

Circular Walk near Salcombe Regis with or without Sidmouth

Warning: Sections of this walk are muddy

This walk (purple route) offers great views over Sidmouth, the sea and Salcombe Mouth. It will take a little over an hour to complete so you could easily combine it with a trip to the Donkey Sanctuary. Alternatively you can add a significant detour (red route) to enjoy the shops and pubs of Sidmouth, but for this you should allow a whole afternoon.

From Beer, drive up to the main A3052 Exeter road, and head west towards Exeter for around 5 miles. Take the next turning on the left after the turning for the donkey sanctuary. The turning you are after is signposted Thorne Golf Centre and Salcombe Regis. Stay on this road for 1 mile, then look for the scout hut on the right. Park on the left 50 yards after the scout hut, near a gate (red star on the map).



This walk describes the purple route marked on the map above.

Cross the road and head into Salcombe Hill via the public bridleway marked Milltown Lane. Pass the scout hut field on the right and then the domes of the Norman Lockyer observatory across to your left. After 5 minutes, ignore the link path on your right to Soldiers Hill, but instead continue down, turning to the left.

Soon you will get good views of Sidmouth below you on the right. In 5 more minutes you reach a choice. Turning right (blue arrow) will take you along the extended route into Sidmouth (red trail on the map). Allowing for refreshments in Sidmouth, this will add around 2 hours to the walk. Alternatively continue forward along the path (blue arrow). At the right time of year, the woods to your left will be full of bluebells. At the branch in the path, ignore left but continue down the right hand path.

The path undulates for 5 minutes before entering a small area of Woodland Trust, Page Wood, via some boardwalks before reaching a road. Turn down the road, but ignore the obvious public footpath on the other side of the road. Instead turn into the next footpath on the left, which initially shares the drive to Seaward House. The path soon leaves the drive on the left side, and immediately branches. Either path is fine, but we prefer the lower path as this allows close views of this amazing house. After the house the path rises until it reaches a T junction. The right turn is the main coast path west and would lead into Sidmouth. This is where you will rejoin the walk if you have taken the Sidmouth detour. Therefore turn left at the T-junction and head up the steps to the top, passing the upper branch from Seaward drive as it joins from the left.

At the top you reach a finger post and a neat gravel path. Turn right signposted Salcombe Mouth and head along to the corner for great views over Sidmouth and the rock stacks at Ladram Bay beyond.

Continue on the coast path and enter South Combe Farm via the gate. After a second gate you get to enjoy the really amazing view down onto Salcombe Mouth. Nip down if you like(!) or alternatively, turn left and head inland to a gate. Pass through this and then cross a second field to a second gate. After this one, you will enter woods, which soon reach a crossroads. Continue straight forward along Public Footpath number 128. After a couple of minutes you leave the woods through a gate next to your car.