



SIDMOUTH & EAST DEVON
W A L K I N G
F E S T I V A L



*Discover glorious
East Devon*

13-19 September 2025



**Bookings: tic@sidmouth.gov.uk
or 01395 516441**





Welcome to the Festival

Saturday 13 September – Friday 19 September 2025

Join us for a fabulous week of free guided walks and discover wonderful scenic coastal walking and the hidden gems of East Devon.

All walks must be booked via Sidmouth Tourist Information Centre, Ham Lane, EX10 8XR.

tic@sidmouth.gov.uk, or 01395 516441.

There are three or four walks each day, with the title of each walk colour-coded in either **pink**, **blue**, **brown** or **green** to help identify their classification.

1. **East Devon Way Circular Walks.**

Walks, leading from the East Devon Way, to showcase the East Devon countryside

They were designed by a partnership between East Devon Natural Landscape and East Devon Ramblers.

<https://eastdevon-nl.org.uk/east-devon-way/circular-routes>

2. **Coast and Countryside Walks.**

These walks take in our seaside towns and beautiful countryside (with one longer and one shorter walk each day).

3. **Specialist Walks.**

Short special interest expert-led walks.

Where relevant, local pubs and cafes are mentioned, with contact details, to help you plan your day. Unless specifically included in an offered walk, we would recommend contacting them to confirm opening times and availability before visiting

Saturday 13 September

Festival Launch Event

Start: 10.30

End: 13:00

The Festival Launch will be at the Sidmouth Tourist Information Centre, Ham Lane, Sidmouth EX10 8XR.

Come and meet your walk guides and find out about all the wonderful walks on offer and confirm the start points.

1 Arboretum Walk

Meet: Tourist Information Centre, Ham Lane, Sidmouth EX10 8XR.

Start: 14:00

End: c. 16:00

Jon Ball, Chair of Sidmouth Arboretum, will be leading a short walk to see and talk about some of the finest trees in central Sidmouth.

Bookings required: tic@sidmouth.gov.uk or 01395 516441

Regular Sidmouth Museum Guided Walks.

All these circular walks are led by a knowledgeable guide and start at 10:30 am from Sidmouth Museum, Church Street, Sidmouth EX10 8LY. Booking is not required for these walks but the museum makes a charge of £2.50 for each walk.

<i>Monday</i>	<i>Central Town – approx. 2 hours.</i>
<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Western Town – approx. 2 hours.</i>
<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Geology – approx. 90 minutes.</i>
<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Eastern Town – approx. 2 hours.</i>
<i>Friday</i>	<i>Tree Walks – approx. 2 hours.</i>

Sunday 14 September

2 Musbury Castle: Circular 5 miles.

Meet: Musbury Village Hall car park, Musbury, EX13 8AJ; SY272945.

Start: 10:00

End: c. 12:45

This route starts in the pretty village of Musbury and follows the East Devon Way up to Musbury Castle, an Iron Age hill fort with great views over the Axe Valley and out to sea.

Possibility for lunch at The Hind pub (01297 553553). Booking recommended

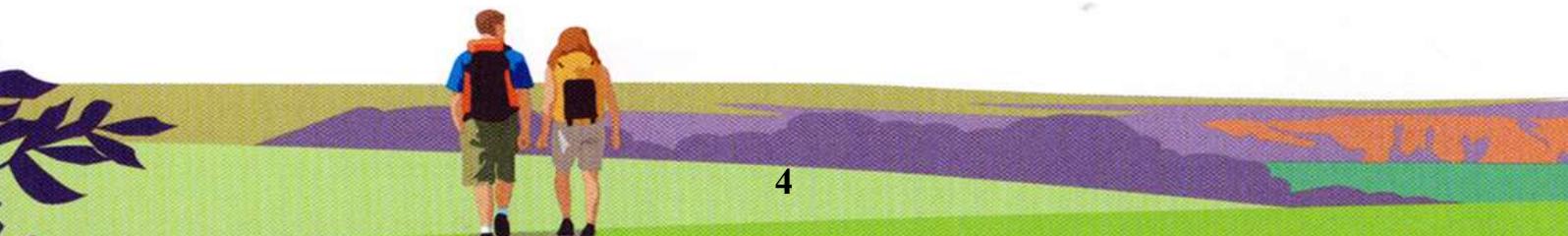
3 Sidmouth – Salcombe Hill: Circular 5 miles.

