

Exploring the Exe

With help from public transport and ferries you can get around much of the estuary in a day. Please take care crossing roads and railways and enjoy exploring the Exe.

Excellent

Exeter Canal and Locks are the oldest of their type in the UK. They were built in 1567 to divert trade to Exeter from Topsham, which at that time was the second busiest port in the UK.



Key

- Footpath (off road) only recommended for walkers
- Footpath (on road) only recommended for walkers
- Cycle route (off road) suitable for walking, cycling, wheelchairs and pushchairs
- Cycle route (on road) suitable for walking, cycling, wheelchairs and pushchairs
- Foot ferry (ferry guide overlay)
- Railway/Station
- 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 Foot ferry routes
- 1 2 3 4 5 6 Locations
- P Parking available
- Key viewing point
- Information Tourist Information
- Toilet
- Refreshments
- Cycle Hire
- Bus stop
- Bathing area
- Nature reserve

Average distances and times

- 1 to 2 Exeter Quay to Topsham Ferry: 4 miles / 6.4km - 1.2 hours
- 2 to 3 Topsham Ferry to Turf Hotel 1.5 miles / 2.4km - 30 minutes
- 3 to 4 Turf Hotel to Starcross 3 miles / 4.8km - 1 hour
- 4 to 5 Starcross to Dawlish Warren 2 miles / 3.2km - 40 minutes
- 6 to 7 Exmouth to Lympstone 2.5 miles / 4km - 50 minutes
- 7 to 8 Lympstone to Exton 1.5 miles / 2.4km - 30 minutes

Distances and times are approximate and based on an average walking speed of 3 miles per hour.

Bus routes

- 57 Exeter - Topsham - Exton - Lympstone - Exmouth
Runs Mon-Sat daytime every 15 mins, and Sunday and evenings every 30 mins
- 2 Exeter - Exminster - Kenton - Starcross - Cockwood Harbour - Dawlish Warren - Dawlish
Runs Mon-Sat daytime every 20 mins, and Sunday every 30 mins from spring (service runs hourly during evenings and winter)

To check seasonal timetable changes please call: 01392 427711

A scenic cruise and train ride with a leisurely stroll

1. Take ferry 1 from Topsham 9 to Exmouth 6
2. Walk from Exmouth to Lympstone 7
3. Catch train from Lympstone back to Topsham

Suitability: Walkers, cyclists, wheelchairs and pushchairs
Time: Three hours approx
Distance on foot: Two miles approx
Estimated Cost: £7 adults, £4 children

Getting Started: A car park is available in Topsham on Holman Way that is a short walk from the quay. Buses and trains from Exeter to Topsham are frequent and reliable. Alternatively, ample parking and public transport links are available in Exmouth if you reverse the route.

To start in Topsham, follow signs to Lager Quay where Stuart Line Cruises depart for Exmouth when tides permit (check times by calling 01395 222144). The ferry takes from 1 to 1.5 hours depending on tides.

From Exmouth Marina travel along Victoria Road and turn left on to Imperial Road. Follow this road onto Marine way. Where the road forks take the left hand path which follows the Estuary. The 1.5 mile walk to Lympstone will wind its way along the Estuary until you reach a bridge over the train track. Trains depart here for Topsham regularly. Alternatively you can continue along the trail to Exton, a further 1.5 miles, and catch a train from Exton station. To check train times call 08457 48 49 50.

Exquisite

The Exe Estuary is so important for wildlife, particularly birds, that it is one of the most designated estuaries in the whole of Europe. This ensures that any development plans or projects on the estuary must be submitted to Natural England for its assent.



Exotic

Estuaries may look empty but they are incredibly rich habitats with worms, snails and shellfish providing a vital food source for the Exe's globally important number of resident and migratory birds such as the avocet, brent goose and redshank.

Explore Exminster Marshes and Topsham

1. Walk from Exminster to the Turf Hotel 3
2. Take the ferry 3 to Topsham
3. Take the Topsham ferry 4 back to Exminster

Suitability: Primarily walkers. Cyclists, wheelchair and pushchair users; please check with ferry operators that they will be able to accommodate you
Time: Two hours approx
Distance on foot: One mile approx
Estimated Cost: £4 Adults, £2 children (under 12), £1 bikes

Getting Started: Two small car parks are available at the Exminster Marshes RSPB Nature Reserve. Alternatively take the bus (service 2) to Exminster.

