Exmoor Walk

EXMOOR Character Cottages

Selworthy
3 miles or 1.2 miles

All photographs by Julia Amies-Green

Selworthy Green, with its pretty thatched cottages nestling on the hills of the Holnicote Estate, is perfect for a short or longer walk. Whichever you choose, you will not be disappointed with the views. We suggest you begin at the distinctive white-washed Selworthy Church, and end with a cream tea or light lunch at The Periwinkle Tea Rooms.

There is one local tale that may explain the reason for the white-washed exterior of the church, which is visible from across Exmoor. Way back, one of its clergymen regularly indulged in a tipple or two at the 'Top' Ship pub in the Porlock village, so had the church painted white so he could navigate his way back in the dark when tipsy!

The Short Walk
1.2 miles 35 mins

Directions: Take the minor road marked 'Selworthy Only' off the A39 just west of Minehead.
Sat Nav: TA24 8TP

Standing in the second car park (NT), you'll see a pathway at the top, follow this uphill as it zigzags through the woods until you reach a gate. Take the left fork, follow the path until you reach a crossroads. Turn left down the hill and continue until you see a path on your right, cutting back on yourself. Walk down this path for about 20m and you'll see a gate on your left (if you cross the stream you've gone too far and should turn around). Once through the gate the path will take you over a stone bridge and then into a garden of Periwinkle Cottage. Stop here if you fancy a cream tea!

You'll also see a path going left as soon as you come into the garden, this is your way out, past the war memorial. Once you get onto the road walk towards the Church, enjoy the stunning view of Dunkery Beacon, the highest point on Exmoor. Follow the road past the church back to the car park on the left.

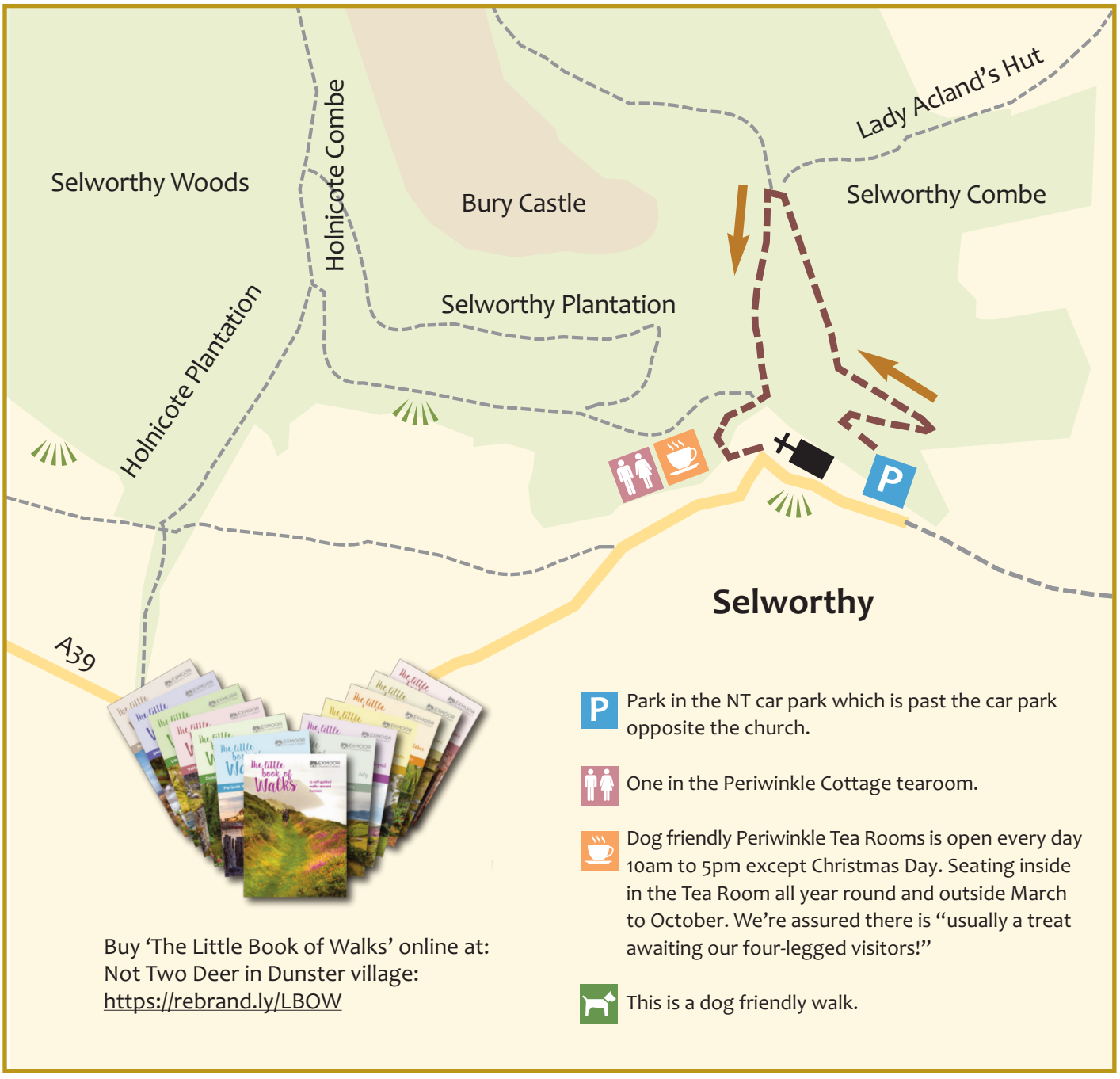
The Longer Walk
3 miles 1 hour

We didn't have room to publish a longer walk here, but if you'd like to check it out online, this National Trust walk offers wonderful views from the high point of Selworthy

Beacon out across Exmoor. It passes the remains of Bury Castle, not a castle at all, but the site of an Iron Age farming community from around 400 BC.
https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/holnicote-estate/trails/selworthy-and-bury-castle-circular-walk

Church of All Saints
If you visit the Grade 1 listed medieval church, you'll find a mainly 15th century building with some interesting memorials and stained glass, and a heavy wooden 16th century parish chest that kids will love. Make sure to look up at the ceiling as it's famous for its wagon roof with decorated bosses and carved angels. As you leave, we recommend you stand in the church door and look out across the stunning Exmoor countryside – a perfect photo opportunity.

War memorial
You'll pass this on your way to the tearoom. The simple cross commemorates eight fallen in WW1.



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