

246 YHA Dartmoor Believer Tor

Forest, moorland and hill walk

Distance: 3.7 miles (6km) **Ascent:** 172m (564ft)

Time: Allow 1h 45m to 2h 45m

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

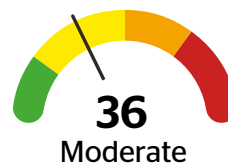
Start/Finish: OS Locate SX 654 773 **what3words** ///silently.rags.trek

An absolute gem with stunning views. From the hostel turn left onto the quiet road and go straight over at the junction. Turn right to Believer Forest visitor car park and follow the wide track through gates. Pass the toilets, continue through the forest then across meadows and up a steep slope to emerge onto moorland. Navigate carefully to a faint path crossroads and turn right, cross a wall and head to a standing stone. Make a detour north and slightly east, using a sheep pen as a marker, if you wish to summit Laughter Tor. Otherwise continue ahead to a field boundary junction. Cross the wall and bear right to ascend Believer Tor on a rough path. If you want to touch the trig point then you'll need to scramble up the impressive rock formation. Leave the summit on the opposite side and descend quickly to pick up a good path. Enter the forest and shortly after, at a five way junction, turn right onto a good path. At the crossroads go straight ahead, follow the path around to the right and turn left to the road and hostel.

Hazards

This route is exposed in places so proper preparation and equipment is necessary. The higher parts of the route regularly have low visibility, make sure you know where you are at all times and have a map and compass for navigation. In winter

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.



conditions the route will become slippery and dangerous, especially when covered in snow and ice – winter clothing and footwear will be required. Take care if scrambling to the trig point on Believer Tor, especially if wet or icy. Caution on the road section with no pavements.

Accessibility

There are stiles on the route, paths and gates are all at least one metre wide. The surface includes paved road, good track, grassy moorland path and uneven, rocky paths. The entire route is not wheelchair or pushchair accessible, but the path through the forest is reasonably flat and would be suitable for some wheelchairs and pushchairs.

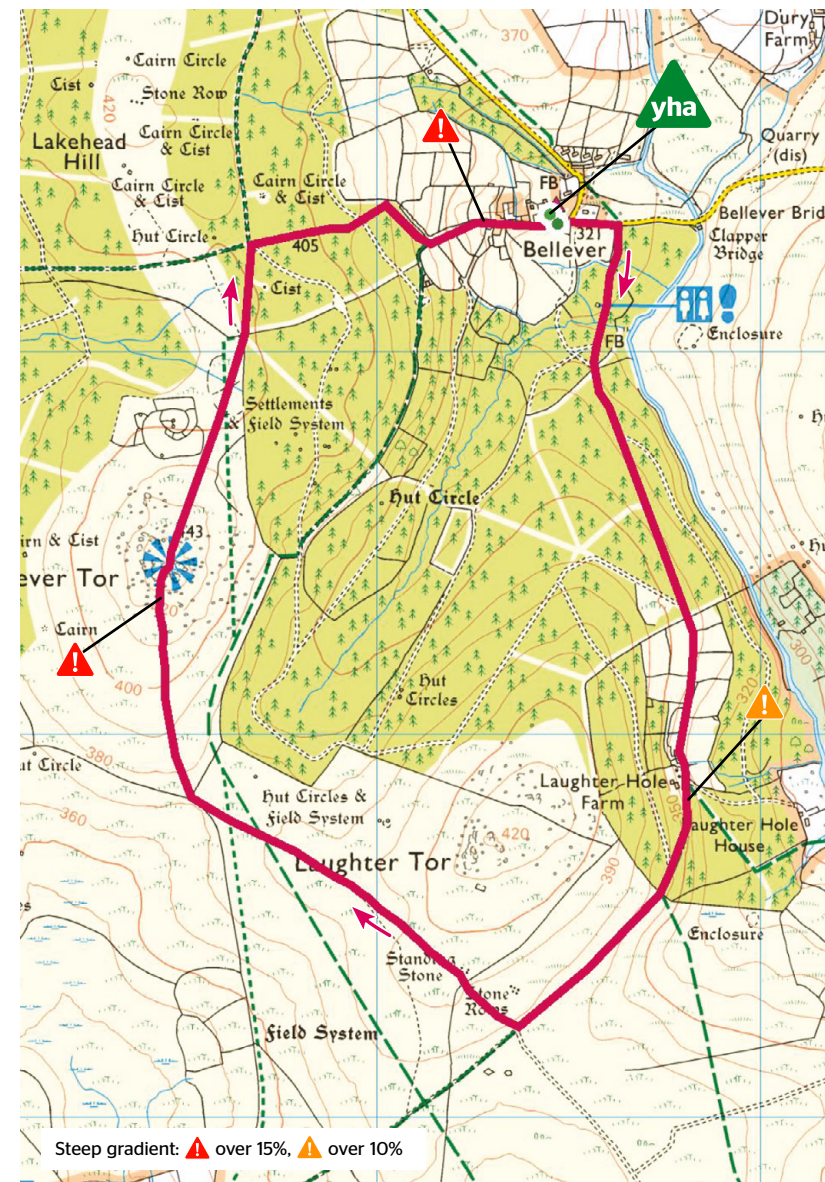
Points of interest

The forest is a pleasure to walk through, the moors are open and wild and the 360 degree views from Believer Tor are stunning. Standing stone below Laughter Tor and many other ancient standing stones and stone circles in the area.

Facilities

No facilities, apart from toilets early on near the forest car park.

Scan or click to view this route on the OS Maps App – also a route profile and GPX





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/emergencysms).
- Plan your walk by completing the YHA route notification card it helps Emergency Services if you get into difficulties or fail to return from your walk when anticipated (yha.org.uk/route-card).
- Ensure your entire group have the fitness and skills to complete the route.
- For further information on how to stay safe visit adventuresmart.uk

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



What to wear

- Base layer and mid layer.
- Walking trousers.
- Warm jacket(s).
- Take extra layer(s).
- Hat, gloves and neck gaiter.
- Sun hat, sun cream and sunglasses.
- Waterproof jacket and trousers.
- Cushioning walking socks.
- Walking shoes or boots.

Kit

- Map, compass and GPS device or OS Map app on your phone.
- Water, lunch and high energy snacks.
- Charged mobile phone and portable charger.
- First aid kit.
- Head torch, spare batteries.
- Watch.
- Whistle and survival bag.
- 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

- Spare socks, hat, gloves.
- Balaclava.
- Leg gaiters.
- Waterproof baseball cap (handy if you wear glasses).
- Walking poles.

- Bivi bag or group shelter.
- Spare food and hot drink.
- Duct tape (handy for fixing things).
- Penknife or multitool.
- Tissues and hand sanitiser.
- Plastic bags to take away your rubbish or dog poo.

In case of emergency

- Call 999 (or text 999 if pre-registered) and ask for the Police.
- Use OS Locate or what3words to provide a detailed description of your location.
- If you need to attract attention shout or give six blasts on a whistle at regular intervals. In low light flash your torch six times at regular intervals.
- If you can send someone for help, they need to know your location (grid reference), number of people in the group and the nature of the emergency.
- Help could be some time coming so whilst waiting make the casualty comfortable.
- Keep the casualty warm and dry using spare clothing. Use coats or rucksacks to insulate them from the ground.
- Remember the rest of the group could be getting cold whilst waiting. Use an emergency shelter or find a sheltered location.