

Bats Castle Dunster (about a 40 minute walk to the start of the walk or a 10 minute drive)

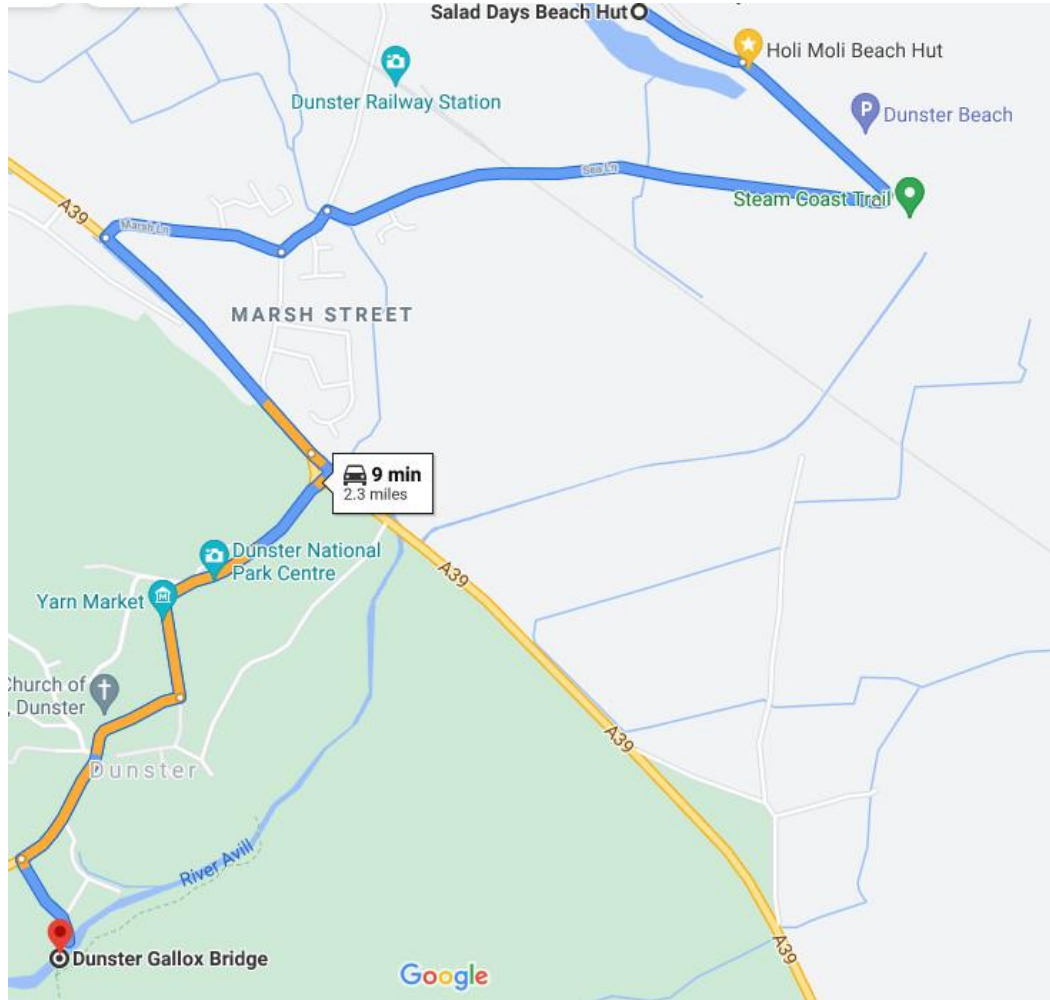
Directions to the start at Gallox Bridge

By car

From Dunster Beach head to the A39 and turn left

At the traffic lights (Dunster Village) turn right.

If you walk from the beach go up Sea Lane and turn left to follow the Riverside Jubilee Walk into Dunster which avoids crossing the A39



Parking and Toilets

You can park at the bottom of the hill at Dunster Steep car park and walk up through the village (15 mins to Gallox Bridge)

This car park has public toilets.

Alternatively, you can drive through the village and turn left down Park Street (at The Foresters Arms) and there is a small car park just before Gallox Bridge with no public toilets.



