

MEAVY (DARTMOOR)

Brief Introduction: Good winter route convenient to Plymouth with pubs strategically placed for mid and post ride recuperation. Ideal for riders who prefer the balance to be on the scenery rather than radical riding.

Distance: 17 miles (27km).

Height gain: 1100ft (335m).

Difficulty Rating: easy.

Average Time: 2.5hrs.

How to get there: Nearest station is Plymouth but don't despair it's pleasant and easy ride up the Plym Valley Cycle Path to Meavy starting from Laira Bridge on the A379 Kingsbridge road (GR SX502542; also coincides with The West Country Way MTB route). By road take the A386 towards Tavistock; 50yds before Yelverton roundabout turn R, after 500yds turn L to Meavy.

Riding conditions: Easy to follow route mostly on well-drained railpath and maintained bridlepath. Descent from Eylesbarrow Tin Mines is fast but gets bumpy and ends with a substantial step. Track that forks right off the road just after Ringmoor Cottage is tempting but not a right of way.

Facilities: Excellent pub in Meavy plus Plume of Feathers in Princetown.

Accommodation: Bellever YHA telephone 01822 880227. The Plume of Feathers Inn, Princetown, telephone: 01822 890240.

Local Authorities/Tourist Information: Bovey Tracey, 01626 832047; Plymouth, 01752 264849.

Local bike shops /Bike Hire Centres: in Plymouth Devon Cycles tel 01752 664771 and Battery Cycle Works tel 01752 665553 (convenient if you're cycling up the Plym Valley).

Map: Landranger 1:50000 No 191 and 202.

Start From pub at Meavy (GR SX541672) keep L (NE) and climb 0.4km to turn L at T-junction, take hairpin turn R at next T-junction to Burrator Dam and take hairpin turn L at 2.1km up track to signed rail path at 2.5km.

2. Take hairpin turn R (fine views over Burrator reservoir) and follow rail path track, going SO C-road at 3.8km and taking care when crossing B3212 at 4.3km (you can turn R up a bridleway short-cut at 9km) for steady climb with fine views to fork R on bridleway at 14.3km up to B3212 then turn L into Princetown and the Plume of Feathers pub at 14.6km.

3. Turn R up bridleway just past pub, going SO at bridleway X-roads at 17.5km and just after, keeping to main track at around 20km, past Eylesbarrow Mine, down to cross ford and join C-road for 0.5km to T-junction at 23.6km.

4. Turn L here, keep L at next T-junction to pass Ringmoor Cottage and on to staggered X-roads at 26km where you turn R for twisty descent to river (ford is deep and rocky) and on to T-junction at 26.8km for a turn L into Meavy.

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