

# Parracombe to Combe Martin Ride & Walk



## Fact File:

**Highlights:** Ancient byways, Exmoor moorland, South West Coast Path, Great Hangman, Little Hangman, Combe Martin Bay

**Start Grid ref:** SS 672 456

**Distance:** 9.0 miles, linear

**Height gained/lost:** 1362 metres. This walk starts easy to moderate, becoming strenuous, ending moderate to easy.

**High Point:** 318 metres

**Low Point:** 10 metres

**Toilets:** Combe Martin only

**Eating places:** in Combe Martin village only

**Time required:** excluding stops: 5.5 hours

**Public transport:** 300 bus service. Please check the current timetable on Traveline 0871 200 22 33 [www.travelinesw.com](http://www.travelinesw.com) before travelling.

**Route description:** This walk starts through attractive Devon countryside, walking along old byways, passing through several valleys before a testing climb on to Trentishoe Down. From here the walk follows the challenging South West Coast Path. Initially it goes around Holdstone Down following the contour before the steep descent and ascent of Sherrycombe. This brings you to the highest point on the whole South West Coast Path at Great Hangman. From the cairn you get excellent all-round views. The walk is now downhill all the way to Combe Martin.

**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, SS 672 456

Get off the 300 bus at Killington Cross, the junction just past Parracombe. Follow the level road towards Hunters Inn. Take the first turn on the left, opposite the railway halt. Ignore the path shortly on the left, continuing along the road.

### 2, SS 668 457, 0.3 miles

As it bears right by the road depot, ignore that and go straight ahead along a track signed Bridleway to Bodley, with Higher Bodley Farm entrance on its left. Keep on the track as it bears left downhill.

### 3, SS 665 454, 0.6 miles

When it goes left again, leave it and go to the gate on the right in the corner, signed Bridleway to West Hill. Now follow along by the hedged bank on your left. Pass through the next gate and continue ahead still by the hedged bank on your left to the next gate. Go through and down to the gate in the bank ahead, ignoring the one along to the right. Now go downhill, signed Bridleway, with the hedged bank on your left.

### 4, SS 660 454, 0.9 miles

Shortly you come to a gate on the left and a footpath across the bridleway. Turn right along the level path by an old bank now on your left. Soon pass through the gate, ignoring the gap in the bank, continuing ahead

still with the hedged bank on your left to the next gate. Continue ahead by the bank losing height down to a gate in the corner. Now follow the path between the banks into the valley. Shortly join a track going ahead with deer fencing on your left.

### 5, SS 657 459, 1.5 miles

At the bottom, by the river, turn left between the river and the fencing to cross the river by a footbridge, signed to Higher Bumsley. Having crossed the bridge follow the path as it zigzags right and then left uphill. Ignore all gates off.

### 6, SS 655 459, 1.7 miles

On the way up pass through a gate across the path to now follow a surfaced farm road ahead uphill to pass through a gate nearing the top.

### 7, SS 650 459, 2.1 miles

On reaching the road go diagonally right to follow the track to Voley, signed to Mill Wood. Keep on this track, over the cattle-grid and downhill, soon ignoring the path to the left. Continue downhill into the valley to pass Voley. Now ignore the path to the left by the buildings, continuing ahead downhill and immediately ignoring the next path to the left, going ahead signed to Trentishoe.

**8, SS 640 459, 2.8 miles**

Pass through the next gate into a field and now keep to the top of this field by the hedge on your right. Slowly lose height and follow the small zigzag down to pass through a gate. Now go along by the reeds to pass through the trees to reach two footbridges over the river over to your left. You should just be able to see them through the trees.

**9, SS 636 460, 3.1 miles**

Having crossed the two bridges go right through the old bank and immediately left uphill away from the river. Almost immediately turn right up the cutting to reach a cross-over of paths. Turn right and slightly downhill on a path above the river signed to Trentishoe Mill.

**10, SS 634 464, 3.4 miles**

After a little while cross the stile and continue ahead downhill and then bear left, ignoring the path to the right to Heale. Cross over the small stone bridge and keep on the track initially uphill along the valley side. Soon you reach a cottage and small road. Continue along it to reach Trentishoe Manor.

**11, SS 635 469, 3.8 miles**

Now bear off left along a nearly level footpath. Very soon take the small path hard back left and steeply uphill. Keep on this path as it climbs through the woods and reaches open moorland.

**12, SS 630 472, 4.2 miles**

You then reach a stony track which you follow ahead until reaching the top by a road and barrier.

**13, SS 625 476, 4.6 miles**

Turn right along the road, ignoring the car park and path opposite. Shortly turn left opposite The Glass Box, signed to Combe Martin on the coast path.

**14, SS 623 480, 4.9 miles**

Soon ignore the path coming in from the right which is the coast path. Follow the track around Holdstone Hill. On passing through the battered stone wall, ignore the path crossing the track and continue on between the stunted trees. Follow the track on round to the left by the stone wall. Follow the track round to the right through the wall at the top.

**15, SS 612 475, 6.0 miles**

Follow the coast path signpost to the right. You will now be going down into the steep sided Sherrycombe. Pass through the bridle gate by the Great Hangman

National Trust sign. Go carefully downhill as the path can be wet with springs. On reaching the stream, cross over the bridge and follow the zigzag path up ahead of you. Soon follow the coast path along by the stone wall.

**16, SS 603 477, 6.8 miles**

At the next signpost continue up the hill on the coast path, towards Great Hangman. Pass the cairn and continue along the coast path to pass through the next bridle gate and on downhill towards Little Hangman.

**17, SS 592 480, 7.6 miles**

Soon pass through the next bridle gate, down steps along the coast path following near a Devon bank on your left.

**18, SS 586 480, 8.0 miles**

At Little Hangman follow the stone bank round to the left, unless you want to see the views from the top of Little Hangman. Continue along the coast path as it loses height again, to reach the bottom of this slope and up to another bridle gate.

**19, SS 582 475, 8.4 miles**

Now ignore the path on the left to Combe Martin, instead continuing ahead also to Combe Martin. After a short while you reach a shelter. Immediately after it the path divides.

**20, SS 577 475, 8.8 miles**

Leave the coast path and bear right. This brings you a prettier way to grassland overlooking Combe Martin harbour. Go down the grassy slope to the car park. I hope you enjoyed this walk.



Parracombe Lane to London House