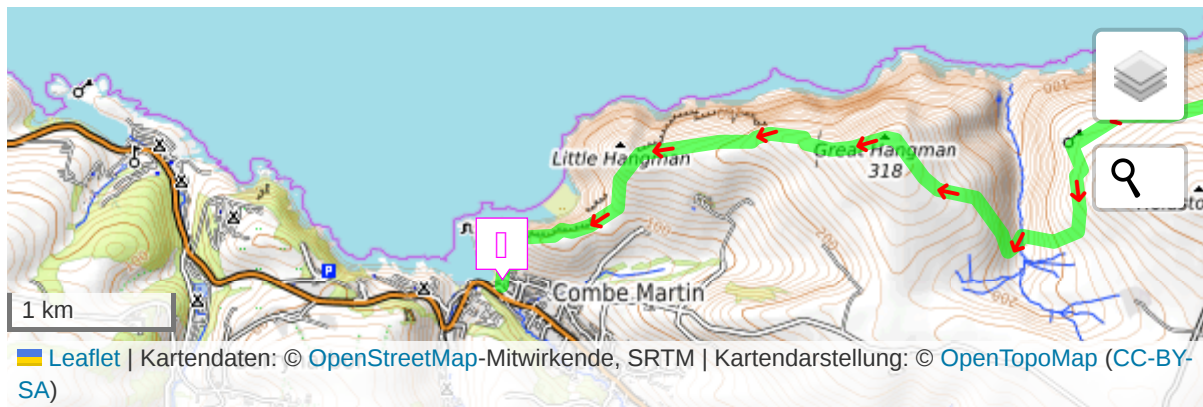
After Woody Bay, you can take the higher path to the Hunter's Inn. If you take the lower path, continue inland, alongside the river, and enter the pub through it garden

Map 3 : Holdstone Dow



Take a short cut inland, over the trig point

Map 4 : Coombe Martin



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