



# YOUR GUIDE TO WALKING

When you're out on tour, there's no better way to explore than on foot! The second of our Know-how guides is packed with expert advice to help you make the most of a great walk – where to go, what to wear, how to stay safe

52

## Our glorious coastline

The UK has thousands of miles of spectacular coastal paths. Here are some of our favourite places to enjoy scenic strolling

52



55

## Safe journeys

Ten simple tips to help you stay safe when you're exploring trails in the great outdoors

56

## Great places for hikers to stay

We round up some of the best campsites to use as the perfect base for brilliant walking

60

## Maps, apps and navigation

Paper maps have their own appeal, but these days, your main guide is your phone! Keen hiker Marcus Leach selects his favourite apps

64

## Dress for success

Choosing suitable outdoor clothing is vital for enjoyable and safe walking. Here's a selection of high-performance jackets, footwear and accessories

56



64



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see [www.practicalmotorhome.com/know-how](http://www.practicalmotorhome.com/know-how) to download yours!



# IT'S A SHORE THING

Travel may have been curtailed by the current crisis, but it means we appreciate our beautiful island more than ever. Here's our celebration of some jaw-dropping coastlines, including where to walk and where to stay!



## JURASSIC COAST, DORSET

The Jurassic Coast is up there with the Great Barrier Reef as one of the world's finest natural wonders.

Stretching from Exmouth in east Devon to Studland Bay, Dorset, this is also one of the Earth's richest sites for prehistoric remains and fossils, with an unparalleled range of dramatic natural features.

**Where to walk** Stroll from Lulworth Cove,

where you can explore the spectacular folded limestone rocks of Stair Hole, then over the cliffs to see Durdle Door. From here, wander along Man O'War Beach (around one mile in), or head higher over the crags of Bat's Head (two miles).

■ **Find out more** [walkingbritain.co.uk](http://walkingbritain.co.uk)  
 ■ **Stay at** Durdle Door Holiday Park  
**Web** [durdledoor.co.uk](http://durdledoor.co.uk)

The 'tilt' of the rocks exposes 185 million years of history, from the Triassic, Jurassic and Cretaceous periods

Words: Katy Holland. Photos: Alamy, Getty Images, Getty Images/500px Plus, Getty Images/Stockphoto

CUT ALONG DOTTED LINE

## NORTH NORFOLK

Wild, peaceful and expansive, North Norfolk's beautiful coast stretches between the resort of Hunstanton and the pretty town of Sheringham, a spectacular landscape of tidal marshes, creeks, shingle spits and sweeping golden beaches backed by pinewoods.

Further east is the imperious clifftop setting of Cromer, with its Victorian pier stretching proudly out to sea.

The coastline then meanders southward towards small and secluded villages such as Mundesley and Happisburgh, with its distinctive striped lighthouse.

**Where to walk** The five-mile stroll from Wells to Holkham is an absolute pleasure. Starting at Wells beach car park, walk past the beach huts until you reach the tree-framed sands at Holkham. Return along the Norfolk Coast Path through cool and peaceful pines.

■ **Find out more** [gps-routes.co.uk](http://gps-routes.co.uk)  
 ■ **Stay at** Beeston Regis Holiday Park  
**Web** [beestonregis.co.uk](http://beestonregis.co.uk)



Cromer Shoal Chalk Beds are the longest in the world, and home to sea slugs, harbour porpoises and seals



## ATLANTIC COAST, CORNWALL

Cornwall's Atlantic coast, with its thrilling landscape carved by the pounding sea, is made all the more exciting by the tales of smuggling and wrecking in its many coves and caves.

**Where to walk** The bracing three-mile clifftop walk from St Agnes to Perranporth brings splendid vistas. Starting at The Driftwood Spars, walk up to the cliffs for views of Trevaunance Cove.

This route passes coves only accessible by kayak, ancient quarries and disused mines. As you round into Perranporth, you can watch the waves coming in against the dramatic backdrop of the cliffs.

■ **Find out more** [southwestcoastpath.org.uk](http://southwestcoastpath.org.uk)

■ **Stay at** Trevellas Manor Farm

**Web** [trevellasmanorfarmcampsite.co.uk](http://trevellasmanorfarmcampsite.co.uk)

There are no fewer than five beaches in St Ives. Porthminster is sheltered and ideal for families, while Bomaluz is a small hidden gem

## SUTHERLAND, SCOTTISH HIGHLANDS

Covering miles of absolutely dazzling scenic coast along the most northerly tip of Britain, remote Sutherland is the hidden gem of the Scottish Highlands, with rugged cliffs, perfect coves of white sand, incredible azure-blue waters and rolling dunes of sea-green marram grass.

For birdwatchers, there are plenty of spots where you can observe a variety of seabirds. If you're after those wide open spaces, wilderness and perfect isolation, this is the right place to be.

Sutherland has the highest cliffs on mainland Great Britain, at Clo Mor near Durness, where the crags rise to almost 300m

water and pristine stretches of sand juxtaposed with jagged rocks and rugged hills.