Meet at The Knowle Park & Gardens car park (free), Station Road, Sidmouth, EX10 8HL; SY121882

Start: 10.30

End: c. 13:00

This walk takes us through the Knapp nature reserve and down to the River Sid before a steady ascent of Soldiers Hill brings us onto Salcombe Hill. Passing through woodland we reach the coastal viewpoint at the 'frog stone' and the steady descent on steps to Sidmouth seafront. Our route back to the car park takes us along a hidden 'goyle' and the Knowle parkland.



4

Ottery St Mary - Coleridge Link; Circular 9.5 miles

Meet at Ottery St Mary Car Park, Canaan Way, EX11 1EQ; SY095955

Start: 10:00

End c. 16:00

Bring a picnic lunch.

Samuel Taylor Coleridge, poet and philosopher, was born and grew up in Ottery St Mary. In company with his friends and fellow poets, he was a great walker. This waymarked walk takes in countryside that he was familiar with, in and around the Otter valley. As well as walking through the level meadows alongside the river Otter, it also includes a climb of 200 metres (650 feet) to the scarp of East Hill from where there are excellent views over the valley and west towards distant Dartmoor.

5

Seaton Tram ride with visit to historic Colyton.

Bus No 9A from Sidmouth Triangle available.

Meet Seaton Tramway, Harbour Road, EX12 2WD; SY247900

Parking for Seaton tramway is in the Underfleet car park (£) EX12 2WD. 3-minute walk to the Tramway station.

START: 10.00am ready to leave on the 10.20 tram

END: 15.00hrs.

Enjoy a 3-mile tram ride through the glorious Axe Valley to arrive in the charming small market town of Colyton. The town is steeped in history and has many interesting features. You will be met by an experienced guide who will show you some of the historic buildings in Colyton.

Take a picnic lunch or visit a local cafe.

Cost £12.00 per person for return tram ticket (payable at time of booking).

Bookings required: tic@sidmouth.gov.uk or 01395 516441

Monday 15 September

6 East Devon Way Circular Walks from Woodbury Castle

Meet at Estuary View car park (west side of B3180), EX5 1JL; SY033872

Choose morning only, afternoon only or both walks.

Bring a picnic lunch if doing both walks.

6a - Colaton Raleigh Common: Circular 5 miles. Start:10:30 End: c13:00.

The heathland area was created by Neolithic farmers around 4000 BC when they started clearing the area of deciduous woodland to create pasture for their animals. Further clearance, grazing and burning over the centuries created the heathland.

6b - Woodbury Common: Circular 4.5 miles. Start: 14.00 End: c16.30.

This walk commences at Woodbury Castle car park and follows tracks and footpaths to Woodbury village with good views of the Exe Estuary.

7 Bystock Ponds and Squabmoor Reservoir: Circular 7.5 miles

Bus No 157 from Sidmouth Triangle available.

