

On Exmoor Around Lynton & Lynmouth

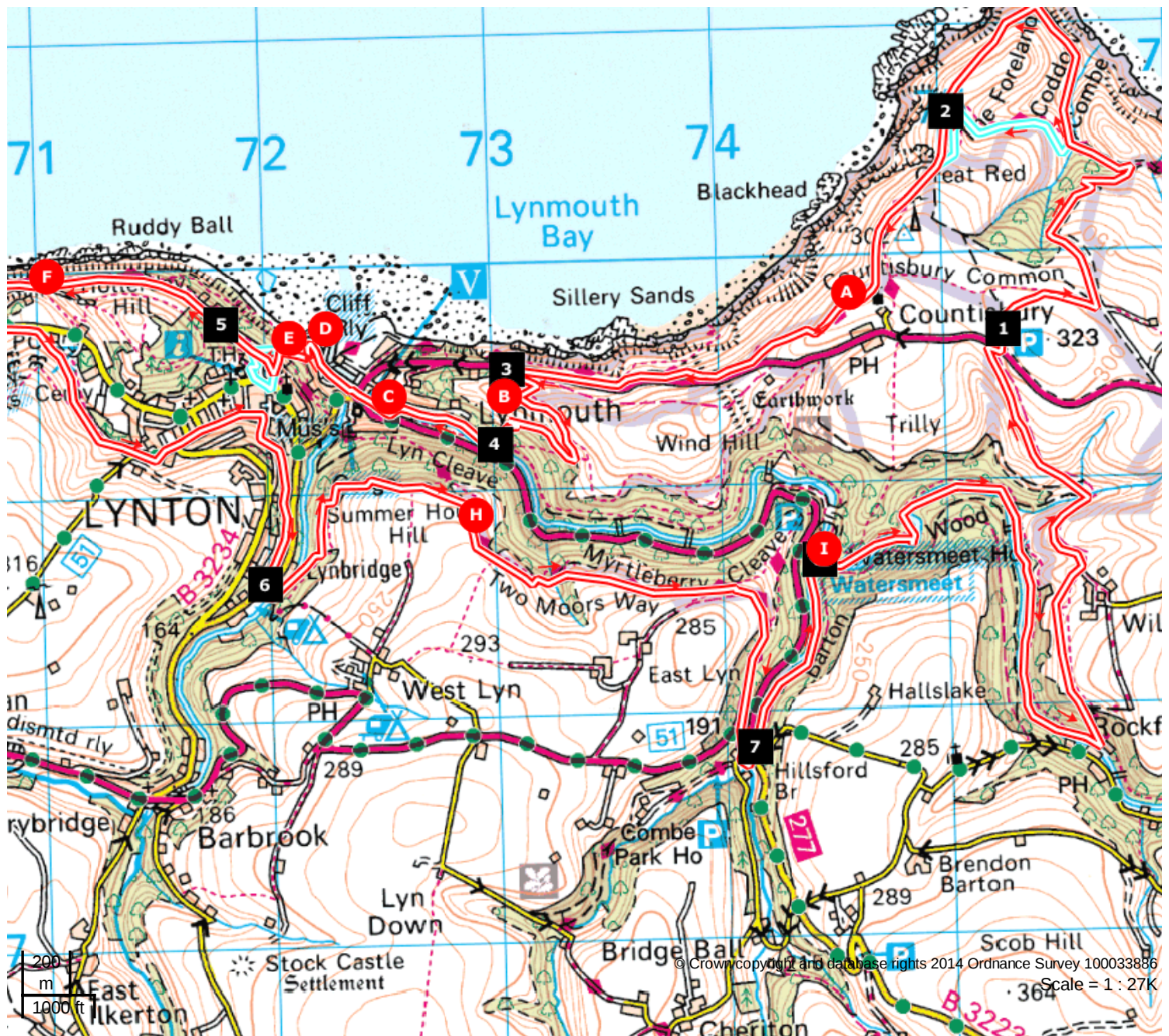
Starts at Barna Barrow Car Park

7 hours 1 minutes | 14.0miles 22.5km | Moderate



ID: 0.3085 | Developed by: Edward Levy | www.ramblersroutes.org

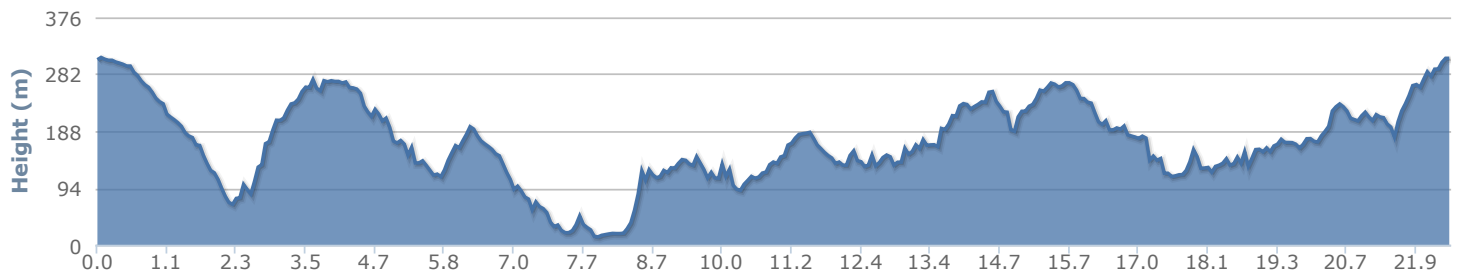
This circular walk passes through classic Exmoor scenery of stunning coast, moorland, deep combs and passes through the twin towns of Lynmouth and Lynton.. A tough walk but well worth the effort.



— Main Route — Alternative Route (H) Point of Interest [4] Waypoint

Distance: 22.42km Ascent: 1486m Descent: 1484m

Route Profile



*move mouse over graph to see points on route

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Starts at

Barna Barrow Car Park, above Countisbury Village on A39 Between Porlock And Lynmouth

Ends at

Barna Barrow Car Park

Getting there

By car: Coming from Porlock to Lynmouth on the A39 Barna Barrow car park is on the right just above the village of Countisbury.

Route instructions

[1] Leave the car park at the rear on it's seaward side and immediately turn right to follow a well defined track contouring around the top of the hill. Follow the track until it reaches the narrow tarmac road running down to the lighthouse at Foreland Point. Turn left onto the road and follow it downhill around hairpin bends and onwards towards the large hill ahead (The Foreland). The road runs underneath the seaward side of The Foreland to terminate at the lighthouse. On reaching the entrance to the lighthouse turn left onto a path heading steeply upwards diagonally to the right. Take great care as you ascend. The path crosses several loose rocky sections and in wet weather can be very slippery and is best avoided in strong windy weather. The path rounds The Foreland and reaches a small plateau where the Coast Path path joins from the left

An alternative route can be followed avoiding this section by turning left after crossing the stone bridge in front of "The Foreland" and following path (Coast Path) up hill to join route on Butter Hill.

[2] Follow the path ahead which now continues for a short distance uphill along the edge of the cliff. The path then contours round Butter Hill as it heads towards Countisbury.

The path keeps high above the sea and then bears right to pass Countisbury Church & Village. The path then starts to descend across the cliffside passing across slopes covered in bracken. As the path descends it gradually converges with the main A39 road and eventually exits on to it

(A) The view to the right on this section looking along the coast to Lynton & Lynmouth is quite spectacular.

