

County Gate to Lynmouth Ride & Walk



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Fact File:

Highlights: coastal scenery, moorland, Countisbury church, South West Coast Path

Start Point:

Start Grid ref: SS793 486

Distance: 5.2 miles, linear

Height gained/lost: 132 metres ascent, 433 metres descent. An easy walk with a long descent at the end.

High Point: 338 metres

Low Point: 7 metres

Toilets: at County Gate car park, Blue Ball Inn, Countisbury (as patrons), Lynmouth

Eating places: Blue Ball Inn, Countisbury. Various at Lynmouth

Time required, excluding stops: 3 hours

Public transport: 300 bus service. Please check the current timetable on Traveline 0871 200 22 33 www.travelinesw.com before travelling.

Route description: This walk is almost totally downhill, the bus having done the climbing. Starting on the county boundary, this car park has some superb views across Lorna Doone Country. A short climb across a moorland hill brings you to the wide verge beside the main road walking on grass. The walk then follows open fields with wide coastal views across the Bristol Channel. On reaching Countisbury the small church is worth a visit and refreshments are available across the road. Returning through the churchyard the walk now follows the coast path down Countisbury Hill where the main road is surprisingly unnoticeable. Wonderful views over Lynton and Lynmouth are enjoyed as you lose height down to Lynmouth.

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.

Take the 300 bus service from Lyndale car park, Lynmouth to County Gate.

1, SS793 486, 0 miles

At County Gate, disembark and carefully cross over the road into the car park opposite. Follow the sign to Cosgate Hill and Old Barrow Hill by going to the toilet block and take the green path up behind it (on the main road side of it), climbing gently. The path soon levels off with beautiful all-round views

2, SS787 488, 0.4 miles

On reaching the main road continue ahead signed to Countisbury 3 miles. Cross the farm track to Ashton Farm, continuing ahead on the grass verge by the main road. After a short while ignore the sign to Wingate Combe on the right, continuing ahead along the verge.

3, SS776 489, 1.1 miles

At Wellfield junction to Brendon for light vehicles only, cross over the small road and continue for a short while more on the main road verge. On reaching the sign to Countisbury 2 miles, cross the main road carefully to the stile and now follow the field boundary on your right to a gate ahead in a fence.

4, SS772 493, 1.5 miles

Pass through this gate, ignore gates on the right and

continue ahead on the track by a dry stone wall.

5, SS769 496, 1.8 miles

When this track bears right through a gate, ignore this and continue ahead over the field to a gate in the fence ahead, signed to Countisbury 1.5 miles. Pass through this gate and continue ahead keeping level to the bridle gate ahead in a fence. Pass through this bridle gate and again keep level ahead. Foreland Point is over to the right ahead.

6, SS763 497, 2.2 miles

Soon pass through the next gate in a fence and now go ahead towards the farm buildings. Skirt around the farm boundary to its tarmac road following it downhill to then bear left on to a dirt track away from the farm buildings.

7, SS759 496, 2.5 miles

At the gate across this track bear left between the gorse ahead signed 'footpath'. Now follow the field boundary on your right to reach a small road.

8, SS756 497, 2.7 miles

Bear right and immediately left signed to Countisbury 1 mile. Shortly take the left fork towards the mast and hut ahead. At the next fork bear right ignoring one to left. Continue ahead on this level path.

9, SS752 497, 3.0 miles

At the cross-over of paths, continue ahead and then bear right on to the next path following along by the dry stone wall on your left. Shortly ignore track going right, instead bearing left between the gorse bushes keeping near the wall still on your left.

10, SS746 497, 3.4 miles

As you reach Countisbury church go over to it to pass through the small gate into the churchyard. It is a delightful church worthy of a visit. Go right through the yard to the small road to find refreshments at the Blue Ball Inn.

11, SS746 497, 3.4 miles

Return back through the churchyard and small gate to the coast path, turning left on the grass by the wall going away to your left. Lynton and Lynmouth are down in front of you. Follow the coast path signs, on through the gate, past Countisbury Castle ramparts.

Keep following the coast path signs, ignoring the path down on the right to the shore.

12, SS730 495, 4.5 miles

Walk on until reaching the road, continuing down the hill keeping to the right, until reaching the path off to the right signposted 'coast path' by the Countisbury Lodge Hotel sign.

13, SS727 495, 4.7 miles

Follow this path down through the woods and at the bottom take the path that goes off to the right towards the sea.

14, SS725 496, 5.0 miles

Once on the path along the coast edge follow it towards the house ahead and then turn right and then left over the bridge over the East Lyn River.

15, SS722 495, 5.2 miles

On the other side turn right to go to the cliff railway to get to Lynton or left to the shops.