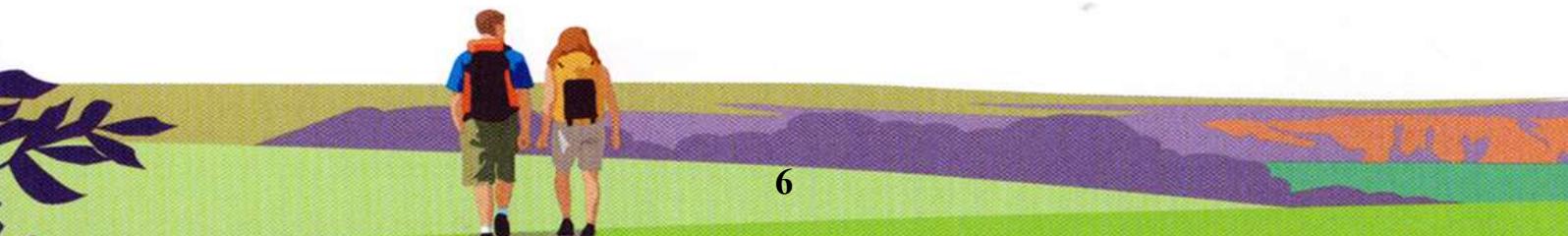
Meet Hayes Lane Car Park, East Budleigh, EX9 7EB; SY065849

Start: 11:00

End: c.15.00

Bring a picnic lunch.

The Pebblebed Heaths and Commons are a unique and valued feature of East Devon and this walk takes in two of the major water features found on the heaths. Starting from East Budleigh the route quickly gets onto open heathland and the ponds at Bystock. This attractive Devon Wildlife Trust site will delight with its attractive waterside features. A little further on, the larger Squabmoor reservoir shoreline will be passed where we will stop to admire the extensive water lilies and water fowl.



8 Honiton to Sidmouth: Linear 13 miles.

Meet 09:30 at Sidmouth Triangle to catch No 9 bus to Honiton.

Start: 10:25 Outside Lace Walk (High Street entrance)

End: c. 17.00 Sidmouth Tourist Information Centre

Bring a picnic lunch.

The walk goes through pleasant hilly countryside and farmland and the glorious Harcombe valley to Sidford. The final stretch is along the lovely Byes and follows the River Sid to the finish at the Tourist Information Centre.

9 Donkey Sanctuary VIP Experience.

Bus No 9A from Sidmouth Triangle available.

Meet: Overflow car park, Donkey Sanctuary, Slade House Farm, Sidmouth EX10 0NU; SY159894

Start: 10:00

End: c 13:00

Join this walk for a VIP experience and behind the scenes tour of this award-winning attraction. You will be met by a member of staff who will lead the group on a guided tour of the sanctuary. Along the way you will have the opportunity to ask questions, you will encounter many donkeys while taking in the stunning views.

After the tour you may like to visit more donkeys and have some lunch in the restaurant.

Bookings required: tic@sidmouth.gov.uk or 01395 516441

Tuesday 16 September

10 Knapp Copse: Circular 6 miles

Meet at Knapp Copse Nature Reserve car park. Seaton Rd, EX24 6JD; SY155957

Start: 10:30

End: c. 13.30

Knapp Copse Nature Reserve spans both sides of the steep Roncombe Valley. From here the undulating route rewards the walker with fine views of the surrounding countryside and longer views to the sea at Sidmouth.

11 South West Coast Path, Exmouth to Sidmouth: Linear 13 miles

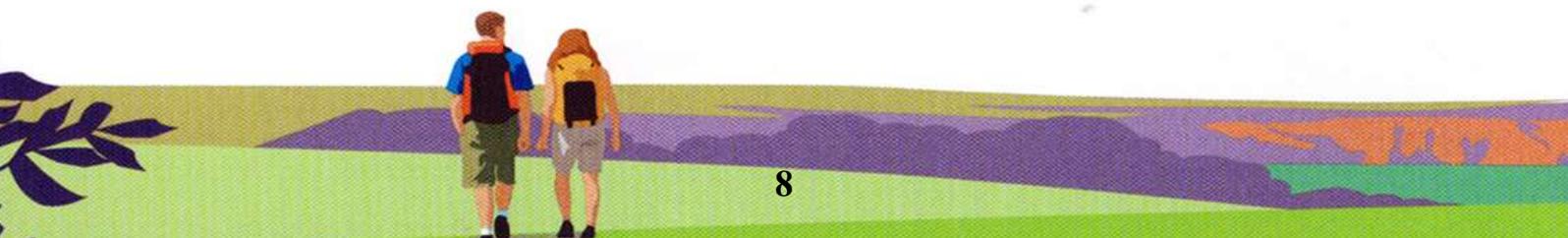
Meet: 08.45 at Sidmouth Triangle to catch the No 157 bus to Exmouth.

