

# THE DARTMOOR WAY CYCLE ROUTE

Has The Tour of Britain encouraged you to take on your own cycling challenge? If so, why not try Dartmoor's newest 'Big Tick' the Dartmoor Way Cycle Route? Whether you fancy immersing yourself in the scenery for a few days or longer or want to test yourself and complete the Route in a day, the Dartmoor Way has something to offer a wide range of cyclists.



Originally conceived in 2000, the Dartmoor Way Cycle Route has recently been updated to completely circle Dartmoor. It now forms a 95 mile signed route that links the towns of Okehampton, Tavistock, Ivybridge, Buckfastleigh, Ashburton, Bovey Tracey, Moretonhampstead and Chagford and offers stunning views of the high moor. The Dartmoor Way follows quiet Devon lanes and minor roads and uses traffic-free cycle tracks wherever possible. It offers a great way to explore the fringes of the National Park. However, don't be lulled into thinking that it will be flat for the Route takes on its fair share of Dartmoor hills as it winds its way between high granite hedge banks rich with wildlife, through mixed woodlands and over streams tumbling down from the moorland above. The route also passes through a number of smaller villages and hamlets so if you're taking your time there are plenty of places to eat, drink or even stop for the night. However, if you're pushing on to complete the Route in a day you can rest assured that there will be places to refill your water bottles and stock up on energy food.

By spring 2014 it's planned to have checkpoints positioned around the route where riders can obtain a stamp and have their times recorded. There will also be a page on the website where participants results will be shown (if wanted!) so timings can be compared. In addition to the main circular route, there is a 27 mile High Moorland link from Tavistock to Buckfastleigh which offers the challenge and exhilaration of the open roads with their long ascents and descents and allows cyclists to follow a figure of eight route, or alternatively enjoy either of the shorter north or south circular routes separately. Whilst you will undoubtedly be more at the mercy of the weather and perhaps of the dreaded head wind, this Link offers stunning views across the open spaces at the centre of the National Park.

The Dartmoor Way now boasts a new identity and an interim website has been set up where you can download PDF maps of the route. A more comprehensive site is planned with detailed route information on points of interest, side excursions, accommodation providers, inns and tea rooms as well as cycle hire and repairers. Funding for the update of the Route has been provided by the Greater Dartmoor LEAF Fund, Devon County Council, Naturesave Trust, M & G Jones Charitable Trust and the Glendinning Group and the project has come under the umbrella of Sustrans.



PHOTOGRAPHS © DARTMOOR WAY



FACT FILE

LENGTH: Main route - 95 miles  
High Moorland Link - 27 miles

SURFACE: Mainly roads, some surfaced and gravel cycle tracks

TOTAL METRES OF ASCENT: 3512

TOTAL METRES OF DESCENT: 3518

MAINLINE RAIL ACCESS:  
Newton Abbot for Bovey Tracey  
Ivybridge

FURTHER INFORMATION:  
[www.dartmoorway.co.uk](http://www.dartmoorway.co.uk)



- Main cycle route
- High Moorland link

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