



02 SOMERSET ODCOMBE & HAM HILL

▶ Distance: 7½ miles/12km ▶ Time: 3½ hours ▶ Grade: Moderate

SEE
FEATURE
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The war memorial on the north brow of Ham Hill.



PHOTO: TOM BAILEY



CHOSEN BY...

PHILIP THOMAS

In 1608, a Somerset eccentric called

Thomas Coryate set out on a remarkable five-month journey from Odcombe to Venice. A pioneer tourist, he went most of the way back on foot, calling himself the 'Odcombian legge-stretcher'. The resulting book, *Coryate's Crudities*, was a seminal work of travel literature. Coryate wrote it in his home village, presumably taking time out to visit the quarries on nearby Ham Hill and enjoy the sweeping views from its Iron Age earthworks. To the east is the hamstone village of Montacute where Coryate's godbrother, Sir Edward Phelips, built a stately

prodigy house (now owned by the National Trust). Postcard-pretty Lower Odcombe is this walk's final port of call.

1 Start

From car park, cross playing field to steps down to lane. Turn L uphill (past Coryate Close) to junction by church gate. Turn L to crossroads and turn R. In 100m, take restricted byway L, signed for Norton Sub Hamdon, following track to R of farmyard. At junction, turn L for Street Lane. Before lane, turn R on restricted byway (Hocker's Hill). Follow track for 1.5km, passing Westbury Farm.

2 1¼ miles/2.8km

At junction with track, turn R through kissing gate up

PLAN YOUR WALK



ROUTE

Start/parking Odcombe village hall car park, grid ref ST508153, postcode BA22 8XP

Is it for me? Undulating muddy byways, field and woodland paths. Briefly on roads. A few steep ups/downs, slippery in winter

PLANNING

Nearest town Yeovil

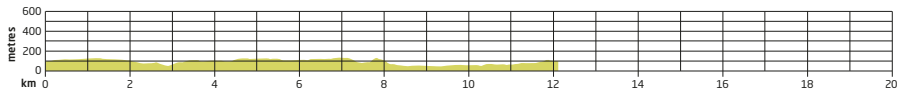
Refreshments The Masons Arms, Lower Odcombe (01935 862591); The Prince Of Wales, Ham Hill (01935 822848); Kings Arms (01935 822255), museum tea rooms and NT café in Montacute

Public toilets Ham Hill Country Park

Public transport Bus 81 (Mon-Sat) from Yeovil/South Petherton to Lower Odcombe and Montacute (southwestcoaches.co.uk)

Maps OS Explorer 129; Landranger 183 & 193

GRADIENT PROFILE



02 SOMERSET
ODCOMBE & HAM HILL► OS Explorer map 129 ► Buy maps at: ordnancesurvey.co.uk/shop

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wooded track (for Ham Hill). At junction after gate, keep R on track. At next junction, swing L. Follow path between hillfort earthworks for 1.2km, straight on at junctions, to car park/road. Turn L and take next path R through old quarry, passing Ranger's Office to lane.

3 3 miles/4.8km
Cross to path, then next lane to gate, resuming path along earthworks to memorial. Follow higher bank around old quarry and through gap in trees to Prince of Wales pub.

4 3¼ miles/6.1km
Pass pub entrance, go L down steps and L again, signed 'East Stoke'. Turn R at bottom of steps on track past obstacle course, swinging L. Where track bends R, take bridleway L

signed 'Montacute', then tuck R up steep path. Follow it around woody plateau edge for 0.8km, then downhill into field via stile. Go L then turn R up to gate onto St Michael's Hill. Follow path coiling around old castle earthworks up to folly at top.

5 5 miles/8km
Backtrack to bend and go R down steep, slippery path. Cross stile and turn L down track to gate/stone by old priory gatehouse. Turn L past church to road in Montacute. Turn R along Middle Street and around bend into South Street. After Post Office, cross L into Back Lane. After lane bends R, take path L into Montacute Park. Follow grassy path to junction/post at edge of tree-lined avenue. Turn R to gate by Odcombe Lodge.

6 6½ miles/10km
Turn L along road and shortly swing L down track. Where track bends L before pond, go R on footpath over footbridge. Follow fence up to corner, then turn R between hedge and fence to road. Turn R down road and shortly cross to pavement. Turn L up through Lower Odcombe. Where road bends L, turn R up Donne Lane. Shortly, take path L for Chapel Hill to lane. At end, bear L down path to lane. Turn L, then R up steps back to start. **CW**

VIEW THE WALK ON OS MAPS ONLINE:
walk1000miles.co.uk/cwroutes

IN ASSOCIATION WITH



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DATE WALKED
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□ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □YOUR RATING
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