

ROUTES

The routes descriptions are for general guidance only. It is impossible and impractical to give detailed "Turn left at the gorse-bush" type advice. These routes will just help and also tell you where not to go... however you will still get lost, it is just a question for how long and how badly. Remember to check G.P.S. and compass very regularly in poor weather, ¼ mile too far left when it should be right is often soon ½ mile wrong....

The "awkward" bits,

On most moor routes 98% of the route is easy and 2% awkward. However the 2% awkward parts can take up a lot of timeyou may be lucky and not have any problem or you may spend 20% of a ride or say an hour or more trying to find the right way. Also allow for detours because one of your party (young horse or novice rider or just plain****) just will not go down a small 18 inch drop into a trickle of a brook or across a simple stream. We have highlighted these awkward parts wherever possible. Do let us know of any parts of the routes you find difficult to follow or if you find a better way.

DARTMOOR TOUR - Circular Route C clockwise

Circular Route C CLOCKWISE

4- 6 Days, about 50- 60 mile Experienced riders only

Ivybridge – Lee Moor - Burrator Reservoir - Merrivale – Lydford – Meldon – Okehampton - Belstone – Throwleigh Moor - Fernworthy Forest - - Postbridge – Bellever Forest - Hexworthy – Holne Moor - Avon Dam - Ivybridge

This has been designed to answer the question "How do we ride right around the moor?" It would take 3 -6 days depending on your paces and interests. Add a few of the cross moor rides & the SE quarter and you will really begin to know the moor well. It has been designed to be:

- * Be exciting & with a great sense of achievement
- * Cover the whole edge of the real proper "high" moor,
- * Reasonably easy to follow (see awkward bits)
- * Tries to avoid poor ground
- * Misses the army ranges on firing days
- * Close to edge in most places so you can get off in bad weather
- * Have places to stay nearby

To make a shorter tour

It can easily be combined with routes across the moor to Princetown/ Postbridge etc to make a shorter circular route of just the North or South Moors.

To make a longer "Grand Tor" of Dartmoor

Add an extra day going east from Postbridge on **route (to add)** and take in Widecombe and the South East Quarter. It is easier riding, there are plenty of pubs and you will never be lost or far from a road for long.

Add a further extra day(s) with routes including **E Erme Valley, Route W Whiteworks, Route P Princetown** and you could easily have a week or ten days tour. Allow a rest or easy day every now and again. Also bear in mind some days the mist may make riding impossible so build in alternative things to do wherever possible.

The awkward bits:

SW Moor Hexworthy to Ivybridge is the hardest to follow:

1. Finding and crossing the Bala Brook SX 669 631
2. Holne Moor to Pupers Hill SX 673 674, easy to drift too far East on both sides of and / or miss Hapstead Ford

Photos are labelled cc-(circular tour clockwise)

PART 1 IVYBRIDGE – BURRATOR

About () miles (? 6 hrs Riding)

DARTMOOR TOUR - Circular Route C clockwise

START

The description will start for convenience on the in the S.W. corner first Map **A 4 -5** though you can join it anywhere. Though the S.W. corner has some of the best riding on the moor it also has a particular dirth of good parking places. Please let us know if you hear of any

Description **Circular Route C** this is described both ways

GOING CLOCKWISE, (initially west from SX 653 610):

Map A 4-5

Starting at Piles Hill SX653 610on the puffing Billy Track and lets assume you have ridden up to join it along the track from where route E (Erme Valley) starts at SX659 572)



CC-leaving puffing billy track at the small standing stone

Leave the security of the track by a small standing stone and head west on level and then downhill



CC- heading West towards River Erme

DARTMOOR TOUR - Circular Route C clockwise



CC- Looking down towards the Erme

looking for gateway (no gate) G in Higher Piles newtake stone walls.



CC-Piles gate looking west



CC - down to erme

Through the gate, there are two ways down to the [River Erme](#) crossing, either north west and follow steep and rough green narrow way almost direct or west and down less steep ground to higher ground along river finding drop down to lower level and north along to river crossing.

DARTMOOR TOUR - Circular Route C clockwise



CC nearing piles copse

The woodland in this area is sheltered and quite delightful. Note it is not possible to get out north out of Piles copse by the river.



