

## DARTMOUTH & CASTLE

Less than 1 Hour

STARTING POINT - TQ6 9BB

Steam train to Kingswear, foot passenger ferry to Dartmouth. A walk for the family. The trip to Dartmouth Castle uses one of the smaller boats on the river and can be found in Dartmouth close to the main pontoon. *The journey takes approximately 15 minutes.*

The approach to the castle is spectacular from the river. Brightly lit in the morning and a forbidding shadow in the afternoon, it is clear why this was an excellent place to build a castle. The boat lands at the delightfully named Stumpy Steps and there is a short flight of steps up to the coastal footpath. Signposts direct you up a slope to the Castle but it is possible to reach it via the St Petrox Church path. This route will take you past old grave stones set into the wall, some going back to the 17th century.



The Castle is in a dominating position overlooking the mouth of the River Dart with another smaller castle opposite in Kingswear. Construction of Dartmouth Castle began in 1388 and it saw use up to World War II when a heavy chain could be used to block the entrance to the river. A visit is certainly worthwhile and gives a chance to explore its guardrooms and maze of passages.

The South West Coast Path dissects this site and it is along this path towards Dartmouth that you now need to proceed. Please note that when a line of houses is seen on the right, the path turns sharp left and then sharp right almost immediately. Very soon, tremendous views up the river can be seen before reaching the end of this short length of path. Rejoin the road and then take the pathway which drops down to Warfleet Creek on the right. Turn sharp right for a seat to view up the river and also the mix of modern and ancient architecture across the Creek. The name is not taken from a place where a fleet assembles for a war but is Saxon meaning a well by a stream. An information board is nearby which gives a wealth of information.

Leave the Creek by walking through the archway and then immediately turn right up a flight of steps. Turn left at the top and then right at the end of the road ahead. Cross over and in no time the pavement starts to rise to a much higher level than the road and more remarkable views can be seen of the river. The road continues to climb gently and soon changes its name from Warfleet Road to South Town before starting to drop downhill slowly. Look for a lamppost on the right hand side with a Coast Path sign pointing down a flight of steps. Go down these steps and enter Bayard's Cove Fort.

From this point, take a route either through the town or alongside the river back to the starting point where the Castle Ferry leaves from.

## PAIGNTON - CHURSTON

Approx 1 - 2 Hours

STARTING POINT - TQ4 6AF

This walk follows the South West Coast Path for most of its route and is therefore quite hilly in places. There are two long climbs up a flight of steps and two down and it is not suitable for wheelchairs or prams. A certain amount of fitness is required.

The described walk starts from Paignton Queen's Park Station. Walk down Torbay Road towards the Apollo Cinema but instead of looking in the gift shops, glance at the buildings as you walk down. Most of these buildings were constructed in the Victorian era after the arrival of the railway in August 1859 where the station was built out of the town as it was then. Rapid expansion then took place which extended the town towards the sea front and where many Victorian Villas were built in the surrounding areas. Most of these still survive but now in use as hotels.

After reaching the Apollo Cinema, turn right and aim for the road alongside the beach and then walk with the sea on your left. By keeping on this path, you will shortly reach Paignton Harbour which is hidden behind some buildings. Continue around the Harbour where the route continues up Roundham Road ahead, but then turns left along Cliff Road after a few more yards. Round metal plaques on the pavement will confirm that you are on the correct route.

Follow this road for approximately 150 yards until you reach Roundham Gardens on your left. Enter the gardens and follow the path around the edge. Clear views of Paignton Pier, (built 1879), and Torquay can be seen. As you proceed around the edge Brixham will come into view. The two points which designate Tor Bay, namely Hopes Nose in Torquay and Berry Head, beyond Brixham can be clearly seen from here. This is also a great viewing point to look at the World's first Urban Unesco Geopark, which was awarded to Tor Bay in 2007.

After passing the pitch and putt on your right, you will soon come to Cliff Gardens. These gardens also make a wonderful walk at night as they are floodlit.

Make your way down any of the paths to the promenade and turn right keeping the sea on your left. The long sandy beach ahead of you, (Goodrington Sands), is perfect for building sand castles and regularly wins awards for its cleanliness.

Continue on the promenade where Splashdown at Quaywest will



come into view on the right, followed by Goodrington Sands Station. Walk to the end of the beach and then turn right under the railway line and then immediately left along the Coast Path. The path soon begins its first climb and it is in this area where significant geological occurrences can be seen. If you were to travel back 280 million years Paignton, at that time, lay in a broad depression surrounded by mountainous ridges of limestone and slates. Occasional but violent storms caused flash floods to sweep rocks and stones down the desert valley out onto the plains where the water sank into the parched rocky ground. The rocks and stones were deposited creating the very jumbled, fruitcake-looking rock known as Breccia, found here. In these arid conditions irons within the rocks were oxidized, turning them red.