Start your walking trail in the Achmelvich beach car park and then follow the footpath over the grassy coastal hills, stopping at the ruins of the old grain mill on your way.

Extend your hike to discover Hermit's Castle: at just 10 sq m, it's the smallest in Europe.

■ **Find out more** [www.walkhighlands.co.uk](http://www.walkhighlands.co.uk)

■ **Stay at** Shore Caravan Site

**Web** [www.shorecaravansite.yolasite.com](http://www.shorecaravansite.yolasite.com)



## SEVEN SISTERS, SUSSEX



You can still see WWII 'dragon's teeth' pillboxes and anti-tank defences scattered across the cliffs at Seven Sisters

A magnificent series of white chalk cliffs lines the coast edging the Sussex South Downs, plunging dramatically to the sea in one of England's most striking coastal spectacles. They're considered both whiter and more scenic than their cousins in Dover.

The Seven Sisters stretch from Cuckmere Haven to Birling Gap in East Sussex, where kittiwakes and fulmars can be seen alongside Brimstone butterflies and flowering cowslips in spring and summer.

**Where to walk** Start the Seven Sisters walk at Birling Gap, taking the South Downs Way along the clifftops. At low tide, you might also spot the wreck of the *Coonatto*, a 19th-century barquentine clipper.

At Haven Brow (about four miles in), head inland from Cuckmere Haven, which is rumoured to be a former smugglers' landing site.

■ **Find out more** [nationaltrust.org.uk](http://nationaltrust.org.uk)

■ **Stay at** Fairfields Farm

**Web** [fairfieldsfarm.com](http://fairfieldsfarm.com)





## NORTHUMBERLAND

With dramatic arcs of windswept sands, craggy cliffs and brooding castles overlooking the icy North Sea, it's easy to see why much of Northumberland's spectacular coast has been designated an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

This is a walker's delight: there are some 40 miles of dramatic 'Heritage' shores to marvel at, and with a coastal path running from Berwick-upon-Tweed all the way to the River Coquet, it is perfect country for keen hikers and nature-lovers.

**Where to walk** Take the six-mile amble from Craster to Low Newton, via Dunstanburgh Castle.

■ **Find out more** [nationaltrust.org.uk](http://nationaltrust.org.uk)

■ **Stay at** Dunstan Hill C&CC site

**Web** [campingandcaravanningclub.co.uk](http://campingandcaravanningclub.co.uk)



This coast is one of the most significant areas in Europe for the Atlantic grey seal, found all year round

## CAUSEWAY COAST, NORTHERN IRELAND

Overlooking the crashing North Atlantic Ocean, the glorious Causeway Coast is a land of myth and legend, as well as stunning views, with cliffs, beaches, forests, headlands, rocks and ancient landforms. During summer, swathes of wildflowers bring this truly unique landscape to life; look out for blue spring squill, pink thrift and white sea campion bursting into bloom.

The Causeway Coastal Route also encompasses some really remarkable landmarks, including the nail-biting

Carrick-a-Rede Rope Bridge just outside Ballintoy, the dramatic ruins of Downhill Demesne and the world-famous Giant's Causeway.

Many of the famous scenes from the TV drama *Game of Thrones* were filmed along the Causeway Coast

**Where to walk** The jaunt from Portstewart to Ballycastle, a 10-mile slice of the famed Causeway Coast walking route, boasts some of the most spectacular scenery in the area. The path hugs the shoreline all the way to the Giant's Causeway.

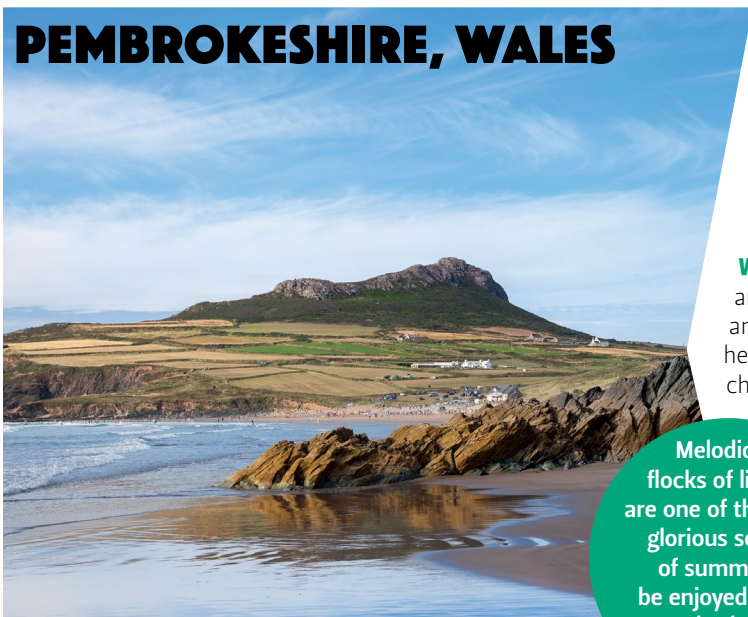
■ **Find out more** [walkni.com](http://walkni.com)

