

Car Free Ideas for Combe Martin



A great car-free day out around Combe Martin, taking in the town and the surrounding countryside on foot with options to take the bus to local villages and attractions nearby.

Highlights

- The beach and rock pools
- Combe Martin Museum
- Pack o' Cards
- 15th Century Church of St Peter Ad Vincula
- Combe Martin Wildlife Park
- Scenic walks along the South West Coast Path
- Bus ride to Ilfracombe or Lynton and bus back
- Bus rides or local attractions

Explore Combe Martin

Combe Martin is a good example of early ribbon development. The village nestles in a long steep-sided valley in which the main road follows the lowest level with the houses clustering close by. Because of this one of its claims-to-fame is that the village has the longest High Street in the UK.

The village has a sheltered beach which used to be a harbour but is now enjoyed by locals and holiday-makers. Excellent rock pools can be found during low tide along the raised walkway to the right of the beach. The village is on the western edge of the Exmoor National Park and many excellent walks start from here, either along the South West Coast Path, or inland along the valleys that radiate from the coastline.

By the main car park above the beach, you will find the information centre and Combe Martin Museum (01271 889031). Walking inland along the main road one passes the shops and continuing on one reaches the unusual Pack o' Cards, a Grade II Ancient Monument with 4 floors, 13 doors and fireplaces on each floor within a building of just 52 feet square. Carrying on along the main road one reaches the impressive church of St Peter Ad Vincula. One of the largest churches in North Devon with a 99 feet high tower and impressive rood screen it demonstrates the wealth of the village in the 15th Century. High quality lead silver was mined on the north-eastern slopes of the valley, the strip-field system grew strawberries and the town had an active harbour exporting wool, silver, hemp and strawberries and importing lime, coal and timber.

At the top end of the village is the popular Combe Martin Wildlife Park (01271 882486) with full-sized animated dinosaurs, animals, a train ride and much more for a full day of fun.

Explore further afield by public transport from Combe Martin

Using the 301 (or 300) bus service

- **Ilfracombe Aquarium** (01271 864533) - discover the life of underwater inhabitants from high on Exmoor to the sea. You can also visit the beach tunnels and harbour before returning by bus.
- **Watermouth Castle** (01271 863879), a **family theme park** about 2 miles from Combe Martin on the A399 towards Ilfracombe on the 300 and 301 bus routes.

Using the 300 bus service towards Lynton and Lynmouth from the sea front (Weekends all year, 7 days a week during summer)

- Take a bus trip to the twin towns of **Lynton and Lynmouth** connected by the famous water powered cliff railway.
- Take the bus service to **Parracombe** for a 8.9 mile, 5.5 hour walk back to Combe Martin. Walk description available from www.exploremoor.co.uk. Copies may also be available from the Tourist Information Centre.
- Use the 300 bus service to reach the Lynton to Barnstaple Railway (01598 763487) at Woody Bay, about 10 miles from Combe Martin towards Lynton. The narrow-gauge railway used to run from Barnstaple to Lynton from 1898 till 1935. This attraction has rebuilt a section of line from the original Woody Bay Station with steam trains in this beautiful part of Exmoor.

Visitor Information

Combe Martin Tourist Information Centre, Cross Street, Combe Martin. 01271 883319

Public Transport Information

For further information, ideas and inspiration for exploring Exmoor without the car visit www.exploremoor.co.uk. For up-to-the-minute public transport information and to confirm timetables call Traveline on 0871 200 22 33.

Disclaimer

Whilst all information is correct to the best of our knowledge at the time of going to press we cannot be held responsible for any errors or changes over the lifetime of this leaflet. We strongly recommend that you check the current bus timetables and opening times of attractions before travelling.