After the first climb, continue along until you reach Sugar Loaf, one of the highest points along the route and an extinct volcano. It is worth taking a few extra steps to the summit to see the tremendous views towards Brixham and Torquay. Return to the path and take the long flight of steps down alongside Waterside Caravan Park.

On the other side of the valley there is another long flight of steps to climb which will shortly bring you to a field where rabbits are a common sight. At the end of the field a short flight of steps upwards will be followed by a long flight downwards below the railway line again. At the bottom turn left under Broadsands Viaduct built in 1860 and proceed down the path to Broadsands Beach.

Once again this is a sandy beach and very popular with families where the sands slope very gently into the sea. When the promenade reaches an adjoining car park, turn into the car park and aim for its exit. Turn right onto Broadsands Road and walk up this road away

from the sea. Continue to gently climb until just after you walk under Hookhills Viaduct, where a signpost indicating a Public Footpath will be seen. Turn left onto this path and walk up this path through the woods until you reach Churston Common. The road running along the edge of this is Bascombe Road but you need to look for Warborough Road towards your right and running away from you. This residential road takes two ninety degree bends and will take you to the main Paignton to Brixham road. Turn left along this road passing Churston Golf Club and then use the underpass to cross the road onto Churston Railway Bridge. Churston Station can be seen on the right where you can then catch a train to return to Paignton.

## TORQUAY - PAIGNTON - BRIXHAM

Approx 3 - 4 Hours

STARTING POINT - TQ2 5EG

Starting at the Harbour in Torquay, walk along the sea front passing Princess Pier, Princess Theatre, the Royal Terrace Gardens, Torre Abbey Meadows and the Grand Hotel. Continue over Corbyn Head to Livermead Sands, where the path leaves the sea, climbing up Break Neck Hill to cross the railway then head downhill to Hollicombe. Turn left here into the park which marks the location of the old gasworks. Continue along the cycle track, recrossing the railway and eventually reaching Marine Drive, Preston. Turn right and walk along the beach or the promenade, using the road at high tide past the Redcliff Hotel, to pass Paignton Pier and the cinema and pub. You can join the walk here from Paignton Queen's Park station by walking down Torbay Road (turn right out of the station) to Esplanade Road, then going round the cinema to reach the sea front.

At the end of the beach walk under the arch to reach the Harbour, which was authorized by the first Act of Parliament of Queen Victoria's reign. Turn right to reach the road, then take the second on the left, Cliff Road. Go past the Burma Star memorial garden and Cliff House, then turn left along the foot and cycle path round Roundham Head. Keep left down the hill at the first and second path junctions into Cliff Gardens. Go down the steps and continue down the cliff to reach the promenade leading to Goodrington Sands. There are opportunities for refreshments here. Walk along the whole length of the sands to the railway bridge, then go under it and turn left up the steps onto the footpath. This leads up to Oyster Bend, then briefly down and up to the Sugar Loaf. Next come steps leading down to Saltern Cove by a mobile home park. A "saltern" was a place with pans for evaporating sea water to produce salt. Continue parallel with the railway, climbing steeply, then leveling out, climbing briefly and descending a long flight of steps. At the bottom turn left under Broadsands Viaduct, which dates from 1861.

At Broadsands beach, turn right. The beach regularly achieves the Blue Flag award for the highest cleanliness standards. There is a café for a break in the middle of the beach. At the far end, ascend a short slope and continue along the low cliffs, where one of the bodies was found in The ABC Murders by Agatha Christie. This brings you to Elberry Cove. Walk along the shingle ridge and climb up the path on the far side, entering Marridge Woods. Turn left to follow the coast. After 1/2 miles, descend a steep rocky path on Fishcombe Point to reach Churston Cove. Climb up the other side to an explanatory board where you should go through the iron gate onto a tarmac path leading to the Brixham Holiday Park and the Battery. Join the road ahead but turn sharp left into a footpath at the bend at the top of a short rise. Follow this path downhill through Battery Gardens, eventually emerging down steps to the marine research laboratories. Take the steps down to the water's edge and follow the coast past the car park and the new Fish Market. (Brixham is England's No. 1 fishing port, by weight landed.) At the road, turn left along the harbour side to reach the pontoon for your return to Torquay on the Western Lady ferry.



