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# Salcombe Walks

There is a reason that this part of the England is kept a secret and it is not just because of its most southerly location. You may not quite see the designer labels traversing the cliff path here but we kind of like that. So if you strive for long coastal walks and panoramic seascapes or just an evening amble to wear off the fish and chips, here are just a few of our favourite walks around South Hams.



## A simple evening stroll

Quite often after gorging on sweets from the infamous Cranches Pantry the little conscience on our shoulder tells us to stretch a leg and venture out after dinner. In my opinion there are 4 great routes here that fit the bill. Also great to walk the dog, or the idle husband / wife.

- A. **Short and sweet Batson Creek:** Walk out of Merchants House on to Devon Road and turn left down the Hill to Onslow Road. Keep going then head left after 20m down Shadycombe Road. Walk to the T junction with Croft Road and turn right towards the Boatyard to Batson Creek. Just past the recycling units there is a footpath which runs parallel to the road just above. This is optional yet beautiful in spring like a white tunnel of blackthorn



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blossom and wild garlic. Either turn back at the end of the creek or bear left up the first road (steep hill) and weave through, over the stream and turn back right at the road back down to the creeks end and home past the boatyard. quiet bliss on the creek and a good dog walking exercise loop.

**B. Batson by night 'the big loop'**

**Snapes Point:** As above but at Batson keep going round the creek and continue around the opposite side of the creek towards Batson House. Near the house look out for the footpath up inland to Snapes Point and the National Trust car park. Venture up to Snapes Point and the view of the water or alternatively head back towards the car park



**C. Energetic wave lapping bliss at South Sands**

**Beach** - stride out for a glass of red at The South Sands Hotel, walking along the Cliff Road past North Sands. If you accidentally open a bottle or 2 the hotel offers a ride back into town on request.



**D. Sandy Toes and Salty kisses:** A short drive to Thurlestone Sands to feel the sand between my toes and watch the sunset over the geological wonder of Thurlestone Rock. This really is one of my earliest memories here as a child and will always belong in my heart.

**D1. Soar Mill Cove** - Picture this: bluebells bobbing, wild garlic drifting through the deep cut valley and bleating lambs bouncing through the fresh spring grass. Simply one of the most beautiful walks to awaken us from the cold winter months. Dusk or dawn, this can be a short walk down and back anytime of day, or a picnic venture for a lunch excursion. 3 options on the map.

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## Walk for your lunch

Now we may not all be motivated to walk for the pure joy of heart rates racing and energetic rigour, some of us need a little encouragement along the way so here are some of our favourite lunch/ afternoon tea walks to entice your walking boots out of the suitcase.

**E. The Overbecks Amble** - panoramic views of the Salcombe estuary and an extension down to Starehole to see the waterfall is optional. It is also possible to walk from the house to Overbecks. I



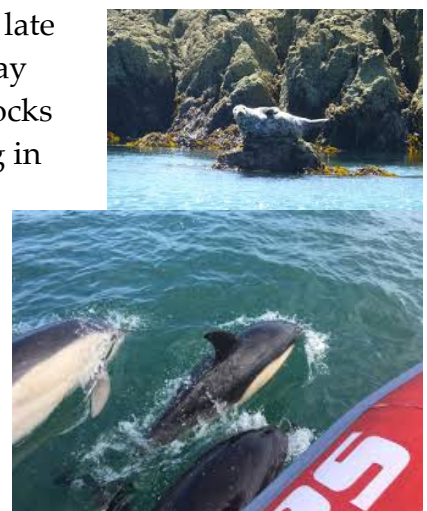
recommend walking straight up Devon Road to maximise the views over to Mill Bay, sunny Cove and Smalls Cove. Especially in winter when the leaves have fallen. Alternatively walk along Cliff Road.

**F. The Beach Hut South Milton from Hope Cove** - This beach hut is tiny but has a fab wine list, fresh fish and an amazing ice cream and hot chocolate if you fancy more of a snack. The dunes here are simply beautiful and the geological arch named Thurlestone Rock sits on the worn rock shelf out to sea. Equally beautiful at sunset.