[3] On reaching A39 cross to the gate on the opposite side (take car crossing as this is a busy main road). Pass through gate and follow path uphill. As the path ascends it makes a sharp right turn (waymarked Countisbury via Beacon Tor) and heads for a Beacon Tor turning left before it reaches the rocks. After visiting rocks rejoin the path and continue uphill to a gate. Pass through the gate and follow steep path downhill into woodland. On reaching a junction of paths turn sharp right (waymarked Sparrows Walk) and follow downhill through woods . The path zig zags down to finally converge with a major path by a bridge

(B) At this point a short detour to the rocks is worthwhile. They offer a splendid viewpoint and if crossed to the far end give a birds eye view of Lynmouth below

[4] Go straight ahead on the valley path and follow the short distance to reach a small car park on the edge of Lynmouth. Walk on the path in front of the car park which shortly joins the road and follow to a footbridge crossing the river.. Cross the footbridge and turn right to continue to follow the river now on your right hand side. The path passes a small car park where there are toilets and continues to a small flight of steps leading up to the main A39 road.

Cross the A39 and continue to follow the river still on your right. through Lynmouth to reach the sea by the harbour and Rhienish Tower.

Turn left and follow the road past some shops and the turn left onto a path (waymarked Lynton). The path to Lynton is steeply uphill for quite a distance. If you do not wish to climb the path you can take the cliff lift

railway (fee). The cliff lift station is a few yards on past the Lynton footpath. On exiting the cliff lift at the top follow the path into Lynton's main street. Turn left and follow the road to The Valley of the Rocks Hotel on the left hand side of the road. Pass the entrance to the hotel and immediately turn left to follow a narrow road to the point where the path coming up from Lynmouth joins.

The path crosses the cliff lift railway twice on its way up and finally reaches a junction with a road. Walk straight ahead along this road again crossing the cliff railway and then onwards past hotels and guesthouses.

(C) Lynmouth is the twin of its bigger brother; Lynton perched on the hillside high above and is remembered for its devastating flood. On 15 and 16 August 1952, a storm of tropical intensity broke over south-west England, depositing 229 millimetres (9.0 in) of rain within 24 hours on an already waterlogged Exmoor. It is thought that a cold front scooped up a thunderstorm and the orographic effect worsened the storm. Debris-laden floodwaters cascaded down the northern escarpment of the moor, converging upon the village. In the upper West Lyn valley, a dam was formed by fallen trees, etc., which in due course gave way, sending a huge wave of water and debris down that river. The River Lyn through the town had been culverted to gain land for business premises; this culvert soon choked with flood debris, and the river flowed through the town. Much of the debris was boulders and trees. Overnight, over 100 buildings were destroyed or seriously damaged along with 28 of the 31 bridges, and 38 cars were washed out to sea. In total, 34 people died, with a further 420 made homeless.

(D) The Rheinish Tower was destroyed in the 1952 flood but was rebuilt 2 years later. It stands proudly at the entrance to Lynmouth Harbour.

(E) The cliff railway links Lynmouth with Lynton. It was opened in 1890 and is a funicular railway powered by water. Each car carries a water tank which takes 700 gallons of water. When the car is at the top station its tank is filled with water. This adds weight to the car which carries it downhill pulling the other car up hill to the top. At the bottom of the hill the tank is emptied and the opposing car has its tank filled at the top thus keeping the cars moving smoothly up and downhill

[5] The road finishes and turns into a surfaced path running through some woodland before passing through a gate onto the cliffside. The path continues high above the sea. At junction where a path goes uphill inland continue to follow the coastal path. Soon as the path descends and turns left the huge outcrop of Castle rock comes into view.. Where the surfaced path ends by Castle Rock turn left and follow the stony path towards the car park in the Valley of the Rocks.

At the car park follow the road through the valley. There is a café and tea garden if you wish to stop for refreshment. Pass the wonderfully sited cricket ground on the left and turn first right onto a waymarked footpath opposite the end of the cricket ground.. Follow the path which runs alongside a parking and picnic area and onwards into woods to finally reach a road. Turn left onto road and follow downhill round a bend and then bear right and go straight ahead through the southern edge of Lynton. Where after a downhill section the road turns left turn right and pass the front of the Crown Hotel. Follow the road steeply uphill and round a left hand bend. After passing round bend turn left into "Lynway". Walk along Lynway and onwards on path at the end of the road. Follow the path through woodland. and continue to junction with a road where turn left and follow steeply downhill to a road junction.