Refreshments at Kingswear and Paignton stations and nearby car parking to all start points are available - please go online or call on 01803 555872 for more information

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## KINGSWEAR CIRCULAR

Approx 1 - 2 Hours

STARTING POINT - TQ6 0AA

This can be taken as two separate walks or combined into one longer route but note that the climb to the top of Kingswear village is quite strenuous.

The route described is starting from Kingswear Station and will initially comprise a circular route going alongside the River Dart and then returning through Hoodown woods back to Kingswear via Waterhead Creek. It is then possible to return straight to Kingswear Station or add on a further section to climb to the top of Kingswear to admire the view up the River Dart.

Start from the Station by walking up the hill until you reach the footbridge over the platforms on your left. Walk over the footbridge which will then take you down to Darthaven Marina. The footpath through this section goes between the Marina and the railway and is clearly marked. When you reach the level crossing, continue straight ahead which will lead you to the towpath alongside the river.

You need to walk to the end of this towpath until you reach the next level crossing at the Higher Ferry. Turn right here and walk up the hill for about 100 yards where you will see a toilet block on your right. About 20 yards after this a path slopes uphill on the right with a rope handrail. This is the steepest part of this half of the walk but is only about 100 yards long and includes a number of steps. At the top of the steps turn right and follow the road for 5 to 10 minutes until you see a path turning off to the right with a National Trust sign marked Hoodown. These woods are quite recent as photographs exist from 1936 showing a virtually treeless area.

Stay on this level path and at the end of the woods, continue on the same path, now tarmac covered and follow this around the bend ignoring the long flight of steps to the right. You will eventually drop down hill where another road joins from the right but bear left until you reach the end of this road. Turn sharp right and walk down hill, taking care with the traffic, until you reach Waterhead Creek. Walk across the grassy area at the top of the creek and then walk down the path alongside the creek until you reach the Marina Car Park. Immediately before this, you will see a short flight of steps taking you up to the pavement alongside the main road out of Kingswear. Walk along this pavement crossing over the entrance to the Marina Car Park and continue to the large turning area known as the Banjo.

To complete the short walk continue straight ahead downhill until you reach the Station. For the extended walk, turn sharp left and then the first right into Wood Lane. This narrow road climbs steeply past many interesting buildings and shows very well how the village of Kingswear has been built on such a steep hillside. The climb continues for about 150 yards but does seem more. At the end of this road turn sharp right and continue along the aptly named Higher Contour Road. At

Steam train to Kingswear, foot passenger ferry to Dartmouth. The red and yellow boats along The Quay will take you to Dittisham Village. Contact 07818001108 to book the ferry

Dittisham (pronounced by the locals as 'Ditsum'), is a lovely riverside village and full of character. From The Quay, walk up the hill in front of you noting the names of the cottages and their individual design. At the top of the hill, the path to be followed turns left, but if you wish to explore the village, turn right where you can find the local shop which is entered via the Red Lion Inn. This Inn, together with the Anchorage Café and Ferry Boat Inn all provide excellent meals at reasonable prices in exquisite surroundings. Returning to the path, this will now climb up between houses before leaving the road and heading uphill between hedges.

All the way through to Dartmouth, you will be following the Dart Valley Trail. The trail climbs up hill steadily for some distance and edging around a number of fields. When stopping for breath, turn around where you will be able to see Greenway House, Gardens and boat house. Further around to the left is the village of Galmpton.

After following the paths around fields, it eventually levels out and joins a very quiet road. After about 100 yards, you will see a Fire Beacon used in the 400th anniversary of the Armada in 1988. The chain of beacons used were invented by Sir Walter Raleigh to advise of an invasion; the message could be passed to London in under 4 hours. You will also see from an information

the brow of this gently sloping road you will have a tremendous view up the River Dart past Greenway in the direction of Totnes. The Britannia Royal Naval College can be easily seen as can most of Dartmouth and an almost aerial view of the Marina below. Continue on, now going downhill and when the road turns to the left a view of the Dart Estuary now appears with Dartmouth Castle in the distance. Very shortly the road does a hairpin bend to the right and this is the route to follow. However, if you wish to explore more of Kingswear, then either of the roads ahead can be taken.

There is now only a short distance left to return to the Station by dropping down hill past the Parish Church and The Ship Inn before a final hairpin bend, this time to the left.

