

# Walk through Watersmeet Gorge

Choose one of these great walks to see the best of the Watersmeet and enjoy its raging rivers and woodland.

## Walk One

- 1 Start at the **Cliff Railway** in **Lynmouth** and walk along the Esplanade to the A39 road, with **Lyndale Bridge** on your left.
- 2 Cross the road, walk through the Car Park with the river on your **left**. Walk past the white footbridge on your left. On your right are some high-walled cottages which housed employees of the former **Hydro-Electric Power Station**.
- 3 Continue and cross **Woodside Bridge**, **turn right** and follow the river upstream. At the fork, **keep right** close to the river.
- 4 Cross Blackpool bridge and walk towards **Lynrock**.
- 5 Keep walking with the **river on your left**, past **Myrtleberry House** to the large stone-faced **Chiselcombe Bridge**.
- 6 Keep walking past the bridge to **Watersmeet**, cross the two bridges to reach **Watersmeet House**. *Alternatively*, before crossing the second bridge you can detour along the riverside path to the **Limekilns**, approx. 400 yds.
- 7 To return to **Lynmouth**, you can follow the same path you arrived on, or follow the path with the river on **your left** through **Arnolds Linhay**. This path joins the same riverside path you started on, keep going until you **Lynmouth**.

## Walk Two

- A Follow the instructions for **Walk One** until you reach **Watersmeet House**. Walk back across the two bridges towards and ascend to the **Watersmeet Car Park**.
- B Cross the road and take the path up through the trees, to **Myrtleberry Camp**.
- C The path continues zig-zagging up the hillside, up some steep steps to the path along **Myrtleberry Cleave**. With the **Myrtleberry Camp** behind you, **turn right** towards **Lynmouth**.
- D The path will fork, the left will take you to **Lynbridge**, take **the right fork** to **Lynmouth**.
- E Follow the path and zig-zag **down** through the woodland as you descend to **Lynmouth**. You will walk through the old cottages of **Lynmouth** to the main road near **Lyndale Bridge**.



**FIND THE PERFECT WALK.**

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**LYNTON & LYNMOUTH**

'Little Switzerland' is one of the most beautiful places in the Exmoor National Park: the quaint harbour village of Lynmouth, and Lynton perched on the cliffs above. It's the perfect base to discover, explore and enjoy all that is the Exmoor National Park.



Wonder at England's highest sea cliffs rising over 800ft (245m) or walk one of the country's deepest river gorges. This part of the Heritage Coast has the second highest tidal range in the world and longest stretch of wooded coastline in the British Isles.

## Extraordinary Wildlife

The Exmoor National Park is home to a variety of wildlife both great and small. The unique landscape of Exmoor provides a truly special habitat for the rarest of flora and fauna.



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Explore and discover the  
magical Watersmeet Gorge



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# Introducing Watersmeet

The East Lyn River is fed by moorland streams and is joined by the Hoarok at Watersmeet. From there to the sea at Lynmouth it has cut one of the deepest gorges in Britain. The valley has been re-cut as a result of falling sea levels and coast erosion during the Ice Age.

Much of the gorge is a Site of Special Scientific Interest. Its sides are cloaked with ancient Sessile Oak woodland, containing rare varieties of Whitebeam trees.

It is the main site in Britain for Irish Spurge. Many birds can be seen near the river, notably grey and yellow wagtails, dippers and herons.

A magical elven haven bursting with wildlife along the raging East Lyn River

## Watersmeet House

In the 19th Century much of this area belonged to the Halliday family as part of the Glenthorne Estate, which included most of the parish of Countisbury. The house was built as a fishing lodge by the Rev. W.S. Halliday in 1832. The house is now a National Trust cafe.

## Myrtleberry Camp

An Iron Age fortification occupying a natural defensive position on a spur on the valley side. There is another higher up the spur and another across the valley.

## Chiselcombe Bridge

The present bridge was built in 1957 to replace two bridges that were destroyed in the flood. The new bridge was built a lot higher than the original to avoid further floods.

## Hydro-Electric Power Station

The original hydro-electric power station on this site was one of the first in Britain.

It supplied Lynton & Lynmouth from 1890 until its destruction in the 1952 flood.

A smaller power station now operates in the Glen Lyn Gorge

## Lynrock Bridge

This is the site of the Lynrock Mineral Water factory. It's marked by a wooden plaque and an old bottle by the spring. The factory washed away in the 1952 flood.