(F) Goats inhabit the cliffside and the Valley of the Rocks and it is likely that they will be seen on the rocks and ledges. The herd in the valley today originated from the Cheviot Hills of Northumberland and were introduced in 1976.

(G) The Valley of the Rocks is a dry valley running parallel to the coast. It offers some spectacular rocky scenery.

[6] At the road junction cross road to minor road passing the front of a public house.. Pass the public house and bear left to cross a bridge. On far side of bridge pass through a gate and turn left (waymarked Watersmeet) onto a path running through woods. Follow this path as it zig zags uphill to finally reach the hilltop where the path continues ahead with a stone and turf wall on the right. Continue to follow this path keeping the wall on your right. Just after the point where the path and wall turn right you will reach a wooden seat on the top of Mytleberry Cleaves.

The path continues alongside the wall and then zig zags steeply down to cross a side valley and then up again and onwards to a gate. Pass through the gate quickly followed by another. There are paths going down to the left here but keep to the upper path (waymarked Hillsford Bridge) and then pass an old Iron Age settlement on the right before descending to the road on the approach to Hillsford Bridge. On reaching the road turn left and keeping to its left hand side follow it downhill.

(H) The views on the walk have been extremely good but the view from this seat surpasses them all. Immediately in front the ground drops steeply away with the Watersmeet valley below and the heights of Exmoor ahead. To the left the view looks out across Countisbury and The Foreland to the Bristol Channel and the Welsh Coast beyond. This is a wonderful point to stop and eat a picnic lunch.

[7] At the bottom of the hill the main road turns sharp left. Cross the road with care to enter the road opposite which crosses a river on a bridge. After crossing bridge turn left onto a footpath running downhill with the river on your left. The path keeps close to the river which tumbles over rocks and waterfalls as it makes its way down. The path reaches steps where an easy descent to Watersmeet avoiding steps is signed to the right. Keep to the left hand path and follow it down steps alongside a waterfall. At the bottom of the steps turn right and then left to cross the East Lyn River and into the gardens of the National Trust property at Watersmeet. The gardens are set out with picnic tables and the café in the house serves teas etc

(I) Watersmeet is one of Britain's deepest river gorges, where the lush valleys of the East Lyn and Hoar Oak Water tumble together

[8] From the tea gardens follow the river upstream passing the house on your left (there are toilets at the back of the house). The path (waymarked Rockford) now follows the East Lyn River to Rockford sometimes on its banks and sometimes higher in the trees above. Rockford is approx. 1½ miles upstream. On approaching Rockford a path turns left uphill alongside the boundary of a house on the river bank. Turn left onto this path and follow it uphill through woods. On reaching a gate pass through it and follow the path through bracken and then across four fields. Wooden posts with yellow painted tops mark the way. After passing Wilsham Farm on the right bear right to follow the path steeply uphill through a field (another wooden post with a yellow painted top helps to find the way). Leave the field through a gate and bear left to follow the path (waymarked Countisbury).. After crossing a small stream follow the path (waymarked Barna Barrow). From here the path heads steeply uphill to finally reach the main A39 road just above the village of Countisbury. Turn left onto the A39 and then in a short distance turn right into the Barna Barrow car park

Acknowledgements

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Lynton & Lnmouth from Butter Hill
Photo taken by: Edward Levy



Lynton & Lynmouth from
Countisbury
Photo taken by: Edward Levy



On Coastal Path to Lynmouth
Photo taken by: Edward Levy



Lynton & Lynmouth from above Beacon Tor
Photo taken by: Edward Levy



Lynmouth Harbour and Rheinisch Tower
Photo taken by: Edward Levy



The Lynmouth - Lynton Cliff Lift
Photo taken by: Edward Levy



Goat on Cliffsides Lynton
Photo taken by: Edward Levy



View from Myrtleberry Cleaves
Photo taken by: Edward Levy

