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Manaton - SE Dartmoor's walking centre

Medium Length Walks

Manaton is a picturesque moorland village that is a centre for walking and cycling in this part of Dartmoor.

The village is unusual in that it is split into two parts, ½ mile apart. The upper part contains the traditional hub of the village, with its 14th Century Church (St. Winifred's), the Village Green, the Cricket Field, Village Hall and the sites of the original pub and school. The lower part contains the modern pub – the Kestor Inn – and a variety of housing, both ancient and modern, which grew up around the settlements of Water and Freeland. It is also home to Mellowmead Field - a wild flower meadow and recently planted orchard.

The recommended map is Outdoor Leisure No. 28 – Dartmoor (1:25000).

NB. *Information in this leaflet is for guidance only. All walks are on public rights of way. The authors of these leaflets take no responsibility for changes to signage or obstructions. All walkers do so at their own risk. Some paths are steep and may be wet in places. Appropriate footwear should be worn.*

Walk 3 Manaton to Horsham Steps and return via Water (1 ½ to 2 hours)

From the Village Hall enter Slinkers Lane on the right 50 metres up road. The lane continues through a gate and down to a small stream on the right. At the bottom of Slinkers Lane, turn left and take path around Horsham to the left and then through gate to the right (signposted Horsham Steps). Follow path steeply down to River Bovey (ignoring path to left to Foxworthy). Turn left at river (NB excellent picnic spot here, plus bathing in river) and follow to end above rocks. The path over the river is indicated by worn steps (the river flows under the rocks and some dogs are scared of this). Go across and the path turns left upstream. Follow it and take the right turn (left to Foxworthy) and continue through the ancient woods to a junction, signed to Hammerslake (left) and Water via Clambridge (right). Turn right and proceed to river. The old clam bridge is fenced off with a new bridge to the left. On the other side of the river, take a decision on length of walk!

For a shorter walk, go straight on up the steep hill to the Water Mill. Follow path to right around the Mill and come into the settlement of Water. Bear left down the road and take the right turn which leads through to the main road, below Kestor Inn. Optional stop for obvious reasons. Take the lane opposite across the main road (Deal Lane) and continue up the hill past Deal Farm and along to the crossroads at Hayne Cross. Turn right and continue past Mill Farm up to the crossroads at the bus stop where you started.

For a longer walk, after crossing the clam bridge, turn left downstream following the River Bovey, eventually reaching the Old Manaton Road, having crossed the Becka Brook.

Turn right and right again over a timber bridge and follow the old road all the way to the top of the plantation where there is a junction – left to Becky Falls, right to Beckhams and Water.

Decision time again! If running out of time, turn right, up through a gate, into a lane and go past Beckhams and join the road from Water Mill. Turn left to Kestor and follow as above the rest of the way.

If you want an extra 10 minutes, turn left to the footpath through Becky Falls and beyond to Mellowmead Field. This gives you a view of the Falls, but not the main one. Please note that there are several private paths here and you must follow the public footpath (signed). If you want to visit Becky Falls and its shop/restaurant, then you have to pay an entrance fee at the carpark on the main road. At the other side of Mellowmead Field, you will be on the main road below the Kestor. Follow as above for directions back to Manaton Green.

Walk 4 Manaton to Water, River Bovey and return via Becky Falls (1 ½ to 2 hours)

From the Village Hall, turn left and enter the first lane on the right, through the gate. The lane continues through a gate and down to a small stream on the right. At the bottom of the lane (signed left to Horsham and right to Water), turn right and follow the lane past Cleave Hill, noting the views over Lustleigh Cleave. Enter woods (old pine plantation) and continue to path junction outside Water Mill. At the path junction outside the Mill, turn left (signed Lustleigh via Clambridge) and follow the path to the river. Please note that the path is part stream bed and will be damp. In wet weather it will be more than damp. At the bottom, admire the old clam bridge, but, if you want to cross the river, use the new bridge to the right! Excellent picnic area. To return, stay on the Water side of the river and take the path downstream from the new bridge. This will eventually bring you to the Old Manaton Road. Turn right and climb through the plantation. At the top, turn left at the sign to Becky Falls and follow the public footpath through Becky Falls and beyond to Mellowmead Field and thence to Water. This gives you a view of the Falls, but not the main one. Please note that there are several private paths here and you must follow the public footpath (signed). If you want to visit Becky Falls and its shop/restaurant, then you have to pay an entrance fee at the carpark on the main road. At the other side of Mellowmead Field, you will be on the main road below the Kestor. Turn left at the pub (Deal Lane) and continue up the hill past Deal Farm and along to the crossroads at Hayne Cross. Turn right and continue past Mill Farm up to the crossroads at the bus stop where you started.

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