Start: 10:00 – Exmouth Strand (by bus stop)

End: c. 16.30 - Sidmouth Tourist Information Centre

Bring a picnic lunch.

This is a strenuous section of the coast path. The walk starts beside the River Exe with views over the broad estuary and the great sand bar of Dawlish Warren. We soon reach the sweeping Exmouth esplanade before climbing to the Geoneedle at Orcombe Point and the high point of West Down Beacon, both with panoramic views. After descending to the attractive sea front of Budleigh Salterton, we cross the Otter estuary and climb the distinctive red cliffs before making the climb to the high cliffs of High Peak and Peak Hill. We then descend again to our finish at Sidmouth.



12 Branscombe Donkey Sanctuary: Circular 8 miles.

Bus No 9A from Sidmouth Triangle available.

Meet: Overflow car park, Donkey Sanctuary, Slade House Farm, Sidmouth EX10 ONU; SY159894

Start: 10:00

End c. 15:00

Bring a picnic lunch.

This walk leads us along the edge of Weston Combe to the South West Coast Path which we follow through the Iron Age Berry Camp. We leave the coast path to explore the old mill and forge in Branscombe (NT) then ascend to Hole House and through the lovely Edge Barton valley to return to the start.

Refreshments available at the Donkey Sanctuary.

13 Cruise and historic Exeter walk.

Bus No 157 from Sidmouth Triangle available.

Meet: 10.30am, Outside ROCKFISH on Exmouth seafront; SY994807

Boarding takes place at 10.45am.

Enjoy a 2.5-hour cruise from the seaside town of Exmouth along one of the oldest shipping canals in Europe, to reach the historic Exeter Quay. There you will have lunch (not included) before being met by one of the Exeter 'Red Coats' who will be your guide and will provide an informative history walk around the canal basin.

From there we will walk to Exeter, where you can take the Avocet Line following the Exe Estuary, back to Exmouth (at your own cost).

In total there will be around 4 miles of walking.

Please take a packed lunch or alternatively there are cafes on the quay.

There are a number of pay car parks in Exmouth plus some free street parking.

Cost £12 per person for the cruise and guided history tour (payable at time of booking).

Bookings required: tic@sidmouth.gov.uk or 01395 516441

WALK LO

- Coastal walk
- Inland walk
- Special interest walk
- East Devon Way **Circular Walks**
- Boundary East Devon National Landscape
- ⋯ South West Coast Path
- ⋯ East Devon Way



CATIONS



5 miles / 8 kilometres

Map reproduced by kind permission of East Devon National Landscape

Wednesday 17 September

14

East Devon Way Circular Walks from Newton Poppleford.

Bus No 9 from Sidmouth Triangle available (nearest stop Millmoor lane).

Meet at Newton Poppleford Recreation Ground car park, EX10 0EY; SY085897

Both walks start & finish at the Recreation Ground. Choose one or both.

Bring a picnic lunch if doing both walks.

14a - Newton Poppleford & River Otter Circular 5.5 miles.

Start:10:00 End: c13:00

This walk will take you through the hamlet of Southerton and the villages of Venn Ottery and Tipton St John.

14b - Aylesbeare Common Circular; 4.6 miles.

Start:14:00 End: c16:30

Walk from Newton Poppleford to Aylesbeare and Harpford Commons.

The Canon Inn is available for refreshments. (01395 568266)

15

Budleigh Salterton – Exmouth and back: Circular 10 Miles.

Bus No 157 Bus from Sidmouth Triangle available.

