

## County Gate to Watersmeet Circle

An incredibly varied walk along river valleys, through mature woodlands and with stunning coastal views.

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| <b>Grade</b>                                  | <div style="border: 1px solid #ccc; border-radius: 10px; padding: 5px; display: inline-block; background-color: #fff9c4;">Medium</div>   |          |
| <b>Length</b>                                 | 16 km  | 10 Miles |
| <b>Ascent</b>                                 | 870m   |          |
| <b>Map</b>                                    | OS Explorer OL9  |          |
| <b>Points of Interest</b>                     | Countisbury Church<br>Foreland Point Lighthouse<br>Old Burrow Roman Fortlet  |          |
| <b>Local Facilities</b>                       | <p><b>Car Parks:</b><br/>County Gate SS 793486</p> <p><b>Pubs / Tea Shops:</b><br/>County Gate Tea Shop SS 793486 / Pub Brendon, 'Stag Hunters Inn' SS 767481 / Pub Rockford, 'Rockford Inn' SS 756476 / Watersmeet Tea shop + Lunches SS 744486/ Pub Countisbury, 'Blue Ball' SS 746496</p> <p><b>Public Toilets:</b><br/>County Gate SS 793486</p>   |          |
| <b>Getting there / Using Public Transport</b> | On the A39 between Porlock and Lynmouth.<br><br><b>Nearest Bus / train</b> See : <a href="http://www.whatsonexmoor.co.uk/exmoor_public_transport.htm">http://www.whatsonexmoor.co.uk/exmoor_public_transport.htm</a>   |          |
| <b>Route description</b>                      | <p><b>Start:</b> County Gate GR SS 793486</p> <p><b>Stage 1</b><br/>From the back corner of the car park, take the footpath to Brendon with the steep valley slope on your left. Continue for about 2km until you descend steeply to Hall farm, meeting the road through the village of Brendon.</p> <p><b>Stage 2</b><br/>At the sharp corner in the road continue straight on, west along the track into the wooded river walk. Follow the river on your left for about 5 km until just before Watersmeet tea shop (unless you want to carry on for a few hundred metres for a rest stop). The path turns steeply North, zig-zagging uphill (sign-posted <i>Countisbury</i>). After 800m the gradient will lessen and you will come out into fields and a tiny lane taking you to the A39 and the Pub at Countisbury.</p> <p><b>Stage 3</b><br/>Take the lane up to the church and then through the churchyard out onto the open access land. Before turning North East, remember to look back at the stunning views towards Lynton. Continue on this footpath with steep cliffs on your left, keeping left at the path junctions for the most exposed path around the Foreland and out to the Lighthouse.</p> |          |

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|                   | <p><b>Stage 4</b></p> <p>Take the tarmac road uphill from the Lighthouse until the steep hairpin bend. From here continue straight on (East) following the Coast Path signs for around 3km until you reach Wingate Combe and the permissive path turning steeply south next to the stream. As you come out into the fields, continue heading uphill to the side of the conifer plantation. Skirt around Old Burrow Hill, or go straight across to look at the Hill fort. Join the farm track back to the A39, crossing the road and turning left for a few hundred metres in order to turn left onto the track and access land of Cosgate Hill heading back to County Gate car park.</p> <p><b>Finish:</b> County Gate GR SS 793486</p> |
| <b>Disclaimer</b> | <p><i>Please note: this route has not necessarily been walked recently, and is only to be used as a guide. Always take the correct map and equipment with you.</i></p>  |