■ **Stay at** Ballyness Holiday Park

**Web** [ballynesscaravanpark.com](http://ballynesscaravanpark.com)



## PEMBROKESHIRE, WALES



Pembrokeshire's shoreline is an intricate ribbon of weatherbeaten, flower-dotted cliffs, dazzling beaches and tiny secret coves, studded with rock pools. From St Dogmaels in the north to Amroth in the south, the landscape covers steep limestone cliffs, undulating red sandstone bays, volcanic headlands, estuaries and flooded glacial valleys.

**Where to walk** A wonderful 3.7-mile circular route around St David's Peninsula starts at Whitesands and circumnavigates Pembrokeshire's rugged coastal headland. Visit the 4000-year-old Neolithic burial chamber en route, and take in the spectacular views over beautiful Whitesands Bay and further out to sea towards Ramsey Island.

Melodious flocks of linnets are one of the many glorious sounds of summer to be enjoyed on the Pembrokeshire coastline

■ **Find out more** [nationaltrust.org.uk](http://nationaltrust.org.uk)

■ **Stay at** Caerfai Bay Caravan and Tent Park

**Web** [caerfaibay.co.uk](http://caerfaibay.co.uk)



## KNOW-HOW

# SAFETY FIRST

Hiking trips make for an enjoyable and challenging pastime, provided you take suitable steps to secure your safety

Pack for success when planning a hike, which means dressing appropriately for the type of walking you are doing and the conditions you might encounter.

Be sure to have warm and waterproof clothing – think base layers, mid-layers, waterproof trousers and jackets, hats and gloves. Walking poles and even a lightweight tent are also worth considering.

In more extreme environments, such as mountainous regions, you might need specialist equipment, for example, crampons. A first aid kit, torch (don't forget spare batteries) and a whistle are useful. In addition, pay attention to your backpack – is it a suitable size? Can you carry it comfortably?

Keep well hydrated and fed – make sure that you have eaten properly before heading out and carry refreshments for your journey, particularly water.

You might want to consider water purification tablets if you are making a more adventurous trip, and take along plenty of high-energy snacks, such as nuts, dried fruit or cereal bars.

### Navigation skills

Know your route – plan your path, and take maps and a compass. If possible, go with a guide or someone who has walked the trail before. Are your navigation skills up to scratch? If not, think about taking one of the many training courses available.

Know your limits and don't overstretch yourself, physically or mentally. If the going is too tough or the terrain unsafe, be prepared to cancel. Equally, if the weather conditions are becoming dangerous, don't be afraid to abandon your hike and head for home – there's always another day.

Keep in touch – leave details of routes and timings with someone responsible and ask them to raise the alarm if you haven't returned by an agreed time.

Be prepared to contact the emergency services if necessary; calling 999 will get you to the right person.

### The National Trust's top 10 safety tips for exploring the outdoors

- 1 Plan your route
- 2 Be aware
- 3 Think like a local
- 4 Tell a friend
- 5 Wear the right gear
- 6 Know how to get help
- 7 Go equipped
- 8 Keep your energy levels up
- 9 Be vigilant
- 10 Follow guidance

■ From [www.nationaltrust.org.uk/features/top-10-safety-tips-for-exploring-the-outdoors](http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/features/top-10-safety-tips-for-exploring-the-outdoors)



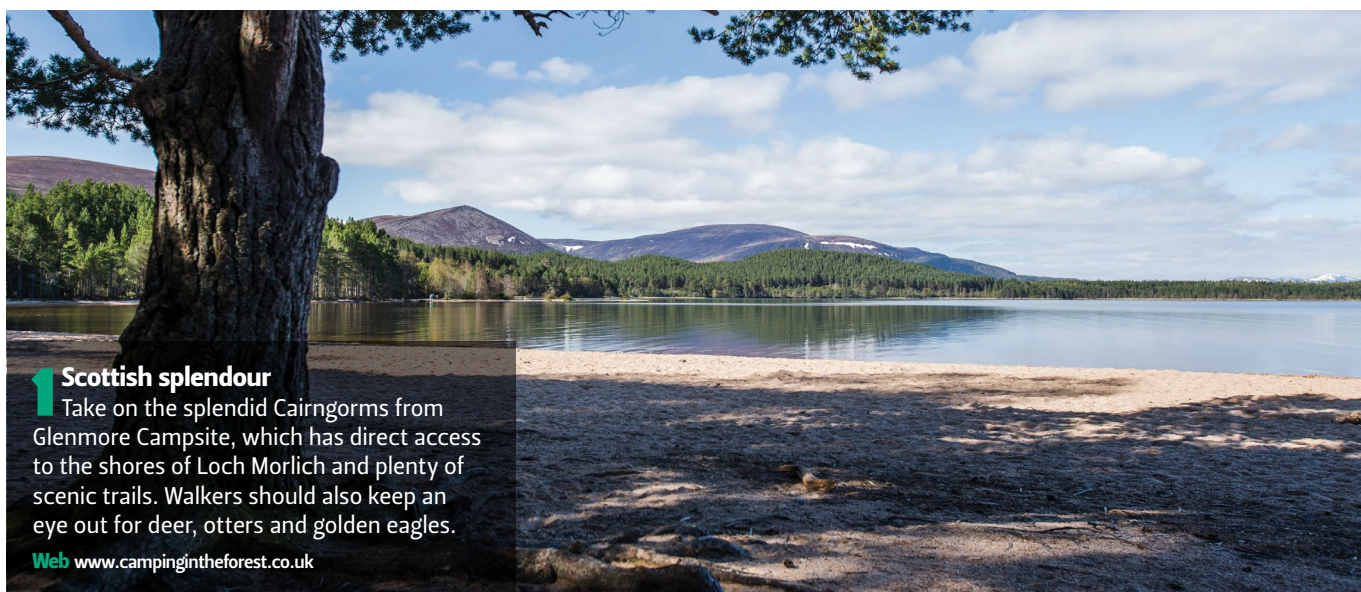
**‘Plan your path and take maps and a compass.  
If possible, go with a guide or someone who  
has walked the trail before’**



