Exmoor Walk

EXMOOR Character Cottages

Porlock Weir
Circular walk 8 miles

All photographs by Julia Amies-Green

At the picturesque hamlet of Porlock Weir you can enjoy far-reaching views across the Bristol Channel and coastline, and admire the tiny row of 17th century fisherman's cottages and the weather-beaten little boats. After this challenging eight-mile walk, you'll have earnt a drink at the ancient 'Bottom' Ship Inn, a pizza at The Weir Hotel or maybe even some Porlock Bay Oysters.

If you don't fancy the long walk, enjoy the view and an amble on the dog-friendly beach before heading back into the village for a stroll through its pretty streets with shops, galleries and tea rooms to distract you. Or pop into The Royal Oak pub in the heart of the village, favourite of author RD Blackmore, who penned the romantic thriller Lorna Doone.

The 'Top' Ship

The 13th century 'Top' Ship Inn in the village was where poet Robert Southey wrote some of his verse sat by the fire to escape the summer rain. Don't confuse this with the pub of the same name in Porlock Weir, referred to as the 'Bottom' Ship locally.

The Capstan sailor

Bill Pollard, one of Porlock Weir's sailors, became the face of the Capstan tobacco and cigarette brand. His trilby and weather beaten-face complete with pipe was familiar to millions of people who saw the 'Will's Capstan Navy Cut' advertisements.

The Walk 8 miles 3 hours

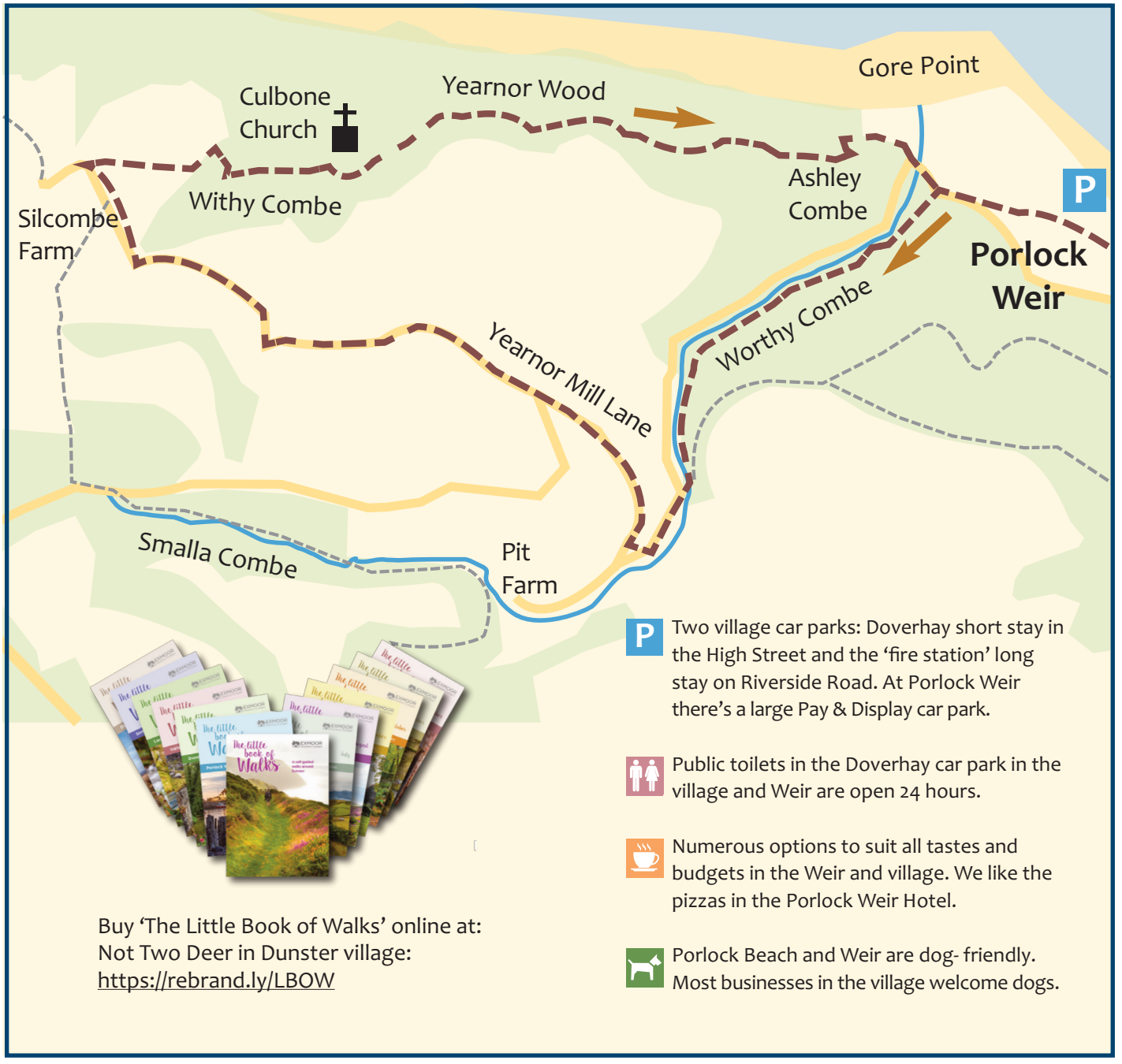
Directions: Take the A39 from Minehead to Porlock. Follow the signs to Porlock Weir. **Sat Nav: TA24 8PB**

From the Porlock Manor Estate car park, facing inland and take the footpath that runs to the right behind the Porlock Weir Hotel.

Go through the wooden gates, onto the Coastal Footpath. At the lane turn right up a rocky road which

is signposted ‘bridleway’. After a minute turn left onto a footpath and continue uphill and follow the steep path, keeping the stream on your right. After 0.9 of a mile turn left at the lane, then continue for about 4 minutes and turn right onto Yearnor Mill Lane onto the Coleridge Way. Continue along this undulating, tarmac lane for about 30 minutes enjoying its magnificent views of the coast out to Wales and Lundy Island.

At the fingerpost where the road bends towards Silcombe Farm, turn right to rejoin the coastal path. Just before you enter the woods you will see a footpath on right. Turn right. You’re walking downhill here, for about half a mile to the tiny Culbone Church. After a peek inside, retrace your steps to the signs to the South West Coast Path back to Porlock Weir. This pathway is wide and at times steep.



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 others routes and walked the walks, and her friend and talented photographer Julia Amies-Green supplied all the images. The walks 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