Meet at Budleigh Salterton – town car park, Station Road, Budleigh Salterton EX9 6RN
SY061820

Start: 10:00

End: c. 15:30

Bring a picnic lunch.

From Budleigh we walk along the old cycle route to Exmouth where we have a picnic lunch. (Cafes / Pubs are also an option). We then walk back along the South West Coast Path to Budleigh.

The cycle path is relatively flat but prepare for climbs on the return along the coast path!



16 Colaton Raleigh – Beaver Trail to the sea: Circular 8 miles

Meet at The Otter Inn, overflow car park, Colaton Raleigh, EX10 0LE; SY077874.

Start:10:00

End c. 14:30

Bring a picnic lunch.

Our walk takes us along the peaceful River Otter where a colony of wild beavers is being monitored, then on into the picturesque Otterton Village with a fully working mill. Next, we ascend on to the South West Coast Path where we see the impressive rock stacks at Ladram Bay and glorious views as far as Portland Bill. From here we turn inland and retrace our steps along the River Otter.

Refreshments available at the Otter Inn after the walk.

17 National Coastwatch - Talk and short coast walk

Bus No 157 from Sidmouth Triangle available.

Meet Exmouth Rugby Club car park, The Royal Avenue, Exmouth EX8 1DG; SX998810.

Free car parking on site. You will be required to register your vehicle registration number in the club house.

Start: 11:00

End: c. 13:00

The group will take a short stroll around the coast path to the Exmouth harbour. We will then return to the Rugby club for a cup of tea and a talk by one of the members of the National Coast Watch team who will inform the group of the important safety role they play.

Bookings required: tic@sidmouth.gov.uk or 01395 516441

Thursday 18 September

18 Colyton, Shute Hill & Axe Valley: Circular 8.8 miles

Meet at Colyton Peace Memorial Playing Fields car park, EX24 6PU; SY249936
Pubs and cafés available for refreshments in Colyton at the end of the Walk

Start: 10:00

End: c14.30

Bring a picnic lunch.

This walk covers part of the Axe Valley and surrounding countryside with superb views of Musbury Castle hill fort and down the Axe estuary to the sea.

19 In Search of Sir Walter Raleigh; Circular 8 miles

Bus No 157 from Sidmouth Triangle available.

Meet at Budleigh Salterton – town car park, Station Road, Budleigh Salterton EX9 6RN
SY061820

Start: 10:00

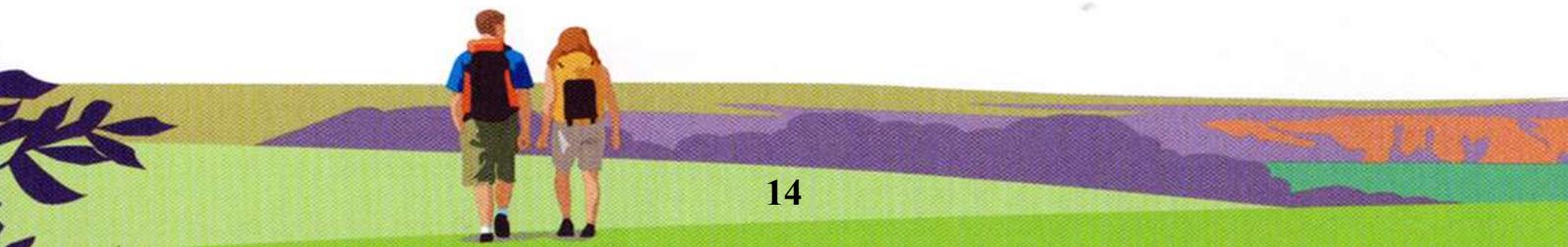
End c. 14:30

Bring a picnic lunch.

A mix of disused railway line, open moorland, a beautiful lily-padded pool, a reservoir and riverside, together with sight of Walter Raleigh's birthplace make this a most memorable walk. We visit the church Walter Raleigh attended before following the river to the seafront and the spot where the famous painting 'The Boyhood of Raleigh' was painted by Sir John Millais.