CA & CC Piles Copse

Thanks: To Lukesland Estate for allowing us to show this river crossing across their newtake at Higher Piles – please do not tie up to or damage any of the ancient trees. PS Lukesland, just off moor is well worth visiting another time for their lovely gardens and home made teas and cakes. www.lukesland.co.uk



CC - crossing the Erme

DARTMOOR TOUR - Circular Route C clockwise

The river crossing is usually OK but impassable in flood, It has a large quite slippery flat rock to ride over and some horses just don't like it. If you can't do it you would have to take alternative route back up to the Newtake gate and the SW for 1 ½ miles to Harford Moor Gate SX 645 595 and go several miles along to pretty lanes via Harford, & Torr to East Rook Gate 606 616 would add at least 1 ½ hours.

Turning S.W. go up S.W. about 200m and join a good stoned water board track going left S. to:

Turning S.W. join a good stoned water board track to:

Map B4 Following track to its end and staying on moor keeping the moor wall close in view,



CC - looking north by water works

crossing the odd stream go about a mile north



CC - looking N below Stalldown Barrow

DARTMOOR TOUR - Circular Route C clockwise



CC - looking upper river yealm before the Ranny brook
& cross the [Ranny brook](#) & turn left (west) crossing the [yealm](#) (only a stream here).& see above
the crossing the pretty Yealm Steps waterfall, continue west to

***Add PHOTO Yealm steps waterfall**

Map B3 Continue westerly crossing [Broadall lake \(stream\)](#)



CC - above high house waste

and head up for Penn Beacon



Useful tie up to trig point on Penn Beacon

DARTMOOR TOUR - Circular Route C clockwise

crossing Ford Brook on the way. Great views from here and a Trig point to tie up to. leaving the beacon go north west gradually losing height heading for Great Trowlesworthy Tor,



CC - beyond Penn Beacon, clay pits on left
ground gets poorer and is rather featureless and you want to be careful not get lost in



Typical Dartmoor mist



CC - looking down on Trowlesworthy Tors

DARTMOOR TOUR - Circular Route C clockwise



CC - Trowlesworthy Tors

& after crossing [a brook](#) just east of, and before the Tor turn north and follow old boundary wall for about ½ mile turning north east after while and then crossing [Hentor Brook](#),



CC -towards Ditsworthy Warren House

turn to go N.N.E and head for and take to find(not easy in poor visibility) [the ford across River Plym](#), just west of Ditsworthy Warren House (used by the army).



CC &CA Trowlesworthy Warren house

DARTMOOR TOUR - Circular Route C clockwise

Here you go north crossing a good bridleway track and joining one called Edwards path north about ½ mile to an obvious copse with a large scout hut in. You can, somewhat awkwardly tie up horses to the fence here

At this point you cross the very well used "leisure motorway type track(cycles and walkers) to Princetown", don't knock it, it gives a lot of pleasure to many and I mean many people but you too may find it very useful if the weather closes in. (the DNPA have spent a fortune making this track surface safe and hardwearing). There is also a useful car park nearby if someone wants to meet you by car. But it is not recommended for trailers etc as it is very small.

Continue north to

Map C3



CC - Sheepstor from 1m away

Heading for Sheepstor, crossing little stream, take care heading north west avoiding boggy areas to cross next stream and heading up crossing stream on moor wall corner and either head north west for gateway into Burrator Forest or go west for a look at the popular Sheepstor which is a huge rock with fabulous views but take care to avoid many walkers and climbers.



CC & CA Sheepstor from East

Dropping down to the forest gate,

DARTMOOR TOUR - Circular Route C clockwise



Tie up place just inside forest gate

just through it is a good sheltered place to stop and picnic, particularly if the gate (was in poor repair) can be closed. Then head along track N.W. to:

Map C2 continue along lovely forest track down to lane, turning right and follow for about 1/3 mile around end the reservoir which is just visible occasionally, if you are lucky there is an ice cream van



Ice cream van at head of burrator Reservoir – summer only
and take right fork N.W. when lane splits, continue still in forest about ¼ mile until small piece of moor opens up on right (north)

DARTMOOR TOUR - Circular Route C clockwise



CC crossing leat below Peek hill

and leave lane up over leat and go up steep ground onto the moor heading north



CC looking N near Peek Hill 2
and keeping Sharpitor to the right (east).



