



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

12–18 September 2026

*Discover glorious
East Devon*

Join us for a fabulous week of free guided walks where you can discover villages, coast, countryside and rivers. With four walks per day to choose from we are sure to have something for everyone



[Sidmouth & East Devon Walking Festival](#)



www.visitsidmouth.co.uk

Bookings : tic@sidmouth.gov.com

or 01395 516441





Welcome to the Festival

Saturday 12 September – Friday 18 September 2026

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. (Unfortunately, no dogs, except assistance dogs, are allowed on these walks unless otherwise stated)

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.

DONATIONS

Our walking festival is proudly run entirely by volunteers - from our friendly walk leaders to our dedicated organisers and helpers, everyone gives their time freely to make this event possible. Nearly all of our walks are offered completely free of charge, as we believe everyone should have the opportunity to enjoy the outdoors and explore our beautiful surroundings. If you feel able to make a donation, it would be very warmly welcomed and will help us cover essential costs and ensure the continuation of future walking festivals.

Saturday 12 September

Festival Launch Event

Start: 10.30

End: 16:00

The Festival Launch will be at the Sidmouth Tourist Information Centre, Ham Lane, Sidmouth EX10 8XR; SY128873: W3W market.grant.urban

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

1 Family Treasure Hunt

Meet: Tourist Information Centre, Ham Lane, Sidmouth EX10 8XR; SY128873
W3W market.grant.urban

Start: 14:00

End: c.16:00

Get ready for an adventure the whole family will love! Our exciting walking treasure hunt takes you on a trail of fun, easy-to-follow clues that will have children exploring, giggling and discovering along the way. It's the perfect chance to enjoy the fresh air, stretch your legs and see familiar sights in a brand-new way. Little explorers can put their thinking caps on, grown-ups can join in the fun, and together you'll follow the clues all the way to a well-known establishment, where optional refreshments will be waiting to celebrate your success. Bring your curiosity, sense of adventure and your biggest smiles - the treasure is out there!

All children under 16 need to be accompanied by an adult.

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

How to Donate

Donations can be made by debit or credit card at the Tourist Information Centre, or by bank transfer.

Name: Sidmouth Walking Festival

Sort Code: 77-10-11

Account Number: 14533460

Sunday 13 September

2 Joney's Cross and Woodbury Common Circular: 10miles.

Meet Joney's Cross Car Park, A3052, Sidmouth, EX10 0BL; SY058897

W3W: nail.obligated.rear

Start: 10:00

End: c.15:00

The route follows the East Devon Way meandering over heathland with views to the Haldon Hills, the Otter Valley and the sea. Key features of the walk include Woodbury Castle, an Iron Age Hillfort, and the Gibraltar Stone, a memorial to commandos who have trained on the common.

3 Bystock Ponds and Squabmoor Reservoir Circular: 7.5 miles

Meet Wheathill Car Park, East Budleigh Common, EX9 7BS; SY040848

W3W: irrigate.contrived.clash

Start: 11:00

End: c.15.00

The Pebbled 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. 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 waterfowl.

4 **Otter Valley Circular: 11.7 miles**

Meet at Tipton Car Park, Tipton St John, EX10 0AF; SY091917

W3W: informer.shoelaces.dubbing

Start: 10:00

Finish: c.16:00

This less well-known route includes footpaths and quiet country lanes. It meanders above and also along the Otter Valley. The walk goes through parts of West Hill before circling near Cadhay House and then includes a short stretch along the River Otter. We then gradually ascend the “Hidden Valley” through footpaths and farmland before veering back towards the River Otter and Tipton.

5 **Guided dog walking across the Pebbled Heaths National Nature Reserve.**

Meet Four Firs Cross Car Park East Budleigh Common, EX5 1JL; SY032864

W3W: jumpy.spoils.workbook

Start: 11:00

End: c.12.30

Come and learn a little about the heaths on a relaxed stroll following paths and tracks, whilst the dogs enjoy the sights and sniffs!

Dress for the weather, sturdy footwear recommended.

Please note that there is a maximum of 2 dogs per person.

Check out the Devon Loves Dogs website for other Waggy Walks dates.

<https://www.devonlovesdogs.co.uk/events>

Check out the Pebbled Heaths Conservation Trust for other activities on the reserve.

