



## **Baggy Point**

**This sometimes demanding walk boasts some terrific views out to Lundy Island and the Atlantic Ocean beyond - sheer cliffs and maybe seals and dolphins**

### **Essential Facts**

- |                         |                     |
|-------------------------|---------------------|
| ▪ Route distance:       | 10.5 km (6.6 miles) |
| ▪ Approximate time:     | 3 hours             |
| ▪ Optional extension:   | 3 km (1.9 miles)    |
| ▪ Approx. total ascent: | 300 metres          |
| ▪ Start point Grid Ref: | SS 433 382          |
| ▪ GPS Ref:              | SS 43398 38222      |
| ▪ Recommended O.S. Map: | Explorer 139        |
| ▪ Toughness Rating      | Somerset 3          |

Please see the notes on Toughness Ratings at the end of this report

**Up For A  
CHALLENGE ?**

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**Full Info from the Great Walks web site**

## THE ROUTE

This coastal walk starts at a lay-by overlooking Croyde Bay. This particular one is the third lay-by travelling westward after passing the distinctive art-deco Saunton Sands Hotel. It's just before a high stone wall, opposite a footpath sign, **S**. If full, you should be able to park further down the hill at a signed public car park. You can join the coastpath route here, as shown on the map.

From the lay-by at **S**, walk a few metres westward along the road, with the wall on your immediate left, to the steps which lead down to the sands. Now follow the footpath around from here to Croyde Beach. Go across the beach (either wading the stream or crossing by the footbridge in the dunes) to the track leading off the beach just before the rocks at the far end.

Turn left at the top of this track onto the road and follow it straight on to the gate at **A**. Keep to the left just beyond the gate and follow the footpath around the headland. (There is another footpath to the right which you may choose to take: it gives you views across the bay but you miss out on the rocks and caves which can be glimpsed from the lower path). At the headland itself follow the path steeply up to the right and through the gate where the upper footpath joins the lower one at **B**.

Walk up past the mast, resisting the urge to climb it (or maybe not!), and follow the path downhill along the far side of the headland. Ignore the first right-hand fork at **C**, but take the next one some distance on after the path has climbed through a couple of fields, **D**.

Follow this path steeply uphill and then down to the gate at **E** which cautions you to wear stout shoes (let's hope you are!) Take the lane down to where it meets the road beyond the campsite and follow the road down into the village.

At the main road junction by the shops turn right, walk uphill some 40 metres and cross cautiously over to the surf shop on the left-hand side of the road. Take the side road leading off to the left of the surf shop and walk down the quiet lane until you come to the footpath sign. Follow the lane steeply upwards as it turns into a track and take the marked footpath through the gate to your right at **F**, about 150 metres along.

This footpath climbs steeply up to the top of the hill, where you will pause several times to marvel at the village spread out below you (oh, and to catch your breath too!) At the top of the hill, follow the footpath signs across the field and down the other side, aiming just a little to the left of the beach beyond. At the ruined cottages take the stile to the right and follow the footpath down beside a pretty little stream to the gate leading to the main road at **G**.

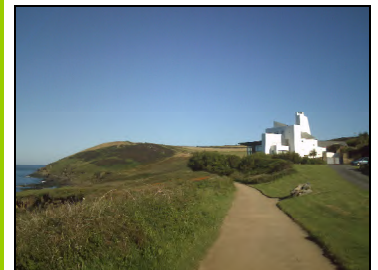
Do not go onto the road, though, but turn right onto the footpath which travels above the road and will take you straight back to the start, **S**. Cross the road carefully – at the height of the season there is a lot of traffic.

For a slightly longer route, continue along the track to the left of the ruined cottages at the top of the hill, then go downhill to where it turns into a road at Saunton Court. Continue down onto the main road. Turn right up this road, to the footpath sign on your left, about half a kilometre beyond, and follow this track down to the car park at Saunton Beach.

From here you go up to the main road, cross over to the gate at **G** and join the coastal path back to the car at **S**.



Morte Point From Baggy



Baggy House

## Refreshment

Saunton Sands Hotel Hotel restaurant Saunton, Braunton Tel: 01271 890212 A choice of Gourmet menus are available, as well as cream teas	Blue Groove Central Restaurant, coffee shop & take away Croyde Bridge, Hobbs Hill, Croyde Tel:, 01271 890111 Drinks, snacks and meals
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The Sands Cafe Bar Cafe Bar Saunton beach car park Tel: 01271 891288 Light bites are on offer during the day	St Helens Priory Restaurant Restaurant Hobbs Hill, Croyde Tel: 01271 890757 Drinks, meals, Cream Teas inside or out in the garden
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**Saunton Sands Hotel**

## LOCAL INFO

**Baggy Point** is one of the rockiest outcrops on the north Devon coast. The striking Baggy House was built in 1994 for Gavin Davies (ex-Chairman of the BBC). Controversial locally for its situation, the house is noted further afield for its architecture. Outside the house, quietly weathering down to nothing, is a vertebra from a whale, which was beached at Croyde early in the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

**Henry Williamson wrote 'Tarka the Otter'** just a short drive away at Georgeham, as the plaque outside his house testifies. Williamson spent much of his last years here. He was a complex character, who had farmed in Norfolk, and wrote many books and articles on country matters. He was a staunch conservationist and animal lover. In the 1930s, however, Williamson had been a great admirer of Adolf Hitler and met the Führer on several occasions. Even in later life he would tell visitors to forget the popular portrayal of Hitler as a deranged mad-man; instead he was an extremely charming, intelligent and charismatic man.