CC & CA Sharpitor looking east

After 1½ mile take care when crossing the busy B3212 noting there is good but exposed parking along this road and keep

DARTMOOR TOUR - Circular Route C clockwise



CC looking north from beyond Sharpitor

north beyond on reasonable ground heading for the old railway track which you join and continue on for several miles. On the map it is unclear whether horse riders can stay on track at Rourundle corner or whether you have to make a short detour. On the ground it appears riders just carry on (advice needed).

***Add PHOTO –old railway track near Kings Tor**

This section would be ideal for any mountain bikers or walkers to join you as it is very easy and has great views.

Continue on this very pleasant very slightly uphill track for over a mile to& either stay on the track or take short cut east of Sweltor on approx line of bridlepath to:

Map D2

Continuing track around Kings Tor and doubling back until Foggintor Quarries appear on the left. Take the spur track off to them, which are most interesting and a place for a picnic.



Foggintor Quarry ,ruined buildings -Jonathan Mathys

Now continue approx North along the track and past Yellowmead farm reaching the busy B3357 after ¼ mile. There is good but exposed parking along this road. Cross over and head N.W. over

about 400m to join the track north about a mile up to and to the right (east) of Great Mis Tor passing little Mis Tor on the way. Note that you can go west of the Tor but only close to the wall and it is very rocky and very, awkward.

DARTMOOR TOUR - Circular Route C clockwise

***Add PHOTO-Great Mis Tor**

Now you are next to the army range for the first time. So see the chapter on this for advice. The Army have very obligingly always left river crossings and paths available just outside their area and so you will not have a problem anywhere getting around when they are firing.

Beyond Great Mis Tor just inside army red and white posts head down N.W. through slightly rocky and steep ground down to the [River Walkham](#) crossing at SX 556 776, it is just outside the posts.

***Add PHOTO –Walkham River Crossing**

Then continue N.W uphill and to the end of the walls that stick out like a peninsular and at the end of it cross the [Colly Brook](#) in 2 fords. continue N.W. approx and head up for the right hand side of White Tor.

***Add PHOTO –Great White Tor**

Great views from White Tor, then go North down awkward and rocky ground, to:

Map E2 find your own way missing several small bogs heading to gate set back into a corner of moor wall. Inside gate is a useful & pleasant place to stop and picnic. Then it is down bridle path a little way usually watched and noticed by the horses in adjacent fields to the lane at Wapsworthy.

OK, so now you are asking as I did, why aren't we going up north along the moor wall to Standon Hill? the answer is beyond Lynch Tor is poor/bad/ rocky ground and not recommended. We are researching that area but that is best advice so far. Also this route avoids the army ranges.

Back east along lane, turn next right (north) and down hill to Hill Bridge and soon after take bridle path left N.E.

(**Route R** (Rattle brook) continues along lane here and is an interesting deep moor ride but it is not easy, has some soft ground, needs good visibility, and it is within the firing range and so if in any doubt stay on route C)

about ¼ mile to Creason. gate opens onto small area of moor which you cross N.W. and lane in middle and to join bridle path at gate between two fields and then join open moor again going on green tracks north through Wheal Jewel past large narrow reservoir on east.

***Add PHOTO –Wheal Jane Reservoir**

(An alternative **route L** goes off left (East) onto **Map E1** here (which has good parking) and follows straight-forward tracks and the reasonable (except for a few bad bends) road through Lydford. Needs great care crossing very fast A 386 though visibility is good at the crossing point.)

Route **C** continues northwards mostly on obvious green tracks and keeps just outside the army red & white posts. Head for a sticking out piece of moor wall and keep close to it & inside army posts and then follow track and keep close to wall going now East and then NE until you get to Doetor Common crossing the [Walla brook](#) at the higher crossing SX 537 845 and head NE to Doe Tor

***Add PHOTO –Walla Brook crossing with Doe Tor in background**

Continue up around and past Doe Tor crossing the Doetor Brook and going NE below Bray Tor crossing river Lyd at the ford marked on map ,head North ¼ mile to Noddern gate and join a good stony track that you can stay on going slightly east of north for a good long time, about 3 miles.

DARTMOOR TOUR - Circular Route C clockwise

(Route is now easy to follow for many miles - car park behind the Dartmoor Inn (trailers only - far too narrow for Lorries) a good spot to join route for day trips north)

This is easy to follow and soon passes Great Nodder on the right (west) which is huge rounded hill with very, very dramatic steep

***Add PHOTO great Nodder**

sides down to the river Lyd. After a further ½ mile keeps left where track splits (the right hand way is where **route R** via Rattle brook joins **route C** again). Continue on track north,

(If you are going off to stay at Bridestowe (little Bidlake farm) then turn off left soon down to Lake viaduct and off the moor.)