<https://www.pebblebedheaths.org.uk/whats-on>

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

Monday 14 September

6 Newton Poppleford Circulars: 6.2 miles and 5.3 miles.

Bus No 9/9A or 157 from Sidmouth Triangle available (nearest stop Millmoor Lane).

Meet at Newton Poppleford Recreation Ground Car Park, EX10 0EY; SY088899

W3W: certainly.distract.twinge

Bring a picnic lunch if doing both walks.

6a – 6.2 miles. Start:10:00 End: c.13:00.

This walk leads down the Otter to Dotton and then heads west, climbing towards the Hawkerland Valley before reaching Ayelsbeare Common with outstanding views of the Otter Valley. The route then returns to the start along the East Devon Way.

6b – 5.3 miles. Start: 14.00 End: c.16.30.

From Newton Poppleford the route goes uphill to Harpford Wood before heading towards Tipton St John with views towards the Otter Valley. There is then easy walking back along the River Otter.

7 South West Coast Path Seaton to Sidmouth: Linear 10.5 miles.

Bus: No. 9A from Sidmouth Triangle available

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

W3W: vessel.spits.pressing

Start: 11:00

End: c.17.00 Sidmouth Tourist Information Centre

Bring a picnic lunch.

This is a strenuous stretch of the coast path with some steep climbs and steep descents. From Seaton we have a short climb over to the fishing village of Beer and then climb the chalk cliff of Beer Head where there are fine views of Lyme Bay and the Isle of Portland. We then descend through the dramatic Hooken undercliff to Branscombe Mouth where we climb once again. We then progress along the scenic stretch of coast with lofty cliffs cut by deep and narrow valleys.

8 Wild Food Foraging at Wildwood Devon.

Meet: Wildwood Devon, Escot Park, Ottery St Mary, Devon, EX11 1LU; SY080979

W3W: mandates.fairway.backtrack

Start: 10:00

End: c.13:00

Our day starts with a walk (approx. 2 miles) in the adjacent fields and woodland of the Escot Estate.

From 11:30 to 13:00 we will meet Wildwood Devon's Bex Flintham. Bex is an experienced forager and educator and will show us how to identify and forage plants for food or their therapeutic properties.

The foraging will finish at 13:00 and refreshments are available on site afterwards at The Coach House Cafe.

After lunch you will have the rest of the day to look for the bears, wolves, owls, wild boar, red squirrels and more as you may continue exploring within Wildwood Devon until closing time at 17:00.

Note: Dogs are not permitted entry to Wildwood Devon and must not be left in cars.

Cost £10.00 per person for parking, guided food foraging event and entry to Wildwood Devon.

9 Footsteps through a new landscape.

Meet Venn Ottery quarry main vehicle entrance, EX11 1SF; SY064910

W3W: protests.snoring.airstrip

Start: 14:00

End: c.16:00 Sidmouth Tourist Information Centre

The old quarry at Venn Ottery which is adjacent to the existing RSPB reserve, has been managed by the RSPB since quarrying ceased in 2017.

Extensive restoration and habitat creation has taken place by rewilding from industrial to natural use and now boasts habitat which includes heathland, woodland and lagoons to provide a real haven for wildlife.

Toby, the RSPB site manager for the area, will give us a guided tour to show what has already been achieved and what the long term aspirations are.

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

Tuesday 15 September

10 Church Green Circular: 9.4 miles.

Meet at Farway United Football Club, Money Acre Road, Church Green, Farway, EX24 6EF; SY176960, W3W: messaging.foot.caves

Start: 10:00

End: c.15:30

This undulating route with some steep sections follows the East Devon Way from Church Green to Knapp Copse and the Roncombe Valley with many scenic views. From Hatway Hill the footpaths gradually descend into Farway before picking up the East Devon Way to return to the start.

11 Harcombe Circular: 3.9 miles.

Meet at The Blue Ball Car Park, Stevens Cross, Sidford, Sidmouth, EX10 9QL; SY138899
W3W: full.pumps.atom

Start: 17:00

End: c.19:00

A flattish start along a quiet lane up to Knowle House before some steady climbs towards Paccombe Hill and Buckton Hill followed by a steep descent and then back to the pub via Buckton Farm. Meals available at the pub after the walk but should be booked in advance – 01395 514062.

