

Labrador Bay Circular Walk

Region – River Exe & Babbacombe

County/Area – Devon

Length – 4.3 miles / 7.0 kms

Duration – 3 hours

Ascent – 439 feet

Grade – Challenging

Start – Car Park – Shaldon Ness

Postcode TQ14 0HP (approximate location only)

Walk Route Description

This high-level walk has a lot of ascent and descent, some of which is steep and can be slippery, but the stunning coastal views in all directions make it worth the effort. Starting at the Ness headland, it loops through the RSPB Nature Reserve at Labrador Bay. The route passes through farmland which can be wet and muddy, so good footwear is recommended.

Route

- From the start point, pick up the South West Coast Path (Sheldon Beach), heading eastwards along the narrow lane up the hill towards the Ness Headland.
- Above the Ness Hotel turn left and follow the path as it climbs up and around the wooded headland.
- Continue along and around until the path drops down into the top of the car park.
- Bear left, to continue along the coast above Ness Cove, up the steps and past the pitch-and-putt fields, climbing steeply to come out on the A379.
- Turn left along the road for a short distance, and then pick up the Coast Path. Walk along the footpath leading off to the left.

Note: From this point the path plunges up and down around the edge of fields. Ignore the path to the right at the edge of this wood, unless you want a shortcut.

- Continue along the path for approximately one mile, you come to a footpath leading off to your right.
- Turn uphill on this path and continue for a short distance until you come to another path off to your right, just before the trees.
- Turn onto the path and follow it uphill through fields, heading back up towards the A379.
- Turn right at the top of the hill and walk for approximately 300 yards through the field, (parallel to the road)
- At this point the footpath drops to the right and travels through the field below the Labrador Bay car park.
- Ignoring the car park, carry on along the footpath to head back up to the road.
- Turn right on the road and walk back and re-join the Coast Path on the hillside below.
- Retrace your steps past the golf course and back to the Ness and Shaldon start point.