



The West Downers Walking Club

"pedes nostros per paradisum"
... "through our feet - paradise"



We are a club for reasonably active blokes who enjoy a morning ramble for a few hours followed by a pint or two in an inviting hostelry.

We usually walk on the second and fourth Thursday of each month from March to November.

Meet at West Down Parish Hall at 09:00 unless notified otherwise.

If you would like to join us or need more information please contact:
Ian Rothwell on 07754 315919 or David Maidment on 01271 864349

WALKING PROGRAMME 2026

- 12 March **Hunter's Inn to Woody Bay** - Our old favourite for the start of the season. 5.5 miles along the old carriageway, returning along the coast path.
Lunch at The Hunter's Inn
- 26 March **Simonsbath and the River Barle** – This route starts from the carpark in Simonsbath and follows the River Barle before heading up to higher ground for the return to Simonsbath. About 6 miles.
Lunch at The Exmoor Forest Inn
- 9 April **Morte Point** – This 4 mile walk starts from the Pay and Display car park in Morthoe and follows the road towards Woolacombe for a short distance before picking up the coast path round Morte Point and continuing along to Bull Point lighthouse. After a short further coastal stretch, we head inland up a gentle valley eventually picking up the tarmac road back to Morthoe.
Lunch at The Chichester Arms
- 23 April **Lee Bay, Borough Valley, Slade circular** – A varied 6 mile route taking in part of the Tarka Trail by the Slade reservoirs. There is a short steep section at the top of the Borough Valley but otherwise it is easy going.
Lunch at The Grampus
- 14 May **Brendon and Malmsmead** – Starting from the Stag Hunters Hotel the walk is eastwards towards Malmsmead and back along each side of the East Lyn River. The length of the walk is 4.5 miles and the views are excellent.
Lunch at The Stag Hunters

- 28 May **Trentishoe Down and Heddon's Mouth Cleeve** – Starting from the car park close to Hunters Inn we head along the road before picking up a path to take us to Ladies Mile and the over the west side of Trentishoe Down to join up with the South West Coast Path and Tarka Trail. We return to Hunters Inn via Trentishoe Church. At 6.75 miles with some steep ascents and descents this is one of our more challenging routes.
Lunch at The Hunters Inn
- 11 June **Brownsham and Clovelly** – 6.25 miles starting from the National Trust carpark in Brownsham we follow a coastal route to Clovelly and return on an inland bridleway. The outward stretch is rather harder walking than the return so we could break with tradition and have lunch in Clovelly before a more leisurely walk back to Brownsham.
Lunch at The Red Lion in Clovelly
- 25 June **Whistlandpound, Twitchen and Hunnacott** – An easy circular route of 4.5 miles through a pleasant area of fields and woodland starting from the car park at Whistlandpound Reservoir.
Lunch at The Fox and Goose
- 9 July **North Molton** – A 3 mile easy to follow walk starting from the square in North Molton. Much of the outward route follows the River Mole to Bicknor Bridge before returning via Holdridge.
Lunch at The Miner's Arms in North Molton
- 23 July **Baggy Point circular** – Starting from the car park opposite the Thatch the route takes us across the beach at Croyde and onto the footpath around Baggy Point. An easy route of just over 4 miles.
Lunch at The Thatch
- 13 August **West Down, Little Comfort and Spreacombe Woods** – Our old 4 mile circular jaunt around the West Down locality starting from the Parish Hall.
Lunch at The Crown
- 27 August **Barna Barrow** – 5.2 miles starting from the Barna Barrow car park (EX35 6NE) and heading out to Foreland Point before following the east going coast path to Dogsworthy Coombe and returning via higher ground to Barna Barrow.
Lunch at The Blue Ball Countisbury
- 10 Sept. **Chittlehampton, Pitt Wood and Umberleigh** – A 6 mile ramble in a very rural and unspoilt area of North Devon across easy going fields and pretty woods.
Lunch at the Bell Inn

- 24 Sept. **Combe Martin and The Hangman Hills** – This is a variation on one of our well-trodden previous walks. Starting from the beach car park in Combe Martin we Follow the coast road for about 0.5 miles before heading inland and eventually crossing the high street and climbing steadily to the high ground to the east of the Hangman Hills. We then return via the Hangman Hills to the car park. The total distance is 5.5 miles and there are two or three steady ascents on the route.
Lunch at The Sawmills
- 8 October **Arlington, Loxhore Circular** – A 7 mile circuit taking in some of the beautiful surroundings of Arlington Court before heading south to Lower Loxhore and returning via Loxhore and Deer Park Wood. The route could be shortened to about 5 miles.
Lunch at The Black Venus
- 22 October **Exmoor Loop at Parracombe** - Starting from The Fox and Goose Inn in Parracombe this is a moderate circular walk with a total ascent of 270m and includes a high moorland stretch with wide ranging views.
Lunch at The Fox and Goose
- 12 Nov **A Circuit to Hele Bay and Comyn** – This is a short coastal walk of 3.5 miles starting from the lifeboat station in Ilfracombe and proceeding via the south side of the harbour to take the coast path to Hele Bay. The return route is via Comyn and Chambercombe Manor.
Lunch at The Lime Kiln
- 26 Nov **Woolacombe, Putsborough and Return** – This is an easy 4 mile stroll along Woolacombe Beach followed by a return over the dunes to Woolacombe.
Lunch at The Chichester Arms