12 Sidmouth & Mutters Moor Circular: 9 miles.

Meet Park and Walk Car Park, The Knowle, Station Road, Sidmouth EX10 8XH.
SY121881, W3W: happen.sketch.assist

Start: 10.30

End: c.15:00

A gentle ascent to the 'poet's seat' and a 'smugglers route' across Mutters Moor lead us to the coast path which we follow to Ladram Bay. Our uphill return route leads us back onto the coast path with glorious views as we descend into Sidmouth. Our route back to the car park takes us along a hidden 'goyle' and the Knowle parkland

13

Mindfulness walk in The Byes.

Meet Byes Toll House & Gate, Salcombe Road, Sidmouth, EX10 8PR; SY128878

W3W: retire.shadow.comical

Start: 10:00

End: c.12:00

Do you ever return from a walk and think that your head was just so full of thoughts about the future or the past, that you didn't really take in the walk at all? Come and try a different way of experiencing a walk.

First, we will help you to slow your mind down, focusing on your breath and your walking. Then we will help you to open all of your senses so that you enjoy looking deeply at the beauty of Nature. The trees, the flowers, the insects. You'll listen intently to the sounds of the river or the birdsong. You'll take in the smells of the wet earth, the fresh grass, touch the leaves, the bark; and start to feel joy and gratitude for all that Nature provides. The Byes is a very special place hugging the Sid River from Sidford to the Toll House. Much loved by Sidmouth and its visitors, it's the perfect place for a mindful walk. We look forward to walking with you.

Open to everyone. This walk is suitable for people who use mobility aids, wheelchairs and scooters.

Distance will be no more than a mile.

Please bring drinking water and anything else you will need for yourself.

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

STARTING LOCAT



IONS FOR WALKS



10 miles / 16 kilometres

Map reproduced by kind permission of East Devon National Landscape

Wednesday 16 September

14 Colyton Circulars: 6 miles and 4 miles.

Meet: Colyton Peace Memorial Playing Fields Car Park ,EX24 6PU; SY249936

W3W: blur.houseboat.breezes

Bring a picnic lunch if doing both walks.

14a - 6 miles. Start:10:00 End: c.13:00

This walk heads north around Colyton with a climb up Sand Pitt Hill from where there are great views overlooking the Coly Valley before a descent via Holyford and Colyford back to the start point.

14b - 4 miles. Start:14:00 End: c.16:00

This is a flattish route with one short, steep climb. It follows the East Devon Way for the majority of the walk before veering off via Kingsdown Hill and returning to the car park.

15 Branscombe and Beer Circular: 6.2 miles.

Bus No.899 from Sidmouth Triangle available

Meet: Branscombe Village Hall Car Park, Lockey's Lane, Branscombe. EX12 3DB

SY197887 W3W: fights.spotty.oath

Start: 11.00

End: c.14.30

This scenic route with regular coast and countryside views includes some steep climbs! We walk along an inland trail to Seaton before joining the South West Coast Path and returning via Beer Head and Branscombe Mouth.

16 Sid Valley Ring: Circular 14 miles

Meet Sidmouth Tourist Information Centre, Ham Lane EX10 8XR; SY128873
W3W: market.grant.urban

Start: 10:00

End: c17:00

The undulating nature of the terrain covered in this circular route makes this a challenging walk. It includes Sidmouth's unique Regency seafront, an interesting estate designed by renowned architect R W Sampson, the glorious Sid Valley with its working farming landscape and historic settlements and panoramic coastal views across Lyme Bay.

17 Exploring prehistoric Woodbury Common and Castle

Meet Estuary View Car Park (west side of B3180), EX5 1EA; SY031872
W3W: stews.uncle.implanted

Start: 10:00

End: c.12:30

This walk will explore the varied habitats and vegetation of Woodbury Common which forms part of the East Devon Pebblebed Heaths Nature Reserve. We will look for evidence of how it has been used and modified by humans since the earliest times up to the Iron Age and beyond. It will include field boundaries, barrows and the impressive Iron Age Hillfort of Woodbury Castle, one of the largest such hillforts in East Devon. Here we will discuss its construction, possible uses and examine the key features of this imposing structure. Bring a picnic lunch, where we will have magnificent views of the Exe Estuary, whilst we continue an informal chat about the local area and hillforts.