Follow the Exe Estuary Trail along the canal until you reach the Turf Hotel (01392 833128). Refreshments are available here while you wait for the next ferry which leaves from the jetty at the end of the garden (The Sea Dream II 07778 370582).

When you arrive in Topsham you can choose to browse the historical town or head straight for the Topsham ferry (07801 203338) by following Ferry Road. Once back on the Exminster side you can choose to take a stroll through the Exminster Marshes reserve (walkers only) or head back along the canal path.



Exciting

The estuary is a hub of activity for recreational activities; such as sailing, canoeing, windsurfing, fishing and scuba diving. There are several clubs and training centres available to help you make the most of the Exe.

Examine

The Brunel Tower at Starcross is the best surviving remnant of Isambard Brunel's famous Atmospheric railway, which was quickly abandoned after its completion in 1845. Today the pump house is home to the Starcross Fishing and Cruising Club.



Exceptional

Bowling Green Marsh and Dawlish Warren are essential high tide roosting sites for the many thousands of birds that migrate to the estuary each winter. They feed and rest on these areas during high tide and then move back on to the mud flats of the estuary to feed as they are revealed by the falling tide.



Explore

Exmouth is the start of the Jurassic Coast World Heritage Site. The coast line tells the history of the earth. The rocks at Orcombe Point date back to 250 million years. The red cliffs are due to the presence of iron.



Exploring Exmouth

There are many short circular walks that can be created within the towns on the banks of the Estuary. Why not walk from the Imperial Recreation Ground in Exmouth, with its open views of the estuary, to the sea front and Jurassic Coast.

other fun ways To Access The Estuary

7 Water Taxi: Exmouth to Dawlish Warren
Saddles and Paddles Hire canoes and bicycles on the Exeter quayside.
01392 424241
www.saddlepaddle.co.uk

Topsham to Turf Ferry
Lily peds
07877 596845
info@lily-peds.co.uk
Offer private hire of a cycle rickshaw.
Pedallo hire
07984 368442
www.exetercruises.com
Available during the summer.

Foot ferries

See main map for ferry routes. Bookings may be necessary for some ferry services.

1 Scenic estuary cruises
Stuart Line Cruises: 01395 222144
www.stuartlinecruises.co.uk
Sail from Exmouth all year on circular scenic cruises, guided bird watching, summer coastal cruises and day trips to local towns Topsham, Sidmouth and Torbay.

2 Starcross to Exmouth
Exe to Sea Cruises: 07974 772681 or 07812 729212
Ferry and Fishing Trips: 07974 022536 www.exe2sea.co.uk

3 Topsham to Turf Locks
The Sea Dream II ferry: 07778 370582
www.topshamturferry.co.uk
Turf Hotel: 01392 833128 www.turfpub.net
Topsham to Turf Locks and RSPB bird watching cruises. The Turf Locks Hotel is a family run pub serving great food, local ales and wines.

4 Topsham to Exminster
Topsham Ferry: 07801 203388
Other services include water taxi, boat supervision and maintenance etc.

5 Double Locks to Turf Lock
The White Heathers: 07984 368442
Double Locks: 01392 256947
www.doublelocks.co.uk

6 Exeter Quay to the Double Locks
Exeter Cruises: 07984 368442 www.exetercruises.com
Double Locks is a family pub situated right on the Exeter canal serving great food, real ales and has a child's play area. It is a 45 minute round trip.

7 Water Taxi: Exmouth to Dawlish Warren
Saddles and Paddles Hire canoes and bicycles on the Exeter quayside.
01392 424241
www.saddlepaddle.co.uk

8 Exmouth Docks
Lily peds
07877 596845
info@lily-peds.co.uk
Offer private hire of a cycle rickshaw.
Pedallo hire
07984 368442
www.exetercruises.com
Available during the summer.

The Exe Estuary Trail

Part of the National Cycle Network (Route 2)

Devon County Council is currently constructing a fantastic new cycle/walkway, known as the Exe Estuary Trail. When completed, the 26 mile trail will run along the east and west sides of the Estuary giving access to views as never before.