## SPECIAL SELECTION

# 14 STUNNING SITES FOR TOP WALKS

Hiking is one of the best ways to enjoy the great outdoors; here, we've selected some brilliant UK sites for getting out and about on foot



### 1 Scottish splendour

Take on the splendid Cairngorms from Glenmore Campsite, which has direct access to the shores of Loch Morlich and plenty of scenic trails. Walkers should also keep an eye out for deer, otters and golden eagles.

**Web** [www.campingintheforest.co.uk](http://www.campingintheforest.co.uk)

The Camping & Caravanning Club/Alisdair Cusick



### 2 Dawdle around Dartmoor

The adults-only Woodland Springs Touring Park is totally surrounded by farmland in the heart of Dartmoor National Park, where you can stroll the moors accompanied by sheep, ponies and other wandering animals. The site shop can also provide excellent local cider for a refreshing tipple after a long walk!

**Web** [www.woodlandsprings.co.uk](http://www.woodlandsprings.co.uk)



### 3 Sights of Snowdonia

From your pitch at the charming Graig Wen campsite, there is direct access to the Mawddach Trail, which is perfect for those wanting to explore this beautiful estuary on foot. In addition, the site is surrounded by the stunning scenery of Snowdonia. Touring visitors are usually welcome from March to January.

**Web** [www.graigwen.co.uk](http://www.graigwen.co.uk)





#### 4 Wonderful Wales

You can't get a better location for the Pembrokeshire Coast Path than Newgale Campsite, which is adjacent to a mile-long sandy beach. Unfortunately, the site isn't open all year, but you're sure to enjoy a great summer tour here.

**Web** [www.newgalecampsite.co.uk](http://www.newgalecampsite.co.uk)



#### 5 A touch of camping luxury

Perched right on the edge of the South Downs National Park, Concierge Camping has luxury facilities to refresh you after a long day of walking. These include the site's fabulous Emperor pitches, which also provide guests with day-living Safari tents for more spacious outdoor cooking and lounging, whatever the weather.

**Web** [www.conciergecamping.co.uk](http://www.conciergecamping.co.uk)



© VisitBritain / Stephen Spraggon

#### 6 Child-friendly Cheddar

For a slice of the slow life, pitch up at Petruth Paddocks, a relaxed campsite with the perfect live-and-let-live vibe. Some of the best of Somerset's glorious walking routes and the stunning vistas of Cheddar Gorge are right on your doorstep when you stay at this site, ready and waiting to be enjoyed all year round.

**Web** [www.petruthpaddocks.co.uk](http://www.petruthpaddocks.co.uk)







## 7 Lovely Loch Lomond

Only a short hop from Glasgow (less than an hour's drive), Loch Lomond & The Trossachs National Park combines mountains, lochs and forests. Climbing, fishing, hiking... it has them all. Take your pick from the many lochs, the main attraction being the mighty Lomond, with its bonnie, bonnie banks. This is where you'll find glorious Cashel Campsite, with great facilities and views, views, views!

**Web** [www.campingintheforest.co.uk](http://www.campingintheforest.co.uk)

VisitBritain/Adam Burton



Kielder Observatory/Natasha Lund

## 8 Kielder Forest's night skies

With 250 square miles of forest, as well as reservoirs and trails, Kielder Forest is a great spot for walkers and observers of the stars. Bellingham Camping and Caravanning Club Site is well located in the Northumberland International Dark Sky Park and has plenty of facilities, including a shop, dog walk, play area, wet room and games room.

