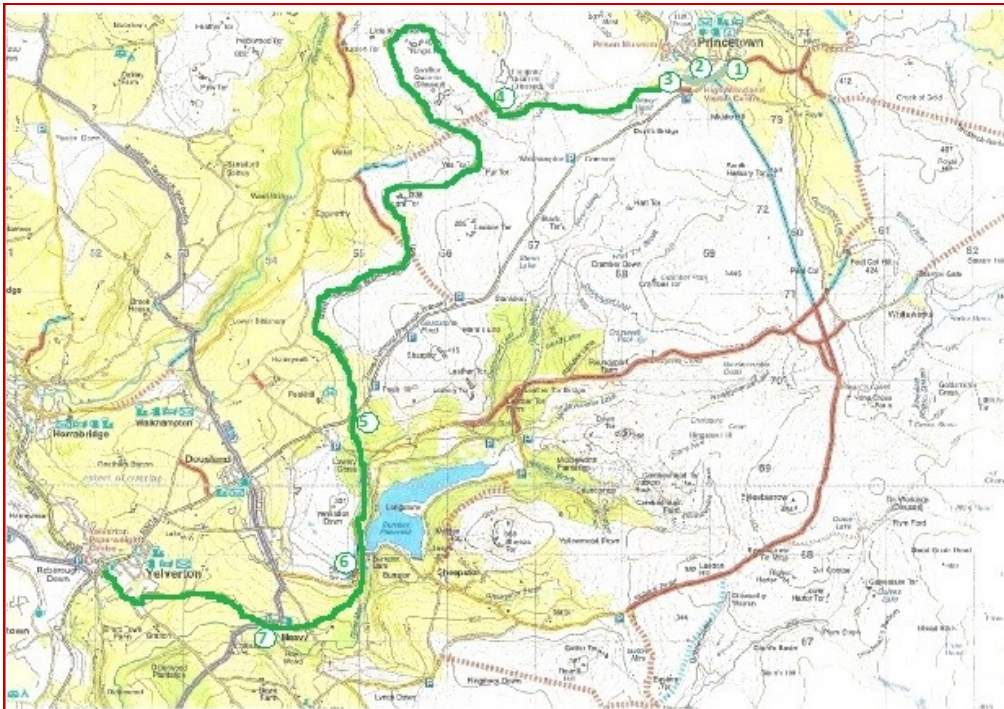


Tavistock Country Bus – Bus and Boots walks



Bus and Boots No.5 Princetown to Yelverton

This walk, which is about 12 miles in total, follows the track bed of the old Plymouth & Dartmoor railway line, as far as Burrator. It then follows a clearly marked footpath to Meavy and quiet lanes for the final leg of the walk back to Yelverton. The walking is generally easy, but as with any excursion onto the moor you should be prepared for sudden changes in the weather and go suitably equipped. It should take about 4 hours.



113 Service

It can be accessed from our Tavistock – Newton Abbot service (113) on the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of the month.

Embark 0933 Bedford Square; disembark Princetown, Fox Tor 1007.

Return from Yelverton bus stand 1459.

1. From the bus stop walk back to the centre of Princetown, which owes its existence to the vision of one man -Tomas Tyrwhitt – who at the end of C18th was the Private Secretary to the Prince of Wales. He founded a small settlement called Prince's Town and at Tor Royal Farm attempted to tame and cultivate the open moor. Unfortunately he had underestimated the harshness of the environment and his arable farming dream failed. However, he came up with other schemes such as the building of a prison in 1809 to house at first French and then American prisoners of war. Today H.M. Prison Dartmoor is home to up to 600 prisoners.

Tyrwhitt also pioneered granite quarrying in the area and the building of the Plymouth & Dartmoor railway to link the high moor to the sea. The line finally closed in 1956 but now makes a great track for walking and cycling with stunning views of the moor and surrounding countryside. If you have time the National Park Visitors Centre is well worth a visit.

2. Our walk continues to the right of the Visitors Centre, across the car park and onto a narrow road which leads to the Dartmoor brewery, home of the legendary 'Jail Ale', and reputedly the highest brewery in the country. Just before you get to the brewery the path turns left and after skirting a few fields joins the trackbed of the old Plymouth & Dartmoor railway.

On a clear day there are superb views to the west of Plymouth Sound and across the Tamar Valley to Bodmin Moor. The route of the old railway can also be seen snaking away in the distance under a now redundant bridge.

3. After about a mile the track curves left to go out around King's Tor and a spur to the right leads to the now abandoned workings of Foggintor quarry. This, with its lake and vertical face is now a favourite playground for the Royal Marines.

4. After about six miles of open moorland the track becomes more enclosed as it passes through fields and soon crosses the B3212 by the recently re-erected pedestrian bridge.

The character of the trail now changes dramatically as it passes through the managed woodlands above Burrator reservoir with impressive views across the reservoir towards Down Tor.

5. When you reach the concrete remains of Burrator Halt a flight of steps leads down to the left and joins a track which leads down to the road just above Burrator dam. If you are in luck there might be an ice cream van here, if not the route continues away from the dam and leaves the road to the left just beyond the green painted public toilets. It then follows the bank of a disused leat for a while before dropping through mixed woodlands and fields to rejoin the road just outside the picturesque village of Meavy.

6. Meavy Lane connects Meavy to Yelverton and a right turn at the T junction after a mile or so will bring you back to the roundabout and Yelverton bus stand.