

A BOOT UP EXMOOR

Adrian Tierney-Jones

Exmoor is one of the last great wildernesses of southern England, a land of high moorland, lush wooded combes and steep sided valleys through which rivers like the Barle and the Exe rush to meet their destiny. For those with a love of natural beauty and dramatic scenery it is ideal walking country.

Exmoor-based journalist and writer Adrian Tierney-Jones picks 10 of his favourite walks between 5-8 miles across the beauty landscape of Exmoor, ideal for families or groups of friends. Whether you want the peace and quiet of a riverside walk or the boundless beauty of Exmoor's high places, there will be a walk for you.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Adrian Tierney-Jones is an Exmoor-based journalist and writer who writes about rural issues and food and drink, especially beer and cider. His work has appeared in the *Field*, the *Daily Telegraph*, *Exmoor – The Country Magazine*, *Beers of the World* and the *Morning Advertiser* plus a variety of other newspapers and magazines.

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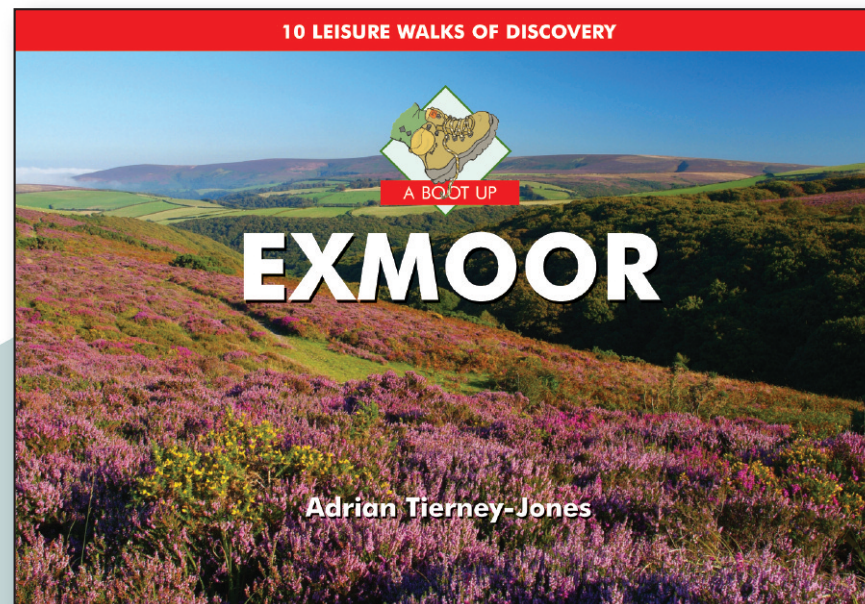
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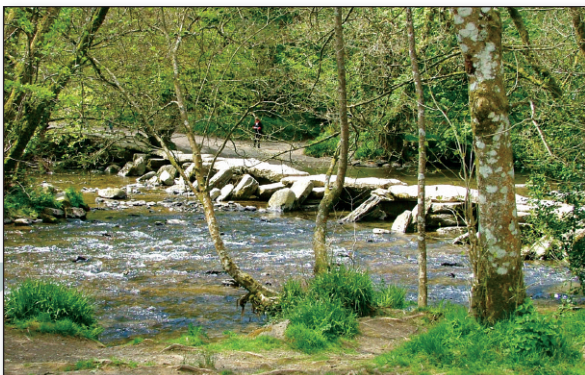
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Top left: *Bury Bridge*. Brian Pearce

Top centre: *Castle Rock*. Brian Pearce

Right: *Nutcombe Plantation.*

Brian Pearce

Far right: *Dunkery Beacon*.

Left: *Tarr Steps*. Brian Pearce

Bottom left: *Lynmouth Bay.*



of beeches, oaks and hawthorns and start to climb out of thecombe.

- 9** Keep to the main path, noting the row of mature beeches to the left. After 270 metres we pass old enclosures with trees growing out of the walls on the left. The walk is easy going at the moment.

Horner Water.

- 10** After 410 metres the path descends with the steep-sided Aller Combe on the left. We cross a spring and follow the path ahead, which passes through a delightful woodland of birch, oak and holly. We are now travelling along Dickie's Path and after 240 metres there is a view down towards Cloutsham.

- 11** After 570 metres the path passes through Hollow Combe; this is a beautiful steep-sided combe with hordes of venerable trees trooping down the hillside of the East

Water Valley. Ahead of us we can also see Horner Woods in the distance, which is renowned as a great place to spot red deer.

- 12** The path ascends, we cross a spring and come out of the wood. After 410 metres we take the path right (NE) and not long afterwards hit the road. Turn right here and walk along it with Luccombe Hill on our left and Dunkery Beacon on the right. After 1500 metres we return to the car.

The Beacon was left to the National Trust along with the Holnicote Estate, which was owned by the Acland family.

8 Lorna Doone Country

A bracing 7¼-mile circuit that starts off in Lorna Doone country

This is a walk of contrasts that offers stirring views of Forland Point, the aptly named Desolate Point and over the Bristol Channel towards

South Wales, as well as the more luxurious sights of the hidden Doone Valley with its landscape of moorland, heather, gorse and woodland. It can be bracing in parts, while some road work is involved, but the compensation includes a delightful riverside walk, Sisters' Fountain and the remarkable gate posts at the entrance to Glerthorpe House. And, of course, the whole area lies at the heart of the classic story *Lorna Doone*.



Level:
Length: 7½ miles

Terrain: An exhilarating and often challenging mixture of steep hill walking and steady progress along the South West Coast path takes us through Lorna Doone country and along part of the magnificent North Devon coastline.

Park & start: car park at the back of the Lomo Doone Farm gift shop.

Start ref: SS793478.
Postcode: EX35 6NU.

Public transport: None at the start of the walk, though the Ninehead-Lymouth

Refreshments: Lorna Doone Farm teashep at Malmeshead.

Example of a double page spread