**Web** [www.campingandcaravanningclub.co.uk](http://www.campingandcaravanningclub.co.uk)

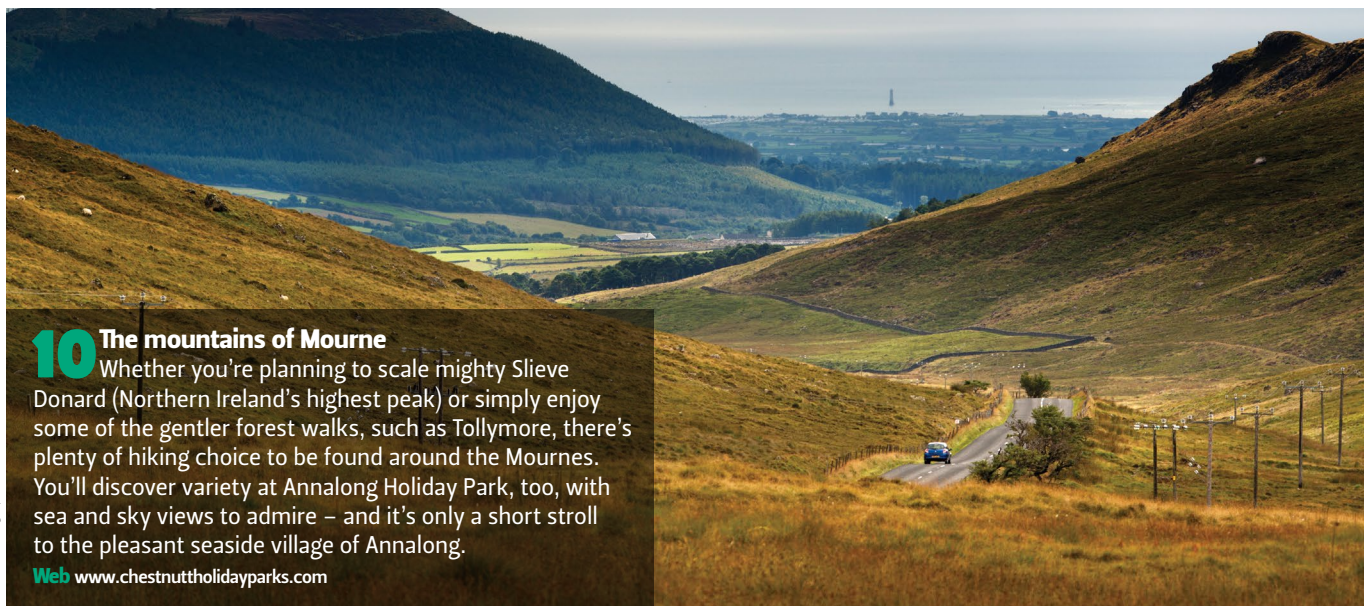


## 9 Historic Sherwood Forest

For gentle walks amid ancient oaks (there are said to be 997 of them!), Sherwood Forest has much to commend it. There are plenty of hikes and trails to introduce you to one of England's greatest, most evocative forests. The beautiful Sherwood Forest Holiday Park is ideally located on the banks of the River Maun, surrounded by woodland.

**Web** [www.sherwoodforestholidaypark.co.uk](http://www.sherwoodforestholidaypark.co.uk)





## 10 The mountains of Mourne

Whether you're planning to scale mighty Slieve Donard (Northern Ireland's highest peak) or simply enjoy some of the gentler forest walks, such as Tollymore, there's plenty of hiking choice to be found around the Mournes. You'll discover variety at Annalong Holiday Park, too, with sea and sky views to admire – and it's only a short stroll to the pleasant seaside village of Annalong.

**Web** [www.chestnuttholidayparks.com](http://www.chestnuttholidayparks.com)

Chris Hill Photographic



## 11 Shropshire's stunning hills

Lying on the border between England and Wales, Daisy Bank Caravan Park has the backdrop of the Shropshire Hills to provide plenty of great walking trails to choose from. Plus, the site is open all year for those feeling brave enough to face the winter chill.

**Web** [www.daisy-bank.co.uk](http://www.daisy-bank.co.uk)



## 12 Walking on the fells

Moss Side Farm is a family-run site in the southern fells of the Lake District National Park, with no shortage of stunning scenery, and footpaths leading from the farm itself. It's also open all year, and Broughton-in-Furness is a 30-minute walk away.

**Web** [www.mossidefarm.com](http://www.mossidefarm.com)



## 13 Farm fresh in a rural heartland

Perfectly placed for hikers, right next to Ullswater and at the foot of Helvellyn, the highest peak in the range of that name, Gillside Farm campsite promises guests a truly rural experience, with the fells of the Lake District providing spectacular views in the background. To complete the experience, you can also buy milk and eggs from the busy working farm.