### BAGGY POINT G.P.S. WAYPOINTS

WAYPOINT NAME	MAP REF	CO-ORDINATES		ELEVATION: Metres	
BAG S	S	SS	43398	38222	44
BAG A	A	SS	43087	39682	27
BAG B	B	SS	42057	40567	67
BAG C	C	SS	42727	40768	66
BAG D	D	SS	43813	40710	79
BAG E	E	SS	43814	40487	88
BAG F	F	SS	44740	38909	43
BAG G	G	SS	44782	37840	57



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IN BRITAIN

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MAP LEGEND					
	Great Walks route		Church with tower		Spot height - metres
	M6 Motorway		Church with spire		Information centre
	A23 Main road		Other place of worship		Parking
	B2116 Secondary road		Cathedral / Abbey		Public convenience
	Minor road		Building		Public house
	Other road		Built up area		Picnic site
	Track		Woodland		Camp site
	Footpath		Sand, shingle or mud		Major tourist feature
	Bridleway		Water feature		Other tourist feature
	National trail				
	Railway				

## Safety First

**Safety should always** be your first priority in planning and undertaking a walk, whether on your own or leading a group. Please read these Safety First and Walking Our Routes notes.

**Lead a group** of other walkers only if you have leadership and navigational experience adequate for the 'worst case' conditions which may be encountered on the particular walk, bearing in mind the terrain, possible weather and navigational demands.

**Weigh up the capabilities** of your party, in terms of fitness and walking speed. Adjust your time expectations accordingly.

**Ensure** all your party are adequately clothed for the weather and conditions. Footwear is particularly important. Clothing must protect against cold, wet or strong sun according to the time of year.

**Emergencies** are quite rare, but it is essential to think ahead about what to do if someone in your party sustains an injury. Will you have a First Aid kit? Is there a qualified First Aider in the party? How could help be summoned in a serious eventuality?

**Refreshment**, particularly water, can be vital. Dehydration in hot summer conditions can be rapid, and frequent intake of fluids is essential.

**On tougher walks** it is a good idea to tell someone where you are planning to go – and when you expect to be back. Remember - mobile phones often lose reception in mountainous or isolated areas.

**All our walks use legitimate routes:** Public Rights of Way, Public Footpaths, Bridleways, Permissive Paths, Access Land, Byways and Roads.

**Road** walking calls for particular care. When there is no defined footpath or verge wide enough for safe walking it is usually best to walk on the right – facing oncoming traffic. An exception may be a tight bend, where walkers would be more visible on the left.

**Occasionally** you may find a public footpath blocked or unuseable. It is perfectly in order to take the shortest available diversion without damaging crops, perhaps around a field margin.

**It is courteous** to close gates after passing through, sometimes even if the gate was open when you arrived – particularly if it is obvious livestock may escape.

**Mutual respect** for farm animals is to be encouraged! Don't frighten or annoy them, but equally don't put your party members in danger or discomfort. You certainly wouldn't be the first walkers to go round the outside of a field of frisky bullocks.

**Dogs** should always be kept on a lead anywhere near farm animals, and under close supervision elsewhere in the countryside.

## Walking Our Routes

**Our walks** are designed to be negotiated using the route directions in conjunction with the map section provided. We suggest walkers also take the Ordnance Survey Explorer or Outdoor Leisure map recommended for each walk.

**On mountain, moorland and open heathland** walks it is **ESSENTIAL** to have navigational expertise and tools, including the recommended Ordnance Survey map(s).

**Take care** to observe any cautions in the route description; exposed paths, areas liable to flooding etc.

**Consider conditions before setting off.** Will heavy rain have made a water meadow impassable? Will frost or snow make a path slippery?

**When navigating the route** look for clues to confirm you are in the right place. Are map features where you would expect on the ground? Are features mentioned in the text where expected? If you suspect you may have taken a wrong turn, take action sooner rather than later. It is better to re-trace to a known point rather than carry on regardless with the possibility of becoming increasingly confused.

**All our routes are carefully checked** before publication, but features can change on the ground – sometimes surprisingly quickly. Footpaths may be re-routed, buildings can appear or change significantly and these days pub names seem to change frequently.

**The approximate time** given for each walk is based on an average walking speed of 2.5 miles per hour (4 km/hour), plus an allowance for ascent, descent and any difficult terrain.

**Total ascent** is the approximate total ascent over the whole walk.

**GPS users** can enter in the waypoints provided in each of our walk reports. It is important to read our guide **Introducing GPS for Walkers**, available as a PDF file from the Great Walks in Britain web site.

**Remember that GPS** is a great navigational tool, but only one of those available to the navigator. Never dispense with conventional map and compass – and the training and skills to use them, especially on mountain, moorland or open heathland walks.

### TOUGHNESS RATINGS

Most of our **Somerset & North Devon** routes can be undertaken by reasonably fit walkers able to utilise the map segments and our recommended Ordnance Survey maps, together with the route guidance notes.

The toughest walks should be undertaken or led only by experienced mountain walkers with navigational expertise. Always consider recent and forecast weather.

Each walk has been allocated a **Toughness Rating**:

1. Easier walks with modest ascent and generally on well defined paths. There may be stiles or narrow gateways to negotiate.
2. Routes which are more demanding. They may include more ascent and possibly paths which are looser or more difficult underfoot.
3. More strenuous walks. There may be prolonged steep ascents, and perhaps several ascents over the whole walk. Conditions may be challenging underfoot.
4. The toughest walks, requiring considerable fitness and navigational experience. There may be prolonged steep ascents. The ability to navigate by compass may be essential.

Toughness Ratings are allocated in the context of the terrain in the edition area. For example a walk rated as demanding in Cambridgeshire may be equivalent to an easier or moderate route in Somerset & North Devon.