

172 YHA Okehampton Tarka Trail

Woodland and river walk

Distance: 2.3 miles (3.8 km) **Ascent:** 104m

Time: Allow 1h to 1h 45m

Map: OS Explorer 1:25L (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 turning labelled public bridlepath). Head down the gravel path and a couple of steps and turn left by the Simmons Park sign. Follow the steep path, with a wall on your left and a steep drop on your right, to Simmons Park. Follow the path through the park to the right. Cross one of the wide bridges and go right to follow the gravel path. Follow the path with a rugby pitch on your left, then along the bottom of the pitch and over a wide wooden bridge. Turn right through a wide 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, back to the hostel.

Hazards

Caution required on the road sections, some do not have footpaths. The path down to Simmons Park is quite steep and has a big 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.

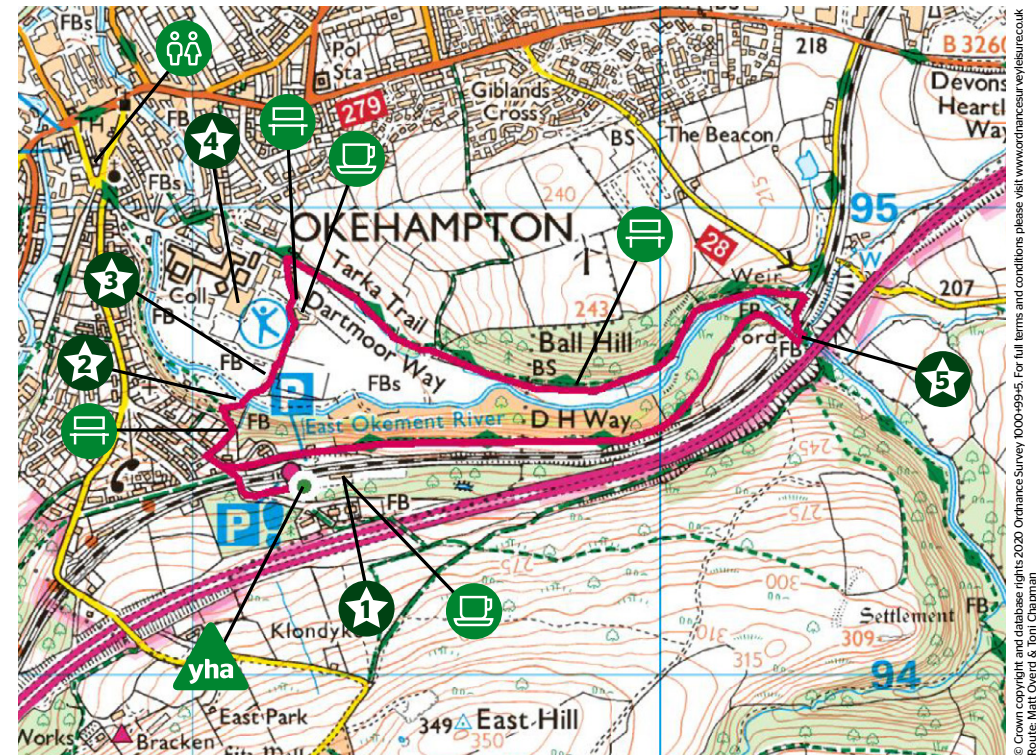
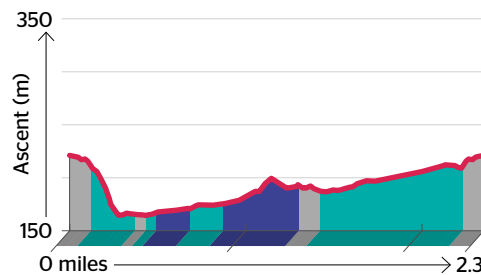
Navigation

The route follows roads and signed footpaths.

Terrain

Mostly either tarmac or crushed stone path. In Ball Hill Wood the path is more uneven with 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 toilets on route, public toilets a short detour in Okehampton. Café next to YHA at the railway station and near the sports centre. Other food options a short detour in Okehampton.

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

No stiles on route

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 a map or the OS Maps app to navigate your walk safely.

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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 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 or What Three Words apps to your phone.
- Contact 999 by SMS text (must pre register by texting 'register' to 999) (relayuk.bt.com/emergencysms).

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 information please go to www.yha.org.uk/walks

Share your walks at **#yhawalks**

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



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

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.