Make time to visit the museum (entrance fee payable).

<http://www.fairlynchmuseum.uk>



20 **Newton Poppleford to Ottery St Mary: Circular 9 miles**

Bus No 9 from Sidmouth Triangle available (nearest stop Millmoor lane).

Meet at Newton Poppleford Recreation Ground car park, EX10 0EY; SY085897

Start: 10.00

End: c 15.00

Bring a picnic lunch.

This walk goes through pleasant rural countryside, to the east of the River Otter via the villages of Harpford and Tipton St John, to Ottery St Mary. The return is an easy riverside walk, following the river along the west bank, to the start point.

21 **Churches of the Sid Valley: Circular 5 miles.**

Meet at Sidmouth Parish Church, Church Street EX10 8LG; SY126 873

Start: 10.30

End: c. 15.30

Prof. Brian Golding's walk takes us to a variety of places of worship, past and present, in the Sid Valley, learning a little of their history. We start with a loop around the town centre, before heading up The Byes towards Sidford. We will have short visits to a few of the churches.

Bring a picnic lunch to eat at Primley Church Hall where hot drinks & toilet facilities will be available.

Bookings required: tic@sidmouth.gov.uk or 01395 516441

Friday 19 September

22 East Devon Way: Circular Walks from Sidbury.

Park at Sidbury village car park. Ridgeway Close, Sidbury, EX10 0SN; SY139919

Bus No 9 to Old Coach House available

Meet at St Giles Church, Bridge Street, Sidbury EX10 0SB; SY139 918

Choose morning only, afternoon only or both walks.

Bring a picnic lunch if doing both walks.

22a - Sidbury, Harcombe & Sweetcombe: Circular 6.3miles

Start: 10:15 End c. 13:30

A circular walk partly on the East Devon Way taking in the hills and valleys around Sidbury, Harcombe and Sweetcombe. There is an abundance of wildlife, and it is a rich habitat for wildflowers.

22b Sidbury & Buckton Hill: Circular 3.3 miles.

Start: 14.15 End: c. 16:00

This walk has many fine views both of Sidbury and towards the sea at Sidmouth and beyond. There are two steep hills, one ascent and one descent, but the route should not be beyond the capabilities of the average walker.

The Red Lion is available for refreshments (01395 597313).

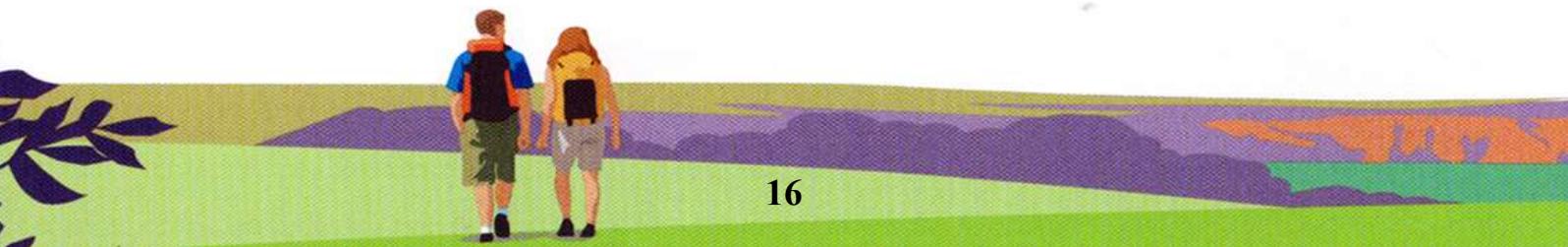
23 Sid Valley Ring: Linear 7 miles

Meet: 09:35 at Sidmouth Triangle to catch the No 9 bus to Sidbury.

End: c. 15.30 Sidmouth Tourist Information Centre.

Bring a picnic Lunch.