**Web** [www.gillsidecaravanandcampingsite.co.uk](http://www.gillsidecaravanandcampingsite.co.uk)



## 14 Après-hike entertainment

The Waterloo Inn, at Biggin, is in the heart of Derbyshire's dramatic Peak District, surrounded by a wide choice of excellent walking routes and adjacent to the Tissington Trail, which runs north from Ashbourne. This welcoming country pub lies just a few steps away from your pitch, so you can enjoy a relaxing pint after a day spent hiking in the surrounding countryside.

**Web** [www.waterlooinnbiggin.com](http://www.waterlooinnbiggin.com)



## TECH GUIDE

# EXPLORING MAPS AND APPS

Time was, hikers just packed a paper map. Now your phone is your guide! Here, Marcus Leach selects some of the best apps for walking

Not so long ago, before the dawn of the internet, tablets and smartphones, paper maps were a part of everyday life. Every vehicle glove box would have a well-worn road atlas (and a tin of travel sweets!), every walker's backpack held at least one dog-eared OS map, and many a child's bedroom displayed a map of the world on the wall.

Maps have always held a special place in my heart. From as young as I can remember, to me, they have been synonymous with adventure, with exploring little pockets of the world, from weekends spent in the hills to far greater undertakings.

They have always, as travel writer Rosita Forbes once memorably said, "represented the other side of the horizon where everything is possible".

I remember with great fondness nights spent plotting our next adventure, the excitement for the journey ahead building up from the first moment I heard the rustling of paper as the maps were unfolded and placed on the kitchen table. But that was then, and this is now.

Times have changed, and where once we would sit around poring over traditional paper maps, today there are, as with most things in life, apps that make route planning easier than ever before, especially when it comes to walking and hiking.

But with so many apps out there, it can be tricky to find the right one, let alone learn how to use it. So, to make things easier and help more people get outdoors, we have reviewed our top five for you.



### Komoot

In its own words, Komoot "allows you to find, plan and share adventures", with the emphasis on sharing. It is driven by a growing outdoor community, sharing their own recommendations, which appear on the map as little red dots – click on these and they expand out into more detailed information.

I first discovered Komoot while planning a bike ride from John O'Groats to Land's End, and quickly began to curse those red dots, because no sooner had I settled on my route, than I'd notice a nearby recommendation and then couldn't resist adding "just one more climb". Setting aside that desire to detour – adding many kilometres to my journey – those recommendations are actually brilliant when planning walks or rides in unfamiliar areas.

On the subject of planning, one of Komoot's standout functions is its automatic route generation. Granted, other apps offer the same thing, but from experience, none do so to the same level as Komoot. Once you've selected your start and finish point, it will give you a turn-by-turn route, tell you down to the metre how much of that trail will be on differing surfaces, and give you an ascent profile.

If you pay for the premium service, you can get weather forecasts for the duration of your planned activity. You can even add filters, based on your chosen sport, be that hiking, road cycling, mountain biking or mountaineering.

■ **Ideal for** Discovering hidden gems, sharing routes

**New to Komoot?** Use our special voucher code for Practical Motorhome readers, and you'll get an offline region map bundle for free! Simply head to [www.komoot.com/g](http://www.komoot.com/g) and enter the code **MOTORHOME** – the offer is valid until 31 December 2021.

**'Where once we would sit around poring over traditional paper maps, now there are apps that make our route planning easier than ever before'**



**A word of advice**

In a world where we rely on technology for so much, one area where there's no substitute for a real map and compass is walking, especially for those heading off on more adventurous, challenging or remote trails.

All of the apps we've reviewed do a lot, and some also enhance your walking experience, but a map will never run out of battery power and could avoid a potentially serious situation.

If you've used activity-recording apps, you will know they can drain battery life on your phone, a factor that can, to some extent, be negated by using it in offline mode if you can. But our advice is always to carry a hardcopy map with you as well – just in case.



**On the right track...** Marcus (*right*) and Nick Howard of Bailey set out on an autumn walk



### Purchasing extra features

Apart from MapOut, the apps reviewed here are free to download and start using, but if you want to unlock the full range of features, you will need to pay extra.

That leads to the question, are those added features worth it? It all comes down to your personal preference.

If you simply want to plot or obtain a pre-planned route, then there's really no need to go past the free offerings.

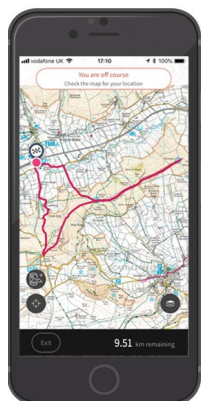
However, if you want more detailed route information, augmented reality, weather forecasts and live location sharing, to name but a few of the extras available across the apps, it is well worth those additional charges, which won't break the bank.

### British Red Cross First Aid app

No matter what sort of walk or hike you're heading out on, it's always important to know what to do in an emergency, especially if you're going somewhere remote where it could take a while for help to arrive.

The British Red Cross First Aid app ([redcross.org.uk](http://redcross.org.uk)) is packed with simple guidance to help you deal with everything from minor injuries to life-threatening situations and conditions.

