

172 YHA Okehampton Tarka Trail

Woodland and river walk

Distance: 2.3 miles (3.8km) **Ascent:** 83m (272ft)

Time: Allow 1h to 1h 45m

Map: OS Explorer 1:25k (OL28) Dartmoor

Start/Finish: OS Locate SX 592 944 **what3words** ///shape.foreheads.luxury



From the hostel turn right, go downhill and under the railway bridge. Turn right onto the footpath (second turning, not the first right labelled public bridlepath). Follow the gravel path and head down the steep and uneven steps into the park. Or, for a more gradual route down, turn left and follow the longer path to the park, then turn right along the river to re-join the route. Cross the river and follow the path to the play park. Turn left to pass between the park and single storey building and continue through the gap. Follow the path, bear left at the café and between the hard courts and car park. Cross the car park entrance and turn right through a gate onto Ball Hill footpath. At end of Ball Hill Wood turn right. Go through the gate under the railway bridge, over Charlotte's Bridge and turn right. Follow Tramlines Bridleway to Station Road and turn left, under the railway bridge and back to the hostel.

Hazards

Caution required on the short road sections, no pavements in places. The path down to Simmons Park is steep, a more gradual alternative is available which has a steep drop to the right. Take care near the river. Do not walk this route if the river is flooded.

Accessibility

There are no stiles on the route. Paths are and gates are wider than one metre. There are steps and steep sections of path with drops to one side. Tramways Bridleway (first right after the railway bridge) to the river is accessible.

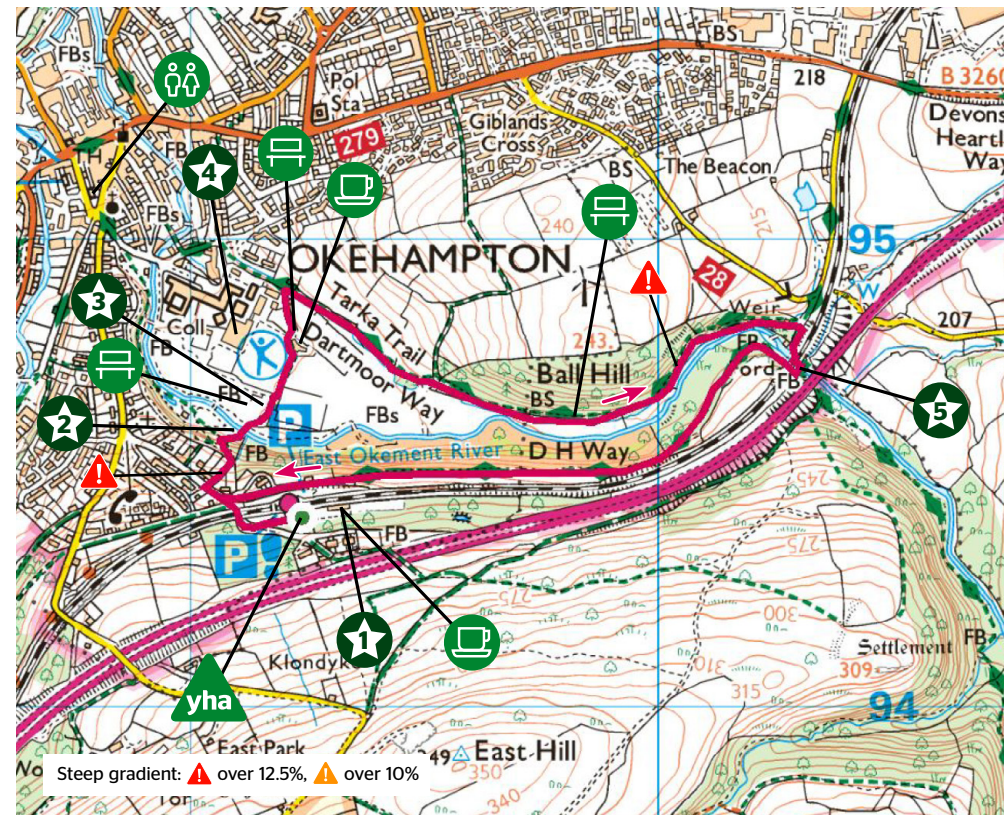
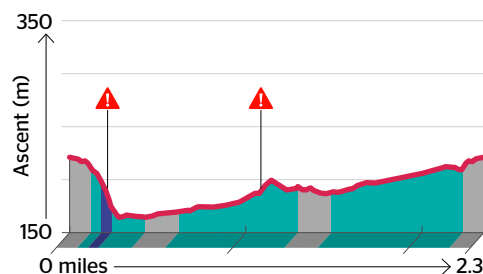
Navigation

The route follows roads and signed footpaths.