## DITTISHAM - DARTMOUTH

Approx 3 Hours

STARTING POINT - TQ6 9BB

board nearby that the land you are on was once owned by the Raleigh family. It is also the split of two possible paths to be taken through to Dartmouth via Old Mill Creek. The path straight ahead, (about 1 mile shorter), continues on the road before dropping down through centuries old Green Lanes through Bozomzeal. Whilst both routes appear on the accompanying map, the route described turns left and goes along the edges of fields and is clearly marked. Ahead can be seen the hills above Dartmouth and also the rear of Britannia Royal Naval College. Soon, the paths drops down a steep concreted farm track before turning right along another path. From here a clear view of Noss Boatyard can be seen. This was Dartmouth's major employer for over 100 years. Although closed as a shipyard a few years ago, plans are now going forward as a marine college and marina.

After dropping down steeply, you will enter woodlands alongside Old Mill Creek. Consisting of both deciduous and evergreen firs, there are a couple of streams which cut across the area giving a tranquil aura to the woods. Towards the end of the woods, the shorter path comes in from the right and where you need to turn left down hill.

Old Mill Creek is still used as ship works and you will walk past our own works which can be seen through the trees on your left. Ahead shortly, is a large building which was once a mill, but look out for a stone in the undergrowth with a letter C engraved into it on the left exactly 100 yards before the bridge. Before Henry VIII dissolved the monasteries, they were responsible for upkeep of the roads but this responsibility passed to the council authorities who only agreed to keep up 100 yards each side of a bridge.

Cross the bridge and climb steeply up the hill. It is quite long but you will find that you are coming into the residential areas of Dartmouth. About half way up on the left is Sandquay Woods. After levelling out and passing the 20 mph speed limit signs, take the road bearing off to the right with a no through road sign. Climb the steps alongside Archway Cottage and then cross the road into Townstal Crescent. At the end of this road you will see the main road into Dartmouth where you need to turn left and then first right into Church Road. Continue straight on and through the No Entry sign now heading down hill. Cross over Victoria Road into Mount Boone and keep heading down hill over any route to lead you to the town. This ends the walk as described and all you need to do now is to catch the foot passenger ferry to Kingswear for the return steam train journey.

## GREENWAY HALT - KINGSWEAR

Approx 3 Hours

STARTING POINT - SX8855 (map ref)

Leave the Halt by the access track and cross the road to a permissive path through the woods. This undulates parallel with the road until you are level with a farm. Turn left and left again at two National Trust green signs. The path climbs quite sharply to reach a fork, where you should go straight on (signposted "Steep pedestrian route" - but don't worry - you turn off before that bit!) Straight on at the gate into a field, where you follow the right hand side to another gate. Go through this into a belt of trees. On emerging from this, turn left in the field to a hill top. There is a compulsory stop here to admire the spectacular view behind over the River Dart towards Dartmoor. The house near the headland is probably the main site of the action in Ordeal by Innocence by Agatha Christie. Continue down the hill, passing through two gates to another field with an interpretive board and a glorious view down the river to Dartmouth. The wood on the left bank is Long Wood, which is where we are going. Opposite is Lord's Wood.

Turn left to a gate and into a shady track. The first house on the right is a former youth hostel. On reaching the white houses on the left you are directly above the railway in the tunnel below. Turn right, continuing to a private access on the right and a gate on the left, which you go through and immediately turn right onto a path flowing the edge of a field. This rises to a stile. Go through the hedge here and turn left. The path, now a track, rises to the top of Oakham (or Oakum) Hill at a height of 140 metres. There follows a very steep descent followed by a level bit. Then turn right down another steep slope and continue through the woods with views of the river and railway. Eventually the track curves away from the river along Longwood Creek to a ford. Cross this (it's very shallow) and rise to a bridge. After this the track rises then levels out, but do not take the path on the right here. The track steepens again. Take the path on the right after this climb. (If you miss the turn you will finish up on the main road on a tricky bit for pedestrians.) You now follow Longwood Creek back towards the river and eventually reach a steep road. Turn right briefly, but turn left before the railway bridge, going down to a stream, which leads to Noss Creek, then up to the main A379 road. The railway hereabouts was originally closer to the river, and crossed the creeks on wooden viaducts designed by Brunel's successor, Brereton. Turn right here down the road, keeping to the right. Traffic coming up comes in bursts whenever the Higher Ferry arrives, so just wait for the traffic to go by, admiring the scenery. At the Higher Ferry there is a level crossing and a small signal box on the right. This controls the whole of the Dartmouth Steam Railway.