Starting from the Saxon village of Sidbury, we ascend to White Cross and Fire Beacon Hill which offer extensive views across the stunning landscape. We then descend through the western part of Sidmouth where we see some fine buildings before reaching the Esplanade and our finish.



24 Sid Valley Ring Walk: Circular 14 miles

Meet at Tourist Information Centre, Ham Lane, Sidmouth, EX10 8XR; SY128873

Start: 10.00

End: c 17.30

Bring a picnic lunch

The circular Sid Valley Ring, which was launched at the 2019 Festival, will be undertaken clockwise. This strenuous walk starts by heading west along the seafront promenade. The terrain is challenging but offers a mix of panoramic inland and coastal views through farming landscapes and historic settlements and includes parts of both the Southwest Coast path and the East Devon Way.

25 Visit to historic Cadhay House and Garden with cream tea.

Meet at Cadhay House car park, Ottery St Mary. Devon. EX11 1QT; SY089963.

Start: 11:00

End: c. 16:00

Cadhay house is an enchanting Tudor Manor House nestled on the outskirts of Ottery St Mary.

Our Cadhay experience will begin with a walk (approx. 1.25 miles) into Ottery St Mary, the birthplace of Samuel Taylor Coleridge. We will return to Cadhay where we can sit in the garden for our packed lunch. (Please bring your own lunch)

At 2.00pm we will have a guided tour of the house and gardens, followed by a Devon Cream Tea in the barn.

Cost £20.00 per person for parking, entrance to house, garden and cream tea (payable at time of booking).

Bookings required: tic@sidmouth.gov.uk or 01395 516441

Booking and Payment:

Payment, if required, can be made by credit or debit card at the Sidmouth Tourist Information Centre, Ham Lane, Sidmouth EX10 8XR, either by phone or in person.

Unfortunately , for walks 5, 13 and 25, refunds are not able to be issued.

Transfer of payment between paid events may be available subject to availability upon request.

Top tips

Clothing: please wear comfortable and stout footwear for all walks and appropriate clothing for the weather.

Weather: the walks will be going ahead come rain or shine, so do come along on your booked walks as Devon weather often clears up.

Food and water: please bring snacks, sandwiches and plenty to drink with you. Some walks end at a pub or town, and you might like to support local businesses

Wildlife: If you enjoy spotting wildlife, please bring your binoculars if you have them, and a camera too.

Bus Connections to the walks

Some of the walks are accessible by local bus but limited frequency means times may not be convenient. Please check timetables, and nearest bus stop to meeting point, at <https://www.stagecoachbus.com/timetables>, or call 0345 241 8000 (charges apply), or check at the Tourist Information Centre.

Service	Route	Frequency	Walk Number
9	Sidmouth to Honiton	Hourly	22
9	Sidmouth to Exeter	Hourly	14 and 20
9A	Sidmouth to Seaton	Hourly	5, 9, and 12
157	Sidmouth to Exmouth	Hourly	7, 13, 15, 17 and 19



Sidmouth Tourist Information Centre are delighted to support this year's 2025 Walking Festival. Do come and visit us whilst you are here and browse through our excellent resources. We stock a comprehensive range of maps and guides together with ideas for local walks around our National Landscapes and heritage coastline. If you are following the Wayfinder routes, come and get your passport stamped by us and find out what's on in Sidmouth and around to enhance your stay. We stock a bespoke range of souvenirs and Visit Sidmouth products popular with our visitors to take a reminder of Sidmouth home with them.

Our friendly team are happy to chat and answer any questions and even take your bookings for further festival events.

Contact: email tic@sidmouth.gov.uk or 01395 516441.



The East Devon Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (National Landscape) is a unique landscape, full of contrast and colour, diverse and rich in wildlife – a landscape, shaped by centuries of farming, with a natural beauty that's so precious it's protected in the nation's interest.

Designated in 1963, the East Devon National Landscape boundary protects 103 square miles (268 sqkm) including 18 miles of Heritage Coast and the East Devon section of the World Heritage Site ' Jurassic Coast '.

