

Visit and enjoy

The new 58-mile coast path from Brean Down to Minehead will take you on an amazing journey along the Somerset coast. Treats include inspirational landscape, rare flora and fauna, miles of sandy beaches and Jurassic coastline, harbours, hill forts and great food and drink.



Getting there

Getting to Somerset is straightforward: via M5 junction 22, 23 or 24; by rail the closest stations to the trail are Highbridge or Bridgwater and the West Somerset Railway runs from Bishops Lydeard to Minehead. For detailed public transport information visit www.travelinesw.com. Pay and display parking is available in the towns along the route. Bristol airport is a 45-minute drive from Bridgwater, with good public transport links.

Places to stay

There are plenty of B&Bs, hotels, pubs, farmhouses and camping and caravan parks along the route. Details can be found at www.visitsomerset.co.uk and www.visit-exmoor.co.uk



Quick guide to walking the path

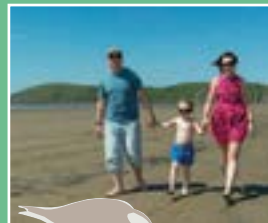
The path is well signposted although a map is always useful to have. There are no stiles and the majority of the route is fairly level with a few steeper sections around Watchet and Kilve.



The England Coast Path

The England Coast Path will be a National Trail around the full coastline of England. When completed, it will be 2800 miles/4500kms in length, making it the longest managed and waymarked coastal path in the world. It is much more than just a path. It gives access to beaches, cliff-tops and most of the wonderful habitats around our coast, as well as former industrial and maritime areas that were significant in Britain's history.

www.nationaltrail.co.uk/en_GB/trails/england-coast-path-south-west/



A walking guide to the ENGLAND COAST PATH SOMERSET

Brean Down to Minehead

58 miles
of sandy beaches, rocky bays,
nature reserves, lighthouses
and historic harbours.



SOMERSET
County Council



Photo credits

Visit Somerset
Sedgemoor District Council
Nell Barrington, Sarah Littler

Useful websites

www.visitsomerset.co.uk
www.visit-exmoor.co.uk
www.somerset.gov.uk/england-coast-path
www.nationaltrail.co.uk/england-coast-path-sw



Storywalks

These walks are a skimming stone of interesting facts, myth, history and tales linked to locations on the England Coast Path. Accessed on the internet, they are designed to be read aloud to family and friends to embellish your experience of this coast.

Scan the QR code on the right to access the walks or go to englandcoastpath.storywalks.info/



Geology

Somerset has its own Jurassic Coast rich in fossils particularly at Lilstock, Kilve, East Quantoxhead and Watchet with interesting red Triassic cliffs at Blue Anchor - also perfect places for exploring the rock pools and a picnic.



Wildlife

The Sites of Special Scientific Interest and Nature Reserves along the route are rich in flora and fauna. Rare orchids can be seen along the cliffs and sea buckthorn and evening primrose found at Berrow Dunes. Marine life includes giant conger eels while thousands of waterfowl and wading birds make their winter home in the National Nature Reserve of Bridgwater Bay and at Steart Marshes, along with otters, roe deer and brown hares.



Great Days Out

There is loads to see and do just a short way from the path eg the Walled Gardens of Cannington, Coleridge Cottage, Tropicquaria Zoo, Watchet Boat Museum, Cleeve Abbey, Torre Cider Farm, Dunster Castle, theatres, arts centres and galleries and the longest heritage railway in England, the West Somerset Railway.



Activities and Events

Activities abound along this stretch of coast; guided walks, wildlife safaris, mountain biking, star gazing, horse riding, coasteering, wine or cider tasting, paint balling, kayaking, food, music and arts festivals to name a few. Find out more at www.visitsomerset.co.uk www.visit-exmoor.co.uk



Safety and Countryside Code



As well as following the Countryside Code, when you are walking the England Coast Path remember:

- Keep to the path and stay away from cliff edges - please follow and heed advisory signs and waymarks
- Staying safe is your own responsibility - please look after yourself and other members of your group
- Take special care of children and dogs - please look after them at all times
- Please clean up after your dog
- If you are crossing a beach, make sure you know the tide times so you won't be cut off
- Dress sensibly for the terrain and weather - wear suitable clothing and footwear and be ready for possible changes in the weather
- In an emergency dial 999 or 112 and ask for the coastguard.



A walking guide to the ENGLAND COAST PATH SOMERSET

Circular walks

In addition to the 58-mile linear route there are a number of circular and short walks taking in the England Coast Path.

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. Brean Down Circular - F&F R&R K | 8. Lilstock Circular - F&F K |
| 2. Berrow Dunes Nature Reserve - F&F R&R K | 9. Kilton Circular - F&F R&R K |
| 3. Berrow Beach Circular - F&F R&R K | 10. Kilve Circular - F&F R&R K |
| 4. Burnham on Sea Circular - F&F R&R K | 11. St Audries Bay - F&F R&R |
| 5. Apex Park - F&F R&R | 12. Doniford/Quantock Hills/East Quantoxhead Circular - K |
| 6. Bridgwater Docks and Town Circular - F&F R&R K | 13. Watchet/Washford along The Old Mineral Line/Blue Anchor - F&F K |
| 7. Steart Marshes Nature Reserve - F&F R&R K | 14. Dunster and Castle Circular - F&F R&R K |

F&F - Families and Friends R&R - Rest & Relaxation K - Keen Walkers

Directions and maps for all walks can be found at www.somerset.gov.uk/england-coast-path



Brean Down

Explore the 97-metre natural pier and remains of the Palmerston fort built in 1862; admire the views across the Bristol Channel to Wales; listen to the sound of sky larks or seek out the rare White Rock Rose.

Brean Sands

Brean Sands is the start of the second longest strip of sand in Europe; at low tide, look out for the wooden spine as all that remains of SS Nornen which ran aground in 1897.

Burnham-on-Sea

Burnham on Sea has a nine legged lighthouse and Britain's shortest sea-side pier, built in 1911; the first concrete structure of its kind in Europe. This bustling seaside town also has a wide choice of shops and places to eat and drink.

Hinkley Point

The first new nuclear plant in the UK for 20 years is being built here, said to be the largest construction site in Europe.

Watchet

Watchet is home to the Boat Museum, the Market House Museum, a marina, art galleries, independent shops, cafés, pubs and a statue of the Ancient Mariner.

Blue Anchor

The West Somerset Railway, which runs from Bishops Lydeard to Minehead, stops at this seaside village. Great views can be had from the café across the bay to Minehead and Exmoor and on a clear day to Wales.

Minehead

Minehead is a thriving coastal town on the edge of Exmoor with a long sandy beach, cafés, bars, restaurants and a picturesque harbour. It is also the start of the South West Coast Path.



Waymarking and useful info

The England Coast Path is well waymarked and easy to follow. The symbol of The National Trails, the acorn, is found on waymark and fingerposts along the route.

The acorn symbol is used to guide your journey by marking the route in a variety of ways. It is used in conjunction with coloured arrows or the words 'footpath', 'bridleway' or 'byway' to indicate who can use a particular right of way.

- A yellow arrow indicates a path for use by walkers
- A blue arrow indicates a path for use by walkers, horse riders and cyclists
- A plum arrow indicates a path for use by walkers, horse riders, cyclists and carriage drivers
- A red arrow indicates a right of way that legally can be used by walkers, horse riders, cyclists, carriage drivers and motorists
- A white arrow indicates a permissive path.

Key to Map

- England Coast Path
- 1 Circular Walks
- Tourist Information
- Parking
- Public Toilets