***Add PHOTO – Sourton Tors**

Continue north for a mile keeping Souton Tors to your left (east) and eventually leave the moor at a gate in the corner of the moor wall just south of the water works and follow the bridle path through fields N.W., note you can't see the Meldon reservoir to your east as yet and on to:

Map G2 continue along bridle path, not taking footpath left at fork by mistake and at end of South Down see Meldon reservoir to east and take care on concrete just before gate to lane at end of bridle path. Here are useful toilets, parking & may be an ice cream van. Dam is impressive and clatter across road over Dam and along a little way before turning sharp right back up steep track east to

***Add PHOTO – Meldon reservoir**

Map G3 leave track and head downhill east to **cross brook** and up hill other side with Yes tor towering above you to the south and hug wall keeping outside the army range red and white posts for about a mile, seeing army camp ahead left and high Tors to your right. Look out for herd of miniature Shetland ponies often seen here.



Miniature Shetland ponies below West Mill Tor

DARTMOOR TOUR - Circular Route C clockwise



Okehampton Army Camp with Yes Tor in Background

The Tors here are quite fantastic and can be ridden up but are stony and slow so allow plenty of time if you want to detour. Head west and after cross army track.(If you are leaving the route here Turn left here and go along wall to join Army Road & easy parking areas)

End of part 2 Burrator to Okehampton Camp

PART 3 OKEHAMPTON CAMP TO POSTBRIDGE

If you have joined here leave army road from the camp and on joining moor after about 100m turn left E. up worn track

If continuing on the route cross the [Moor brook](#) and head on worn path towards next army tarmac road and cross just south of the jutting out moor wall take the track west up hill which curves around south and then goes down and fords the [East Okement River](#), take track up left N.E.towards Moor wall which you join and follow along until gate leads onto steep lane down into Village of Belstone Village which has the Tors Inn and you can sit out on the green a few yards away. Good sheltered and accessible parking nearby just north of village.

***Add PHOTO Belstone Pub**

Leaving village S.W. down track over river Taw and up steep ground keeping SW to avoid rocks to the south and up about a mile to Cosdon Hill.

In bad visibility you can go east instead along bridle path a while and then hug the moor wall on visible green paths along to near the stone row at SX 644 917.

***Add PHOTO –Cosdon Beacon**

At Cosdon Beacon enjoy the views and head east steeply down to the stone row where you turn right SW and follow green paths the [Cheriton Combe crossing](#) it and the [Blackaton Brook](#). Continue S.W.across Throwleigh Common.

Good access point to moor is off here east keeping south of Blackaton Brook and down off moor at Paines Bridge where there is good accessible parking

Route continues [crossing the next brook](#) and S. to:

Map F4 keeping well east of the brook and boggy ground and keeping moor wall close by continue south for about a mile past Buttern Hill, slight down hill over Gidleigh common and past interesting Scorhill stone circle

***Add PHOTOS –Scorhill stone circle & Teign River crossings**

DARTMOOR TOUR - Circular Route C clockwise

. Here and the crossing of the wallbrook and adjacent river Teign ford are good picnic stops. Leaving the fords go SE across Batworthy common keeping moor wall to your left and touching onto Chagford Common and

(Map F 5) swing right 90 degrees and go SW towards the corner of Fernworthy Forest.

Through gate in Newtake wall keep Forest to your left and go SW to



Fernworthy Forest looking SW to Teignhead farm

Map E 4 continue close to wall and through next gate seeing Teignhead ruined Farm to the east. This is worth a detour and was lived in until the 2nd world war. The farm track also goes left west into forest and this is a good place for a stop as you can tie up to trees within the security of the moor gate (or is it worse to lose them in the Forest?).



Teignhead Clapper Bridge

The next part is conveniently almost due south and follows a bridle path for about 3 miles to Postbridge Through the next gate follow green path to next gate with Sittaford Tor high up on the left ,east past this on the left are the Greywethers stone circles which are fantastic, particularly in low light.

***Add PHOTO – Greywethers stone circles**

Now the path is less or not visible at all but go south across old (dry?) leats and stream , taking care as some bogs are around now head south on shoulder of white ridge up keeping stream on your right, as you join the impressive East dart river Valley.

