

Minehead Circular



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Fact File:

Highlights: Highlights: West Somerset Railway, Minehead harbour, South West Coast Path start marker, mosses and lichen in woodland, open views across the Bristol Channel, Exmoor wooded valleys, Minehead Parks walk

Start Grid ref: SS974 463

Distance: 5.9 miles, circular

Height gained/lost: 324 metres. A moderate walk, starting with a progressive climb. One short, steep descent, then easy walking.

High Point: 252 metres

Low Point: 4 metres

Toilets: In Minehead only

Eating places: in Minehead only

Time required: excluding stops: 3.5 hours

Public transport: 10 / 28 / 198 / 300 bus services. Please check the current timetable on Traveline 0871 200 22 33 www.travelinesw.com before travelling.

Route description: This walk starts at the West Somerset Railway so you can arrive by steam train or by bus. The walk follows the old route of the South West Coast Path for a short while, giving the most gentle climb I could create to gain height on to North Hill. Wonderful views are enjoyed as one emerges from the woodland. The walk then loses height again to pass through a small hamlet before following a delightful path through the middle of Minehead, saving walking along too many roads.

Route directions: The grid references are given should you like to follow the route on an Ordnance Survey map. They are not needed to follow the route which is described very accurately in the text.

1, SS974 463,

Starting at West Somerset Railway station and bus stop, cross over the main road via the central refuge island to the shelters to follow the sea-defence wall on your right towards Minehead harbour.

2, SS971 467, 0.3 miles

On reaching the hands holding a map sculpture at the beginning of the South West Coast Path, turn left here to cross the road. This follows the old route of the start of the coast path. Follow the path between the cottages to North Hill. Half way up this path turn right to go up steps, bearing right again along a surfaced path, shortly bearing left up steps and right along the next surfaced path. Follow it ahead and up the zigzags as it climbs to meet a hairpin on a road.

3, SS970 469, 0.6 miles

Turn right and immediately bear left away from the level road, up a footpath signed to Beacon. Keep on this path as it zigzags uphill. Part way up ignore the path ahead downhill, instead going back right continuing uphill.

4, SS968 470, 0.9 miles

On reaching a small road bear right along it, ignoring it going to the left and the path down to the right. Keep

on this fairly level track, ignoring all paths off, until it gently climbs again to reach a gate.

5, SS964 473, 1.2 miles

Pass through this and continue ahead uphill, keeping on it until it emerges out of the woods to reach a concrete slabbed car park. Continue ahead on the path at the top corner of the slabs.

6, SS 947 476, 2.3 miles

On reaching a cross-over of paths with the coast path coming up from the right, turn left towards the car park and then bear right out of the car park entrance on to the road, bearing right along it. Follow it for just a few yards to reach a path on the left signed Bridleway to Woodcombe. Shortly bear left and steeply down the centre of the combe.



Minehead Woodcombe

7, SS948 474, 2.6 miles

Part way down turn right on a track going more gently downhill through woods. When this track ends keep ahead on a path round to the right to a stile.

8, SS949 469, 3.0 miles

Turn left downhill and soon ignore the path to the right to North Hill. The path now zigzags back to the left and soon back to the right to reach the bottom of the woods.

9, SS947 467, 3.3 miles

At the bottom bear right signed to Bratton on a nearly level path. Soon bear left ignoring the path continuing along the edge of the woods. Pass through the gate and down a banked track.

10, SS946 463, 3.7 miles

At the end pass through a gate and turn left along the road and immediately right along a road to Bratton. Cross the small footbridge beside the ford, pass the cottage on the left and turn left on a track just the other side of it, signed to Minehead.

11, SS946 461, 3.8 miles

Follow this to go right of a garage to a bridle gate beside it. Follow the path alongside a field on your right. Pass through the two kissing gates and continue ahead to pass through the next kissing gate into woods and over a stream to reach a small gate by a gate.

12, SS953 463, 4.2 miles

Now turn right along a surfaced level path and follow it to the main road. Cross straight over to Woodside Close and turn left along a path beside a small river, now on your right. Keep on this path to reach Periton Lane.

13, SS960 463, 4.7 miles

Turn right along this road and then left along the next path signed Parks Walk. Keep on this path behind large houses. At the end follow it to the right and over an old packhorse bridge to a road.



14, SS965 461, 5.1 miles

Turn left along this road until reaching the main road. Bear right along it to pass through the shops.

15, SS967 462, 5.4 miles

Soon as this road goes right, cross over to keep ahead along The Parade and then The Avenue back to the railway station.