Information

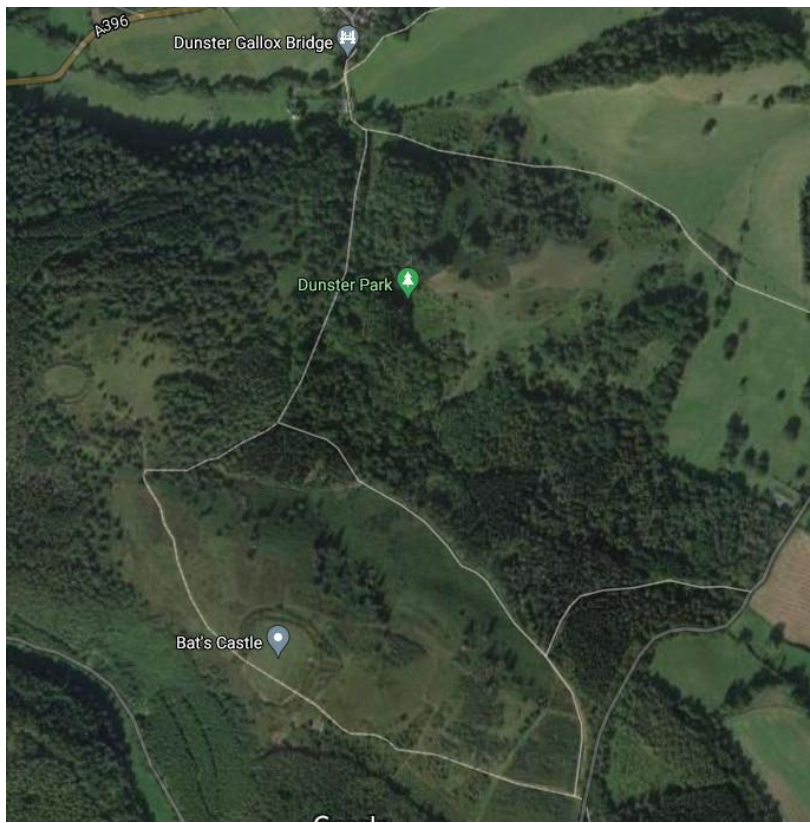
Please do wear sensible footwear as the paths are rocky in some sections which may be slippery when wet.

The walk is not difficult, just one short steep section.

If you walk from the beach it will take about 40 minutes to Gallox Bridge and then about 30 minutes to Bats Castle.

We are taking you via the direct route although you can extend your walk or even include the Tall Trees as there are many paths in the area.

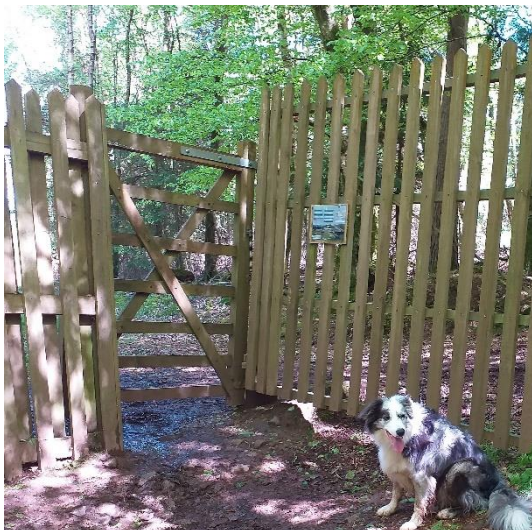
Take water with you although dogs can have a drink at Gallox Bridge.



Directions from Gallox Bridge

Cross over Gallox Bridge, past the thatched cottages and follow the sign for Bats Castle.

After about 10 minutes the path splits, you can take the longer route with the blue waymarker but we kept left (uphill) following the more direct route



You will see a gate to your left which you need to go through.

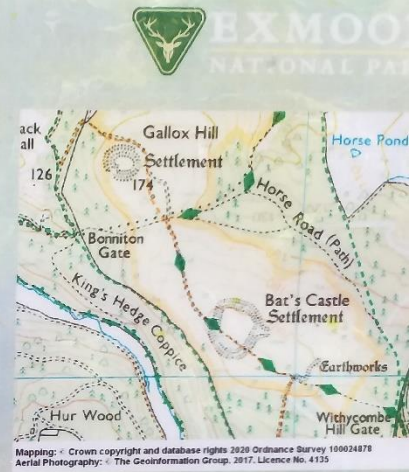
After a short walk up the hill the landscape will open up as you go past Gallox settlement and on to Bats Castle settlement.

Iron Age Life

Over 2000 years ago, long before Dunster Park was created, Iron Age Communities built two impressive enclosures on the hills in front of you, now visible as stony banks and ditches. Set to inspire awe in neighbours and foes, the largest, Bat's Castle, is defended with additional outworks and a complex entrance.

As a centre for settlement and trade, or religious and tribal gatherings, it was a focus for the community as well a stronghold. It is not known whether the smaller round enclosure of Black Ball Camp on Gallox Hill existed at the same time or whether one succeeded the other.

Bat's Castle may have had 'box ramparts' (timber sides filled with excavated material from the surrounding ditch), or a stone revetment to the defensive banks.



These sites are protected as Scheduled Monuments. More information on these and other sites can be found on Exmoor National Park's Historic Environment Record website: www.exmoorher.co.uk