An interesting detour east below Stannon Tor is the restored old sheepfold a large stone sheep enclosure which you can put the horses in and have lunch.

Add PHOTO- Sheepfold

Continuing on the route south through 2 more gates in walls with the Dart down to your right and ion past Hartland Tor where the ground gets a little rocky to the Gate west of Hartyland. This small section of Bridleway is a little awkward with boulders though much improved from what it used to be, through another gate along riverbank and field wall then turn left away from river along field wall to far corner then easily follow wall down to last gate at Postbridge onto B3212 to:

DARTMOOR TOUR - Circular Route C clockwise

Map D4 Here at Postbridge Village **you** are in the centre of the moor and there is The East dart Hotel which has a paddock and hopefully again will open its stables (shut 2004). The excellent village shop does hot pasties and take away tea and is much recommended. Good but too busy in season car park, tourist information kiosk and ice creams in summer. Other useful car park is just south west along road and turns right to entrance to Bellever Forest where there is plenty of shade too in summer.



Postbridge Clapper Bridge



East dart Hotel, Postbridge

Leave Postbridge south via Bridle path just along from clapper bridge and easy riding following lane across moorland to join lane into Bellever, through this old forestry commission Hamlet on the lane and just beyond turn right south on Bridle path into the Forest track. A short detour east takes you to the river where you can cool off the horses and ride in the river.

Add PHOTO- River Dart at Belliver

Continuing along the forest track south are soon good parking and toilets and further along is a picnic table area and trees to tie up the horses.(a proper tie rail would be really useful here).Continue south along the track about a mile through various gates and Laughter Hole farm until the gate to open moor. Here take the left hand track south east to:

Map D4 follow track which now goes south for a mile to corner of Snider park Forest and then follows Forest wall down to gate which opens onto the busy B 3357 regrettably you have to follow this for about 400m but it is a straight reasonably visibility stretch and turn right onto much quieter lane to Hexworthy and:

Map C5 follow this pretty lane along and SW past lovely old Church (worth a visit) and onto Huccaby where people swim in the river, very narrow bridge over east Dart River and up steep but pretty hill into Hexworthy and

DARTMOOR TOUR - Circular Route C clockwise



Excellent forest Inn

Map C4 where there is the excellent Forest Inn which in 1995 gave a wonderful reception to horse riders. A good tie rail on grass in a sheltered spot, a paddock (untested) and 4 huge stables are things we all dream of.



CC & CA Forest Inn stables

Book the stables in advance 01364 631211 even just for lunch as they are very popular and give them a good tip (£5 per stable suggested) as thanks. If only there were more Hotels like this on Dartmoor. You can stay there with excellent food and value.

From here also leave west is **route** to Whiteworks **W**, direct & easy to follow

PART 4 HEXWORTHY- Nr IVYBRIDGE – About () miles (? 5 hrs Riding)

Useful TIP: COMPASS BEARING first half due S until Avon Dam and then Second Half. S.W to IVYBRIDGE

Grading: 1st third to: Avon Dam: Difficult, **Very,very** easy To get lost by going to far right W. into Bogs must have compass, pref GPS and clear visibility

2nd third to Ball Gate: Medium but Bala Brook crossing difficult for some horses, 2 foot awkward ward drops down)

3rd Third to Nr Ivybridge Easy

(The part from here to the bottom SW corner goes through 2 awkward bits (see below) and is not to be undertaken in poor visibility. If in doubt take the road down to Holne and follow the lanes. It's pleasant and interesting and there are a couple of pubs. You could rejoin the route if the weather clears. Leave plenty of time, on a longer trip you should be leaving here with at least 5 good hours of daylight. It is the easiest part of the route to get lost in.)

DARTMOOR TOUR - Circular Route C clockwise

Leaving Hexworthy SW on lane up steep hill and west to:

Map C5 continue SW along lane for about a mile crossing the O Brook after the cattle grid and you can ride on moor on right hand side of lane up to Combestone Tor where there is good parking.

***Add PHOTO-** Combestone Tor

Turn right here and onto the moor for the last section of the route which usefully nearly all goes DUE SOUTH which is handy in the mist.