The content is built into the app, so you can access it even if there is no mobile coverage, and it might just save a life.



### OS MAPS

It's difficult to think of maps without instantly picturing the old-school Ordnance Survey ones – hardly surprising, given that they have been mapping Britain since 1791.

With this pedigree, it's also no surprise that the giant of the mapping world has its own app to meet modern demands. As you would expect from OS, the quality and detail of the maps are

just as good online as in the traditional format, although it has to be said that it's not quite the same looking at a screen to plot routes, especially given how fiddly it can be on a mobile.

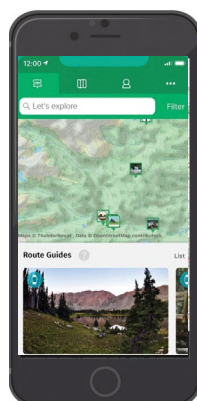
That is offset by the fact that the app is designed to sit alongside a web version, making planning routes easier using a bigger screen, albeit still lacking that 'real map' experience so many of us associate with OS maps.

### See your map in 3D

But look past that and once you have planned your route, you have an easy-to-follow, detailed walk, which can, if you pay for the full set of features, also be viewed as a 3D map on your phone, thanks to OS's investment in augmented reality. This allows you to identify points of interest and landmarks.

In addition to creating maps of your own trails, you can also upload GPX files, so you can use other people's routes, too.

■ **Ideal for** Plotting everyday walks in fine detail, or those with a particular penchant for OS maps



### VIEWRANGER

ViewRanger could easily be mistaken for OS Maps – it uses OS as one of its options, alongside more detailed maps such as Opencycle (don't let the name fool you, it's great for walking) and Harvey.

Where it differs is in the extra features, including the ability to generate automatic routes, which is great for those lacking the skill or time to plan a step-by-step path.

There's also a library of downloadable routes that takes the hassle out of plotting your own, and you can view your maps offline: very handy when you find yourself on a mountain with no signal.

### Heading further afield

A favourite of mine is the BuddyBeacon function, which is particularly useful for those heading further afield and wanting pre-selected contacts to get location updates, to see you get home safely.

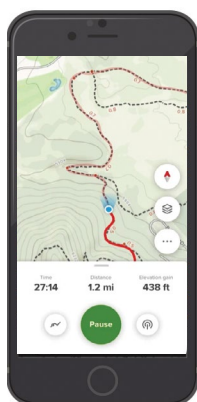
Much like OS Maps, ViewRanger also has an augmented reality feature, Skyline, which allows you to identify peaks, landmarks and other points of interest. The value of this depends on where you're walking. For example, it would be brilliant in the Lake District or the Alps, but not so much on the open landscapes of Dartmoor.

■ **Ideal for** Bigger walks in the mountains





**Left** Some apps provide detailed descriptions of the terrain along the trail, which is especially useful when planning routes for groups of different abilities **Above** Marcus steps out to don his walking boots and head off for the next adventure!



### ALLTRAILS

Driven by a mission to “kindle the spirit of adventure”, AllTrails is, in my opinion, the easiest of the apps to navigate and get what you want: namely, a good route to follow.

Not only that, but with more than 200,000 trail guides covering every continent (even Antarctica), it provides the greatest variety of guided routes to

help hikers of all levels of ability to get outdoors. No matter where you head, you can guarantee that with a simple location search, you’ll be able to find a walk that suits you.

### User-generated content

The app has a simple design, with no unnecessary data to distract you from the basics of searching for, following and recording routes. As with several of the other apps, there is also a vast amount of user-generated content, trail photos and reviews, which makes selecting your route more engaging.

Thanks to the filters, you can find trails that are wheelchair-friendly, dog-friendly, ideal for birdwatchers, best for mountain bikers, and many more. There’s a lot to be said for ease of use over unnecessary data and confusing features, which AllTrails balances perfectly.

■ **Ideal for** Those looking for ‘off the shelf’ walks that are easy to follow, no matter where you are



### MAPOUT

Of all the mapping apps that I have tried when planning my own walking and cycling routes, MapOut is by far the easiest to use, and more than justifies its £4.99 price tag.

Designed by two people, and using OpenStreetMap, a worldwide open-source map that is constantly updated, MapOut’s main advantage is that once you download the required maps, you no longer

need mobile coverage to use them, so you needn’t worry about not being able to access your route.

### Drawing your map

Once you have your maps, planning a route is easy and intuitive, as simple as drawing it with your finger from the start to the end points, with the app then using its ‘snap to road network’ function to find the best trails, roads and tracks for you.

In addition, the 3D tilt view also allows you to interactively explore the landscape around you.

The only catch, other than the fact it’s a paid-for app, is that it’s only compatible with Apple’s iOS, which is great for all of the iPhone and iPad users out there, but not so great for the rest of the world.

■ **Ideal for** Planning routes with minimal fuss

### PictureThis app

PictureThis can help you identify plants, and has been a big hit on our walks.

