Exmoor Walk

EXMOOR Character Cottages

Valley of Rocks
2 miles

All photographs by Julia Amies-Green

Nothing prepares you for the Valley of Rocks. It's like a giant prehistoric landscape, straight out of One Million Years BC (sorry, we can't promise Raquel Welch). Instead of dinosaurs, feral goats seem to egg each other on to take ever-more crazy routes around the crags, caves and crevices, but by some miracle they manage to hang on. It looks glacial, but in fact during the Ice Age the ice sheet missed it, leaving it a waterless valley, long since silted up to become the U shape it is now. It really is an incredible sight, and well worth either a bracing walk from Lynton along the South West Coastal Path, or a shorter visit by parking at the site's car park. This is a flat tarmacked route, so if you have someone in your party in a wheelchair or with mobility issues, this is a good outing to consider.

The Walk 2 miles

Directions: From Minehead take the A39 to Lynton and follow the signs through the town to the Valley of Rocks.

At the Valley of Rocks itself, there are 60 spaces with two hours free parking. There are lots of parking options in Lynton and Lynmouth, so check online before you leave:
https://www.visitlyntonandlynmouth.com/how-to-get-here

Sat Nav: EX35 6HJ

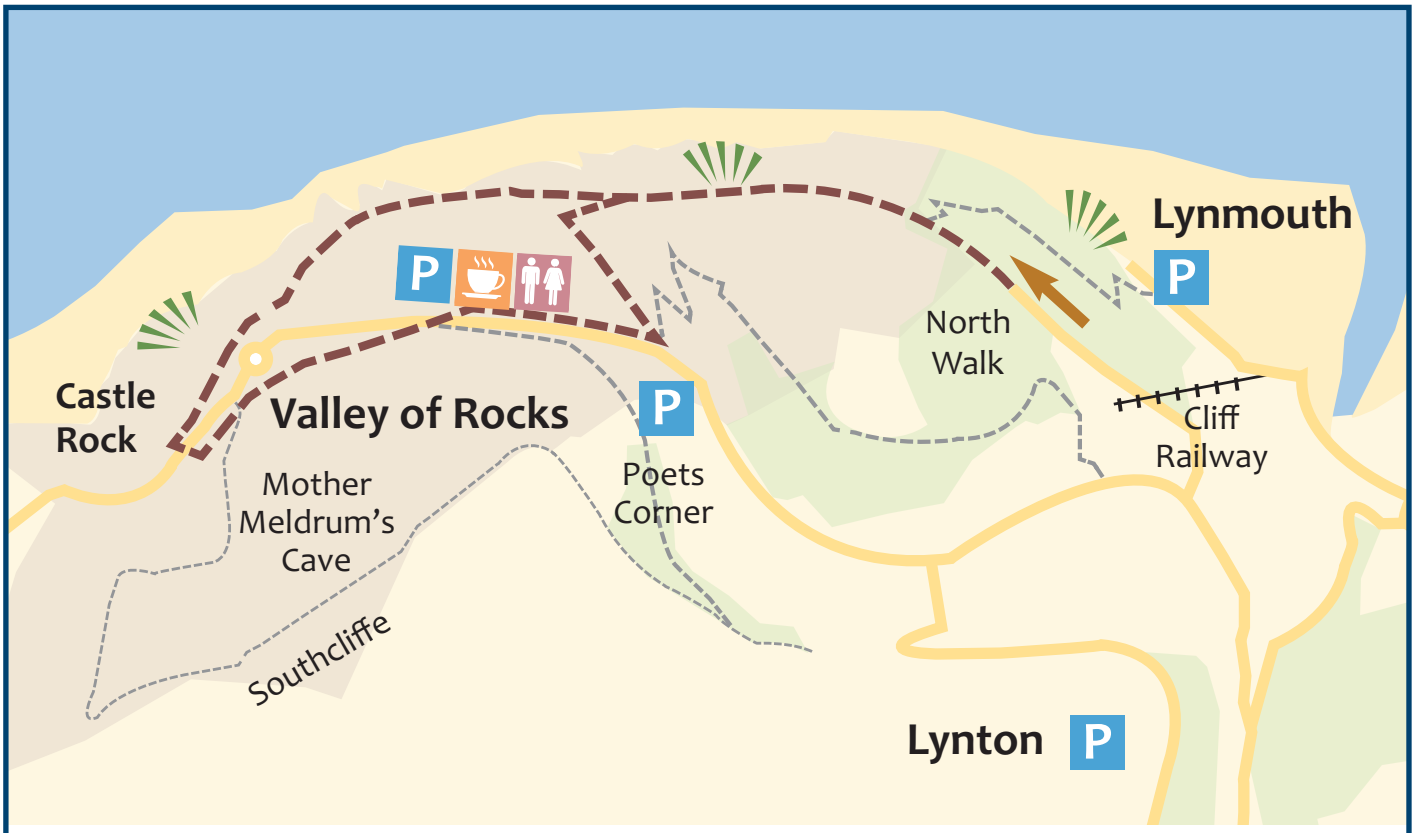
One option is to park in Lynmouth, get the funicular Cliff Railway up to Lynton and then walk the flat one mile from the end of North Walk, part of the South West coast path to the Valley of Rocks. It's a stunning clifftop location with jaw-dropping views.

Alternatively, drive to the Valley of Rocks car park and wander around the area. If you choose to drive, you'll find a flat tarmac road running through the Valley which makes it quite accessible. Once here, we strongly advise against climbing the rocks as it is extremely dangerous, and only the goats know how to hang on!

The tarmac path is easy under foot so you can concentrate on the dramatic scenery. If you've no head for heights, avoid the cliff edge. And on that point, there are no barriers or fences, so be careful, keeping a constant eye on kids and dogs.

Lynton and Lynmouth

The small town of Lynton is perched high up on the cliffs. There's some lovely art galleries and gift shops, great tea rooms and a local museum with a hand-curated collection. Don't miss the funicular railway down to Lynmouth, the harbour that straddles the West and East Lyn rivers. The Lynton and Lynmouth Cliff Railway is the highest and steepest water-powered funicular railway in the world – and it's not for the faint hearted!



P Valley of Rocks car park is EX35 6JH, there are 60 spaces with two hours free parking.

Public toilets at the Lynton end of the Valley.

At Valley of Rocks, Mother Meldrums Cafe offers a range of refreshments. There's also a picnic area. In Lynton, stumble upon Charlie Friday's café, close to North Walk Hill where the coastal walk begins. In Lynton and Lynmouth there are numerous options for all budgets.

Dogs on a lead at the Valley of Rocks.

Buy 'The Little Book of Walks' online at:
Not Two Deer in Dunster village:
https://rebrand.ly/LBOW

EXMOOR Character Cottages

Lucy Green, owner of Exmoor Character Cottages, researched this and 11 other walks, and her friend and talented photographer Julia Amies-Green supplied all the images. The routes are designed to suit all abilities, from short and easy to longer and more challenging. Most are dog friendly, but please always be ready to leash your dogs and close gates – and follow additional requests from farmers where you see them. Our maps are for guidance, and for more detailed maps we recommend the 1;12,500 versions sold in the Exmoor National Park Centres. Collectively the walks are published in 'The Little Book of Walks' which was created in response to requests from guests at our four luxury holiday cottages in Dunster and Minehead. You can find out more about the Book and holiday cottages here:
www.exmoorcharactercottages.co.uk