***Add PHOTO-going up Holne ridge**

WARNING: This next part is for experienced riders or at least the guide must be as it is easy to get lost in several places and is not recommended in other than good visibility. If you drift too far into the moor west it can be very depressing if you get lost and the weather closes in.

Take the green path south and past Horns cross, checking your map reference and keep due south as several paths go further west. Keeping Venford reservoir in sight on your left (east) take the lower small green track and head up to the old tin workings and aim to get to the sandy way track at SX 671 697 where there are some small standing stones.

Holne Moor to Pupers Hill SX 673 674 is an "awkward bit", easy to drift too far Easton both sides of and / or miss Hapstead Ford

It is very easy to take other tracks and end up further up the sandy way track, if so go back along east to above reference and then head south over poor but ride able ground heading for Hapstead Ford SX 671 693 on the river Mardle, this has a stone with letter H on it, take your time as its is easy to miss.

***Add PHOTO-** Hapstead Ford

If you've gone too far east and found the next ford, fine, well cross over and go SW and try and join & continue the route but if you go too far west come back and find the ford as the ground higher and west gets very wet and very easy to get lost.

Across Hapstead ford go up other side and follow tiny path east immediately next to and above river for a while until you then go south across rather soft but generally ride able ground to cross Snowdon brook. The last bit is unavoidable, get off and walk over really wet bits if you like. There is no particular path but just stay on the same contour line and get to Snowdon brook

From here it is a clear path, rough in places but quite OK it crosses another small brook and to your left and down to chalk ford is one of the biggest bogs on the moor, very pretty, lots of flowers but impassable and horrid really. (the only way to chalk ford is on marked path close to moor wall)

Add PHOTO-side of Pupers Hill

Beyond the last stream crossing the ground is better if a little rocky, skirt around the east side, or go to the top if you like to Pupers Hill and continue south to:

Map B5 the ground is nice now and refreshing after the worrying bit above, on for ½ mile south crossing the Two moors way track and on green paths crossing Western Vella Brook with a long but shallow ford, soon after this start to head right, south east a bit and lose height over towards the Avon Dam,

DARTMOOR TOUR - Circular Route C clockwise

(One of the few place you can park to join the route in this area is 1½ miles S. of here at Heathstone Head 701 632, with easy access off the A 38 at Marley Head)



CC - looking down at Avon Dam

If you don't you'll have fun and a great gallop up over Grippers Hill but you will have gone too far east, If you do just turn right, west and find you're way down to the River Avon and the road along it.

Back to the route crossing the abbot's way you should find a good green path shown as bridleway which goes due south and meets the road up to the Avon Dam. Turn right up the road north for a while. There is a good picnic table for a rest, (horse tie rail needed here). Crossing the river bridge you soon take a left turn along a green track leading south west up the steep hillside.

Back to the route crossing the abbot's way you should find a good green path shown as bridleway which goes due south and meets the road up to the Avon Dam.. There is a good picnic table for a rest, (horse tie rail needed here!). Turn right up the road north for about 500m

***Add PHOTO- picnic table + horses**

Crossing the river bridge after 200m

And after the wet ground take a left turn S.W.along a just discernable green track leading up the steep hillside.

(Detour : If you want to see the reservoir then continue up road and go up the track on the right W. side, and you get a good view

DARTMOOR TOUR - Circular Route C clockwise



Detour: Photo: Looking back at Avon Dam from west side

Either then retrace back to Route C or go E. ¼ mile up hill and then turn left S. and head gradually uphill towards Zeal Plains going then around head of Zeal Gulley Stream and head due S> 1m across Brent Moor to rejoin route C.)

Follow this around shoulder until you cross Zeal Gulley stream.

Add PHOTO- crossing Zeal Gulley

follow green path along contour and past old boundary walls on your left



South Devon Pony Club on Brent Moor

and gradually go up Brent Moor after about ½ mile until you find the crossing point of the unnamed stream between the boggy areas.

***Add PHOTO- crossing un-named stream**

As shown in the photo the only crossing is in the area filled with about a foot of water in winter but it has a hard bottom. If you miss this crossing go west about ¼ mile and cross above the source of the stream.

Continue S.W. up on reasonable ground over Brent Moor and keeping S.W go down then other side until you cross the grass track which is the Zeal Tor Tramway **route Z**.

