

# Allerford to Minehead

## Ride & Walk



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### Fact File:

**Highlights:** Allerford pack horse bridge, views over Porlock Vale, South West Coast Path, Selworthy Beacon, Minehead, West Somerset Railway.

**Start Grid ref:** SS 904 469

**Distance:** 6.8 miles, linear

**Height gained/lost:** 414 metres. The walk starts with a fairly strenuous climb to Selworthy Beacon. Then easy walking with some steep descents, finishing easy walking.

**High Point:** 292 metres

**Low Point:** 1 metres

**Toilets:** Allerford, Minehead

**Eating places:** Allerford, Minehead

**Time required:** including stops: 4 to 4.5 hours

**Public transport:** 300, 10

**Route description:** This walk gives you a good taste of the South West Coast Path, walking the last (or first) section of this National Trail. Starting in Allerford, the walk quickly gains height, the route being chosen to give the most progressive climb to Selworthy Beacon. Excellent views reward you as you climb. Once at the top then the walking becomes much easier. You then lose your height as you descend to Minehead with some steep paths on the way down.

**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 904 469

From Allerford car park go back towards the main road and cross the pack horse bridge to follow the road ahead.

#### 2, SS 905 469, 0.1 miles

Shortly turn left signed to Bossington to pass through a kissing gate into a grass field. Go up to the top corner to pass through a bridle gate and straight on to the next one. Take the right hand fork ignoring the one back right.

#### 3, SS 904 473, 0.4 miles

At the next junction at St Agnes Fountain, take the uppermost of the three paths ahead signed to Bossington Hill, ignoring all others ahead and behind. You now pass through many evergreen holm oaks.

#### 4, SS 905 480, 0.9 miles

After a while pass through the next bridle gate and now take the path that goes up the centre of the valley which is fairly rocky, signed to Minehead. Cross two streams on the way up.

#### 5, SS 908 480, 1.1 miles

Near the top ignore the path ahead, instead turning back left signed bridleway to Selworthy Beacon. Soon hopefully the climb was worth it for the views.

#### 6, SS 905 481, 1.3 miles

At the small headland turn inland up the ridge away from Porlock Vale. Near the brow you meet a main track across you.

#### 7, SS 908 482, 1.5 miles

Turn right on to it to follow the next track which is the South West Coast Path (SWCP).

#### 8, SS 910 482, 1.7 miles

Bear right on to it and then bear left, ignoring the path to the right. You have now gained all your height and keep to the SWCP acorn signs, soon bearing left when the track divides.

#### 9, SS 925 482, 2.7 miles

After a while cross the tarmac road by a field gate, continuing ahead on the SWCP.

#### 10, SS 930 478, 3.1 miles

After a while again, keep ahead ignoring track off to the right. At the next divide again bear left. The track soon reduces to a path. Pass through the bridle gate and continue ahead by the hedge on your left.

#### 11, SS 939 476, 3.7 miles

Soon pass through the next bridle gate and now continue ahead level along the track, ignoring path left downhill. Pass the path back to the left to the rugged coast path to reach a multi-junction of paths.

#### 12, SS 947 476, 4.2 miles

Turn left here ignoring two paths ahead and one to the right. Follow this path as it drops and then goes right along the rounded cliff top. The path soon gently drops into woodland.

#### 13, SS 958 476, 5.0 miles

On reaching a gate and bridle gate take the path back left steeply downhill to another bridle gate. Continue downhill until reaching the farm road.

#### 14, SS 956 479, 5.3 miles

Turn right along it. Keep on it while it is level and when it goes uphill, bear off left on a footpath.

#### 15, SS 962 477, 5.7 miles

Soon take the next path off to the left, ignoring the level one ahead. At the bottom follow the path ahead passing the seats and shelters to the harbour road.

#### 16, SS 968 473, 6.2 miles

Follow this road ahead into Minehead. On reaching the town the West Somerset Railway is ahead of you and The Parade to the shop is on your right.