Often I will hear a little voice asking, “Daddy, what’s this?” and while I have some basic knowledge, more often than not, I’ll have no idea what the plant might be.

That’s where PictureThis really comes into its own, because a quick photo taken through the app identifies the plant, providing plenty of fascinating detail about it, too.



## KIT GUIDE

# WHAT TO WEAR

Put your best foot forward and get geared up for the great outdoors, whatever the weather!



### Tilley merino and cotton beanies

Hat-making specialist Tilley has introduced beanies into its famous collection. As you'd expect from this firm, they're made from the finest sustainable and cruelty-free Oeko-Tex approved merino wool. Merino is a versatile fibre, naturally breathable, antimicrobial and very comfortable to wear next to the skin. These smart beanies have a rolled brim and a hidden stash pocket, and come in a range of attractive colours.

**Price** £35 **Web** [tilley.com](http://tilley.com)



### Tilley Tec wool hat

Another style icon from Tilley – this classic hat is made from wonderfully warm, authentic Harris tweed and comes with the Tilley 'lifetime' guarantee. The hats are also 100% wool, which is naturally warming, wicks moisture away from the skin and repels the worst of the winter weather. The Tec comes in two elegant colour choices, charcoal herringbone (pictured above) and a multicolour mix.

**Price** £85 **Web** [tilley.com](http://tilley.com)



### Keela merino neck tube

This close-fitting merino neck tube is made from soft, lightweight fabric, to retain heat and maintain comfort, but won't restrict movement when you're out and about on the trail.

It's made from 80% merino wool and 20% polyester, offering superb thermal and antibacterial properties.

**Price** £14.95 **Web** [keela.co.uk](http://keela.co.uk)





### Snugpak Torrent jacket

This is the ideal jacket if you are heading outdoors in spring or autumn, when the weather can prove changeable. Waterproof, breathable fabric and Softie insulation will help to keep you warm, dry and comfortable, partly thanks to the detachable hood and brushed polyester neck warmer included in its clever design. The Torrent is available in a choice of two colours – black or forest green.

**Price** £170 **Web** [snugpak.com](http://snugpak.com)



### Keela Talus women's jacket

This water-resistant, windproof and breathable jacket is fashionable enough for day-to-day wear, yet tough and practical for outdoor adventures.

Combining 60gsm PrimaLoft Gold insulation on the body for warmth, with stretch side panels in soft fleece for increased ease of movement, this is an ideal mid- or outer layer. The Talus is available in a range of colours.

**Price** £139.95 **Web** [keela.co.uk](http://keela.co.uk)



### Snugpak Venture trousers

When you're exploring the great outdoors, your legs deserve as much protection as your torso, and that's where these durable, fleece-lined trousers really come into their own. They're light and warm, and offer flexible movement.

In addition, the adjustable hook-and-loop waistband and full-length leg zips are designed to allow for quick and easy removal.

**Price** £72.95 **Web** [absolute-snow.co.uk](http://absolute-snow.co.uk)



### Arc'teryx Acrux TR GTX boot

As featured in our recent round-up of hiking footwear (issue 245), these boots make a great choice – primarily because of their super-lightweight but robust upper fabric. The sole gives plenty of grip on loose ground or mud, and the reinforced rubber rand on the toe and heel adds durability.

They make an excellent choice for spring and summer hiking and trekking, in any terrain.

**Price** £220 **Web** [arcteryx.com](http://arcteryx.com) ➔





### Sand & Salt cashmere wrist warmers

These elegant wrist warmers are knitted in Scotland and made from high-quality cashmere yarn, so they're stylish, durable, comfortable and, most importantly, warm. A luxurious essential for those who feel the cold.

**Price** £28 **Web** [sandandsalt.co.uk](http://sandandsalt.co.uk)



### Outdoor Research Fuzzy Sensor gloves

These popular heavy-duty gloves are tough and durable, yet super-soft, with a thick pile backing, making them feel instantly warm when you pull them on. They also have a silicone palm print, which ensures an excellent grip, even on smooth surfaces such as walking poles.

**Price** £21.60 **Web** [blacks.co.uk](http://blacks.co.uk)



### Sand & Salt cashmere women's gloves

Made from 100% cashmere for a supremely soft fabric, these high-quality gloves are crafted for Sand & Salt by Johnstons of Elgin, in Scotland. They would make a wonderfully luxurious gift for any keen hiker (including yourself!) and can be handwashed or dry-cleaned.

**Price** £28 **Web** [sandandsalt.co.uk](http://sandandsalt.co.uk)



### Bridgedale Hike midweight boot socks

Bridgedale's Hike midweight merino performance socks keep your feet dry and comfortable all day, whatever the adventure. Advanced zonal padding delivers comfort and support in equal measure.

They also wick away moisture and have flat seams to eliminate rubbing.

**Price** £19.50 **Web** [bridgedale.com](http://bridgedale.com)