Cross the road to a path leading along the river bank. Although known as the "towpath", it was never used for this purpose, and was to allow access to the river. Part of the railway had to be built out on the river bed, and this cuts off a bit of the river at Ballast Cove. Continue to the bridge over Waterhead Creek and the Marina level crossing. Follow the marked path straight on to the footbridge. Climb over this to Fore Street, Kingswear. Turn right to reach Kingswear Station, where the available refreshments will be very welcome!

## BRIXHAM - GREENWAY HALT

Approx 3 Hours

STARTING POINTS - TQ5 8AW, TQ5 0LL, TQ2 5EG

You can start from Brixham, Churston station or from Torquay.

If you leave our train at Churston, leave the station and turn left, then left up a link to the main road. Cross it by the subway to reach the bus stop for the Number 12 bus (usually every 10 minutes). From the bus terminal at Brixham, turn left towards the car park, then right by the toilets. Climb the slope and turn left into Fore Street, the main Brixham shopping street. Then go straight on until you reach the harbour, where you turn left past the statue of William of Orange, and follow the harbour edge to the access road to the new fish market.

If you arrive by the Western Lady ferry from Torquay, walk along the edge of the harbour to reach the road by the new fish market. In either case, cross the road and climb the steps by 28 The Quay. When you get to No. 15, turn left up some more steps to join a road, continuing straight on to a post box, where you fork right into Prospect Road. After No. 36, turn right up some more steps. At the top of the steps you will be facing a retaining wall, which was built to support the railway station at Brixham. Turn left, then right under an arch bridge into Higher Furzeham Road. Cross Ropewalk Hill and bear right into a park. Cross the open space diagonally to reach North Furzeham Road, continuing along it until it turns left sharply. Continue straight on into Battery Gardens, taking the path on the right past the shelter, turning left down the hill, then right through an arch in a wall. Continue via the steps and a winding path going quite steeply down. Just before the path levels out, turn sharp left down some steps the reach Fishcombe Cove.

After a stop to look at the scene, climb up the steep road past some toilets to reach the battery exhibition at the top. This celebrates the Second World War efforts to defend Brixham, and is manned by a volunteer group on certain days. Turn right here (signposted Churston Cove) along a tarmac path to an iron gate. Immediately after this, turn right at the "The Grove" board and start a steep descent with many tree roots, steps and limestone rocks, to Churston Cove. On reaching the shingle, turn left into the woods, following the valley to pass a wall, some wood sculptures and a lime kiln. Eventually, at a waymark with a yellow marker, fork left up the hill. At the top you reach a track at a signpost. Turn right here and continue for about 700 yards to a stile by a gate. Turn right into the road beyond, then shortly left. At the next junction go straight on under the old railway bridge into Churston Ferrers village. When you reach the main road, cross with particular care, as there is restricted visibility and the road is very busy. This brings you into Alston Lane, which you follow until the made road turns sharp right. Go straight on here into the lane marked "Unsuitable for Motor Vehicles". This track is very rough in

places and quite steep too, so it will be a relief to reach the main A379 road at the top. Turn left and cross the road to a stile. Enter the field. There is a spectacular view from here to the River Dart and over the lower ground towards Windmill Hill (with the clump of trees on top) and Beacon Hill (with the masts), and beyond that to Dartmoor. Make for a standing stone. There is a rough path to the right of it towards another stile. After this, contour around the top end of a small valley with a spring, passing a recumbent stone on the way. Curve round to the right past the spring and climb up to the hedge on the left to find another stile. After climbing the stile, turn right along a track, going straight on at two junctions shortly afterwards. Follow the track up over the hill to a gate and then down following the right hand side of the field. Now for the mystery. You can see ahead the high ground around Dittisham and Greenway, and to the right, the lower ground towards Tor Bay.

At the end of the field, pass through the gate and continue to a road. If you are short of time, turn right here and left at the next junction to reach Greenway Halt, but it is well worth turning left along the road past various houses, the last of which was formerly a youth hostel, and appears in Agatha Christie's Dead Man's Folly. Continue to a field with a glorious view down the river to Dartmouth. Halfway along the field, turn right by a board through two gates, climbing to the top of a hill, which reveals a further spectacular view towards Dittisham, Lower Gurrew Point, the Long Stream and Dartmoor. Drop down towards the right hand corner. If you are visiting Greenway House, turn left here (but there is a very steep field to negotiate). Otherwise, turn right through a gate and a belt of trees, after which, keep to the left hand side of the field to another gate, joining a track going downhill to pick up another path from the left. Continue straight on downhill, then curving left to a green National Trust sign pointing towards Greenway Halt. Turn right here, then right again to follow the woodland walk to the road. Greenway Halt is then straight in front of you.