Park at the Hope Cove car park and find the coastal path to the right of the bay. This walk is hard to get wrong as you simply follow the coastline down to Thurletone. Make sure to squeeze in the extended loop around the golf course for maximum sea view bliss. This walk can also be reversed if you park at the National Trust car park at South Milton and walk to Hope Cove for lunch. The Cove cafe bar is a good choice.

**G. Gara Rock by ferry we sail** - This is a favourite of mine although the kids always persuade me to carry a huge beach bag to enjoy beach cricket and an evening BBQ on Sunny Cove when we walk in the late afternoon. Beautiful sea views and if you are lucky you may catch a glimpse of the dolphins, seals and puffins on the rocks below. Cormorants also hang out here of the rocks basking in the summer sun.

Walk down Baptist Lane to The Ferry Inn and find the steps down to the ferry. In winter and spring the ferry can be found at White Strands pontoon. If the tide is low walk along the beach to Mill Bay then at the back of the beach track the NT coastal path up inland. We prefer a shorter steeper inland sprint to the hotel for lunch then a





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gentle amble down hill around the headland path back but the choice is yours. This can be extended as a whole day excursion to Prawle Point to see the lighthouse. The beach is pleasant but it is a very steep path down to Seacombe Sand beach and it feels even steeper on the way back.

**H. Oysters at the island in Bantham/Bigbury** - Drive to Bantham and watch the surf



from the comfort (?) of the sea tractor. This is very popular with bodyboarding surf enthusiasts but is also home to one of the most iconic art deco hotels in Europe. The Burgh Island Hotel.

There are 3 great places to eat here, The Sloop Inn and The Oyster Shack and High Tea at The Burgh Island Hotel. All come highly recommended. This is a truly beautiful part of the south coast but be careful not to be

caught out by the tide as the low flood plains of the River Avon flood right back to the hills every day. This is very deep and dangerous, if you land there at high water, the only way across is to walk around. This walk rambles around the beautifully manicured links golf course of Thurlestone and is home to the more media shy celebrity opting for a more private getaway by the sea. Do remember to be mindful of the golfers on the course and ensure that dogs are kept on leads. Some of the beaches found along this walk such as Yarmouth and Broad Sand offer more serene private bathing and a vent from the hustle and bustle of the Salcombe beaches.



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## Excursion - Make a day of it

Now for those hiking sock huggers out there this area of outstanding natural beauty offers some truly beautiful day long walks. Pack your water bottle and a walking stick for these challenging routes.



### I. Geological wonders

The walk from Hope Cove to Bigbury is sprinkled with delights for the budding geographer. From cliffs to coves, sand dunes to waterfalls, this walk offers a spectacular view of the South West Coast. Most of the paths are well trodden but can be steep in parts around the cliffs.



**J. Coastal path to Start Point** - Be guided by the lighthouse and Gara lunch half way. This is a long walk but the rough waves crashing on the rocks combined with secret coves make it well worth the excursion. Choose a fair day and pack supplies. Starting at the Salcombe to East Portlemouth ferry take the inland route up to Gara Rock Hotel. Then simply follow the coastal path around the headland to the Start Point lighthouse. Alternatively drive to Torcross and see nature in action at Slapton Sands then walk south along the coastal path to the Lighthouse.

**K. Salcombe to Hope Cove coastal Path** - hidden coves, coastering heaven and some fair food midway. Here you can walk inland through the Bolberry Downs or take on the headlands with the coastal path. Both routes are good, with the inland route more level and less of a challenge under foot. The field paths can get muddy mid winter as expected and I would recommend this is a spring and summer adventure. The joys of bleating and bluebells bobbing make it a fantastic spring adventure inland.

**Artisans of Dartmoor** - A las, the grand finale of walks will lead you back inland to Dartmoor for true escapism amongst the Dartmoor ponies and artisans of our land. The Dartmoor Artisan Trail has been generously set up by photographer Suzy Bennett and will lead you from potter to tanner, painter to glass blowing genius. If it is a cloudy day it really is worth the break away from the beach to experience the skills of our land. Find out more here

<https://www.countryfile.com/how-to/crafts/day-out-dartmoor-artisan-trail-devon/>

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## Things to do in