Add PHOTO- Zeal Tor Tramway

DARTMOOR TOUR - Circular Route C clockwise



Looking west to find Bala Brook crossing

Now comes a real test, the Bala Brook crossing which in a way is a small thing but finding and crossing is major problem for some people. Keeping S.W. look across the valley for the steeply running Red brook on the other side and see where it joins the Bala Brook which is also the end of the fenced land above the Filtration water works. This is where you are heading to the Bala Brook crossing.

You can find your way down through the gorse, no specific tracks, or if in doubt go down route Z track to the corner of the moor wall and you will find a very rough difficult but more discernable track roughly going east down to the Balabrook crossing at 670 628. when you get near to the river There are two ways to drop down into the actual crossing about 100m apart

(DETOUR If you can't do the bala brook crossing and some can't, the **detour is 5 miles & an extra hour at least**, go back up the hill to Route Z and follow old tramway green track down S.W. to Water Board lane & S. down lane to Shipley Bridge, then on lanes via Aish, Aish Ridge and bridlepath to Corringdon Ball gate, 5 miles & an extra hour at least, I know, I have done it when a pony club pony just **would not** do it. Also note Bridlepath shown joining moor below Shipley Bridge which looks like a short cut is unrideable)

DARTMOOR TOUR - Circular Route C clockwise



Dropping down into Red brook crossing

The actual crossing



Bala Brook crossing

is not that difficult except when in flood but the way down to it is very awkward and getting overgrown and has a couple of steep drops of about 18 inches which a lot of horses don't like (This crossing needs attention and is on DNPA Priority list)

The other side of the crossing there are `two ways out, in summer you can take either but stick to the hoof prints in front and don't deviate as there are bogs either side, particularly on the right (north side).In winter only take the left (south)way.

DARTMOOR TOUR - Circular Route C clockwise

Continue straight up the hill S.W trying to find an indistinct track for about 200m until you join a narrow track (traversing the hillside) go left S. for about 100m and cross the Red Brook keeping exactly on a narrow crossing

Add PHOTO- narrow track towards Red Brook crossing



CC -Crossing the redbrook

After Red Brook go around rocks and you are on your way again

Go W. now for about 100m around the bottom of some rocks. Phew, you are past the Bala Brook the hardest part in this part of the route. It is so easy to go wrong. Now turn S. and uphill to Hickley Ridge where you cross a leat, if you can't jump it follow it along east a bit and there is a grassy way over it. Continue SW. now finding your way through the gorse which is taking over here and round the side of Brent Fore Hill

DARTMOOR TOUR - Circular Route C clockwise



below E. you will see the moor wall and Ball Gate which has large round Balls on.



Ball gate

(Ball gate leads to a good but long 1m+ bridlepath off the moor is where you would rejoin belatedly the route if you or someone with you could not cross the Bala Brook.)

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Close to wall, East Glazebrook ahead

Keeping SW and close to wall now you easily cross a leat and then cross in a cutting the East Glazebrook and join **Map A4-5**. with stone rows on your left looking up in the distance up to the top of the distant ridge almost due W. approx a mile way a mound near Piles Hill to which you will soon be heading towards. Continue easily near the wall S.W. for about 300m to cross the West Glazebrook at Glasscombe corner 663 610



Glasscombe corner

Cross the brook and continue about 100m over wet ground and then look slightly right S. up the top of the ridge at Piles Hill to see the mound art SX () and head up towards it.

***Add PHOTO- looking up towards Piles Hill & mound**

Avoid the boggy ground here on the right N., go up the side of the ridge rising about 200 ft and continue over the brow until you join the Puffing Billy Track at the raised mound..

Well done you have completed the Dartmoor Tour!

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. In fact it is unlikely you would have started from this point but it does not matter where you start from as long as you complete it, or something close to it and that you and your horses enjoy it

If you now wish to join **Route E** (Erme Valley) south, then go SW up shoulder of hill until you join the Puffing Billy Track

Alternatively you go SW up the hill and join the track a little further south and Join **Route E Erme valley** either deep north into the moor or an easy ride down south to its beginning near Ivybridge. You can also stay B& B with the author of this guide at the Pottery Moorhaven Village 01752 892411.

In any case WELL DONE you have completed one of the most exciting rides in Britain, E mail us [on contact@ride Dartmoor. Co.uk](mailto:contact@rideDartmoor.Co.uk) and we will send you a certificate! Do send us any comments and good photos and we will incorporate them

DARTMOOR TOUR - Circular Route C clockwise