Parts of the route are now open with others soon to be completed. For up-to-date information about the progress of the trail visit: www.devon.gov.uk/exeestuarytrail

Exe Estuary Trail Map

Exe Estuary Trail Map

© Crown copyright. All rights reserved. Devon County Council. Licence No. 100019783 2008

Key

- Existing cycling route
- Proposed on-road route
- Proposed off-road route
- Interim route

other Leaflets

Exe Activities is a guide to the recreational activities available to enjoy in and around the Exe. A map shows the location of activities, clubs and organisations who can provide more detailed local information about the various water sports and leisure pursuits available, as well as their contact information.

Exe Wildlife is a guide to when and where to see some of the wildlife highlights on the globally important and protected Exe Estuary, and can help you to learn more about the animals that live in this ever changing environment.

Explore Exmouth is a series of eight linked circular walks in Exmouth and Lympstone areas. The routes are accessible and mostly stile-free. All of the walks connect with at least two others, so can be easily extended.

Walking Trails in Devon contains ten walks plus information on the Exe Valley Way, East Devon Way and the South West Coast Path National Trail. Pick up a free copy from a TIC or visit www.visitdevon.co.uk

Leaflets are available from TIC, our website: www.exe-estuary.org, or by contacting us via email: exeestua@devon.gov.uk

Cycle Training

Cycle Exeter currently delivers FREE Bikeability cycle training if you live, work or study in the Exeter or Exe Estuary area!

- School - FREE Bikeability** courses offered to all schools
- Bikeability Level 1, 2 & 3** courses delivered in school holidays and on Saturdays
- 'Cycle to your Hearts Content'** - group training. All abilities welcome
- 1:1 sessions** - for beginner, intermediate or advanced cyclists
- Train to be a Bikeability** instructor and teach children

To book a session and for more information please visit our website below or contact the Cycle Training Team email: cycleexeter@devon.gov.uk telephone: 0845 155 1004

www.devon.gov.uk/cycleexeter

Department for Transport
FREEDOM of your city Cycle Exeter
Devon County Council

Exe Estuary shore code

Be safe: don't put yourself or others at risk. Be aware of the dangers from rising tides, soft mud, cliff edges and strong currents.

Fish wisely: avoid waste. Only take bait for planned trips, don't discard tackle and return unwanted fish to the sea.

Prevent litter: bin litter or take it home with you.

Observe estuary bylaws & warnings: check information at access points.

Be considerate to other estuary users: always keep pets under control and don't block access points.

Protect and avoid disturbing wildlife: enjoy watching the wildlife but keep your distance, especially from birds gathering at high water.

To report pollution to watercourses, flooding, fly tipping of industrial wastes and illegal fishing please call the Environment Agency Emergency Hotline on: 0800 807060

Exe Estuary Management Partnership

For people, for wildlife, for the future.

For more information on the work we do please contact the exe estuary officer:

T: 01392 382236 F: 01392 382135
E: exeestua@devon.gov.uk W: www.exe-estuary.org
C/o Devon County Council, Lucombe House, County Hall, Topsham Road, Exeter, Ex2 4pw

No part of this leaflet is to be reproduced without the approval of the Exe Estuary Management Partnership.

Exmouth Town Council
Dawlish Town Council
East Devon
Teignbridge
NATURAL ENGLAND
RSPB
Devon County Council

Many thanks to John Drake-Law (Spoonbill image), John Morton (Exe Estuary Trail) and DCC for the use of their images in this leaflet.

Issue 7 - May 2010

World class wildlife, sandy beaches, historic buildings and water based recreation are some of the attractions to be found on the Exe Estuary.

With miles of cycle and foot paths and exceptional views, the Exe Estuary is a destination you can explore again and again. Whether you fancy a short stroll or something more adventurous there is bound to be a route that suits you.

This leaflet is a guide to the footpaths, cycle ways and public transport options available around the Exe Estuary. The centre of the leaflet provides a detailed map of the estuary including the various ferry routes and docks, train routes and stations, bus routes and stops, key viewing points, parking, and toilet and refreshment facilities.

The map, along with the accompanying route information (such as the ferry timetable opposite), can be used to create your own trails depending on where you would like to visit, your means of transport, and how long you would like to take. We have provided some circular route suggestions alongside the map overlaid to get you started.

The Exe Estuary

Exe Explorer

A guide to exploring the Exe Estuary

Exe Estuary Management Partnership

For people, for wildlife, for the future.

www.exe-estuary.org