

Walking on Exmoor – Laura Carter Coaching and Volunteering manager SASP

Exmoor is a huge National Park straddling the Somerset / Devon border, and as such offers countless walking options. However because of its size, the bleak beauty and the rapidly changing weather, only those who know the area perfectly should venture “off piste”.

In any case all the best walks are brilliantly managed and waymarked by the Exmoor National Park Authority and have been prepared “Covid ready”

When walking on Exmoor you really feel you are walking in the footsteps of History. From the Neolithic bridge at Tarr steps (reputed to be the oldest in the world) to the atmospheric splendour of the Doone Valley, home of the true story of Lorna Doone, to the Viking battle sites and subsequent settlements on the coast the remnants of past times surround you.

The Wildlife is equally impressive and varied. Red Deer are an incredible sight and are indigenous to this area since prehistoric times. The wild ponies are an important part of the management, as are the sheep which appear to be everywhere (though these are not strictly wild) On the coastal walks look out for the wild goats, seemingly clinging to cliff sides and on the rivers you may, at certain times of the year, see salmon leaping the waterfalls . Exmoor is probably Britain’s most prolific Otter habitat, both the novels Ring of Bright Water and Tarka the Otter are set on the moor.

The following Exmoor National Park Car Parks are the start points for all the best marked walks and have been made ready for you to be as safe as possible in these times.

- Car Parks enabling phone payment, sanitising station at each car park
- Where possible One Way Systems have been implemented and are very well marked
- Gates and styles etc have been tied back or made hands free.

Ashcombe (Simonsbath)	TA24 7S	Public toilets and car park (open)
Blackmoor Gate	EX31 4NW	Public toilets and car park (open)
County Gate	EX35 6NQ	Public toilets and car park (open)
Haddon Hill	TA4 2DS	Public Toilets and car park (open)
North Hill	TA24 5LB	Car park only (open)
Porlock Weir	TA24 8PB	Public toilets and car park (open)
Robbers Bridge	EX35 6NU	Car park only (open)
Tarr Steps	TA22 9 QA	Public toilets and car park (open)
Valley of Rocks	EX35 6JH	Public toilets and car park (open)
Wimbleball Lake (SW Lakes Trust)	TA22 9NU	Public toilets and car park (open)