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

Thursday 17 September

18 Sidford, Sweetcombe and Roncombe Valley Circular: 10.7 miles.

Meet Church Street Car Park, (behind Spar, charges apply), Sidford, EX10 9NT
SY134900; W3W: facing.tables.basic

Bring a picnic lunch.

Start: 10:00

End: c15.30

After a steady start along a quiet lane, we head north along the edge of the Sweetcombe Valley enjoying great views as we go. The route joins the East Devon Way after Higher Sweetcombe Farm with fine views over the Roncombe Valley. The route descends to Lower Mincombe Farm and continues via Lower Knapp Farm where it veers away from the East Devon Way and climbs steadily before heading back to rejoin the East Devon Way near Mincombe Wood. The path returns to Sidford via a steep descent near Buckton Farm with fabulous views over Sidmouth.

19 Salcombe Hill Circular: 4 miles.

Meet: Tourist Information Centre, Ham Lane, Sidmouth EX10 8XR; SY128873
W3W market.grant.urban

Start: 17:00

Finish: c.19:00

From the TIC the route follows the South West Coast Path up Salcombe Hill with views back over the bay and towards Ladram. We then head north before going down Soldiers Hill with views over Sidmouth. The last section follows the Byes Riverside Walk back to the TIC.

Refreshments available in town centre after the walk.

20 Uplyme Circular: 7.5 miles.

Meet: Uplyme Village Hall Overflow Car Park, Lyme Rd, Uplyme, Lyme Regis, DT7 3UY SY324934; W3W: resurgent.nudge.garage

Start: 10.30

Finish: c14:30

This is a walk with scenic countryside and coastal views. From Uplyme the route heads east to Dragons Hill before heading south into Lyme Regis. The walk continues along the esplanade to the Cobb before a brief section of the Undercliff is followed by a short steep climb. The walk meanders back to Uplyme with wonderful views.

21 Birdwatching morning at Bowling Green Marsh

Meet: Darts Farm Shopping Village, Topsham, Clyst St George, Exeter EX3 0QH SX977883; W3W: poorly.sank.fails

Start: 10.30

Finish: c13:00

The walk, approximately 3 miles, will visit the hide at Bowling Green Marsh where good numbers of overwintering waders and ducks are usually sighted. It may also be possible to visit the viewing platform to look out over the River Clyst and see where it meets the Exe before returning to Darts Farm via the Goat Walk (the amusing tale how it got its name will be told). Refreshments are available at the Yard restaurant at the end of the walk.

There is also an optional walk to view the fishing lake.

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

Friday 18 September

22 22a – Northleigh: Circular: 4 miles.

Meet at Northleigh Village Hall, Colyton Road, Northleigh, EX24 6BS; SY195961
W3W: pills.causes.swooned

Start: 11:00 End: c.13:00

After passing the Church of St Giles, a 14th-century flint and stone building noted for its Norman font, carved doorway, and detailed 15th-century woodwork, the route follows a mix of quiet country roads, tracks, and footpaths offering expansive rural views that stretch toward the sea.

22b - Trinity Hill: Circular: 4.5 miles.

Meet: Trinity Hill Car Park (charges apply), Trinity Hill Road, EX13 5SL; SY304954
W3W: tightest.pickup.broke

Start: 14:00 End: c.16:00

Trinity Hill Local Nature Reserve is a rare area of lowland heath combined with mixed coniferous and deciduous woodland. The route follows well-marked gravel tracks and forest paths and offers a view of Cannington Viaduct, built in 1903 for the Axminster to Lyme Regis railway, and also vistas across the Axe Valley.

23 Exmouth Circular: 7.2 miles.

Bus: No. 157 from Sidmouth Triangle available (nearest stop Cyprus Road, Exmouth).
Meet: Maer Road Car Park (charges apply), Exmouth EX8 2DB; SY011801
W3W:email.plan.gasp

Start: 10:15

End: c.13:45

The route heads inland to Littleham and joins the old railway line before climbing south to join the spectacular South West Coast Path at West Down Beacon with views over Lyme Bay and inland towards Dartmoor. The return route follows the coast path, passing the Geoneedle at Orcombe Point, back to the start point.

