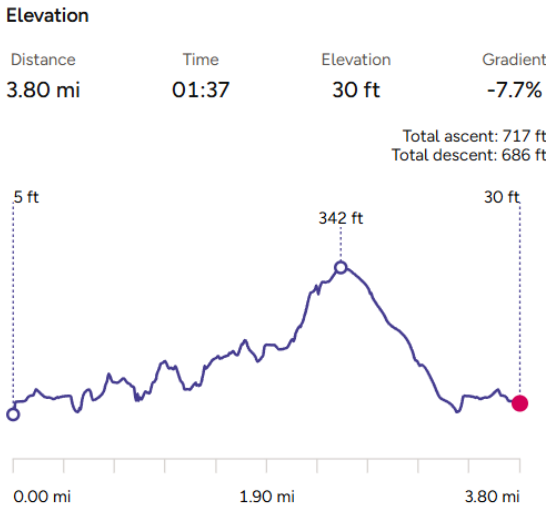
PUBS WORTH THE WALK

Gara Rock Hotel Coastal Walk

Salcombe, East Portlemouth & Gara Rock Hotel Coastal Walk, 3.8 miles

OVERVIEW

The adventure of this walk starts immediately as you take the ferry to East Portlemouth, with Salcombe suddenly arranged like a postcard behind you.
From the jetty, climb the steps onto the lane to begin the journey along the South West Coast Path, soon leading you past the seaside fun of Mill Bay.
Superb views across to North Sands & South Sands as the path carries you away from the chic of Salcombe, leading you onto the open cliffs where the sea fills your peripheral vision and the horizon seems to stretch forever.



The route is well-marked & well-trodden. Climb up to the Gara Rock to earn that drink.
The return is a simple loop back to Mill Bay, via a footpath that starts in the Gara Rock's car park. Easy!
The hotel suggests a number of walks if you're inspired by this one: Top 10 most scenic walks near Salcombe | Gara Rock

Start/Finish	From Salcombe: the East Portlemouth ferry is a foot passenger service connecting Salcombe & East Portlemouth across the Salcombe Estuary, with trips every 30 minutes and a journey time of 5 minutes. The ferry operates between Salcombe Ferry Landing (near The Ferry Inn on Fore Street or Whitestrand Quay in winter) and East Portlemouth Landing (near the Cafe), crossing the narrowest part of the Estuary. *Consider ferry times: ferry runs until 5pm in winter, 6.30 pm in summer and may be affected by weather or extreme tides.*				
Parking	A challenge in Salcombe. Park & Ride at top of town can be the best bet in high season/school holidays.				
Grid Reference	SX 741 389 for the Salcombe Ferry Landing.				
What3Words	///flank.path.pushover				
Distance	3.8 miles / 6 km	**Time**	2 hours	**Ascent**	717 ft / 220 m

Paths/Terrain	Quiet lane through East Portlemouth. Well-trodden & waymarked footpaths. Wooded lane back to Mill Bay.
Difficulty	Easy
Public Transport	Salcombe is served by bus rom Kingsbridge.
Toilets	Public WC at East Portlemouth. Toilets also at Gara Rock.
Other Pubs Nearby	The ferry departure point is next to **The Ferry Inn**, Salcombe. Also in Salcombe is the **Victoria Inn**. A new bar has opened on Island Street - **The Salcombe Tap House**, but there are a number of other options to suit most tastes**.** On the East Portlemouth side, if you have the energy find **The Pigs Nose** in East Prawle. Definitely a pub worth the (longer) walk.

DIRECTIONS



1. This is an easy walk to describe: You leave Salcombe by boat and step ashore at East Portlemouth with the town suddenly framed as a postcard picture behind you.
2. Leave the ferry landing stage at East Portlemouth, and where the path meets the lane, turn right to follow the lane all the way to the beach at Mill Bay.
3. Continue straight ahead into the woodland on the other side of the beach.

4. Take the path to the right, following Coast Path signs. Initially you walk through woodland, and then break out onto the Coast Path proper, the cliff path delivering big sky & big sea views as you pass Biddlehead and Limebury Point. Terrific views of the beaches of North Sands and South Sands on the other side of the Estuary, and then away from the harbour mouth as you head around to enjoy views of the open sea.
5. Continue along the coastal path for about a mile (20-30 mins walking). You'll spy the first signs of the hotel above you, and take a waymarked path to start the climb up to the Hotel.
6. The return path is accessed via the Hotel car park. Head uphill and you'll find a waymarked path heading to the left, in the general direction of Salcombe.
7. It's straightforward from here, following an easy route downhill all the way towards Mill Bay.
8. Return along the lane to the ferry landing at East Portlemouth. FYI, the public toilets are at the other end of the cafe's garden above the jetty.