Contact: email info@eastdevon-nl.org.uk or 01404 46663

Disclaimer

The organisers cannot be held responsible for any injury sustained on the events during the festival. The walk leaders reserve the right to refuse to take anyone who, in their opinion, does not have suitable clothing or footwear for autumn walking. In the event of inclement weather, the leader may change or curtail the walk at their discretion. Children and dogs are welcome; however dogs must be kept on short leads at all times

	East Devon Way Circulars	Coast/Countryside	Special Interest
Saturday 13 Sept		Festival Launch at Sidmouth TIC 10:30 -13:00	1. Arboretum Walk Meet: Sidmouth TIC
Sunday 14 Sept	2. Musbury Castle Circular; 5 miles Meet: Musbury Village Hall car park	3. Sidmouth Salcombe Hill; Circular; 5 miles Meet The Knowle Park & Gardens car park	5. Seaton Tram ride with visit to historic Colyton Meet: Seaton Tramway
		4. Ottery St Mary - Coleridge Link; 9.5 miles Meet: Ottery St Mary Canaan Way car park	
Monday 15 Sept	6. Woodbury Common Figure of 8 5, 4.5 or 9.5 miles Meet: Estuary View car park	7. Bystock Ponds & Squabmoor Reservoir; Circular 7.5 miles Meet: East Budleigh car park	9. Donkey Sanctuary Meet: Donkey Sanctuary Overflow car park
		8. Honiton to Sidmouth; Linear 13 miles Meet: Sidmouth Triangle	
Tuesday 16 Sept	10. Knapp Copse Circular 6 miles. Meet: Knapp Copse NR car park	11. SWCP Exmouth – Sidmouth; Linear; 13 miles Meet: Sidmouth Triangle	13. Cruise and historic Exeter walk. Meet: Outside ROCKFISH on Exmouth seafront
		12. Branscombe; Circular 8.5 miles Meet : Donkey Sanctuary Overflow car park	
Wednesday 17 Sept	14. Newton Poppleford Figure of 8 4.6, 5.5 or 11.1 miles Meet: Newton Poppleford Recreation Ground car park	15. Budleigh Salterton to Exmouth and back; Circular 10 miles. Meet Budleigh Salterton Town car park	17. National Coastwatch Talk and short coast walk Meet: Exmouth Rugby Club
		16. Colaton Raleigh - Beaver Trail to the sea; Circular 8. miles. Meet: The Otter Inn overflow car park	
Thursday 18 Sept	18. Shute Hill & Axe Valley Circular 8.8 miles Meet: Colyton Peace Memorial Playing Fields	19. Budleigh Salterton - In Search of Walter Raleigh; Circular; 8 miles Meet Budleigh Salterton Town car park	21. Churches Walk Meet: Sidmouth Parish Church
		20. Newton Poppleford to Ottery St Mary; Circular 9 miles Meet: Newton Poppleford Recreation Ground car park	
Friday 19 Sept	22. Sidbury Figure of 8 6.3, 3.3 or 9.6 miles Meet: S St Giles Church, Sidbury	23. Sid Valley Ring (Short) Sidmouth to Sidbury; Linear 7 miles. Meet: Sidmouth Triangle	25. Visit to historic Cadhay House and Garden Meet: Cadhay House
		24. Sid Valley Ring (Long); Circular 14 miles. Meet: Sidmouth TIC	

Keep up to date

Bookings: 01395 516441



Sidmouth & East Devon Walking Festival

email: tic@sidmouth.gov.uk



www.visitsidmouth.co.uk



www.eastdevon-nl.org.uk

This festival is brought to you by members of East Devon Ramblers and is supported by Sidmouth Town Council and East Devon National Landscape.

Thank you for supporting our walking festival. We hope you enjoyed discovering this hidden gem of an area. We would love to hear your views. You can email us at sidmouthwalkingfestival@gmail.com.