Terrain

Mostly either tarmac or crushed stone path. In Ball Hill Wood the path is generally good, but uneven in places, with patches of mud and occasional tree roots.

- Paved
- Unpaved (flat)
- Unpaved (uneven)




★ Points of interest (see map)


A pleasant walk through parks and woodland. **1** Dartmoor Railway Association Museum **2** Simmons Park **3** play area **4** leisure centre **5** arched railway bridge.


🚻📺🚰 Facilities (see map)

No public toilets on route. Café with toilets on the route, near the leisure centre.

🪑 Seats on route (see map)

 **Not fully wheelchair accessible, some steps and steep paths**

 **Not a touch free route**

 **Not fully pushchair accessible, some steps and steep paths**

 **Stile free**

This route has been created by YHA to provide inspiration and to aid planning and preparation of your walk. It doesn't replace the need for an OS Map or the OS Maps App to navigate your walk safely. Digital maps are a guide and do not always reflect the conditions on the ground, ensure you are aware of your immediate surroundings.



Thank you for choosing to walk from our hostel.
We hope you have a great time.

Walking in the national landscapes of England and Wales is part of YHA's heritage. With hostels on National Trails, in National Parks and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty, YHA plays a unique role in the nation's walking community.

To make it easy for everyone to enjoy walking from YHA hostels, we have curated three walks – an easy, moderate, and more challenging option. They have all been graded – the higher the grade, the more challenging the route.

Before you go:

- Check the local weather forecast (metoffice.gov.uk).
- Check the tide times for coastal routes (tidetimes.org.uk).
- Get the right clothing, footwear and kit for the route and weather.
- Ensure you have enough time to complete the route before dark.
- Download the OS Locate and what3words apps to your phone.
- Contact 999 by SMS text (must pre register by texting 'register' to 999) (relayuk.bt.com/emercysms).
- For further information on how to stay safe visit adventuresmart.uk

In case of emergency call 999 (or text 999 if pre-registered) and use OS Locate or what3words to provide a detailed description of your location.

For more walks or information on route grading and timings go to yha.org.uk/walks

If you encounter problems with this route contact walking@yha.org.uk



Scan or click to shop
for OS maps online
osmaps.com/yha

Share your walks



Countryside Code

Respect everyone

- Be considerate to those living in, working in and enjoying the countryside.
- Leave gates and property as you find them.
- Do not block access to gateways or driveways when parking.
- Be nice, say hello, share the space.
- Follow local signs and keep to marked paths unless wider access is available.

Hazards

- Take extra care and stay alert where a right of way crosses a railway line.
- When walking on a road without a pavement keep to the right-hand side, so that you can see oncoming traffic. Keep close to the side of the road, and walk in single file if necessary. It may be safer to cross the road well before a sharp right-hand bend so that oncoming traffic has a better chance of seeing you. Cross back after the bend.
- Give wild animals, livestock and horses plenty of space.

Protect the environment

- Take your litter home – leave no trace of your visit.
- Do not light fires and only have BBQs where signs say you can.
- Always keep dogs under control and in sight.
- Dog poo – bag it and bin it – any public waste bin will do.
- Care for nature – do not cause damage or disturbance.

Enjoy the outdoors

- Check your route and local conditions.
- Plan your adventure – know what to expect and what you can do.
- Enjoy your visit, have fun, make a memory.

What to wear

- Comfortable clothing suitable for the conditions.
- Use several layers, so you can add and remove clothing to regulate your temperature.
- Extra warm clothes in case it gets colder.
- Hat, gloves and scarf.
- Sun hat, sun cream and sunglasses.
- Waterproof jacket and trousers.
- Cushioning comfy socks.
- Comfortable well fitting trainers, walking shoes or boots.

Kit

- Map and compass.
- Water, lunch and snacks.
- Charged mobile phone and portable charger.
- First aid kit.
- Torch and spare batteries.
- Rucksack, with waterproof cover or a dry bag or plastic bag inside.
- Medicines or toiletries you would usually use.

You might also want to take

- Picnic blanket.
- Waterproof baseball cap, if you wear glasses.
- Walking poles.
- Tissues and hand sanitiser.