24 Seaton & Musbury Castle Circular: 13 miles.

Meet: Colyton Peace Memorial Playing Fields Car Park EX24 6PU; SY249936

W3W: blur.houseboat.breezes

Start: 10:00

Finish: c16:30

This walk has something for everyone – river walking, the Seaton Wetlands, Seaton Seafront, a short stretch on the coast path before an inland undulating section along paths and quiet lanes with a couple of short steep climbs leading to some great views. The route also includes Musbury Castle, an Iron Age Hillfort with spectacular views in all directions, and then follows the East Devon Way back through Colyton

25 Seeing Beer with a Photographer's Eye

Meet: Beer Cliff Top Long Stay Car Park (charges apply), Beer, EX12 3AQ; SY228888

W3W: doubts.swift.tangible

Start: 10:00

End: c.13:00

The primary aim of this walk is to explore the photographic opportunities in and around Beer. We will aim to make images which go beyond Instagram/postcard shots. The leader will be Bridget Davies who is a Fellow of the Royal Photographic Society. The route taken will depend upon the weather and preferences of the group, and could involve some potentially steep climbs, rough paths and a shingle beach. Bring a camera. A phone camera will do although you will have more scope for creativity with a digital camera with which you can choose exposure options (shutter speed, aperture and ISO). Digital camera users should be familiar with their own camera controls for focus and exposure and/or have the manual to hand.

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.

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://avmtbustimes.wixsite.com/mysite/timetables> (01297 625959) <https://www.stagecoachbus.com/timetables>, (0345 241 8000, charges apply) or check at the Tourist Information Centre.

Service	Route	Frequency	Walk No
Axe Valley Mini Travel (AVMT)			
899	Sidmouth to Seaton	5 times/day	15
Stagecoach			
9/9A	Sidmouth to Exeter	Half hourly	6
9A	Sidmouth to Seaton	Hourly	7, 11
9/9A	Sidmouth to Honiton/ Seaton	Half hourly	18
157	Sidmouth to Exmouth	Hourly	6, 23



Sidmouth Tourist Information Centre are delighted to support this year's 2026 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 on most of the walks. Dogs must be kept on short leads at all times and owners must clean up after their dog.

	East Devon Way Circulars	Coast/Countryside	Special Interest
Saturday 12 Sept		Festival Launch at Sidmouth TIC 10:30 -16:00	1. Treasure Hunt
Sunday 13 Sept	2. Joney's Cross and Woodbury Common Circular 10 miles	3. Bystock Ponds and Squabmoor Reservoir Circular 7.5 miles	5. Guided dog walking across the Pebbled Heaths
		4. Otter Valley Circular 11.7 miles	
Monday 14 Sept	6. Newton Poppleford Figure of 8 6.2, 5.3 or 11.5 miles	7. Seaton to Sidmouth Linear: 10.5 miles	8. Wild Food Foraging at Wildwood Devon
			9. Footsteps through a new landscape
Tuesday 15 Sept	10. Church Green Circular 9.4 miles.	11. Harcombe Circular 3.9 miles	13. Mindfulness walk in The Byes
		12. Sidmouth & Mutters Moor Circular 9 miles	
Wednesday 16 Sept	14. Colyton Figure of 8 6, 4 or 10 miles	15. Branscombe and Beer Circular 6.2 miles	17. Exploring prehistoric Woodbury Common and Castle
		16. Sid Valley Ring Circular 14 miles.	
Thursday 17 Sept	18. Sidford, Sweetcombe & Roncombe Valley Circular 10.7 miles	19. Salcombe Hill Circular 4 miles	21. Birdwatching at Bowling Green Marsh
		20. Uplyme Circular 7.5 miles	
Friday 18 Sept	22a. Northleigh Circular 4 miles 22b. Trinity Hill Circular 4.5 miles	23. . Exmouth Circular 7.2 miles.	25. Seeing Beer with a Photographer's Eye
		24. Seaton & Musbury Castle Circular 13 miles	

Keep up to date

Bookings: 01395 516441



Sidmouth & East Devon Walking Festival

email: tic@sidmouth.gov.uk



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The festival is brought to you by members of East Devon Ramblers and is supported by Sidmouth Town Council and East Devon Natural 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